

ISSUE
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**Bhakundebesi-
Namobuddha
municipality has
arranged door to
door COVID-19
vaccination service
to the senior
citizens who are not
able to go to the
vaccination centre.**

Photo by: Keshavraj Poudel



The government is preparing to bring additional 60 lakh doses of COVID vaccine by the end of the month of the Ashad.

[Click here for more information](#)

IN THIS ISSUE

Will the COVID cases rise again during the festive season like in the previous year?

The COVID cases had increased last year during Dashain due to shopping, relatives visit, etc.

There is the rumor of Nipah virus. How is it transmitted? How is it diagnosed?

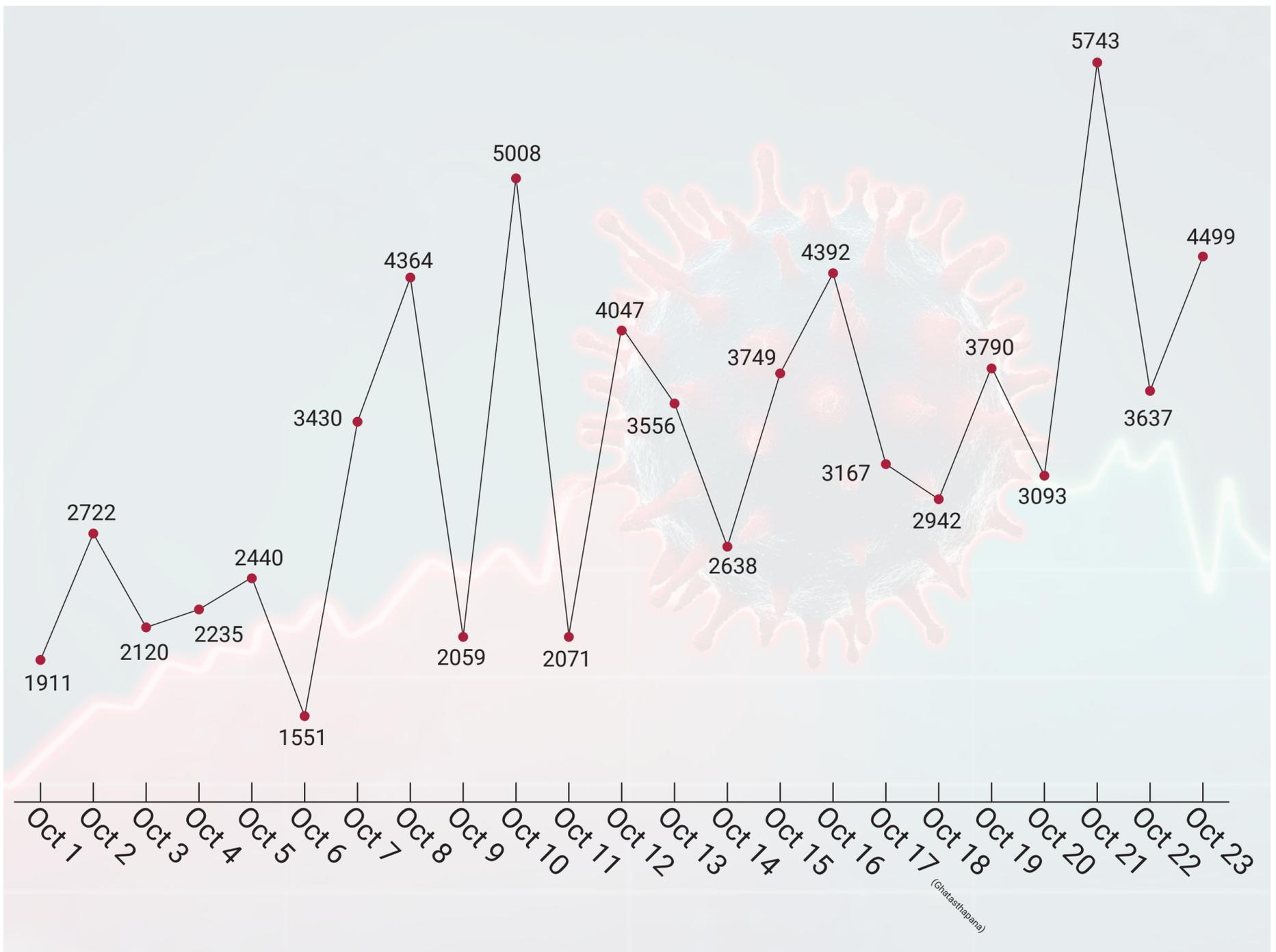
The virus is transmitted to humans through bats to pigs, cows and oxen, through infected animals to fruits and to humans and through infected humans to humans.

There are rumors about Nipah virus. How is it transmitted? How is it diagnosed?

The virus can be transmitted through bats to pigs, cows, or oxen and then to humans, through infected animals to fruits to humans, and to humans through other infected individuals.

FACT SHEET

Will COVID cases rise again during the festival season like last year?



Last year, Nepal was under lockdown during Dashain, and yet, COVID-19 cases had increased by upto 150% a few weeks before the festival. The number of cases increased even with the movement restriction in place, likely due to secretly shopping in markets, and visiting relatives for the festival.

COVID-19 cases have now decreased to an average of around 1500 daily in the last couple of weeks while test positive rate has also dropped down to less than 10%. The number of people getting vaccinated is increasing daily, which allowed the government of Nepal to lift travel restrictions in a lot of cities in Nepal, while lockdown has completely stopped in Kathmandu. So, with much more increased mobility this year during Dashain, there is a high chance for the number of daily positive cases to rise again if people do not follow safety precautions. Vaccines do not make us completely immune to COVID-19, so we still need to be cautious during this year's festival season.

RUMORS & FACTS



There are rumors about Nipah virus. How does it transmit? How do we know that we have been infected with the virus?

This virus was first reported in 1999 in a farmer rearing pigs in Malaysia. The virus is mostly transmitted through bats. However, it can also be transmitted through bats to pigs, cows, or oxen and then to humans, through infected animals to fruits to humans, and to humans through other infected individuals. Its symptoms include fever, dizziness, head and muscle ache, nausea, suffocation and tonsillitis. Similar to coronavirus, the way to detect Nipah virus is through an RT and PCR test. No vaccine or cure for this virus has been seen so far.

Source: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/nipah-virus>



It is said that the lockdown is still in place in some areas. Are the shops, transportation and all other activities operating? What is the lockdown about?

The government has implemented Smart Lockdown Procedure from Shrawan 2078 to control the infection risk of COVID-19. According to the procedure, the lockdown has been divided into four parts based on risk assessment. According to which, there is hard lockdown, mixed lockdown, soft lockdown and minimal lockdown. If there is minimal lockdown in any place, the activities can be carried out without forming a crowd and following the complete health standards. It is mentioned in the link below as to what activities can be conducted or not conducted in other types of lockdown.

Source: <https://mofaga.gov.np/news-notice/2480>



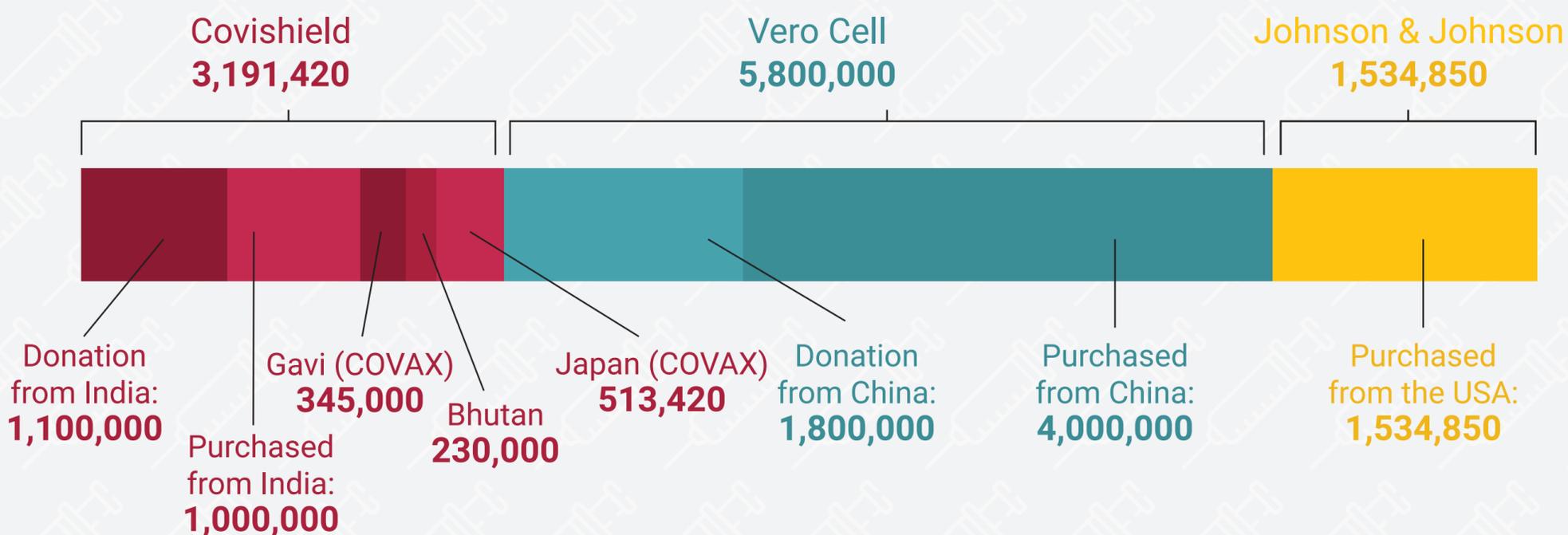
It is heard that now the government is running nursing services in schools. Will the services be operated in all schools?

No, the government has set a standard for schools to operate the service. The health and nursing service program has been implemented in a total of 222 secondary schools of 24 local units; wherein the service was included in 12 local units in FY 2076/77, 10 local units in FY 2077/78 and 2 more local units in FY 2078/79. When choosing a school to implement the service the number of students should be at least 500 and the number of adolescent girls should be more. Similarly, the concerned local level should select the schools that meet the criteria and implement the program through agreement.

Source: <https://dohs.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/Local-Levle-Final-Guideline-2078.079.pdf>

COVID-19 VACCINE UPDATE

Total doses of the vaccine received **10,526,270**



Total population over 18 years (eligible population)
20,291,254

Percentage of 18+ years of people fully vaccinated
19.97%

3.5% increase from last week

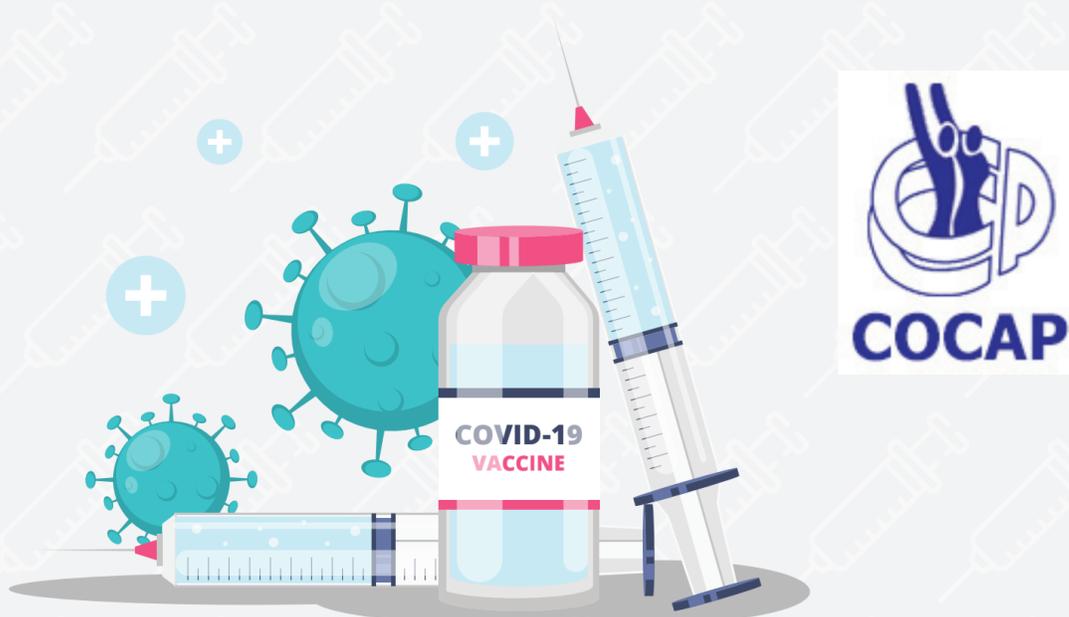
Total doses of vaccine required to vaccinate 18+ population
37,512,808

ADDITIONAL VACCINE DOSES ARRIVING FROM CHINA

Via Purchasing:
4,400,000

Via Donation:
1,600,000

Expected to arrive by **October 15th**



Qatar preparing to provide Visa's for Nepalese who had applied for it till 18 August 2021

UAE

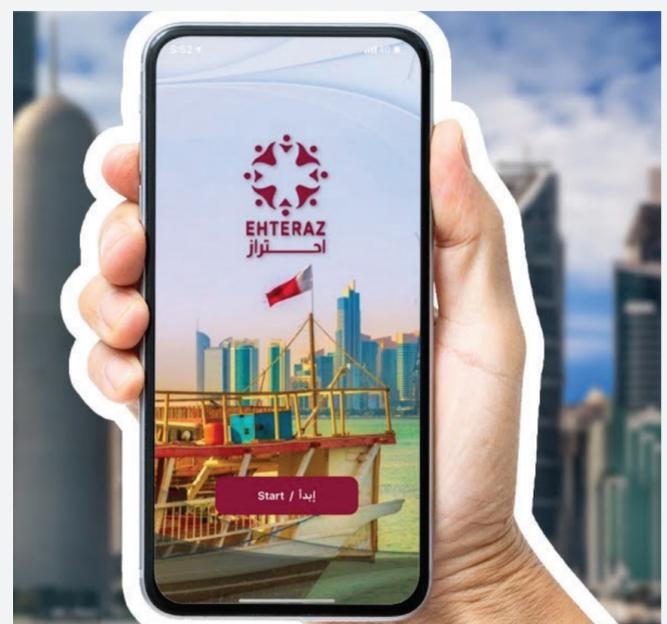
- Dubai has started free bus service in nine places for Expo- 2020 visitors.
- COVID Field Hospital with 232 beds has been opened in Umm Al Quwain.
- The UAE has reopened flights between Saudi Arabia and the UAE. Now there will be regular flights as well.



- UAE residency visa holders who have been out of the UAE for more than six months will be given a new entry permit. For this, one should have taken a complete dose of vaccine approved by the World Health Organization.

Kuwait

- The details of the third dose of vaccine has been updated in the Etheraj apps. The Ministry of Health has informed that the third dose (booster dose) will be distributed to people at high risk of infection, who have received the second dose of pfizer and Moderna vaccine before 8 months, from September 15.
- The embassy has informed that it has made arrangements to distribute the passports of those who submitted applications by August 18 2021. In order to get a passport, one has to go to the embassy from 11 am to 3 pm with the receipt of paid tax and the current passport.



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

One who had to choose foreign employment because of conflict; Mayaram, from being Nepal Army to being local representative

Mayanath Silwal of Jwalamukhi-7 passed the SLC examination in the year 2049 B.S. There were no colleges at his village for higher studies. So he spent a few years at home and farm. As Silwal belonged to a lower middle class family he had to earn money to support his family. Around 2056 B.S., he found out about the vacancy in the Nepal Army through his friends. He applied and got selected as well. As it was the time of Maoists insurgency, it was not easy to get a job in the army. For a few years, his job went well. However, gradually, his family began to feel insecure. As he felt that he and his family were at risk because of the job, he left his job in the Nepal Army in 2061 BS, five years after taking the job. At that time, foreign employment was the only option left for him. Then he was unsure about the procedure for foreign employment and whom he should talk or consult? As soon as he left the job, he went to Afghanistan on a visit visa via India.

As he had gone to Afghanistan on a visit visa, it was not easy finding a job there. He then returned to Nepal. He wanted to stay away from the family at any cost. So, he went to Malaysia to work as a security guard. He returned to Nepal after staying for three years in Malaysia. The armed conflict had ended here in Nepal during that time. The rebels (maoist) now had entered mainstream politics. Silwal always had an interest in social work. After returning to Nepal, he joined youth clubs and cooperatives. He was further elected as a local representative in the local elections of 2074 BS.

The conflict had pushed him for foreign employment. Even now, many youth go for foreign employment whether they want to or not. After becoming a local representative, he wants to set an example so that others do not have to suffer through the same pain that he had suffered during foreign employment.



He has now registered a Jwalamukhi farm in his village. He has started an agricultural business on 48 ropanis of land of which 25 ropanis are his own and the rest are on rent. At present, his farm has 300 local chickens, 40 ducks, 20 turkeys, 1,000 fish and 10 buffaloes. He had made sheds for rearing 100 goats.

In addition, he has been constantly raising voice on prioritising foreign employment in policy formation. He has been forming a network of the returnee migrants and youth who want to do something in the country. He believes that the foreign employment can be an option but it isn't a sustainable one. So, the best option is starting your own business.

VOICES OUT LOUD

There are no active cases in the municipality at present. However, the fear that the COVID cases might increase remains as people are less careful these days. Along with the warnings of the third wave, the number of people getting vaccinated against COVID has also increased, so it seems that it will not have much effect. However, one cannot guarantee what will happen if an individual does not adhere to the health care standards. There might not be a situation similar to that of the second wave when one had to lose life because of scarcity of bed and oxygen. The availability of oxygen and structure of the hospital within the municipality has now improved.

RAM PRASAD DHAKAL

Community Health Unit Chief,
Omsatiya-1, Rupandehi



DADHIRAM NEUPANE

Ward Chairperson,
Butwal Sub-Metropolitan City-14, Rupandehi

At present, the majority of the people above 50 years old have been vaccinated. I too have got both the doses of vaccines. Although the infection rate has decreased we have continued with the awareness program in coordination with health workers. But the service seekers come to seek service without wearing a mask. Along with this the festivals are approaching soon. This increases the crowd. However, the challenge that the infection will spread again if the locals do not follow the health standards still remains.

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.

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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.

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