



नेपाल विकास अनुसन्धान प्रतिष्ठान
Nepal Development Research Institute

NDRI is an independent, non-partisan, and non-profit institution dedicated to addressing contemporary and emerging policy challenges and to influencing public policy through research.

HEADLINES FEATURED IN THIS EDITION

- 230th episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series.
- A potential collaboration meeting between NDRI and ISER-N
- NDRI Hosts Discussion on Nature-Based Solutions and Ecotourism with CDFAN and Cloud Mountain Top.
- NDRI Executive Director Engages in Key HKH Dialogue on Nature-based Solutions.
- PRI Convenes Nuclear Policy Consultation.

WEEKLY ECHOES OF



*LEARNING FROM THE PAST,
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230th Episode of the Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series

On November 28, 2025, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) and Resources Himalaya Foundation (RHF) hosted an insightful policy dialogue as part of its ongoing Contemporary Policy Dialogue Series, featuring Former Chief Election Commissioner Mr. Neelkantha Uprety as the keynote speaker. Mr. Uprety highlighted that Nepali citizens currently reside in around 119 countries worldwide, yet each of them holds an equal constitutional right to vote.



Photo: Mr. Neelkantha during his presentation

Click on the [link](#) to watch the full

He emphasized that ensuring accessible voting for all Nepalese, regardless of their location, is essential for strengthening democratic participation. Discussing the future of Nepal's electoral system, Mr. Uprety stressed the importance of digitization, noting that the adoption of technology could potentially reduce election-related expenses. He further recommended that educational institutions be formally involved in election monitoring, as their participation could enhance neutrality, research-based oversight, and overall electoral integrity. The session concluded with the message that embracing technology, strengthening institutions, and ensuring inclusive participation are crucial steps toward achieving a stable and effective government in Nepal.

NDRI-ISER-N Meeting



Photo: Glimpse of the meeting

A potential collaboration meeting between NDRI and the Institute for Social and Environmental Research–Nepal (ISER-N) was held on 25 November 2025. NDRI was represented by Dr. Punya P. Regmi, Dr. Krishna Pahari, Dr. Rudra Shrestha, and Dr. Manjeshwori Singh, while ISER-N participants included Dr. Dirgha Ghimire, Dr. Dharma Dangol, and Mr. Indra Chaudhary. Both institutions discussed their strengths and identified promising opportunities for joint research and future initiatives. The meeting focused on exploring potential avenues for collaboration. Both organizations discussed their institutional strengths and identified several promising opportunities for joint research and project initiatives.

NDRI Hosts Discussion on Nature-Based Solutions and Ecotourism with CDFAN and Cloud Mountain Top

On 28 November 2025, NDRI welcomed Dr. Nagdev Yadav, President of the Community Development & Advocacy Forum Nepal (CDFAN), and Ms. Lynne Lyu, Co-founder of Cloudmountain Top, China, for an enriching exchange on Nature-based Solutions (NBS), watershed management, and community-driven ecotourism. Dr. Yadav shared CDFAN's impactful work across the Chure range and Madhesh Province, highlighting innovations such as recharge ponds, seepage water irrigation, riverbed farming, and bioengineering solutions for erosion control. He emphasized the urgent need to scale these solutions to address water scarcity and environmental degradation. Ms. Lyu presented inspiring stories from her work in China, where local knowledge, community engagement, and cultural



Photo: NDRI Team along with the guests

preservation has successfully promoted ecotourism. She emphasized the importance of engaging youth and safeguarding traditional knowledge to boost rural development. NDRI experts admired the success of both initiatives, noting strong potential for collaboration in NBS research, policy advocacy, eco- and responsible tourism, and replication of proven models in Nepal. Ongoing NDRI projects were identified as promising areas for knowledge sharing.

NDRI looks forward to potential collaboration with CDFAN and Cloud Mountain Top to promote sustainable, community-centered solutions in Nepal. The meeting focused on exploring potential avenues for collaboration. Both organizations discussed their institutional strengths and identified several promising opportunities for joint research and project initiatives.

NDRI Executive Director Engages in Key HKH Dialogue on Nature-based Solutions



Photo: Dr. Thapa Magar delivering her remarks

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), participated in the Third Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Science-Policy-Finance Dialogue in Paro, Bhutan, from November 25-27, 2025. The dialogue aimed to strengthen the interface between science, policy, and finance to build a common understanding of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for the sustainable future of the HKH region. It brought together diverse stakeholders from governments, academia, international and national NGOs, and development partners.

Dr. Thapa Magar served as a panelist for the technical session, "Enabling NbS for Sustainable Mountain Livelihoods: Systems for Agroecological Practices." She highlighted successful NbS examples from Nepal, including traditional practices and modern interventions such as:

- Ecosystem-based adaptation in Western Nepal.
- Spring revival and management with mapping in Eastern Nepal.
- Rainwater harvesting in drought-prone regions.
- Agroforestry systems that boost farmer income through timber and fodder.



Photo: Group photo



Photo: Dr. Thapa Magar along with other panelist

She concluded by emphasizing that the long-term sustainability of NbS requires innovative financing models, such as blended finance and the integration of different support schemes targeted at vulnerable groups. The three-day dialogue concluded with a shared resolution to advance NbS in the HKH through strengthened policy, research, and financial mechanisms.

PRI Convenes Nuclear Policy Consultation



Photo: glimpse of one going dialogue session

On November 27, 2025, Policy Research Institute (PRI) convened a high-level consultative meeting on Thursday to gather insights from key stakeholders regarding the amendment of Nepal's Nuclear Science Policy, 2064.

During the event, Dr. Subash Adhikari presented a comprehensive background review of the existing policy, highlighting Nepal's current scope, opportunities, and the significant untapped potential of

nuclear science and technology. Participants from various sectors shared their views on prospects, existing bottlenecks, and priority actions for the Government of Nepal. A common sentiment emerged that the focal ministry responsible for nuclear science must adopt a more proactive role in advancing peaceful applications of nuclear technology for national development.

Speaking on behalf of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), Sr. Research Scientist, Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, emphasized the need to revise the policy to incorporate contemporary technological advancements, including the use of e-Beam technology across diverse sectors. He stressed that nuclear science should not remain confined solely to the

medical field, urging broader and more modern utilization.

The meeting was inaugurated by PRI Executive Chairman Prof. Dr. Lekh Nath Paudel, and the discussion session was moderated by Dr. Deepak Khadka, Senior Researcher, PRI. PRI stated that the inputs gathered will support evidence-based recommendations for updating Nepal's nuclear science and technology framework



Photo: glimpse of one going dialogue session

NDRI Participates in Policy Dialogue on Nepal's LDC Graduation Preparedness

Senior Research Specialist from Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI), Dr. Rudra Suwal, participated in the policy dialogue on “Nepal’s LDC Graduation Preparedness,” organized by South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE) on 28 November 2025 at Hotel Yak & Yeti, Kathmandu. The event brought together policymakers, economists, private sector leaders, and development partners to discuss Nepal’s readiness to graduate from the Least Developed Country (LDC) category in 2026. The dialogue addressed the economic and political challenges the country currently faces, particularly the recent nationwide Gen Z-led protests, their economic implications, and the impact on Nepal’s

overall preparedness for graduation. Discussions explored the potential consequences of losing LDC-specific benefits, including preferential market access and concessional financing, and assessed whether Nepal should consider seeking a deferral or extending the preparatory period for a smoother transition. Panelists shared sectoral insights, highlighting the need to rebuild

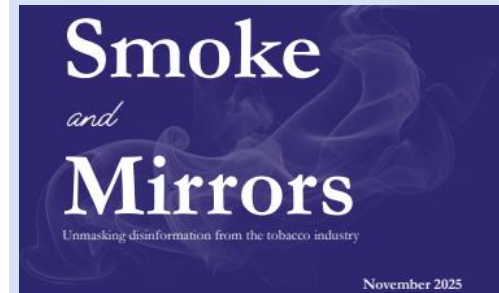
investor confidence, strengthen competitiveness, and ensure that graduation remains sustainable and resilient.

NDRI’s engagement in the dialogue reflects its continued commitment to contributing evidence-based perspectives on national policy processes and Nepal’s development trajectory..



Photo: glimpse of one going dialogue session

Brief developed by the Tobacco Control Research Group (TCRG) in collaboration with Cancer Research UK (CRUK).



Read the full brief [here](#).



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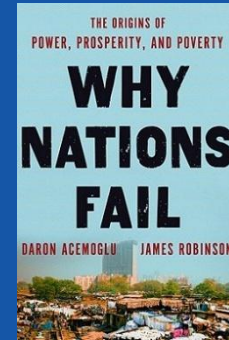
[New AI club to bestow nuclear-like power, says Russian tech boss](#)

Thought of the Week

*Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.
Life rewards action more than hesitation, and progress
always starts with a single choice to begin.*

— Theodore Roosevelt

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