

# GOVERNANCE

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## Nepal's Monsoon Forecast Calls for Urgent Disaster Preparedness

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Nepal is likely to experience heavier-than-average rainfall during this year's monsoon, from 1 June to 30 September, according to the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM). It has forecasted rainfall to be 35 to 65 percent above average across different regions. This shift in monsoon patterns is part of a growing trend. Experts link these changes to the effects of climate change resulting in more erratic and intense rainfall. Unlike the traditional monsoon, Nepal now experiences short, intense bursts of rain. These downpours do not allow the soil enough time to absorb water, leading to runoff, landslides, and flooding. Last year's monsoon lasted 134 days—longer than average— which was another signal of how changing climate is stretching natural seasons.

While beneficial for agriculture in the short term, such excess rainfall significantly raises the risk of disasters like landslides and flash floods in the hills and mountains, and flooding in the Terai plains. However, despite frequent warnings, Nepal's disaster preparedness remains limited. The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) notes some progress in information flow between government levels, but many local governments still lack the tools, infrastructure, and training needed for effective response. Early warning messages may reach the ground, but without tools and planning, communities remain exposed.

Disaster readiness in Nepal requires coordinated action from all three levels of government. The federal government must lead by developing strong policies and national information and coordination systems. Provincial governments can offer technical and financial assistance, while local governments need to build their own capacity to act quickly when disasters strike. Investments in community-level training, early warning systems, and real-time disaster information platforms are critical.

With the monsoon season already here, strengthening local preparedness and resilience is no longer optional; it is urgent. Nepal is not short on forecasting ability, it is short on preparedness. Therefore, failure to act now could turn seasonal rains into recurring humanitarian crises, and a repeat of failure stories.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. **CIAA raids immigration office at TIA:** The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) raided the Immigration Office at Tribhuvan International Airport on 21st May 2025, detaining Tirtharaj Bhattarai, a Joint Secretary at the Ministry of Home Affairs. He is under investigation for alleged involvement in a human trafficking network, suspected of illegally collecting money through the manipulation of visit visas. Bhattarai had also previously faced corruption allegations during his tenure as a Local Development Officer in a District Development Committee, with investigations still ongoing.

Read More: [myRepublica](#)

2. **Amended law to allow abortion at any stage of pregnancy:** An amendment has been proposed in Nepal that aims to legalize abortion at any stage of pregnancy with the person's consent, unless it poses a life-threatening risk. Currently, abortion is allowed up to 22 weeks. Experts oppose the amendment, arguing that fetuses are viable after 26 weeks, making the change ethically and medically problematic. Despite abortion being legal for over 20 years, 52% are still performed unsafely, signaling the urgent need for reforms to ensure safe abortion access.

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

3. **Police to charge 61 individuals over Tinkune Protest:** The Nepal Police has concluded its investigation into the March 28 Tinkune riots that took place during a pro-monarchy movement organized by the United People's Movement Committee. Police are filing a case against 61 individuals on charges including criminal vandalism, treason, organized crime, and attempted murder. Over 170 people, including RPP leaders Rabindra Mishra and Dhawal Shumsher Rana, and Durga Prasai, were arrested earlier in the case; among which 53 still remain in custody.

Read More: [Nayapatrika](#)

4. **CIAA alleges large corruption in Bharat Pond construction:** The CIAA has filed corruption charges against several individuals, including former Madhesh Province Finance Minister Vijay Kumar, over the alleged embezzlement of NPR 567.1 million in the construction of Bharat Pond. The charges include document forgery, bypassing mandatory approvals, and causing major financial losses to the state. Kumar alone is accused of misusing nearly NPR 300 million and could face 10 to 14 years in prison if convicted.

Read More: [Naya Patrika](#)

5. **Record exports not sufficient to mitigate deficit:** Nepal's export surged by 73% in the first 10 months of the fiscal year, reaching NPR 217.81 billion - with exports from refined edible oil reaching 41%. However, imports also rose by 13.11%, totaling NPR 1.474 trillion, pushing the trade deficit to NPR 1.256 trillion, up 7% from last year. The export spike is largely attributed to India's customs policy, which offers duty-free access to goods with 30% value addition in Nepal compared to India's 27% duty on oil from other countries.

Read More: [Kantipur](#)

6. **Concerns raised over HDC chair appointments:** The ruling parties, CPN-UML and Nepali Congress, have appointed chairs of 13 government hospital development committees (HDC) in Lumbini through a ministerial decision, bypassing cabinet procedures. It has sparked concerns over political favoritism and lack of transparency. The Janmat Party, a member of the ruling coalition, has expressed dissatisfaction over being left out of the decision-making process, criticizing the reappointment of previous individuals and the lack of sector-specific expertise in the selections.

Read More: [OnlineKhabar](#)

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.

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