

Inconsistency over Booster Dose Erodes Trust among Citizens

In mid-January, the government promised that the citizens would be provided with a booster dose as the same vaccine they had been vaccinated with. But in a span of a few weeks, the government decided to provide Astrazeneca or Covishield as a booster dose to even those who received Vero Cell, Moderna, or Pfizer vaccine earlier.

The National Vaccination Consulting Committee stated that Nepal cannot manage the distribution of different vaccines for a booster dose however, the claim is a bit unconvincing. So far, 9 million doses of Vero Cell have been administered as the first dose and 8 million doses as the second dose. Considering the huge number, why is the government reluctant to bring more Vero Cell vaccines? Also, what does the government have in mind for those who received the J&J vaccine?

This is not the first time we have witnessed such unwillingness from the government without much explanation. In August 2021, the government had administered Astrazeneca for the second dose to the senior citizens who had received their first Covishield dose over six months back.

Read More: [BBC Nepal](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Election Commission has estimated a budget of NRs 12 billion for the upcoming local elections on May 18. The commission has stated that an increase in voter numbers by 2 million and a 30% increase in other overheads will enlarge the cost compared to NRs 8 billion during the 2017 local elections that concluded at NRs 8 billion.
Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)
2. According to the National Information Commission, 73 percent of the complaints were received against local government bodies for their refusal to provide information. The commission had received 753 complaints in the Fiscal Year 2020-21 as per section 10 of the Right to Information Act 2007.
Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)
3. The Jayaprithvi Municipality of Bajhang district has raised serious concerns over the preliminary report of Nepal Census 2078. As per the count concluded by the municipality in June 2021, the total population of the municipality stands at 28,865 but the preliminary report of the recent census shows only 21,973. The gap is huge.
Read more: [Kathmandu Post](#)
4. Out of 72,703 earthquake victims who have built houses in the current fiscal year, only 13,408 beneficiaries have received the amount so far. The untimely approval of funds from the Ministry of Finance caused a delay in disbursement as per the senior official of the Central Project Implementation Unit.
Read more: [Kantipur](#)
5. Remittance has dropped by 6.8% to 388.58 billion in the last five months. It had increased by 11.08% during the same period in the last fiscal year. Nepal Rastra Bank claims the increasing investment of migrant workers in virtual currencies and hundi to be the major reason for the decline.
Read more: [Online Khabar](#), [The Rising Nepal](#)
6. Nepal Government has formed a task force to negotiate with the World Bank to obtain a concessional loan of USD 150 million under the Finance for Growth Development Policy Credit.
Read more: [Annapurna Post](#)

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