

WEEKLY ECHOES OF NDRI

VOLUME 244 & 245



NDRI family with Prof. Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University at
23rd Annual day of NDRI

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 celebrated its 23rd Annual Day
- NDRI organized Policy Dialogue on 'Public Health Taxation: Rationalizing Tobacco, Alcohol, and Sugary Drink Taxes'
- Meeting and Interaction Program with Journalists on Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger
- NDRI represented in interview on GNN HD's program 'Bisayantar'
- A Webinar on Bangladesh's National Budget Analysis was jointly hosted by the CDP and NDRI
- NDRI completed field survey for the project titled "Final Project Evaluation Inclusive and Resilient Community with Empowered and Engaged People (ICE) Project"



NDRI celebrated it's 23rd Annual Day

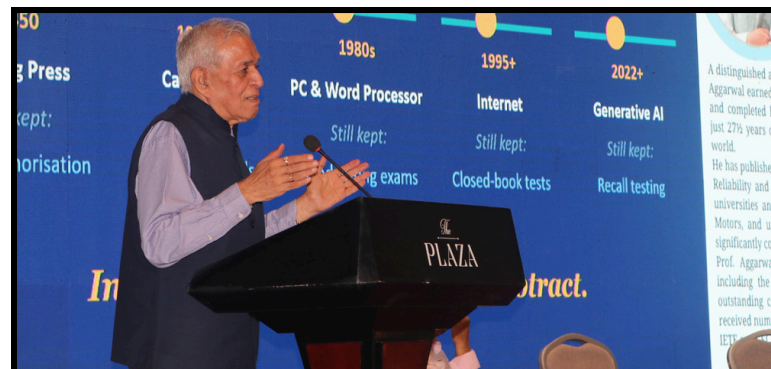
NDRI celebrated it's 23rd Annual Day Celebration on May 19th, 2026, at The Plaza, Pulchowk. This special occasion marks an important milestone in NDRI's continued commitment to research, innovation, and sustainable development in Nepal, bringing together distinguished guests, researchers, professionals, and well-wishers to celebrate the institute's achievements and future aspirations.



A group photo of the opening session at NDRI 23rd Annual Day

The Opening Session of the 23rd Annual Day of the Nepal Development Research Institute was chaired by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung, President of NDRI. The session featured welcome remarks by Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, followed by opening remarks from Dr. Bindu N. Lohani and Mr. Surendra Prasad

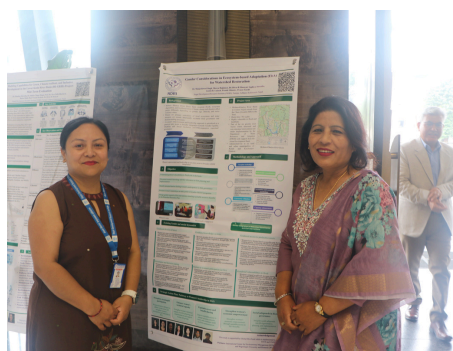
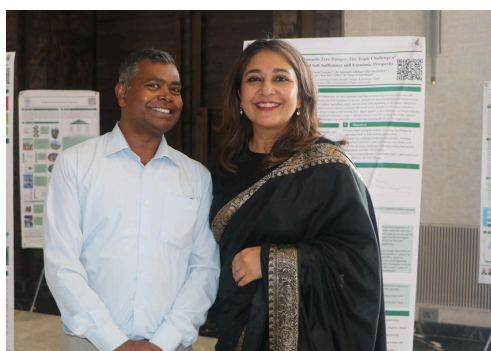
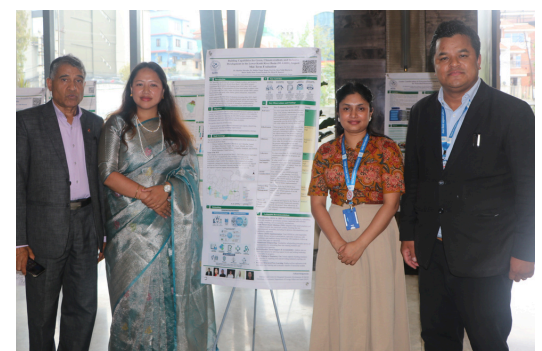
Pandey. Inaugural remarks were delivered by Dr. Gunakar Bhatta. The keynote lecture on "Changing Landscape of Education Philosophy and Learning in the Digital Age" was delivered by Professor Dr. K.K. Aggarwal, President of South Asian University. The two panel sessions focused on "Strategic Interventions to Reform Higher Education in Nepal" and "Human Capital for the AI Age: Bridging Education, Employment and Governance" with panelist from Srilanka, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, India, AIT, ADB, World bank Nepal, and Vice chancellors from different universities.



Prof. Dr. K.K Aggarwal delivering his keynote lecture at NDRI 23rd Annual day

The 23rd Annual Day of the Nepal Development Research Institute featured a series of insightful technical sessions focusing on the future of education, governance, and human capital development in the digital era.

Some glimpses of 23rd Annual Day of NDRI



Please click [here](#) for a keynote speech delivered by Prof Dr. K.K Aggarwal on NDRI's 23rd Annual Day.

"OPPORTUNITIES DON'T HAPPEN. YOU CREATE THEM." – CHRIS GROSSER

NDRI organized “Policy Dialogue on ‘Public Health Taxation: Rationalizing Tobacco, Alcohol, and Sugary Drink Taxes’.

On May 24th 2026, NDRI organized a high-level discussion program on health taxation policy. The program was chaired by Er. Ganesh Shah, Former Minister of Environment Science and Technology, while the Chief Guest was Dr. Ojaswee Sherchan, Chair, Education, Health and Information Technology Committee. The Executive Director of NDRI, Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of evidence-based policymaking in strengthening health taxation in Nepal.



Dr. Ojaswee Sherchan, The Chief Guest of the program delivering her remarks

The program featured technical presentations by Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung on the context and policy recommendations related to rationalizing health taxes, Dr. Rup Khadka on health tax rationalization, and Prof. Dr. Shiva Raj Adhikari on health fiscal policy perspectives on health

taxation. The event also included remarks from several Honorable Members of Parliament representing different political parties, including Dr. Toshima Karki, Former Minister of Health and Population and Dr. Ananda Bd Chand, who shared their perspectives on strengthening public health policies through effective taxation measures. An open discussion session moderated by Dr. Nawa Raj Khatiwada provided a platform for participants to exchange views and policy suggestions on health taxation and governance.

The program concluded with remarks from the Chief Guest and the Session Chair, followed by a press conference moderated by Jaya Kumar Gurung. The discussion emphasized the importance of coordinated policy reforms, stronger fiscal measures, and multi-stakeholder collaboration to address public health challenges and promote healthier communities in Nepal.



Dr. Jaya Kumar Gurung during technical presentation on Context and Policy Recommendations.

Meeting and Interaction Program with Journalists on Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger

On Friday, 22nd May 2026, Nepal Development Research Institute organized a short meet-and-greet session with journalists, hosted by Dr. Krishna Pahari, on the theme "Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger." The session highlighted key findings and policy perspectives on food security and nutrition in Nepal, focusing on the country's progress in reducing hunger and malnutrition over the past two decades.



Dr. Krishna Pahari delivering his presentation on "Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger"

A major highlight of the event was the introduction of the flagship publication jointly produced by Nepal Development Research Institute and Policy Research Institute titled Nepal's Journey Towards Zero Hunger: The Triple Challenge of Food Security, Food Self-sufficiency and Economic Prosperity.

The publication outlines Nepal's achievements, ongoing challenges, and policy recommendations for achieving sustainable food security and economic prosperity. The session also served as an important platform for interaction between researchers and media professionals on issues related to food security and sustainable development in Nepal.

NDRI represented in interview on GNN HD's program Bisayantar

Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar, Executive Director of Nepal Development Research Institute, was featured in an interview on GNN HD's program Bisayantar discussing the topic: "प्रधानमन्त्री, Balen, मन्त्रीहरु वा भाषण होइन जनता रिजल्ट खोजिरहेका छन्।"

The show discussed key political and governance issues surrounding Hon'ble Prime Minister Mr. Balendra Shah's leadership style, parliamentary concerns, and government policies. It highlighted questions regarding his action-oriented approach, the effectiveness of current policies and programs, priorities toward sustainable agriculture and self-reliance, and the government's commitment to good governance, transparency, and anti-corruption efforts.

The discussion also focused on what steps the government should take to strengthen public trust and deliver effective results.



Dr. Shikha Thapa Magar during her interview on GNN HD's program Bisayantar

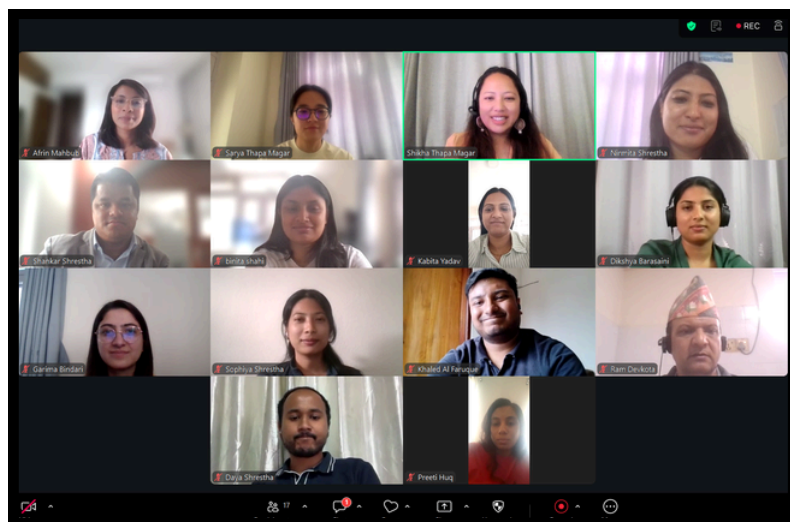
[Please click here for the link to the youtube video](#)

A Webinar on Bangladesh's National Budget Analysis was jointly hosted by the CDP and NDRI

On May 22th, 2026 NDRI organized a Knowledge Sharing Session on National Budget Analysis, a collaborative webinar jointly hosted by the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) and NDRI. The session featured Ms. Afrin Mahbub from the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD), Bangladesh, as the speaker. The Knowledge Sharing Session on Bangladesh's National Budget Analysis provided a comprehensive overview of Bangladesh's national budget system

and its significance in public policy and economic planning. The session covered key topics including the concept and structure of the national budget, the budget cycle, and important budget-related documents and terminology used in Bangladesh. It also highlighted the role of the Centre for Policy Dialogue (CPD) in analyzing the national budget through evidence-based research and policy recommendations.

Furthermore, the session presented a case example of budget analysis in the education sector, demonstrating how budget allocation and expenditure can influence educational development and public service delivery. The discussion offered valuable insights into budget transparency, fiscal governance, and sectoral policy analysis.



A virtual group photo taken during a webinar on Bangladesh's National Budget Analysis was jointly hosted by the CDP and NDRI.

NDRI completed field survey for the project titled “Final Project Evaluation Inclusive and Resilient Community with Empowered and Engaged People (ICE) Project

On 12th May 2026, the research team of Nepal Development Research Institute (NDRI) successfully completed the field survey for the project titled “Final Project Evaluation - Inclusive and Resilient Community with Empowered and Engaged People (ICE) Project.” As part of the study, a one-day training for the field team was conducted on 5 May 2026, followed by a week-long field survey from 7 -12 May 2026. The field team comprised 12 enumerators and three supervisors from NDRI, including Rajendra Khatri (Senior Research Associate), Nirmita Shrestha (Research Associate), and Dikshya Barasaini (Research Assistant).



Mr. Khatri delivering his presentation during the enumerator training

During the fieldwork, the research team conducted household surveys, Key Informant Interviews (KIIs), and Focused Group Discussions (FGDs) with ICE Project beneficiaries, project staff, and key stakeholders.



A photo taken during the FGD with youth group

The final evaluation aimed to assess the impact and effectiveness of the project implemented by Nepal Red Cross Society in strengthening inclusive, resilient, and empowered communities. Furthermore, the evaluation provided recommendations to support future programming, strengthen community-based approaches, and enhance the effectiveness of similar development and resilience-building initiatives.

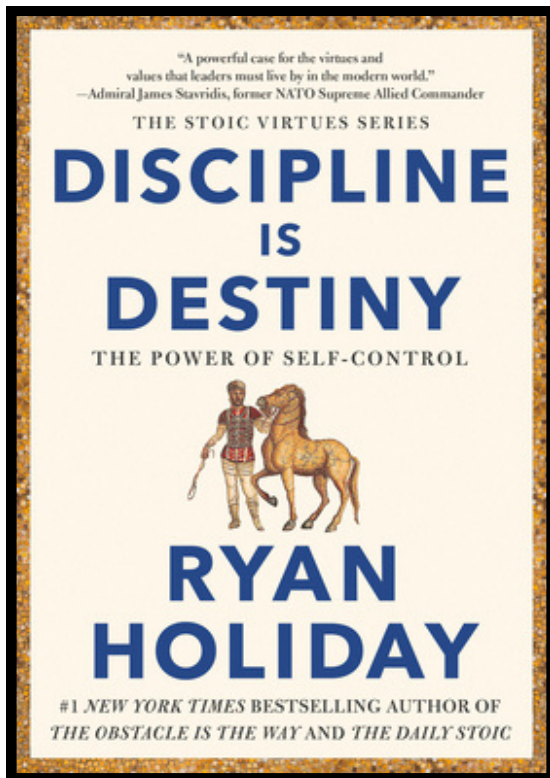


A group photo including participants, guests and staffs at 23rd Annual Day of NDRI

BOOK RECOMMENDATION

THOUGHT OF THE WEEK

"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."



NEWSLETTER EDITORS

KAREENA NEPALI
OUTREACH & COMMUNICATION
ASSISTANT

SHIKHA THAPA MAGAR, PHD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Guest visiting to the knowledge product section at Policy Dialogue, Public Health Taxation

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