



GOVERNANCE

Issue | 139 | SEPT 20, 2024

Need for River Safety in Kathmandu Valley Amid Rising Flood Risks

WEEKLY

Photo By Setopati

River safety in the Kathmandu Valley has become a critical concern as incidents of flooding resulting in damage to lives and property increase. Recently in one case, a [taxi plunged](#) into Dhobikhola river near Anamnagar and was recovered at Thapathali with the proactive role of the Nepali police in saving the driver. In another case, a man walking with his son [slipped](#) and fell into the heavy Bishnumati River and the police are searching for his whereabouts. These are only a few recent examples. There have been increasing cases of unmanaged rivers and poorly planned infrastructures causing [property damage](#) as the river enters the settlement areas and poses a serious threat to public safety.

The Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has reported a 35-55% increase in rainfall in many regions of Nepal, including Kathmandu, where rainfall has exceeded 1,400 millimeters, far above the average 1,000 mm during the monsoon season. As the impacts of climate change have increased, it is foreseen that rainfall among other weather patterns can be increasingly unpredictable. Meanwhile, Kathmandu, Biratnagar, Dharan, Dipayal, Doti, Surkhet, Ghorahi, and Dhangadhi have seen heavier rainfall this year, while other parts of the country, such as Janakpur, Lumle, Jiri, and Pokhara, have recorded below-average precipitation so far.

The imbalance in rainfall patterns poses a dual challenge and highlights the need for comprehensive solutions. Relying on security forces as first responders will not serve as a long-term strategy during disasters. Recently, the Supreme Court issued a ruling prohibiting construction within an additional 20 meters of riverbanks in the Kathmandu Valley, but debates about its implementation continue. Also, there are already enough infrastructures built around the riverbanks, demolishing which could be even costlier. There is a need for all tiers of the government to be proactive and collaborative, and implement reforms tailored to the specific challenges their regions are facing or are likely to encounter.

Read more: [Setopati](#)

Governance issues of the week

- 1 According to the Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD), dengue fever has impacted 9,486 individuals across Nepal between January and mid-September 2024, leading to six fatalities. In just the first 13 days of September, 2,633 new cases were reported. Tanahun recorded the highest number of cases at 1,435, followed by Kaski, Parbat, Kathmandu, and Chitwan. The disease has now spread to 76 districts, with Humla being the only one unaffected.
Read more: [My Republica](#)
- 2 The Ministry of Home Affairs has formed a five-member committee, led by Tokraj Pandey, Chief of the Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Division, to address citizenship issues in Nepal. The committee has been tasked with identifying citizenship-related problems and suggesting reforms by the 1st of October. The committee includes representatives from the Prime Minister's Office, the Ministry of Law, and other divisions of the Home Ministry.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
- 3 Ten organizations held a protest rally in Kathmandu, urging the government to review and cancel the Supreme Court's decision to ban new construction within 20 meters of rivers in the Kathmandu Valley. The protest was led by groups representing road expansion victims, Dalit rights advocates, and anti-corruption campaigners. The Supreme Court made the ruling in August 2024, aiming to reduce flood risks and safeguard the river ecosystem.
Read more: [Setopati](#)
- 4 The Ministry of Tourism, Culture, and Civil Aviation has drafted a bill proposing the separation of Nepal's Civil Aviation Authority into two distinct entities: one for regulation and the other for service provision. The bill, submitted to the Council of Ministers, is based on recommendations from previous high-level investigation committees. Additionally, inter-ministerial efforts are underway to operationalize the airports in Bhairahawa and Pokhara.
Read more: [Onlinekhabar](#)
- 5 The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) reported that only 64.81% of cases filed in the Supreme Court were resolved last fiscal year. The CIAA had reviewed 27,714 complaints and filed 201 cases against 1,500 individuals. Most complaints were related to local governments and involved illegal profits, bribery, and damage to public property, with claims totaling NPR 8.5 billion.
Read more: [Nayapatrika](#)
- 6 The Mahila Adhikar Manch led by Ruby Khan has filed a complaint against the Banke police and the district attorney for refusing to register cases against Nepali Congress leader Badshah Kurmi, the main suspect in Nirmala Kurmi's 2010 disappearance. Badshah Kurmi, who was recently appointed provincial minister, resigned due to public pressure. The protestors are also demanding government accountability for not implementing previous agreements and failing to uphold the rule of law.
Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

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.

Presented by



Copyright © 2021 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.

Our return e-mailing address is:

nepal@accountabilitylab.org