

GOVERNANCE

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Nepal's National Identification Card Scheme: Implementation Dilemma

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Photo by Naya Patrika

The Nepal government envisioned creating a unified system for all kinds of services by issuing a National Identification Card (National ID) to its citizens serving as a master card. The government planned to introduce National ID in 2066/67 B.S. Following that, the Department of National ID and Civil Registration was established in 2067 B.S. However, almost a decade later, citizens are still obliged to issue and carry different types of cards for government services such as citizenship, voter identity cards, PAN cards, licenses, life insurance cards, etc.

So far, about 15 million citizens have issued National ID numbers, yet only four hundred thousand citizens have obtained the physical cards. Over 25 hundred thousand cards remain unclaimed with the government. This is largely because of the lack of knowledge on the utility of these identification cards. However, the cost in the process of issuing National IDs alone has exceeded NRs. 2 billion.

The National ID can serve as one centralized platform for the public to connect with government mechanisms. However, the government needs a clear plan and strategy to clarify its purpose and benefits and raise public awareness accordingly. The ongoing confusion also exists because the government still issues different digital cards after introducing the National ID. For example, the digital license could be linked to the National ID for a streamlined process.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The government has initiated the amendment process of the Local Governance Operations Act 2074 to strengthen the position of mayors and chairpersons in the local government units. This decision addresses the issue of internal conflicts within the Municipal Council on the passage of municipal budgets due to political inclination.

Read more: [Ekantipur](#)

2. The construction of the Duduwa branch canal, a National Pride Irrigation Project halted for six years. The project started on Asar 6, 2073 aiming to irrigate 16 thousand hectares of land has been halted since Chaitra 28, 2074 as the dispute with the contractor has reached Supreme Court. The significant delays illustrate the susceptibility of Nepal's development projects to legal hurdles.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

3. Internet service was disrupted for about 5 hours yesterday after the Indian telecommunications company Airtel stopped upstreaming its services to Nepali private-sector internet service providers (ISPs) as they had not cleared their dues. Nepali ISPs and the government have been in dispute for a long run over taxes as decided by the former government.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

4. The Ministry of Home Affairs has issued directives concerning public demonstrations, strikes, and protests, emphasizing that the organizers should compensate for the damages made to public property during such events. The guideline also mentions that a committee led by the Assistant Chief District Officer will be established to assess damages and propose compensation.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

5. The third investment summit was held in Kathmandu on 28-29 April 2024 with over 2,000 representatives from 80 countries. A commitment worth NRs. 10 billion of foreign direct investment (FDI) was announced during the summit. NRs. 2.5 billion has been promised for the tourism and hospitality sector, NRs. 6 billion for the agriculture sector, NRs. 3 billion for electronic vehicle assembling and NRs. 3.5 billion to establish a data center.

Read more: [Ratopati](#)

6. It has been found that among 51 hectares of land occupied by Tribhuvan University, 0.91 hectares have been rented out by professors and staff. The land in front of the University's main gate has been illegally rented out by the Nepal Teachers Union, Tribhuvan University Teachers' Union, and Tribhuvan University Employees Union, with monthly rents amounting to hundreds of thousands.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

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