

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

Issue 56 | February 10, 2023

National Pride Projects in Nepal: Delays, Cost Overruns, and Lack of Progress

WEEKLY

Photo: from Onlinekhabar

Nepal has a total of 24 pride projects, each of which has huge strategic importance and a potential to expedite socio economic progress. But the deemed importance of these projects hasn't been reflected in its implementation. Recent data shows that the cost and duration of 10 of the pride projects have increased due to delay in completion. The original estimated cost of all 24 projects was around NRs. 1.046 trillion, but it is now expected to be almost three times higher. The Melamchi Drinking Water Project, which has been a topic of interest for a long time, began between 1998 and 1999 AD, but by the time it was finished, the final cost exceeded the initial estimate of NRs. 24 billion and reached around NRs. 31 billion. Despite the fact that national pride projects have been given priority in construction for the past decade, the major reasons for the rise in time and cost are the lack of proper planning before starting the building process, poor coordination among agencies, insufficient construction capability, and inadequate monitoring and evaluation.

Over the past four years, the government has spent 73 billion NPR on the implementation of these projects, but there is little progress to show for it. Projects with 2022-23 priority deadlines such as the Railway and Metro Development Project, which started in 2009-10, have seen no progress despite the 24.47 billion NPR spent on it. The physical progress on another national pride project, the Karnali corridor, which started in 2008-09, is only 28 percent complete, even after spending over 11.30 billion NPR on it. The project was initiated with high hopes for quick material supply and effective research, but due to corruption and lack of accountability, the implementation has been hindered, making the situation increasingly challenging.

Read more : [Onlinekhabar](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Ministry of Education has chosen a private publishing company to publish educational materials for primary school students after the government-owned publishing business, Janak Education Material Centre, failed to provide books to students in time. The Ministry has reassured that the cost of the materials will not be affected by the publisher.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

2. Important decisions at the Central Bureau of Statistics have been put on hold for the past four months because of the absence of a secretary. Meanwhile, the prime minister's office has employed seven secretary officers, which has been deemed unnecessary. Many are concerned that the delayed Population Census 2021 results, which were conducted after a 10-year, may send the wrong impression to the public.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

3. Nepal, for the first time ever, has simultaneously appointed nine female Chief District Executives. In addition to Dhankuta, the first female chief district officer was appointed in Manang, Taplejung, Sunsari, Sindhuli, Baglung, and Doti districts. Pradasani Kumar, the CDO for Okhaldhunga, is the first member of the Madhesh Community to hold the position.

Read more : [Naya Patrika](#)

4. Farmers in Chitwan staged a symbolic protest by throwing vegetables on the Narayanghat road, citing that the government has turned a blind eye to their problems. The farmers claimed that their locally grown products are having difficulty in being sold and fetching fair prices because the market is dominated by vegetables imported from India.

Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)

5. The Nepalese government has resolved to send medical personnel, medical supplies, and other aid to Turkey in response to the destructive 7.8 magnitude earthquake. Meanwhile, according to the Nepalese Embassy in Pakistan, which is also responsible for affairs in Turkey, 31 of the 33 Nepalese citizens living in the earthquake-stricken region have reached out to the embassy.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#), [Onlinekhabar](#)

6. The DG of the Tribhuvan International Airport has been suspended on the charge of demanding a bribe from an international agency. Correspondence is shortly to be sent to the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority for further investigation on this matter.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

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Our return e-mailing address is:
nepal@accountabilitylab.org