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The Nepal Council of World Affairs

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Message from NCWA President



Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA), established in 1948, is Nepal's oldest and most distinguished premier independent think tank. For nearly eight decades, NCWA has remained dedicated to fostering informed discourse on international affairs, diplomacy, development, and civic engagement. Our work has consistently brought together a diverse spectrum of stakeholders-including policymakers, academics, diplomats, and members of civil society in pursuit of mutual understanding and progress. Over time, we have undertaken a wide array of initiatives including research, capacity-building programs, publications, and high-level dialogues. We have had the honor of hosting numerous esteemed international figures, including heads of state, government officials, and foreign dignitaries. The Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) held a strategic series of foreign policy deliberations, high-level diplomatic engagements, and policy roundtables from April to June 2026. This quarterly e-bulletin summarizes our programs, publications, and institutional initiatives.

Courtesy Call on the President of Nepal



A delegation from the Nepal Council of World Affairs, led by NCWA President Dr. Suresh Malla, paid a courtesy call on the Right Honorable President of Nepal, Mr. Ramchandra Paudel, at the Office of the President, Shital Niwas, on April 6, 2026. During the meeting, the delegation briefed the Head of State on the Council's ongoing initiatives, academic research, and policy recommendations aimed at strengthening Nepal's diplomatic engagements and non-aligned foreign policy standing.

During the meeting, Dr. Malla highlighted NCWA's historic legacy since 1948 in facilitating international policy dialogue, neighborhood diplomacy, and non-partisan academic discourse. The delegation presented strategic perspectives on contemporary geopolitical dynamics, regional stability, and foreign policy challenges facing South Asian nations. He informed the President about upcoming institutional programs, research publications, and digital archiving projects being undertaken by the Council. The Head of State commended the NCWA for its continuous effort in enriching Nepal's diplomatic history and promoting independent foreign policy research.

78th Anniversary

The Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) organized a special ceremony to mark its 78th Anniversary on May 8, 2026, in Kathmandu. The event was graced by the Right Honorable Speaker of the House of Representatives, Mr. Dol Prasad Aryal, as the Chief Guest, while Honorable Minister for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Shisir Khanal, attended as the Special Guest.

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Addressing the gathering, Foreign Minister Khanal commended the Council's distinguished legacy since its establishment in 1948 and its continued contributions to Nepal's diplomatic evolution. On the occasion, the Foreign Minister also officially released the latest volume of the *NCWA Journal*, highlighting the growing significance of Track II diplomacy and academic research in foreign policy formulation. The anniversary program brought together senior government officials, foreign policy experts, diplomats, researchers, and academicians.

NCWA Journal



The 2026 edition of the *NCWA Journal* (Volume 57, Issue 1) features 19 peer-reviewed articles contributed by leading scholars, diplomats, and policy researchers, focusing on a wide array of topics related to contemporary international relations, global economic trends, national security, climate change, and Nepal's strategic positioning. The complete open-access volume, along with individual PDF downloads and official citation data, is available for researchers, students, and policymakers on the official NepJol portal at nepjol.info/index.php/ncwaj.



In keeping with the values of transparency and democratic governance, the Nepal Council of World Affairs (NCWA) successfully conducted the election for its new Executive Committee on Chaitra 30, 2082 (April 12, 2025). This important event marked a significant step forward in reinforcing the organization's commitment to inclusive leadership and active member participation.

The election was held in a free and fair manner, resulting in the formation of a new Executive Committee that will serve for a three-year term. The newly elected team is comprised of experienced individuals from diverse backgrounds, each bringing unique expertise and a shared vision for enhancing Nepal's engagement in global affairs.

Budget for FY 2083/084: Opportunities and Challenges



Nepal Council of World Affairs organized an interaction on "Budget for FY 2083/084: Opportunities and Challenges" on June 5, 2026, at NCWA Hall, Harihar Bhawan, Lalitpur. Dr. Suresh Malla, President of the Nepal Council of World Affairs, chaired the program. The distinguished speakers for the interaction program were Dr. Gunakar Bhatta, Vice Chairperson of the National Planning Commission, and Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, Senior Economist. The interaction highlighted the opportunities and challenges of the Budget for FY 2083/84 regarding economic growth, development priorities, investment promotion, digitization, and effective policy implementation.

Dr. Gunakar Bhatta, Vice Chairperson, National Planning Commission (NPC), focused his address on the macro-structural alignment required to achieve stable national growth. Drawing from his extensive background in monetary policy and development planning, he emphasized the critical need to align the FY 2083/084 budget with national long-term development targets. He highlighted that effective budget execution depends heavily on institutional reform, targeted capital expenditure, accelerated digital transformation across public sector governance, and fostering an environment conducive to public-private partnerships. Dr. Bhatta noted that while global economic headwinds pose challenges, structural economic reforms present significant growth opportunities for Nepal.



Senior Economist and Chair Emeritus of South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment, Dr. Posh Raj Pandey, provided a critical analytical assessment of the fiscal budget's underlying policy frameworks. He underlined the urgent necessity of overcoming systemic policy implementation bottlenecks that historically hinder capital expenditure. Dr. Pandey highlighted domestic resource mobilization, active investment promotion, trade facilitation, and mitigating foreign trade vulnerabilities as core priorities for economic sustainability. He stressed that budget allocation must move beyond distribution-oriented programs to investment-driven initiatives that directly support economic resilience, job creation, and sustainable trade integration.

The key discussion during the program focused on formulating strategies to ensure timely budget absorption and efficient execution of national pride projects, removing regulatory barriers to attract domestic and Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), harnessing digital infrastructure to improve public service delivery

and reduce administrative costs, and addressing gaps between annual budget declarations and multi-year strategic execution.

Analyzing the budget through an international lens reveals opportunities and challenges. Regarding opportunities, the budget emphasizes structural reforms, sustainable energy, digital sovereignty, and domestic production. Specifically, the allocation of NPR 70 billion for cross-border transmission lines paves the way for the private sector to engage in international power trade within the regional energy market (India and Bangladesh). Furthermore, the budget's commitment to move beyond traditional diplomacy and leverage our heritage—such as Lumbini and Sagarmatha (Mt. Everest)—as "soft power" to advance economic diplomacy is a welcome step.

The budget also faces significant challenges. Maintaining macroeconomic stability amid balanced mobilization of foreign grants and loans (a target of NPR 61 billion in grants and NPR 247 billion in loans), managing rising public debt, and building capital expenditure execution capacity remain key hurdles. Decisions to close embassies and consulates in a couple of countries indicate diplomatic restructuring and fiscal austerity.

Gallery


















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