

A report on



Joint Initiative of



Karnali Province
Ministry of Internal
Affairs and Law



07th March,2024

www.digitalkarnali.org

SUMMARY OF THE EVENT:-

The Digital Karnali Conclave 2024 served as a pivotal initiative aimed at catalyzing a collective drive towards realizing the vision of a digitally empowered Karnali Province. The Digital Karnali Conclave 2024, held in Birendra Nagar, Surkhet, spanning two days, concluded with a 14-point commitment letter focusing on harmonizing digitization and development for the Karnali Province. Attended by over 700 individuals, the event was jointly organized by the Karnali Province Government and ICT Foundation Nepal, with more than 50 experts and stakeholders participating as speakers. With active participation from various stakeholders, including Ministers, policymakers, IT professionals, entrepreneurs, and academicians, the event was a platform for robust discussions and strategic planning towards the province's digital transformation.

The objectives of the conclave were multi-faceted, focusing on fostering collaboration among stakeholders, ensuring effective implementation of technology initiatives, addressing local needs, promoting digital inclusion, and enhancing governance through informed decision-making. The conclave addressed various aspects of digital development and the ecosystem in Karnali, featuring four keynotes, seven lightning presentations, and six-panel sessions. Chief Minister Rajkumar Sharma emphasized the importance of technology in driving prosperity in Karnali and highlighted the conclave's role in setting the foundation for development and investment in the region. Key commitments included preparing and implementing a master plan for Digital Karnali, promoting startups and innovation, establishing digital infrastructure in schools, and supporting IT education and companies in the province. Additionally, three organizations signed memoranda of understanding to support digital development initiatives.



Throughout the event, experts, thought leaders, and policymakers deliberated on various aspects of digital transformation, innovation, and the utilization of technology to propel growth and development in the region. Discussions also centered around formulating policy recommendations and strategies to bolster the province's digital economy, encompassing critical areas such as digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and digital skills development.

A key highlight of the conclave was the emphasis on knowledge sharing, where participants exchanged best practices and experiences related to the digital ecosystem, including emerging technologies and initiatives. The event also underscored the importance of aligning local and provincial digital transformation policies with national strategies to ensure a cohesive and synergistic approach. Notable initiatives presented included digital education, agritech, satellite connectivity, and digital insurance.



The event was supported by Nepal Telecom, UKaid, World Food Programme, The Asia Foundation, Kacific and Namaste Pay. Collaborative efforts extended to Himalayan Everest Insurance Pvt. Ltd. as an insurance partner, Geokrishi as an Agritech partner, Sunya Ek as a Digital Health Partner, Dynamic ERP as an ERP partner, and IME Pay as a Digital Payment Partner.

Furthermore, strategies were developed to bridge the digital divide, ensuring equitable access to digital tools and resources for all citizens, regardless of their location. By preparing the province for impending digital transformations, the conclave aimed to position Karnali as a globally competitive and digitally empowered region.

Organized as a joint initiative by the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law Karnali Province and ICT Foundation Nepal, the Digital Karnali Conclave 2024 stands as a testament to the collective commitment towards leveraging technology for inclusive growth and sustainable development in the province.



- **MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS OF THE EVENT**

1. 700+ Participants
2. 15+ Ministers participated in the event
3. 40+ Mayors and Ward Chairperson actively participated in the whole 2 days discussion.
4. 50+ News Coverages through different online media and Televisions.
5. Private-Public Partnerships
6. Digital Initiatives Showcase

- **Commitments made by Hon'ble Minister of Home Affairs and Law Krishna Bahadur GC in Digital Karnali Conclave 2024:**

1. Within the current fiscal year, The digital Karnali Conclave's portal www.digitalkarnali.org will be converted to www.digitalkarnali.gov.np and further modified and refined to manage the digital data of the province.
2. Within the next fiscal year, the master plan of the digital province will be formulated and put into the implementation process.
3. An integrated information system of the provincial government will be built to make public service delivery and facilities qualitative and effective by making maximum use of the available service facilities related to information technology.

4. Policies, plans, programs and budgets will be arranged for the necessary infrastructure, institutional arrangements and capacity development for convenience and easy access to Digital Governance.
5. Coordination will be done with Nepal Telecommunication Authority, Nepal Telecom and Nepal Electricity Authority to ensure reliable provision of internet and electricity/power in the province.
6. Initiatives will be taken to establish an IT college for the production and skill development of skilled manpower related to information technology in the province and capacity building for providing quality technical education and skill training to other educational institutions.
7. Necessary programs and campaigns will be conducted to enhance digital literacy in all the districts under Karnali Province.
8. Modern and technology-friendly teaching and learning will be prioritized by developing digital infrastructure in at least one government and community educational institution in all districts under the province.
9. Establishment and operation of companies will be encouraged for the development of IT industry in the province. A special support program for at least five startups and innovations will be introduced every year. For this, initiatives will be taken to conduct research and incubation in the province.
10. A special scholarship will be arranged in a certain quota for the poor and wealthy students studying ICT at the graduate level in the province.
11. Provision will be made for alternative management of internet services in provincial level bodies and satellite broadband for search, rescue, communication establishment and relief during disasters.
12. Digital services from the local government, state government and union government will be connected to the integrated system.
13. A report will be prepared and submitted to the provincial government and the Honorable Chief Minister on the suggestions received to include the ministries and agencies under the provincial government in their respective programs.
14. The suggestions received from the Digital Karnali Conclave, which are missing in this commitment, will be included in the upcoming second five-year plan and annual development program.



● **AGENDA:-**

Day - 01 1st March 2024 2080 Falgun 18 Friday Inauguration Session 11:30 - 15:30 Hrs <u>Theme 1: Thought Leadership for Digital Karnali</u>			
#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
1	11:30	Registration Begins	
2	12:15	Welcome Performance (Dance/Song)	Ms. Sugarika KC , Host Cultural Dance - Chandra and team
3	12:20	Seating on the Dias and Digital Opening	
4	12:25	Welcome Address - Realizing the Mission: Key Elements of Strategy for Digital Karnali	Mr. Dhruba Ghimire Secretary, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Karnali Pradesh
5	12:35	Reflection from the Ground - Stories of Journeys: Digital Karnali Pradesh	Video Documentary By: Mr. Pancha Dev Bhatta , Asst. Professor, Mid-West University (MU)
7	12:40	Welcome Address	

Day - 01 | 1st March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 18 | Friday
Inauguration Session | 11:30 - 15:30 Hrs
Theme 1: Thought Leadership for Digital Karnali

#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
		Mr. Ganesh Shah , Former Minister and Patron, ICT Foundation Nepal	
8	12:50	Keynote Presentation 1: Powering the Digital Karnali: Present Status and charting the course ahead	Mr. Yogendra Shahi Hon. VC, Karnali Province Planning Commission, Karnali Pradesh
9	13:10	Lightning Presentation: Powering Digital Karnali on the Ground	Mr. Ram Kumar Yadav , Data Management and M&E Analyst, UNDP / EUSIF Surkhet
10	13:20	Keynote Presentation 2: Digital Transformation Solutions and Ecosystem (for Karnali)	Mr. Manohar Kumar Bhattarai ICT Expert and Former VC, HLCIT, GoN
11	13:50	Guest Remarks: 1. Mr. Prem Prakash Chand , President, CAN Federation, Karnali 2. Mr. Padam Bahadur Shahi , FNCCI, Karnali Pradesh 3. Dr. Rabindra Dhakal , Secretary, NAST 4. Ms. Mohan Maya Dhakal , Mayor, Birendranagar Municipality, Karnali	
12	14:10	Special Guest Remarks: 1. Mr. Ganga Narayan Shrestha , Hon. Minister, MoIAL, Bagmati Pradesh 2. Mr. Shiva Raj Bhatta , Hon. Minister, MoIAL, Sudurpaschim Pradesh	
13	14:20	Power Panel Session: Thought Leadership for Digital Karnali Moderator: Mr. Kamal Lamsal , President, Hriti Foundation	1. Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Shahi , Former Chief Minister, Karnali Pradesh and Hon. Member, House of Representatives, Nepal 2. Mr. Jeevan Bahadur Shahi , Former, Chief Minister, Karnali Pradesh and Hon. Member, Karnali Provincial Assembly
14	15:10	Remarks from the Chief Guest: Digital Capability of Karnali	Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma , Hon. Chief Minister, Karnali Pradesh
15	15:25	Token of Appreciation	
16	15:30	Vote of Thanks	Mr. Krishna Bahadur GC Hon. Minister, Ministry of Internal Affairs and Law, Karnali Pradesh
Break -Hi-Tea			

Day - 01 | 1st March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 18 | Friday
Afternoon Session | 16:00 -17:15 Hrs
Theme 2: | Laying the Foundation for Digital Karnali

#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
1	16:00	Lightning Presentation: <i>Digital Infrastructure and Connectivity in Karnali</i>	Mr. Binod Chandra Shrestha, Deputy Director, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA)
	16:15 - 17:15	Panel Discussion: Laying the Foundation for Digital Karnali Panelist: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Mr. Hiranya Prasad Bastakoti, Deputy Director, Nepal Telecommunications Authority (NTA) 2. Mr. Umesh Prasad Shah, Director, Provincial Directorate Surkhet Karnali Province 3. Er. Shambhu Kusiya Yadav, Provincial Chief, Nepal Electricity Authority (NEA) 4. Mr. Keshab Nepal, CEO, WorldLink Communications Ltd. 5. Mr. Pradeep Panhaur, Country Representative, Kacific Broadband Satellite Ltd. 6. Mr. Dharmaraj Khadka, CEO, Everest Net, Karnali Moderator: Mr. Bijay Timilsina, CEO, Techpana Media	
Break			

Day - 01 | 1st March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 18 | Friday
Evening Session | 17:30 - 19:15 Hrs
Theme 3: Data, Disaster, and Digital Development

#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
2	17:30	Lightning Presentation: <i>Data Governance and Disaster Management in Karnali</i>	Mr. Pradip Khatiwada, Executive Director, Youth Innovation Lab
	17:45	Lightning Presentation: Leveraging Data and Technology for Development	Ms. Ojashwi KC Program Associate, The Asia Foundation
	18:00 - 19:00	Panel Discussion: Data, Disaster, and Digital Development Panelist: 1. Mr. Puspa Badi , Mayor, Chourjahari Municipality, Rukum 2. Mr. Rabindra Acharya , Under Secretary, MoH, GoN 3. Mr. Pradip Sharma Paudel , Executive Director, NITC, GoN 4. Mr. Rafeeqe A. Siddiqui , Head of UNDP Field Office, Karnali Province, Nepal 5. Mr. Vijaya Bahadur Shah , CEO, Himalayan Everest Insurance Moderator: Dr. Bhoj Raj Ghimire , Program Coordinator, Nepal Open University (NoU)	
3	19:00	Special Guest Remarks	
4	19:15	First day - Closing Note	Mr. Razan Lamsal, Chairperson, ICT Foundation Nepal
<i>(Closed Dinner By Invitation Only)</i> 19:15 ONWARDS			

Day - 02 | 2nd March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 19 | Saturday
Morning Session | 8:30 - 10:45 Hrs
Theme 04: Digital Economy and Investment for Digital Karnali

7:30 - 8:30 AM Registration & Breakfast

#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
1	8:45	Program Initiation and Seat Taking	Ms. Sugarika KC , Host/Emcee
2	08:45	Sharing session on Ideas and Initiatives for Digital Karnali (5 mins each) <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Address Tracker: Kata Ho - Mr. Laxman Rimal, Technology Sales 2. Digital Rupantaran Package for Adolescent, Mr. Kunga Sandup Lama, UNICEF 3. Mid-Day Meal SMS-based Monitoring System - Purna Nepali/Deepu Maharjan-WFP 4. Smart Education - Mr. Biru Chhetri, Dynamic TechnoSoft 5. AgriTech - Mr. Rajan Bajracharya, GeoKrishi 6. Empowering Karnali's Rural Communities with Satellite Connectivity - Mr. Pradeep Panhaur, Country Representative, Kacific Broadband Satellite Ltd 7. Digital Insurance - Mr. Vijaya Bahadur Shah, Himalayan Insurance 8. Climate Change: 2-Way Model - CCTM 	
3	10:30	<i>Reflection from Day -01 with Photos/Videos from Day -01</i>	Mr. Hariram Rimal , ICT Foundation Nepal
4	10:45	Lightning Presentation: Investment Opportunities for Digital Karnali	Mr. Richan Shrestha President, NAS-IT, Nepal
5	11:00 - 12:00	Panel Discussion: Digital Economy and Investment for Digital Karnali Panelist: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Dr. Binod Prasad Devkota, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Tourism, Forests, and Environment, Karnali Pradesh 2. Dr. Gunakar Bhatta, Spokesperson and Executive Director - PSD, NRB 3. Ms. Maggie Doyne, Co-founder, Kopila Valley Children's Home, Surkhet 4. Mr. Ram Kishor Rawal, Founder President, CAN Federation Surkhet 5. Mr. Rajan Bajracharya, Founder, GeoKRISHI Moderator - Mr. Ganesh Kanchan Bharati , Journalist	
6	12:05	Session Chair's Remarks: Mr. Sushil Bhatta , CEO, Investment Board Nepal, GoN.	
7.	12:15	Special Remarks: Mr. Bed Raj Singh , Hon. Minister, Ministry of Economic Affairs and Planning, Karnali Pradesh	

TEA/COFFEE BREAK (15mins)

Day - 02 | 2nd March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 19 | Saturday

Morning/Afternoon Session | 11:00 - 12:30 Hrs

Theme 05: Unleashing the Potentials for Building Digital Leadership for Digital Karnali

1	12:30	Program Continue and Session Call	Mr. Sangam Mahat , Program Host
2	12:30	Keynote Presentation 3: Digital Leadership for e-Governance and Provincial Governance of Digital Nepal and Digital Karnali	Mr. Dipesh Bista , CEO, e-Governance Commission, GoN
LUNCH BREAK: (45 Mins)			
3	14:00	Lightning Presentation: Strengthening the Digital Leadership and Governance at Local, Provincial, and Federal Level	Mr. Avilash Chakrawarti , e-Governance Expert, PLGSP Karnali Pradesh
4	14:10 - 15:15	Panel Discussion: Unleashing the Potentials for Building Digital Leadership for Digital Karnali Panelist: 1. Mr. Naresh Bhandari , Former Minister, Karnali Pradesh 2. Mr. Dharma Raj Shahi , Mayor, Raskot Nagarpalika, Karnali Pradesh 3. Ms. Tulasa Malla , Hon. Member, Provincial Assembly, Karnali Pradesh 4. Mr. Vivek SJB Rana , ICT Expert, Kathmandu, Nepal 5. Mr. Shankar Sharma , Founder, Aadim College Moderator: - Mr. Bibhusan Bista , CEO, Young Innovation	

Day - 02 | 2nd March 2024 | 2080 Falgun 19 | Saturday

Concluding Session | 13:30 - 15:30 Hrs

Theme 06: Harmonizing Digitalization and Development for Digital Karnali.

#	Time	Activity / Particular	Resource Persons / Remarks
1	15:30	Keynote Presentation 4: Paving the way for Digital Transformation in Karnali: Key Action Points	Dr. Dipendra Rokaya, Former VC, Karnali Province Planning Commission
2	15:45 - 16:45	Panel Discussion: Harmonizing Digitalization and Development for Digital Karnali. Panelist: 1. Mr. Ananda Saru , Secretary, CM Office, Karnali Pradesh 2. Mr. Birendra Kumar Yadav , Secretary, MoIAlMadesh Pradesh 3. Mr. Narayan Timilsina , Under Secretary, IT Division, MoCIT, GoN 4. Mr. Manohar Kumar Bhattarai , ICT Expert and Former VC, HLCIT, GoNICT Expert and Former VC, HLCIT, GoN Moderator - Mr. Hempal Shrestha , ICT and Knowledge Management Specialist	
3	16:50	Special Guest Remarks	
4	17:00	Digital Karnali Conclave 2024 Declaration and key takeaway!	Mr. Krishna Bahadur GC, Hon. Minister, Internal Affairs and Law, Karnali Pradesh
5	17:15	Chief Guest Remarks	Mr. Raj Kumar Sharma Hon. Chief Minister, Karnali Pradesh

**Digital Karnali Conclave 2024 Concludes
With
Group Photo
followed
by
Networking over Tea/Coffee**

● **PHOTOS FROM THE EVENT:-**









- **BRANDING ACTIVITY:-**

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Technology Partner



Digital Payment Partner





Digital KARNALI | Fostering Digital Karnali

THEMES FOR DAY 2

- Theme 4** Digital Economy and Investment for Digital Karnali
- Theme 5** Unleashing the Potentials for Building Digital Leadership for Digital Karnali
- Theme 6** Harmonizing Digitalization and Development for Digital Karnali

Hosted by the Government of Nepal, Kathmandu | www.digitalkarnali.org | 24 & 25 March 2024 (2081 B.S.)

Co-organizers of: IFN, UNDP/UNEP, IFU, NIST, Federation of Nepal Chambers of Commerce, WFP, UKaid, The Ash Foundation, C-SPIDER, Nepal Chamber of Commerce

Supporting Partners: KACIFIC, IMEpaU, Ge9Krishi, DYNAMIC






Digital | Fostering
KARNALI | Digital Karnali
 CONCLAVE 2024

DAY 2 OF EVENT

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<http://register.digitalkarnali.org>

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Digital | Fostering
KARNALI | Digital Karnali
 CONCLAVE 2024

Watch **LIVE** From







2nd & 3rd March 2024
 08:00 PM to 12:00 AM

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We welcome
NEPAL TELECOM
on board as our Supporting Partner



1st & 2nd March 2024
(2080 Falgun 18 & 19)

www.digitalkarnali.org

Siddhartha Resort,
Brendrecagar, Surkhet



We welcome
DYNAMIC ERP
on board as our ERP Partner



1st & 2nd March 2024
(2080 Falgun 18 & 19)

www.digitalkarnali.org

Siddhartha Resort,
Brendrecagar, Surkhet



We welcome
IME PAY
on board as our Digital Payment Partner



1st & 2nd March 2024
(2080 Falgun 18 & 19)

www.digitalkarnali.org

Siddhartha Resort,
Brendrecagar, Surkhet



We welcome
SUNYAEK
on board as our Digital Health Partner



1st & 2nd March 2024
(2080 Falgun 18 & 19)

www.digitalkarnali.org

Siddhartha Resort,
Brendrecagar, Surkhet



● **LIVE BROADCAST:-**





● **NEWS COVERAGE:-**





● **MEDIA LINKS:-**

1. <https://ekantipur.com/market/2024/02/14/digital-karnali-conclave-will-be-held-on-february-18-and-19-36-26.html?fbclid>
2. <https://www.onlinekhabar.com/2024/02/1433683?fbclid>
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4. <https://www.ratopati.com/story/411059/digital-karnali-conclave-?fbclid>

5. <https://www.nepalpress.com/2024/02/12/429186/?fbclid>
6. <https://hamrakura.com/news-details/164022/2024-02-12?fbclid>
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16. https://taksarnews.com/2024/03/24052/?fbclid=IwAR0lHKf7Sdt6Mlx9del2453l9wOOWNFXpUvvo7_qvVNu_RciyUaZ_boe2qc
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21. https://aarthiknews.com/article/ddijittl-krnaalii-bnaaun-ch-vrsspchi-punh-14-bunde-prtibddhtaa?fbclid=IwAR0DgdR_Zdr04GkjdTwUL6u3uE1cxysh2EdFA1qX3AZ6TS1sjRdPrXR1Vg
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● **RECOMMENDATIONS:-**

Policy and Law

- Creating a new framework for Digital Karnali like Digital Nepal Framework.
- Giving special tax exemptions and additional service facilities to companies working in information technology.
- Making leadership technology-friendly.
- Political commitment to make digital Karnali.
- Prepare the necessary strategy and roadmap for digital Karnali.
- Prepare digital standards.
- Working together with the federal government and local government to create a digital Karnali.

- Spend more money on research and development than at present.
- Concessional loans to startups.
- To encourage companies outside Karnali to open branches in Karnali.
- Connecting the farmer's production with the market through technology.

Digital infrastructure

- Providing remote health services through telemedicine.
- Extending the Internet to Karnali.
- Building an IT park.
- Providing electricity to all places in Karnali.
- Building a data center.
- Opening IT colleges in 10 districts of Karnali.
- Connect the GPS system.
- Advancing the concept of Smart City and Smart Village.
- Distribute devices to reduce the digital divide.
- Providing quality services by reducing costs by sharing infrastructure.

Human capital and digital literacy

- To produce skilled manpower for digital Karnali.
- Provide necessary training to the available manpower.
- To develop manpower by providing IT related professional training.
- Using technology to provide quality education in the villages of Karnali.
- Widely used in public schools.
- To arrange scholarships to study IT.
- Arranging grants to specialized ICT institutions.
- To hunt ICT talent in cooperation with various private and government organizations.
- Emphasis on digital literacy about the correct use of technology.
- Moving forward by reducing cyber risk.

Data

- Integrate and interoperate existing data.
- Use of data in policy making and decision making.
- Using data in service delivery to make service easy and quality.
- Enact data privacy and protection laws.
- Establish a culture of data collection, use and sharing.
- Creating a data architecture.
- Ensuring the rights and interests of digital consumers.

Thank You

