



Opinion in Lead

Nepal's public debt: concerns and drivers

Soaring public debt, especially after the COVID-19 crisis, has been in the crosshairs of the public debate once again. While Nepal's public debt has been benign for much of its recent history, its swift rise is generating some concern. Nepal's public debt accumulation stood at NPR 2013.3 billion, or 41.5 percent of GDP, at the end of the fiscal year 2021/22—external debt represented 21.1 percent of GDP and internal debt represented 20.4 percent of GDP. The public debt accumulation over the last few years has, however, increased at an alarming rate—the public debt stock increased from 25.7 percent of GDP in FY 2014/15 to 41.5 percent of GDP in 2021/22.

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News



Pakistan inks deal with China for port development

Pakistan and China have signed a new advisory deal for faster development of Gwadar Port aimed at giving a push to the strategically important pillar of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC).

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India extends curbs on sugar exports

The government has extended restrictions on export of all varieties of sugar - raw, white, refined and organic - beyond October 31 owing to domestic production concerns on weak-monsoon worries.

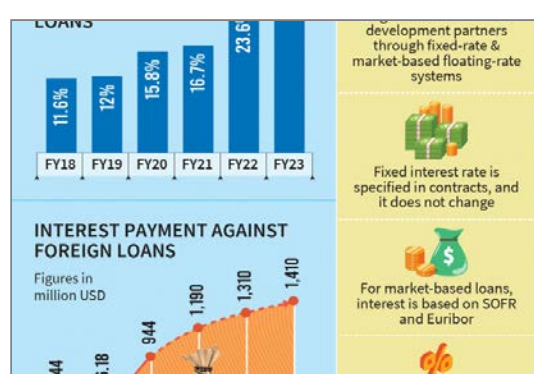
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India allows export of 95,000 tonnes of non-basmati rice to Nepal

The Indian government has permitted the export of 95,000 tonnes of non-basmati white rice to Nepal, partially relaxing the export curbs imposed in July.

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Bangladesh's hard loans double in three years

Foreign loans are rapidly becoming costlier for Bangladesh with an increasing reliance on higher-cost borrowing, also known as hard loans, tied to market-based or floating interest rates.

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China opens doors to 15 types of medicinal herbs from Nepal

China has opened the door for the import of over a dozen medicinal herbs from Nepal for producing medicine by signing the Protocol of Phytosanitary Requirements for the export.

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Pakistan tightens transit trade import regime

Pakistan banned the import of goods, prone to smuggling to Afghanistan through its territory, as it made the import regime stringent because of the misuse of the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement (ATTA).

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GSP+ status extended for four years

The European Parliament on unanimously voted to extend the current generalised system of preferences (GSP) for another four years until 2027 for developing countries, including Pakistan.

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India, Bangladesh discuss preparations to start talks for free trade agreement

India and Bangladesh have discussed preparations to start talks for a free trade agreement between the two countries to promote economic ties.

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SAWTEE's fellowship for economic journalists

As a part of its capacity-building programmes, SAWTEE launched "Media Fellowship for Economic Journalists", offering reporting fellowships to Nepali journalists covering trade and economic matters. Five media professionals were chosen to delve into topics including Nepal's international trade issues, balance of payments, Nepal's graduation from the least developed country (LDC) category, and trade through a gender lens.

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Editor

Dikshya Singh

Contact

South Asia Watch on Trade, Economics and Environment (SAWTEE)
 P.O. Box: 19366, Tukucha Marg, Kathmandu, Nepal
 Tel: 977-1-4544438, 4524360 Fax: 977-1-4544570
 Email: sawtee@sawtee.org
 Web: www.sawtee.org

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