

GOVERNANCE

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Assessing Nepal's Disaster Preparedness: Early Response Softens Impact of October Floods!

WEEKLY

On October 3, 2025, many parts of Nepal experienced unprecedented rainfall, triggering widespread flooding and landslides just as the festive season began. The heavy downpour claimed at least 60 lives, with Ilam alone accounting for [39 deaths](#). Bagmati and Koshi provinces were among the severely affected, facing significant economic and infrastructural losses.

However, unlike previous years, the government this time took notable preemptive measures to minimise casualties and damages. The Ministry of Home Affairs, acting on the forecast warnings from the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, ordered the closure of major highways and road networks. Red-alert warnings were issued well in advance, and citizens were urged to avoid travel in high-risk areas. These precautionary measures have been widely lauded by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority ([NDRRMA](#)), as well as by the general public.

In Ilam, all municipalities except Chulachuli and Rong Rural have reported damage. At least [132 houses](#) were completely destroyed, [401 partially damaged](#), and around [276 families](#) displaced. The Koshi provincial government has [announced NPR 100 thousand as compensation](#) for each bereaved family. Access to the district remains a major challenge as road networks have collapsed. The only functional route now passes through Jhapa, forcing residents to cross the Mai River on foot. [Manebhanjyang](#), a village near the Indian border, is completely isolated from Nepal's road network, now accessible only through Sukepokhari in India.

Moreover, the supply disruption has caused scarcity of food, fuel, and essential goods, worsening the economic strain. [Sixteen hydropower projects](#) in Ilam—both operational and under construction—have shut down due to damages. Ilam has been declared a disaster crisis zone for three months to accelerate relief and reconstruction efforts.

In Kavre, which faced severe flooding last year, this year's impact was milder though still destructive. Four local units—Roshi, Mahabharat, Bethanchowk, and Khani Khola—were cut off from road and electricity networks. [Seven motorable bridges](#) were completely destroyed and 41 partially damaged, while in Sunsari, about [1,300 houses](#) were submerged.

Although detailed assessments are pending, experts note that timely government action helped reduce casualties this year. However, the recurring pattern of human and infrastructural casualties emphasizes the need for stronger infrastructure, improved local awareness and preparedness, and long-term climate resilience planning.

ELECTION WATCH

Key Dates Announced for Upcoming Elections

[The Election Commission of Nepal](#) has released the official schedule for the upcoming House of Representatives elections. The timeline includes key dates for party registration, candidate nominations, campaigning, and polling.

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➡ New Party Registration	Before November 16
➡ Party registration to contest in elections	November 17–26
➡ Proportional Representation Election Officer's Office set up	December 1
➡ Closed-list of proportional representatives submission	January 2–3
➡ First-Past-The-Post Election Officer's Office set up	January 16
➡ Advertisement and Campaigning	February 15–March 2
➡ Silence Period	March 2–5
ELECTION DAY: MARCH 5 (07:00 AM – 05:00 PM)	

Governance Issues of the Week

- NUP's Ranjita and UML's Gupta face corruption charges:** The CIAA has filed a corruption case against former ministers Ranjita Shrestha and Rajkumar Gupta, along with five others, over a plotted land grab of a Litichi Farm in Pokhara. Former Minister Balram Adhikari and ex-Secretary Arjun Prasad Pokharel were acquitted in this case but face charges in other matters. Audio evidence of the alleged bribe surfaced in June. The CIAA has sought fines of NPR 7.8 million from the two ministers and between NPR 2.5–7.8 million from the other accused. [Read More](#)
- Police warn of public safety threats:** Nepal Police have reported that 5,537 prisoners, most convicted of heinous crimes, are still at large. Authorities say that the majority are hiding in Kathmandu Valley. Police records show 1,200 weapons, mainly “3 nut 3” rifles and SLRs, with around 100 destroyed in a fire. The police have warned that these escaped prisoners and weapon looters could infiltrate demonstrations and protests organized by various groups. [Read More](#)
- GBIA to resume international flights:** Thai AirAsia will resume international operations at Gautam Buddha International Airport (GBIA) in Lumbini, becoming the first commercial airline to do so after six months of inactivity. The airline has received clearance to operate two weekly flights starting in October. GBIA recorded only 10 charter flights in FY 2025/26. According to the airport's Managing Director, Jazeera Airways and other carriers are also preparing to launch services, with Jazeera expected to begin flights by late October. [Read More](#)
- CIAA files case against former RIHS Vice Chancellor:** The Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) has lodged a corruption case at the Special Court against former Vice Chancellor of Rapti Institute of Health Sciences (RIHS) Dr. Sangita Bhandari and 12 others. The accused are charged with financial irregularities in the procurement of an MRI machine, causing a loss of NRP 120.76 million. She is the sister of 20-time minister Sharat Singh Bhandari currently in Nepali Congress. [Read More](#)
- Madhesh's Janlokalpal Commission fails to deliver:** Five years after its formation, Madhesh's Provincial Janlokalpal Commission has not resolved any corruption cases. The commission received only 57 complaints, 47 of which remain unaddressed. Advocate Ramsahaya Yadav chairs the body and members Rajkishor Sah and Sobha Mahoto have resigned, citing government neglect. Nine months after their resignation, the positions remain vacant, highlighting the commission's ineffectiveness in holding provincial officials accountable. [Read More](#)

Assessing the Impact of the Global Aid Freeze

Accountability Lab is conducting a second round of its impact assessment survey following the recent aid freeze. The goal is to understand how organizations are adapting and responding to the suspension of aid and project funding. We encourage you to participate — even if you have completed the survey earlier. Your insights remain invaluable.

<https://www.globalaidfreeze.com/survey>

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 Political economic governance and policy issues from the perspective of accountability.

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