Media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

April 11, 2016: TeliaSonera sells its 80 percent stake in Ncell to Axiata, triggering debates on whether the deal is taxable in Nepal.

April 12, 2016: The Office of the Auditor General declares that the deal is taxable, although it is contesting the decision in the Supreme Court.

January 2017: The Supreme Court rules that Axiata and Ncell are responsible for paying the tax.

April 2019: The Office of the Auditor General decides that the deal is taxable, amounting to Rs 32 billion, leading to an anti-Ncell campaign.

February 2020: An audit panel recommends that Axiata UK, and to reimburse Ncell for the cost of a loan taken out by Ncell.

October 2020: The Tribunal has determined that the tax provisions in the deal would be applied.

December 2020: The Tribunal has concluded that any further tax, fees, penalties, or interests in relation to the transaction. Arising from Nepal’s non-adherence to Tribunal orders during the early stage of the dispute, Nepal has also been ordered to pay an amount of approximately USD 1.4 million to Axiata UK, and to reimburse Ncell for the cost of a loan taken out by Ncell.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

Regional Update

Long-drawn Ncell Taxation Dispute finally Concludes

The ‘sustained wind speeds of 125-135 km/h (78-84 mph). As a precautionary measure, more than 20,500 people have been evacuated from the areas in India, and around 100,000 individuals are being moved to shelters and relief camps in Pakistan.

Mandvi in Gujarat, India, and Karachi in Pakistan are predicted to experience a severe cyclonic storm named Biparjoy with maximum sustained wind speeds of up to 135 km/h.

Read more: Naya Patrika

The National Vigilance Center conducted an inspection at the gate of Singha Durbar from 10 am to 12 pm to check on the officials who step outside during office hours. As many as 132 employees were found leaving the premises under different excuses. The center is preparing a report and is considering action against the officials who were found guilty.

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According to a recent government survey, there is a shortage of 3,000 MBBS doctors and 5,779 specialists. The report also emphasized the additional need for 2,904 MBBS doctors and 770 specialists.

Read more: EKantipur

The government has aimed to generate 71.27% of the total budget of Rs 17.51 trillion for the fiscal year 2080/81 through revenue collection, so the rate is likely to remain high. Its implementation is expected to introduce uncertainty in the financial market and will also encourage tax evasion and unhealthy competition.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

One of the women's biggest challenges in the current scenario is that 76% of the violence suffered by women was attributed to their husband, Shambu B.K, following a domestic dispute. According to the report of the Women’s Rehabilitation Center (WOREC), in 2018, Niraj Kamat, 25, of Morang, attempted self-immolation during the protest led by the Citizenshipless Struggle Committee at Maitighar Mandir. His grandad father and four had naturalized citizenship of Nepal, but he was deprived of the right due to the Supreme Court’s interim order to halt the immediate implementation of the citizenship act.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

There is a severe shortage of MBBS doctors and specialists in Nepal. The total required workforce in the medical field is estimated to be 63,226 healthcare workers in Nepal. The government has aimed to generate 71.27% of the total budget of Rs 17.51 trillion for the fiscal year 2080/81 through revenue collection, so the rate is likely to remain high. Its implementation is expected to introduce uncertainty in the financial market and will also encourage tax evasion and unhealthy competition.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

The Tribunal has indicated in the Award that Nepal should refrain from demanding any further tax, fees, penalties, or interests in relation to the transaction. Arising from Nepal’s non-adherence to Tribunal orders during the early stage of the dispute, Nepal has also been ordered to pay an amount of approximately USD 1.4 million to Axiata UK, and to reimburse Ncell for the cost of a loan taken out by Ncell.

Read more: The Kathmandu Post

The government is one of the world’s largest spenders on health care, spending around $10 billion annually on medical and related services. According to a recent government survey, there is a shortage of 3,000 MBBS doctors and 5,779 specialists. The report also emphasized the additional need for 2,904 MBBS doctors and 770 specialists.

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