

GOVERNANCE

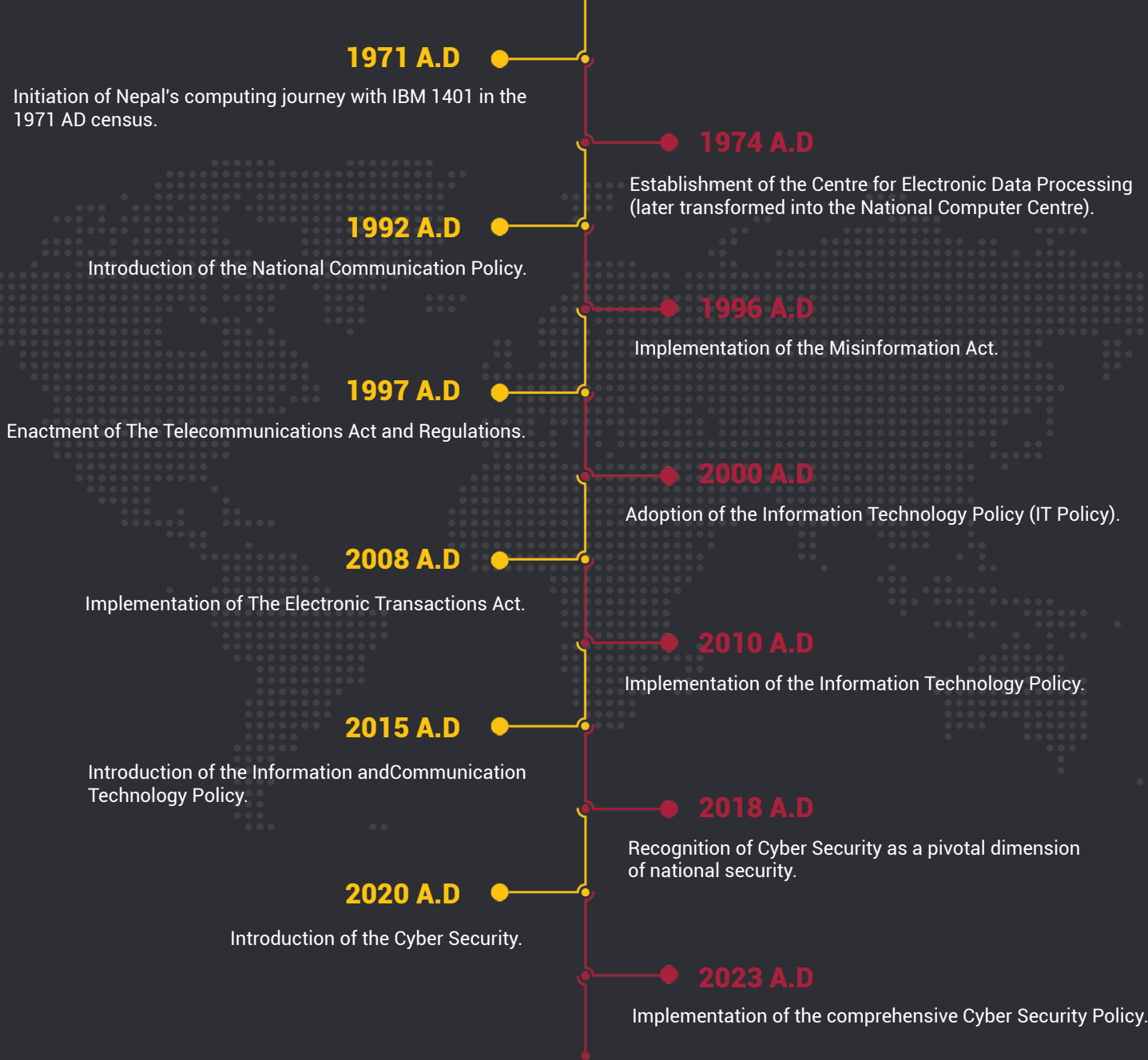
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Nepal's Cyber Security Journey: Traicing the Evolution and Challenges

WEEKLY

Photo by kathmandupost

Timeline



In the ever-evolving landscape of information technology, the concern for cyber security has become paramount on a global scale. Notably, Nepal has witnessed a substantial surge in its internet user base, which reached 15.85 million individuals as of **January 2023**. Nepal, like many countries, grapples with a range of pressing cyber security issues that span various domains. In response to that, Nepal implemented the Cyber Security and Management Directory in 2075 with the objective of mitigating the impact of cyber threats and emergencies. This directive led to the establishment of the National Information Technology Emergency Response Team and the National Cyber Security Monitoring Centre, entities tasked with the continuous surveillance of the country's information technology landscape. While the nation had been addressing cybercrime-related complaints in accordance with the Electronic Transactions Act of 2063 (2008), this legislation falls short in addressing specific cybercrimes and emerging threats. Notably, Nepal has faced a series of security breaches on government websites in recent years, as exemplified by a significant hacking incident in late January, during which hackers managed to **disrupt** approximately 1,500 government websites.

Nepal has set ambitious targets to enhance its cyber security stature on the global stage. Within the next five years, the country aims to elevate its Global Cyber Security Index (GCI) score from 44.99 to 60. Over a span of ten years, this target increases to 70, and within fifteen years, the goal is to attain a score of 80.

Therefore, to foster a Resilient Cyber Space within Nepal's digital realm, **the Cyber Security Policy, 2080** has been endorsed. The key objectives within the framework of the Cyber Security Policy encompass establishing legal and institutional frameworks to cultivate secure cyberspace, mitigating the threat of cyber attacks to safeguard critical national infrastructure, conducting research to bolster cyber resilience, and developing a skilled workforce in the field of cyber security. The Cyber Security Policy outlines an extensive framework comprising 9 strategies and 72 action plans, all designed to align with the overarching aims and objectives of the policy.

Policy Highlights

- National computer emergency response team in all seven provinces
- Promotion of ethical hacking
- Running digital literacy programs on cybersecurity
- Production of Skilled manpower in the field of cyber security
- Establishment of a 24/7 National Cyber Security Center for preparedness, protection, detection, response, and recovery of cybersecurity

The Critique

While the policy demonstrates a clear focus on data control, there are concerns that it might inadvertently undermine efforts to bolster trust in the country's IT and digital systems. Notably, the policy lacks a comprehensive action plan to address the challenges and threats posed by Artificial Intelligence. Furthermore, the policy falls short in delineating a concrete timeline and comprehensive strategies for translating the cyber security policy into enforceable legislation within the Parliament.

Read More: [The Kathmandu Post](#), [Naya Patrika](#), [Cyber Security Policy](#), [NCSG](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. After the bill to criminalize usury or loan sharking was authenticated on 28 July 2023, 3,264 loan shark victims received back 150 bighas (250 acres) of land. The Inquiry Commission on loan sharks has received 23,871 complaints so far, of which 3,264 complaints have been studied, investigated, and resolved through a fast-track procedure.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

2. The government has increased the minimum monthly wage of workers to NRs. 17,300, to be effective from July 15, 2023. The minimum wage of labor per month earlier was NRs. 15,000. Similarly, the daily minimum wage has been raised to NRs. 668, and the hourly wage has been increased to NRs. 80.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

3. According to the grade 12 results published by the National Examination Board, only 50.91 percent of the students are qualified to pursue undergraduate studies. Experts point this as a question over the grading framework and educational institutions. The result is, however, a slight improvement compared to the results of 48.10 percent of qualified students last year.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

4. Tragedy unfolds in Humla district as lives are lost due to delayed medical evacuations. Despite hospital referrals to other districts, the delay in regular flights due to adverse weather has led to many fatal incidents, including the death of four children within a month.

Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

5. Anita Chand, a 16-year-old girl from the Baitadi district, has been reported as a recent victim of Chhaupadi—a banned practice forcing menstruating women to stay in outdoor huts. She lost her life due to a snake bite in sleep, marking the first Chhaupadi-related death since 2019. The practice, illegal since 2005, carries up to a three-month prison term and an NPR 3,000 fine.

Read more: [The Guardian](#)

6. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and Commission on the Investigation of Enforced Disappeared Persons (CIEDP) have remained without an executive for a year since July 2022. It has hampered the entire operation of the commissions as the legal provision mandates major decisions be taken through the executive heads. The employees are also seeking transfers elsewhere due to the reason.

Read more: [Republica](#)

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