

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

Issue 53 | January 20, 2023

## Nepal's 67th Plane Crash: A Tragic Reminder of the Aviation Industry's Corruption and Mismanagement

W  
E  
K  
L  
Y

Photo by Sudarshan Ranjit via OnlineKhabar

On January 16, 2023, a Yeti Airlines ATR 72 aircraft crashed in Pokhara, resulting in 74 deaths. Unfortunately, this is not the first aviation disaster in Nepal's history, as it marks the 67th plane crash in the past 60 years, making it one of the worst air safety records in the world.

While the cause of the crash is still being investigated, it is highly likely that corruption and mismanagement within the aviation sector played a significant role. The Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN) is responsible for regulating the industry in Nepal, but it has faced frequent criticism for prioritizing political and narrow business interests and for protecting airlines that do not adhere to safety and operating standards. This has led to the EU banning Nepal Airlines. In 2020, a European aircraft manufacturer admitted to paying 340,000 euros to secure a contract to provide planes to Nepal Airlines, which further highlighted the prevalence of corruption in the industry.

Questions about accountability in the aviation industry tend to arise only after tragic events like this recent crash. However, despite these incidents, little progress has been made in terms of reform by the government and other responsible entities. While investigation committees are formed after each incident, their reports often lack the level of thoroughness and transparency that is needed. In Nepal, a comprehensive effort is needed to truly reform the aviation sector. This includes upgrading airport infrastructure, improving aircraft safety standards, and building more robust emergency response teams.

Read more: [Global Policy Journal](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Customs Department and the Commission for the Investigation for Abuse of Authority (CIAA) have started an investigation against the purchase made by the Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) for the Traffic Monitoring and Fraud Control System. The price of one laptop brought under this project alone is around NRs. 6.5 million. The NTA is defending the deal, mentioning that the cost was enormous as they had to purchase high-tech software.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

2. The government has started the procedures to build the access road to the Upper Arun Hydropower Project, which is 21 kilometers long with 2 kilometers long tunnel. An Indian company named Gayatri Projects Limited has won the tender worth 7.91 billion Nepali rupees to build the access road. The Nepal Electricity Authority believes that the access road will help alleviate the economic and social conditions of the nearby areas.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

3. The newly appointed Ministers are dragged into controversies because of possible conflicts of interest with the jobs they have taken. For example, the new Labour Minister, Dol Prasad Aryal, is said to have investments in recruitment agencies and remittance companies. Similarly, Bikram Pandey, the Minister for Urban Development, owns a construction firm.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

4. More and more banks are forming mergers after Nepal Rastra Bank introduced a strict monetary policy for Fiscal Year 2072/73 B.S. In the last month alone, eight commercial banks merged, while two more banks are in the merger phase. The total number of banks, which had reached 32 in 2014, is expected to drop down to 22 this year if the mergers and acquisitions go as expected.

Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)

5. Tribhuvan University has directed its constituent and affiliated colleges to prepare for the Free Student Union election on March 19, which hasn't been held since 2017. The previous elections in 2017 were also possible only in 35 out of 62 constituent campuses due to tension between student unions and incidents of violence.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

6. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued a procedure to manage the transfer of the Chief District Officers (CDOs). The procedure includes provisions such as the person should have a Bachelor's degree or should be trained in the law, or should have worked under the Ministry of Home Affairs for a year. Until now, there was no legal basis for the transfer or recruitment of the CDO.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by

 **accountabilitylab**  
NEPAL



Copyright © 2021 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.

Our return e-mailing address is:  
[nepal@accountabilitylab.org](mailto:nepal@accountabilitylab.org)