

GOVERNANCE

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Nepal Champions Urgent Climate Action at COP28 in Dubai

WEEKLY

Photo by Annapurna Express

Nepal, a nation nestled in the heart of the Himalayas, has emerged as a vocal advocate for urgent climate action at the ongoing Conference of Parties (COP28) in Dubai. Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal, representing the voice of 30 million Nepalis, delivered a resounding message, underscoring the critical role of mountains and the escalating climate crisis faced by Nepal.

In a bold six-point demand, Nepal called out developed nations for a perceived misalignment between their climate pledges and tangible actions. Prime Minister Dahal urged these nations to elevate their ambitions and promptly fulfill their commitments. Key among Nepal's demands was a call for a substantial increase in climate finance, highlighting a concerning \$100 billion shortfall. The Himalayan nation additionally emphasized the urgent need to double adaptation finance by 2025 and stressed the importance of fair financial arrangements free from conditionalities.

Nepal, currently holding the chair of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), brought attention to the imperative requirement for a predictable and sufficient Loss and Damage Fund, specifically tailored to address the unique challenges faced by LDCs and mountainous regions. The launch of the Loss and Damage Fund at COP28 stands as a positive development, reflecting the collective commitment to addressing the impacts of climate change on vulnerable nations.

The fervent calls for action by Nepal, coupled with its active participation in various events at COP28, signal a growing momentum for climate justice. As the conference unfolds, the world is keenly watching to see if global leaders will respond to Nepal's impassioned plea and take decisive steps toward building a sustainable and climate-resilient future. The stakes are high, and the international community awaits tangible outcomes that reflect a united commitment to combating the pressing challenges of climate change.

Read more: [Anapurna Express](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The West Rukum District Court has sentenced 24 individuals to life imprisonment for murder and two others to two years in prison with a Rs 50,000 fine each for practicing caste-based discrimination and untouchability. This verdict is linked to the 2020 killing of six youths in Chaurjahari Municipality, West Rukum, as they sought to bring a girl from an 'upper caste' as a bride.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. Gautam Buddha International Airport failed to commence regular operations two and a half years after its inauguration. Frustrated entrepreneurs have initiated various protests, citing adverse effects on the tourism sector. Despite substantial government investment, the airport's inactivity has impacted the region's economic prospects.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

3. The National Information Commission (NIC) has presented eight recommendations in its fiscal year 2079-80 BS annual report, urging the government for swift implementation. Key suggestions include prompt revision of the 2018 Privacy Act and implementing provisions like appointing an information officer, proactive information disclosure, and timely provision of information.

Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)

4. Tribhuvan University in Nepal has launched a Winter School program on Himalayan environmental impacts and climate change in collaboration with IRD France and ICIMOD. The course, which includes 25 students from various countries, focuses on remote sensing techniques for snow and glacier studies.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

5. Nepal relies on 54,423 Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHVs) to connect health facilities with local communities. From immunization to maternal and child health, these volunteers play a crucial role. Despite facing challenges like limited recognition and incentives, their contributions have been instrumental in achieving health targets, notably reducing maternal mortality and ensuring the success of diverse health programs.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

6. The Central Bank has loosened monetary tools to boost capital flow in the market. In its first quarterly review of monetary policy, the Central Bank has reduced the bank rate from 7.5 percent to 7 percent and the policy rate from 6.5 percent to 5.5 percent. The move is aimed at curbing interest rates used by banks to borrow from the Central Bank in times of liquidity shortages.

Read more: [Seto Pati](#)

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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