

NEPAL

GOVERNANCE

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Corruption Plagues Nepal: Media Sheds Light on Widespread Kleptocracy

WEEKLY

Photo from The Kathmandu Post

Nepal has been plagued by corruption for years, with political leaders and representatives often implicated in bribery, embezzlement, and other forms of financial misconduct. The Annapurna Post, a leading Nepali media outlet, recently released a comprehensive report detailing 100 cases of corruption in the country, shedding light on the kleptocratic and widespread nature of the problem. The report covers a range of corruption cases, including irregularities in the purchase of widebody aircraft, procurement dealings with the Omni Group, and the illegal land acquisition of Nepal Trust. The majority of the cases involved some form of involvement from political leaders or representatives, and many of them were quickly forgotten due to a lack of political will to pursue accountability.

While the report highlights the need for accountability and transparency in Nepali governance, it also raises questions about the institutional and policy factors contributing to corruption in the country. For example, the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA), the primary organization responsible for monitoring and preventing corruption in Nepal, is given limited authority to only monitor cases of bribery. The institution is chaired through political appointments and is prohibited from acting upon decisions made by the cabinet, parliament committees, and the House of Representatives.

The report also notes that many corruption cases in Nepal are related to infrastructure projects. Rather than holding construction companies accountable for poor quality work or delays, the government often increases their tenure and allocates additional budgets. This close relationship between construction companies and those in power creates a cycle of corruption that is difficult to break.

As Nepal continues to grapple with corruption, the Annapurna Post's report serves as a reminder of the urgent need for accountability, transparency, and reform. Only by addressing the institutional and policy factors contributing to corruption can Nepal hope to break free from the cycle of kleptocracy and build a more just and equitable society.

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The surge in the number of students traveling abroad for higher education, which reached 70,000 in the last eight months, and the low success rate in class 12 exams impacted the overall enrollment at the universities. More than 50% of the total colleges affiliated with various universities have less than 200 students, which has forced the stakeholders to opt for college mergers.
Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)
2. The postal service, which still operates under the Act of 2019 B.S. and the Regulations of 2020 B.S., has reached an existential crisis due to technological advancement. The post office spends three and a half billion dollars from the national treasury each year while only making 280 million dollars annually from an income source primarily dependent on ticket sales.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
3. In partnership with local levels of six provinces, the Foreign Employment Board launched a reintegration program with the goal of developing returned migrant workers into entrepreneurs. The project has a budget of Rs 150 million for the current fiscal year 2022/23. Board anticipates an estimated 3,000 returnee migrant workers will benefit from the program.
Read more : [Rising Nepal](#)
4. The Lumbini Province plans to build a modern city in its capital, Deukhuri. The Provincial State Infrastructure Development Authority has announced that the first phase of construction will cost NRs. 25 billion. The project will involve expanding the city's roads, building concrete embankments on both sides of the Rapti River, and constructing additional bridges in the Rapti. It also includes a proposal to build a unique artistic bridge to connect the capital.
Read more: [Online Khabar](#)
5. After seven years of dormancy, the biogas plant located in the Kathmandu Metropolitan City is now operational again. The National Innovation Centre repaired the machine, which is valued at 1.86 million and has a capacity of holding eight tons of waste per day. The metropolis intends to use composting technology to generate 14 KW of electricity from the waste collected in the city.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
6. Dhaka Kumar Shrestha, a lawmaker, has been expelled from The Rashtriya Swatantra Party. The party took this action after an audio clip of Shrestha demanding 20 million rupees in exchange for being appointed as health minister was leaked. The audio leak has also led to the exposure of some of Shrestha's previous misconduct. In the parliament, Bindabasini Kansakar has been nominated to take Shrestha's place.
Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)

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.

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