

# W GOVERNANCE E K L Y

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## Quick Snapshot of the 16th Five-Year Plan

Photo by Annapurna Post

The National Planning Commission has launched the 16th Five-Year Plan (2081/82 BS to 2085/86 BS) with a focus on good governance, social justice, and prosperity. The plan aims to boost GDP and investment targeting an economic growth rate of 7.3 percent by the end of the five years maintaining a steady 7.1 percent growth annually. Looking back, the commission had set an average economic growth rate of 9.6 percent in the 15th Five-Year Plan. However, the COVID pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine war, and other internal challenges limited the growth rate up to 5.5 percent in the third year and is projected at 2.2 percent in the fourth year.

The 16th plan has also prioritized employment generation and productivity. It aims to substantially reduce the unemployment rate from 11.4 percent to 5 percent within five years and also plans to elevate the current per capita income from 1,456 USD to 2,351 USD. One of its goals includes reducing the poverty rate from 20.3 percent to 12 percent and keeping consumer price inflation under 5.5 percent. Other key targets include improvement in Human Development Index, Human Asset Index, and Economic and Environmental Risk Index.

Overall, the targets are ambitious considering the progress in the 15th plan. The success also heavily depends on global and national factors including geopolitical scenario and Nepal's political stability. In addition, it is equally important to strengthen the coordination between the three tiers of government to ensure its success.

Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The National Land Commission, established in 2077 to resolve land-related issues within three years, has managed to address only a small number of cases over five years. Out of 1,436,400 applications, just 4,514 landless individuals have received land ownership certificates. This commission is the tenth created to address the issue of landlessness, yet progress in achieving its mandate has been minimal.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

2. The government has presented its plans and policies for the Fiscal Year 2081/82. The priorities include implementing the constitution, enhancing federalism and the economy, and controlling corruption. They also promise to create 5,000 new jobs in the IT sector, extend start-up loans to 1,000 youths, and increase the capacity of hydropower projects from 2,290 to 4,500 megawatts among other initiatives.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

3. The Supreme Court's recent decision on the Giribandhu Tea Estate revealed that the former Prime Minister KP Oli-led government had violated regulations by allowing the exchange of 86.28 hectares of the estate's land. In 2020, the Oli government amended the Land Act (1964), permitting landowners exceeding land ceiling limits of 2.5 hectares to swap land anywhere in the province, and that facilitated the exchange of Giribandhu Tea Estate land.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

4. As per the Nepal Insurance Authority Madhesh Province Office, only 9.4 percent of the province's population have pursued life insurance as of mid-April 2024. It highlights the local and provincial governments' lack of awareness and coordinated plans for insurance coverage. Similarly, the situation is disappointing nationwide, as only 43.3 percent of the population has insurance access.

Read more: [Ukaalo](#)

5. Twenty-six Nepalis from Sarlahi, Mahottari, and Dhanusha, who were held captive in Kashmir have been rescued with support from the Nepal Embassy in Delhi and KIN India. They were lured with promises of good wages, but upon arrival, contractors confiscated their cash, citizenship documents, and mobile phones. They also faced physical abuse, threats, and intimidation, and were forced to work without pay.

Read more: [Gorkhapatra](#)

6. The Supreme Court has introduced a service to file petitions online. Previously, legal professionals or petitioners had to file petitions in person, but now two software systems have been introduced for this purpose. Similarly, the information about hearing dates will be available through the software, and a system has been developed to send the hearing dates to all involved parties online.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

Reading

[Nepal Fiscal Federalism Update \(World Bank\)](#)

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