

TOWARDS ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION:

IS CORRUPTION SCENARIO CHANGING IN NEPAL?

**Center for Research and Development
Nepal Administrative Staff College**



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ABSTRACT

This study aims to evaluate a very delicate issue of corruption. It attempts to identify the changed scenario of corruption in Nepal and evaluates the efforts toward corruption control. It examines the question ‘is the corruption scenario changing in Nepal?’ This study analyzes newspaper coverage during the year 2017 to 2019 in three major categories: 1) punitive actions, 2) preventive measures and promotional activities, and 3) corruption related research/report/view. Furthermore, a logical framework model of program assessment was used to analyze the content and to disentangle the three different types of anti-corruption strategies - punitive actions, preventive measures and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view- and their impact on corruption control. The outcome of anti-corruption initiatives are assessed by using independent sample t-test and multiple regression analysis. The changes in punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view before and after the election was assessed.

Findings suggest that there is significant differences between the means of the two periods. Anti-corruption agencies getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of punitive actions against corruption. Although this study could not justify the relationship between the punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view but discovered that punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view against corruption after the election or change in government had significantly increased compared to before election or change in government. Government and anti-corruption agencies have a prime role in preventing and controlling corruption. However, for better performance, surveillance and monitoring through digital presence; and closing the loop of feedback are required to move more effectively in zero tolerance to corruption.

Keywords: towards zero tolerance to corruption, preventive, punitive, promotional, anti-corruption agencies, corruption

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INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

The Divyopadesh¹ of Prithvi Narayan Shah, the founder king of the unified Nepal, explains about necessity of controlling corruption. He states that both bribe receiver and bribe offeror are enemies of the nation. Taking and receiving bribe corrupts the justice system. According to him, “It is not considered sin to confiscate all the property and even execute him [her] for such crime.”

Then after, several efforts are made to control corruption. Nepal firmly believes in zero tolerance to corruption. Several policies, laws and institutional mechanisms such as Constitution, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority (CIAA) and Good Governance Act are in practice to curb corruption. Nepal has also made international commitments through policies and provisions regarding corruption, money laundering and organized crime.

The constitution of Nepal assures good governance through the means of federal and democratic system of governance. Part 4 (Directive Principles, Policies, and Obligations of the State) Article 51 (b) of the Constitution is about policies relating to political and governance system of state. In its fourth point it talks about guaranteeing good governance and making public administration free from corruption. Likewise, in the Article 51 (k) - policies relating to justice and penal system – it has been mentioned that effective measures for the control of corruption and irregularities in all sectors will be adopted.

CIAA, which is founded on the legal ground of constitution is prominent anti-corruption agency and is an apex constitutional body to curb corruption. It has a right to conduct any abuse of authority committed through corruption by any person holding public office and authority to suggest different options and alternatives to the government to help curb the corruption and promote good governance.

The Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act 2008 envisages that corruption free and smart public administration is a basis for executing administrative functions and prerequisite for good governance in the country. Similarly, Section 47 of the Civil Service

¹ A document with divine advices provided by the founder king of the modern Nepal. He died at the age of 52 (DoB: AD 1723 and DoD: AD 1755).

Act 1991 restricts civil employee to receive gifts, present, donation and borrowing. It further states that 'no civil employee shall, without prior approval of Government of Nepal, accept a gift, donation, present or gratification of any kind either by him/herself or through any member of his/her family, or ask for donation or borrow any loan from any person concerned with any government business, in such a manner as to affect the government business.'

The United Nation's Convention against Corruption, signed by the Government of Nepal on 10 December 2003 and ratified on 31 March 2011, states that 'state should endeavor to establish and promote effective practices aimed at the prevention of corruption'. Objectives of this convention were:

- To promote and strengthen measures to prevent and combat corruption more efficiently and effectively;
- To promote, facilitate and support international cooperation and technical assistance in the prevention of a fight against corruption, including in asset recovery; and
- To promote integrity, accountability and proper management of public affairs and public property.

The United Nation's Convention against Corruption has criminalized bribery of national public officials; bribery of foreign public officials and officials of public international organizations; and bribery in the private sector.

The Prevention of Corruption Act 2002 views prevention of corruption as a means to maintain peace, convenience, financial discipline, morality and good conduct among the general public. It talks about offences that are punishable and lists the provisions and punishments related with the offences. It has largely extended coverage including non-Nepalese citizens residing in foreign countries, all Nepalese citizens and public servants residing anywhere outside Nepal. It provided foundation in establishing National Vigilance Center to effectively control corruption-oriented acts and to promote people's awareness against corruption.

The offences of corruption defined by the Prevention of Corruption Act are:

- Giving and taking graft
- Accepting goods or services free of cost or at lower price
- Taking gift, present, award or donation
- Taking commission (remuneration, brokerage fee, benefit or advantage)
- Leaking revenue
- Getting illegal benefit or causing illegal loss with mala fide intention
- Preparing false documents
- Translating false documents
- Tempering government documents
- Causing damage to government or public documents

- Disclosing secrecy of the question papers or altering the result of examination
- Engaging in illegal trade or business
- Claiming false designation
- Giving false particulars
- Damaging public property
- Exerting illegal pressure
- Giving false report
- Acquiring property in an illegal manner

Since the Annual Policy and Program of the Fiscal Year 2071/72, Government of Nepal has been following the policy of ‘zero tolerance against corruption’ (Pokharel, Subedi, Adhikari, Adhikari, & Gupta, 2018). This was first introduced in the Eighth plan. One of the strategies in the plan was to adopt a policy of zero tolerance against impunity and corruption. However, the Thirteenth Development Plan of Nepal initiated zero tolerance to corruption policy in integrated way. Since then, it has become a slogan of governments and consistently spelled in the policy documents. In the budget speech² of Fiscal Year 2075/76 delivered to the Joint Assembly of Federal Parliament, the Honorable Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatiwada stated that ‘the government will adopt zero-tolerance policy against corruption activities along with prohibiting corruption. Both parties involved in corruption and those who caused corruption will be brought within the scope of law by eliminating the protection and backing for corruption.’ Likewise, in the budget speech of Fiscal Year 2076/77, Dr. Khatiwada stated that ‘integrity system will be adopted in all sectors while prioritizing promotion of fair and good governance. A policy of rigid non-tolerance will be adopted against the tendency of illicit exploitation of state assets. Alongside legal reform, the capacity of the regulatory bodies will be enhanced to control corruption.’

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Several prime ministers got chance to govern Nepal, after its declaration of republic in 2008, and have given priority to good governance and corruption control. It seems like corruption has been at the center of the political agenda in Nepal and every government wants to control corruption. While taking office, most of the prime ministers reiterate tough action against corruption. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has issued anti-corruption strategy and work plan to combat the menace of corruption (Adhikari, 2015). For example: Addressing the annual day of the Armed Police Force on 29 January 2019, Prime Minister, Mr. K.P. Sharma Oli, reaffirms government’s commitment against corruption. In his speech, he stated, “I will not be corrupt and I will not tolerate corruption. This is our declared policy.” It seems like the Prime Minister is firmly committed in keeping with zero tolerance policy against corruption and the government will not tolerate any form of corruption at any level of governance. The government is ready to take firm steps to counter the rising menace.

² Available in <https://mof.gov.np/en/archive-documents/budget-speech-17.html?lang=> on 18 October 2019.

In the same line, the then Prime Minister, Mr. Sushil Koirala, addressing a meeting after assuming office in 2014, mentioned that he has decided to take action against corruption and irregularities. Earlier, in a speech delivered in parliament, he stressed that a zerotolerance policy against corruption and maintaining good governance are the key agendas of his government.

On the Anti-Corruption Day, December 2012, the then Prime Minister Dr. Babu Ram Bhattarai mentioned, "I can say it without hesitation that corruption is rampant at top political and bureaucratic levels" (Adhikari, 2015). At the program organized by the antigraft body, the then Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal on 09 December 2016, stated that "... tackling corruption was a huge challenge as it had been spreading its wings far and wide (The Himalayan Times, 2016)." On the 24th founding day of the Commission for Investigation of Abuse of Authority the then President Dr. Ram Baran Yadav and Prime Minister Sushil Koirala, have emphasized the need for corruption control and have called for concerted efforts from all sectors to combat irregularities and misuse of power for ensuring good governance in the country (The Rising Nepal, 2015). The then Chief Secretary of the Government of Nepal, Dr. Somlal Subedi said the government is enforcing a separate strategy and action plan to increase effectiveness in the corruption control efforts (Annapurna Media Network, 2016).

From these quotes of past and current prime ministers and other government authorities, it seems like corruption has always been a matter of concern for government. However, according to a study on the 'Status of Corruption and Good Governance in Nepal, 2019' conducted by the CIAA, corruption is still rife despite the election of governments at all the three levels and formation of 5 years long government (The Himalayan Times, 2019). Analyzing the quotes, we can assess that government authorities have realized the complexity of controlling corruption in Nepal and became a one of their greatest obstacles in delivering their promises. However, their commitments in rooting out corruption and establishing good governance throughout the country and the commitments are praiseworthy.

In October 2018, the government introduced a provision for civil servants to take an oath every day: 'I will not indulge in corruption; I will prevent corruption and will honestly work for my country and people' (Nepali Times, 2018). The annual policies and programs of the GoN for the year 2019/20 as well as 2020/21 have also stated about creating and promoting a work culture that embraces commitment of 'I will not commit corruption, I will not let a corruption happen, and I will work for the country and people honestly.'

With all these efforts, Government of Nepal is formally committed in controlling corruption and establishing foundations towards zero tolerance to corruption. As argued by Dhungana, Pokharel, Sigdel, Dahal, and Upadhyaya (2018); over the past several decades, Nepal's efforts galvanized into the creation of relevant laws and institutions, comprising an "infrastructure of integrity". However, Adhikari, Gupta, and Shrestha (2016) through their empirical findings claim that corruption complaints of ordinary sector (the complaints lodged concerning education, health, land administration and agriculture) as

well as development sector (based on the complaints lodged concerning local development; physical planning; home affairs; forestry; finance; energy; urban development; information and communication; and culture and tourism) is increasing.

1.3 Significance of the Study

Seeing the headlines and exposed scams on corruption in print media, it can, without any hesitation, claim that incidents of corruption have received greater public attention. Some (Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, 2019; Transparency International Nepal, 2016; Department for International Development, 2013; Dix, 2011; Shakya, 2009; Phuyal, 2009; Dahal, 2000; Ministry of Finance, 2000) even argue that corruption has become common and widespread in Nepal. However, Prime Minister, Mr. KP Sharma Oli's view is different. According to him, "The government is working actively to curb corruption. The arrest of corrupt employee is growing for action. It is not increase in corruption, but the increase of arrest."

In this context, comparing the reports of corruption before and after the federal election gives idea about the past and present status of corruption. This study offers critical insight about corruption after and before the election of governments at all the three levels and formation of a government with about two-third of majority in the federal level. Furthermore, it provides indications whether the efforts of the government have paid for the good governance in the country, as emphasized by the Nepal's constitution.

1.4 Objective of the Study

The main objective of this study is to analyze the corruption scenario of Nepal. The study team used content analysis to review the strategies that have evolved during the last three years, one and half years before the legislative election and one and half years after the legislative election. Similarly, it assessed the Government of Nepal's effort towards zero tolerance to corruption by analyzing the newspaper coverage about corruption and activities initiatives.

The central question is whether Nepal is heading towards zero tolerance to corruption after the legislative elections and formation of two-third majority government. Is the corruption scenario changing in Nepal?

1.5 Scope of the Study

The study is restricted on the newspaper coverage only, although corruption related issues might not always appear in media. As regard to the time scope, the study covers the period from the year 2017 to 2019.



REVIEW OF LITERATURE

2.1 Corruption

The citizens' growing distrust with the government and the rage against corruption are the results of the experience that they gather from various public agencies (Samuel, 2011).

The first direction of literature focuses on the concept of corruption, a world-wide issue of concern. The generally accepted definition of corruption is “the abuse of public office for private gain” (Larmour & Wolanin, 2013). Transparency International and others refer to corruption as “the abuse of trusted authority for the private gain.” Both definitions seek to establish a dichotomy between personal and impersonal spheres. When these spheres are mixed together in service delivery, citizens experience chaos. There are notable impacts of corruption on economic development such as instability, loss of administrative capacity, loss of legitimacy, and misuse of government resources (Larmour & Wolanin, 2013) . Corruption has not only worsened with time but also seems to have subverted the committed values of people. Corruption has indeed become a national blight (Elizabeth, 2007). To end this spreading disease, Transparency International has made subsequent efforts over the period. The Corruption Perception Index (CPI), developed by Transparency International is a composite view of chief financial officers, executives in top and middle management, and US- residents country experts, as well as a number of categories of business experts which attempt to report countries failure in combating corruption and contributing crisis in democracy (Elizabeth, 2007).

It reports the perception of corruption in more than 150 countries and publishes the rank of countries in terms of less and more corrupt. The Scandinavian countries top the league and the African countries predominate the bottom positions. Denmark and New Zealand are the least corrupted countries whereas Somalia, Syria and South Sudan ranks as the most corrupted countries in the world (CPI, 2018). Similarly, Nepal ranks at 124th position among 180 countries (CPI, 2018). Also, Transparency International produces Global Corruption Barometer (GCB) and Bribe - Payers Index (BPI) to closely view corruption from both demand and supply side. However, the index is still only a measurement based on perceptions.

The second direction in the literature addresses the relationship between the structure of government and corruption. Various literature define corruption as the function of government size, extent of economic distortions, bureaucratic competition and internal structure, and the level of information (Ahmad, 2002). The research on government size and corruption indicates that there is a substantial relationship between the two as political knavery is expected to grow with the government size. It may persuade rent seekers to offer more bribes due to bureaucratic delay. However, some have opposed the view. They argued that corrupt activity has disproportional relationship with the government size. There is also a positive relationship between local- state government size and corruption while a negative relationship between government salaries and corruption (Goel & Nelson, 1998). It is clear that a government intending to reduce corruption should reduce its expenditure rather than on employees' salaries (Goel & Nelson, 1998). However, Huston (1999) has declined the relationship between government size, measured as government consumption in total GDP, and corruption.

Likewise, the absence of good governance and democracy give rise to corruption. Corruption also escalates under feeble leadership and government. When the administrative leadership and government cannot effectively control the people engaged in service delivery, corruption becomes imminent as public projects are used for private pursuits. It is also assumed that poverty is also an inducing factor for corruption at the grass root level (Lawal & Oladunjoye, 2010).

The third direction of literature review covers media coverage and corruption in the context of the world. The press is the source of extensively available and systematically distributed information on political and social life, including corruption (Fuszara, 1999). The bulk and tone of the report on corruption shape the public opinions about the same. Corruptions in democratic countries are often understood as a failure of accountability. The citizens of a nation cannot always directly observe the performance of incumbent administrations, politicians, and, bureaucrats. The media here play the role of providing information on asymmetry between the citizens and the government, and the related rents the latter might extract (Stanig, 2015). However, the study on media suggests that they are often pressured to avoid reporting the information that hampers the career and reputation of political friends of publishers (Stanig, 2015). The political preferences of media owners also affect the media content. There are also instances of certain exchange of rewards by politicians for media coverage (Stanig, 2015). The government is able to prosecute reporters for defamation and insult to public authorities. Therefore, there is a negative impact on the intensity of media reporting on sensitive information. The reporters take in account the cost and benefits of reporting the information, including the probability of being accused for defamation. So, in order to avoid any sort of problems, they prefer not to report sensitive contents.

The media coverage of sensitive information, particularly on corruption, is measured in terms of the number of articles that cover corruption of identifiable politician, bureaucratic, 8 and law enforcement agents (Stanig, 2015). The content of corruption in the media is attributable to the disciplinary law. The legislation that treats defamation as a criminal

offence protects politicians and public servants and helps them cover their misconduct (Stanig, 2015). It also indirectly gives them power to work in their favor and to perform profitable illegal activities. Restrictions in the circulation of information have an impact on good governance and also create a tradeoff between media freedom and right to a reputation (Stanig, 2015).

Various researches have attempted to study corruption in light with government size, good governance, and its media coverage. However, there is no abundant research on the report of corruption when there is a change in government structure in the country similar to what Nepal has evidenced in past five years. So, the study of the research is: what is the reporting status of corruption in Nepal after the initiation of federalism and promulgation of constitution?

2.2 Content Analysis

Content analysis is a research method used to analyze content in a variety of formats (e.g., books, newspaper, television, internet) to understand patterns of messages. Riffe, Lacy, and Fico (2005) defines content analysis as:

“a systematic and replicable examination of symbols of communication, which have been assigned numeric values according to valid measurement rules and the analysis of relationships involving those values using statistical methods, to describe the communication, draw inferences about its meaning, or infer from the communication to its context, both of production and consumption.”

Content analysis has a history of about a century. Kunkel (2009) states that content analysis research has a long history in the field of communication and related social sciences. More than 50 years ago, journalists were counting story topics and elements to track trends in newspaper coverage of various issues (Krippendorff, 2004 as cited in Kunkel, 2009). The early investigators were using it to measure the amount of space or columns devoted to the topic. During 1950s its usages got flourished. However, by the beginning of 1960s due to the cumbersome and time-consuming process of coding in doing content analysis, there was a fluctuation in its usage (Dasgupta, 1975). By the introduction of computer-aided content analysis in 1966, the usage of content analysis in research revitalized. It helped in making inferences by systematic and objective identification of specified characters within text. Manganello and Fishbein (2009) argues that content analyses are done to analyze what content is currently available in some medium, or they consider changes in content that occur over time.

Dasgupta in his paper published in 1975 acknowledges that application of content analysis as a research technique is a recent development in the field of social sciences, especially in India. The role of content analysis is not contradictory, but complementatry, to the 9 conventional research approach (Dasgupta, 1975). Rourke and Anderson (2004) states that content analysis [quantitative] is a procedural tool for testing and measurement to create

inferences and make interpretations that are theoretically and empirically defensible. They found the quantitative content analysis as one of the most promising perspectives, methods and techniques. Today, in an era of increasing media channels, content analysis research seems to be growing in popularity (Kunkel, 2009).

The debates and opinions expressed in the newspapers are important to study as they eventually shape the country's policy agenda (Haque & Sheikh, 1994). Kunkel (2009) argues that most content analysis studies used to be descriptive and often univariate. However, with the growing awareness of the role of mass communication as a potential factor shaping people's beliefs, attitudes and behaviors; there are differing approaches to content analysis research. Krippendorff (2004) summarizes that

“one could say that content analysis has evolved into a repertoire of methods of research that promise to yield inferences from all kinds of verbal, pictorial, symbolic, and communication data. Beyond the technique's initially journalistic roots, the past century has witnessed the migration of content analysis into various fields and the clarification of many methodological issues.”

3

METHODOLOGY

This section presents the approaches that are employed in the study process. It presents research design, Data sampling and coding, Data assessment, issues of reliability and validity and limitations.

3.1 Research Design

This study uses content analysis as the method of study for the research. Content analysis can be both quantitative as well as qualitative. The quantitative content analysis deals with coverage or numbers of times an item appears in a piece of recorded information to understand the pattern of messages (Haque & Sheikh, 1994; Davis & Turner, 1951/52). Content analysis has been used in mass communication and in other fields to describe content and to test theory-driven hypotheses (Riffe, Lacy, & Fico, 2005). Rourke and Anderson (2004) states that content analysis [quantitative] is a procedural tool for testing and measurement to create inferences and making interpretations that are theoretically and empirically defensible. Qualitative content studies, on the other hand, deals with meaning structure of the text and content (Smilov & Dorosiev, 2007; Anunne & Yan, 2019). As, Newbold, Buick and Bold (2002) states qualitative content analysis includes discourses and semiotics study only. Whereas, Krippendorff (2004) states that rhetorical analysis, ethnographic analysis and conversational analysis are a part of qualitative work. Mayring (2000) states that qualitative content analysis defines itself within this framework as an approach of empirical, methodological controlled analysis of texts within their context of communication, following content analytical rules and step by step models, without rash quantification.

This study combines a triangulation approach in order to fulfill the objectives set. The unit of analysis being every day's newspaper during the year 2017 to 2019, the quantitative content analysis seeks the space allotted to coverage about corruption and initiatives towards zero tolerance to corruption. On the other hand, the qualitative content study looks at qualitative aspects and attitudes like the treatment provided and the interpretation of the news items in order to identify the reactions, thought processes regarding the topic by undertaking all the news stories, headlines, editorials, the opinion page and letters to the editor to provide a holistic view of the subject. Although, Haque and Sheikh (1994) states that four areas

(main headlines, editorials, the opinion page, letters to the editor) are probably the most important areas in any paper, this study considers the whole newspaper as a unit of analysis.

3.2 Data Sampling and Coding

3.2.1 Data Source and Units of Analysis

All the news stories, headlines, editorials, the opinion page and letters to the editor published by The Kathmandu Post from 01 January 2017 to 30 April 2019 are considered as data source in this study. All these news and articles forms the unit of analysis for the study.

Regarding the sample, The Kathmandu Post is selected based on purposive sampling for the study. The Kathmandu Post is a major daily newspaper published in Nepal. Founded in February 1993 by Shyam Goenka, it is one of the largest English-language newspapers in Nepal. The newspaper is owned by Kantipur Publications. It is a member of the Asia News Network. The Kathmandu Post is Nepal's first privately owned English broadsheet daily and is Nepal's leading English language newspaper, with a daily circulation of about 82,000 copies (Prevention Web, 2019). The Post's first five pages are primarily dedicated to national news. The other regular headings of the Post are editorial, sports and money.

3.2.2 Coding Categories

Content analysis involves coding. Coding is the process of transforming raw data into a standard form to generate themes. In this study, three major coding units are used. They are a) coding length and source of reference; b) coding the tones in the articles; and c) coding the descriptions of processing standards.

3.3 Data Assessment

The quantitative data arising from the coding procedures are presented using graphs, charts and tables to categorize the count of the articles, the nature of the articles, the timelines or reference of information and the tones in the articles and the description of the processes. Furthermore, for data triangulation, a logic framework model of program assessment is applied to analyze the findings. This model is used to define the logical linkages of the initiatives and results.

3.4 Issues of Reliability and Validity

This study meets the requirements of objectivity by a) eliminating subjectivity in the coding processing, b) being systematic by including and excluding category that are more relevant to the study and c) grounding the study on a theory. The newspaper that has been sampled 12 is a leading newspaper in the country. Data source and unit of analysis is pre-defined. The quantitative data analysis is scientific and is performed using standard statistical package.

The qualitative data is analyzed using logical model of evaluation which makes this study reliable. Overall, the study validity has been guaranteed because it uses scientific, objective and rigorous approaches to conduct the study.

3.5 Limitations and Further Research

Data for this study was collected from one newspaper only. However, the newspaper is one of the most sought-after English daily newspaper for its credible news, features and critical analyses. Since the objective of this research was to see whether there is any changes in the corruption scenario, it has provided a pattern and trend of corruption scenario.

A formal letter was submitted to the Kantipur Media Group by requesting them to cooperate in data access. However, they rejected our request. That is why, this study had to rely mainly on online archival of The Kathmandu Post. We came to know that they intentionally do not provide access to all the newspaper throughout the year. However, the study team has not compromised the adequacy of the data information to arrive at a conclusion. The study team visited Nepal Administrative Staff College's library and reviewed the hard copy of the newspaper for the period when the online archival access were blocked.

For purposes of ethical consideration, the data sources are 'club goods' documents that did not violate any ethical standard. The study team member registered for an online archival and accessed the information.

This study is purely based on corruption cases, reporting, research and views published by The Kathmandu Post. If the Post fails to cover any corruption cases, reporting and research or overposts views and reportings on corruption then this study might have affected. However, the study team assumes that there is no biasness in exposing the corruption cases by the Post.



BACKGROUND CHARACTERISTICS AND DESCRIPTIVE FINDINGS

This section presents analysis of the data and information. The count of the articles, nature of the articles, timeline of the articles and descriptive statistics are presented in this section.

4.1 Count of the Articles

The population of the articles in this study are the reportings on corruption available in the sampled newspaper. The sampled newspaper for this study is The Kathmandu Post. The study team requested the Post through formal letter and asked for permission to use its content as a data source for this study. All the corruption related news/reportings that were published during 01 January 2017 to 30 April 2019, by The Kathmandu Post, are analyzed in this study. All in all 936 news/reportings were published within this period of 116 weeks (refer Table 1, see Annex 2 for the day wise count of the news/reporting).

A decision was made by the study team to review the whole newspaper for the data purpose. While reviewing the newspaper, the study team found that the corruption related news are mainly published in the cover page, money, news, and editorial and oped section of the newspaper. We found that the corruption related news/reporting published in cover page, money and news sections are the investigation and report type. These investigations and reports involve audit investigation reports, police investigations, EC report, NVC's investigation, special court's investigation, CIAA report, TI report, parliamentary committee report and ministry/department/official report. Similarly, we found that the news/reporting presented in the oped section are based on author's opinion and the news published earlier. Basically, this type of articles are written by politicians, concerned citizens, retired public sector officials and members of civil society organizations. Editorial category included all articles by the editors.

Study team also analyzed whether there is any dominant author by the number of the news/reporting. United States General Accounting Office (1989) states that while quantifying the news/reporting "the analyst has to control for factors that may influence the articles' content." We found that there is not any dominant author who might have influenced the newspaper's

content. We have found organization and subject specific author or reporter who frequently presents the news/reportings but in the news section and not in oped section.

Table 1: Week Wise Count of the News/Reporting on Corruption

Week	News	Week	News	Week	News	Week	News
1	6	24	7	47	5	70	11
2	5	25	7	48	6	71	5
3	7	26	4	49	4	96	14
4	12	27	3	50	5	97	10
5	9	28	4	51	4	98	7
6	10	29	8	52	7	99	5
7	6	30	9	53	9	100	14
8	5	31	5	54	5	101	10
9	4	32	6	55	9	102	8
10	2	33	2	56	5	103	11
11	7	34	11	57	13	104	12
12	4	35	7	58	10	105	14
13	2	36	10	59	7	106	15
14	8	37	9	60	6	107	13
15	6	38	11	61	11	108	8
16	5	39	4	62	16	109	16
17	9	40	2	63	11	110	11
18	5	41	10	64	11	111	16
19	3	42	5	65	9	112	22
20	3	43	6	66	9	113	12
21	4	44	2	67	9	114	18
22	3	45	2	68	10	115	13
23	2	46	2	69	5	116	17
						Total	936

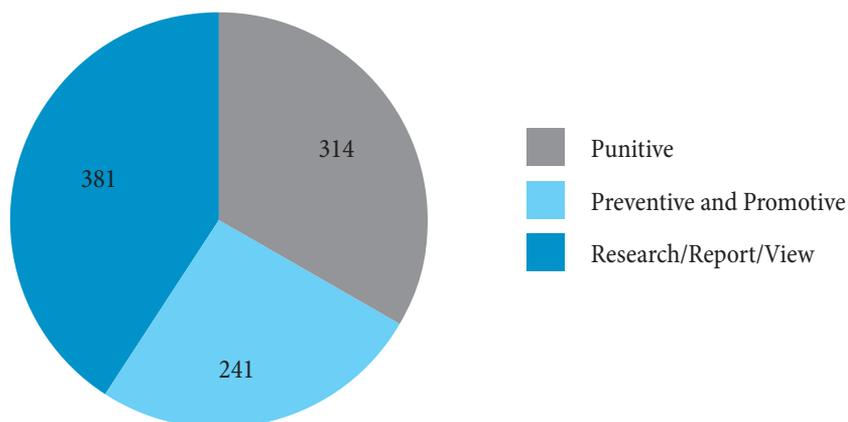
Source: By the Author

4.2 Nature of the Articles

Macnamara (Not Stated) states that “content analysis should involve examination of multiple variables (i.e. multivariate analysis) – not be a simplistic rating of a single variable such as positive, negative or neutral which is univariate and tells us little about the likely meaning and effects of a text.” Considering the view of Macnamara, the study team tried in grouping all the 936 news/reporting into broader categories. After reviewing the legal frameworks on anti-corruption and functionalities of anti-corruption agencies, we came to know that Nepal mainly has adopted three pronged strategies to curb corruption. They are promotive, preventive and punitive activities. Under this purview, this study has classified the week wise count of corruption related news/reportings data into three categories. They included: 1) punitive, 2) promotive and preventive, and 3) research/report/view. This grouping is challenging as careful and critical assessment is needed to categorize. Nonetheless as CIAA Act has clearly defined what the preventive and promotive strategies³ are, the classification has been done based on CIAA’s provision.

Figure 1 explains that there are variations in the nature of news/reporting on corruption. During the study period, the highest number of news/reporting were regarding the corruption related research/report/view with total of 381 observations, followed by punitive actions with 314 counts. The preventive and promotional activity related news/reporting are found to be only 241 in number.

Figure 1: Nature of the News/Reporting on Corruption (in number)



Source: By the Author

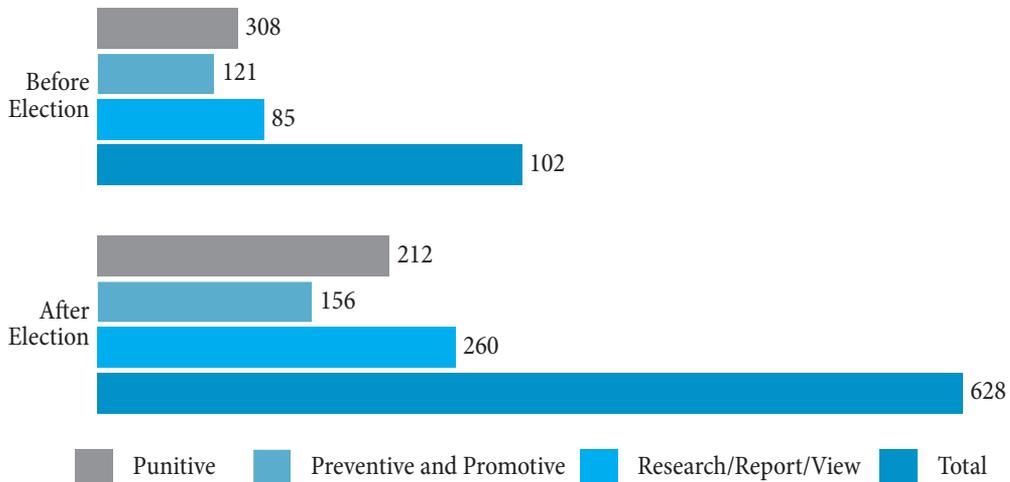
³ Carry out research and system development; identify areas and sectors vulnerable to corruption; provide policy advice for reducing and preventing corruption; coordinate, monitor and assess the efforts of various agencies geared towards controlling corruption; develop and enforce the Codes of Conduct in the professional and organized sector. The punitive actions against corruption include detailed inquiries, investigations and prosecutions while actions against improper conduct include admonishment and recommendations for departmental actions. Preventive measures include offering suggestions and advice to the government, issuing directives, preparing working procedure manuals and codes of conduct for public officials, and undertaking special reformatory studies. Similarly, promotional activities include public education and awareness generation activities, publication and distribution of pamphlets, stickers and newsletters, collaborating with civil society-based anticorruption organizations as well as with the media and the private sector.

4.3 Timeline of the Articles

The zero tolerance to corruption initiations may go through ups and downs by the passage of time. Nepal has experienced frequent changes in government. Changes in government happened once in every year, with a dozen changes in the last 12 years. During the period of this study (i.e., within 116 weeks), there were three changes in the government with three different prime ministers heading the government.

With the promulgation of new constitution and conduction of three-tier election, it will be worthwhile to analyze how the government is moving forward in the fight against corruption. With this consideration, this study tries to analyze the before and after scenario of the corruption considering 15 February 2018 as the cutoff point.

Figure 2: News/Reporting on Corruption Before and After Election (in number)



Source: By the Author

Figure 2 shows that 308 news/reportings on corruption are published before the election and 628 are published after the election. Out of the 308 news/reportings published before election, 102 (i.e. 33.12%) are regarding the punitive measures of corruption control, 85 (i.e. 27.60%) are of preventive and promotive actions and remaining 121 (i.e. 39.29%) are the corruption research/report/view. Similarly, out of the 628 news/reportings published after election, 212 (i.e. 33.76%) are regarding the punitive measures of corruption control, 156 (i.e. 24.85%) are of preventive and promotive actions and remaining 260 (i.e. 41.40%) are the corruption research/report/view.

4.4 Descriptive Statistics

Table 2 explains summary statistics regarding the components used in this study. The statistics reveal that there are discrepancies in the statistics across the weeks.

Table 2: Some Descriptive Statistics of the News/Reporting on Corruption

Measures	Punitive	Preventive and Promotive	Research/Report/View
Count (in week)	116	116	116
Mean	2.71	2.08	3.28
Standard Deviation	2.06	1.77	2.38
Maximum	11	7	11
Minimum	0	0	0

Table 2 shows the minimum, maximum, standard deviation and mean value of week wise news/reporting on corruption. The total count or number is 116 weeks. On an average, about three (2.71) punitive action related news/reporting are published every week with the standard deviation of 2.06. Likewise, about two (2.08) news/reporting on preventive and promotive action are published every week with the standard deviation of 1.77. On an average, about three (3.28) corruption related reserch/report/view are published every week with the standard deviation of 2.38. These data indicate that people have started to write and express their views openly. However, referring these data it is difficult to state whether Nepal is heading towards the zero tolerance to corruption. The study team has realized that analyzing the descriptive statistics alone is not sufficient in this examination process. Thus, in order to investigate whether the corruption scenario is changing in Nepal, it is necessary to supplement decriptive statistics with the Independent-Samples T-Test and regression based analysis (see chapter 5).

5

APPLICATION AND ASSESSMENT OF 'ZERO TOLERANCE TO CORRUPTION'

This chapter talks about a logic framework model of 'zero tolerance to corruption' program assessment. This model is used to define the logical linkages of the initiatives taken over the time and the results achieved. Acosta, Ramchand, Becker, Felt, and Kofner⁴ (2013) states that "logic models facilitate the visualization of relationships between the core components of a program". A logic model can help to ensure that the evaluation is based on program's underlying foundation and principles and it can enhance the linkages between program elements and outcomes (Helitzer, et al., 2010).

The result of background characteristics and descriptive findings, presented in Chapter IV, provided some statistical information. It helped to identify the pattern, assess the level and observe changes in the corruption related news/reporting. Povitkina and Wysmułek (2016) states that "statistical methods in researching corruption enable us to obtain a broad picture of what the relationship between the factors of interest looks like, identify patterns in analyzing large samples, and make conclusions on the observable patterns."

The descriptive results of content analysis would not be entirely enough to draw conclusion on the impact of corruption through the policy of zero tolerance against corruption that the government adopted. That is why, the program logic framework is applied to analyze the linkages among the resources employed, changes brought and results achieved in prohibiting corruption in Nepal. The study team analyzed the resources that anti-corruption agencies have and that resource has been considered as an input in the logical flow model. We also analyzed the actions taken by the government in curbing corruption which has been considered as activities in the logical flow model. Finally, we have analyzed the direct changes that have been occurred of the program activities. In doing so, we tried to identify the gap in the desired and actual change as a result of the activities regarding the anti-corruption programs.

⁴ Retrieved July 25, 2020, from www.jstor.org/stable/10.7249/j.ctt5vjwxf.8

5.1 Inputs in Corruption Control

Resources and inputs are interchangeably used in the logical framework model. Inputs or resources are the investments for the program (Acosta, Ramchand, Becker, Felt, & Kofner, 2013; McCawley, 2001). They are the prerequisites for successful implementation of the activities and the overall achievement of the goal depends on these resources. That is why resources need to be mobilized in effective and efficient ways. Helitzer et al., (2010) states that clear expression on the resources use and activities conduction will lead to desired outcomes.

Acosta et al., (2013) states that “a successful program needs adequate resources to fill program needs, as well as prudent allocation of these resources to avoid wasting time and money.” Similarly, Panov and Gemperle (2016) states that in measuring the performance of anti-corruption agencies institutional capacities, financial and human resources’ political independence, and the mandate are crucial. Referring Acosta et al., 2013 and Panov & Gemperle, 2016 it can be assessed that the performance of an anti-corruption agency depends upon its financial resources, knowledge and skills of the human resources and the technological integration. Another important aspect is going to be the role of stakeholders. Helitzer, et al., (2010) states that building a visual model of how a program operates requires stakeholders to state explicitly how they think program activities and resources will lead to the predicted outcomes.

Basically, five different types of resources are found to be used to curb corruption in Nepal (please refer Box 1). Firstly, the involvement of government agencies in the initiatives towards ‘zero tolerance against corruption’. There are several initiatives taken by the Government of Nepal to curb corruption. Koirala, Khadka, and Timsina (2015) states that establishing multiple agencies to look after corruption cases is a distinct feature of the Nepalese anti-corruption drive. The establishment of CIAA in 2047 BS and the Tenth Plan stating its one of the strategies to increase the ability of agencies engaged in controlling corruption and abuse of authority (National Planning Commission, 2002) show that the initiatives taken are encouraging. Moreover, the thirteenth plan states that ‘corrupt activities will be eradicated and a zero tolerance policy will be strictly enforced’ (National Planning Commission, 2013). There are set of laws and several oversight agencies working explicitly or implicitly in this initiation. Among the many, followings are main arrangements available for curbing corruption.

Box 1: Resources used to curb corruption in Nepal

- Involvement of government agencies
- Engagement of not-state actors (media, private sector, citizens, civil society organizations, development partners)
- Infrastructures and equipment
- Cadres hired by anti-corruption agencies and staff on deputation
- Secured annual budget

Source: Author

Table 3: Major arrangements in corruption control

Prominent Legal Provisions	
The Constitution of Nepal	Assures good governance through the means of federal and democratic system of governance
CIAA Act 1991	Helps curb the corruption and promote good governance
Audit Act 1991	Conducts final audit under its jurisdiction
Prevention of Corruption Act 2002	Law for public sector corruption control
UNCAC	Law to fight against corruption globally
Public procurement Act 2007	Brings uniformity in public procurement procedure
Good Governance (Management and Operation) Act 2008	Envisages corruption free and smart public administration
Local Government Operation Act 2017	Prescribes the legislative, executive and judicial business for the local level
Intergovernmental Fiscal Arrangement Act 2018	Concerned with fiscal discipline across governments
Revenue Leakages (Investigation & Control) Act, 1995	Law against the economic crime and revenue leakages
Special Court Act, 2002	Looks after corruption and money laundering cases
Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2008	Prevents and controls the economic crimes
Oversight Agencies	
Parliamentary Committees	Reviews and acts upon the recommendations of constitutional oversight bodies
CIAA	Conducts punitive, preventive and promotional activities against corruption
Judicial system	Dispenses justice
OAG	Does performance audit
Special court	Adjudicates the corruption and money laundering cases

NVC	Conducts prevention and promotional activities against corruption
PPMO	Ensures good governance in procurement system
Department of Money Laundering Investigation	Investigates money laundering and terrorist financing
Department of Revenue Investigation	Investigates on suspected revenue leakages and foreign currency deflection

Table 3 shows that existing anti-corruption laws and institutional arrangements provide a wider range of protection against the corrupt practices and behavior. Various approaches have found to be adopted to fight against corruption and promote good governance. They are political approach, through constitutions and parliamentary committees; judicial approach, through judiciary; surveillance and monitoring approach, through NVC, PPMO, Department of Money Laundering Investigation, Department of Revenue Investigation; and financial approach, through fiscal arrangements.

Second important resource is the engagement of not-state actors (media, private sector, citizens, civil society organizations, development partners) in the initiatives towards 'zero tolerance against corruption'. Koirala et al., (2015), states that 'combating corruption is not a task for the government alone.' Engagement of people, actors and beneficiaries are crucial in surveillance and monitoring if there are issues regarding abuse of authority by the authority holder. The Fifteenth Plan issued by the National Planning Commission has accepted that changes have been occurred in the society's thinking perspective against corruption. People's awareness level has also increased. The proliferation of anti-corruption laws and institutional arrangements have helped a lot in the awareness creation among the people. The plan document also states that government will mobilize civil society, NGOs, media and community organizations to aware public against corruption. In summary, the extended collaboration and cooperation between individuals, government and non-state actors can play a vital role in multi-stakeholder initiatives with oversight against corruption and community integrity building efforts.

Thirdly, infrastructures and equipment are another crucial resources in corruption control and are the enablers in integrity promotion. Infrastructures and equipment are needed for effective supervision and control. Physical capacity is equally important as mental capacity because without physical strength smooth performance of official work is not possible. From the providers' perspective, uses of ICT and equipment in service delivery help in making the delivery mechanism transparent and responsive. For example, Tribhuvan University launched an arrears management software in its departments to maintain financial transparency (Rastriya Samachar Samiti, 2018). It is expected that this software helps in maintaining financial discipline and transparency. From the receiver's perspective, it reduces wastage of time and effort of time. For example, in October 2018, the Office of Prime Minister and Council of Ministers (OPMCM) established an online monitoring

system to see whether the government offices are effectively implementing their fiscal work plan (The Kathmandu Post, 2018). In this system, ministries update their monthly progress using the software. It minimized the costs and reduced wastage of time. By the development of the system, OPMCM, in one click, can monitor, guide and control the performance of the ministries and provide guidance and assistance to the poor performer. The poor performer gets chance to improve its performance by assessing own and others' current performance.

Fourth important resource in corruption control is the human resources. The human resources of the anti-corruption agencies require capacity and competency to manage public assets and work in a manner that upholds the rule of law, integrity, transparency, and accountability. However, Panov and Gemperle (2016) argues that institutional capacities of anti-corruption agencies depends upon the political independence of the human resources.

In the several oversight agencies of Nepal, thousands of human resources are working. CIAA has 916⁵ staffs; NVC has 137⁶; Office of Auditor General has 408⁷; Office of the Attorney General has 1457⁸; PPMO has 51⁹; Department of Revenue Investigation has 142¹⁰ and Department of Money Laundering Investigation has 159¹¹ staffs. However, some of the constitutional bodies do not have their own core staff and are dependent with the government. Constitutional bodies having their core staff lacks trained and skilled human resources (Koirala et al., 2015). They also face difficulty in retaining qualified cadets. Government's frequent reshuffling of staffs have also hindered the overall performance of oversight agencies.

Lastly, financial resource is one of the resources that is being mobilized by the government in the efforts to curb corruption. All the oversight agencies get secured annual budget from the government to run infrastructures and equipment, and mobilize the human resources. For example, CIAA received NPR 1,172,798,000¹² in the fiscal year 2074/75 and Office of the Attorney General received NPR 1,131,837,705¹³ as a recurrent and capital expenditure.

5 *Annual Report, 2075/76*

6 *Annual Report 2075/76; 89 civil service, 23 Police and 25 in contract*

7 *Annual Report 2074/75*

8 *Annual Report 2075/76*

9 https://ppmo.gov.np/about_us/about_ppmo

10 <http://www.dnli.gov.np/>

11 *Annual Report 2074/75; 68 Civil service, 9 police and 82 national investigation department staff*

12 https://www.fcgo.gov.np/uploads/uploads/2018-12-27/bhag_1_2074-75.pdf; PP 52

13 *The total expenditure of Court is 5,429,201,737 and OAG is 669,470,000. These four organizations receive about 1% of total allocated budget (i.e., NPR 1,278,994,855,000)*

5.2 Outputs of Corruption Control

Activities are the things that we do with the input of resources to achieve desired result. Activities are the processes undertaken to implement change (The Strategy Unit, 2016) and carried out to transform inputs into each output to be produced (Asian Development Bank, 2011). Activities are conducted on day to day basis so that the results be achieved. Acosta et al., (2013) states that activities are the actions and efforts that make up the program and are employed to reach the program's goals.

While assessing the activities conducted by the government and the oversight agencies of the period of January 2017 to April 2019, it can be said that corruption control and promotion of good governance has been one of the prime concerns of government and other oversight agencies. It seems like realizing the importance of good governance and being committed towards a policy of zero tolerance against corruption the state agencies have devised sufficient legal, structural and policy arrangements to curb corrupt activities.

Box 2 shows major activities adopted by the state agencies to curb corrupt doings and contribute to good governance. The activities can be broadly classified in two categories. They are reactive and proactive activities. Reactive activities are the actions against fraudulent practices taken by the anti-corruption agencies. Some of the actions taken are punishing wrongdoers; filing cases and charge sheets; taking action against the offender, tax invaders and those who breached the financial rules; auditing books; widening the corruption probe net and imprisoning the corrupt individual; tracking sales at outlets in real time; and conducting corruption survey and publishing the report. In these activities the chances of return is very low because such actions are targeted towards individuals. This sort of activities are less effective in fighting against corruption. Another major reactive activity taken by the anti-corruption agencies is blacklisting of contractors. There is a practice of warning of and putting the contractors in blacklist on their non-performance or under-performance. Due to the contractor's blacklisting practices, the number of contractors blacklisted for poor performance is in a continuous rise. For example, Mid-Hill Highway (Eastern) project has threatened to terminate contract with Pappu Construction and blacklist the firm if the contractor failed to expedite works for two bridges in Sindhuli¹⁴.

Box 2: Activities done to curb corruption

- a) Reactive activities
 - Action against corrupt activities
 - Blacklisting of contractors
- b) Proactive activities
 - Draft, revise and enforce code of conduct and laws according to the spirit of the UNCAC
 - Compliance training and workshops
 - Multi-stakeholder engagement
 - Institutional expansion and realignment
 - Digital monitoring and performance contract

Source: Author

¹⁴ The Kathmandu Post, Pappu Construction faces blacklist threat, 2018 July 19

Several awareness-raising, preventive, and punitive programs are in place to control corruption. The study team has considered these actions as proactive activities. The first proactive activity being conducted by the anti-corruption agencies are to draft, revise and enforce code of conduct and laws according to the spirit of the UNCAC. Nepal endorsed the UN Convention against Corruption on 23 February 2011 and ratified the convention. Since then, several laws have amended and code of conduct have drafted and enforced according to the spirit of the convention. For example, government drafted a National Integrity Policy, although it has not enforced yet. New law is in place regarding the casino and its finance management. Similarly, government is working on policy for self-regulated private and public sectors.

Secondly, the anti-corruption agencies are organizing compliance training and workshops to mobilize public opinion against corruption. For example, the National Information Commission organized a National Conference to raise awareness on right to information. It also organized awareness programs in districts on right to information. Similarly, the APG meet hosted by Nepal in 2017 discussed about the ways to tackle new threats that can foster financial crime. Through discussion, it made the authority aware and empowered them to develop legal frameworks in control money laundering and terror financing. This type of program not only helps in ensuring accountability and transparency of the government agencies but also makes the public finance transparent and result oriented. They work as a means for financial discipline.

Thirdly, actions against corruption are being carried out in an integrated manner by coordinating with the responsible agencies. Government of Nepal, in its budget speech of 2018/19 has shown commitment for international cooperation in controlling money laundering and organized crime through mutual legal assistance¹⁵. The Kathmandu Metropolitan City mobilized around 1000 students from government colleges as paid volunteers to bring all sections of professions into the tax net¹⁶. Transparency, public reporting and stakeholder engagement are critical anti-corruption tools for achieving accountability to the public, investors and other stakeholders, and for countering corruption (Transparency International, 2017). Engagement of multi-stakeholder - public, politicians, civil society and other non-governmental agencies, and government agencies – enables the design and implementation of the anti-corruption activities. It also helps in maintaining transparency. For example, Government of Nepal seeking China's help in curbing gold smuggling and illegal transaction of dollar and Chinese authority assuring support carries enhanced responsibilities which can leave a positive message in the efforts against corruption. Similarly, US Embassy in Kathmandu organizing Open Government Partnership event in joint collaboration of government and non-government actors and urging Nepal to join the public best practices group demands continuous efforts towards accountability and transparency in the public affairs.

¹⁵ Budget Speech of Fiscal Year 2018/19, Delivered to Joint Assembly of Federal Parliament by Honorable Finance Minister Dr. Yuba Raj Khatriwada on 29 May 2018; Government of Nepal, Ministry of Finance

¹⁶ The Kathmandu Post, students from government colleges, 2017 April 07.

Stakeholders are free in raising questions. Individual efforts might not proven effective. Many times, civil society groups launch campaign and raise voice against wrongdoings especially when the serious and pertinent issues are ignored by the authority holders. Nepal Media Society launched a campaign against corruption and urged stakeholders for their support¹⁷. This encourages general public to be aware and raise their voice against the wrongdoings. This is important because sometimes the concerned authority might fail to bring the culprit to justice and such activities helps make them apprehend and act upon the commitments that they have made in front of the public.

The final proactive activity being conducted by the government is the institutional expansion and realignment of the institutions working for anti-corruption initiatives. The expansion and realignment strengthens the institutional capability and motivates the members within it to find out different and innovative ways of tackling new threats that they are facing. The government brought investigation departments under the aegis of OPMCM by amending the concerned laws. The rational behind it was to increase the performance of such departments. They have received wider mandate and their performance have increased after coming under OPMCM¹⁸. Similarly, with the implementation of federal structure, government revised the market monitoring laws and hand over the task to the local level authority.

5.3 Outcomes of Anti-corruption Initiatives

Outcomes are the benefits derived from the program, usually expresses as short, medium and long term (The Strategy Unit, 2016). McCawley (2001) states that program outcomes can be short-term, intermediate-term, or long-term. Outcomes answer the question “What happened as a result of the program?” and are useful to communicate the impacts of our investment. The outcome is the key achievement of any intervention. It describes performance changes of systems, organizations and institutions (Asian Development Bank, 2011).

During the last six decades, the Government of Nepal has undergone different workouts and initiations in controlling corruption. More than sixty years of planned development have completed with 14 different plans. With the enactment of the 15th Plan, a goal of fulfilling the national aspiration of “Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali” has been set. Controlling corruption and promoting good governance has been considered as one of the foundation and considerations of the Policies and Programmes for the Fiscal Year 2077/78.

This consideration is not new for Nepal and its governments. The Eighth Plan (1992 – 1997) was historic. Until eighth plan, there were no specific measures enforced for corruption control. By its implementation, GoN realized that it is the prime time to enhance the morale of civil servants, develop legal measures to curb corruption and strengthen the anti-

¹⁷ *The Kathmandu Post, Media Society launches campaign against corruption, 2017 September 07*

¹⁸ *The Kathmandu Post, Revenue body takes on big cases after coming under PM's office, 2019 March 02*

corruption units. Civil service act and by-laws were formulated and central monitoring and evaluation division was established for the monitoring and evaluation of development projects during this period. Since then, corruption control has become a priority agenda for GoN.

Table 4: Gap between anti-corruption objectives and achievements in development plans

Plan	Objective(s)	Achievement(s)
Eighth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To enhance the morale of civil servants - To reinforce legal and specific measures to curb corruption - To strengthen anti-corruption units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Formulation of Civil Service Act and Rules - Establishment of Central Monitoring and Evaluation Division
Ninth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To make the procedures related to contract, leasing, purchase and sale transparent - To enforce monitoring system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Set up of Administrative Reforms Coordination and Monitoring Committee - Prepared public administration master plan - Amendements of corruption related acts - Implementation of Local Selfgovernance Act and Rules
Tenth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To prepare and implement actionplan relating to corruption eradication strategies - To strengthen the institutions that are involved anti-corruption activities - To control the leakage of revenues - To develop legal provisions against money laundering - To launch awareness raising activities against corruption - To safeguard individuals who give information on irregularities and corrupt actions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increased political instability - Transparency International placed Nepal at the last quarter - The local level service delivery affected with the absence of elected representatives - Application of Citizen's Charter - Increased awareness of the civil society and media on public issues - Establishment of Special Court and National Vigilance Centre

Eleventh Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To adopt a policy of zero tolerance against impunity and corruption - To legislate a act to control activities of money laundering 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Issued code of conduct for judges - Establishment of Public Procurement Monitoring Office - Enacted the action plan against corruption - Reinforced legal easures to curb corruption
Twelfth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To establish paper less governance through e-governance - To use social accountability tools for effective service delivery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Established “Hello Sarkar” unit - Ratified the UN Convention against Corruption - Implementation of Contemporary Action Plan for Governance and Financial Reforms - Carried out joint monitoring of developmental projects and programmes - Central monitoring committee formed in order to make service delivery simple, easy, and transparent
Thirteenth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To strictly enforce a zero tolerance policy against corruption - To collect, analyze and utilize corruption related information - To create honest citizens with the emphasis of moral education 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implementation of citizen charter with compensation - Establishment of regional and contact office of CIAA
Fourteenth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To formulate law to protect abator, whistle blower and witness. - To develop national integrity system 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not applicable
Fifteenth Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To implement integrity policy - To strengthen anti-corruption agencies - To develop an integrity system at the government, non-government and private sector - To collect, analyze and utilize corruption related information - To conduct preventive, promotional and punitive action against corruption. - To promote a ethical work culture 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Not applicable

It seems like GoN is firmly committed towards promoting good governance and building corruption free and responsible society. Governments claim that they have taken promotion of governance integrity and good governance as top most priority. Necessary policy, legal and institutional improvements have initiated. They have always kept the zero tolerance policy against corruption in mind. Strengthening surveillance, inquiry and investigation works are always in priority. Despite of all these initiations how is the outcome? Is the corruption scenario changing in Nepal? Has the good governance promoted and corruption controlled? Table 4 shows the gap between the anti-corruption objectives and achievements in development plans. However, they are not sufficient in answering the question whether the corruption scenario is changing? To answer this question, we have applied Independent-Samples T-Test and regression based analysis.

5.3.1 Independent-Samples T-Test for Outcome Analysis

The independent samples t-test is used when there are two experimental conditions (Field, 2006). This study used the contents of same newspaper but for the data analysis and study purpose we treated before the election and after the election as separate samples. Argyrous (2012) states that this can be done in a situation in which the researcher wants to compare more than two populations. In our research, we are interested in comparing the corruption related research/report/view, punitive actions and preventive and promotional activity related news/reporting from before and after the election period. For this, we classified the whole data set in two groups – before and after. Here, the group is now independent variable and week wise number of corruption content published in the newspaper is the dependent variable. We will now be examining whether the week wise number of corruption content published in the newspaper is affected by the independent variable (i.e. election or in other words change in government).

$$C_i = b_0 + b_1 E_i + \epsilon_i \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

Equation 1 is the model that this study has used. Where, C_i is the week wise number of corruption content published in the newspaper, E_i is the election or change in government. b_0 and b_1 are the coefficients and ϵ_i is the error. The Equation 1 can now be rewrite in our context as:

$$\text{Punitive Action}_i = b_0 + b_1 \text{Election}_i + \epsilon_i \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

$$\text{Preventive and Promotional Activity}_i = b_0 + b_1 \text{Election}_i + \epsilon_i \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

$$\text{Corruption Research/Report/View}_i = b_0 + b_1 \text{Election}_i + \epsilon_i \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

Equation 2, 3 and 4 are the similar but another version of Equation 1 based on the data generated from the week wise number of corruption content published in the newspaper. This has been done to seek the answer of the research question of this study ‘is corruption scenario changing in Nepal.’

Equation 2 has been used to analyze whether there is any difference between the punitive actions before and after the election.

Table 5: T-Test (Group Statistics) for Punitive Action Before and After Election

Punitive Activities	Election/ Change in Government	N (in week)	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean
	Before Election	54	1.89	1.40	.19
	After Election	62	3.42	2.29	.29

Table 5 shows the group statistics for the punitive action before and after election. The number of cases before election is 54 and after election is 62. In other words, for before election analysis, 54 weeks' data on punitive action are used in the model. Similarly, for after election analysis, 62 weeks' data are used. The average number of punitive actions before election is found to be 1.89 with the standard deviation of 1.40 whereas the average is 3.42 for after election with the standard deviation of 2.29.

Table 6: T-Test (Independent Samples Test) for Punitive Action Before and After Election

Punitive Activities		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-Test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Equal variances assumed	7.57	.01	-4.27	114	.00
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.41	102.73	.00

Table 6 shows the results of independent sample test which helps in inferring the changes in corruption scenario before and after. Since the F (Levene's Test for Equality of Variances) value is significant at 0.05, it is concluded that there is difference in the variances observed in the samples. In other words, there is differences in the mean number of punitive actions between before and after election. In this case the two-tailed value of p is .00, which is less than 0.05 (with t = -4.41 and df = 102.73), so we conclude that there is significant difference between the means of the two periods.

Equation 3 has been used to analyze whether there is any difference between the preventive and promotional activities before and after the election.

Table 7: T-Test (Group Statistics) for Preventive and Promotional Activities Before and After Election

Preventive and Promotional Activities	Election/Change in Government	N (in week)	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean
	Before Election	54	1.57	1.44	.20
	After Election	62	2.52	1.91	.24

Table 7 shows the group statistics for the preventive and promotional activities before and after election. The number of cases before election is 54 and after election is 62. In other words, for before election analysis, 54 weeks' data on preventive and promotional activities are used in the model. Similarly, for after election analysis, 62 weeks' data are used. The average number of preventive and promotional activities before election is found to be 1.57 with the standard deviation of 1.44 whereas the average is 2.52 for after election with the standard deviation of 1.91.

Table 8: T-Test (Independent Samples Test) for Preventive and Promotional Activities Before and After Election

Preventive and Promotional Activities		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-Test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
		Equal variances assumed	7.08	.01	-2.96	114
Equal variances not assumed		-3.02	111.64	.01	.00	

Table 8 shows the results of independent sample test which helps in inferring the changes in corruption scenario before and after. Since the F (Levene's Test for Equality of Variances) value is significant at 0.05, it is concluded that there is difference in the variances observed in the samples. In other words, there is differences in the mean number of preventive and promotional activities between before and after election. In this case the two-tailed value of p is .01, which is less than 0.05 (with t = -3.02 and df = 111.64), so we conclude that there is significant difference between the means of the two periods.

Equation 4 has been used to analyze whether there is any difference between the corruption research/report/view before and after the election.

Table 9: T-Test (Group Statistics) for Corruption Research/Report/View Before and After Election

Corruption Research/ Report/ View	Election/Change in Government	N (in week)	Mean	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Mean
	Before Election	54	2.24	1.61	.22
	After Election	62	4.19	2.58	.33

Table 9 shows the group statistics for the corruption research/report/view before and after election. The number of cases before election is 54 and after election is 62. In other words, for before election analysis, 54 weeks' data on corruption research/report/view are used in the model. Similarly, for after election analysis, 62 weeks' data are used. The average number of corruption research/report/view before election is found to be 2.24 with the standard deviation of 1.61 whereas the average is 4.19 for after election with the standard deviation of 2.58.

Table 10: T-Test (Independent Samples Test) for Corruption Research/Report/View Before and After Election

Corruption Research/ Report/ View		Levene's Test for Equality of Variances		T-Test for Equality of Means		
		F	Sig.	t	df	Sig. (2-tailed)
	Equal variances assumed	13.41	.000	-4.81	114	.00
	Equal variances not assumed			-4.95	103.96	.00

Table 10 shows the results of independent sample test which helps in inferring the changes in corruption scenario before and after. Since the F (Levene's Test for Equality of Variances) value is significant at 0.05, it is concluded that there is difference in the variances observed in the samples. In other words, there is differences in the mean number of corruption research/report/view between before and after election. In this case the two-tailed value of p is .00, which is less than 0.05 (with $t = -4.95$ and $df = 103.96$), so we conclude that there is significant difference between the means of the two periods.

5.3.2 Multiple Regression Analysis

Multiple regression seeks to predict an outcome from several predictors (Field, 2006). Multiple regression investigates the relationship between two or more independent variables and a single dependent variable (Argyrous, 2012). In our research, we are interested in

32 investigating the relationship between punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, corruption related research/report/view, government before and after (as a dummy variable) and presence of CIAA chief (as a dummy variable).

$$PA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PPA + \beta_2 CRRV + \beta_3 D_1 + \beta_4 D_2 + \epsilon_i \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

$$PPA = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PA + \beta_2 CRRV + \beta_3 D_1 + \beta_4 D_2 + \epsilon_i \dots \dots \dots (6)$$

$$CRRV = \beta_0 + \beta_1 PPA + \beta_2 PA + \beta_3 D_1 + \beta_4 D_2 + \epsilon_i \dots \dots \dots (7)$$

[Where, PA = Punitive Actions, PPA = Preventive Measures and Promotional Activities, CRRV = Corruption Related Research/Report/View, D_1 = Before and After Election or Government before and after (1 = After Election or Change in Government), and D_2 = Presence of CIAA Chief (1 = yes), ϵ is error term, and $\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3$ and β_4 are regression parameters]

Equation 5 has been used to see what factors determine the punitive actions. In the equation, punitive action is the dependent variable; and preventive and promotional activities, corruption related research/report/view, government before and after and presence of CIAA chief are the independent variables. The results of regression model when dependent variable is punitive actions (PA) are presented in Table 11.

Variance predicted by the regression model is about seven times higher than the variance predicted by the error (F-value = 7.293), and importantly, the F-value is significant ($p < 0.01$). Considering these facts, it can be claimed that the regression has a pretty good model fit.

The adjusted R-square value of 0.18 suggests that independent variables, including the intervening variables, can explain 18 percent of the variation in the dependent variable. In other words, the model had explained 18 % of the variance in punitive actions. The Durbin-Watson value of 1.764 suggests that there is no autocorrelation among the variables.

Table 11 depicts that two variables had significant impact on corruption related punitive actions, and rest of other variables did not have any relationship or impact. The β values for government before and after (0.336), and presence of CIAA chief (0.223) signify that they have positive relationship with corruption. Both of these variable are dummy variables and they have positive β value. The positive β value suggests that there has been increases in the punitive actions after the election or changes in government. Similarly, there has been increases in the punitive actions when the CIAA gets its chief/chief commissioner. In other words, after election, in comparison to before election, has more number of punitive actions against corruption. The punitive actions against corruption is 0.336 more than that of before election. Similarly, CIAA getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of punitive actions against corruption. The punitive actions against corruption is 0.226 more than that of CIAA without chief/chief commissioner.

The remaining two variables are not significant, which indicates that $\beta_1=\beta_2=0$ (see Table 11). In other words, the remaining independent as well as intervening variables have no bearing on the dependent variable. A change in those independent and intervening variables do not cause a change in the dependent variable.

Table 11: Regression Result – Punitive Actions

	Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	β	t	
Preventive and Promotional Activities	0.038	0.432	0.667
Corruption related research/report/view	0.102	1.062	0.291
Government before and after *** [After=1]	0.336	3.465	0.001
Presence of CIAA Chief** [Yes=1]	0.223	2.518	0.013
$R^2 = 0.21$			
Adjusted $R^2 = 0.18$			
F = 7.293 with p < 0.01			
Durbin-Watson value = 1.764			

*** significant at 0.01, ** significant at 0.05, and DV = Punitive Actions

Equation 6 has been used to see what factors determine the preventive and promotional activities. In the equation, preventive and promotional activities is the dependent variable; and punitive actions, corruption related research/report/view, government before and after and presence of CIAA chief are the independent variables. The results of regression model when dependent variable is preventive and promotional activities (PPA) are presented in Table 12.

The adjusted R-square value of 0.08 suggests that independent variables, including the intervening variables, can explain only 8 percent of the variation in the dependent variable. In other words, the model had explained only 8 % of the variance in preventive and promotional activities. The Durbin-Watson value is 1.763. Table 12 depicts that only one variable had significant impact on corruption related preventive and promotional activities, and rest of other variables did not have any relationship or impact. The β values for government before and after (0.244) signify that it has positive relationship with corruption control measures. It is a dummy variable and it has positive β value. The positive β value suggests that there has been increases in the preventive and promotional activities after the election or changes in government. In other words, after election or changes in government, in comparison to before election, has more number of preventive and promotional activities. The preventive and promotional activities against corruption is 0.244 more than that of before election.

Table 12: Regression Result – Preventive and Promotional Activities

	Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	β	t	
Punitive Actions	0.044	0.432	0.666
Corruption related research/report/view	0.005	0.043	0.966
Government before and after ** [After=1]	0.244	2.265	0.025
Presence of CIAA Chief [Yes=1]	-0.061	-0.618	0.538
R ² = 0.08			
Adjusted R ² = 0.04			
F = 2.264 with p > 0.05			
Durbin-Watson value = 1.763			

** significant at 0.05, and DV = Preventive and Promotional Activities

Table 12 depicts that three out of four variables are not significant, which indicates that $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = \beta_4 = 0$ (see Table 12). In other words, the remaining independent as well as intervening variables have no bearing on the dependent variable. A change in those independent and intervening variables do not cause a change in the dependent variable.

Equation 7 has been used to see what factors determine the corruption related research/report/view. In the equation, corruption related research/report/view is the dependent variable; and punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, government before and after, and presence of CIAA chief are the independent variables. The results of regression model when dependent variable is corruption related research/report/view (CRRV) are presented in Table 13.

Variance predicted by the regression model is about nine times higher than the variance predicted by the error (F-value = 8.871), and importantly, the F-value is significant ($p < 0.01$). Considering these facts, it can be claimed that the regression has a pretty good model fit.

The adjusted R-square value of 0.215 suggests that independent variables, including the intervening variables, can explain 21.5 percent of the variation in the dependent variable. In other words, the model had explained 21.5% of the variance in corruption related research/report/view. The Durbin-Watson value of 1.584 suggests that there is no autocorrelation among the variables.

Table 13 depicts that two variables had significant impact on corruption related research/report/view, and rest of other variables did not have any relationship or impact. The β

values for government before and after (0.391), and presence of CIAA chief (0.234) signify that they have positive relationship with corruption related research/report/view. Both of these variable are dummy variables and they have positive β value. The positive β value suggests that there has been increases in the corruption related research/report/view after the election or changes in government. Similarly, there has been increases in the corruption related research/report/view when the CIAA gets its chief/chief commissioner. In other words, after election, in comparison to before election, has more number of corruption related research/report/view against corruption. The corruption related research/report/view is 0.391 more than that of before election. Similarly, CIAA getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of corruption related research/report/view against corruption. The corruption related research/report/view against corruption is 0.234 more than that of CIAA without chief/ chief commissioner.

The remaining two variables are not significant, which indicates that $\beta_1 = \beta_2 = 0$ (see Table 13). In other words, the remaining independent as well as intervening variables have no bearing on the dependent variable. A change in those independent and intervening variables do not cause a change in the dependent variable.

Table 13: Regression Result – Corruption Related Research/Report/View

	Standardized Coefficients		Sig.
	β	t	
Punitive actions	0.098	1.062	0.291
Preventive and promotional activities	0.004	0.043	0.966
Government before and after *** [After=1]	0.391	4.212	0.000
Presence of CIAA Chief ***[Yes=1]	0.234	2.715	0.008
R2 = 0.242			
Adjusted R2 = 0.215			
F = 8.871 with p < 0.01			
Durbin-Watson value = 1.584			

***significant at 0.01 and DV = Corruption Related Research/Report/View

5.4 Discussion

The aim of this study is to analyze the corruption scenario of Nepal. By using content analysis, we reviewed the strategies that have evolved during the last three years, about one and half years before the legislative election and about one and half years after the legislative election. We analyzed the newspaper coverage about corruption and initiatives towards zero tolerance to corruption. Results suggest that the corruption scenario is changing in Nepal.

5.4.1 Punitive Actions

The results of this study suggested that punitive actions after the election or change in government had statistically significantly increased compared to before election or change in government. As discovered by this study, the significant differences in the punitive actions between before and after the election is an encouraging finding to discuss. This may be due to several reasons. Firstly, this may have been due to the wider range of detection against the corrupt practices and behaviors. After the election or change in government, the government brought investigation departments under the aegis of Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers by amending the concerned laws with the target to increase the performance of such departments. Since, they have received wider mandate the actions against improper conduct or corruption – detection, undercover and sting operations, inquiries, investigation, prosecution – might have increased.

Secondly, increase in punitive actions may have been due to government agencies' increased surveillance and monitoring through digital presence. Intensive monitoring were made to end the improper and corrupted activities. The middlemen who were illegally engaged between beneficiaries and service providers in the government agencies came under surveillance and were punished. In the recent past, there are growing number of government agencies who are being active through social media and having two-way communication and dialogue with people. All the ministries and Office of the Prime Minister and the Council of Ministers have their official facebook pages and twitter accounts to inteact with the public. Similar is the scenario in the case of anti-corruption agencies. They too have their own networking sites for having two-way communication and dialogue with people.

Finally, the leadership in anti-corruption agencies, especially in the CIAA, may have been vital in the increased number of punitive actions. CIAA is primarily an anti-corruption law enforcement agency in Nepal . This study discovered that before the election, for about 21 weeks (out of the total 54 weeks period of) the CIAA was run without the Chief Commissioner. With the Supreme Court's declaration of Lokman Singh Karki unfit to hold the post of the chief of the CIAA the post remained vacant for a long period of time and that may have played a role to significantly differentiate the number of punitive actions before and after the election.

5.4.2 Preventive Measures and Promotional Activities

Another major finding of this study is preventive and promotional activities after the election or change in government had statistically significantly increased compared to before election or change in government. As discovered by this study, the significant differences in the preventive and promotional activities between before and after the election is an interesting finding to discuss. This may be due to several reasons. Firstly, this may have been due to the 37 reiteration of the initiatives towards 'zero tolerance against corruption' by the responsible government authority. From budget speech to annual policies and programs, periodic plans and even in the constitution; corruption control and good governance has become a slogan of the governments with home minister to prime minister reiterating it. GoN in its annual policies and programs initiated and promoted a work culture that embraces commitment that 'I will not commit corruption, I will not let a corruption happen, and I will work for the country and people honestly'. Government made a provision that every day civil servants take this oath and enter their office.

Secondly, engagement of people, actors and beneficiaries are found to be crucial in preventive measures and promotional activities regarding abuse of authority. People's awareness level has also increased. The proliferation of anti-corruption laws and institutional arrangements have helped a lot in the awareness creation among the people. The extended collaboration and cooperation between multi-stakeholders – individuals, government agencies, civil society, NGOs, media and community organizations – have played a crucial role in preventive measures and promotional activities.

Finally, significant increment in the preventive measures and promotional activities after the election may have been due to the anti-corruption agencies' initiation and implementation to draft, revise and enforce code of conduct and laws according to the spirit of the UNCAC. After the ratification of UN Convention against Corruption several laws have amended and code of conduct have drafted and enforced according to the spirit of the convention.

5.4.3 Corruption Research/Report/View

Another major finding of this study is corruption related research/report/view against corruption after the election or change in government had statistically significantly increased compared to before election or change in government. As discovered by this study, the significant differences in the corruption related research/report/view between before and after the election is an interesting finding to discuss. This may be due to several reasons. Firstly, since stakeholders are free to raise the corruption related issues, civil society groups have might have started launching campaign and raising voice against wrongdoings especially when the serious and pertinent issues are ignored by the authority holders. Civil society raising such issues encourage general public to be aware and raise their voice too against the wrongdoings especially when the concerned authority might fail to bring the culprit to justice.

Secondly, the anti-corruption agencies organizing compliance training and workshops to mobilize public opinion against corruption might have helped to increase the number of research, report and views towards corruption and anti-corruption.

Thirdly, entities involved in corruption control such as Commission on Investigation of Abuse of Authority and National Vigilance Center have extended their wings and are working actively in promotional activities. Every year they conduct promotional 38 activities like district level anti-corruption awareness workshop, school level integrity education program, community education program and interaction program with elected representative, civil servants and stakeholders. They also conduct perception based survey and research on projects. These activities might have helped in wider dissemination of corruption and anti-corruption contents.

Finally, the constitutional provisions might have supported in the increased number of corruption related research/report/view. The constitutional bodies – primarily the Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority and Auditor General – need to submit their report to the President of Nepal. The study team noticed that several reportings and views are published in newspaper when those constitutional bodies submit their report. Likewise, something happens when the Transparency International publishes the Corruption Perception index and country ranking.



CONCLUSION AND POLICY IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Conclusion

This study is a result of the analysis of the research question ‘is the corruption scenario changing in Nepal?’ It assessed the initiation of Government of Nepal towards zero tolerance to corruption. This study combined a triangulation approach in order to fulfill the set objective. The unit of analysis was every day’s newspaper during the year 2017 to 2019. Due to the limited number of observations, the study team merged the day wise data into week wise data set based on the content published by The Kathmandu Post, a daily newspaper. Based on the nature of content published in the newspaper and backing up with the legal frameworks and functionalities of anti-corruption agencies, three major categories were created. They included: 1) punitive actions, 2) preventive measures and promotional activities, and 3) corruption related research/report/view. On the other hand, for the qualitative content, a logic framework model of program assessment was used to analyze the content and information. The quantitative data set was used for Independent sample t-test and multivariate regression analysis.

This study evaluated very delicate issue of corruption. It has attempted to identify the changed scenario of corruption in Nepal, and illustrate the initiations that government of Nepal has commenced towards the zero tolerance to corruption. It has also attempted to disentangle the three different nature of anti-corruption strategy - punitive actions, preventive measures and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view- and its impact on corruption control.

Basically, five different types of resources/inputs are found to be used to curb corruption in Nepal. They are 1) involvement of government agencies, 2) engagement of not-state actors (media, private sector, citizens, civil society organizations, development partners), 3) infrastructures and equipment, 4) cadres hired by anti-corruption agencies and staff on deputation, and 5) secured annual budget. Regarding the outputs of corruption control, it can be said that corruption control and promotion of good governance has been one of the prime concerns of government and other oversight agencies. They are committed towards

a policy of zero tolerance against corruption through sufficient legal, structural and policy arrangements to curb corrupt activities. The major output achieved by the state agencies in the initiation towards zero tolerance against corruption are 1) action against corrupt activities, 2) blacklisting of contractors, 3) proactive activities, 4) draft, revise and enforce code of conduct and laws according to the spirit of the UNCAC, 5) compliance training and workshops 6) multi-stakeholder engagement, 7) institutional expansion and realignment, and 8) digital monitoring and performance contract.

The outcome of anti-corruption initiatives are assessed by using independent sample t-test and multiple regression analysis. The changes in punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view before and after the election was assessed and found that there is significant differences between the means of the two periods. In other words, there is differences in the mean number of punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view between before and after election. After election, in comparison to before election, has more number of punitive actions against corruption. The punitive actions against corruption is 0.336 more than that of before election. Similarly, CIAA getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of punitive actions against corruption. The punitive actions against corruption is 0.226 more than that of CIAA without chief/chief commissioner. Similarly, after election or changes in government, in comparison to before election, has more number of preventive and promotional activities. The preventive and promotional activities against corruption is 0.244 more than that of before election. Finally, after election, in comparison to before election, has more number of corruption related research/report/view against corruption. The corruption related research/report/view is 0.391 more than that of before election. Similarly, CIAA getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of corruption related research/report/view against corruption. The corruption related research/report/view against corruption is 0.234 more than that of CIAA without chief/chief commissioner.

Although this study could not justify the relationship between the punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view but discovered that punitive actions, preventive and promotional activities, and corruption related research/report/view against corruption after the election or change in government had significantly increased compared to before election or change in government.

6.2 Policy Implications

This study has few policy implications for government and anti-corruption agencies. Firstly, the corruption scenario is changing in Nepal since the actions against improper conduct or corruption – detection, undercover and sting operations, inquiries, investigation, prosecution – have increased almost by 34 percent. For better performance, surveillance and monitoring through digital presence need to be significantly increased.

Secondly, existing collaboration and cooperation between multi-stakeholders – individuals, government agencies, civil society, NGOs, media and community organizations- in corruption control is a good initiation. Two-way communication and dialogue with citizens through the networking sites have been started. But, closing the loop of feedback is not encouraging.

Finally, CIAA getting its chief/chief commissioner, in comparison to without chief/chief commissioner, has more number of punitive actions against corruption and more number of corruption related research/report/view against corruption. The punitive actions against corruption is 0.226 more than that of CIAA without chief/chief commissioner and the corruption related research/report/view against corruption is 0.234 more than that of CIAA without chief/chief commissioner. The delay in appointing a chief to the country's any of the anti-corruption agencies impairs it from working to its full potential.

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Annex 1: Week Wise Review Sheet

S.N.	Week	Duration
1	1st	01-07 January 2017
2	2nd	08-14 January 2017
3	3rd	15-21 January 2017
4	4th	22-28 January 2017
5	5th	29-04 February 2017
6	6th	05-11 February 2017
7	7th	12-18 February 2017
8	8th	19-25 February 2017
9	9th	26-04 March 2017
10	10th	05-11 March
11	11th	12-18 March
12	12th	19-25 March
13	13th	26-01 April
14	14th	02-08 April
15	15th	09-15 April
16	16th	16-22 April
17	17th	23-29 April
18	18th	30-06 May
19	19th	07-13 May
20	20th	14-20 May
21	21st	21-27 May
22	22nd	28-03 June
23	23rd	04-10 June
24	24th	11-17 June
25	25th	18-24 June 47
26	26th	25-01 July
27	27th	02-08 July
28	28th	09-15 July
29	29th	16-22 July
30	30th	23-29 July

S.N.	Week	Duration
31	31st	30-05 August
32	32nd	06-12 August
33	33rd	13-19 August
34	34th	20-26 August
35	35th	27-02 September
36	36th	03-09 September
37	37th	10-16 September
38	38th	17-23 September
39	39th	24-30 September
40	40th	01-07 October
41	41st	08-14 October
42	42nd	15-21 October
43	43rd	22-28 October
44	44th	29-04 November
45	45th	05-11 November
46	46th	12-18 November
47	47th	19-25 November (19-30 Nov)
48	48th	26-02 December
49	49th	03-09 December (01-09 Dec)
50	50th	10-16 December
51	51st	17-23 December 48
52	52nd	24-30 December 2017
53	53rd	31-06 January 2018
54	54th	07-13 January
55	55th	14-20 January
56	56th	21-27 January
57	57th	28-03 February
58	58th	04-10 February
59	59th	11-17 February (cutoff point)
60	60th	18-24 February
61	61st	25-03 March

S.N.	Week	Duration
62	62nd	04-10 March
63	63rd	11-17 March
64	64th	18-24 March
65	65th	25-31 March
66	66th	01-07 April
67	67th	08-14 April
68	68th	15-21 April
69	69th	22-28 April
70	70th	29-05 May
71	71st	06-12 May
72	72nd	13-19 May
73	73rd	20-26 May
74	74th	27-02 June
75	75th	03-09 June
76	76th	10-16 June
77	77th	17-23 June
78	78th	24-30 June
79	79th	01-07 July
80	80th	08-14 July
81	81st	15-21 July
82	82nd	22-28 July
83	83rd	29-04 August
84	84th	05-11 August
85	85th	12-18 August
86	86th	19-25 August
87	87th	26-01 September
88	88th	02-08 September
89	89th	09-15 September
90	90th	16-22 September
91	91st	23-29 September
92	92nd	30-06 October

S.N.	Week	Duration
93	93rd	07-13 October
94	94th	14-20 October
95	95th	21-27 October
96	96th	28-03 November
97	97th	04-10 November
98	98th	11-17 November
99	99th	18-24 November
100	100th	25-01 December
101	101st	02-08 December
102	102nd	09-15 December
103	103rd	16-22 December
104	104th	23-29 December 2018
105	105th	30-05 January 2019
106	106th	06-12 January
107	107th	13-19 January
108	108th	20-26 January
109	109th	27-02 February
110	110th	03-09 February
111	111th	10-16 February
112	112th	17-23 February
113	113th	24-02 March
114	114th	03-09 March
115	115th	10-16 March
116	116th	17-23 March
117	117th	24-30 March

Annex 2: Day Wise Data Set on Corruption

Date	Name of Article
2017 Jan 2	Delays, graft, bad behaviour rampant in govt offices CIAA files cases against four from Parsa Dishonest traders may be fined up to Rs100k on the spot
2017 Jan 3	Let investigation against graft continue Money to burn
2017 Jan 6	33 kg gold seized from TIA
2017 Jan 9	Court disqualifies Karki as CIAA chief Money and politics
2017 Jan 12	Probe to be turned over to CIB: Nidhi
2017 Jan 13	Two TIA customs officials held
2017 Jan 14	JC recommendation courts controversy
2017 Jan 16	PAC to quiz communications minister, secretary, NTA boss MoF told to recover tax within three months
2017 Jan 17	NVC close to setting up lab to test construction materials Govt, pvt offices in Bardiya accused of land grabbing
2017 Jan 18	Nepal Police HQ summons SSP Khatri
2017 Jan 19	Sub-committee to probe charges against Karki Ncell buyout deal will be taxed
2017 Jan 23	12 NEA officials among 16 held for electricity theft
2017 Jan 24	Hunt for power pilferers on Oil sealed for selling adulterated fuel Various soaps found to be short in weight
2017 Jan 26	Nepal ranked as third most corrupt country in Asia NEA transfers 2,480 officials in biggest staff reshuffle ever Foreign fraudsters targeting ATM kiosks Govt to enforce IE Code
2017 Jan 27	Make a start Taxman tightens screws on Pokhara companies
2017 Jan 28	PM: Govt attorneys, police complete each other C for Corruption!

- 2017 Jan 29 MoH nod must for govt docs before pvt practice
- 2017 Jan 30 Over 50 pc banks fail to assess money laundering risks properly
- 2017 Jan 31 Authorities struggle to evict illegal settlers
DFO seizes pine logs, documents
Risky affair
- 2017 Feb 1 Accountant held with bribe money
- 2017 Feb 3 I/NGOs told to maintain transparency
Dhading DAO to investigate fake quake victims
Bad medicine
- 2017 Feb 5 NRB mulls curbs on cash-based transactions
- 2017 Feb 7 Banks breaching the limit set on lending
Tipping the scales
- 2017 Feb 9 House subpanel probe finds Karki guilty on four of seven charges
CIAA seeking firm commitment at political level
- 2017 Feb 10 SECURITY AND CORRUPTION
Government told to shut emergency gate at TIA
- 2017 Feb 11 21 arrested for electricity theft
High-level monitoring panel formed
IRC submits report on Karki to Speaker Gharti
- 2017 Feb 12 Faulty appointment
- 2017 Feb 14 Challenging mediocrity, adopting meritocracy
NEA to sign contracts to keep its senior officials on their toes
- 2017 Feb 15 Preparation of NVC laboratory hits a snag
- 2017 Feb 16 Minister Thapa vents his anger at bureaucratic red tape
EC presses 'close' button on EVM purchase for now
- 2017 Feb 20 Another fugitive in police net
- 2017 Feb 23 Questionable nominations
- 2017 Feb 24 TWO govt employees held while taking bribe
- 2017 Feb 25 UN imposes sanctions on NSET, its 3 officials
NAC in turbulence as disputed figure enters boardroom
- 2017 Feb 26 Police round up four on charge of fraud

- 2017 Feb 27 Rs 700k highest amount a candidate can spend
- 2017 Feb 28 Election, parties and money
- 2017 Mar 1 BFIs deliberately breaching lending limit face music
- 2017 Mar 5 CIB submits case to govt attorney
- 2017 Mar 6 Case filed against 12 suspects
- 2017 Mar 14 CIAA probes Caan's bonus distribution decision
DoSM drags six firms to court over malpractice
- 2017 Mar 16 CIAA directs TU for reforms
- 2017 Mar 17 PAC decides to summon PM
Prestige at stake
Govt fully committed to stopping financial crime
- 2017 Mar 18 Exam centre chief suspended
- 2017 Mar 19 4 secretaries summoned over poll code
- 2017 Mar 22 Govt agencies asked to seek MoFA's consent
Protesters call on PM to collect capital gains tax
- 2017 Mar 24 Corruption cure
- 2017 Mar 26 Accountability crisis
- 2017 Mar 29 House panel says immigration officials involved
- 2017 Apr 3 Police constable among six arrested for robbery
Small fish and scapegoats
- 2017 Apr 4 Security in messas some in police turn criminals
OFFICIAL GANGSTERS
PAC summons Dahal to explain Ncell tax issue
- 2017 Apr 5 I/NGOs told to follow election code
Dahal to appear before PAC hearing on Sunday
- 2017 Apr 7 KMC to use students to widen tax net
- 2017 Apr 9 Poor people, rich parties
- 2017 Apr 11 DAO employee among 3 held for Abduction
- 2017 Apr 12 IG Prakash Aryal instructs officials to work diligently
CIB likely to take up Awale case

- 2017 Apr 13 Auditor general's office questions Ncell deal
Bus mafia controlling Nepal's transport
- 2017 Apr 20 Five DoTM officials suspended
- 2017 Apr 21 Yadav directs NGOs not to influence vote
Right person, right job
- 2017 Apr 22 Three held for taking bribe
Conference on RTI concludes
- 2017 Apr 23 The shells of Ncell
- 2017 Apr 25 POLITICS OF BUSINESS
- 2017 Apr 27 DoC idles 29 TIA customs officials
NEB Exams Controller Santosh Aryal sacked
- 2017 Apr 28 Civil society raises concern over election code of conduct violation
House panel investigates Rs21b tax exemption case
PAC issues Ncell directive to MoF
- 2017 Apr 29 Silwal forged performance report, forensic report says
- 2017 Apr 30 Banker held on forgery charge
- 2017 May 1 Impeachment motion against CJ Karki
Health Ministry suspends Manipal license
Jail, fine for 3 former police chiefs, others
- 2017 May 2 DoDA inspecting pharmacies in eastern region
- 2017 May 8 Impeachment fears go beyond court, CIAA
- 2017 May 11 Parties vow to abide by election code
- 2017 May 12 Parties found using children in campaigns
- 2017 May 17 Action taken against six offending firms
- 2017 May 19 DEO officers caught for bribery
5 hundi operators held with Rs 5.5m
- 2017 May 22 Sebon bars Pragyan for insider trading
- 2017 May 23 New CIAA chief, Auditor Gen sworn in
- 2017 May 24 Aspirant candidate spends Rs 1.5m to open 6km track
- 2017 May 27 10 IC racketeers arrested

- 2017 May 28 Panel to probe poll irregularities
- 2017 Jun 1 Chilling consequences
- 2017 Jun 3 IRD chief Sharma arrested for graft
- 2017 Jun 5 Politics of syndicates
- 2017 Jun 6 In farewell meet, PM all praise for civil servants
- 2017 Jun 13 Question papers via email call officials into question
CIAA summons TSC chairman, member
Two held over gold smuggling
UML not to back party's corrupt local reps
- 2017 Jun 15 Will end political interference in security bodies: Sharma
Discourage corrupt practice: KMC mayor
- 2017 Jun 16 House panel tells govt to amend ITSC Act
- 2017 Jun 19 'Govt bodies not serious about curbing market anomalies'
- 2017 Jun20 Upendra bribed to join vote
ERADICATING CORRUPTION?
- 2017 Jun 21 Sub engineer caught for graft
- 2017 Jun 22 4 former top cops turn themselves in to court
Govt to local units: No 'arbitrary' decisions
- 2017 Jun 23 Ex-Anfa gen secy Shahi arrested on fraud charges
- 2017 Jun 25 Brush with controversies may weaken EC's teeth
CIAA nabs engineer with bribe
- 2017 Jun 27 EC 'not acting tough' on election code violators
- 2017 Jun 29 ex-SSP Rana jailed over Sudan scam
- 2017 Jul 3 Smuggling turning into 'lucrative business'
Govt initiates action against 246 food firms
- 2017 Jul 4 Minister warns of stringent action against errant immigration officials
- 2017 Jul 11 The fish rots from the head
- 2017 Jul 12 transaction of Rs1m or more in cash barred: nrb
- 2017 Jul 13 OAG told to produce plan to settle arrears by PAC

- 2017 Jul 14 House panel to govt: Recover taxes from Ncell immediately
- 2017 Jul 16 PM's office working on policy for self-regulated private, public sectors
- 2017 Jul 17 Case in Special Court for Rs10.02b embezzlement
Tug of war
Govt blacklists ousted TIA contractor
- 2017 Jul 18 House panel tells govt to repeal TSC Act
Down the drain
- 2017 Jul 19 Lawmakers concerned by ADBL's behaviour
DSP Sharma suspended
- 2017 Jul 24 CIAA subjects Sharma to another probe
- 2017 Jul 25 25 projects penalized for non-compliance
A bad precedent
- 2017 Jul 26 New machine-readable tags launched
- 2017 Jul 27 Recovering the expenses
- 2017 Jul 28 Govt staffer held for graft
- 2017 Jul 29 MRI scandal hits BPKIHS
DEO held for taking bribe
Cabinet forms five thematic committees
- 2017 Aug 1 CIAA launches probe into NOC's land deals
- 2017 Aug 2 Lawmakers question CIAA's performance
Four regime types
WB likely to pull the plug on \$37m solar project
- 2017 Aug 5 House panel tells CIAA to probe NOC land deals
- 2017 Aug 6 Government forms special cell to tackle financial crime
- 2017 Aug 7 Politicians hand-pick bureaucrats so that they can work together for
personal gain
Minister Mandal vows action
- 2017 Aug 8 Don't let them escape
- 2017 Aug 12 Money Rules
House sub-committee says NOC violated procedure
- 2017 Aug 13 SHAME ON MOFA

- 2017 Aug 14 Lawmakers shouldn't serve on parliamentary committees if there's conflict of interest
- 2017 Aug 22 Police arrest main accused in 33kg gold haul
TU panel 'falsified' National College inspection report
Turning black into white
- 2017 Aug 23 National's Ghattekulo hospital run illegally
Special Court summons TSC men in graft case
Cronyism to the maximum
MoYS suspends NSC Veep Sherpa
NOC land deal brings probe team to field
- 2017 Aug 24 NOC paid three times the going rate in Jhapa: MPs
- 2017 Aug 25 CIAA to probe 200 civil servants
- 2017 Aug 26 MPs demand action against 'corrupt' customs officials
- 2017 Aug 27 OAG starts auditing books of local units
- 2017 Aug 28 Govt bringing new act to regulate I/NGOs
- 2017 Aug 29 Largest case on hundi deals filed
- 2017 Aug 30 'Promotion of corruption in court disturbing'
- 2017 Sep 1 CORRUPTION FREE NEPAL?
- 2017 Sep 2 CEC warns against poll code violation
CIAA seeks authority to probe pvt sector, NGOs
- 2017 Sep 5 Smuggled gold worth over Rs 340m seized in biggest haul ever
Branded stores sealed for overcharging customers
- 2017 Sep 7 TU scraps National Medical College affiliation
Media Society launches campaign against corruption
State of perfidy
Govt seals 5 branded stores
House panel suspects foul play in embossed plate procurement
- 2017 Sep 8 3 govt officials held for graft
The next step forward
CAMPAIGN AGAINST CORRUPTION
- 2017 Sep 10 Election officials step up monitoring of code violation
Vanishing values

- 2017 Sep 12 'NOC bought plots at highly inflated price'
Mucky business
Trenches to tunnels
- 2017 Sep 13 Minister vows action against Durbarmarg stores
- 2017 Sep 14 Cabinet expansion violates poll code, but can't do anything: CEC Yada
- 2017 Sep 15 EC proposes Rs 1.4m expenditure ceiling for FPTP candidates
- 2017 Sep 16 CIAA, PMO concerned about projects for MPs
- 2017 Sep 17 PAC 'to quiz' PM over delay in action on NOC land deals
Election code breach 'rampant'
Political stimulants
- 2017 Sep 18 Transport office STAFFER faces GRAFT SUIT
- 2017 Sep 19 Govt sacks NOC chief Khadka
Dearth of honesty
- 2017 Sep 20 House endorses Local Level Governance Act
Induction of state ministers' breaches election code: EC
Twisted actions
- 2017 Sep 21 Police nab five traders
- 2017 Sep 22 Fighting corruption
- 2017 Oct 31 APF personnel colluded with smugglers
An ode to governance
- 2017 Nov 1 Fiscal imprudence
- 2017 Nov2 Police arrest Durbarmarg shopkeepers
- 2017 Nov 11 Norvic found collecting service charge illegally
DoSM steps up action against Kathmandu Valley Hospital
- 2017 Nov 14 Money, muscle and politics
- 2017 Nov 15 Agenda of reform
Govt to form body to review expenses
- 2017 Nov 16 DoFE DG held for graft
Responsible conduct
- 2017 Nov 17 Taxman to track sales at outlets in real time

- 2017 Nov 18 Elections becoming ‘unnaturally expensive’
Follow the money!
IRD fetes country’s largest taxpayers
Billing monitoring system launched
- 2017 Nov 19 Police seize 17kg smuggled gold
FAIR POLITICS
- 2017 Nov 22 2 TSC members jailed after failing to post bail
Democratic deficit
- 2017 Nov 23 Code violations go unchecked
- 2017 Nov 26 ELECTION CODE VIOLATION
- 2017 Nov 27 There is no transparency on political parties’ election spending
- 2017 Nov 30 Govt told to clarify Black Marketing Act revision
No information yet on how questions got leaked
- 2017 Dec 1 Parties flouting poll code of conduct: EC
Bad hand
- 2017 Dec 3 EC’s poll code limited to papers only?
- 2017 Dec 8 Challenges ahead
- 2017 Dec 13 NEA employee held with bribe
- 2017 Dec 15 Education sector draws highest number of complaints: CIAA report
- 2017 Dec 20 CIAA drags ex-DoFE chief to court
- 2017 Dec 21 Police open probe against Silwal on forgery charge
- 2017 Dec 24 The need for a watchdog
- 2017 Dec 27 APF head constable held over Halchowk HQ arson
- 2017 Dec 28 Smuggling of petro products rampant in eastern Nepal
- 2017 Dec 29 Sumargi may have formed shell company to cleanse dirty money
Aid accountability
- 2017 Dec 31 ‘CIAA against politicisation of dev projects’
- 2018 Jan 1 Poll costs faked as spending goes through EC roof
Another cop held for APF HQ arson

- 2018 Jan 2 Capital flooded with illegal aphrodisiacs
Action recommended against errant hospitals
- 2018 Jan 4 105 parties submitted audit details early: EC
- 2018 Jan 7 10 HELD ON QUESTION LEAKAGE CHARGE
- 2018 Jan 8 EC issues election cost details amid questions
- 2018 Jan 10 DoSM begins aggressive market monitoring drive
- 2018 Jan 11 Sumargi firms laundered Rs9b into Nepal: Govt report
- 2018 Jan 16 Elite decadence
- 2018 Jan 17 KMG: Sumargi coverage part of campaign against corruption
- 2018 Jan 18 Bishal Bazaar jeweler held in gold haul case
Illegal extraction of riverbed materials goes unchecked
- 2018 Jan 19 Ward chief among 5 people under probe for forgery
- 2018 Jan 24 DMLI starts detailed probe in Sumargi case
- 2018 Jan 25 Just a minute, Your Honor
- 2018 Jan 26 CIAA to file fresh graft case against Sharma
Due punishment
- 2018 Jan 29 CIAA drafting prosecution policy
- 2018 Jan 31 CIAA drafts new Act to make corruption law on par with UN
Police HQ probes officers for refusing rape victim's plaint
- 2018 Feb 1 NHRC panel to probe Durbarmarg gang rape case
Probe exposes corruption of ex-education officer of Bara
- 2018 Feb 2` Constable caught taking bribe
Utopian dream
- 2018 Feb 4 Process on to suspend Inspector: HQ
- 2018 Feb 5 CIAA launches probe into NT 4G complaint
- 2018 Feb 6 Ministry suspends Inspector Thakuri in gang rape case
A rotten state
- 2018 Feb 7 Nepal Nat'l Hospital ordered to shut down
- 2018 Feb 8 Ex-NMC registrar under fire

- 2018 Feb 9 Karki panel presses for action against doctors for fabricating report
Medicine gets personal
- 2018 Feb 10 Sebon issues directives on good governance
- 2018 Feb 12 Government forms panel to review hospital fees
- 2018 Feb 13 118 kg illegal gold bust in six years
Illegal settlers occupy more than 25,000ha forest land in Kailali
Don't let them freewheel
- 2018 Feb 15 'Threats will not deter us from filing case'
- 2018 Feb 18 Auditor General finds errors in account books of local govts
FOR THE PEOPLE
- 2018 Feb 19 '449k govt employees didn't submit property details in 2016-17'
Congratulations! Mr. PM!
- 2018 Feb 20 Citizens have the power to fight
- 2018 Feb 21 Dr KC refuses hearing; vows to fight 'corrupt chief justice'
57 hospitals, pharmacies sealed for rule violations
- 2018 Feb 22 Urban dev office faces corruption charge in State 7
- 2018 Feb 23 Two former NTB officials jailed in corruption case
- 2018 Feb 25 Govt fails to take action on Karki report
Commission seizes papers from forest university
- 2018 Feb 26 NOC begins probe into gasoline smuggling
- 2018 Feb 27 Supreme offence
- 2018 Mar 3 Time to impeach dishonest people in judiciary: Dahal
- 2018 Mar 4 NVC orders action against officials over 'faulty' app
Home Minister gives pep talk to NID staff
NRB defends commercial banks operating as cartels
- 2018 Mar 5 Dr KC renews demand for Parajuli's personal and academic details
Balance of power
Govt prepares to fire two contractors of Kanti Highway
- 2018 Mar 6 IMPRISONING THE CORRUPT
Govt serves ultimatum on tax-defaulting casinos
Sand mines operating using fake papers

- 2018 Mar 7 Govt tells hospitals to make charges public
- 2018 Mar 8 NMC bars two Norvic doctors for 30 days
- 2018 Mar 9 Contempt case against chief justice
- 2018 Mar 10 Cooperatives brought under anti-money laundering law
- 2018 Mar 11 Parajuli misuses his office to fix rivals
- 2018 Mar 12 Online management system installed at 11 customs points
- 2018 Mar 13 Reshaping the landscape
'Zero tolerance policy against corruption'
- 2018 Mar 14 Nine SC justices boycott bench over CJ controversy
- 2018 Mar 15 Controversy surrounding judiciary a sad affair: PM
Police bust fake note racket
- 2018 Mar 16 Eternal vigilance
MULTIPLE DATES
Govt to revise market monitoring duties
- 2018 Mar 19 PM orders civil staff to report for work
- 2018 Mar 20 Another man at the helm
- 2018 Mar 22 UNDP showcases technology to propel good governance
- 2018 Mar 23 Digital democracy
- 2018 Mar 24 Govt asks diplomats to get prior approval
Persona non grata staff at foreign labour office barred from daily attendance
High-level panel grills Oriental chief Basnet
- 2018 Mar 25 A Dozen fake examinees held from Army test
Ministry cracks down on 'absent' civil staff
- 2018 Mar 28 New framework to make public services effective
Scam reveals bad loan 'evergreening' practice
- 2018 Mar 29 Six public entities under probe
- 2018 Mar 30 Case against ex-minister
- 2018 Apr 1 Service seekers in dark about time, service charges at govt offices
- 2018 Apr 2 SC seeks papers related to Parajuli's appointment as Chief Justice

- 2018 Apr 3 Law amendment on anvil: multiple agencies under pmo
Khandbari municipality official held
Economic ills
White lies on white paper
- 2018 Apr 4 Minister vows to end graft and tax evasion
- 2018 Apr 5 CIAA starts quality test of infra projects
- 2018 Apr 6 Bus syndicate retreats after tough govt action
Attributional discord
- 2018 Apr 7 Apex body to fine agencies cheating migrant workers
- 2018 Apr 8 Police HQ retracts 57 abused officers
Expert groups to support anti-graft body
Catch the corrupt
- 2018 Apr 9 OAG fails to audit transactions of six local units
Competition promotion board fails to curb cartels
Tax officials raid Tiger Palace Casino Resort
- 2018 Apr 10 Insider trading
- 2018 Apr 11 Plan to end transport monopoly
Wooden bureaucracy
DoSM loses power to inspect markets
- 2018 Apr 12 Government bodies splurge Rs 500b
Police arrest A gang of forgers
Opening the market
- 2018 Apr 13 AG exposes dubious accounting practices
Tarun Dal cadre among four arrested for extortion
District Survey chief caught red-handed with bribe
- 2018 Apr 15 PM lays out plan for prosperity
- 2018 Apr 16 Minister vows action against perpetrators
Questions hover over Nepal Army's helicopter purchase
Is something brewing?
Govt to renew focus on consumer protection laws
- 2018 Apr 17 OAG concerned about unpaid VAT worth Rs166m
NRA seeks transparent funding from donors
PMO plans result-based monitoring of ministries
- 2018 Apr 20 Rautahat deploys police at gas stations to curb smuggling

- 2018 Apr 21 Bus owners use political nexus
PMO to revise laws to officially take over three watchdogs
- 2018 Apr 22 Intel unit to keep tabs on money laundering
- 2018 Apr 23 Gold smuggling probe puts ex-DIG in net
Manange (मनाङ्गे) not to face money laundering trial and OAG is to blame
Police detain Indian man with smuggled textiles
- 2018 Apr 24 Whose integrity is it anyway?
Repair or despair
- 2018 Apr 25 Cabinet ratifies foreign visit rule for officials
- 2018 Apr 26 Watching the watchmen
- 2018 Apr 27 Panels agree on move to impeach key officials
Stay the course
- 2018 Apr 28 Govt accountant under probe in Rs 75m swindle
- 2018 Apr 30 Govt won't tolerate corruption: PM
DSP KC in net
- 2018 May 1 Lawmakers 'misuse special project funds'
- 2018 May 2 Police probe citizenship fraud by Indian man
Easier said than done
- 2018 May 3 Charge sheet filed against 63 suspects
- 2018 May 4 Minister tells security bodies to end drug smuggling
Crackdown on passport crimes
Daylight Robbery
- 2018 May 6 Arrest of syndicate supporters goes on
Police detains constable in gold smuggling case
- 2018 May 7 Gold smuggling accused stare at 3 more charges
No running away from ending cartel: Home minister
Govt working to break syndicates in education, health sector: PM
- 2018 May 8 Seeds of development
- 2018 May 9 Financial crime on the rise in Nepal
- 2018 May 10 Govt starts process to form task force
Minister vows to end cartels and put in jail its supporters

- 2018 May 13 Calls to address unethical hiring of migrant workers
- 2018 May 15 Police arrest two suspects in gold case
- 2018 May 16 License mandatory for internal auditors
- 2018 May 17 Film producer and five others arrested with fake currency
NRB warns money changers against financing smuggling
- 2018 May 18 Indian medical drug runners held
Court convicts 17 in Bhalwari depot scam
Thapa orders list of rogue contractors
- 2018 May 19 Ministry transfers official who crushed bus cartels
- 2018 May 20 Nepal will be heaven in 10 years, says PM
51 projects flout rules: New study
- 2018 May 21 NEA warns of fine if power line project delayed
- 2018 May 22 'Rule of criminals and corrupt people will end'
Govt mulls 'war room' idea for big projects
The politics of budgeting
- 2018 May 23 Nepal urged to join public best practices group
Forest ministry recalls corrupt official
- 2018 May 24 Sunsari education chief caught with bribe
- 2018 May 26 Hope, challenges as PM marks 100 days in office
- 2018 May 28 Power to the party
- 2018 May 29 Lawmakers or project managers?
- 2018 May 31 Governance challenges in federal structure
- 2018 Jun 1 SSP surrenders; court orders judicial custody
Land revenue employee caught with bribe
- 2018 Jun 4 Another suspect sent to custody
- 2018 Jun 6 Coterie contractors immune to Home Ministry offensive
Govt seeks Chinese help to curb gold smuggling
- 2018 Jun 7 Khatiwada urges transparency in using grants to rebuild houses
Home Ministry vows action against delinquent builders
Authorities arrest two firm owners for not delivering
Police arrest silver smuggler
Govt employee caught with bribe money

- 2018 Jun 8 Home Ministry to monitor activities of I/NGOs
Act without bias
- 2018 Jun 9 PM calls for effective budget implementation strategies
- 2018 Jun 10 Foul play in project bids: Report
- 2018 Jun 12 Officials grill 3 accused over money laundering
- 2018 Jun 14 Govt outlines measures to monitor I/NGOs
Ministries join forces to fight electricity theft
- 2018 Jun 15 Is corruption a national scourge?
- 2018 Jun 17 Civic body vows to fight fraud and corruption
- 2018 Jun 18 Minister Mahaseth assures contractors of ‘no arrest
Brick factories in Dhading openly evading tax
- 2018 Jun 20 Foul and contaminated
- 2018 Jun 21 Call for probe into corruption in Haliya rehabilitation programme
- 2018 Jun 23 PM-led body sought to regulate I/NGOs
‘Halt moves against civil bodies’
- 2018 Jun 24 Bhaktapur revenue staff ‘most corrupt’
- 2018 Jun 25 Army major among two held with heroin
- 2018 Jun 29 Man held with \$40,000
- 2018 Jun 30 Police seize 1 KG gold in Birgunj
- 2018 Jul 1 Indian national held with 8.2kg silver
- 2018 Jul 2 Powerful entities torn between PMO, ministries
Ministry recalls Regmi over SEE results fiasco
Two held with IRs 1.3m
- 2018 Jul 3 OAG appeals against Special Court decision
Home Ministry’s action spurs DoR to act against tardy contractors
Prelude to dictatorship
- 2018 Jul 12 New Narayangadh-Muglin road cracks and sinks from the edge
Bridge the gap
- 2018 Jul 13 Challenges facing the country

- 2018 Jul 16 Govt officer held with bribe
Wrong prescription
Let the buyer beware
- 2018 Jul 17 Election a costly affair
Around 2,000 fake victims seek earthquake aid
Messy Nepal
- 2018 Jul 18 'Big fish' still elusive as panel deadline expires
Big money
Bad days ahead
- 2018 Jul 19 NRA to verify documents of Chinese firms through Nepali mission in Beijing
Pappu Construction faces blacklist threat
What it takes to lose
Year-end spending rush boosts cap expenditure
- 2018 Jul 22 DRI seeks Rs990m bail from tax evaders
Government to set up 'Immediate Problem-Solving Centre' at PMO
A change in tide
- 2018 Jul 23 Lalitpur mayor's junkets under CIAA scanner
Democracy in action
- 2018 Jul 26 Indian nationals arrested with smuggled gold
Over 2,000 govt staff face action for absenteeism
Don't repeat the past
- 2018 Jul 27 Illegal logging on the rise in Kailali
Powerful people, weak government
Unwavering hope
- 2018 Jul 29 Mahaseth warns contractor
Engineer held with Rs3.6m bribe
Tamghas-Simaltari-Pyuthan road project sub-engineer Prakash Jha with Rs 100,000 bribe from his home in Tamghas, Gulmi, on Saturday morning
- 2018 Jul 30 TU officials accused over NMC affiliation dismiss panel report
TU launches transparency software
- 2018 Aug 2 Migrant workers suffer as agents use fake papers
- 2018 Aug 3 All parliamentary committees in place
A lot to do
- 2018 Aug 4 Centre raises Ayurvedic drugs norms

- 2018 Aug 6 Thapa calls for contract termination of under-performing companies
- 2018 Aug 8 Graft case against local level staff
Fed up with politics
- 2018 Aug 9 Ministry plans regulator to monitor bullion market
Over 220 firms found selling unsafe goods
- 2018 Aug 10 Lama sent to one year in prison for laundering money
- 2018 Aug 12 Singha Durbar fails worker discipline test
- 2018 Aug 16 KC slams 'dubious' appointment process'
Civil servant held for bribery
- 2018 Aug 17 PM Oli's six months: A train track to nowhere (good for reference in writing)
Crime and punishment
- 2018 Aug 19 Headteacher in judicial custody
- 2018 Aug 21 Angry vegetable traders manhandle inspection team
- 2018 Aug 24 Govt to study farm to retail price spread
- 2018 Aug 25 Bottled water factories sealed in Chitwan
- 2018 Aug 26 Blacklist lacks erring big contractors
Smuggling of black pepper on the rise
- 2018 Aug 27 Department of Roads develop software to monitor contractors
- 2018 Aug 28 Officials swoop on Balkhu veggie market
- 2018 Sep 3 Government agencies increases digital presence
Party palace sealed for selling substandard food
- 2018 Sep 4 Government all set to launch digital platform
Investment essentials
- 2018 Sep 5 Never-ending projects
- 2018 Sep 7 Govt tightens supervision of cooperatives
- 2018 Sep 9 Two held with 10kg gold
Police seize 38 vehicles
- 2018 Sep 10 Dashain becomes a bargaining chip
- 2018 Sep 11 Pappu Construction has billions in contracts—and little work to show

- 2018 Sep 12 Bill to permit disclosure of public officials' property
- 2018 Sep 15 CIAA starts probe into Nepal Airlines' aircraft purchase misconduct
Parliament committee silent on rising unaccounted expenditure
- 2018 Sep 16 Five police officers suspended
Oli slams national planners for delays and lousy results
- 2018 Sep 17 Anti-money laundering laws to be included in Co-op Act
- 2018 Sep 18 Stirring up a hornet's nest
- 2018 Sep 19 Police gone wild
Charges mount against tainted NAC board member Pahadi
Board scraps 51 Kalimati veggie traders' permits
- 2018 Sep 20 Authorities to monitor traders
Metropolis staff caught with bribe
'Co-ops engage in misconduct due to indifferent members'
- 2018 Sep 22 Pappu Construction violates approved design in four bridges
'Government gives top priority to private sector'
Ten parliamentary panel chiefs sworn in
Two doctors accused of protecting child rapist
Pappu delay disrupts local life and trade
Decision to impose quotas on sugar imports slammed
- 2018 Sep 23 Think tank formed to counsel government
Won't let people down: PM Oli
- 2018 Sep 25 Revenue probe comes under PM's Office.
- 2018 Sep 26 Arrest warrant issued against Pappu Construction chairman
Government mulls 'authority' to manage public transport system
Director among nine officials convicted
No more pork barrel
- 2018 Sep 27 Budget cut compels vigilance centre to trim its activities
Congress questions decision on Budhi Gandaki
- 2018 Sep 28 House panel to probe Airbus purchase deal
Criminals without borders
Casino Royale operating without valid license
- 2018 Sep 29 Nepal Airlines flouted own laws, says Auditor general
In UN speech, Oli promises 'egalitarian and just society'
- 2018 Sep 30 Auditor general tells public entities to clear accounts by mid-February

- 2018 Oct 1 NRB launches database on financial inclusion
- 2018 Oct 2 Data doctoring
- 2018 Oct 3 Democracy and development are contingent upon peace: PM Oli
MPs criticise civil servants for poor service delivery
Sangam Sweets sealed for selling substandard items
- 2018 Oct 4 Anti-graft body seeks details of all delayed and stalled projects
EC urges pool fund for greater transparency
- 2018 Oct 5 At minister's call, House panel changes decision
Graft scandal grips Aurahi municipal office
- 2018 Oct 6 CIAA charges lawmaker Rauniyar and his son for poor bridge works
Fugitive former Kist Bank manager Gyawali arrested
Finance experts call for stricter regulation
- 2018 Oct 7 Poll body warns parties over reporting delays
Speaker sees conflict of interests in parliamentary committees
- 2018 Oct 8 Bouddha DSP arrested with bribe
- 2018 Oct 9 Pappu man 'pays over Rs300,000 to victims' kin'
- 2018 Oct 10 NRA warns legal action against delinquent staff
Highway side eateries to undergo inspection
NEA regional chiefs sign performance contracts
NOC's losses expected to balloon as smuggling goes unchecked
- 2018 Oct 11 Watchdog traps joint attorney with cash bribe in Pokhara
- 2018 Oct 12 House subcommittee accuses government of favoring cartel
CoAS seeks support to end graft in Army
Police arrest education office chief with bribe
- 2018 Oct 13 Black market rife at travel ticket counters
Border police seize trucks loaded with illegal goods
- 2018 Oct 15 Team submits probe report to anti-graft body
Online monitoring of fiscal plan progress
Tokha municipal officer held for bribery
Inspector held with bribe cash
- 2018 Oct 16 Inept consultants
- 2018 Oct 22 Police bust fake currency racket
Myth of stability

- 2018 Oct 23 Circular economy
- 2018 Oct 24 Illegal settlers grab 3,709 hectares of Forest Ministry land in Makwanpur
NCP to dwell on performance of PM Oli's administration
- 2018 Oct 26 Petrol pump fined for giving short measure
- 2018 Oct 27 Anti-graft body drags 25 officials to court
Around 200 soldiers face court-martial in bribery scandal
- 2018 Oct 28 Ministry for repealing tax settlement Act
- 2018 Oct 29 Training plan for good governance
Activist renews date dispute against former CJ Parajuli
3 land revenue staff among 7 charged in bogus land deal
- 2018 Oct 30 Irregularities at Bir Hospital
Principia fallacia
- 2018 Oct 31 Tapoban builds illegally in park area: Officials
Dr Shrestha jailed in illegal property case
- 2018 Nov 1 Reforming the civil services
- 2018 Nov 2 Vigilance exposes teachers' avarice
Ex-officials in the dock
- 2018 Nov 3 Anti-graft body probes more Pappu projects
Surveyor held for bribery
- 2018 Nov 4 Report exposes irregularities in self-employment programme
Bhaktapur destroys stale oil sweets in nine shops
- 2018 Nov 5 Forest officer held with bribe
- 2018 Nov 6 Watchdog chief says joint effort required to eliminate corruption
Accountant held with Rs 25K bribe
- 2018 Nov 7 Perform with integrity: Khanal
- 2018 Nov 12 Coastal-Pappu venture close to be blacklisted
- 2018 Nov 15 Minister Sodari sacked for abusing woman
- 2018 Nov 17 Authorities ordered to take stern action
- 2018 Nov 18 Keep unaccounted transactions below 4% ministry
Three middle man arrested

- 2018 Nov 19 Most co-ops not linked to online info system
3 men booked over Janaki temple graft
- 2018 Nov 20 Priest held for land document forgery
Seven people under probe over citizenship fraud
Calls for ethical recruitment practices to protect workers
Mayor warns action against slothful staff
- 2018 Nov 21 Anti-graft body told to look into possible corruption
MP Rijal calls for parliamentary probe into aircraft purchase deal
Bir hospital doctor charges ministry with seeking bribe
- 2018 Nov 22 PM Oli begins evaluation of his own government
- 2018 Nov 23 Progress not possible due to corrupt system
Doctors' dubious admission process courts controversy
PM: stop arguing and strive for better results
- 2018 Nov 24 House panel seeks airbus deal papers
- 2018 Nov 25 Government proposes termination of errant contractors through new law
- 2018 Nov 26 PAC probe deepens: A 330 Aircraft purchase deal
Flouting rules, officials spend on foreign trips
- 2018 Nov 27 Stringent IT law to replace Electronic Transaction Act
Government's purchase of assets abroad is haphazard and ineffective
- 2018 Nov 28 Adhocism everywhere
Oli add teeth to intelligence body
Pappu faces another set back
- 2018 Nov 29 Lawmakers demand detailed report about airbus deal
Chopper scam thrives despite Nepal's promised crackdown
- 2018 Nov 30 173 Convicted of bribing for Nepal Army jobs
Two Indians held with fake Nepali citizenship cards
- 2018 Dec 1 Police ramp up CCTV monitoring
- 2018 Dec 2 Education ministry to set up mechanism for accountability
Local officials use government vehicles to visit dance bars
- 2018 Dec 3 Anti-theft locks fail to stop fuel theft
- 2018 Dec 4 Nepal China to cut red tape to aid projects
Show results minister Yadav tells NFC staff
New law set to seize assets of fugitive casino owners
Data mismatch leaves hole in box-office

- 2018 Dec 6 National flag carrier directed to conduct due-diligence audit
Officials sleep as victims weep
Court order gives Pappu reprieve
- 2018 Dec 7 I see you, installing CCTV cameras on the streets demands accountability
None of the national pride road projects set to meet deadline
- 2018 Dec 8 Watch dog files graft case against former minister
Ambassador Sherpa summoned to Kathmandu
- 2018 Dec 10 Walk the talk
Team probing allegation against envoy Sherpa
- 2018 Dec 11 Ministry to keep close watch on online stores
Public transporters must register as private companies by Dec 16
- 2018 Dec 12 Graft rampant in Siraha Government offices
Sub-panel to probe aircraft procurement
Oli government on the path to authoritarian: congress
- 2018 Dec 14 Kathmandu sets inspection panel after 19 months
Rana picked to head Supreme Court
- 2018 Dec 15 Chief district attorney faces corruption case
- 2018 Dec 16 Top leaders silence in plane deal conspiracies
- 2018 Dec 17 Shaking heads: New law avoiding competitive bidding breed more corruption
- 2018 Dec 19 Two arrested with gold
- 2018 Dec 20 Deep pockets: lawmakers have earned
- 2018 Dec 22 Forest officer held with bribe
Two men caught with unsourced currencies, idol
Oli government is working as the behest of crony capitalism, says Shrestha
- 2018 Dec 23 4 men held for theft and smuggling
- 2018 Dec 25 Land revenue officer among 13 dragged to court over corruption
- 2018 Dec 27 Auditor General says minister lied to House Panel
- 2018 Dec 28 From monarchy to republic
- 2018 Dec 29 Integrity policy gathers dust at PM office
- 2018 Dec 30 Wanted: Governance

- 2018 Dec 31 Chinese contractor fired for poor project performance
Anti-graft body to quiz driving license vendor over complaints
- 2019 Jan 1 Ivorian Man, Nepali wife held on fraud charge
CIAA's conviction rate in corruption cases takes a hit
Around Rs 4b embezzled while buying planes: House sub-panel
- 2019 Jan 2 Lawmakers call for joint investigation committee
- 2019 Jan 3 Sky high corruption
CC cameras installed in Rasuwa customs
Oli government faces moral quandary
Wide body jet deal cost carrier Rs 4.35 b in losses: KC report
- 2019 Jan 4 Cabinet forms panel to probe disputed aircraft purchase
- 2019 Jan 5 3 held with 4 kg contraband gold
MP criticize government for failing to deliver
- 2019 Jan 6 Public trust in government eroding: Singh
- 2019 Jan 7 Corruption watch dog seeks e-bus procurement details
- 2019 Jan 8 Anti-graft body files case against khadka
House panel goes soft on ministries
- 2019 Jan 10 Anti-graft body drags shrestha to court
- 2019 Jan 11 Action against those named in jet scam after panel report
Pattern of immigration fraud and employee abuse
Accounts committee ignores crucial facts in aircraft purchase probe
- 2019 Jan 12 Supreme Court sends letters on sumargi case
Immigration office launches probe into Michael kobold
- 2019 Jan 13 Police arrest six men, including a ward chairman with illegal gold
- 2019 Jan 14 Plan to punish contractors dropped after pressure from higher-ups
- 2019 Jan 15 Politics in full play as accusations fly over – jet purchase deal
- 2019 Jan 17 Hope and despair
Washing up
The dirty money trail
- 2019 Jan 19 PM's office directs probe into Nepalis with offshore investment
Government mulls ending contract with melamchi builders

- 2019 Jan 21 Council nominates chairpersons of five commissions
A web of factors hamper probe into offshore investment, money laundering
- 2019 Jan 22 Biratnager high court chief judge faces action
- 2019 Jan 23 A game of limbo
Panel formed to probe into jet purchase deal is directionless
- 2019 Jan 24 Retrieval of Sumari's money becomes more complicated
- 2019 Jan 25 Anti-graft body opens detailed investment on airbus A330 deal
Stuck on repeat
Two police personnel suspended for assaulting
- 2019 Jan 26 Govt. Offices slow to act against errant civil servants
Everest fraud leads insurers to threaten a boycott
- 2019 Jan 30 Crime and candidacy
CIAA files case
Nepal falls two places to 124 on CPI
- 2019 Jan 31 Corruption rampant in local governments: Anti-graft body
Police arrest seven people on the charge of fraud
- 2019 Feb 1 Donors, investors voice concerns over lack of reforms ahead of investment summit
District court official held for graft
Speaker pledges to amend harsh laws on errant builders
Muscle versus moral
- 2019 Feb 2 Sarlahi police confiscate timber worth Rs200,000
NEA officer faces corruption case
- 2019 Feb 3 As dirty cash flow review nears, Nepal scrambles to make and amend 50 laws
Locals protest against Pappu Construction
- 2019 Feb 4 Two Sajha Swasthya cooperative staff suspended for irregularities
- 2019 Feb 5 Watchdog draws authority's attention to one-roomed houses
Ex-minister among 14 people dragged to court in graft case
Oli government a failure: Poudel Mayor, ward chairmen caught stealing electricity
- 2019 Feb 6 State entities keep financial intel body in dark
Surveyors plot land by breaching highway buffer regulation

- 2019 Feb 7 Government advised to probe corruption in private sector
Government offices, local units in Banke breach procurement rule
- 2019 Feb 8 House committee presses for effective settlement of arrears
- 2019 Feb 9 Three arrested with counterfeit notes
Government to tighten gold trade
- 2019 Feb 10 Pappu scam pegs back construction of central bank's Baluwatar office
Local representatives fail to serve people's aspirations
- 2019 Feb 11 International company used lies to threaten government, private rescue agencies and hospitals in Nepal
Corruption everywhere
Fake currency seized in capital
Three Indian nationals held with 360 kg hashish
- 2019 Feb 12 Bill restricting civil servants from sharing views on social media cause for concern: Experts
- 2019 Feb 13 Ministry asks staff to not partake in programmes without consent
- 2019 Feb 14 Government proposes harsh punishment for posting 'improper' contents online
Eight people face corruption cases for revenue dodging
68 ha of Bhojpur forest encroached
- 2019 Feb 15 Anti-graft agency official stares at impeachment over corruption
Government has laid foundation for prosperity: Oli on first year in office
18kg gold seized
- 2019 Feb 16 With a new IT bill, state draws battle lines against free speech
- 2019 Feb 17 Anti-graft official's bribe case exposes how corruption thrives
Illegal sand mining, soil erosion threatens Sleshmantak forest
- 2019 Feb 18 CIAA discusses probe in Pathak's graft case
- 2019 Feb 19 Attorney general says CIAA can probe Pathak corruption case
Man for citizenship fraud
An offer he couldn't refuse
- 2019 Feb 20 Graft watchdog puts fallen commissioner Pathak under probe
- 2019 Feb 21 Home minister says the biggest gold smuggling racket busted
Getting off easy
Gas bottlers threaten to disrupt supply over commission dispute

- 2019 Feb 22 Complaint filed to probe properties of tainted anti-graft official and 'his associates'
Vice-chairman of Social Welfare Council among five sacked
- 2019 Feb 23 Top bureaucrats are getting shuffled due to conflicts of interest
- 2019 Feb 24 Jailer held with Rs75,000 bribe
- 2019 Feb 25 Monitoring the monitors
- 2019 Feb 26 Police recover timber logs worth Rs700,000
Four held with brown heroin
Money laundering case filed against Chinese couple
- 2019 Feb 28 Graft cases against local units continue to surge: CIAA study
- 2019 Mar 1 Lab operators get deadline for registration and renewal
- 2019 Mar 2 Revenue body takes on big cases after coming under PM's office
- 2019 Mar4 Tokha mayor, 9 others, convicted of fraud
Students file fraud case against Gandaki Medical College
Two persons charged with misappropriation of Rs 36 million through Hundi
The big fish in our midst
- 2019 Mar 5 Institute of Medicine warns doctors against private practice during office hours
This government has been ineffective not because of incompetence, but because of its design: CK Lal
Still work to be done
- 2019Mar 6 Case filed against firms issuing fake VAT bills
Government to introduce e-commerce regulations
- 2019 Mar 7 Education consultancies are putting pressure on probe team to not recommend action against them
Timber smuggling rife in forests of Chure Range
Two Indian nationals held with Rs 3.54 million in Nepalgunj
Wrong choice
Government to launch digital payment system by April-end
- 2019 Mar 8 Two held with 2kg gold
Officials of Gandaki Medical College held in fraud case

- 2019 Mar 10 Bajhang sees increase in cases of poaching
Man arrested with illegal US dollar bills
- 2019 Mar 11 Police seize 105kg hashish; 3 arrested
More students file fraud case against Gandaki Medical College chair Khuma Aryal and 10 others
Public entities are recommending errant contractors for blacklisting more than ever
Two Indian nationals held with smuggled gold and silver
- 2019 Mar 13 Army headquarters puts Colonel Luitel under probe
We'll tell investors about our latest legal and institutional reforms:
MahaPrasad Adhikari
- 2019 Mar 14 Anti-graft agency to mobilize teams to catch corrupt government staff
- 2019 Mar 15 E-procurement system on cards to keep tabs on contractors
- 2019 Mar 16 Watchdog aims better coordination with other state agencies to increase anti-money laundering compliance
- 2019 Mar 17 Rs 4b hundi case referred to money laundering probe
Public officer jailed for three years on forgery charge
Government employee arrested for taking bribe
Government authorities fail to protect consumer rights
- 2019 Mar 19 Irregularities reign supreme at Poverty Alleviation Fund
Market monitoring ineffective in Jhapa
The megaprojects conundrum
Anti-graft body to probe stock trading software deal
- 2019 Mar 20 Judicial Council forms panel to probe dubious release of gold smuggling suspects
Anti-graft watchdog faces scrutiny as bribe cases involving its staff grow
- 2019 Mar 21 Nepali bureaucrats regularly asked for 'their cut' from Melamchi contractor, Italian officials say
New rule to encourage use of electronic cargo tracking system
- 2019 Mar 22 As Ansari takes oath, questions arise over necessity of hearing committee
Medical colleges told to return extra fees charged to students within a month
A man who embezzled money at all three offices he worked since 2015
Disgusting bureaucrats
- 2019 Mar 24 Builder to be responsible for road repair work, maintenance for 5 years
Parliament panel seeks action against officials of Rapti health academy

- 2019 Mar 25 Three invigilators expelled
More businesses and firms found involved in fake VAT bill scam
Five individuals charged with evading revenue worth Rs 169.28 million
Market anomalies still rampant despite hefty fines
- 2019 Mar 26 Three forest officers face corruption charge
Nepal Tourism Board fails to get its transactions audited, again
Fake SEE examinee held
Making bureaucracy deliver
- 2019 Mar 27 Disgraced anti-graft commissioner Pathak faces corruption case
Health care in disarray due to bureaucratic hassles: Officials
- 2019 Mar 28 Anti-graft body summons five international firms over Airbus deal
Tax department takes step to find fake VAT bill purchasers
Corruption rampant in Janakpur labour office
Account officer out of contact after embezzling Rs 17.3m in revenue
SEE students attempt to cheat through Facebook; invigilators found guilty of helping students
Nepal's promise and opportunities
- 2019 Mar 29 SEE science test in State 2 rescheduled for April 5 after question paper leak
Jha spared in Nepal Engineering College corruption case for cooperating in probe
- 2019 Mar 30 SEE exams in Province 2 suspended
Forest officer held for graft
- 2019 Mar 31 Substandard infrastructure in Jajarkot schools affects students
Smuggled timber seized
Phony assaults
- 2019 Apr 2 The move is aimed at encouraging builders to complete their work within the deadline
CIAA arrests Nayab Subba with bribe cash
- 2019 Apr 3 Drug regulatory body flags nine Indian pharmaceutical firms for noncompliance with WHO good manufacturing practice
- 2019 Apr 4 'Incumbent government cannot do anything'
Police arrest 14 for transferring public land to an individual's name in Bardiya
- 2019 Apr 5 Police reveals the names of individuals accused of leaking SEE question papers
Quality inspectors' book 136 firms for selling inferior food products

- 2019 Apr 6 Airport police arrest four Indians with more than 5kg gold
- 2019 Apr 7 Plan to manage public vehicles puts authorities on collision course
Government doctors steadfast on their strike against Civil Servants Adjustment Bill
Nepal Medical Association extends solidarity with the protest that has hit thousands of people
Man arrested with foreign currencies equivalent to Rs 2.5m
Timber logs worth millions seized from Chure region in the past 45 days
- 2019 Apr 8 Police intervene as mayors try to lock irrigation office over a corruption case
Civil servant, middlemen held on graft charge
'Tara Goan share, land deals shady'
- 2019 Apr 9 Govt officer held with bribe
Unleashing transformation
- 2019 Apr 10 Supreme Court sets three-month deadline for Ncell, Axiata to clear dues
Kingpin of a tiger poaching gang arrested
Judge accused of accepting bribe
- 2019 Apr 11 TIA's only café in sterile zone shut after owner held with undeclared foreign currencies
Charge sheet filed against office-bearers of a road users' committee Fraud cases in the name of foreign employment on the rise in Jhapa district
- 2019 Apr 13 Chinese nationals caught with 3.5kg gold
Indian held with 64kg marijuana
- 2019 Apr 14 Top retired officials are enjoying state facilities without legal provision good for writing Parliament panel says government failed to deliver on many promises
Government audit highlights dubious accounting practices by emergency rescue agencies, hospitals
- 2019 Apr 15 Foreign NGOs are receiving more funds than they show to authorities
Flaws in government mechanism led to misappropriation of funds, auditor general's report says
- 2019 Apr 16 Financial irregularities rampant in local units of Karnali: Auditor General's report
- 2019 Apr 17 Tax authorities give Ncell seven days to pay Rs 39 billion in dues
Complaints about irregularities at local level on the rise, CIAA says
- 2019 Apr 18 TU yet to clear over Rs 21 billion of arrears

- 2019 Apr 19 Chinese payment platforms are illegal, but officials say they can't control them
Former lawmaker Yadav, RJP-N leader Mandal held for forgery
Asset verification process of transport operators set to become free of hassles
- 2019 Apr 21 Pressure mounts on ruling party to take action against general secretary
Department of Immigration to install new system to check on frequent flyers
- 2019 Apr 22 Inspection of facilities begins for medical tests of migrant workers
NGOs-turned microfinance asked to deposit fund into state coffers
2,500 kg contraband black pepper seized in Saptari
Students demand Gandaki college to honour agreement
Jumping on the gravy train
Top secret
- 2019 Apr 23 Ncell challenges tax determined by authority at Supreme Court
State Affairs and Good Governance Committee in Sarlahi
Protect emerging industries, not zombies
- 2019 Apr 24 Indian and Chinese nationals arrested for conning Nepalis through a lottery scam
Man held with 7 kg gold
Fake consumer committee formed to claim government budget
- 2019 Apr 25 Smuggler held with 750 grams of gold hidden in his rectum
- 2019 Apr 26 Court tells authorities not to ask Ncell to pay dues for now
Government loses large swathes of land to encroachers
- 2019 Apr 27 Two men caught taking bribe
Municipal building defies safety code
- 2019 Apr 29 Fake VAT bill scam, which is under probe, estimated to be worth over Rs 7 billion
Medical colleges charging high fees may soon face government action
- 2019 Apr 30 Monitoring of private health facilities halted for months
Elected officials collude with land mafia to sell land plots
Ward chairman held with bribe



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