

17 to 23 March 2025

Weekly Echoes of NDRI



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

Welcome to the latest edition of NDRI Insights, your go-to source for important updates, valuable information, and the latest developments from the Nepal Development Research Institute.

HIGHLIGHTS FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- NDRI actively participated in NNGWWW 2025 in various events throughout the week.
- NDRI prepared enumerators for the Follow-Up Survey covering all seven provinces of Nepal.
- Presentation in a seminar at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.



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VOLUME 190

NDRI at the NNGWWW 2025

The Nepal National Glacier Water and Weather Week 2025 (NNGWWW 2025) commenced on March 17, 2025, with an inaugural ceremony at Hotel Himalaya in Kathmandu the event united diverse stakeholders, including government bodies, NGOs, and research institutions along with NDRI, to launch a week-long program tackling Nepal's pressing water and climate challenges through training sessions, workshops, and seminars. NDRI provided both financial and technical support to the NNGWWW 2025, underscoring its commitment to addressing critical environmental issues. A key highlight was the technical session, which shared insights from the Watershed Project in Rangoon Watershed by Oxfarm. This study, similar to NDRI's MUHAN project in Sindhuli, involved mapping springs and surface water resources, providing valuable lessons for water management.



Inaugural ceremony of NNGWWW 2025

On March 21, 2025, the National Symposium on Cryosphere was held at the Everest Hotel in Kathmandu, celebrating the World Day for Glaciers as part of the International Year of Glaciers' Preservation. The event was organized by Kathmandu University, ICIMOD, NDRI, and partners to raise awareness about the critical role of glaciers amidst climate change. The symposium featured a high-level opening with Presentation on the Status of Glaciers of Nepal and the Impacts of Climate Change

on them, followed by the launch of the World Water Development Report 2025.

A scientific session addressed diverse cryosphere challenges, with key talks including legal frameworks for glacier-related economic losses and Mr. Rajan KC on the 2024 Thame Glacier Lake Outburst Flood.



Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal presenting at the National Symposium on Cryosphere

A presentation from NDRI on Resilient Hydropower Development in the Face of Changing Cryosphere and Associated Hazards was delivered by Mr. Girish Raj Lamsal, Research Associate, and his team. Drawing on his expertise in hydrological modeling, Mr. Lamsal explored strategies for adapting hydropower projects to shifting water flows and heightened risks like glacial lake outburst floods, emphasizing the integration of cryosphere science into sustainable energy planning. The symposium underscored the urgent need for collaborative solutions to preserve glaciers and adapt to their rapid retreat, vital for water resources, energy, and disaster resilience in the Himalayan region. On March 22-23, 2025, NDRI was represented by Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, at the First National Water Conference in Kathmandu, organized by the Water and Energy Commission Secretariat (WECS) of the Government of Nepal and the National Federation of Irrigation Water User's Association, Nepal (NFIWUAN).



Hon'ble Minister Dipak Khadka, MoEWRI delivering remarks at the Inaugural and opening session

The conference covered themes such as integrated water resource management, water governance, transboundary water cooperation, WASH, and policy reform, among others. The event concluded with a nine-point declaration as a way forward, addressing various aspects of water resource management. NDRI, as one of the supporters of NNGWWW 2025, was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation during the closing session, which Dr. Shankar Shrestha received on its behalf.



Dr. Shankar Shrestha receiving the Certificate of Appreciation on behalf of NDRI

NDRI Trains Another Group of Field Enumerators for Follow-Up Survey II

On March 20-21, 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) organized a training program for 26 enumerators as part of the IDRC-funded project Promoting Innovation and Inclusion in Growth Potential Enterprises: Evidence from Nepal. The training prepared enumerators for the IDRC Follow-Up Survey II, Phase 5, which will cover all seven provinces of Nepal. The program focused on survey methodology, data quality, ethical considerations, and digital tools for data collection.

The NDRI research team, including Prof. Dr. Raj Kumar Bhattarai, Dr. Rabita Shrestha Mulmi, Mr. Rajendra Khatri, Ms. Nirmita Shrestha, Ms. Binita Shahi, and Ms. Dikshya Barasaini, led the training.

All 26 enumerators have now been mobilized to the field and are currently conducting the IDRC Follow-Up Survey II across all seven provinces of Nepal.



Group photo of participants and NDRI team after the training program

NDRI Delivers a Seminar at AIT, Thailand

On 17 March 2025, Dr. Shankar Shrestha, Senior Research Specialist, and Ms. Shreya Bajimaya, Senior Research Associate of NDRI delivered a seminar on “Importance of Collaboration and Outreach in Research Project Development, Execution and Dissemination” to Masters and PhD students and researchers of Water Engineering and Management (WEM) Program at the Asian Institute of Technology (AIT), Bangkok, Thailand.



Dr. Shrestha presenting at AIT, Bangkok, Thailand

Dr. Shrestha provided an overview of NDRI's research focus, key collaborations, and ongoing projects. He emphasized the essential stages of research—from defining issues and research questions to execution and dissemination. He also highlighted the importance of teamwork, interdisciplinary collaboration, and networking in securing funding and maximizing real-world impact. Ms. Bajimaya presented case studies from NDRI's Water and Climate Program (WCP), showcasing how international partnerships have contributed to advancements in water management and disaster mitigation.

Media coverage is available [here](#).

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

If the opportunities you desire do not come knocking at your door, do not wait idly; instead, take the initiative, create your own possibilities, and build the doors that will lead you to success.

– Milton Berle

Thought Provoking News

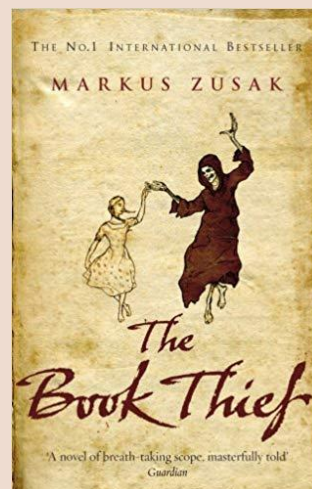
Government prepares to lower the minimum age for marriage

<https://kathmandupost.com/national/2025/03/24/government-prepares-to-lower-minimum-age-for-marriage>

Asia faces coordinated attack from anti-rights and anti-gender movements

<https://kathmandupost.com/interviews/2025/03/24/asia-faces-coordinated-attack-from-anti-rights-and-anti-gender-movements>

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