

WEEKLY ECHOES OF NDRI

VOLUME 235 AND 236



International women's day 2026 celebration

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

- NDRI organizes successful Webinar on Women in Research and Policy day.
- NDRI at the Nepal National Glacier, Water and Weather Week (NNGWWW) 2026
- Welcoming new staffs at NDRI

NDRI organizes successful Webinar on Women in Research and Policy day

On 12 March, Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) in collaboration with the Centre for Business and Economic Research (CBER) jointly hosted an online panel discussion on the role of Women in Research and Policy across the Global South. The webinar convened a distinguished group of panelists, and thought leaders from leading universities, research institutes, and policy organizations across South Asia, Europe, and the United States. The opening session features Dr. S. Akbar Zaidi and Dr. Lubna Naz of IBA, with wonderful moderation by Ms. Zoon Ahmed Khan while from Nepal Development Research Institute, Dr. Manjeshwori Singh and Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar contributed expertise in development research.

A key takeaway of the event was the shared recognition that women often navigate dual expectations to lead assertively while managing societal norms and barriers. The discussion highlighted the need for stronger networks for knowledge exchange and collaboration, with a future in-person meeting planned in Karachi or Kathmandu.

The panelists all echoed that women in positions in research and policy are bounded by dual bonds: an expectation of being assertive leaders while being shackled by societal norms and expectations.

The webinar also brought forward an idea of establishing network for capacity development through knowledge exchange, which will be further strengthened in an upcoming in-person meeting in Karachi, Pakistan or Kathmandu, Nepal.

This forum aims to establish a sustainable platform for collaboration, enabling knowledge-sharing and the piloting of innovative projects.



Participants attending virtual event Women in Research and Policy day

NDRI at the Nepal National Glacier, Water and Weather Week (NNGWWW) 2026

On 20 March 2026, Water and Climate Program (WCP) of NDRI co-organized a National Symposium entitled "Transforming Local Water Security: Connecting Research, Action, and Policy" in Lalitpur, Nepal along with other co-organizers: Southasia Institute of Advanced Studies (SIAS), Small Earth Nepal (SEN), Nepal Water Conservation Foundation (NWCF), Australian National University and International Water Management Institute (IWMI) with financial support from the Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research (ACIAR) and the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) through the Muhan project.

The symposium consisted of: A an Opening Session with Keynote Presentation from Dr. Mandira Shrestha (Board Director, Water Center 21 Pahal), Remarks from H.E. Simon Ernst (Australian Ambassador to Nepal) and Mr. Tika Ram Baral (Joint Secretary, WECS), 3 Thematic Sessions (with 14 Oral Presentations), A Poster Session (with over 15 Posters), A Panel Discussion Session and A Closing Session.



Dr. Shankar Shrestha delivering his remarks

Chaired by Dr. Shankar Shrestha and moderated by Shreya Bajimaya, Thematic Session 1 explored "Understanding local hydro-sociology and restoring local water sources," focusing on assessing local water resources and identifying restoration approaches such as



Group Photo of the National Symposium Participants

nature-based solutions and managed aquifer recharge. The session emphasized that achieving water security requires addressing both water quantity and quality, while also highlighting the importance of linking desk-based research with action-oriented approaches that can be scaled for practical impact. Thematic Sessions 2 and 3 expanded the discussion to inclusive water governance, equitable access, and analytical tools for water management, including a presentation by Rajendra Kumar Shrestha and Garima Bindari on the role of hydrogeological insights in socio-technical interventions.



Dr. Shankar Shrestha with WCP researchers presenting poster

A panel discussion moderated by Divas B. Basnyat brought together experts to explore ways of strengthening connections between research, policy, and practice, offering actionable recommendations for improving local water security, and the symposium concluded with closing remarks by Manohara Khadka.

Third National Symposium on the Cryosphere- Event I

On 21 March 2026, Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Senior Research Specialist, NDRI) participated in the third “National Symposium on the Cryosphere” organized on the occasion of “World Day for Glaciers” by School of Science, Kathmandu University in Lalitpur, Nepal. The symposium served as a national platform for scientists, researchers, and institutions to come together and share knowledge about the cryosphere the parts of the Earth where water exists in frozen form, such as glaciers, snow, and ice. This is particularly important for Nepal

and the Himalayan region, where glaciers play a critical role in sustaining river systems, water supply, agriculture, and hydropower. The event highlighted how changes in the cryosphere due to climate change are affecting water availability, increasing risks like glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs), and influencing long-term environmental and socio-economic stability. The symposium featured presentations on completed, ongoing and pipeline research activities on the cryospheric science conducted by Kathmandu University, Tribhuvan University, ICIMOD, UNDP and UNESCO, among others.



Third National Symposium on the Cryosphere on occasion of World Day for Glaciers

Third National Symposium on the Cryosphere- Event II

On 22 March 2026, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar (Executive Director, NDRI) and Dr. Shankar Shrestha (Senior Research Specialist, NDRI) participated in the second “National Water Conference” in Lalitpur, Nepal organized on the occasion of “World Water Day” by WECS-Government of Nepal and National Federation of Irrigation Water User’s Association, Nepal (NFIWUAN) with support from various organizations including NDRI. The event consisted of an Inauguration and Keynote session (with Hon’ble Minister Anil Kumar Sinha, Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation (MoEWRI) as the Chief Guest.



For making significant contribution in the NNGWWW 2026, NDRI was awarded “Certificate of Appreciation” during the Closing Session. Dr. Shankar Shrestha received the award on behalf of NDRI.

Mr. Dinanath Mishra, Secretary, WECS as the Chair and Dr. Neera Shrestha Pradhan from ICIMOD as the Keynote Speaker), 3 Plenary Sessions, 3 Technical Sessions and a Closing Session covering themes such as water governance and policy framework; energy, climate and disaster; and water management and gender, among others. The event ended with a five-point declaration as a way forward covering various aspects of water resource management.

NDRI welcomes new members in the team



Let's welcome

Ms. Manisha Upreti as a Front Desk Officer

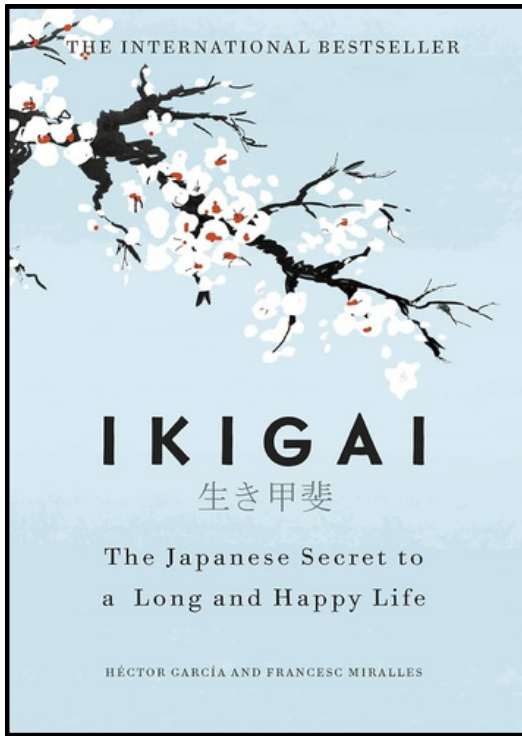


Let's welcome

Ms. Kareena Nepali as an Outreach and Communication Assistant

HEADLINES & HAPPENINGS

- Nepal Congress President Gagan Thapa's resignation rejected.
- Gold Price drops Rs 6,500 per tola, extends three-day decline to Rs. 26,800
- Nepali team leaves for World Junior Wushu Championships in China.



BOOK RECOMMENDATION

The book explores how people especially in Okinawa, known for longevity live longer, happier lives by finding their ikigai (purpose). Find your ikigai the reason you wake up each morning and it will bring meaning, joy, and a longer life 🌿

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

Small daily efforts build big results, stay consistent even when it feels slow.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

SEETAL LUITEL
ASSITANT ADMISTRATIVE
OFFICER

KAREENA NEPALI
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION
ASSISTANT

SHIKHA THAPA MAGAR, PHD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

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