

Nepal GOVERNANCE

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Balancing Reform and Consensus: Nepal's Constitutional Amendment Challenge!

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One of the major priorities of the new government is a constitutional amendment to address the existing gaps and loopholes in the constitution. As a first step for this, the government has formed a task force led by Ashim Shah, a political advisor to Prime Minister Balendra Shah, to lead the initial drafting of a discussion paper that will guide national-level deliberations on constitutional amendments.

The task force is also expected to include members of parliament from various major political parties. Accordingly, the government has formally requested political parties to nominate their representatives. Parties approached include the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP), Nepali Congress (NC), CPN-UML, Nepali Communist Party (NCP), Shram Sanskriti Party, Rastriya Prajatantra Party (RPP), Janata Samajwadi Party Nepal, Loktantrik Samajwadi Party Nepal, and Rastriya Janamorcha.

While political actors broadly acknowledge that the constitution is not a static document, the central debate lies in identifying which provisions require amendment. Different parties have presented varying perspectives in their election manifestos, which reflects their different priorities in Nepal's governance structure and electoral system.

The RSP has made constitutional amendment one of its core agendas. In its election manifesto, the party [proposed](#) major structural reforms, including a directly elected executive, a fully proportional parliament, a provision preventing MPs from becoming ministers, non-partisan local governments, and reforms to the provincial structure. The NC has [focused](#) more on governance reforms than structural changes, proposing measures to strengthen accountability within government institutions, including a monthly public performance reporting system for ministries, and emphasizing the need to clarify powers across federal, provincial, and local governments.

The NCP has [maintained](#) that amendments should strictly follow constitutional procedures. It raised concerns about the electoral system, calling it expensive, prone to corruption, and difficult for economically disadvantaged citizens. It also proposed that elected MPs continue to play a legislative role, the 25-member Council of Ministers be reduced to a smaller, expert-led body, and the National Assembly be more representative of oppressed classes, regions, and communities.

Meanwhile, the RPP has [proposed](#) fundamental changes, including restoring the monarchy, abolishing the provincial structure, and establishing a two-tier governance system with federal and local levels. The party also reiterated its position in favor of declaring Nepal a Hindu nation while maintaining religious freedom. Similarly, the CPN-UML has [advocated](#) refining the constitution to make it vibrant and functional through national consensus, though it has not outlined specific proposals.

The renewed debate highlights persistent tensions between structural reform and practical governance improvements. While most parties agree that adjustments are needed, the wide range of proposals suggests that achieving the national consensus required for constitutional amendment will remain a complex political challenge. Rather than rushing, the process demands detailed study, engagement with constitutional experts, and consultation with all relevant stakeholders. Unilateral decisions carry the risk of dissatisfaction and repeated amendments in the future and call for patience and careful deliberation.

Governance Issues of the Week

- On the occasion of World Autism Awareness Day, the Nepal government announced plans to establish autism-focused model schools in all seven provinces. The initiative aims to provide accessible and effective services for children with autism, while the government also plans to operate well-equipped residential schools for children with autism and intellectual disabilities in each province, with a technical committee formed to develop a concept paper. [Read more](#)
- The Central Investigative Bureau (CIB) of Nepal Police has arrested businessman Deepak Bhatta, chairman of Infinity Holdings, in connection with a money laundering investigation. The probe follows reports of suspicious transactions, including an NPR 450 million transfer flagged by the Nepal Rastra Bank. The authorities are examining Bhatta's companies, assets, and possible links to irregular public procurement deals and financial misconduct. [Read more](#)
- Nepal Airlines has begun operating special flights to Gulf destinations to assist Nepali nationals affected by recent travel disruptions. The decision followed a high-level meeting involving the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal. Flights are scheduled between Kathmandu and Dubai and Dammam. The flights had been suspended since February 28 due to rising tensions in West Asia. [Read more](#)
- The government has directed all public bodies to publish and broadcast government advertisements only through state-owned media. The notice instructs agencies using public funds to place notices and procurement information in outlets such as Gorkhapatra Corporation, Radio Nepal, and Nepal Television. The government said the move aims to ensure fiscal discipline and transparency and promote state media. [Read more](#)
- Nepal faces economic and employment risks amid its LDC-to-developing country graduation in 2026. An ILO report warns up to 132,000 export-sector jobs, mostly in textiles and garments, could be lost within five years, disproportionately affecting women. External factors, including energy crises in West Asia and potential remittance disruptions from Gulf countries, could worsen the situation. Experts stress strategic investment in tourism, construction, and IT to mitigate risks. [Read more](#)

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