

The **Coronavirus CivActs Campaign (CCC)** gathers rumours, concerns and questions from communities across Nepal to eliminate information gaps between the government, media, NGOs and citizens. By providing the public with facts, the CCC ensures a better understanding of needs regarding the coronavirus and debunks rumours before they can do more harm.

### Occupation/ Business loans repayment period extended

The measures taken to control and prevent COVID-19 have caused difficulties for every occupation, industries and businesses including tourism, health, media and entertainment to pay the principal amount and interest. Taking this into account, the repayment period of the loan has been extended. The repayment period for loans are as follows:



#### Less affected occupation/business

Can pay the principal amount and accrued interest upto Ashad 2077 till Poush 2077



#### Moderately affected occupation/business

Can pay the principal amount and accrued interest upto Ashad 2077 till Chaitra 2077



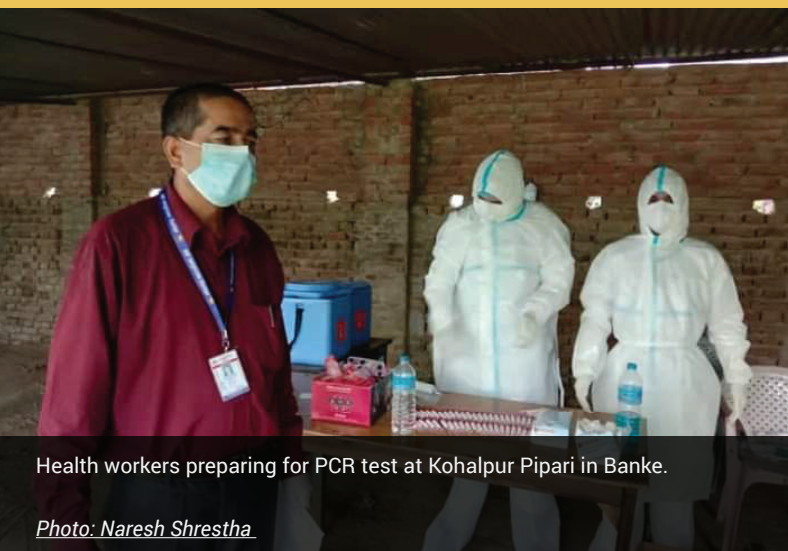
#### Highly affected occupation/business

Can pay the principal and accrued interest upto Ashad 2077 till Ashad 2078

The loan can be moved up to a maximum of 6 months by assessing the needs of the borrower company and the time it takes for the business to start.

Source: [https://archive.nrb.org.np/ofg/monetary\\_policy/Monetary\\_Policy\\_\(in\\_Nepali\)-2077-78\\_\(Full\\_Text\)-new.pdf](https://archive.nrb.org.np/ofg/monetary_policy/Monetary_Policy_(in_Nepali)-2077-78_(Full_Text)-new.pdf)

## Nepal Update



Health workers preparing for PCR test at Kohalpur Pipari in Banke.

Photo: Naresh Shrestha

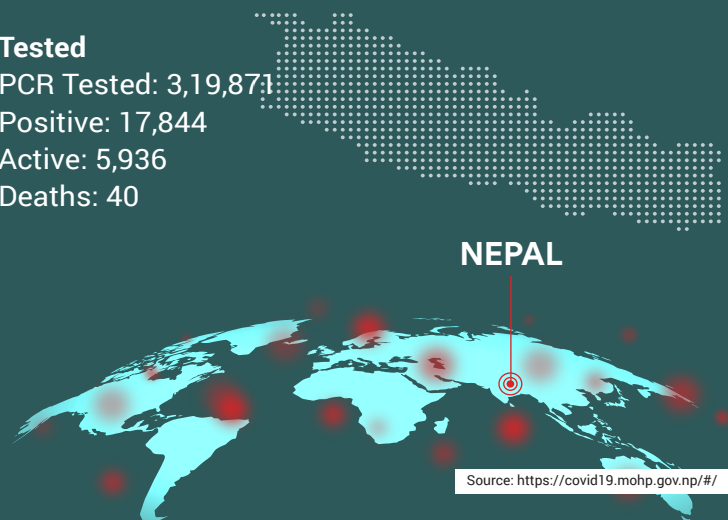
#### Tested

PCR Tested: 3,19,871

Positive: 17,844

Active: 5,936

Deaths: 40



NEPAL

Source: <https://covid19.mohp.gov.np/#/>

# Rumors & Facts



Is Nepal becoming free of corona? It appears so when you look at public life.

The rate of infection is surely declining, but we can't call Nepal corona free. So far, the number of infected people has been zero in eight districts namely Dhankuta, Panchtar, Bhojpur, Rasuwa, Manang, Mustang, Jumla and Humla. On the basis of daily tests, the maximum of 16.5% cases was confirmed of infection earlier which has dropped to 2.3%. Even if the public life appears normal, it is important to follow the safety guidelines issued by the Ministry of Health.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1OSUv00GfeoHOobLoBeBT35baYepNH9yC>



It is said that due to the lack of health experts, the CCCMC couldn't work effectively, and couldn't understand health sensitiveness.

In this regard, it has been decided by the meeting of Council of Ministers held on 29 Ashad 2077 that the structure of the provincial level COVID-19 Crisis Management Center established as per the decision of Council of Ministers on 16 Chaitra 2076 would include the head of Provincial Health Directorate and the structure of the district level COVID -19 Crisis Management Center would include the head of District Health Office.

Source: <https://mocit.gov.np/categorydetail/cabinet-meeting-decisions>



In the current situation, is there any arrangement to take the body of the individual who died in the course of foreign employment from the airport to his home? Where should we contact for that?

The process has started to bring back the bodies of Nepalis who died due to reasons other than corona during foreign employment. The secretariat of Foreign Employment Board has requested the family members to contact 9841507898 (Dinbandhu Subedi), 9855032288 (Ashish Bhandari) and 9851185186 (Maiya Kandel) for the free transportation provided by the secretariat of the Foreign Employment Board.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/ed.fepb>



It is heard that the government itself is shutting down the manpower companies that cannot send 100 workers annually.

The government has taken a new decision considering that the process of sending workers abroad has been obstructed due to COVID -19 for those companies with license. According to which, it has been said that the license of the licensed companies which has not been able to send 100 workers annually for two consecutive years will be renewed for 2077/78. But such organizations while renewing for 2077/78 should have sent a total of 200 workers for foreign employment in between 2076/77 to the end of Ashad 2078.


Source: <https://moless.gov.np/?p=3512#post/0>

To receive our regular updates through WhatsApp

1. Add +27 60 080 6146 to your contact list.
2. Send a message saying Nepal to the contact.



Toll-free **HOTLINE** on  
**COVID-19**

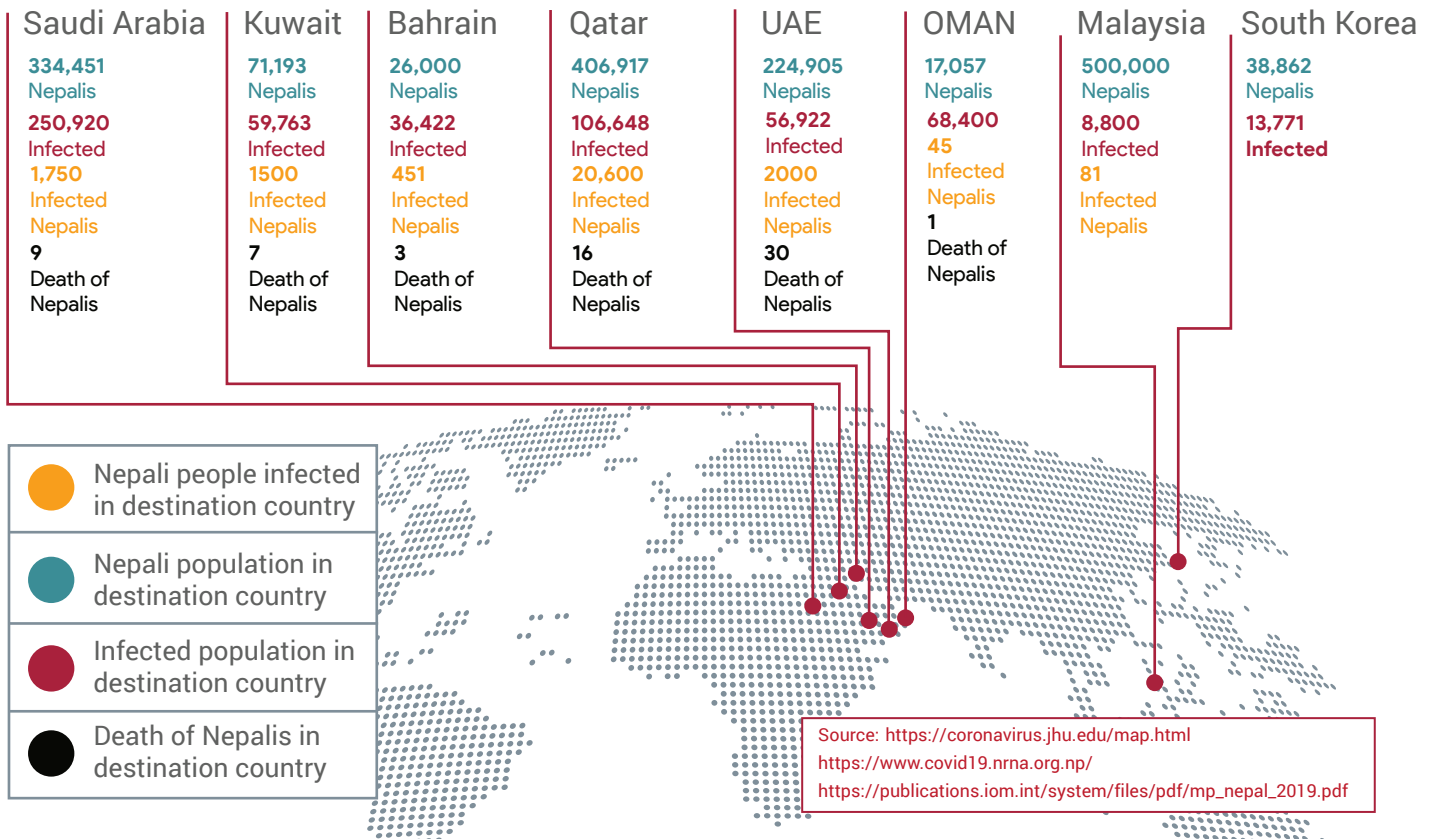
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# Open Migration

## Migrant workers in major destination countries



**What can be done for the laborers in foreign employment who cannot return on their own money to get the air ticket facilities provided by the government?**

**ShramikSanjal**

### Criteria required to get the air ticket facility:

1. Must have gone from Nepal with a labor permit and must have labor period remaining.
2. Must have not received or be in a position to receive support from company or anywhere else.



The amount would be transferred to the bank account only after verifying whether or not the person is eligible for it.

### Which category of individuals will get what kind of support?



1. 100% for those with less than 1 year contract period
2. 75% for those whose contract period has expired but hasn't obtained reissued labor permit
3. 50% of the airfare would be provided by the government to those who have returned for foreign employment after obtaining a reissued labor permit.

The application can be submitted by both who are abroad or have returned to Nepal. If the application has to be submitted in the prescribed format at the diplomatic mission (Embassy) abroad, the application can be submitted to the department of Foreign Employment in Nepal.

# \$ Follow the Money

## Total

The budget allocated from Nepal Government and Ministry of Finance in three rounds  
**Around 1.48B NRS**

The total fund in Coronavirus Infection Prevention, Treatment and Control Fund  
**Around 2.26B NRS**

## Federal Government

Donors

**250M USD** ADB  
**28.7M USD** World Bank  
**130.9M USD** IMF  
**82M USD** European Union

## Spent

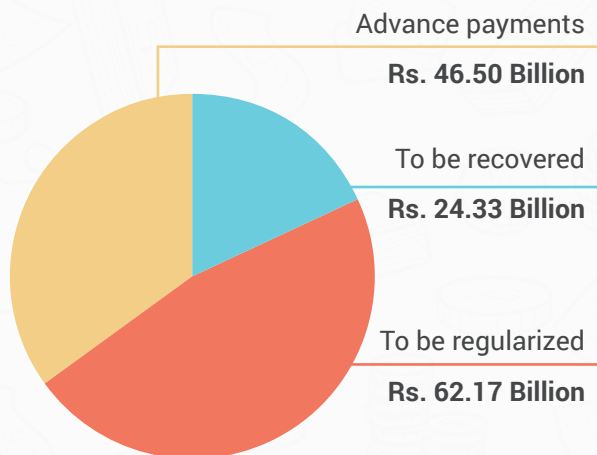
The total expenditure of Nepal government's activities against Coronavirus  
**Around 1.8B NRS**

The Ministry of Defence for the purchase of health equipment to prevent and control COVID-19 released  
**Around 2.34B NRS**

## Provincial Government

Province Names	Province 1	Province 2	Bagmati Province	Gandaki Province	Province 5	Karnali Province	Sudurpaschim Province
<b>Total Amount</b>	Around 294M NRS	Around 266M NRS	Around 429M NRS	Around 183M NRS	Around 156M NRS	Around 254M NRS	Around 425M NRS
<b>Spent Amount</b>	Around 193M NRS	Around 133M NRS	Around 136M NRS	Around 154M NRS	Around 779M NRS	Around 239M NRS	Around 364M NRS

## Status of Arrears in Fiscal Year 2075/2076



## TOTAL ARREARS

AROUND

**133 BILLION NRS**

Arrears are groups of funds that have either been spent by government agencies without following any legal recourse or have not been correctly accounted for. The three types of expenses which constitute arrears are:

**To be recovered** - Amount spent without following due legal recourse or spent more than it should have been spent, and needs to be recovered by the spending agency.

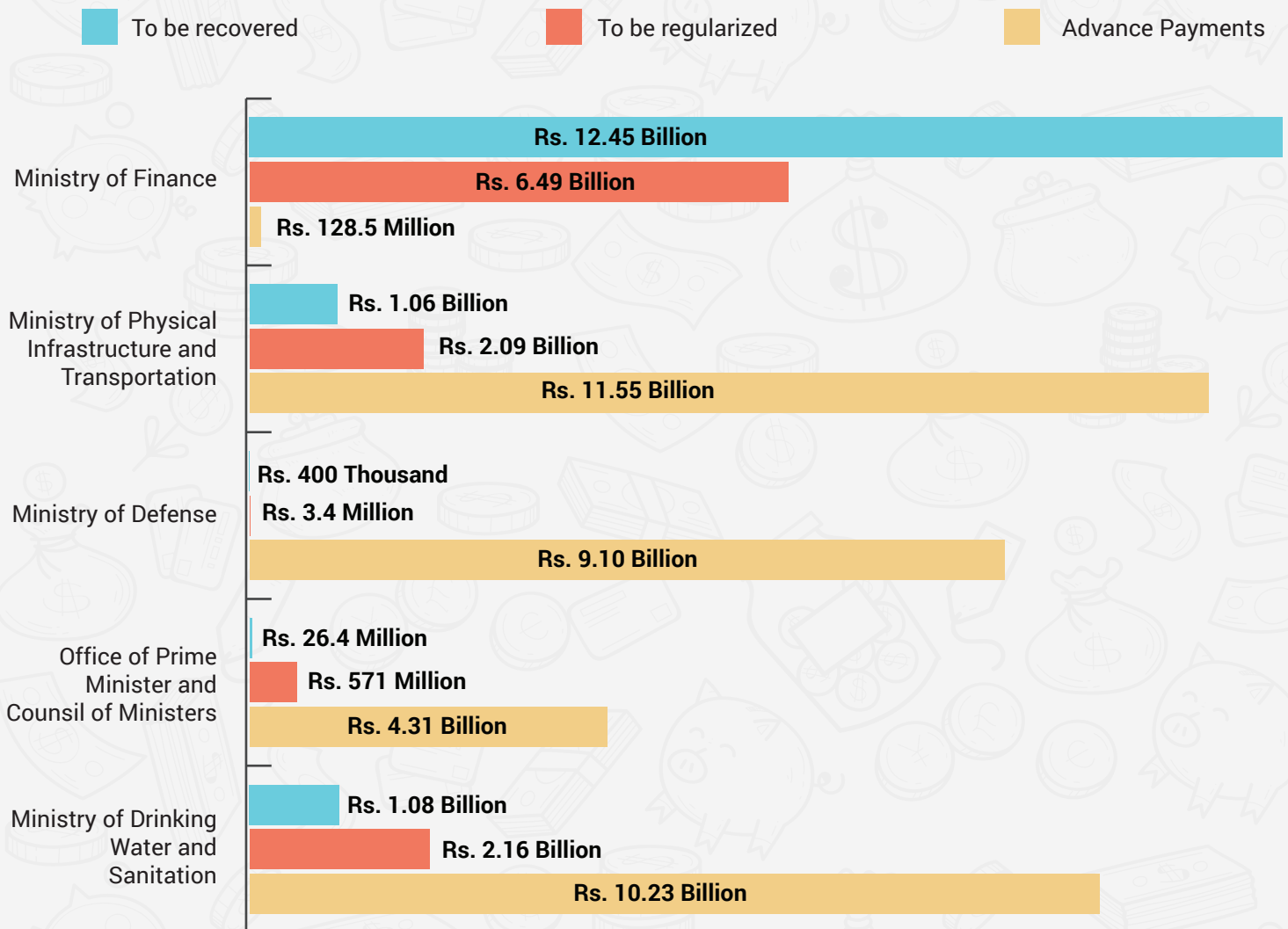
**To be regularized** - Amount spent without adopting proper accounting standards.

**Advance payments** - Amount given as advance payments but not settled within the fiscal year.

The information regarding the status of arrearshas been disclosed for the fiscal year 2075/2076 in this issue.

# \$ Follow the Money

## Comparison of top five ministries whose arrears were highest in fiscal year 2075/2076 by expense types



Comparing data of the top five ministries whose arrears were highest in the fiscal year 2075/2076 gives a more clear idea of where the problem lies. It is interesting to note that the Prime Minister Office also falls in the top 5 position in arrears even though it includes agencies that work to make better public finances in Nepal and curtail practices of unappropriated funds to be spent. A high level of advance payments by all agencies besides the Ministry of Finance paint a very worrisome picture. This means that spending was done at the end of the fiscal year and settlements were not performed during the same fiscal year. As shown from above table, the Ministry of Defense has almost 100% of its arrears as advance payments followed by Prime Minister's Office and Physical Infrastructure and Transportation ministry which have 88% and 79% as the advance payments respectively. This proves that these agencies have spent funds during the last days of the fiscal year providing no room for settlements. This is against the basics of public finance management where spending has to be done in time and properly accounted for.

*Note: This information is not complete. It has been brought together from different sources available. We will keep collecting the data and revise it in the days ahead.*

# The rise of technology amidst vulnerable world economy due to COVID -19

The world economy has become vulnerable due to COVID-19. According to the World Bank projection, the world GDP will decline by 5.2% in 2020. Tourism, hospitality, and the global labor market is estimated to take years to recover. However, some technological businesses have gained opportunity to uplift themselves at this time.

## E-commerce



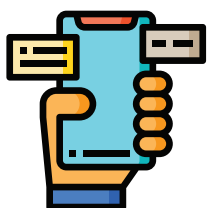
One area that has flourished since the worldwide transmission of COVID-19 is online business. Most people used to buy luxury items online earlier. After the worldwide lockdown, the people started ordering daily necessities items such as pulses, rice, salt, oil, medicines and other essentials through online shopping at home. Many online business' stores went empty. As other business shrunk, many online businesses expanded.

## Video conferencing

The world is becoming technology-friendly. However, after COVID-19 business and service offices suddenly came to a standstill. Employees were forced to work from home. Gradually, they became accustomed to video conferencing. According to Microsoft's mid-March report, the "Team tool" users alone grew by 37% in a month. The daily users were 44 million. On March 31, a record was set of 2.7 billion meetings held in a single day.



## Mobile application



The number of people downloading mobile applications also rapidly increased during this period. The people in quarantine particularly made more use of mobile applications to learn about the situation outside home and stay informed. The use of Google Android, iPhone app, Whatsapp and Facebook messenger has skyrocketed. Meanwhile, the number of Health and Fitness apps in Europe has increased by 46%. Amazon users spent 20 million alone in the first quarter of the year, which is also the most downloaded application worldwide.



## Frontliner's Voices



### Dr Sandip Ukheda

Medical Superintendent

District Hospital, Bajhang

“In the last week of Jestha, the number of people coming from outside increased at once. More than 3,000 people had to stay in the quarantine in Bajhang district at one time. During that time, the laboratories in Dhangadhi and Kathmandu were full of samples. The results of the sample sent on 2/3 of Ashad came only on 28/29. When the results came late, some of

the people had to be quarantined for up to 52 days. However, the patience and support of the local level made our work easier. In the meantime, two people in quarantine committed suicide with the fear that they were infected, but their results were negative. This incident made us health workers a little disappointed. After that, we gave high priority to psycho-counselling along with treatment”.

### Pawan Kumar Mandal

Health Focal Person

Matihani Municipality, Mahottari

“We are the ones who are more informed, we have the responsibility to inform others and we are more afraid of the infection. We have to stay in direct contact with the patient. We feel suspicious with everyone. Despite this, we are always ready to work on treatment. We heard the rumors that the government is giving incentive allowances. My subordinate health workers are asking, “will the incentive allowance given by the government come to us or not? I am the person whom they ask. I do not know what I should answer. The confidence of the health workers would increase if the government implemented the decision.”



### Naresh Kumar Shrestha

Corona Focal Person

Banke

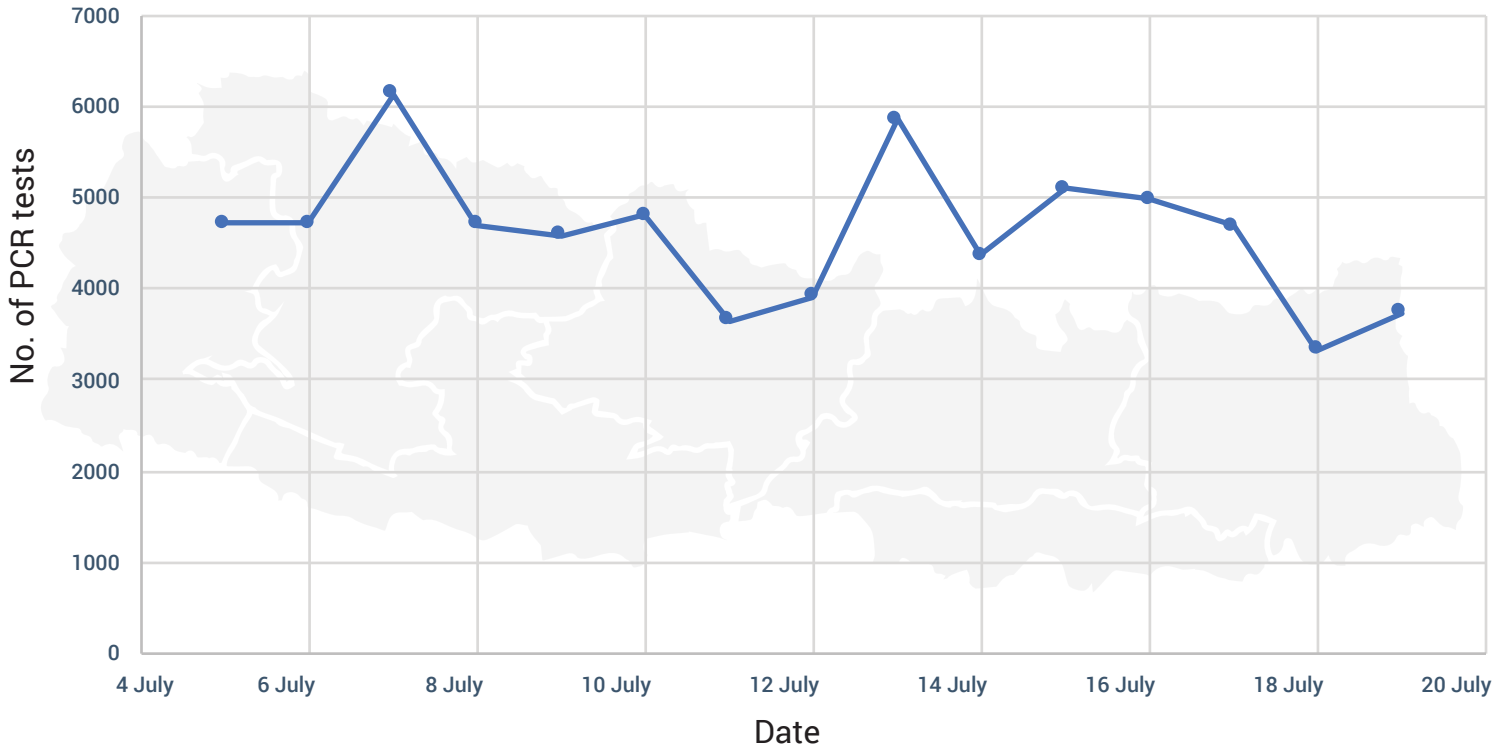
“The first case of infection was seen in the district on 19 Baisakh. After that, Nepalgunj became the epicenter of corona and it was discussed all over the country. Following the death of one person, there came a situation where security personnel and health workers refused to go to the area. The situation became normal as I myself got involved. However, I felt discriminated against when the

friends who used to eat together with me started staying away”.



# Daily number of PCR tests falling. Are we really ready for loosened lockdown?

PCR Tests in July



The above graph shows the total number of positive cases and PCR tests performed per million population in South Asia regarding COVID-19. It can be seen that Nepal performed the third highest number of tests per million population while the total number of positive cases per million population is the lowest after Bhutan and Sri Lanka. Despite many challenges we have experienced in the past four months with limited testing kits and border issues, Nepal's effort towards controlling the spread of COVID-19 is moderate. But, there are still areas where the control of coronavirus can be improved, which would improve Nepal's situation a lot more.

Source: HEOC, MoHP, SitRep

DISCLAIMER

The sources of rumors, information, and issues presented here are collected from a variety of organizations, government agencies, international organizations, news articles, social media, and Community Frontliners in all 7 provinces of Nepal, as well as the CivActs team based on their conversations with over 2000 people in July 2020. The issues highlighted are chosen based on prevalence, relevance, and its potential impact on society. The information presented here is correct at the time of the issue.



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