

# GOVERNANCE

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## Nepal to Participate in COP 29: A Defining Moment for Addressing Climate Crisis and Secure International Support

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The United Nations Climate Change Conference or Conference of the Parties (COP 29), scheduled for 11 to 22 November 2024, will be a significant event for global climate negotiations and advocacy. For Nepal, this conference represents an important opportunity to not only present its climate challenges and impacts, but also to advocate for the necessary international support and cooperation in addressing these challenges. President Ram Chandra Paudel will be leading the Nepali delegation to the COP 29 happening in Baku, Azerbaijan.

During the [COP 28](#), Nepal had made a strong impression by consistently highlighting the impact of climate change on its mountain regions, through organizing a high-level event and delivering powerful remarks. As COP 29 approaches, all eyes will be on the Nepali delegation once again, to observe how effectively they represent the voices of 30 million people who are bearing the brunt of climate related disasters. At COP 29, Nepal is set to host a high-level session on November 13, on the topic "Addressing Climate-Related Loss and Damage in Mountainous Regions." Nepal has also prepared a national status paper that addresses Nepal's priority agendas for COP 29 which includes loss and damage, mountain ecosystems, and climate finance, as per the Ministry of Forest and Environment.

Nepal has set ambitious climate goals, including expanding forest coverage to 45% by 2030 and achieving net-zero emissions by 2045, as announced at COP26. While these goals are commendable, the reality of Nepal's climate vulnerability is also evident. This year alone, the country suffered from devastating events such as glacier lake outbursts, massive landslides, and severe flooding resulting in significant loss of life and property. A lack of preparedness and monitoring of the goals is seen on Nepal's end despite its multiple commitments. It is important for Nepal to follow through on its own commitments, ensuring that domestic efforts to address climate change are matched by real tangible actions.

Additionally, Nepal has also struggled to effectively engage communities and civil society organizations working on climate issues. It is essential for Nepal to adopt a more inclusive and consultative approach, ensuring that all stakeholders are engaged in shaping its climate strategy for the future. At COP 29, Nepal must be clear, consistent, and objective in its messaging, emphasizing the need for enhanced international cooperation and securing the support necessary to execute its green and resilient development goals.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. Former Chief Secretary Baikuntha Aryal has been acquitted by the special court while convicting two other suspects of corruption related to excise duty sticker printing. The convicted are to be sentenced on the 10th of December. The CIAA's allegations of Aryal's corruption were nullified by the court, citing a lack of substantial evidence. The other two convicted are said to have caused a loss of Rs. 34.2 million each.

Read More: [myRepublica](#)

2. One year after the Rukum Paschim earthquake, many survivors still live in temporary tin sheds, bracing for another winter without secure housing. The quake killed over 150 people and caused massive infrastructure damage across Jajarkot, Rukum, and Salyan. Local officials have urged the government to speed up reconstruction efforts while many families still await the promised financial aid.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

3. After seven years, the Babai River bridge in Bardiya is still only 70 percent complete while the residents wait for critical infrastructure. The bridge which was originally set to finish in 2020, has seen repeated setbacks with issues including contractor switches, technical issues etc. The delay of this project is also affecting the government's plan for a road connecting Salyan Khalanga to Nepalgunj.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

4. The Election Commission will conduct a by-election on December 1, 2024, for 44 vacant local-level positions nationwide. Positions include two District Coordination Committee chiefs, two rural municipality chairpersons, two vice-chairs, a municipality mayor, a deputy mayor, and 34 ward chairpersons. A total of 25 political parties have registered for the election. The candidates are requested to submit the nominations on November 17, 2024.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

5. Tribhuvan International Airport (TIA) will be closed for 10 hours daily from 10:00 pm to 8:00 am for the next five months. The closure is part of the Rs 15 billion Air Transport Capacity Enhancement Project, which includes expanding the southwest taxiway, international apron, and hangar apron. TIA currently handles over 200 domestic and 100 international flights daily, and these upgrades will boost capacity and safety standards.

Read more: [The Rising Nepal](#)

6. Nepal has completed the 220KV Chilime-Trishuli transmission line project. The Nepal Electricity Authority stated that the transmission line is of utmost importance as it facilitates electricity trade with the northern neighbor China. This is the first transmission line connecting Nepal and China, and is expected to reduce Nepal's reliance on India for electricity imports during the dry season.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

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