

Nepal GOVERNANCE WEEKLY

Sunsari Communal Clashes: Timeline, Government Intervention, and Push for Social Harmony

The Terai region of Nepal is facing communal clashes following conflicts between Hindu and Muslim communities in Sunsari District, with many places still facing indefinite curfews. The riots that began from Dewanganj Rural Municipality (Kaptanganj area) Sunsari over a dispute regarding loud music, and the display of religious flags during religious processions has now escalated to many regions in Madhesh and Koshi province. So far, 3 people have lost their lives and several have been injured in the incident. The government has also initiated some efforts including forming an investigation committee, transfers of responsible officials, national addresses from Prime Minister Balendra Shah, compensation to the victims and more.

Here is a timeline that shows the escalation of the conflict:

26th July:

The Sunsari District Police Office reported that Hindu devotees participating in the Bol-Bam pilgrimage were heading towards Kaptanganj Chowk from the Koshi Barrage around 10:15 PM with loudspeakers, when the residents from another religious community in Kaptanganj protested against the loud rally, leading to a two-way confrontation and subsequently a clash between the parties. Police mediation efforts failed as both sides allegedly began equipping themselves with self-made weapons, stones, clubs and sticks.

Following this, the Armed Police Force (APF) was deployed to the area, where the crowd allegedly pelted stones, injuring eight Nepal Police personnel. At around 10:45 PM, the APF opened fire. Police have provided details regarding the circumstances leading to the gunfire, while information on the number of rounds fired is still being collected and investigated.

27th July

Local administrations placed curfews across five locations, however agitations started in Inaruwa and surrounding regions. Crowds in the streets set fire to property, blocked roads and vandalized shops. The local authority mobilized the Nepal Army to suppress the riot. Amid heightened security concerns, the government imposed a three-day curfew in Sunsari district.

28th July

Rastriya Swatantra Party's (RSP) Chairperson Rabi Lamichhane convened an all-party meeting attended by representatives of nine political parties. Following the meeting, the parties issued a joint appeal urging peace, calm and social harmony. Curfew restrictions were also slightly relaxed in some areas

30th July:

Major protests erupted in Golbazar, Lahan, and Siraha district and other protests and rallies proceeded in communities of Parsa, Dhanusha, and Morang. Curfews were imposed in parts of Dhanusha, including areas around Janakpur. Ganesh Yadav, a 15 years old, was fatally shot during the unrest in Siraha and around 20 civilians were reportedly injured. As tensions and rallies intensified across the region, curfews were imposed or extended in Dhanusha, Siraha, Janakpur and parts of Sunsari

31 July

Curfews remain in place in Sunsari, Lahan and other affected areas, while informal closures continue across many parts of the Terai region. In Sunsari alone, restrictions are in effect across ten local levels, reflecting the continued security concerns and disruption to normal life.

The government's initial response to the conflict drew criticism for being slow and limited. However, as the violence escalated and spread across multiple districts, authorities stepped up efforts through dialogue, administrative actions, relief measures and commitments to investigation and accountability.

Key measures taken by the government include:

- On July 27, the government replaced the Chief District Officer and District Police Chief of Sunsari; and Koshi Province Police Chief (DIG), and assigned new appointees to resolve the crisis.
- The Koshi provincial government [announced](#) relief for victims of the violence in Dewanganj, Sunsari, pledging NRs. 200,000 for the family of each person killed and NRs. 50,000 for those injured and families whose homes or shops were damaged in arson attacks.
- Prime Minister Balendra Shah, addressed the nation on 30th July where he mourned the deceased and assured impartial investigation, medical help for the injured, and urged communities to restore peace emphasizing on Nepal's history and culture of tolerance and acceptance.
- On July 30, Home Minister Sudan Gurung signed an agreement with the families of the two deceased families to declare them martyrs and provide a compensation of Rs.100,000 each.

A 7 point agreement has been met between the government-families of the deceased"



The process of declaring the deceased as martyrs will be started. And the bereaved families will be granted NPR 10,00,000 on behalf of Nepal Government.



The incident that unfolded in Devangunj-3, Kaptanganj on the night of 2083/04/10 will be investigated impartially and thoroughly. Those found guilty will be prosecuted in accordance with prevalent laws.



The Madarsa (Muslim Religious School) in Devanganj Rural Municipality -3's legal status and related issues will be investigated as needed immediately.



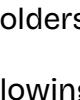
Employment opportunities will be arranged for one person from each bereaved family.



The suggestions from the report from the investigation committee formed to investigate the incident will begin to be implemented as per the prevalent law.



A memorial park will be made with coordination with the local level to commemorate the two deceased people.



The last rites of the deceased will be conducted on 2083/04/15 2 PM local time.

Despite the growing tensions and polarization, the crisis has also brought together a range of stakeholders who are actively advocating for peace, restraint and communal harmony.

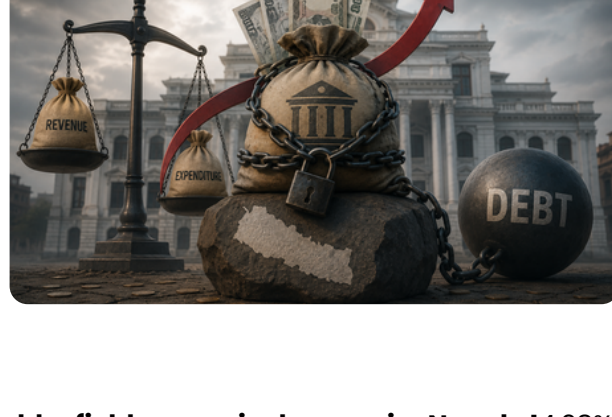
- Following the communal clashes, [religious leaders](#) from national and international organizations representing Nepal's Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist, and Christian communities have issued a joint appeal for peace, restraint, and religious harmony. They condemned violence carried out in the name of religion and urged people not to target anyone because of their faith, emphasizing Nepal's long tradition of interfaith coexistence and communal harmony.
- [Industrialists](#) and business leaders urge communities to maintain social harmony and reject any misinformation or provocation following the Sunsari incident, stressing continued unrest could undermine public confidence, economic activity and investment scenario of the country.
- From citizens' ends, social harmony rallies were observed in [Kalyanpur](#) and Khadak Municipality of Saptari, as well as in Butwal, [Itahari](#) and [Sarlahi](#) where individuals from every religion joined, reinforcing the message of religious unity and harmony.
- Leaders from major [political parties](#) have issued a joint statement calling for peace, social harmony and to resolve tensions through peaceful dialogue following the Sunsari Violence.
- The PM has held discussions with [MPs](#) and political leaders from Madhesh-centric political parties to discuss the incidents and consult on conflict-resolution measures.

The events of the past week represent a critical moment for Nepal's social and democratic fabric. While immediate priorities remain in restoring peace, ensuring security, and providing justice to victims, the longer-term challenge would be in addressing the underlying factors that allowed a localized dispute to escalate across the country. An impartial investigation into the use of force, accountability for those involved in violence, effective communication from state institutions, and proactive engagement with community leaders will all be essential in rebuilding trust.

Weekly Snapshot

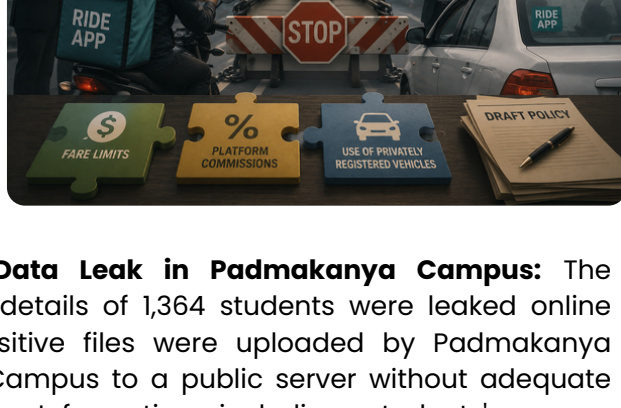


- The Government borrowed NPR 450 billion public debt in a year:** Nepal's public debt reached approximately NRs. 2.98 trillion by the end of FY 2081/82. During the fiscal year, the government borrowed NRs 88.5 billion in external debt and NRs. 356.66 billion domestically. The depreciation of the Nepali rupee against the U.S. dollar added an estimated NRs. 167 billion to the debt burden. Meanwhile, debt servicing totaled NRs. 386.22 billion which is more than double the government's capital expenditure of NRs. 190 billion. [Read More.](#)



- 14.28% of Paddy fields remain barren in Nepal:** 14.28% of Nepal's paddy fields remain unplanted until July as per the Ministry of Agriculture, Forests and Environment. Of the country's 1.37 million hectares of paddy cultivation area, 195,669 hectares are yet to be planted. Madhesh has the largest cultivated area at 300,580 hectares, while Sudurpaschim led in plantation progress, with 97.93% of its fields planted. Overall, paddy cultivation is 6.88% higher than during the same period last year. [Read More.](#)

- Progress Stalled on Ride Hailing bill :** Nepal's draft policy to regulate the rapidly growing ride-hailing sector remains stalled due to disagreements over fare limits, platform commissions, and the use of privately registered vehicles. Digital platforms, transport entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders have yet to reach a consensus. The draft proposes a base fare of NRs.25 per kilometre for two-wheelers and NRs. 55 for four-wheelers, allows up to a 20% nighttime fare increase, and caps platform commissions at 10%. [Read More.](#)



- Student-Data Leak in Padmakanya Campus:** The personal details of 1,364 students were leaked online after sensitive files were uploaded by Padmakanya Multiple Campus to a public server without adequate protection. Information including students' names, registration numbers, contact details, photographs were leaked, raising serious privacy concerns. Cybersecurity experts attributed the breach to poor digital security practices and inadequate oversight, while calling for stronger data protection measures across educational institutions in Nepal. [Read More](#)

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.

Presented By



Technical support from



nepal@accountabilitylab.org



Copyright © 2026 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.