

GOVERNANCE

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Nepal's Teachers' Protest: A Wake-Up Call for Education Governance

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The nationwide teachers' protest in Kathmandu has entered its third week. Since April 2, 2025, over 235,000 teachers from 26,000 public schools have gone on strike, demanding the immediate enactment of the long-stalled School Education Bill. Led by the Nepal Teachers' Federation (NTF), the strike is disrupting the new academic session, delaying student enrollments, and halting the evaluation of key board examinations—including the Secondary Education Examination (SEE) and Grade 12 exams. The protest erupted after the federal parliament was prorogued without passing the bill.

At the heart of the protest lies a long-standing legislative vacuum. The School Education Bill, vital to aligning the education system with the federal structure, has been pending in a parliamentary committee for over 18 months. Teachers strongly oppose the proposed decentralization of teacher management to local governments, arguing it risks politicization and unfair recruitment practices. They demand that recruitment, transfer, and promotion processes remain under the federal government—preferably through the Teacher Service Commission—for fairness and transparency.

Adding momentum to the protest, the Relief Quota Teachers' Association—representing around 40,000 contractual teachers—have also amplified the protest by highlighting the precarious status of temporary educators hired by local units. These claim the contractual teachers lack job security and benefits despite playing a critical role in sustaining education delivery in under-resourced areas.

However, this is not the first time teachers have taken to the streets. In September 2023, a similar protest led to a six-point agreement with the government, but its non-implementation further deepened mistrust among teachers. In response to the recent protests, the Ministry of Education has urged teachers to resume classes and requested for dialogues, but the NTF remains adamant in its demands of swift enactment of the education bill. Recently, the government has scheduled a parliamentary session for April 25, 2025, to deliberate on the bill.

Though the protest may appear reckless, affecting the education of over 5 million students, it reveals a deeper crisis rooted in weak federal implementation and political inaction. The bill—pending for over 8 years since the Constitution's promulgation—has also delayed discussions on critical gaps in curriculum, digital integration, teacher training, and school financing. The protest also raises legal and ethical questions about the limits of strikes, especially in essential public services like education. Ultimately, the government must treat this as more than a bureaucratic dispute—it must act decisively to pass the bill, restore trust, and prioritize the educational future of Nepali students.

Read More: [The Rising Nepal, Kantipur](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

- 1. SSF integration for contract employees:** The contractual employees and temporary workers working in institutions fully or partially owned by either of the three tiers of government will now be included in the Social Security Fund (SSF). Arrangements are made to allow such workers to participate in the scheme by considering at least 60 percent of their basic salary. The workers will contribute 11% of their salary while employers contribute 20% of the salary to the fund.

Read More: [The Rising Nepal](#)

- 2. Kathmandu-Kerung rail geographical study nears completion:** The geological study for the China-supported Kathmandu-Kerung railway is nearing completion, with 75 out of 80 drilling sites finished across Kathmandu, Nuwakot, and Rasuwa. Launched in late 2022, the study must conclude within 42 months. It will determine the route's cost, length, tunnels, bridges, and stations. The preliminary study estimates the cost of the project at NPR 271 billion.

Read More: [Kantipur](#)

- 3. DIG positions in 3 provinces remain empty:** The Deputy Inspector General (DIG) position in Gandaki, Karnali, and Sudurpashchim province police offices have remained vacant for about a month. The three DIGs retired on March 17, 2025 as mandated after completing 30 years of service. It will take more time for the appointment of the DIGs as it's customary to promote AIGs before DIGs. Currently the province's policing is handed to the respective Senior Superintendents of Police (SSPs).

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- 4. SC blocks age limit removal on constitutional posts:** The Supreme Court has issued an interim order halting the Ministry of Finance's amendment made on 25 February, 2025 that removed the 65-year age limit for constitutional appointments. The order follows a petition arguing the change violates good governance principles and citizens' right to quality public service. Meanwhile, the government has delayed appointing a new Nepal Rastra Bank governor, despite legal provisions requiring an appointment at least a month before the previous term's expiry

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- 5. Patan High Court rules traffic police snatching keys as illegal:** The Patan High Court has ruled that traffic police snatching keys as unlawful and intimidating. The court has issued a directive order to prevent similar conduct in the future. This landmark verdict is seen as a major step toward safeguarding citizens' rights and urging police to operate strictly within legal boundaries, promoting accountability in law enforcement.

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- 6. Curfew imposed in Birganj over religious riot:** A curfew was imposed in Birganj for two-days following violent clashes during a Hanuman Jayanti procession on 12 April 2025. The violence erupted at Chapkaiya Chowk after unidentified individuals reportedly threw stones at the procession near Shreeram Hall Chowk, injuring 41 people, including police personnel and locals. The clashes caused significant property damage, with one shop completely destroyed and four motorcycles set on fire.

Read More: [The Himalayan Times](#)

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