

GOVERNANCE

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Open Government Partnership (OGP): A Step towards Transparency and Accountability awaiting Nepal

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Photo by open government partnership

Nepal has been making noteworthy strides in the realm of open data and transparency, with the government's efforts to digitize services and tackle high-profile corruption cases. However, there is an acknowledgment that the journey towards a robust public infrastructure that embodies openness, transparency, and a corruption-free governance requires sustained dedication.

A pivotal move in this direction could be Nepal's participation in the globally acclaimed [Open Government Partnership \(OGP\)](#), a collective effort encompassing 76 nations in tandem with numerous civil society organizations. Recently, the Nepalese government received an invitation to attend the upcoming OGP summit scheduled to take place in Estonia on September 17 and 18. The OGP initiative aims to nurture transparency, foster citizen participation, and leverage technology to fortify governance while combatting corruption.

Nepal has been eligible for OGP membership since 2011. In 2014, a committee was established during the tenure of Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli to assess Nepal's potential participation in the OGP. Regrettably, the findings of this report were never taken into account. If Nepal formally joins the OGP, it will be entrusted with creating a comprehensive national action plan, incorporating inputs from consultations with citizens and civil society. This plan's implementation progress is assessed every two years, facilitated by the Independent Reporting Mechanism (IRM), which also offers invaluable feedback.

By forging an alliance with the OGP, Nepal not only gains access to a vast reservoir of knowledge but also underscores its earnest commitment to combating corruption. This engagement provides Nepal with the opportunity to draw insights from successful approaches implemented globally, while simultaneously reinforcing its own resolve to establish a transparent and accountable governance structure.

Read more: [Ekantipur](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. Telecom companies choose to pay NRs. 50,000 penalty instead of conducting mandatory security audits, which can cost between NRs 600,000 to NRs 1.2 million. The audits, required by law, aim to ensure cyber security auditing. The Internet Service Providers Association Nepal has appealed to regulators to revise these regulations.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. The main opposition party, CPN-UML, has consistently disrupted parliamentary sessions, demanding a high-level committee investigation into a gold smuggling case. This has shifted focus from urgent matters such as stranded Nepali citizens at Kedarnath, a dengue outbreak, fungal disease in animals, the Indian rice export ban causing inflation, and disaster response.

Read more: [Ekantipur](#)

3. Nepal, which has been supplying electricity to India's day-ahead market since November 2021, is now granted permission to participate in India's real-time electricity market as well. Nepal has approval to sell 452.6 MW in India's day-ahead market, with trading data showing a successful exchange of 4.41 billion units between Nepal and Bhutan on the Indian power platform.

Read more: [The Annapurna Express](#)

4. The Foreign Employment Board has decided to increase the relief amount provided to the families of deceased Nepali workers from the existing NRs. Seven hundred thousand. The increased amount includes compensation for deceased migrant workers, scholarships for their children, health security funds for the parents of the deceased, and workers' accidents.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

5. The government and the [Gaur Massacre](#) Victims' Struggle Committee have reached a five-point agreement, leading to the suspension of planned protests. The deal includes an investigation into the 2007 Gaur incident, publishing martyr details in Nepal Gazette, setting up a Memorial Pillar in the incident location in Rautahat, and providing medical and financial support to the injured.

Read more: [Nepal News](#)

6. Directors of private schools are urging changes to the proposed Private School Education Bill, seeking flexibility in the five-year transition to a non-profit system. The bill, now in parliament after cabinet approval, mandates non-profit conversion within five years for private and public schools. Private school operator associations are urging the government's reconsideration regarding the bill.

Read more: [Ekantipur](#)

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.

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