

GOVERNANCE

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Geta Hospital Project: A big promise but now a victim of Political interference and corruption

Geta Hospital, located in Kailali district, was envisioned as a flagship national project—an advanced teaching hospital under a medical university setup. Despite nearly NPR. 7 billion already poured into infrastructure, the hospital remains mired in controversy, largely due to prolonged delays in operations and persistent allegations of corruption and mismanagement.

The most recent controversy centers on 17 procurement tenders worth NPR. 289 million, all issued within a single week by the newly appointed Director, Dr. Pramod Kumar Yadav. The move allegedly violated the Public Procurement Act, with many tenders reportedly copying specifications directly from branded catalogs. This has raised serious concerns about favoritism and potential breaches of procurement and anti-corruption laws. The abrupt replacement of the hospital's procurement committee has further fueled suspicions of a deliberate effort to limit competition. While Dr. Yadav has denied the allegations, calling his actions necessary and urgent, the manner and scale of the tenders have drawn widespread scrutiny. It is yet to see how the case will unfold.

But the problems at Geta run much deeper than a single procurement scandal. They reflect years of political indecision, institutional ambiguity, and administrative neglect. Initially planned as a 600-bed teaching hospital with the capacity to train 150 medical students per batch, Geta was expected to transform healthcare access in Nepal's far-western region. By 2021, 28 buildings had been completed at the cost of NPR. 6.68 billion. In July 2023, the Ministry of Health approved 141 staff positions and provisionally cleared the operation of a 50-bed hospital. Yet, the facility remains largely non-functional.

A key reason for the delay is the unresolved question of institutional status—whether Geta will be a medical college, an academy, or a university. A bill to establish the Shahid Dasharath Chand Health Sciences University has passed the National Assembly but remains stalled in the House of Representatives. This legal and administrative limbo has left critical infrastructure—hostels, staff quarters, an oxygen plant, a 4MW power substation, and the hospital itself—severely underutilized and, in some cases, deteriorating.

This failure is especially troubling for Sudurpaschim Province, where access to quality healthcare is already limited. Thousands of patients from the region are forced to travel to Kathmandu for specialized treatment—incurring significant financial and emotional costs. Geta was supposed to be a remedy to this burden. Similarly, the case of Geta hospital also underscores a broader flaw in Nepal's development approach: the belief that constructing infrastructure is enough. But without corresponding priority to governance, legal frameworks, and accountability, even the most ambitious projects can fall short. The current procurement controversy is not an isolated incident—it is a predictable consequence of a system that prioritizes physical output over functional outcomes.

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Governance Issues of the Week

- 'Shram Sansar' portal launched to boost jobs:** On the occasion of the 136th International Workers' Day, Nepal Government has launched the "Shram Sansar" (Labor World) portal to connect job seekers, employers, and government agencies. The platform enables employers to find skilled workers and job seekers to access opportunities based on their qualifications. It includes features such as job listings, entrepreneurship resources, and success stories, and will eventually be integrated into the Nagarik App to enhance public access.

Read more: [Gorkhapatra](#)

- Government agencies return over NPR. 5 billion unused budget:** Over NPR 5 billion in unused budget has been returned by various government agencies this fiscal year, with the Energy Ministry and Millennium Challenge Account Nepal (MCA-Nepal) returning the most. According to the Finance Ministry, NPR 5.03 billion in capital and NPR 53.4 million in recurrent budgets were unspent. MCA-Nepal alone returned 58% of its NPR 13.36 billion allocation due to slow progress in land acquisition for transmission lines. Last year, it had returned 70% of its allocated funds.

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- Teachers' Federation ends protest after a deal with government:** The National Teachers Federation has ended its month-long protest in Kathmandu after reaching a nine-point agreement with the government. The deal promises subsidized medical treatment for teachers and school staff in civil hospitals, sick leave accumulation for relief and temporary teachers, inclusion in the Social Security Fund, and grading adjustments. The government also committed to passing the School Education Bill by June 29. However, the teachers have warned of intensified protests if the government fails to honor the agreement.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

- Nepal unveils plan to eradicate street children by July 2025:** The Nepal government has rolled out a three-phase action plan to eliminate street children by mid-July 2025. Led by the National Child Rights Council, the initiative aims to make all wards free of street children by mid of May 2025, all local governments by the end of May, and all provinces by the mid of June. To date, 2,485 street children have been rescued, including 136 in the current fiscal year. The authorities are asked to monitor and rescue suspected street children, and report verified progress to government bodies.

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- Judiciary faces growing case backlog:** Nepal's judiciary is struggling with an increasing backlog, with nearly 500,000 cases pending across all court levels. In fiscal year 2081/82, the Supreme Court handled 42,917 cases, resolving 16,689, marking the highest resolution rate to date. Similarly, high courts resolved 59,198 of 84,533 cases, with cases older than five years being addressed for the first time. Experts cite delayed judge appointments and trend of filing frivolous public interest petitions in the Supreme Court as key factors contributing to delays.

Read more: [Kantipur](#)

- Deukhuri capital city development faces setbacks:** The ambitious plan to develop Deukhuri in Dang district as the permanent capital of Lumbini Province, announced in 2020, is facing significant delays. Despite a master plan approved in 2022, land integration issues and local resistance, coupled with financial challenges, have stalled progress. Only two of 14 targeted wards have approved land integration, and the project depends on securing foreign loans. With leadership changes and ongoing challenges, the project's future remains uncertain.

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