

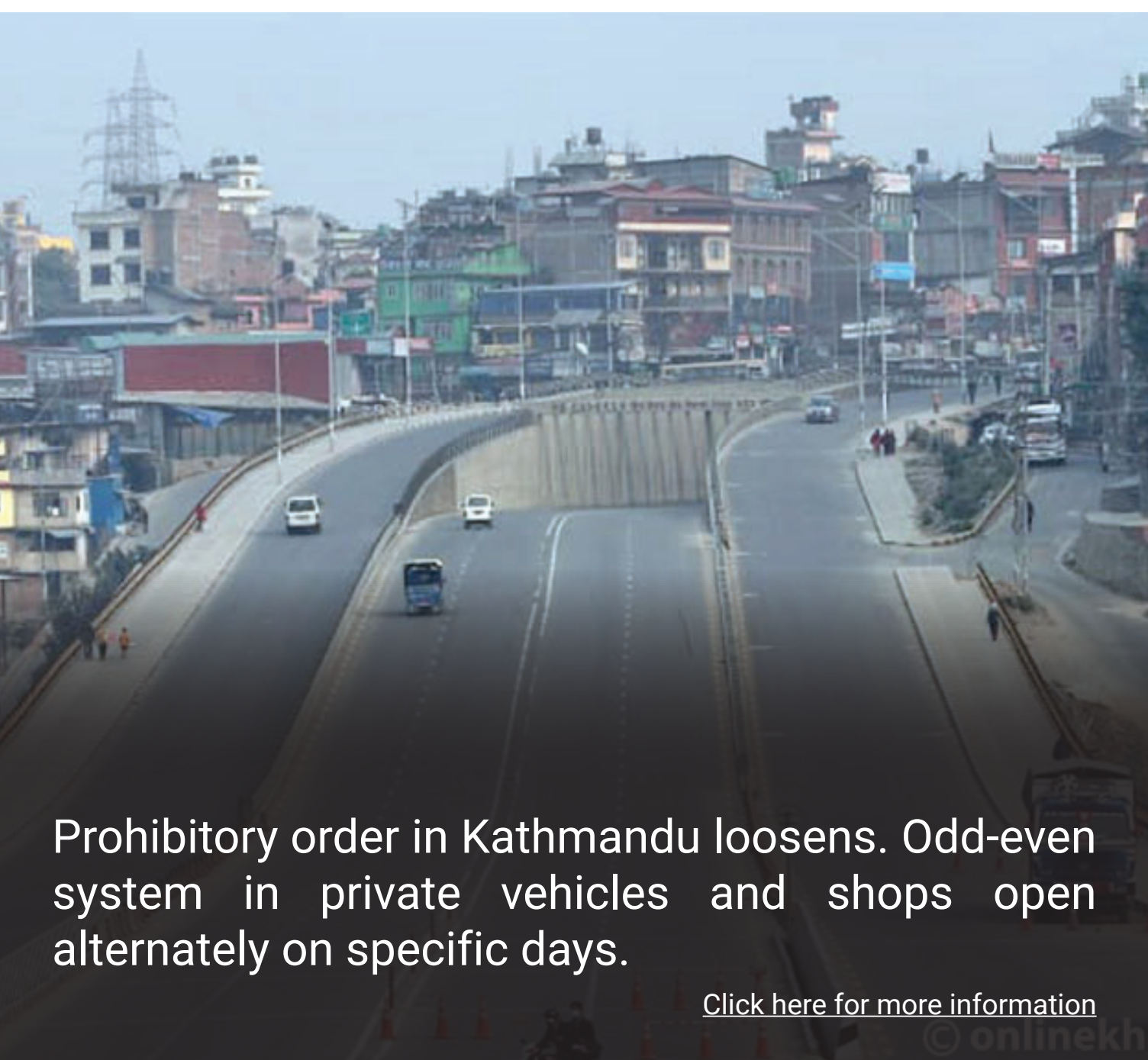
ISSUE
No. **112**

28.06.2021



Distributing nutritious food to the postpartum mothers under “Maternity program with Deputy -Mayor”

Photo by: Rojan Tamang



Prohibitory order in Kathmandu loosens. Odd-even system in private vehicles and shops open alternately on specific days.

[Click here for more information](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Inside this issue

There's the rumour that the delta plus variant in the third wave of COVID will ruin people's life.

Delta variant is 78%-121% more infectious. Delta plus is the other form of delta variant.

Is it true that the government is providing the second dose of vaccine to those who have received the first dose?

People who have received the first dose of the Covishield do not fall under this category.

Discrimination against dalit people during the COVID-19 pandemic

The government and the security system that is supposed to protect citizens were the perpetrators.

FACT SHEET

Are provincial governments doing enough for Nepal's health and economic recovery?

5 Lumbini Province

Total Budget:

40.97 billion NRS

Directly related to COVID-19 (0.88%)

- Health infrastructure and laboratories development: 235 million NRS
- COVID affected agriculture based livelihood promotion: 110 million NRS
- Promote e-learning: 12 million NRS

Indirectly related to COVID-19 (1.86%)

- Alternative medicine: 30 million NRS
- General health campaign: 80 million NRS
- Health services, hospital capacity and health personnel development: 520 million NRS
- Equipment procurement and upgrading: 190 million NRS

6 Karnali Province

Total Budget:

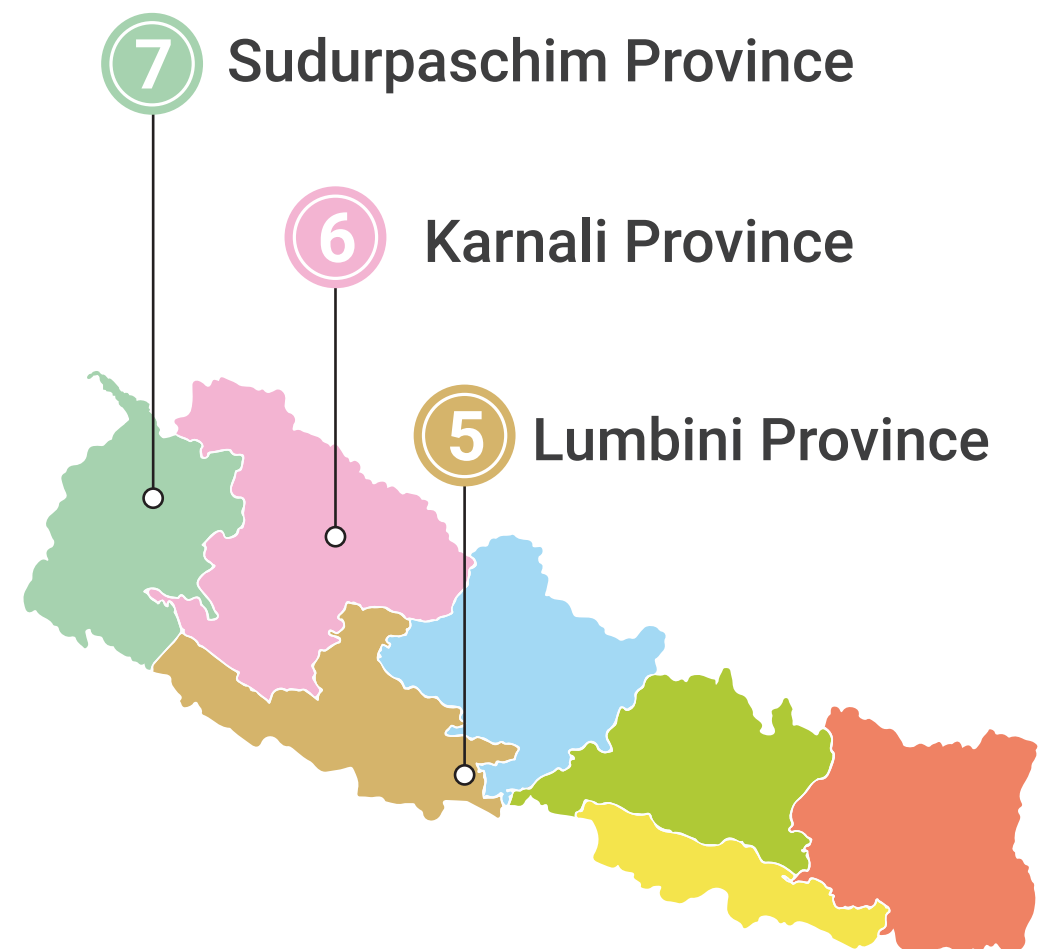
36.54 billion NRS

Directly related to COVID-19 (1.6%)

- COVID-19 treatment, prevention and control: 539.8 million NRS
- Lab testing facilities: 33.5 million NRS

Indirectly related to COVID-19 (7.56%)

- Purchase equipment for hospitals: 139.6 million NRS
- Improving health services and infrastructure: 26.1 million NRS
- Promoting education through virtual means: 15 million NRS



7 Sudurpaschim Province

Total Budget:

30.33 billion NRS

Directly related to COVID-19 (3%)

- COVID-19 management: 9.7 million NRS
- Equipment purchase for COVID-19: 900 million NRS

Indirectly related to COVID-19 (2.45%)

- Constructing health facilities at local level: 10 million NRS
- Hospitals and laboratory development: 462.7 million NRS
- Free insurance for health personnel: 55.5 million NRS
- Purchasing equipment and medicine: 142.7 million NRS
- Alternative medicine: 74.2 million NRS

The recently published annual budget for Lumbini, Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces have also mentioned prioritizing recovery and relief from COVID-19 in objectives and priorities, but these are not reflected in budget allocations. The allocation in Lumbini province stands out to be especially low. The province government has also provisioned for economic relief and recovery, but their share in the budget is not shown. Surely the provincial government should be able to do more for the private sector through this budget. Economic revival has been mentioned as one of the strategies to achieve budget objectives but it is disheartening to observe that Karnali and Sudurpaschim provinces have not allocated any budget in this area.

RUMORS & FACTS

?

There are rumors that the Delta plus variant will ruin people's lives in the third COVID wave.

Compared to the earlier wave, the Beta variant is 23% - 33% more contagious, Alfa variant is 24% - 34% more contagious, Gama variant is 33%- 51% more contagious, Kappa variant is 28% - 89% and Delta variant is 78% - 121% more contagious. Among these, the variant observed in Nepal is the Delta variant. The other strain is Delta Plus, which is observed in 9 samples in Nepal. It is seen in 11 other countries including India. Although the variant is more contagious, it will not have much effect if we are responsible.

Source: <https://www.facebook.com/mohpnep/videos/345287370282105>

Only those who have been vaccinated with the first dose of Verocell will be vaccinated with the second dose this time from 22nd Ashad. Those who received the first dose of Covishield vaccine aren't included. The government will issue a notice to those who have received the first dose of Covishield when the second dose will be available.

Source: <https://cutt.ly/dmymn3l>

?

It is heard that the government is giving a second dose of vaccine to those who received the first dose against corona. Who is getting the vaccine this time?

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Are the public transports in Kathmandu now allowed to operate on the basis of an odd-even system?

It hasn't been said that all types of public transports are allowed to operate. Only public transport with seat capacity more than 25 will be allowed to run in the odd-even system. This means that the microbus and tempo will still not be able to operate. The permitted vehicles will operate only from 6: 00 am to 7: 00 pm.

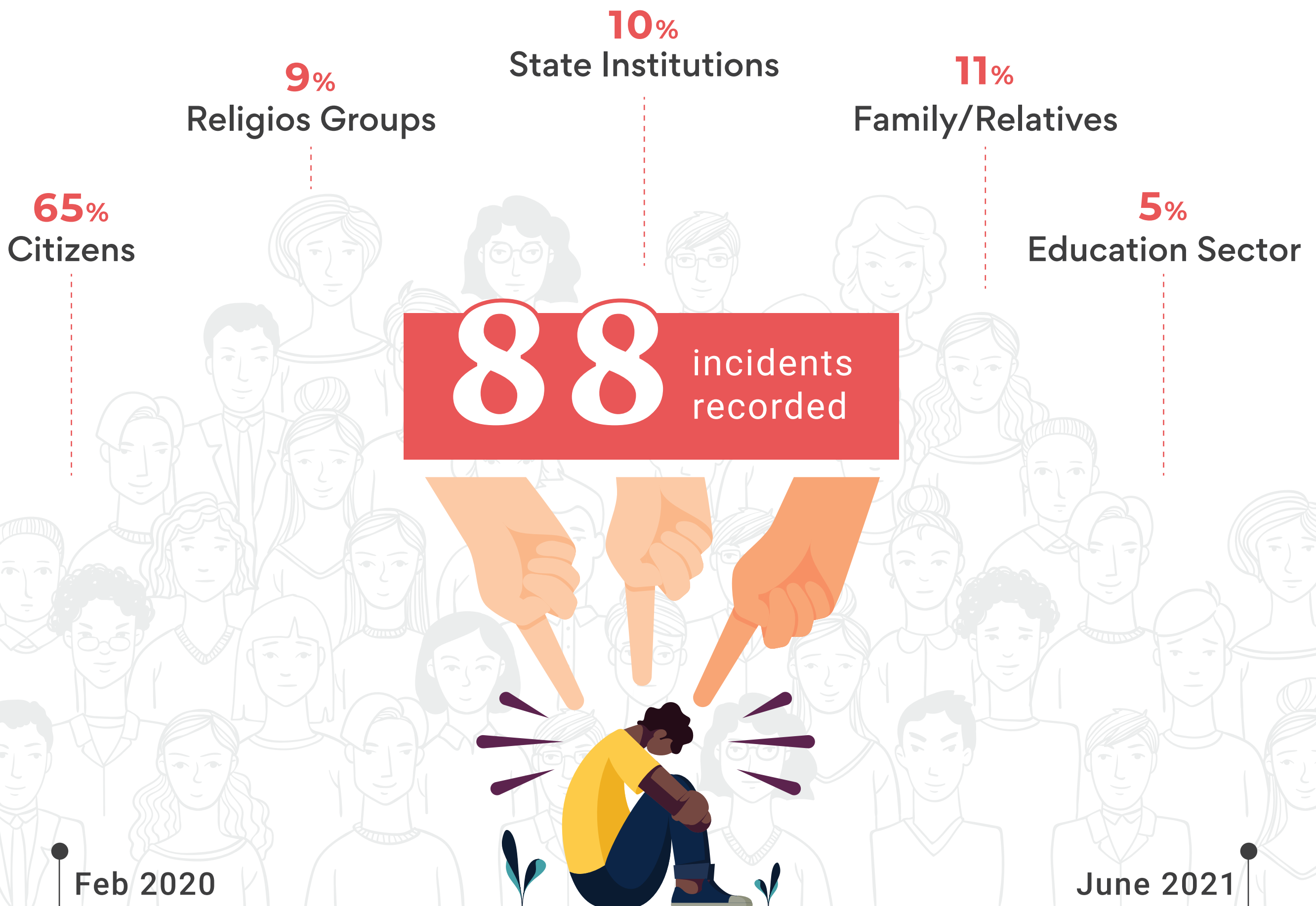
Source: <https://daokathmandu.moha.gov.np/public/upload/>

CASTE BASED DISCRIMINATION

Discrimination against dalit people during the COVID-19 pandemic



What is actually killing us? The virus? Or **discrimination, hate** and a **lack of empathy?**



Disclaimer: This is disaggregated data collected by compiling published reports of discrimination against dalits in online media, national dailies, district-level newspapers, and police websites. Therefore, the data reflects a trend rather than the actual prevalence of caste-based discrimination during the period.

Caste-based discrimination has been prevalent in Nepal for a very long time. The government has created policies against it, but the discrimination in caste, especially against the Dalit people, has not diminished. Even during the lockdown and different forms of restrictions due to the coronavirus pandemic, many caste-related incidents were recorded. Most of the perpetrators were citizens and religious groups discriminating against Dalits violating their identity, rights, and justice. What's more baffling is that some of the perpetrators were even State institutions and security personals. The government that's supposed to protect civic rights, actually having a hand in discrimination shows very poor governance. Dalit women have also faced a lot of discrimination and violence from their spouse's family members in different forms. When will the discrimination stop? Is there no solution to this deep-rooted problem in our society? Or are we lacking in personal integrity and proper governance?

Source: <https://nepalmonitor.org/>

Department of Foreign Employment open for 3 days in a week

The office of Department of Foreign Employment, Tahachal will now open for 3 days a week (Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday). Although the office is open, only the ones who do not have the biometrics will receive the service. Those who have their biometrics registered in the system can receive their work permit online.

Qatar:

- Old Riyal has to be exchanged by 31st December.
- 30 lakh people in Qatar have already received the COVID vaccine.
- Nepal Embassy and Qatar media corporation are discussing collaboration to conduct informative radio programs in near future. Currently one can listen to only online radio "Radio Olive Nepal" in Qatar.



Kuwait:

The government has made the following decisions on who can enter any shopping malls, restaurants, salons, health clubs and major complexes larger than 6000 square meters.

1. People who have received both the doses of COVID vaccines.
2. People who have exceeded 14 days of receiving a single dose of COVID vaccine.
3. People who have not exceeded 90 days of being covid infected.
4. People who cannot get COVID vaccine because of health reasons. (This has to be certified by the
5. Kuwait Ministry of Health)
6. Children under the age of 16 years.

UAE:

UAE has restricted the passengers from 13 countries including Nepal, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and other African nations till 21st July. Previously this prohibition was till 7th July.

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



GROUND NARRATIVES

A single glimpse of the doctor has been enough to save the life of many patients

When the first COVID case appeared in the Lamki Hospital last year, the whole atmosphere of the hospital was affected. There was panic among the doctors as it was a new type of infection. Dr. Prakash Timilsena was working as a Medical Officer in the same hospital. He asked the team to keep up their confidence during the treatment as seeing the doctors scared would affect the morale of the patients. Dr. Timilsena involved himself in everything from medical treatment of the patients to counselling.

While the corona infection rate remained high, he served in the hospitals 24 hours a day and 7 days a week. Even when there were no other doctors working in the hospital, he took up their duties as well. The hospital had given him quarters inside the hospital for food and accomodation. He says, “sometimes I would get a break to eat only at midnight. At that time as well, I would get a call when patients would come and I would leave my food and treat the patient.” When he wouldn't be able to save the patient even while serving for day and night, he would feel bad about the profession. However, many patients had survived only because of his single glimpse, which gave him strong encouragement to serve the patients.



He says, “a strong base to encourage health workers is necessary health materials and physical infrastructure in the hospital. Moreover, if the government plays the role of guardian, any pandemic can be easily defeated.”

The patients would bless him for good health when they would return home. Although the first wave didn't touch him, he was infected in the second wave. His condition has worsened because he contracted pneumonia. He has again resumed his responsibilities now after recovering.

VOICES OUT LOUD

I started working in the hospital since the COVID pandemic started last year. Along with cleaning the ward, I have to carry the medicine for the patients and take care of them. The working hours are however not fixed. I have to work anytime based on the necessity. At first, I was very scared to work at the COVID hospital. I felt I would die if I touched the patient. My neighbours were scared too, when they got to know that I work in a hospital. But, many people understand now. However, I still worry that I might get infected sometime.

DHANA KUMARI BADAILA

Sanitation Worker, COVID-ICU ward,
Seti Provincial Hospital Dhangadhi, Kailali



SANJU KC

Staff Nurse,
Nepalgunj Medical College, Banke

We weren't as terrified of the second wave of COVID as we were of the first wave, but we lost a lot of colleagues along with the patients. Most of the patients who reached the hospital required oxygen and when tested most of them had COVID infection. As I was working in the isolation ward, I was scared to get close to the family members. As there was a scarcity of beds in the hospital, I went to the patient's home to treat them. The situation would have been easier if the government had provided adequate COVID vaccines as soon as possible. Even though the COVID cases seem to be decreasing in Nepalgunj, cases in other districts are increasing. So let us not forget to adhere to the safety guidelines.

FAIR FACTS

is a product of:



FAIR FACTS 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.

Brought to you by:



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.

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