

Nepal Budget 2081/82: IT Sector Highlights

Key Initiatives and Allocations

Presented by: Suman Khatri

Introduction

- Overview: Focus on the IT sector's role in the new budget
- Objectives: Boosting IT exports, job creation, and digital infrastructure

Government Budget Overview

- - Total Budget: Rs. 1.86 trillion
- - Ministry of Communication and Information Technology: Rs. 73.50 billion

IT Export and Job Creation

- IT Export Target: NPR 3000 billion over the next 10 years
- Job Creation:
 - - 500,000 direct jobs
 - - 1,000,000 indirect jobs
- Key Strategies:
 - - Incentives for IT startups
 - - Training and development programs for youth

IT Parks and Infrastructure

- IT Parks Development:
 - - Locations: Kathmandu Valley and Butwal
 - - Facilities: High-speed internet, data centers, coworking spaces
- Free Workstations: Provided for three years to startups and innovators
- Investment: NPR 5.9 billion for infrastructure development

Digital Services Expansion

- Broadband Internet Expansion:
 - - Target: All ward offices, community schools, and health institutions
 - - Objective: Reduce the digital divide
- E-Governance Initiatives:
 - - National ID System: Mandatory for accessing various services
 - - E-Visa System: Streamlining visa processes

Knowledge Park

- Location: Khamaltar, Lalitpur
- Investment: NPR 170 million allocated
- Purpose: Center for innovation, research, and development
- Facilities: Modern labs, coworking spaces, training centers

Tax Incentives and Policies

- Dividend Tax Exemption: For IT companies reinvesting profits
- Domestic Software Priority: Government to prioritize locally developed software
- Digital Service Tax: Continued regulation and enforcement to support digital businesses

Educational Initiatives

- Concessional Loans: For students pursuing IT and engineering degrees
- Internship Programs: Collaboration with IT companies to provide practical experience

Conclusion

- Summary: The budget emphasizes the growth of the IT sector through substantial investments, infrastructure development, and policy support.
- Future Outlook: Anticipated growth in IT exports and job creation, driving economic development.