

CNI Holds 3rd National Council Meeting, Emphasizes Policy Stability and \$100 Billion Economy Vision



The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held its 3rd National Council (NC) meeting on 24 April, Kathmandu.

CNI President, while welcoming the members, highlighted key developments since the previous NC meeting held in Chitwan. He briefed members on the ongoing policy dialogue with the government, particularly on the need for policy stability and legal reforms. He noted constructive engagement with the Finance Minister on upcoming budget priorities.

He emphasized CNI's key policy priorities, including industrial promotion as a top agenda, tax and customs reforms, improved governance and digital service delivery, control of unauthorized trade, promotion of domestic production and consumption, sustainable use of natural resources, and introduction of production-linked incentives. He also stressed the need to address double taxation issues, ensure clarity in tax laws, and enable Nepali investors to invest abroad.

The President further highlighted CNI's ongoing \$100 Billion Economy Study, which is in its final stage, and announced an upcoming high-level validation event involving government officials, parliamentarians, private sector



representatives, and experts. He also underscored CNI's continued engagement with provincial and district chapters, strengthening of the CNI Research Cell, and the importance of data-driven policy advocacy.

Committee chairs and Province Presidents presented brief updates on their respective activities, followed by open-floor discussions where NC members shared sectoral updates, feedback, and suggestions.

The meeting concluded with a shared commitment to further strengthen CNI's role in policy advocacy and economic transformation efforts.

VP'S MESSAGE



The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) remains firmly committed to the promotion and advancement of both manufacturing and service industries in Nepal. In doing so, it equally recognizes the critical importance of workers and their livelihoods as the backbone of sustainable industrial growth.

To institutionalize this commitment, CNI has established a dedicated Employers' Committee, specifically tasked with addressing workers' issues and enhancing their industry readiness. This initiative reflects a clear understanding that a thriving industrial sector must be supported by a skilled, competent, and adaptable workforce.

At present, Nepal faces a significant mismatch between industry requirements and the skills available in the labor market. Bridging this gap has become an urgent priority. CNI strongly believes that continuous skill enhancement and workforce development are essential to align human capital with the evolving needs of industries.

In pursuit of this goal, CNI has entered into Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with various academic institutions, both nationally and internationally. These collaborations aim to leverage global knowledge, best practices, and innovative approaches in skill development, ensuring that Nepal's workforce is equipped to meet modern industrial demands.

Furthermore, CNI has been actively working alongside other industry associations to establish a Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Industry Council. This platform is envisioned to strengthen coordination between the private sector and the government, while also amplifying the voice of industry stakeholders in shaping effective TVET policies and programs.

In addition, CNI is in the process of developing a comprehensive digital platform to create and manage a database of workers required by various industries. This forward-looking initiative will serve as a vital tool in connecting skilled workers with employment opportunities, thereby significantly reducing the existing gap between demand and supply in the labor market.

Through these strategic efforts, CNI aims to build a more responsive, skilled, and industry-aligned workforce ultimately contributing to Nepal's broader economic growth and industrial transformation.

-Mr. Bhim Ghimire



**“सूचना प्रविधिको विकास: दिगो विकासको आधार”
राष्ट्रिय सञ्चार तथा सूचना प्रविधि दिवस २०२६
भव्यताका साथ मनाऔं ।**

Strategic Meeting with CTEVT

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), held a strategic meeting with CTEVT on 31st March 2026 at Sanothimi, Bhaktapur to strengthen collaboration between industry and the TVET sector. The meeting focused on reducing the gap between industry skill needs and existing training systems through stronger private sector involvement. Discussions highlighted the importance of establishing the TVET Industry Council (TIC) as a platform to connect industries, government, and training institutions, while strengthening Sector Skill Committees (SSC) under industry associations. Participants emphasized the need for industry-led curriculum development, apprenticeship, and practical training opportunities to ensure market-relevant skills and job readiness. The meeting concluded with strong support for TIC as a sustainable mechanism to enhance Nepal's skill development system and promote a more industry-driven workforce.



Government Formulating Strategy to Increase Electricity Consumption - Energy Minister

A discussion was held between the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) and the Minister for Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation, Hon'ble Biraj Bhakta Shrestha.

A CNI delegation led by President Mr. Birendra Raj Pandey met the Minister to extend congratulations and best wishes, while also engaging in discussions on the development of the energy sector.

During the meeting, President Pandey emphasized the need to adopt policies that promote increased electricity consumption. He suggested the implementation of policies allowing industries to generate electricity for their own use and transmit it through wheeling charges, as well as permitting the private sector to engage in domestic and international electricity trade. He further urged the government to immediately conclude Power Purchase Agreements (PPAs) with all projects that have already completed surveys and received government approvals but are still awaiting agreements.

He also called for policies to increase domestic electricity consumption and to provide incentives for industries transitioning from fossil fuel-based systems to electric equipment. In addition, he stressed the importance of focusing on alternative energy sources.

On the occasion, Minister Shrestha ex-



pressed the government's commitment to moving forward in collaboration with the private sector for the overall development of the energy sector. He stated that the government is actively working on strategies to increase domestic electricity consumption alongside electricity exports.

He further shared that priority is being given to hydropower reservoir projects, renewable energy development, and electricity consumption expansion strategies. The Min-

ister also expressed expectation for clear and actionable suggestions from the private sector on how the energy sector can contribute more significantly to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The discussion was attended by CNI Vice President Mr. Gokul Bhandari, office bearer Ms. Vidushi Rana, President of CNI Young Entrepreneurs Forum Mr. Manish Shrestha, Director General Dr. Ghanashyam Ojha, Director Himal Poudel among others.

CNI Congratulates Newly Elected FCAN Executive Committee, Emphasizes Increased Investment in Infrastructure Sector

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has extended congratulations and a warm welcome to the newly elected executive committee of the Federation of Contractors' Association of Nepal (FCAN).

At a welcome and felicitation program held at the CNI Secretariat, CNI President Mr. Birendra Raj Pandey congratulated and welcomed the newly elected FCAN President Mr. Nicholas Pandey along with other office bearers.

The event also discussed issues related to the recent sharp rise in petroleum prices and its impact on the economy, as well as the Public Procurement Act, which the government is preparing to amend. Participants emphasized that due to the high cost of petroleum products, construction materials have become significantly more expensive, leading to a sharp increase in project costs. In this context, they urged the government to introduce facilitation measures similar to those provided in the past.

CNI President stated that policy and legal reforms are essential for overall economic development and stressed the importance of continued collaboration in this regard. He highlighted the need to increase investment in infrastructure development to transform Nepal's current economy of approximately USD 45 billion into a USD 100 billion economy within the next decade.

He also shared that CNI is running the



"Make in Nepal - Swadeshi Campaign" to promote domestic employment, increase consumption of local products, and build a self-reliant economy. He further emphasized that the Public Procurement Act should be amended with a long-term and sustainable solution in mind.

FCAN President stated that since CNI has also prioritized infrastructure development, collaboration between the two organizations

would be smooth and productive. He stressed that infrastructure development should not be halted due to claims of lack of government funding and suggested increasing investment through alternative financing mechanisms.

The program was attended by newly elected FCAN office bearers, CNI Vice President Mr. Sandeep Sharda, YCNC President Mr. Basanta Bahadur Chand, CNI Director General Dr. Ghanshyam Oja, among others.

Slovenian Ambassador-Designate to Nepal Visits CNI, Emphasizes Strengthening B2B Relations

Ambassador-Designate of Slovenia to Nepal, Mr. Tomaz Mencin, visited the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) on 19 April.

During the courtesy meeting, the Ambassador expressed Slovenia's commitment to exploring and strengthening business-to-business (B2B) relations between Slovenia and Nepal.

CNI President Mr. Birendra Raj Pandey urged the Ambassador to identify and promote investment opportunities in Nepal. He also encouraged the sharing of Slovenian skills, expertise, and technologies with Nepalese entrepreneurs to foster mutual growth and collaboration.

The meeting highlighted the potential for enhanced economic cooperation and private sector engagement between the two countries.



CNI and IMF Team Discuss Economic Policy and Business Climate



On April 27, an International Monetary Fund (IMF) team met with CNI President Birendra Raj Pandey and his team at the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) to discuss key economic and policy issues.

During the interaction, President Pandey addressed IMF queries related to Ease of Doing Business, as well as customs and revenue policies. He emphasized the need for predictable and stable policies to enhance investor confidence and support sustainable economic growth.

He also shared insights from CNI's ongoing study on achieving a \$100 billion economy, noting that the initiative is in its final phase and is expected to offer strategic recommendations for Nepal's economic transformation.

The IMF delegation included Doris Akol, Senior Economist, and Mohammad Ehtesha-



mul Hoque, who engaged with CNI representatives on the broader macroeconomic outlook and reform priorities.

The meeting was attended by CNI officials including National Council Member Ashish Jajodiya, Barsha Shrestha, and Director

General Dr. Ghanshyam Ojha, along with other representatives.

The interaction reflects continued collaboration between CNI and international institutions to strengthen Nepal's economic policies and improve the overall business climate.

CNI Holds Courtesy Meeting with NPC Vice Chair, Calls for Collaboration on \$100 Billion Economy Vision

The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) held a courtesy meeting with the Vice Chair of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Hon. Dr. Gunakar Bhatta.

During the meeting, the CNI President briefed CNI's ongoing initiative the \$100 Billion Economy Study and highlighted its objectives aimed at supporting Nepal's long-term economic transformation.

He urged closer collaboration between CNI and NPC to advance and materialize the shared vision of building a \$100 billion economy for Nepal. The discussion underscored the importance of public-private partnership in strategic planning and policy alignment for sustainable economic growth.



India–Nepal Economic Cooperation Forum 2026 Strengthens Bilateral Trade and Investment Dialogue



The India–Nepal Economic Cooperation Forum 2026 was successfully convened on April 15 in Birgunj and on April 16 in Hetauda—two of Nepal’s key industrial hubs. The forum was jointly organized by the Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI), Bara Parsa Udyog Sangh (BPUS), Confederation of Bagmati Province Industries (CBPI), Makwanpur Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), and the PHDCCI India–Nepal Centre.

Bringing together policymakers, business leaders, and industry stakeholders from both countries, the forum served as a vital platform to advance discussions on strengthening economic and trade cooperation between India and Nepal. A central theme throughout the sessions was enhancing the Ease of Doing Business through improved compliance systems, process-driven approaches, and technology-enabled, hassle-free transit at key border points.

As Nepal’s largest trading partner, India continues to play a pivotal role in the country’s economic landscape. The forum facilitated meaningful dialogue and business linkages, opening avenues for investments and

joint ventures across priority sectors including Tourism & Hospitality, Agriculture & Food Processing, Ayurveda & Organic Foods, Hydro & Renewable Energy, Infrastructure, and IT & New Technologies.

In his address, Devi Sahai Meena, Consul General of India in Birgunj, highlighted the strong foundation of Nepal–India economic and commercial relations. He emphasized that open borders and expanding connectivity projects have significantly facilitated trade between the two nations.

He noted that recent developments—such as improved border infrastructure, enhanced physical and digital connectivity, the operational Motihari–Amlekhganj Petroleum Pipeline (now being extended to Chitwan), the introduction of digital payment systems like Indian RuPay, and progress in bilateral power sector cooperation—are expected to further accelerate trade and economic integration.

Underscoring the importance of collaboration, Meena stated that mutual knowledge exchange can unlock new opportunities. “By working together, India and Nepal can create

a vibrant ecosystem that fosters startups, promotes innovation, boosts tourism, and generates employment, particularly in agriculture and allied industries,” he said.

The forum was moderated by Atul K. Thakur, Senior Secretary, India–Nepal Centre, PHDCCI. It featured insights from prominent industry leaders including Dr. Ghanashyam Ojha (CNI), Pramod Kumar Sah (CNI Madhesh Province), Trilochan Kandel (CBPI), Hari Prasad Gautam (Birgunj Chamber of Commerce & Industries), Suman Shrestha (CCIC), Ashok Temani (FNCCI Madhesh Province), Chiranjivi Subedi (CCIC), Mohan Sharma (Jeetpur Simra City Chamber), Anil Kumar Agrawal (BiCCI), Bishwash Pratap Shah (NYEF Birgunj), Niraj Agrawal (NICCI), Pramod Singh Ranabhat (MCCI), and Chandan Singh (NYEF Birgunj).

Participants expressed confidence that the forum’s deliberations would open new avenues for business engagement, stimulate investment, and provide a much-needed boost to trade—particularly across crucial border points such as Birgunj–Raxaul and within the Hetauda industrial cluster.

Meeting Held with IBN on Advancing \$100 Billion Project Pipeline

A productive and forward-looking meeting was held with the Investment Board Nepal (IBN) focused on advancing the \$100 Billion Project Pipeline, a key pillar in driving Nepal toward a \$100 billion economy. The discussion emphasized the importance of structured project development, effective coordination, and strategic collaboration to accelerate investment-ready projects capable of supporting Nepal’s long-term economic transformation.

Both sides highlighted that strengthening and fast-tracking the project pipeline through coordinated efforts between public and private sector institutions will be critical in realizing the national vision of a \$100 billion economy.



CNI Signs MoU with National Statistics Office to Strengthen Economic Data Systems



The Confederation of Nepalese Industries (CNI) has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the National Statistics Office (NSO) to enhance the collection, analysis, research, and policy formulation of reliable data related to Nepal's national economy.

The agreement reflects a shared commitment to improving the quality and timeliness of economic data, which are critical for supporting the country's economic development, industrial expansion, and evidence-based policymaking. It also aligns with national priorities to strengthen the statistical system and improve the collection, analysis, and utilization of private sector-related economic data while foster-

ing stronger coordination between government institutions and the private sector.

The MoU was formally signed during a program held at the National Statistics Office on Monday. The agreement was signed by NSO Joint secretary Dhundi Raj Lamichhane and CNI Director General Dr. Ghanshyam Ojha, in the presence of NSO Secretary Dr. Kamal Prasad Pokhrel and CNI President Birendraraj Pandey.

Speaking on the occasion, CNI President Pandey emphasized that the collaboration would play a vital role in strengthening the collection, analysis, and effective use of private sector economic data. Similarly, NSO Chief Dr. Pokhrel highlighted that enhanced coop-

eration between the public and private sectors would contribute significantly to the development of the national statistical system, improve the quality of economic data, and expand its practical applications.

Under the agreement, both institutions will work together on key areas including national economic censuses, development of private sector statistical systems, joint research and policy studies, data exchange, capacity building, and public awareness initiatives.

This partnership marks an important step toward building a more robust, reliable, and inclusive economic data ecosystem to support Nepal's long-term growth and policy planning.

CNI Partners Third Pole Initiative to Host 7th Series on Building Energy Efficiency

Third Pole Initiative, with its private sector partner CNI, organized the seventh session of Third Pole Series on 30th April, Thursday. The session was titled, "Building Energy Efficiency: Key takeaways for the Nepalese private sector" and Mr. Suyesh Prajapati, Program Director of MinErgy was the resource person. He presented the importance of energy efficiency in buildings like hotels, hospitals and offices, and ongoing works with the government and other stakeholders from the private sector. He stressed that the core principle of building energy efficiency lies in the wellbeing of people using the building services. Mr. Raju Dali also presented his experience of building an energy efficient house. The session was attended by over 20 participants coming from factories, shopping complex, architects, and other concerned stakeholders from the private sector.

