

# GOVERNANCE

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## CIB Files Fraud Charges in Bal Mandir Land Misuse Case Following Year-Long Investigation

The Central Investigation Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police has filed fraud charges against 17 individuals after concluding a year-long investigation into the alleged misuse of land belonging to Nepal Children's Organization, popularly known as Bal Mandir. The probe, initiated in May 2024 after multiple public complaints, centers around irregularities in leasing state-owned land of Bal Mandir to Brihaspati Vidyasadan, a school run by the influential Vishal Group.

The list of accused includes former officials of both the institutions, including the former chairperson of Bal Mandir, Rita Singh Baidhya, who is also the sister of political figure Prakash Man Singh. Despite the charges, the police have not yet recorded the statements of Baidhya, and the charges against all accused have been recorded as absconding. Although the case was registered at the Kathmandu District Court on May 7, 2025, no formal arrests or further legal actions have been initiated. The case, charged under Nepal's criminal code for allegedly deceiving the state and misusing public property for personal benefit, seeks seven years of imprisonment and a compensation of NPR 603.9 million from Baidhya and 16 others which include three Indian nationals.

The controversy originates from a lease agreement led by Baidhya in 2048 BS to lease 1.45 hectares of Bal Mandir's land to Brihaspati Vidyasadan for an annual amount of NRs. 9 million, valid until 2088 BS. Later, the school subleased 0.27 hectares of the land to Rai School for NRs. 6 million per year. The original agreement with Brihaspati Vidyasadan included a provision for a 5% rent increase every two years, excluding the first and last five years of the lease. However, 16 years before the lease was due to expire, Brihaspati Vidyasadan secured a questionable deal for 1.48 hectares of Bal Mandir land at just NRs. 6 per square foot. Alongside this undervalued arrangement, the lease period was also controversially extended by an additional 43 years, until 2131 BS.

In 2076 BS, a government-led investigation committee had recommended further inquiry into the suspected embezzlement of the land. However, the Ministry of Women, Children, and Senior Citizens—under whose purview Bal Mandir falls—has neither made the report public nor taken concrete follow-up action. The repeated demands have been made in the parliament, and by civil society organizations for the report's release and for a thorough investigation into the case. As the case unfolds, its outcome is being closely monitored as a potential litmus test for Nepal's judicial integrity and the state's commitment to combating corruption and ensuring public accountability.

Read more: [Nayapatrika](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. **Security Committee assesses rising India-Pakistan tensions:** The Central Security Committee led by the Home Minister met on 7th May, in response to the escalating tensions between India and Pakistan. The meeting decided to increase surveillance in sensitive areas, including the Nepal-India border and major airports, and also addressed key issues such as safety of Nepali citizens in conflict areas and the need to enhance internal security, inter-agency coordination and information sharing.

Read More: [The Himalayan Times](#)

2. **Jumla Airport expansion plan moves forward:** The federal government has released NPR 20 million as the first installment for land acquisition to expand Jumla Airport, which is deemed crucial for the development of the Upper Karnali region. The Ministry of Finance has directed the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal to submit the required documents for the remaining funds. The expansion will extend the current 670-meter runway to 1,150 meters, requiring the acquisition of 183.80 ropanis of land, with a total allocation of NPR 100 million for this fiscal year.

Read More: [The Rising Nepal](#)

3. **Police Baton-Charge EPS Protestors:** A group of youths protesting outside the EPS Korea branch office in Gwarko, Lalitpur, over an 18-month delay in deploying them despite passing mandatory language tests were subjected to baton charges by the police. During the incident, photojournalists from Kantipur and OnlineKhabar were obstructed by police while attempting to document the situation. The incident raises serious concerns over Nepal's press freedom and freedom of expression.

Read More: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

4. **CIAA Files Charges over Medical Procurement Corruption in Madhesh:** The Commission for Investigation on Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has filed cases against 45 individuals for alleged misappropriation of NPR 524.25 million during the procurement of medical equipment by Madhesh Province's Ministry of Social Development, executed through the Provincial Public Health Laboratory. The CIAA has lodged four separate cases citing abuse of authority, forgery, collusion, and embezzlement. Key allegations include procurement without needs assessment, inflated cost estimates, and manipulation by technical evaluation teams.

Read more: [Nayapatrika](#)

5. **Another Nepali student found dead at KIIT University, India :**

Following the death of a Nepali girl, Prakriti Lamsal, a student at KIIT university in Odisha in February 2025, Prisha Shah, another Nepali student at KIIT, has recently been found dead. Indian authorities have intensified investigations into the institution. The National Human Rights Commission has instructed the Odisha Chief Secretary and DGP to submit a report by May 9. Meanwhile, the University Grants Commission has formed a four-member inquiry team, led by IGNOU Vice-Chancellor to complete a 10-day investigation.

Read More: [myRepublica](#)

6. **NPC to exclude projects under NPR 30 million from the National Project Bank:** The Vice Chair of the National Planning Commission(NPC) has stressed on prioritizing quickly implementable projects. The projects are to be categorized in two groups i.e., "study" and "implementation", with only those with a budget over NPR 30 million to be included in the National Project bank . Projects that lack a Detailed Project Report (DPR) will remain in the study phase until a DPR is made available. Officials from various ministries expressed concerns that the budget ceiling has made it difficult to prepare the mid-term expenditure framework.

Read More: [Online Khabar](#)

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