

Captive tigers short of food

BY JYOTI PANTI
Babai (Bardiya), Dec. 30

Problematic tigers kept at Bardiya National Park (BNP) and the Rambhampur check post in Bardiya district are facing a shortage of food.

The tigers were rescued from different places in the district and brought to the park. However, the park has been unable to provide them with the required amount of food.

At present, three problematic tigers are kept at the Rambhampur check post along the East-West Highway, while two are kept at BNP office, making a total of five tigers.

Although a tiger requires about 15 kilograms of meat per day, the park provides only seven kilograms of meat every two days to the confined tigers.

Experts said that giving just seven kilograms of meat in two days to a tiger that normally eats up to 15 kg a day is far from sufficient. Due to the lack of adequate food arrangements for rescued problematic tigers, some of them have started losing weight. Reports suggested that the food provided meets less than 50 per cent of their actual requirement.

Keeping the “king of the jungle” inside enclosures has also created management challenges. The tigers were captured and kept in cages,



A problematic tiger kept in captivity at BNP.

PHOTO: JYOTI PANTI

as releasing them could increase human-wildlife conflict.

Officials said that the cost of feeding them has exceeded Rs. 100,000 per month, forcing the park to reduce the food supply.

Sarojmani Poudel, Information Officer at BNP, said it has not been possible to feed the tigers as per their daily requirement. “One tiger needs about 15 kg of meat a day, but

at present we are giving only seven kg every two days,” he said. The continued confinement of problematic tigers has added a financial burden to the park.

Disputes stall new Area Administration Office in Gulmi

BY TILACHAN PANDEY
Tamghas (Gulmi), Dec. 30

Gulmi locals expressed dissatisfaction over the government's decision made on Friday to refrain from establishing additional Area Administration Offices in Gulmi. The public feels helpless, as ongoing political infighting among leaders has left them with nothing to do except worry.

Tilak Rana, a resident of Harmichaur in Kaligandaki Rural Municipality-1, one of the geographically most remote areas of the district, said it was unfortunate that Gulmi was once again left out of the decision to add an Area Administration Office. He emphasised that because Kaligandaki is geographically distant from the district headquarters, an Area Administration Office was essential, considering the needs of Kaligandaki, Salyawati, and Chandrakot rural municipalities.

Rana said that traveling from Kaligandaki to the District Administration Office takes half a day, making it impossible to receive services conveniently within a single day. As a result, citizens face additional financial burdens and time constraints, he said. Kaligandaki Rural Municipality Chairman, Bed Bahadur Thapa, stated that the problem arose because consensus

could not be maintained regarding the much-discussed decision to establish an Area Administration Office. He said that disagreements among local political leaders, each asserting their own claims, had hindered progress.

Kaligandaki Rural Municipality had agreed to establish the office in Rurukshetra, while Salyawati and Chandrakot rural municipalities have insisted that it should be located within their own areas. Chandrakot Rural Municipality Chairman, Yubraj KC Chhetri, stressed that the decision made in 2018 by the Ministry of General Administration to establish the centre at Majhuwa in Chandrakot Rural Municipality should be implemented.

Meanwhile, Rurukshetra Rural Municipality Chairman, Yada Gyawali, argued that Rurukshetra is the most suitable location for an Area Administration Office due to its easy access via the Kaligandaki Corridor and the Madan Bhandari Highway, as well as the availability of physical infrastructure. He also recalled that last year, Kaligandaki Chairman Thapa broke a passport section scanner at the administration office in protest, citing the lack of convenient services for local citizens.

Assistant Chief District Officer of Gulmi, Hari Prasad Gaire, stated that the district administration was unable to recommend the establishment of an Area Administration Office because consensus could not be reached within the former Constituency No. 1.

Trash collected along Maurice Herzog Trail



BY THAKUR PRASAD ACHARYA
Bent, Dec. 30

Rubbish left by tourists along the Maurice Herzog Trail leading to the Annapurna I Base Camp during the peak tourist season from September to November was collected over the course of a week.

According to tourism entrepreneur Chitra Thilja, the clean-up was carried out jointly by Annapurna Rural Municipality and the Annapurna Conservation Area Project (ACAP). The team collected rubbish from the stretch between Humkhola and the Panchakunda Lake area near the Annapurna I Base Camp.

An 11-member team – led by Thilja and comprising 10 members deputised by the rural municipality and one from ACAP – collected aluminium and

plastic waste along the trail. The areas covered included Chhotepa, Humkhola, Phutphute Waterfall, Sandhikharka, Gufaphant, Bhuseke Mela, Dharmashala, Panchakunda Lake, the base camp and other resting points along the route. The collected waste was brought down to Pokhare-bagar, the rural municipality centre.

Thilja said around 10 sacks, weighing nearly 50 kilograms of plastic waste, were collected. This included wrappers of instant noodles, energy chocolates, biscuits and dry food, as well as bottles of energy drinks such as Red Bull, discarded by both domestic and foreign tourists and their support staff.

He said that waste generated by mountaineers camping during Annapurna I expeditions should be brought down safely by the concerned trekking companies.

Similarly, waste produced by tea

houses around Panchakunda Lake should be properly managed and disposed of at lower altitudes. However, he said trekking companies and tea house operators were found burning business-related waste at the base camp itself.

“We only picked up the rubbish thrown carelessly by trekkers along the trail and at resting points,” Thilja said. “Wrappers of noodles, chocolates and biscuits, and bottles of energy drinks alone filled 10 sacks. It was also evident that trekking operators and tea house owners have not fully understood the environmental sensitivity of the high Himalayan region, as waste was seen being burned or dumped indiscriminately.”

Thilja stressed the need for awareness programmes by the rural municipality to keep the Annapurna I Base Camp and its trail clean.

Jay Sada tops police constable training

BY VINAY KARNA
Kalyanpur (Saptari), Dec. 30

People of the Mushahar community in the districts of Madhes Province continue to face deep social and economic marginalisation. Many families depend on daily wage labour, and access to education for children and young people remains limited.

However, one young man from the community has become a source of inspiration through determination, hard work and self-belief. Jay Kumar Sada of Jaleswar Municipality-6, Mahadevpatti, Mahottari, has been selected as a constable in the Nepal Police. He secured first position in the 95-050 batch of police constable training conducted at the Police Training Centre in Rajbiraj, outperforming 213 fellow trainees.

According to training coordinator Deputy Superintendent of Police Sunil



Dahal, Jay scored 582.34 marks out of a total of 700, achieving 83.19 per cent and topping the group. Born on December 20, 2001, Jay managed to complete his Secondary Education Examination (SEE) despite severe financial hardship. Although his family's economic condition was weak, he never gave up on his dream of becoming a police officer.

With continuous practice, discipline and hard work, Jay finally succeeded in turning his dream into reality. “I

always wanted to become a police officer, and I am extremely happy that my goal has been achieved,” Jay said.

He said that he worked very hard. “Our instructors taught us many things. Throughout the training period, we stayed fully focused on our goal, leaving our families behind,” he added. Jay was formally inducted into the post of police constable along with 213 trainees at a graduation ceremony held at the Rajbiraj Police Training Centre on December 26, 2025. During the ceremony, he also led the parade and several demonstrations.

“I raised my son through many hardships, but I always believed that good days would come,” said his mother, Punia Devi. “Today, that belief has come true.”

Senior Superintendent of Police Bhim Dahal, commander of the training centre, said Jay's success was the result of continuous effort and strict discipline.

'Kosh' goes out of use in measuring distance

BY RAJAN RAWAT
Humla, Dec. 30

Hidden quietly in Tuling village of Simkot Rural Municipality-7 lies a carved stone that once connected Humla to the heart of the Kathmandu Valley.

Known locally as a kosh, the historic distance marker once measured the long and difficult journey from Hanuman Dhoka in Kathmandu to this remote corner of north-western Nepal. 1 Kosh was equal to 9021 metres. Today, it stands abandoned, an overlooked relic of a time when distance was measured not in kilometres, but in human endurance. The marker records a distance of 198 kosh from Hanuman Dhoka to Tuling. Before modern surveying and kilometre-based measurements became common, the kosh system served as the primary unit for calculating travel distances across the country.

Traders, pilgrims and officials relied on these markers to plan journeys that often took weeks on foot through rocky terrain. With the gradual shift to the metric system, the historic marker has become insignificant. “There was a time when people came

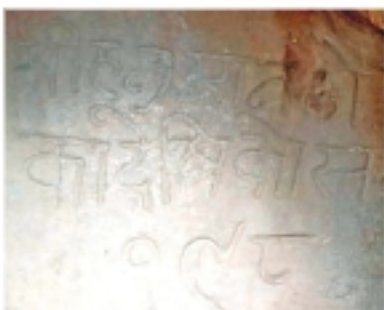


PHOTO: RAJAN RAWAT

The historic distance marker, once used to measure travel distance, located in Tuling village of Simkot Rural Municipality, Humla.

here just to see it,” recalled Mandir Singh of nearby Dandapaya village. “The kosh was something everyone talked about. It helped people understand how far they had travelled and how far they still had to go. Now it has simply been left abandoned.”

For decades, the kosh system shaped daily life in Humla. Distances between Simkot, the district headquarters, and the former village development committees were commonly described in kosh rather than

kilometres. Local Balraj Shahi said the marker once held practical and symbolic importance. “All distances were determined through the kosh system,” he said. “Now it serves no practical purpose and because of that, people don't care much about it anymore.”

Shahi expressed concern that younger generations are largely unaware of what the marker represents. “Many young people pass by without knowing its story or its value,” he said. “If this continues, an important part of our local history will disappear.” Despite its cultural and historical significance, locals say authorities have shown little interest in preserving the marker. Exposure to weather and neglect have taken their toll, and no formal efforts have been made to conserve or document the site.

Community members are now urging ward offices, the rural municipality and the provincial government to take responsibility for protecting the marker. They believe the site could be conserved as a local heritage landmark and used to educate future generations about traditional systems of measurement and travel.

This is not just a stone. It tells the story of how our ancestors understood distance, time and the land itself, locals claimed.

Government of Nepal
Ministry of Energy, Water Resources and Irrigation
Department of Water Resources and Irrigation

Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project

Tikapur, Kailali

INVITATION FOR BIDS

First Date of Publication: 31 December 2025

Project: Modernization of Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project Phase 3	Country: Nepal
RFB No: NP-DWRI-488379-CW-RFB	Loan No. /Credit No. / Grant No.: Cr. 7792-NP
Contract title: Construction of Pathariya Extension Canal (PEC) and Canal Structures	Issued on: 31 December 2025

- The Government of Nepal has received financing from the World Bank toward the cost of the **Modernization of Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project Phase 3** and intends to apply part of the proceeds toward payments under the contract for **Construction of Pathariya Extension Canal (PEC) and Canal Structures**.
- The Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **Construction of Pathariya Extension Canal (PEC) and Canal Structures (approx 13 km) located in the Kailali District, including earthworks, canal lining, aqueducts, syphons, head regulator/ cross regulator, with contract duration of three (3) years.**
- Bidding will be conducted through international competitive procurement using Request for Bids (RFB) as specified in the World Bank's "Procurement Regulations for IPF Borrowers- Procurement in Investment Projects Financing", July 2016, revised September 2025 ("Procurement Regulations"), and is open to all eligible Bidders as defined in the Procurement Regulations.
- Bids will be evaluated in accordance with the evaluation process set out in the bidding documents. The following weightings shall apply for Rated Criteria (including technical and non-price factors): **50%** and for Bid cost: **50%**.
- Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from the **Department of Water Resources and Irrigation, Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project**, email: rjkp@dwni.gov.np and inspect the Bidding document during office hours at the address given below at the end of this RFB.
- The Bidding document in English language may be purchased by interested eligible Bidders upon the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **NPR 20,000 or equivalent USD**. The method of payment will be **direct deposit to the following account:**

a. Name of the Bank: Nepal Bank Limited, Tikapur, Kailali	e. Office Code no.: 308037701
b. Name of Office: Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project	f. Office Account no.: 00101000000001001001
c. Rajaswa (revenue) Shirshak no.: 14229	f. Swift Code: NEBLNPKA
- The document may be downloaded from Public Procurement Monitoring Office website: www.bolpatra.gov.np/egp.
- Bids, comprising both the TECHNICAL PART and the FINANCIAL PART, must be submitted to the office of the Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project either:

(i) in hard copy, submitted by hand/in person or delivered by courier; or
(ii) electronically through e-GP System

on or before **12:00 hours (Nepal Standard Time), 16 February 2026**.
- For electronic bid submission, Bidders may inspect and or submit the bids by visiting electronic procurement portal <http://www.bolpatra.gov.np> of Public Procurement Monitoring Office (PPMO) of Government of Nepal. Bidders shall deposit the fee of bidding document in the revenue account given above and the scanned copy of the bank deposit voucher shall be uploaded at the time of e-bid submission. For e-submission, the bidder is required to register in the e-GP portal <https://www.bolpatra.gov.np> for downloading and submitting the bid electronically. **In the case of Joint Venture, the lead member shall submit the bid in the e-GP portal.** In the case of hard copy submission, the Bidder shall attach the receipt evidencing payment of the bid document fee along with the Bid.
- Late Bids will be rejected. The "TECHNICAL PART" of the bid will be publicly opened in the presence of the Bidders' designated representatives and anyone who chooses to attend, at the address below on **13:00 hours (Nepal Standard Time), 16 February 2026**. "FINANCIAL PART" of the bid shall remain unopened until the second public Bid opening, notified after completion of evaluation of Technical Part of the bid.
- All Bids must be accompanied by a: (i) **Bid Security of USD 650,000 or equivalent NPR;** and (ii) Local Labour Method Statement.
- Attention is drawn to the Procurement Regulations requiring the Borrower to disclose information on the successful bidder's beneficial ownership, as part of the Contract Award Notice, using the Beneficial Ownership Disclosure Form as included in the bidding document.
- The address (es) referred to above is (are):

a. Rani Jamara Kulariya Irrigation Project	e. Facisimile Number: +97715520479
Project Director, Tikapur, Kailali	d. Email address: rjkp@dwni.gov.np
b. Phone No: 91-561261,91-561236	e. Website: rjkp.gov.np ; dwni.gov.np

Project Director