

GOVERNANCE

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WEEKLY

Cricketing Triumphs Illuminate Urgent Need for Sports Infrastructure Overhaul

Photo by Online Khabar

In recent times, Nepal's cricketing journey has been nothing short of remarkable. The National Cricket Team's exceptional performance at the Asia Cup, where they faced cricketing giants like India and Pakistan, and the Women's cricket team's headline-making success in the ICC Women's T20 World Cup Asia Region Qualifier are achievements that have filled the nation with pride and euphoria. However, these triumphs have also cast a glaring spotlight on the persistent issues of inadequate sports infrastructure, project delays, and corruption in the country, raising serious questions about government accountability.

Nepal's cricketing ascent has been a source of inspiration for sports enthusiasts across the nation. Yet, the lack of a single stadium of good standards to host international matches remains a glaring issue. The recent allocation of a budget of Rs2.46 billion to the Youth & Sports Ministry for infrastructural development in the fiscal year 2079/80 was a positive sign, but the effectiveness and transparency of its implementation demand close scrutiny.

One of the ambitious targets set by the government is the upgrade of the TU International Cricket Ground in Kathmandu to host night events. The absence of floodlights has long been a hindrance to the ground's potential. Similarly, the ongoing construction of the Mulpani Cricket Stadium, which started as early as 2006, serves as a glaring example of project delays that have plagued Nepal's sports infrastructure development. Moreover, the resumption of construction work on the Gautam Buddha International Cricket Stadium in Chitwan, after a foundation pulled out due to budget issues, underscores the vulnerability of sports infrastructure projects to financial mismanagement and lack of accountability.

Nepal's cricketing successes on the international stage are undoubtedly a cause for celebration, but they also serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for sustainable sports infrastructure. The government's budget allocation is a step in the right direction, but it must be accompanied by strict accountability measures to prevent mismanagement and corruption. The Nepali people, who have celebrated their teams' victories with great enthusiasm, deserve to see their tax rupees invested wisely and transparently.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. India has officially confirmed its plan to purchase 10,000 megawatts of electricity from Nepal over the next decade, following the endorsement of a long-term inter-government power trade agreement. This agreement is seen as a catalyst for increased investments in Nepal's power sector and the export of power to India, benefiting both nations.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. The Parliament of Nepal is yet again out of business as the government has refrained from presenting any new bills, leading to concerns about the legislative agenda. The delay in presenting new bills has resulted in the postponement of scheduled meetings in both the National Assembly and the House of Representatives.

Read more: [EKantipur](#)

3. A devastating storm in Rukum West has inflicted agricultural losses exceeding NPR 100 million, resulting in a food crisis as over 1,600 metric tons of maize have been destroyed. The storm has affected the entire district, with the highest damages reported in Aathbis Municipality, where losses reached around NPR 40 million. Despite previous self-reliance in food production, the cyclone has prompted concerns of a food shortage this year.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

4. Nepal government has approved new Citizenship Regulations, enabling non-resident Nepalis to acquire Nepali citizenship. These regulations, in accordance with the amended Citizenship Act, will soon be published in the Nepal Gazette. NRN citizenship will come with certain limitations, such as no voting rights or political participation, whereas it will grant the right to conduct business and own property in Nepal, among other privileges.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

5. The Supreme Court has ordered Koshi Province to appoint Hikmat Karki, CPN-UML's assembly leader, as Chief Minister, overturning the vote of confidence claimed by Uddhav Thapa where 43 lawmakers along with the speaker of the house voted, a full bench of apex court declared the incumbent of Thapa formed under Article 168 (2) unconstitutional paving way for Hikmat Karki as new province chief in accordance to Article 168 (3).

Read more: [My Republica](#)

6. Nepal's Sudurpaschim Province is alarmed by the widespread encroachment of forest land by local government units for infrastructure projects. All 88 local units in the province have reportedly encroached upon forests, totaling an estimated 11,000 hectares, with an additional 6,000 hectares used for construction. Despite warnings, political pressure has hampered efforts to combat encroachments. Provincial authorities now pledge to take legal action against those responsible.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

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