

Nepal GOVERNANCE WEEKLY



Digitization in Nepal: Strengthening Cyber Security Amid Nepal's Digital Transition

Digitization has become a key government priority, with initiatives ranging from public services to infrastructure, as reflected in both the 100-Point Reform Plan and this fiscal year's budget. Yet these ambitions stand against the reality of weak digital infrastructure. As Nepal accelerates its digital transformation, persistent cybersecurity vulnerabilities highlight the urgent need to strengthen digital resilience.

As a first step toward addressing these challenges, Nepal officially joined Have I Been Pwned (HIBP) on 3 August 2026, becoming the 47th government entity to integrate with the global platform that monitors domain security and tracks data breaches. The government took this step after findings that at least 135 gov.np email addresses had been compromised in various data breaches. The affected accounts belonged to civil servants across key institutions, including the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Finance, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. By identifying compromised credentials and detecting potential breaches affecting government domains, the initiative aims to strengthen the security of government departments and public resources.

However, cybersecurity extends beyond government systems. As more public services become digitized, protecting citizens' personal data and privacy is equally important. The increasing collection, storage, and sharing of user data across public and private digital platforms has expanded cyber risks beyond government networks, making stronger data protection, responsible information-sharing practices, and user-centric security safeguards essential components of Nepal's digital governance.

To reinforce this response, the National Cyber Security Center has committed to notifying affected agencies and securing vulnerable accounts. It has also expanded its technical capabilities by deploying CTM360, a dark web monitoring tool provided by the International Telecommunication Union, alongside a Security Information and Event Management (SIEM) system to monitor and analyze activity across government networks.

Nepal has already witnessed the use of AI to create sophisticated phishing emails, fake websites, and forged circulars impersonating senior officials and public institutions, including the Prime Minister's Office and the Deputy Inspector General of Police. Despite these efforts, cyber threats remain a persistent challenge. Global threat intelligence tools can help identify anomalies by cross-referencing them against known malicious IP addresses, yet breaches continue to occur. The continued use of outdated software across public agencies further compounds such vulnerabilities. While AI-driven modernization promises greater efficiency, it has also introduced new security blind spots, increasing exposure to evolving cyber threats.

Thus, the government's initiatives mark significant progress in strengthening Nepal's cybersecurity architecture. However, technological adoption alone will not be sufficient. Sustained investment in secure digital infrastructure, regular system upgrades, stronger institutional coordination, effective monitoring and evaluation, and greater cyber awareness across public agencies will be essential to keeping pace with increasing digital vulnerabilities. As Nepal advances its digital transformation agenda, cybersecurity must evolve into a core consideration of digital governance with safeguards not only in the government systems but across the privacy, trust, and digital rights of its citizens. [Read More](#)

Weekly Snapshot



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- **New Agriculture Policy Introduced:** Nepal government has introduced a National Agriculture Policy prioritizing food security, food sovereignty, farmer's income, sustainable trade and production-based agricultural reform. The policy envisions commercial and industrial transformation in agricultural production and marketing through coordination among federal, provincial and local governments. It also aims to strengthen employment generation, import substitution, security assurances to farmers, government self-sufficiency in the agricultural sector with research-based, technology-driven and reliable agricultural development integrated with local knowledge and innovation. [Read More](#)

- **Rapid Response team formed to ease Gas Shortage:** Following the rising disruptions in the supply and distribution of Liquefied Petroleum (LP), the Nepal Oil Corporation (NOC) has formed a rapid response team consisting of representatives from Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Supplies, the NOC and gas industries to address the issue. The team aims to resolve the recurring shortage problems and ensure uninterrupted access to the consumers. While the NOC initially attributed the crisis to panic buying and hoarding by consumers, the government has since stepped in to take responsibility to address the disruption and restore stable supplies. [Read More](#)



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- **Nepal fails to secure foreign aid target for 2025/26:** As per the Finance Ministry, Nepal mobilized only 45.66 % of its foreign aid target in FY 2025/26, receiving NRs 131.8 billion against the planned NRs 287.11 billion. With the foreign loans reaching 46. 85 % of the target and grants below expectations, major causes include under-performed capital expenditure, delayed implementation of development projects and slowed aid disbursement. For FY 2026/27, Nepal has secured only NRs 161.46 billion foreign aid commitments, primarily from multilateral development partners. [Read More](#)

- **Tibetan Studies Conference Cancelled due to Diplomatic Pressure:** An international conference scheduled on Tibetan studies at Kathmandu University was canceled following instructions from senior level government officials. The event was expected to attract scholars from around the world and was approved by the Home Ministry. But amid sustained diplomatic pressure from Chinese counterparts over security risks from the conference's discussions on Tibet, the conference was called off,, raising concerns on academic freedom and Nepal's autonomy in handling sensitive foreign policy issues. [Read More](#)



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- **Vulnerable groups at risk of HIV post USAID shutdown:** The suspension of USAID-funded health programmes has disrupted HIV prevention services in Nepal, including, Antiretroviral Treatment (ART) distribution, community outreach, counselling and consultation. It also forced the closure of several community-based organizations and caused job losses. Key populations, including female and transgender sex workers have also lost access to pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP). Although free HIV testing and ART remain available at public facilities, reduced NGO-led outreach has weakened prevention and support efforts. [Read More](#)

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