



## Focused COVID-19 Media Monitoring, Nepal



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-Sharpening the COVID-19 Response through Communications Intelligence

**Date: October 20, 2021**

Kathmandu, Nepal

## EMERGING THEME(S)

- Nepal reported 957 new COVID-19 cases on October 19; data on COVID-19 fatalities of Health Ministry and Nepal Army do not match, difference pegged at 461
- China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi announces to provide 2 million additional doses of COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal under grant assistance
- Epidemiology and Disease Control Division to increase number of COVID-19 tests being conducted in hotspots like Kathmandu and other places until *Chhath*

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<sup>1</sup> This intelligence is tracked through manually monitoring national print, digital and online media through a representative sample selection, and consultations with media persons and media influencers.

## ISSUE(S) IN FOCUS

Nepal on October 19 reported 957 new coronavirus cases in the last 24 hours taking the nationwide infection tally to 806,517. In its regular situation report, the Ministry of Health and Population did not mention the death toll over the past 24 hours. It, however, reported 12 COVID-19-related fatalities, which included the number of deaths managed by Nepal Army on different dates. The countrywide death toll has now reached 11,305. The number of active cases stands at 11,815.<sup>2</sup>

The data of Nepal Army and the Ministry of Health and Population on the number of people who died due to COVID-19 do not match yet again. Last year, the data of these two authorities had differed by 2,000. This time the difference is 461.<sup>3</sup>

Foreign Minister of China Wang Yi has announced to provide an additional 2,000,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccine to Nepal under grant assistance during a telephone conversation with his Nepali counterpart Narayan Khadka.<sup>4</sup>

The Epidemiology and Disease Control Division (EDCD) has said it will increase the number of tests for COVID-19 in Kathmandu Valley and other hotspots of the country until Chhath. The plan has been undertaken keeping in mind the increased movement of people during the festival season. According to Dr Krishna Prasad Paudel, Director General of EDCCD, random Antigen Test will be done in major checkpoints of Kathmandu Valley, bus parks and other places with more crowds. The correspondence has been done to increase the number of tests in other districts too, he informed.<sup>5</sup>

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<sup>2</sup> Kathmandupost.com

<sup>3</sup> Nayapatrika

<sup>4</sup> Onlinekhabar

<sup>5</sup> Baarhakhari

## OTHER(S)

### National News

The coverage of COVID-19 inoculation campaign has exceeded its target. The government had set a goal of vaccinating one-third of the target group by the end of mid-October. The Ministry of Health and Population had covered 33 per cent of the target group in the vaccination campaign by October 17 and its data suggests that the achievement is more than the target. According to official data, 42.2 per cent of the target group has so far received the first dose while 33.5 per cent are fully vaccinated.<sup>6</sup>

### International News

Colin Powell, the first Black US Secretary of State and top military officer, died on October 18 at the age of 84 due to complications from COVID-19. He was fully vaccinated, his family said in a statement on Facebook.<sup>7</sup>

Russia's total number of coronavirus infections has topped 8 million, more than 5 per cent of the population, and the daily infection toll hit a new record. The national coronavirus task force said on October 18 that 34,325 new infections over the past day raised the pandemic-long total to 8,027,012. It also said 998 people died of COVID-19 in the previous day, bringing the total number of deaths to 224,310.<sup>8</sup>

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<sup>6</sup> Rastriya Samachar Samiti (in The Himalayan Times)

<sup>7</sup> Reuters (in The Himalayan Times)

<sup>8</sup> The Associated Press (in The Kathmandu Post)

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