

NEPAL

# GOVERNANCE

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## Where are the 360,000 missing vaccines? Where does vaccine accountability lie?

Photo by Anna Shvets from Pexels

By the 18th of January, only 40.6% of Nepal's population had been fully vaccinated, according to the [Ministry of Health & Population](#). The country has so far received 40,388,840 doses of COVID-19 vaccines as purchase and donations. Based on this, there have to be about 12,066,832 doses of vaccine in stock (excluding wastages).

However, only 8.4 million vaccines are in stock which indicates 360 thousand vaccine doses are missing and unaccounted for. There have already been several controversies regarding COVID-19 vaccines starting right from when they were purchased through to their management and now the distribution. But neither the government bodies nor the stakeholders are being held accountable. Where are the missing vaccines? Who is responsible for such irregularities?

With all this happening, doesn't the government's target of full vaccination for Nepal's population by the middle of April 2022 seem far too ambitious?

Read More: [Kantipur Daily](#)

### Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Ministry of Health requested an expansion of its budget from the Ministry of Finance to provide a 50% risk allowance to lift the morale of health workers engaged in treatment during the third wave of COVID-19. However, there are complaints that the many health workers who engaged in treatment during earlier waves did not receive such allowances. Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
2. The value of property owned by the Nepal government now stands at Nrs 180 billion, according to the Auditor General Office. This amount is almost double the Nrs 90 billion recorded last fiscal year 076/77 total. Read more: [Online Khabar](#)
3. Representatives who have tested positive for COVID-19 will be eligible to cast their votes in the upcoming National Assembly elections, which will be held on 26 January. The election commission will arrange separate ballot boxes for those who are infected at the time of voting. Read more: [Khabar Hub](#)
4. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will establish a task force to conduct a background study and decide on the process for agreement to permit Nepalese people to work in Israel's construction sector. As of now, Israel is only accepting caregivers from Nepal. Read more: [Shilapatra](#)
5. The Public Procurement Monitoring Office, Tahachal, has blacklisted seven construction companies that couldn't complete their projects on time. These companies will not be allowed to participate in any public procurement processes during the blacklisted period. Read more: [Setopati](#)
6. The government of Nepal will increase wages to NRs. 577 from NRs. 517 and provide free insurance for workers employed under the Prime Minister's Employment Program. All the workers are eligible to receive increased wages and insurance premiums from the current fiscal year. The increase ensures that the workers get paid the minimum wage as per the Labor Act. Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

Presented by



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