

GOVERNANCE

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Kailash Sirohiya's Arrest and Controversy

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On May 21, 2024, Kailash Sirohiya, the Chairperson and Managing Director of Kantipur Publication Group, was arrested on allegations of dual citizenship. The arrest has received mixed responses. Mainly, the arrest has sparked criticism from the media fraternity, accusing the government of suppressing press freedom. It is also being perceived as an act of revenge against Kantipur's reports on Home Minister Rabi Lamichhane's links to cooperative embezzlement cases. Senior journalists, national and international media federations, and human rights bodies, including NHRC, have urged the government to release Sirohiya and halt press suppression.

However, the District Administration Office (DAO), Dhanusha has cited six specific grounds for dual citizenship and his arrest. First, Sirohiya's citizenship certificate, numbered 39698886, was found to have been previously issued to another individual. Similarly, the official records at the DAO indicated that Kailash Sirohiya's siblings, Gopal Prasad Sirohiya, Govind Prasad Sirohiya, and Poonam Kumari Sirohiya, acquired Nepali citizenship through naturalization. However, Kailash Sirohiya's citizenship is recorded as being obtained by birth, which is inconsistent with the records of his siblings' citizenship status.

The DAO also noted some discrepancies in Sirohiya's age and birth date as recorded in his citizenship documents. His initial citizenship certificate, issued on Bikram Sambat (BS) 2036-05-25, listed his age as 18 years during the time. However, a copy of the certificate obtained on BS 2057-06-29 recorded his birth date as BS 2019-08-29 but still mentioned his age as 18 years. Calculating his age based on the first citizenship date indicates he was 16 years and 8 months old when he received the citizenship, not 18 as indicated in the citizenship certificate. Also, the police claimed that the documents mandatory while obtaining citizenship are missing from Sirohiya's official records. As of now, the police are investigating the fake citizenship case. And we are yet to see how the case will unfold.

Read more: [Ratopati, The Kathmandu Post](#)

Governance issues of the week

- 1 The Commission for the Investigation of Irregular Transactions has urged loan shark victims to submit their applications with their details to the respective District Administration Office within 21 days. The commission has requested the victims to provide details of all their transactions with the lender.
Read more: [Ratopati](#)
- 2 Nepal is hosting an international dialogue titled "Mountains, Humans, and Climate Change: International Dialogue of Experts" from May 22, 2024, with experts from 25 countries. The program aims to draw the attention of the international community to the impacts of climate change on the Himalayas and foster cooperation to achieve the goals under the United Nations Framework for Climate Change (UNFCCC).
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
- 3 After a 25-day journey on foot, 23 individuals reached Kathmandu with the 12-point joint demand, including the Chure region conservation. The group claims that the water sources near the Chure region are drying up due to its exploitation, leaving nearby communities vulnerable. They staged a similar protest last year and reached an agreement with the government, but it wasn't followed through.
Read more: [Online Khabar](#)
- 4 The Nepal government has established a National Cyber Security Center to fulfill its Digital Nepal Framework 2076 objective. The center is responsible for research and development on cybersecurity, identifying challenges and threats, prevention, response, recovery, and conducting a digital forensic investigation. The Center is under the Ministry of Communications and Information Technology.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
- 5 According to the Department of Forests and Soil Conservation, a total of 5,889 incidents of forest fires were reported in Nepal in 2024 which is much higher than in earlier years. 3,195 incidents were reported in 2023 while 1,528 incidents were reported in 2022. However, the government does not have exact data on the geographical area affected by the forest fires.
Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)
- 6 Over the last nine years, parliamentary meetings have been disrupted approximately 200 times. Madhesh-based parties have been responsible for 90 of these disruptions, mostly occurring after the drafting of the constitution. The Nepali Congress has caused disruptions around eight times, while the UML has been responsible for 22 disruptions.
Read more: [Ratopati](#)

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