

GOVERNANCE

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Baluwatar Dialogue Breaks Deadlock – But Political Consensus Is Yet to Reach!

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An important political breakthrough took place in Baluwatar this week as Prime Minister Sushila Karki [hosted](#) the first formal dialogue between the interim government, major political parties, and representatives of the Gen-Z movement. Senior leaders from the Nepali Congress, CPN-UML, CPN-Maoist Centre, Rastriya Swatantra Party, and Rastriya Prajatantra Party joined 13 youth representatives in a shared effort to advance Nepal's political transition ahead of the proposed election timeline.

The meeting was brief but symbolic. Although the government reaffirmed plans to hold elections on 5 March 2026, questions of legitimacy surfaced – particularly when UML raised concerns over the dissolution of parliament and Karki's appointment as Prime Minister. Nonetheless, all political parties including Nepali Congress and Maoist Center appreciated the tripartite dialogue and showed willingness to participate in the elections. This moment underscored the persistent political mistrust that still defines the current transition.

Youth voices opened the dialogue, reflecting their central role in the recent people-driven movement. However, internal divisions within the Gen-Z side became visible. Some representatives including Abhishes Shrestha, Rakhsya Bam and James Karki emphasized the urgency of moving directly to elections to restore political stability, while Miraj Dhungana demanded structural reforms first. Among his agendas were a directly elected executive head, voting rights for Nepalis abroad, recognition of the Gen-Z uprising as a people's movement, accountability for the September crackdown, and a review of the provincial structure. The contrasting positions demonstrated both the diversity and the growing political maturity within the emerging youth leadership.

Closing remarks from youth leaders including Sagar Dhakal acknowledged the historic contributions of senior political actors to Nepal's democratic evolution – but firmly insisted that systemic shortcomings must now be addressed. They indicated continuing internal youth consultations to present a unified set of priorities to the President in the coming days.

The Baluwatar dialogue signals a positive turn in the ongoing political transition. Yet, consensus still remains absent on core national issues such as constitutional reform, governance structure, geopolitical orientation and credible anti-corruption actions. Public frustration over impunity – including calls for investigation into the September protests and corruption allegations against top leaders – continues to contribute to the ongoing political uncertainty.

Moreover, equally important is whether political parties will reform their internal structures to meaningfully include young leaders through transparent nominations and increased representation in decision-making bodies. The deadlock has been broken – but sustained dialogue, trust-building, and concrete decisions will ensure Nepal moves toward a peaceful and credible election process.

Governance Issues of the Week

- 1. SC declines interim order on house reinstatement petitions:** The Supreme Court of Nepal has declined to issue an interim order on multiple petitions seeking the reinstatement of the dissolved House of Representatives. Sixteen writ petitions were filed, contesting both the Prime Minister's appointment and the dissolution of the House. The Constitutional Bench, headed by Chief Justice Prakash Man Singh Raut along with four justices, commenced hearings on October 29, stating that the matters raised will be examined during the final hearing. [Read more](#)
- 2. 85,107 new voter registration in EC:** The Election Commission has added 85,107 new voters in the 36 days since it reopened voter registration. Kathmandu alone recorded 11,230 new registrations, according to officials. The ongoing campaign, open under an ordinance targeting Gen-Z youth, will continue until November 15. Nepali citizens aged 16 and above with citizenship certificates can register at provincial and district election offices from 8 AM to 6 PM, except on public holidays. [Read more](#)
- 3. Companies warn of possible syndicate in Malaysia jobs:** Nepali recruitment agencies have raised concerns over possible syndicate to send workers to Malaysia. The Malaysian authority has informed the Nepali Embassy that only agencies meeting 10 strict criteria will be eligible, which includes five years of operation, a 10,000 sq. ft. office, and a clean record with no trafficking or illegal activity. Agencies must also be licensed to train and deploy workers, operate their own training centers, and hold a Certificate of Good Conduct. [Read more](#)
- 4. Police form probe panel on Gen-Z Protest response:** Nepal Police Headquarters has formed an internal committee to examine the handling of the recent Gen-Z led protests. The panel will investigate the death, injuries and property damages on September 8 and the violence that followed on September 9. It will assess allegations of excessive force, crowd-control failures, and security lapses, and will recommend improvements in deployment strategy, coordination among security agencies, and use of weapons during demonstrations. [Read more](#)
- 5. NEA tariffs force industries to shut down:** The Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) recently cut power supply to 25 industries for not clearing dues, despite having offered a 28-installment payment plan. The shutdown has disrupted their production, exports, and affected around 15,000 jobs, mainly in cement, steel, paper, and textile sectors. The industries have been demanding proof of additional electricity consumption during the load-shedding period, which NEA insists is already verified by the official bills issued to them. It has been the primary reason for the dispute. [Read more](#)
- 6. Gen-Z movement calls for new leadership within political parties:** Pressure for leadership change has grown across major political parties following the Gen-Z movement, but clear moves toward internal reform remain absent. In the Nepali Congress, Sher Bahadur Deuba has stepped back, naming Purna Bahadur Khadka as acting leader, while the establishment resists an early General Convention. UML will hold its convention in Pokhara in January 2026, with KP Sharma Oli seeking another term. The Maoist Centre has dissolved its Central Committee but retains Pushpa Kamal Dahal in charge, whereas Rastriya Swatantra Party plans its convention only after upcoming elections. [Read more](#)

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