

Issue **105**
12|05|2021



Patients being treated in the gallery and outdoors as the beds in the emergency room of Seti Provincial Hospital are not vacant.

Photo By: Pradip Pathak

Bir hospital's new building to be made a 500 bed COVID hospital



[For more information, click here.](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

641 ICU beds and 341 ventilators vacant

If the data is correct, where is the government missing in management?

Where to complain against violence, assault and lack of access to consumer goods?

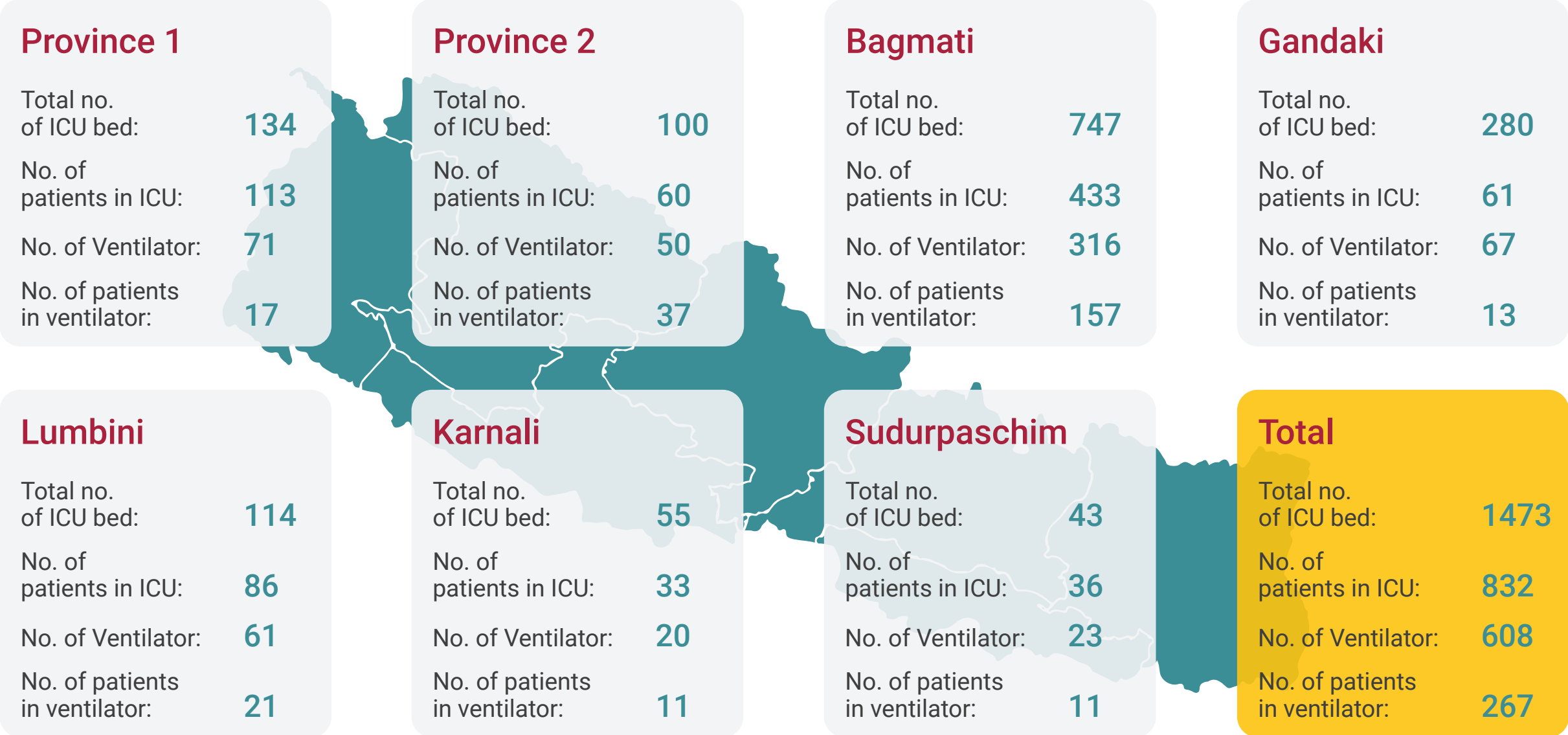
National Human Rights Commission has made telephone and email details public for complaints and counseling.

Covishield vaccine's timeline

The vaccine could not arrive in Nepal because of the obstruction from the local agent. It is challenging for the Government of Nepal to purchase covid vaccines from India because of the increase in cases there.

FACT SHEET

ICU beds and ventilators in number

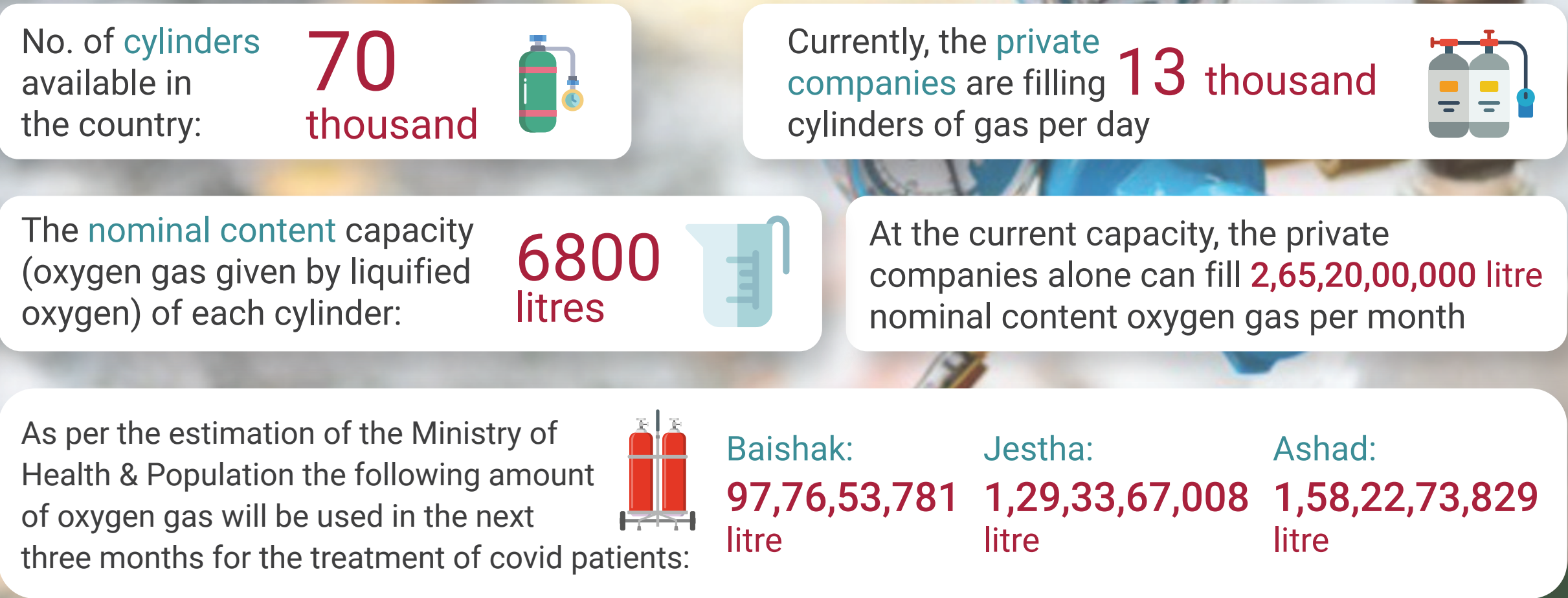


9th May, 2021

If we look into the statistics presented above, out of 1,473 beds only 832 beds are occupied. Similarly, 237 ventilators of 608 are in use. This suggests that 641 ICU beds and 341 ventilators are empty. On the other hand, there has been news of infected people not getting space at hospitals and dying. If the statistics are correct, then where is the government missing in management? Isn't immediate attention towards the issue necessary?

Source: <https://cutt.ly/hb02J1n>

Oxygen Shortage



According to the above statistics, the current oxygen production capacity will be sufficient even in the month of Ashad where the high transmission rate is estimated.

Source: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1GLVuN1RGJsSVpY9zJkern9l0VXaqI4Ga/view>

RUMOURS & FACTS

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It is heard that even those who have received both doses of vaccination can still be infected.

Yes, even those individuals who have received both doses of vaccine against COVID can also get infected. The effectiveness of the currently used vaccine is only 70 to 80%. Therefore, it is important to follow health standards even after getting vaccinated. However, those who have been vaccinated with both doses have a lower risk than those who haven't been vaccinated.

Source: <https://mohe.gov.np/en>

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With the beginning of lockdown, the incidents of discrimination and violence have also increased. Where to file a complaint in such a case?

The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has made public telephone and email contacts for complaints or counseling on sexual and domestic violence, child abuse, lack of access to consumer goods, deprivation of health care, and all forms of discrimination. The details regarding the contacts of the federal and provincial-based offices and branch offices are given in the link below.

Source: https://www.nhrcnepal.org/nhrc_new/doc/newsletter/1733651924flyercovid.pdf

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It is heard that the government has made a decision to rescue critically ill corona patients by air.

The federal government hasn't made any such decision, but a meeting of the Karnali Province Covid Crisis Management Center, chaired by the Chief Minister of Karnali Province government has made a decision in this matter. According to the decision, the Ministry of Social Development of the Province government will arrange an air ambulance (helicopter) for the emergency rescue of the patients.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/SblZHZr>

COVID VACCINE CONTROVERSY

What is actually killing us? The virus? Or **corruption**, **lack of efficiency** and **honest leadership**?



Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli announced, "We will vaccinate all Nepalis within three months."



January 21

India gifts **1 million** doses of Astrazeneca covishield vaccines to Nepal



January 27

The **first phase** of vaccination administration starts



2nd phase of vaccination administration started.

March 7

Nepal receives **380,000** doses of covishield vaccines along with **350,000** syringes and **3500** vaccine safety boxes from COVAX facility



February 21

Nepal decides to purchase **2 million** doses of Astrazeneca covishield vaccines from India, **1 million** of which gets delivered at **\$4** per vial



Early March

Nepal starts discussion to purchase **5 million** doses of Astrazeneca covishield vaccines from India



Late March

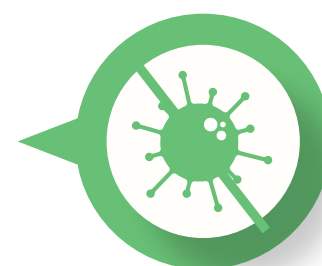
The number of cases surge in India, and the government **bans** the export of vaccines



Dispute between the health ministry and Nepali agents of Sirum Institute (Producers of Astrazeneca covishield vaccines) on vaccine import commission arises. The local agents halt the import of vaccines.

March 29

China donates **800,000** vaccines to Nepal for people working in import business with Chinese and students studying in China



As of 28th April 2021, **7.17%** of the total population have been vaccinated once for COVID prevention in Nepal, out of which only **1.2%** have been vaccinated both times. Nepal needs **1.6 million** doses of Astrazeneca covishield vaccine to provide the second dose to citizens who have received the first dose. Nepal was expecting to receive the **1 million** dose that was already contracted with India, along with the **5 million** purchase they had planned in March, but due to the interventions from local partners, this process has been delayed for months. As the cases in India keeps rising, it's become more and more difficult for the Nepali government to procure vaccines from India. The current scenario suggests that there's still a long way for Nepal to become immunized and secure its citizens.

Travel ban in Kuwait for those who haven't been vaccinated and amnesty on the occasion of Ramadan in Qatar

Kuwait:

- Kuwaiti citizens who haven't been vaccinated, their blood relatives and household workers are banned from travelling. However, those who have received two doses of vaccination haven't been banned.
- The Public Authority for Manpower (PAM) has decided that the workers who have completed one year of work permit will be allowed to change the company. However, it is mandatory to receive the sponsor or approval of the company. Although this rule has been implemented to reduce the shortage of workers in the labor market rendered due to corona, it will be applicable until further notice.
- The dining service in restaurants, which had been closed for some time for full health precautions, is set to start from May 17.



Qatar

- Old notes will no longer be valid from 1 June, 2021. If anyone has old Qatari notes, it should be exchanged before 1 June.
- On the occasion of EID, the government offices, ministries and other public offices will be closed from 9 May 2021 to 18 May 2021. The Nepali Embassy will also be closed on May 12 and 13.
- On the occasion of Ramadan, people who are serving jail terms on various charges have been granted amnesty this year as well. Among them, 14 people are Nepali citizens.

You can listen to our Facebook live at www.facebook.com/shramik.sanjali every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday evening UAE time (8: 00 PM), Kuwait (7: 00 PM) and Malaysia (12 Midnight).

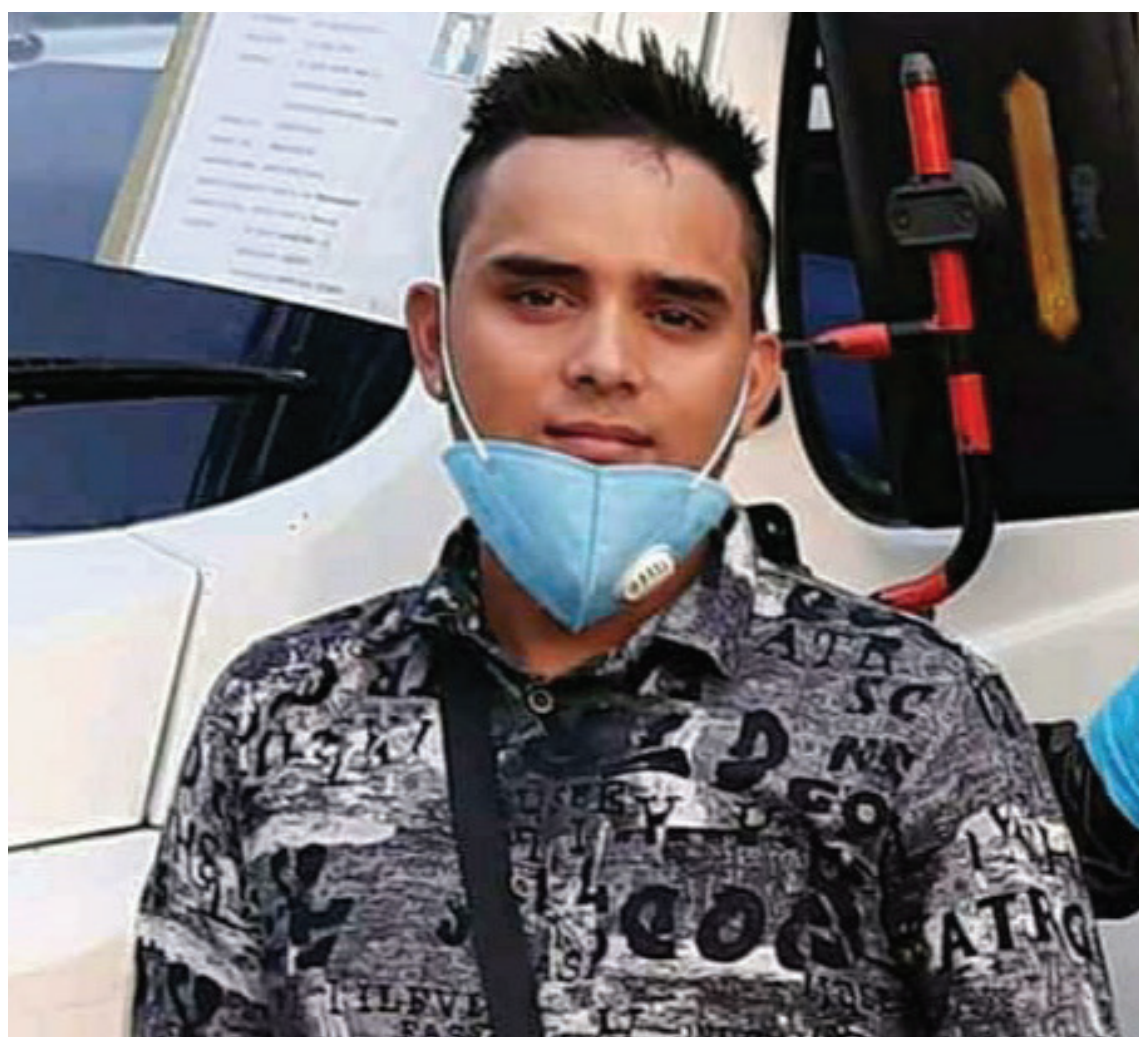


STORY

If I will survive, I would go to foreign land for labor work

Narayan Bohara lives in Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Ward No. 9. He has 10 members in his family including his parents, wife, one brother and sister-in-law and two children and his brother. He could study only upto class 4. Due to poor financial condition of the family, he had to go to India for employment at the young age of 14-15. It has been almost 12 years since he started going to India for work. Earlier, his father also used to travel to India for employment. But later, when his father could not go, his brother would also go to India for employment. Narayan traveled to Delhi for employment after his brother's income alone made it difficult to support his family.

In Delhi, he used to work as a car washman during the day and as a watchman at night. He would work day and night not caring about any festivals in another country. The amount he earned in this way was enough to feed his family. His work came to halt last year after the Indian government announced a lockdown due to the corona pandemic. When there was no work, he returned to Nepal with his brother at the end of Chaitra 2077.



He stayed home for about a year. During that time, he submitted an application for employment in the Prime Minister Employment Program. He went time and again for inquiry but each time he would return with an answer to come again tomorrow. After several times, he stopped visiting there for inquiry. Due to the compulsion to raise a family, he moved back to India.



Delhi, where he was working, got hard-hit by the second COVID wave. Nepalis working there were pressured to return home. All the money earned had been sent home some time ago. He didn't have money to pay for a return ticket. He returned to Nepal with a colleague within five months of going to India.

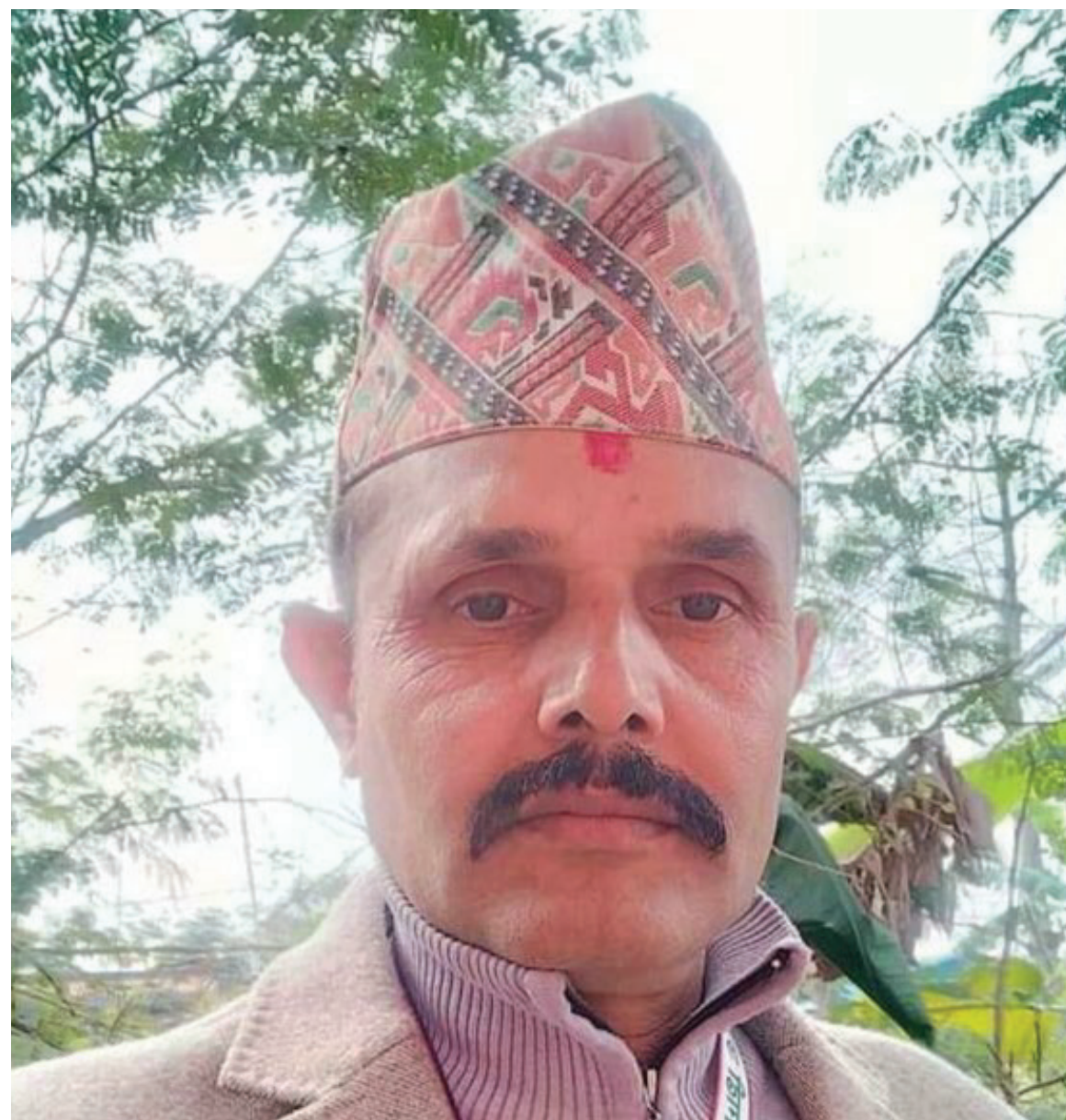
“Last year as well, I came back with high hopes to do something in Nepal, but later had to return to India. Perhaps it will be the same this time too. Now there is no hope left. When will this wave of corona possibly calm down? If I survive this, I would go to the neighbouring country again for work.”

VOICES OUT LOUD

I got infected from covid while bringing the truth and factual news to the public. When I had to be admitted to the hospital and was administered oxygen that is when I realized that there has been no preparation for the second wave of the covid-19. No manpower, no oxygen, no infrastructure. However, in the meantime, the number of people showing the covid symptoms was increasing. Covid infection in such a situation makes one psychologically weak. Let's not be careless. Let's not just depend on the fact that the government will provide treatment. The situation of Karnali is dire. The scenario might be similar in other places as well. So let's keep ourselves safe and let's not go out of the houses.

NAGENDRA UPADHAYA

Journalist, Surkhet



NARAYAN BARAL

Ward Chairperson,
Dhangadhi Sub-Metropolitan City, Ward no. 8

This year, the situation is similar to that of last year. Last year, after the pandemic thousands of Nepali who had gone to India for employment had returned. Even this year, hundreds of Nepalis are returning. The cases are increasing day by day in an alarming way because we did realize and reflect upon our mistakes of last time. Not correcting those mistakes has resulted in the problem we are facing. On the other hand, it is also necessary that people act responsibly. Whether knowingly or unknowingly, taking covid in a light way, has contributed to things getting more serious. Our small carelessness can cause great harm.

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS - Foresight Accountability in Covid-19 Response - is an open platform that connects citizens, leaders and institutions; and exchanges authentic information to tackle misinformation and popular myths around Covid-19 in Nepal. The ongoing crisis of the Coronavirus pandemic demands quick, scientific and fair information around health services, livelihoods, and social security. With FAIR FACTS we build an ecosystem of changemakers and use the power of real stories and voices from all corners of the country for a disaster response mechanism that is fair and equitable.

Covid-19 is not just a health crisis but also exacerbates a lack of integrity and accountability in governance systems. To help beat this virus effectively, we track facts, share helpful information, and build unlikely networks.

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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 different people, directly and indirectly, over the past week. 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.

REACH OUT TO US ON



Email: civactsnep@accountabilitylab.org

Phone: 9851203219