

GOVERNANCE

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Nepal's Commitment to Global Democracy

WEEKLY

Photo by: kathmandupost

Summit for Democracy - Fact Sheet

This fact sheet includes the updates between June 1, 2023 to August 28, 2023



Human Rights

June 22: Supreme Court orders the implementation of the Citizenship Bill, paving the way for about 400,000 third-generation Nepalis to receive citizenship by descent.

June 28: The Bill to amend Some Nepal Laws relating to the National Penal (Code) Act – to criminalize usury or loan sharking has been authenticated by the President, and enforcement is underway.

August 17: The Nepal government has revised the minimum monthly wage of workers from NRs. 15,000 to NRs. 17,300, to be effective from July 15, 2023. The daily minimum wage has been raised to NRs. 668, and the hourly wage has been increased to NRs. 80.



Equal rights to women, gender and religious minorities and disadvantaged groups

June 30: The Supreme Court issued an interim order to the Nepal government to put in place a transitional mechanism to register the marriage of same-sex couples and other non-traditional heterosexual couples.



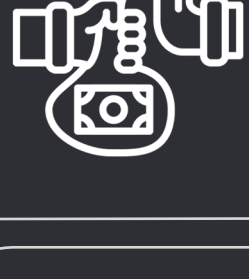
Human Trafficking

June 8: The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) of Nepal and NHRC Qatar signed an MoU to cooperate to protect the rights of migrant workers and enable them to exchange information from migrant worker complaints to legislative procedures.



Transitional Justice

June 4: The Council of Ministers meeting decides to make arrangements to extend the tenure of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and Commission of Investigation on Enforced Disappeared Persons until mid-January 2024.



Anti-Corruption Measures

The Nepal government's commitment to ratify the National Strategy and Action Plan for the Implementation of the UNCAC is still pending and awaits further updates. However, in the last few months, the government has made some strides in tracking down corruption cases such as the [Lalita Niwas land acquisition case](#), the [fake Bhutanese refugee scam](#), the [100 KG gold scandal](#), and the [loan shark](#).



Climate Change

July 7: The Nepal Government decides to ban - the use, production, import, and distribution of single-use plastic below 40 microns, as mentioned in the action plan on plastic bag ban-2078.



Fight against disinformation and hate speech and protection of freedom of expression

August 8: The Council of Ministers has [endorsed](#) the first law against cyber crime; National Cyber Security Policy 2023, which creates a framework for cyber security, capacity development and data protection. It also aims to establish a national internet gateway to enter all internet traffic that enters Nepal through it.

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Nepal's active participation in the [Summit for Democracy \(S4D\)](#) signifies its dedication to advancing democratic principles on a global scale. S4D stands as a crucial international platform, a beacon for reinforcing democratic values worldwide. In this regard, Nepal has enthusiastically participated in both the inaugural and subsequent S4D events, clearly demonstrating its commitment to enhancing efforts aimed at promoting and safeguarding democratic ideals across the globe.

Nepal's involvement in S4D has resulted in a series of significant [commitments](#). These commitments encompass seven different areas of intervention where a wide range of initiatives, including policy reforms, awareness-raising efforts, and the establishment of robust enforcement mechanisms, is necessary for fulfillment. All of these measures are strategically designed to address the multifaceted threats that challenge the integrity of domestic democracy.

This active participation underscores Nepal's dedication to fostering democratic values, protecting human rights, and pursuing progressive policies. Recent achievements demonstrate the progress in addressing critical issues while also promoting inclusivity and transparency within Nepal's democratic framework. As Nepal continues to forge ahead, its commitment to the principles championed at the Summit for Democracy should be a priority for all relevant ministries in Nepal - focusing on fulfilling these commitments and fostering an active and participatory democracy in the nation.

Governance Issues of the Week

- Nepal's leading political parties have agreed to establish an inquiry commission to investigate the cases of gold smuggling so far, also clearing the way to resume the stalled parliament proceedings. The commission will be formed after the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) completes its ongoing investigation into the smuggling of 60 kg of gold from Tribhuvan International Airport.
Read more: [My Republica](#)
- Nepal's government has transferred five Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs), including key investigators of the fake Bhutanese refugee scam. Home Minister Narayan Kaji Shrestha's decision comes amid the ongoing probe into the high-profile fraud. Notably, Dan Bahadur Karki and Manoj KC, who were leading the investigations, have been reassigned to different roles.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)
- NPR 1.047 billion has reportedly entered Dolpa this year solely from the Yarsagumba trade, with 588 kilograms made available for sale by Shey-Phoksundo National Park and the Division Forest Office Dolpa. This substantial income from Yarsa will directly aid rural communities in the district, and the foreign currency earned from it will also support the overall country's economy.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
- The Chief Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal has wrapped up its investigation into the Lalita Niwas land scam and submitted the report to the District Public Prosecutor's Office. The report, prepared in about 2 months, has suggested the involvement of 238 people, including four ex-ministers and six ex-secretaries, in the land embezzlement.
Read more: [Ekantipur](#)
- The University Grants Commission (UGC) has introduced a new rule, starting from 1 August 2023, to make academic schedules consistent across all universities. The commission has published a National Unified Academic Calendar to align academic activities such as bachelor's and master's exams and results across all educational institutions in Nepal.
Read more: [BBC News](#)
- The Millennium Challenge Compact signed by the Nepal government in 2017 is set to come to full-scale implementation on 30 August 2023. So far, the work on fulfilling preconditions, including land acquisition, for the project has been conducted. However, as the project faces delays, its total cost has risen from USD 630 million to USD 697 million.
Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)

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