The Nepali government recently unveiled its budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2023-24, amounting to NRs. 1.75 trillion. With the nation grappling with an economic slowdown and rising inflation, the budget was anticipated to alleviate the hardships faced by ordinary citizens and businesses. However, it has drawn widespread criticism as the government's focus on revenue collection through ill-considered policies and tax changes has come under fire.

Governance Issues of the Week

1. According to the Central Bureau of Statistics, there are 1.1 million child laborers, comprising 15.5% of the total children in Nepal. Economic hardship, dependency on adults, and available social conditions necessitate the existence of 11 labor offices, the battle against child labor remains unresolved and ineffective. Read more: Ekantipur

2. The Nepal government recently unveiled its budget for the upcoming fiscal year 2023-24, amounting to NRs. 1.75 trillion. With the nation grappling with an economic slowdown and rising inflation, the budget was anticipated to alleviate the hardships faced by ordinary citizens and businesses. However, it has drawn widespread criticism as the government's focus on revenue collection through ill-considered policies and tax changes has come under fire. Read more: Nepal Jansatta

3. The development budget expenditure in all seven provinces of Nepal has fallen short, with only 50% of the budget utilized. Insufficient provisions for procurement and contracts, along with the government's emphasis on self-benefiting programs during the restructuring process, attributed to an unutilized budget across all provinces. Read more: Kathmandu Post

4. The Supreme Court has set the boundary of the Fewa Lake conservation area at 65 meters, as decided on January 23, 2011. Initially reduced to 35 meters by Pokhara Metropolitan City on March 30, 2010, the court upheld the 65-meter boundary during the hearing of a writ petition. This ruling will require the relocation of around a thousand structures in the Fewa Lake area. Read more: Kathmandu Post

5. Nepal's Supreme Court has granted approval for the implementation of amendments authenticated by President Bidhya Devi Bhandari Prasad. This decision paves the way for thousands of dispossessed citizens to claim their lands and homes falling within the boundary of the Conservation Area of Fewa Lake. Read more: Kathmandu Post

6. The Nepali government has instructed its embassy in New Delhi to investigate the exclusion of Nepali citizens in India's Aadhaar Bharat map displayed in their parliament building. Foreign Minister Niruta Rai, speaking in parliament on March 30, 2022, has summoned the ambassador to India to express Nepal's concern regarding the matter. Read more: Nepal Jansatta

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