



Government of Nepal

National Planning Commission

Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal

Ref. No:

National Planning Commission gets full shape

The government of Nepal has appointed Vice chairman and Members of the National Planning Commission of Nepal.



The cabinet decision of 18 January 2023 appointed Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha, as the Vice Chairman and Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal as the member of commission. Similarly, the cabinet decision of 30 January 2023 appointed Mr. Sushil Gyawali, Dr. Kushendra Bahadur Mahat, and Prof. Dr. Sangita Singh as the members of the commission. Likewise, the cabinet decision of 6 February 2023 appointed Prof. Dr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi and Dr. Jayakant Raut as the members of the commission. Mr. Kewal Prasad Bhandari, secretary of NPC, is the member secretary of the Commission.

NPC Chairman and Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda' administered oath of office to the Vice Chairman Dr. Shrestha. NPC Vice Chairman Dr. Shrestha administered oath of office to the members.



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Short Biography of VC and Members:



Dr. Min Bahadur Shrestha had served earlier in the same capacity at the National Planning Commission from September 4, 2016 to August 3, 2017. Prior to his appointment at the NPC, Dr. Shrestha held the esteemed position of Executive Director at the Central Bank of Nepal, where he worked primarily in the areas of economic research, policy analysis, training, and strategy formulation. In addition, he represented the central bank as a board member of several prestigious institutions such as the Credit Information Centre, Nepal Stock Exchange Limited, Securities Board of Nepal, and National Banking Institute, where he demonstrated exceptional leadership and expertise. Dr. Shrestha has also served as a Senior Economist for three years and as a Visiting Research Economist for one year at the South East Asian Central Banks Research and Training Centre based in Kuala Lumpur, where he made valuable contributions to research and training in the field of economics. Dr. Shrestha holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wollongong, Australia. He has authored seven books and a significant number of research papers in peer-reviewed international journals on a diverse range of topics such as financial liberalization, capital flows, monetary policy, welfare, international migration, time series econometrics, and financial inclusion.



Dr. Ram Kumar Phuyal is a distinguished economist and development planner with two decades of professional experience, including teaching at the university and engaging in policy formulation and planning in government. From April 2018 to December 2022, Dr. Phuyal served as a Member of the National Planning Commission (NPC), where he made substantial contributions to the drafting and formulation of the 15th periodic plan of the Government of Nepal, as well as to the formulation of national and provincial plans. At NPC, Dr. Phuyal led many studies, reports, and policy research initiatives which included key research on "The Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Foreign Employment and its Impact on the Economy of Nepal", "The Integrated National Social Protection Framework", "The Integrated National Employment Framework", "Foreign Investment in Nepal - Commitment, Problems Encountered and Arrangements Needed to Attract Investment" and "Fifth Rebasing of National Account Statistics and GDP". His rich and varied experience in economics, development and social sectors was invaluable in the NPC's endeavors. Prior to his appointment at the NPC, Dr. Phuyal was an Associate Professor of Economics at the Centre for Economic Development and Administration (CEDA) in Tribuvan University and also served as a visiting scholar/professor at prestigious international universities. He earned a Ph.D. in Economics from Chonnam National University, South Korea, in 2011, where he was the recipient of outstanding Ph.D. fellowship awards in 2006 and 2007. Dr. Phuyal has authored several books/chapters and published over four dozen scholarly articles in peer-reviewed international journals.



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Mr. Sushil Gyewali is an Urban Planner and Local Government Expert with over twenty-seven years of experience in the fields of urban infrastructure planning and development, disaster risk management and recovery, infrastructure financing, local governance, urban management, and public – private – community partnership. He is a holder of a Master's Degree in Urban Planning from the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University, Kathmandu. Prior to his current engagement, Mr. Gyewali served as the CEO of the National Reconstruction Authority where he demonstrated outstanding leadership skills in successfully completing one of the world's largest post-disaster recovery programs. His contributions to the development of disaster risk management and recovery plans are highly commendable. As the CEO of Town Development Fund, a government-financing entity, he led a major institutional reform and business restructuring of TDF, bringing in significant positive changes to the organization. Throughout his professional journey, Mr. Gyewali has consistently delivered excellent results and has helped organizations to achieve remarkable achievements during his tenure. His extensive knowledge and expertise have been invaluable in developing sustainable infrastructure and improving local governance.



Dr. Kushendra Bahadur Mahat, a resident of Jumla Karnali province, is a highly skilled and experienced individual with a broad range of expertise in the academic and research sector, INGO/NGOs, and various entrepreneurship institutions. He holds a Ph.D. in Management and has served in managerial and leading roles in different academic, social, and entrepreneurship institutions of national and international repute. Over the course of his 35-year professional career, he has been actively involved in the planning and implementation of multidimensional programs in various sectors, resulting in the socio-economic transformation of marginalized communities. Notably, Dr. Mahat was a key member of the expert group of Karnali Province Government from 2074 to 2077 BS, where he made significant contributions to the province's development.



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Prof. Dr. Sangeeta Singh is an accomplished academic in the field of urban planning with 24 years of teaching experience. She has led numerous research projects focused on critical areas such as ecological urban planning, disaster resilience, equitable urban resilience, sustainable development, and gender mainstreaming. Prof. Singh has also been appointed as the coordinator of the Nepal National Urban Forum and as the Chairperson of the Women in Engineering Business Committee at the Nepal Engineering Association. Additionally, she serves as a member of the Madan Bhandari Technological University Infrastructure Development Committee. Prof. Singh has made significant contributions to her field and has published various research works on eco city and sustainable development. Her achievements include being a visiting scholar at Kyushu University in Japan and KU Leuven University in Belgium, as well as a recipient of several prestigious awards and recognitions in her field.



Professor Dr. Geeta Bhakta Joshi, born in Kathmandu, is a Member of the National Planning Commission with responsibilities in the social sector (health, federal affairs, and general administration). He has been a Member of the NPC from December 25, 2014, to March 14, 2017; the former Registrar of Tribhuvan University; the 2017 UN SUN (Scaling Up Nutrition) Global Champion; and a former Advisor to the Prime Minister of Nepal. Professor Joshi earned his M.S. in mathematics from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, USA, and his Ph.D. in mathematics from the Institute of Engineering, Tribhuvan University. He is the senior social sector development planner, governance expert, and senior educationist.



Dr. Jay Kant Raut is a Senior Scientist and holds a Ph.D. in Mushroom Science from Graduate School of Horticulture, Chiba University, Japan. As one of his fervent pastimes, he has long participated in science based several policy discussions and debates. He has served as a member in various national policy draft committees. He assumed leadership roles in a number of projects including applied research and gave policymakers and government officials evidence-based advice. Dr. Raut has efficiently led a scientific village program in the provinces of Gandaki and Madhesh with the goal of fostering a scientific temperament in the locals for improved livelihood. Furthermore, Dr. Raut is a prominent crusader for mushroom science and non-green revolution in Nepal.

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