

Opinion in Lead

Building resilience to the impacts of climate change

Climate change is once again at the epicentre of public debate globally, as is the case around the Conference of the Parties (COP) meetings. The science of climate change has been clear about the anthropogenic warming of the Earth's climate and the adverse impacts it causes. However, until recently, the climate change impacts were something that would occur in the distant future. But, now, not only is the science of climate change clear, but we are also directly witnessing the impacts. Moreover, many individuals and communities around the world, including South Asia, have suffered tremendous losses as a result of extreme weather events, which are made more frequent, more severe, and more unpredictable as a result of anthropogenic climate change.

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News



Axiata announces exit from Nepal

Malaysia's Axiata Group, the parent company of Ncell, has decided to exit Nepal in a blow to the government which is preparing to hold an investment summit in April 2024.

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Bangladesh wants trilateral mechanism on energy

Bangladesh has proposed a mechanism between Nepal, India and Bangladesh at the highest bureaucratic level to enhance trilateral cooperation in the energy sector.

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India won't discuss other agri issues at WTO

India has told a WTO grouping that it will not discuss any new issue in the agriculture segment like imposition of export restrictions before a permanent solution is found with regard to public stockholding of food grains.

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India rubbishes China factories' quality certification applications

Indian government is going slow in giving quality certification to factories in China for products coming under quality control orders (QCOs), increasing pressure on companies to curb imports from China and opt for domestic production.

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US extends exemption to Pakistan on fish exports

Pakistan has successfully secured a two-year extension until 31 Dec 2025 to continue the commercial export of fish and fish products to the United States.

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Richest 1% account for more carbon emissions than poorest 66%

The richest 1% of humanity is responsible for more carbon emissions than the poorest 66%, with dire consequences for vulnerable communities.

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India, 13 others ink pact to reduce dependence on China

India, the US and 12 other members of the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF) have signed a supply chain resilience agreement that is aimed at helping reduce dependence on China.

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US to fund US\$553m deep-sea terminal in Sri Lanka

The United States will lend more than US\$550m for a deep-sea container terminal in Sri Lanka, officials say, with the project seen as countering China's rising influence in the Indian Ocean.

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Events

Roundtable Discussion on Nepal-China Trade: Prospects and Challenges

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics, and Environment (SAWTEE) organized a discussion programme on Nepal-China Trade: Prospects and Challenges on 9 November 2023 in Kathmandu. The objective of the programme was to share the preliminary findings of the research done by SAWTEE and gather insights from stakeholders into the prospects and challenges in Nepal-China trade. The focus was particularly in navigating the impacts of COVID-19 pandemic that has led to significant disruptions to cross-border trade between the two nations. The programme was supported by The Asia Foundation.

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Publications

Nepal national single window: towards a paperless trade regime

The Framework Agreement on Facilitation of Cross-border Paperless Trade in Asia and the Pacific (CPTA), which entered into force on 20 February 2021, is a UN treaty deposited with the Secretary General of the United Nations. Nepal is not yet a party to the treaty, but it has been making efforts, mostly unilaterally, to digitalize trade processes and create a paperless trade regime. The most important of these has been the progress made in the establishment and operationalization of the Nepal National Single Window (NNSW). However, advancement in the implementation of paperless trade in Nepal has generally been within the border, mostly excluding the cross-border exchange of data and documents. In this paper, SAWTEE's senior researcher Mr. Kshitiz Dahal, along with his co-author, argues that making the current administration of paperless trade seamless and expanding it to cover paperless trade will require legislative reforms, institutional strengthening, harmonization and standardization of data and documents, and proactive engagement in bilateral and regional forums to develop cross-border paperless trade systems.

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