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## Seminar on “Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant’s Multidimensional Personality and Contribution to Nepal’s Economy”



A one-day seminar on “Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant’s Multidimensional Personality and His Contribution to Nepal’s Economy” was held on November 14, 2025 in Kathmandu. The seminar was organized by Nepal Rastra Bank on the occasion of the 100th birth anniversary of the late Dr. Pant, former Finance Minister of the Government of Nepal and former Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank.

At the event, Chief Guest and Finance Minister Rameshore Prasad Khanal underscored Dr. Pant’s significant contribution to laying the foundation of

Nepal’s modern economy and integrating the country’s economy with the international arena. He highlighted Dr. Pant’s visionary contributions that helped shape key economic

strategies.

Similarly, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel spoke about how, under Dr. Pant’s leadership, important structural reforms were initiated in the





nation's economy and financial system. He remembered the introduction of NPR 500 and NPR 1000 banknotes, the establishment of the Banking Development Fund, and Dr. Pant's memorable policy and structural efforts to expand access to banking services.

On the program, Former Finance Minister Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani described the late Dr. Pant as a "thinker and visionary of modern economy" with a recalling the economic reform efforts under his leadership. Former Governor Ganesh Bahadur Thapa expressed significant progress and expansion of banking and financial services during Dr. Pant's tenure. Former NRB Director Prof. Dr. Parthiveshwar Prasad Timilsina remembered Dr. Pant's creative personality and his contributions.

Former Finance Ministers Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada, Gyanendra Bahadur Karki, and Dr. Roop Jyoti, along with former Governors Dr. Tilak Bahadur Rawal, Dipendra Purush Dhakal, Vijayanath

Bhattarai, and Dipendra Bahadur K.C., spoke about various aspects of Dr. Pant's personality. Former Auditor General Bhanu Prasad Acharya and Radhesh Pant, a member of the *Dr. Pant Research and Development Foundation*, Nepal, also recalled inspiring moments from Dr. Pant's life.

Addressing the event, Former Executive Director of NRB Bholaram Shrestha presented a working paper on "Dr. Yadav Prasad Pant's Multidimensional Personality and His Contribution to Nepal's Economy." A brief audio-visual presentation on Dr. Pant's biography, prepared by the foundation, was also shown.

The seminar was attended by former Finance Ministers Dr. Bhesh Bahadur Thapa, Shankar Prasad Koirala, and Barshaman Pun; existing NRB Board Members Chinta Mani Siwakoti, Dr. Shankar Prasad Acharya, and Dr. Ravindra Prasad Pandey; economists; senior NRB officials; chief executives of banks and financial institutions; representatives of the media;

and members of the Pant family.

Senior Deputy Governor Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina delivered the welcome address, while Deputy Governor Bam Bahadur Mishra facilitated the discussion session. The program was conducted by, Dayaram Sharma Pangeni, Executive Director of the Governor's Office.

Born on November 17, 1925 in Kathmandu, Dr. Pant served as Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank from 1968–1973 and as Finance Minister from 1980–1983. He was also a founding member of the National Planning Commission. During his leadership, fruitful and result-oriented efforts were made to strengthen bilateral as well as multilateral relations with international financial institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

Recalling his policy and structural reform efforts for the nation's economy, the Bank organized this seminar as an expression of respect for Dr. Pant. ■

## 9<sup>th</sup> JTCC Meeting Concludes



The ninth meeting of the Joint Technical Coordination Committee (JTCC), a joint coordination mechanism between Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) and the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), was held in Kathmandu on October 3, 2025.

Inaugurating the meeting, Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel stated that the JTCC has proven to be an effective mechanism for result-oriented dialogue and technical resolution of cross-border monetary and financial issues. On the occasion, he emphasized that the JTCC has been established as an important platform for the exchange of best practices in monetary policy, foreign exchange management, regulation, supervision, and payment systems, as well as for technical capacity building and enhancing the effectiveness of policy formulation. Governor Paudel also expressed confidence that, in the days ahead, institutional relations and technical cooperation between the two central banks would further deepen through this platform. Deputy Governor Bam Bahadur Mishra was also present at the inaugural session.

On the same occasion, Executive Director of the Reserve Bank of India and JTCC Coordinator Arnab Kumar Choudhury expressed that since the establishment of the JTCC, effective practices have been implemented in the areas of currency management, facilitation of foreign trade and payment transactions, and promotion of financial inclusion. He also conveyed confidence that mutual cooperation and coordination between the two central banks would further strengthen in the future through the JTCC.

Welcoming the participants, Executive Director from the Governor's Office and JTCC Coordinator from NRB Rajan Bikram Thapa

highlighted the need to make the mechanism more meaningful and result-oriented in the coming days to promote bilateral interests.

During the second session, JTCC officials discussed six different bilateral agenda. Discussions focused on facilitation of cross-border electronic payment transactions between Nepal and India, along with other contemporary issues. Similarly, the possibility of adopting best policy practices implemented by RBI in areas such as monetary policy, liquidity management, and foreign exchange management was explored. The session also reviewed the implementation status of agenda items discussed during the eighth JTCC meeting.

From NRB, Executive Directors Revati Prasad Nepal, Vishrut Thapa, Guru Prasad Paudel, Kiran Pandit, Dr. Ram Sharan Kharel, Dr. Dilliram Pokhrel, and Nischal Adhikari, among others, participated in the meeting. From RBI, Executive Director Arnab Kumar Choudhury, Chief General Managers Latha Radhakrishnan and Saswat Kumar Mahapatra, and Manager Aparna Vakil were present.

Following the meeting, Executive Director Choudhury and Chief General Manager Mahapatra delivered presentations on the macroeconomic outlook of the Indian economy and the evolution of the payment system in India, respectively. At the closing session, Acting Director from the Governor's Office Suman Neupane delivered the closing remarks.

The JTCC was established on 13 May 2016 as a coordinated mechanism to enhance cooperation and coordination on bilateral banking and financial sector issues and to address challenges in various areas. ■

# Governor Poudel Participates in the 61<sup>st</sup> SEACEN Governors' Conference and 45<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Governors' Meeting



Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel participated in the 61<sup>st</sup> SEACEN Governors' Conference and the 45<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Governors' Meeting, held on October 28 and 29, 2025 in Bali, Indonesia.

On the first day of the conference, jointly organized by the SEACEN Centre and Bank Indonesia, Governor of Bank Indonesia Dr. Perry Warjiyo delivered the welcome address, highlighting the objectives and significance of the conference, while Executive Director of the SEACEN Centre Dr. Cyn-Young Park delivered the inaugural address.

The 61<sup>st</sup> SEACEN Governors' Conference featured Governors' Panel Discussions across three sessions on the theme "Asian

Financial Integration to Navigate Geo-economic Shifts: Unlocking Growth and Innovation." The discussions focused on challenges and opportunities related to financial integration among Asian economies, the role of cross-border electronic payment services in enhancing economic integration, and the role of central banks in promoting sustainable finance.

On the second day, the 45<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Board of Governors (BOG) Meeting was held under the chairmanship of Deputy Governor of Bank Indonesia Ricky Perdana Gozali. The meeting discussed activities undertaken in 2025, the draft Strategic Plan for 2026–2030, and the proposed programs and budget for 2026.

The proposals were approved incorporating suggestions from the participating Governors.

The meeting also decided to hand over the SEACEN Chairmanship for 2026 to the Central Bank of Laos (Bank of the Lao PDR). Accordingly, it was announced that the 62<sup>nd</sup> SEACEN Governors' Conference and the 46<sup>th</sup> SEACEN Governors' Meeting will be held in Laos.

From Nepal Rastra Bank, Executive Director of the Payment Systems Department Dr. Satyendra Timilsina, Executive Director of the Information Technology Department Nischal Adhikari, and Assistant Director from the Governor's Office Aastha Lamsal also participated in the conference. ■

## NRB Submits Annual Report to MoF

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel has submitted the annual report of Nepal Rastra Bank for the fiscal year 2024/25 to Finance Minister Rameshore Prasad Khanal.

The report was presented by Governor Poudel during a brief program held at the Ministry of Finance on November 16, 2025. According to the submitted annual report, before adjustment for foreign exchange and other asset revaluation gains/losses, the Bank's net income for FY 2024/25 increased by 9.11 percent compared to the previous year, reaching NPR 8,048,26,50,000. While Bank's assets and liabilities increased by 29.23 percent compared to mid-July 2024, reaching NPR 26,71,23,95,40,000, the report states.



In its meeting held on November 14, 2025, the Nepal Rastra Bank Board of Directors decided to allocate necessary amounts to various funds of the Bank and to make NPR 42 billion available to the Government of Nepal from the remaining balance.

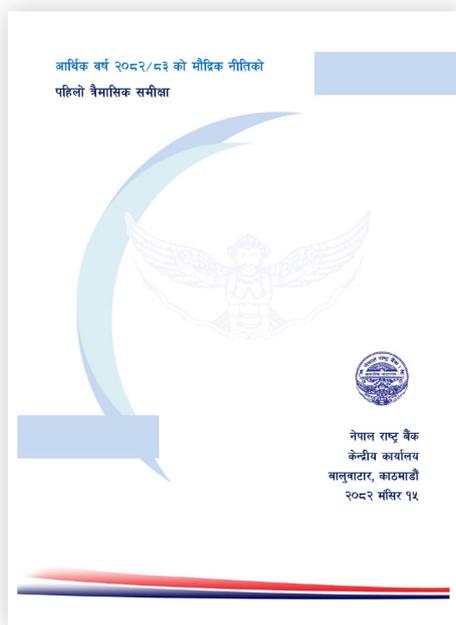
Under Section 91 of the Nepal Rastra Bank Act, 2058, the Bank is required to prepare

annual reports on its finances, income and expenditure, and related details, and submit them to the Government of Nepal within four months after the end of the fiscal year. Additionally, Section 93(1) of the Act mandates that reports on the Bank's audit, operations, and financial condition be submitted to the Government of Nepal. ■

## First Quarterly Review of Monetary Policy

Nepal Rastra Bank has released the first quarterly review of the Monetary Policy for Fiscal Year 2025/26. The Bank made the review public on December 1, 2025.

According to the review, based on developments in inflation, foreign exchange reserve positions, and the overall economic and financial sector outlook, the Bank has continued a cautious and flexible monetary policy stance, while making adjustments in some regulatory provisions.



Under the review, the Standing Liquidity Facility (SLF) rate has been reduced from 6.0 percent to 5.75 percent, and the policy rate has been reduced from 4.50 percent to 4.25 percent. The Standing Deposit Facility (SDF) rate, which represents the lower bound of the interest rate corridor, has been maintained at 2.75 percent. The existing arrangements for Cash Reserve Ratio (CRR) and Statutory Liquidity Ratio (SLR) have been continued without change.

The review states that the existing requirement for banks and financial institutions to set institutional term deposit interest rates at least one percentage point below individual term deposit rates has been removed. It also notes that the ceiling on individual overdraft loans provided by banks and financial institutions will be increased from NPR 50 lakh to NPR 1 crore.

For loans provided by microfinance institutions against collateral, the maximum limit has been increased from

NPR 7 lakh to NPR 15 lakh. The review also provides that, considering repayment difficulties of borrowers, loan repayment schedules can be revised where necessary.

The review includes provisions allowing banks and financial institutions to restructure or reschedule loans for borrowers affected by recent floods and landslides, including in Ilam and other districts, with a minimum 10 percent interest recovery on a one-time basis.

To enhance transparency,

and good governance, the review states that banks and financial institutions will introduce Anti-Bribery and Corruption Policy measures, drawing on international best practices and internally developed standards.

Nepal Rastra Bank believes that the arrangements made in the monetary policy and its first quarterly review will help maintain price, external sector, and financial stability, thereby supporting the expansion of economic activities. ■

## ‘Executive Discussion’ Program Launched



The Office of the Governor of Nepal Rastra Bank has launched a new weekly program titled “Executive Discussion” with the objective of discussing contemporary issues in the economic and financial sectors.

In this context, the Office organized the first session of the program on December 12, 2025. The event was held in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel and Deputy Governor Bam Bahadur Mishra, and was attended by executive directors and directors from various

departments and offices based in the Kathmandu Valley.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Paudel discussed the purpose of initiating the program, emphasizing the need to adopt appropriate regulatory and supervisory arrangements to address challenges arising from developments in information technology and innovation. He expressed confidence that the program would be meaningful in providing a platform for discussion on contemporary financial sector issues.

At the program, Director of the Economic Research Department, Satyendra Raj Subedi, delivered a brief talk on “Stablecoins.” During his presentation, he provided information on the concept of stablecoins, international practices, potential benefits, as well as possible risks and challenges associated with them. Directors Subhash Chandra Ghimire, Dr. Rajan Krishna Panta, and Krishna Ram Dhunju commented on Subedi’s presentation, and other participants also shared their views on various aspects of stablecoins.

At the conclusion of the program, Executive Director Dayaram Sharma Pangeni delivered the closing remarks, noting that the program could serve as an important platform for discussing best policy practices relevant to a developing economy.

On the occasion, Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, Dr. Ram Sharan Kharel, highlighted the relevance of the stablecoin discussion, and the program was accompanied by Medini Prasad Pokhrel, Deputy Director of the Governor’s Office. ■

## MoU on 'Development of Climate Finance Strategy'



A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed between Nepal Rastra Bank (NRB) and the International Finance Corporation (IFC) on the development of a climate finance strategy.

The MoU was signed

during a program held at the Bank on December 15, 2025 in the presence of Deputy Governor Bam Bahadur Mishra. On behalf of Nepal Rastra Bank, Executive Director of the Governor’s Office Dayaram Sharma Pangeni, and on behalf of IFC, South Asia Country

Advisory and Economics Manager Gregory Smith, signed the MoU. The project will be implemented until September 2028.

As per the understanding, IFC will provide technical assistance to Nepal Rastra Bank for the development of

climate finance in Nepal. Under the project, a Climate Finance Strategy and its Roadmap will be drafted. In addition, an implementation framework will be prepared to support the phased implementation of the strategy. The project will also include training and capacity-building programs to enhance the capacity of Nepal Rastra Bank and the broader financial sector in formulating and implementing climate finance strategies.

It is expected that the implementation of the project will help address climate-

related financial risks in Nepal and promote the mobilization of financial resources for climate adaptation. IFC has informed that the project will receive financial support from the European Union.

Speaking on the occasion, Deputy Governor Mishra stated that Nepal Rastra Bank and IFC have been cooperating for a long time to strengthen Nepal's financial sector, and expressed confidence that the new MoU would support the policy development and implementation of climate finance in Nepal.

Similarly, IFC Manager Gregory Smith expressed optimism that the partnership with Nepal Rastra Bank would yield result-oriented outcomes in the strategic development and implementation of climate finance in Nepal.

The program was attended by Executive Director of the Bank and Financial Institutions Regulation Department Ramu Paudel, Director Govinda Prasad Nagila, Acting Director of the Governor's Office Suman Neupane, IFC Resident Representative Rathnija Arandara, and other officials. ■

## BOK–KPP, 2025 Program Concludes



The final seminar of the “Bank of Korea – Knowledge Partnership Program (BOK–KPP), 2025”, jointly implemented by the Bank of Korea, Dongguk University, and Nepal Rastra Bank, was successfully held in Pokhara on January 8, 2026.

Delivering a special address at the program, Senior Deputy Governor Dr. Neelam Dhungana Timsina stated that the BOK–KPP has been established as an effective platform for research and study on contemporary issues in the financial

sector and for enhancing the capacity of Nepal Rastra Bank staff. She further expressed confidence that this year's program, focusing on Korea's experience in capital account liberalization, would be highly valuable for policymakers and stakeholders.

The program began with a welcome address by Dayaram Sharma Pangeeni, Executive Director of the Governor's Office. The opening remarks were delivered by Minho Kim, Senior Advisor of BOK-KPP, 2025 and former Deputy Governor of the Bank of Korea, who highlighted various aspects of the project.

In the first session, Dr. Hyung Jun Kim from the Korean research team presented a paper on foreign exchange liberalization, while Dr. Dong Hyun Choi, Professor at Dongguk University, presented a paper on the economic impacts of capital account liberalization and its case studies. From the Nepal Rastra Bank research team, Assistant Director Mukesh Prasad Sah presented a paper on Nepal's foreign exchange policy and

the status of capital account liberalization.

In the second session, Seung Jae Hong presented a paper on the sequencing of capital account liberalization, and Raehyung Park presented a paper on capital flow management under a liberalized capital account regime. This was followed by a discussion among the participants on the presented papers.

At the conclusion of the program, Professor Juness Yi, Project Coordinator of BOK-KPP, 2025, delivered a vote of thanks, while Kiran Pandit, Executive Director of the Foreign Exchange Management Department, delivered the closing remarks.

Under this year's program, the joint research teams of the three institutions signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on August 3, 2025, to undertake a joint study on "Liberalization of Foreign Exchange Policy and Capital Flow Management." This marks the ninth implementation of the BOK-KPP program by the Bank of Korea, which was launched in 2017. ■

## Interaction Program on AML/CFT



The Financial Information Unit (FIU) organized an interaction program on Anti-Money Laundering (AML) and Counter-Terrorist Financing (CFT) in Kathmandu on December 23, 2025.

The program was held in the presence of

Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel and focused on inter-agency cooperation, coordination, and feedback mechanisms in preventing money laundering and terrorist financing. Participants included representatives from regulatory authorities, reporting entities, law-enforcement



agencies, investigative and prosecutorial bodies, and other relevant stakeholders.

Speaking at the event, Governor Poudel stated that maintaining a balance between national sovereignty and international commitments while implementing global standards through domestic coordination mechanisms is the foundation of financial transparency and systemic integrity. He also emphasized the need for strong coordination among concerned agencies to control evolving financial crime.

Pushkar Sapkota, Secretary at the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, noted that Nepal has a strong legal and policy framework for AML/CFT, but that effective implementation remains challenging. He added that effective confiscation of proceeds of crime and enforcement of court decisions would help Nepal exit the FATF's enhanced monitoring list. Similarly, Dr. Manoj Kumar KC, Chief of the Central Investigation Bureau (CIB), stated that money-laundering offenses are often linked to individuals with economic and political influence, highlighting the need for specialized investigative structures.

Participants included representatives from the Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Home Affairs, Commission for the Investigation of Abuse of Authority, Office of the Attorney General, Nepal Rastra Bank, Office of the Company Registrar, Department of Customs, Department of Revenue Investigation, Department of Money Laundering Investigation, Inland Revenue Department, Department of Tourism, Department of Land Management and Records, and the Nepal Police including the Central Investigation Bureau, Narcotics Control Bureau, Crime Investigation Department, and Cyber Bureau, as well as the Nepal Insurance Authority, Securities Board of Nepal, Department of Cooperatives, Nepal Cooperative Regulatory Authority, Nepal Bar Council, Nepal Notary Public Council, and Social Welfare Council. Representatives from banks and financial institutions, insurance companies, cooperatives, payment service providers, casinos, and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) also participated.

FIU Chief Basudev Bhattarai explained the rationale for inter-agency coordination in AML/CFT, and shared progress achieved by the FIU through the goAML system, including reporting, analysis of suspicious and threshold transactions, and information dissemination.

In the technical session, Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, presented a paper on "The Role of Regulatory Authorities in the AML System." He outlined Nepal's legal and policy framework on AML, institutional coordination among relevant agencies, risk-based supervision, reporting by obliged entities, improvements following mutual evaluations, and future directions.

From the Nepal Police CIB, Senior Superintendent of Police Shiva Kumar Shrestha and Police Inspector Sudip Thapa presented a paper on "The Role of Investigative and Prosecutorial Agencies in AML and CFT." Their presentation highlighted the process of initiating investigations based on suspicious transaction analysis, complex structures used in financial crimes, challenges arising from the involvement of high-profile and influential individuals, use of financial intelligence from the FIU, procedures for asset identification, freezing and confiscation, and the need for inter-agency cooperation for effective prosecution.

In the expert panel discussion, Arya Joshi, Director of the AML Supervision Division, emphasized the need for reporting entities to develop strong mechanisms for preventing and detecting financial crimes. Gajendra Kumar Thakur, Director General of the Department of Money Laundering Investigation, stated that identification of beneficial ownership remains a major challenge for Nepal and that a robust identity verification mechanism is essential. Deputy Attorney General Sanjiv Raj Regmi highlighted the need for a risk-based approach and a shared understanding and coordination among reporting entities, the FIU, investigators, and prosecutors.

The panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Hari Kumar Nepal, Director of Nepal Rastra Bank, while the program was conducted by Kamal Paudel, Assistant Director of the FIU. ■

# Interaction with CEOs of BFIs



The Bank and Financial Institutions Regulation Department organized an interaction program on contemporary issues in the banking and financial sector in Kathmandu on December 17, 2025, in the presence of Governor Prof. Dr. Biswo Nath Poudel and Deputy Governor Bam Bahadur Mishra.

Addressing the program, Governor Poudel stated that the impact of credit growth has not been reflected in the national economy. He noted that despite significant growth in credit over the past decade, its effect on economic growth has remained limited. He also pointed out that although financial resources are adequate, they are not being optimally utilized due to a shortage of skilled human resources. Emphasizing Nepal's potential in agriculture, he stated that banks must play a role in linking financial resources with technical expertise.

At the event, Dr. Ram Sharan Kharel,

Executive Director of the Economic Research Department, presented a paper on "The Current Economic Situation and Monetary Policy Framework." Similarly, Ramu Paudel, Executive Director of the Regulation Department, presented a paper on NRB's credit-related directives, and Dirgha Bahadur Rawal, Executive Director of the Bank Supervision Department, presented a paper on the implementation status, issues, and solutions related to credit directives. A discussion followed on all three papers, facilitated by Deputy Governor Mishra.

Executive Directors from various departments and offices of Nepal Rastra Bank were present at the program. At the program, Govinda Prasad Nagila, Director of the Regulation Department, delivered the welcome address, and Assistant Director Urmila Sapkota conducted the program. ■

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