

Nepal GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

Governance Under Scrutiny: Rising Concerns Over Rights, Accountability, and Public Dissent

The new government has introduced rapid reforms across state policies and operations, pledging greater transparency, public confidence, and good governance. However, recent events have raised concerns about its commitment to these promises. The arrest of Gen Z activist Majid Ansari has become a notable example of this.

On June 14, 2026, Ansari was reportedly arrested without a warrant and allegedly beaten by Nepal Police after visiting the Kirtipur Holding Centre to demand better treatment, timely relief, and fair compensation for displaced residents. The incident left him hospitalized, despite reports that he and other Gen Z activists were engaged in a peaceful protest.

The government's handling of the arrest and the eviction of landless squatters has drawn wide criticism from human rights agencies, including [Amnesty](#) International and the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC). Although Ansari has been discharged from the hospital, he remains in government custody, while no clear relocation plan has been announced for the displaced squatters. These incidents have raised broader concerns about the government's commitment to human rights, due process, and the right to peaceful protest.

Another incident that preceded Ansari's case was the death of Ganesh Nepali, a 25-year-old ride-sharing driver working for the Pathao platform, who died after sustaining burn injuries in a self-immolation attempt reportedly driven by mounting motorcycle loan repayments and repeated traffic police fines. The incident sparked widespread public frustration and renewed criticism of the government's lack of responsiveness and accountability to citizens' grievances.

Opposition leaders in Parliament have also [argued](#) that, rather than constructively engaging with public scrutiny, government agencies, including the police, have increasingly relied on intimidation and punitive measures to respond to dissent and shown less regard for the lived realities and socio-economic conditions of large sections of the population. The recurrence of such incidents has intensified calls for a revised governance model that prioritizes dialogue, accountability, and the protection of fundamental rights over coercive responses to public discontent.

For the past months the country has witnessed several public protests ranging over administrative actions and inactions by the government. Agencies and interest groups, including farmers' organizations, civil servants, and educational consultancies, have demanded that the government honor its prior commitments on sectoral reforms and security.

Public confidence has continued to erode, particularly in light of the government's perceived inability to address even long-standing and recurring grievances. If these concerns remain unaddressed, they may further deepen public dissatisfaction and lead to greater confrontation between citizens and the state in the days to come.

Weekly Snapshot



- **Supreme Court halts the asset probe of public officials:** The Supreme Court of Nepal has issued an interim order to completely halt the investigations of assets of the current and former high-ranking public officials conducted by the newly formed Assets Investigation Commission of the government. While the commission was responsible for preparing a consolidated report on the investigation of the assets of the prominent public officials, civil servants, and their families, petitions were filed challenging the jurisdictional capacity and constitutional validity of the commission, leading to its suspension. [Read More](#)

Capital expenditure reclines at 46.71 percent: The Nepal government has recorded its lowest capital expenditure in six years, spending only 46.795% of its 407 billion NPR development budget. The Finance Ministry has addressed the severe political instability, shifting priorities, and inflation resulting from global supply chain disruptions in the country as the primary driver behind such a sharp decline. Economists have warned that the government's inability to spend the funds, followed by bureaucratic hurdles, will cease to severely impact Nepal's long-term economic growth and physical development. [Read More](#)



Meter-Lending Declared a Grave Crime: The government, in its agreement with affected farmers and workers, is labeling metered-rate lending/unfair transactions as a "grave economic crime" as per the law. After persistent protests and forming a negotiation committee led by a member of the parliament to address victim grievances, the government has planned to draft a dedicated act within 3 months to outlaw fraudulent deeds, return seized land, and criminalize predatory lending. This has led to temporary suspension of the victims' march in Kathmandu. [Read More](#)

Nepal Records 3,295 Disaster Incidents in Three Months: The government has recorded 3,295 disaster incidents over the past three months, leading to 160 deaths, 2 people missing, and 945 injuries. The National Disaster Risk Reduction Authority also reported frequent wildfires causing 897 incidents across the country. Storms, landslides, and floods have also caused major and ongoing death tolls and property losses, highlighting Nepal's growing disaster risk and an urgent need to strengthen institutional preparedness, public awareness, and local emergency response systems. [Read More](#)



New taxes introduced for FY 2083/84: Nepal has introduced a new set of comprehensive taxes for the fiscal year 2083/84 to provide taxpayer relief and stimulate investment. Key changes include raising the 1% income tax threshold to Rs 1 million and capping the maximum personal rate at 29%. Consumers will now face a 5% VAT on electricity usage over 50 units, a 5% fee on ride-sharing services, and 3% equity taxes on education and healthcare. Additional adjustments are also included for a credit-enhancing monetary policy. [Read More](#)

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