

# GOVERNANCE

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## Nepal's Troubling Aviation Record: Safety Failures and Inadequate Accountability

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Photo By Online khabar

Nepal's aviation sector has faced significant safety challenges in recent years. In less than three years, five major aircraft crashes have occurred in the country, the most recent being the crash of Saurya Airlines on July 24, 2024. Despite this, there has been minimal progress in addressing and correcting the underlying issues. The aircraft crashes are almost always attributed to technical and human factors, while the overarching body, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal (CAAN), takes minimal responsibility.

The CAAN functions as both the regulator and service provider of the aviation sector in Nepal. It is responsible for creating, implementing, and monitoring almost all safety and regulatory standards. However, its dual role is often accused of creating a fertile ground for the misuse of authority. Following the recent aircraft crashes, there have been parliamentary debates and public pressure to ensure safety reforms. However, there has been no serious judicial action or reform in the operations of CAAN. This absence of accountability has not only eroded public trust but also sent a negative message to potential tourists, jeopardizing a vital sector of the economy that relies heavily on air travel.

Globally, aviation is considered the safest mode of transport, raising significant questions about Nepal's safety record. The rescue efforts for these disasters have also been equally problematic. Issues such as insufficient equipment, poor coordination, and an inability to deploy technical experts have hindered past operations. During the rescue operations following the Yeti Airlines crash on January 15, 2023, the technical shortcomings included incomplete testing of rescue equipment, inadequate flight calibration, and the lack of a grid map to guide firefighters efficiently to the site. Additionally, poor government communication has fueled rumors and misinformation. Investigation committees are almost always established following accidents, but the likelihood of achieving meaningful accountability through this process remains low.

Thus, a key step towards aviation accountability could be making the investigation reports from official bodies public, allowing citizens to see the specific actions being taken to enhance safety. Transparency in these reports would not only restore public confidence but also pressure the relevant authorities to implement necessary changes. In addition, a thorough judicial investigation into the conflicts of interest within the CAAN is essential. This investigation should aim to identify and eliminate any practices that compromise safety standards.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

### Governance issues of the week

- 1 The federal parliament building in Singha Durbar is 81 percent complete, even after five years of construction. Its deadline has been extended four times, increasing the contract from NRs. 5.68 billion to NRs. 6.3 billion. The new deadline is set for March 18, 2025. The apparent reasons for the delay are material testing, site conditions, and COVID-19. However, Tundi Construction also blames the contracting authorities for incomplete land provision and late payment.  
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
- 2 The distribution of the Nepal Bidhya Bhusan Padak has been affected since 2019 due to insufficient funding for the Ministry of Education, Science, and Technology. On May 23, 2024, the cabinet decided to award 962 students from 2019 to 2023, in accordance with the Compulsory and Free Education Act of 2019. However, the NRs. 60 million required for the occasion remains unfunded.  
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
- 3 Nepal's three major political parties have agreed to endorse the Truth and Reconciliation Bill. The revised bill will now define serious human rights violations as arbitrary and brutal killings, and killings other than in direct confrontation. It also includes provisions for victim support, such as compensation for disabled and injured security personnel, and allows for reduced sentences and victims' rights to legal recourse. The bill is expected to pass in the current parliamentary session.  
Read more: [My Republica](#)
- 4 Despite the Supreme Court of Nepal's directive on June 27, 2023, to register same-sex marriages, only two couples have received marriage certificates to date. Current marriage laws do not cover same-sex or transgender marriages, and there is no designated format addressing such marriages, as existing formats use terms like bride and groom. This lack of a specific format creates technical difficulties for the local authorities responsible for issuing certificates.  
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
- 5 The government is set to resume discussions on the National Integrity Policy, which gained attention in 2018. The key provisions include requiring constitutional appointees to sign affidavits confirming they are non-partisan, restricting perks for judiciary and constitutional bodies that are not mandated by law, and mandating that teachers and constitutional officials resign from political parties. The policy also introduces a 13-point policy for NGOs and a 25-point policy for INGOs operating in Nepal.  
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
- 6 The Ministry of Health and Population has introduced a strategy to address the effects of dengue on rise. The plan includes two key actions including preventing dengue deaths and launching a campaign to remove mosquito habitats, which is recommended worldwide. The Ministry has also approved the Dengue Prevention and Control Action Plan, 2081, detailing tasks for all levels of government, and has sent it to every province and local level for action.  
Read more: [Gorkhapatra](#)

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Presented by



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