



# GOVERNANCE

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## Poor Provincial Governance:

# Who is to blame?

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प्रदेश ब्यूरो/नयाँ पत्रिका

Photo by Naya Patrika

Ever since Nepal adopted federalism, there has been ongoing criticism over the relevance and effectiveness of the provincial governments. The functions of the provincial governments also haven't been able to prove otherwise.

Currently, standing in their second term, provincial governments are considered the weakest performers among citizens. There has been a consistent demand from citizens and certain political segments, that we should 'do away' with the provincial governments or rethink its functions. There are abundant points of dispute between the federal and the provincial governments over issues such as budget allocation and service delivery. The demands of the provincial governments related to police forces, changing the Federal Civil Service Act, security agencies, and managing disaster response have fallen on deaf ears of the federal government.

The performance of the provincial governments in exercising their rights is not great either. Since the general elections in 2022, the province governments have changed 23 times in seven provinces. Koshi province has changed its chief ministers six times, increasing the ministers' tally to 53 in 18 months. None of the provincial governments have been able to spend more than 50% of the total budget on average. Province governments and portfolios are settlement spots for political party leaders which has led to an increase of splitting ministries for political settlements.

Quite similar to provincial governments, the province assemblies have not been functional. The number of bills drafted and passed in the province assemblies is far less than satisfactory. The Madhesh province assembly has called for 50 meetings in two sessions and has not been able to pass any laws. Other province assemblies have also performed poorly.

The accountability and answerability of such dismal performance should not be limited to provincial governments but should be extended to federal governments and political parties. Seeking changes in the operational aspects of province governments' budget formulation and spending, provision of civil officials, and reducing the number of ministries will bring marginal improvements. Largely, there is also a need to rethink and provide independence and autonomy to provincial governments for their effective performance.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

## Governance Issues of the Week

1. The leading political parties are nearing an agreement to amend the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Act 2071 adding a new provision that allows 25 to 30 percent reduction in the sentences. Human rights activists criticize this agreement for contradicting the principle of proportional punishment based on the severity of the crime. The issues yet to be resolved include victims' rights to seek justice if mediation fails and the management of child soldiers.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

2. In a historic move, the Nepal government appointed its first female Chief Secretary, Lila Devi Gadtaula on 25 July 2024. Gadtaula had been serving as an acting Chief Secretary following the suspension of the former Chief Secretary, Baikuntha Aryal. However, her tenure will be just 35 days. She will retire on August 31 due to her age limit as per the Civil Service Act.

Read more: [myRepublica](#)

3. Following the SEE examinations, 94 students who originally received an NG (no grade) have now achieved an A+ after re-totalling results were published for 9,646 students. The Ministry of Education claims the error occurred while registering numbers in the system, rather than the evaluation process. However, the issue has raised doubts about the examination systems' reliability, with experts criticizing the negligence and lack of cross-checking.

Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)

4. Amid the ongoing student protests in Dhaka, Bangladesh over the quota system, 420 Nepali students in the affected areas have returned home (115 by flight and 305 by road) until 22 July 2024. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has been coordinating with the Nepali Embassy in Dhaka to ensure the safety of students who wish to stay and has also assigned the mission to set up a Help Desk for Nepali students who face difficulties.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

5. A DMN news report revealed that Nepali women are being trafficked to China by a network of Chinese and Nepali agents who promise marriage and a better life. The victims, primarily from low-income families, are forced into marriages with Chinese men and are subjected to mental and physical abuse. However, the lack of cooperation from the Chinese side for transnational crime has made it difficult for Nepal police to reach the culprits.

Read more: [The DMV News](#)

6. India has allocated NRs. 11.2 billion to Nepal in its FY 2024-25 budget, marking an increase of NRs. 2.4 billion from the previous year. This makes Nepal the second highest recipient of Indian grants in South Asia, following Bhutan, which has received NRs. 20.6 billion. India has introduced a total budget of US \$575 billion for this FY, with an emphasis on job creation and rural development.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

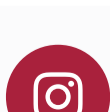
## Let's Demand Accountability in the Aviation Sector!

Do you want to hold the Nepal government accountable for Aviation Safety? If so, use the link below to add your voice to an online petition by Speak Up Nepal.

<https://speakupnepal.org/post/QztacN4odtzHJBo7>

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by



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