

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Entrepreneur's Suicide Draws Attention to Corruption and Kleptocracy in Nepal

Photo from TKP

Prem Prasad Acharya, an entrepreneur, attempted suicide by setting himself on fire in front of the parliament building in Kathmandu and passed away while receiving medical treatment. Prior to his death, he wrote a [short message on Facebook](#) where he exposed the corrupt and kleptocratic system in the country, which he believed was designed to benefit political elites, and that led to his constant failures. He also made suggestions for how to achieve good governance.

The incident has caught the attention of the government, business community, civil society, and the general public. More entrepreneurs are now speaking out about the difficulties they face due to the corrupt system. The police have [banned](#) the sale of petroleum products in jars and bottles as a preventative measure. A committee has been formed by the home ministry to investigate the cases of fraud that Acharya raised. However, would punishing a few institutions be a sufficient solution to the issues he brought to light? What could be a long-term solution for the challenges faced by young entrepreneurs in Nepal remains to be seen.

In his post, Acharya portrayed himself as a victim of the [kleptocratic nexus](#) of the country, where policies are created in favor of political elites and large businesses. Impunity is served and traded for monetary gains and short-term benefits. Youths are forced to leave the country in search of opportunities. Ultimately, what Acharya called for was a comprehensive overhaul of the corrupt system, which would require significant change. This is the only way to provide justice for him and others who are facing failures despite their efforts and aspirations.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. It has been seven years since the devastating earthquake that hit Nepal in 2015, yet the rebuilding and restoration of the cultural sites affected by the disaster are still ongoing. The earthquake caused damage to 75 of the 95 structures within Kathmandu Durbar Square. Of these, only 38 have been reconstructed, 14 are currently under construction, and 23 have not yet begun.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
2. The second phase of work of the inter-country petroleum pipeline project between Nepal and India is accelerating. The Nepal Oil Corporation office in Madhesh Province has started the construction of the petrol tank, transmix tank, and other structures at the depot located in Amlekhgunj, Bara.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
3. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City (KMC) states that 9,000 unauthorized hoardings and signboards have been removed, as their owners have failed to pay fees and meet regulatory standards. In September 2022, KMC issued a 30-day public notice specifying fees that hoarding and signboard owners were required to pay. Annual fees for billboards are determined by their size.
Read more: [Republica](#)
4. The Supreme Court has decided to conduct the final hearings of writ petitions against the Minister of Home Affairs Rabi Lamichhane regarding the legitimacy of his citizenship on 27 January 2023. The petition was filed against Lamichhane in December 2022, citing that he doesn't have valid Nepali citizenship and, thus, isn't eligible to become a member of the House of Representatives.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
5. The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) has enforced load shedding for a total of 6 hours during morning and evening in industrial areas across the country. Nepal struggles to meet power demands during the dry season due to a reliance on run-of-the-river hydropower plants. According to the NEA, the current power cuts are due to lower power imports from India.
Read more: [The Annapurna Express](#)
6. The Bagmati Province has reportedly saved NRs. 22.2 million by decreasing the number of ministries from 14 to 11. The estimated cost of each ministry is around NRs. 7.34 million. Claiming to reduce the expenses of provinces, the prime minister had intended to limit the number of ministers to 10% of the Provincial Assembly members, as opposed to the constitutional allowance of 20%.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

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