



Virtual Global Exchange

Municipal Response to **COVID-19**

NOV - DEC
23rd 3rd



Responding to COVID -19 Challenges- How Nepal's Tourism Sector, in collaboration with the local cities, in finding its way out

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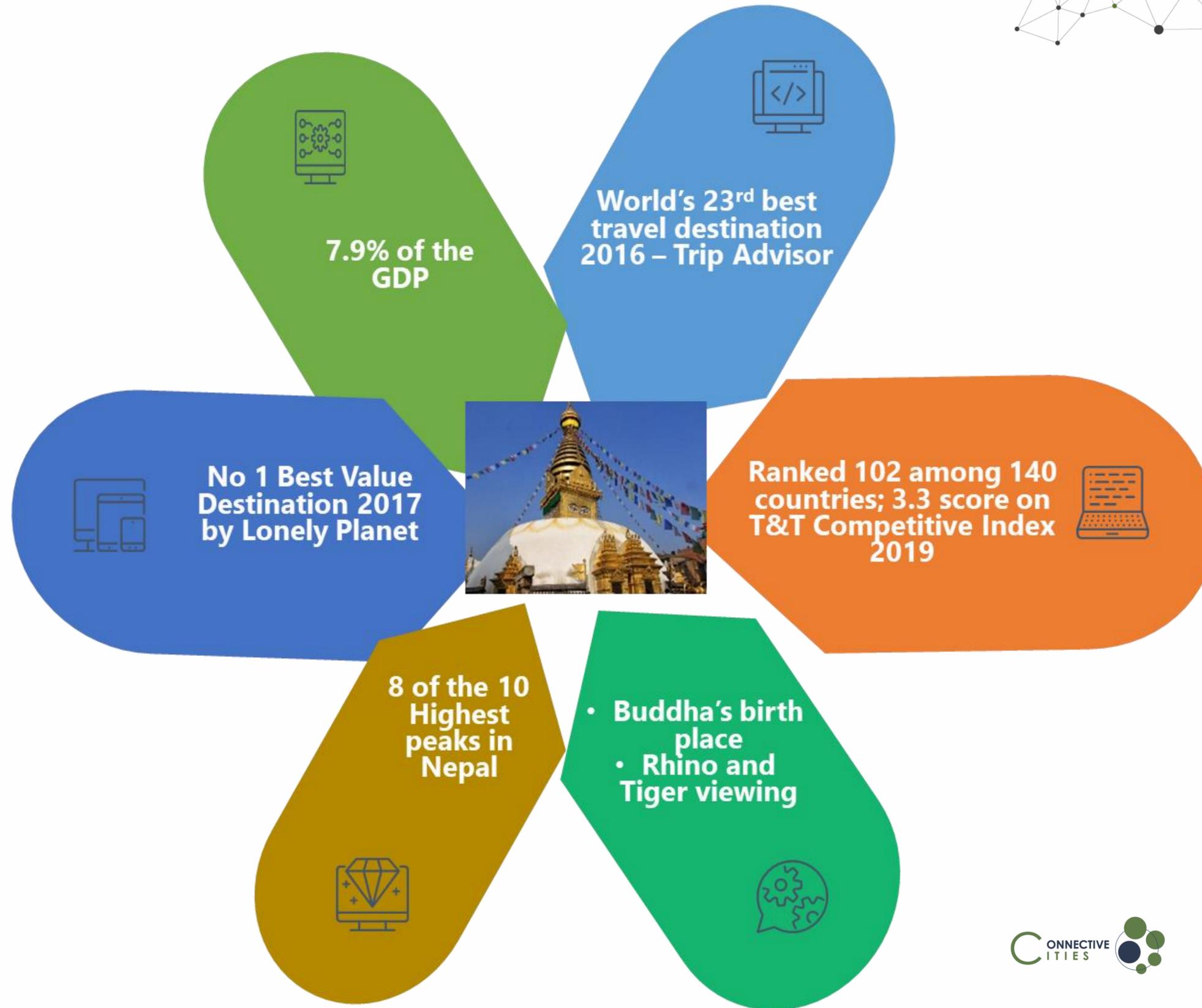
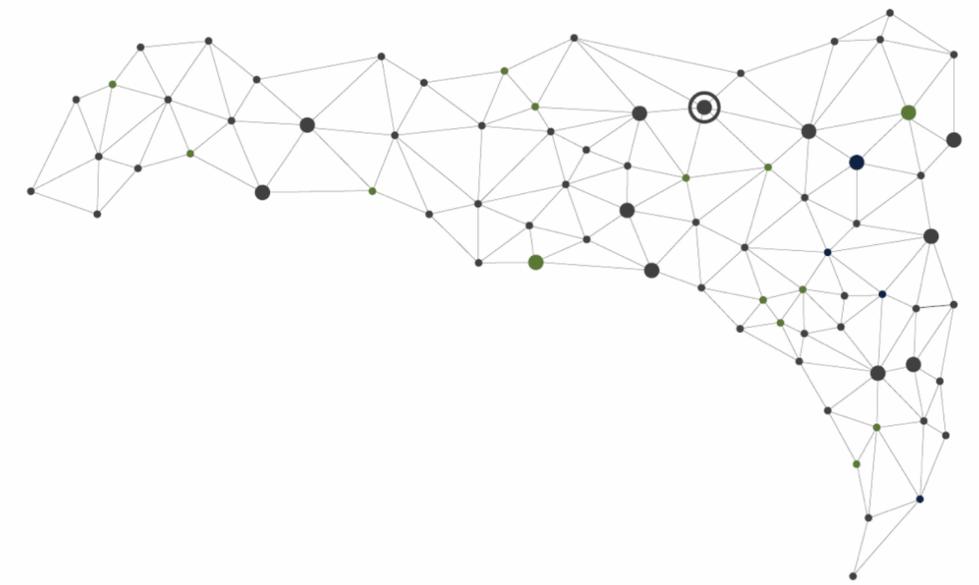
Nov, 25, 2020



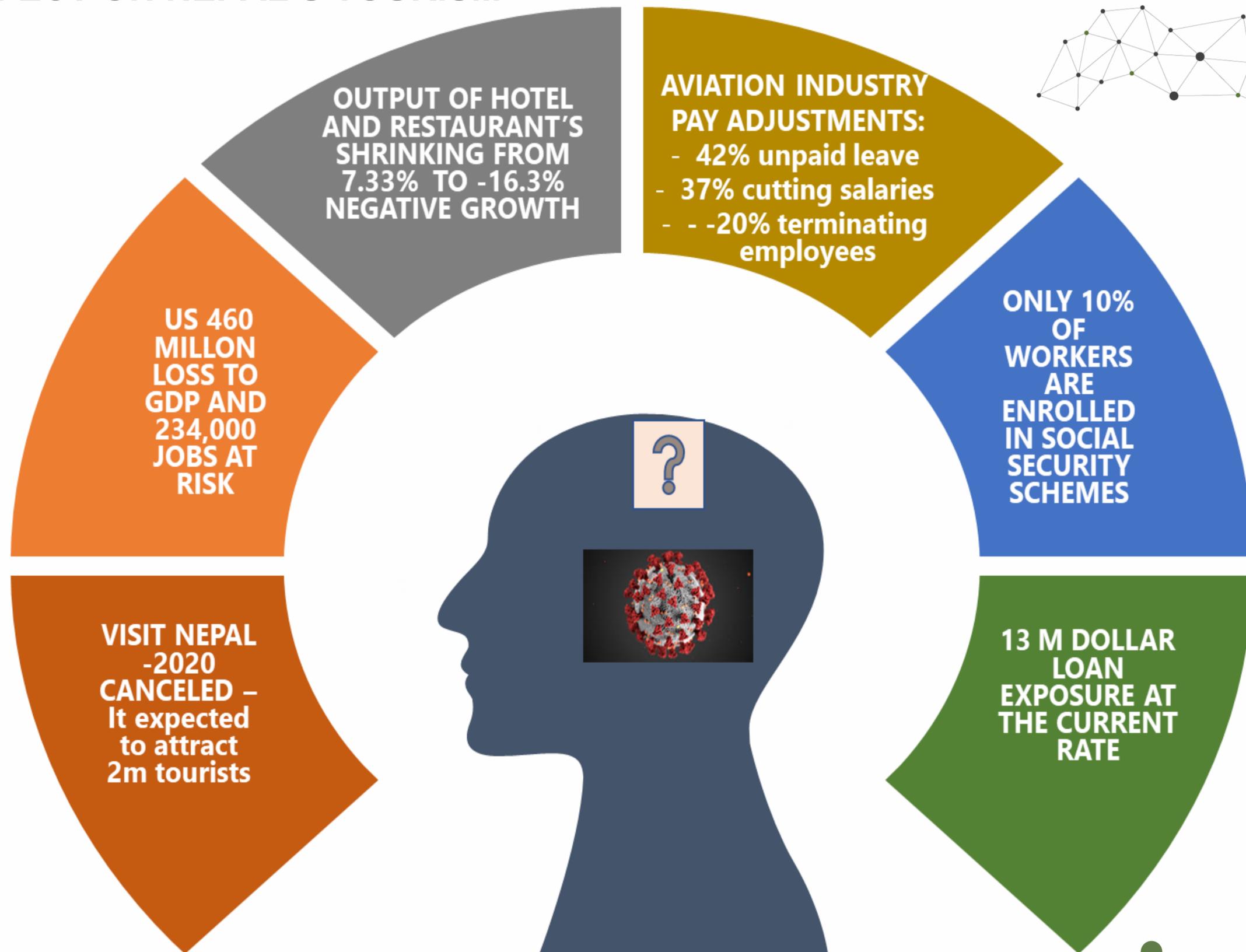
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TOURISM SNAPSHOT OF NEPAL



COVID -19 EFFECT ON NEPAL'S TOURISM



MAIN CHALLENGES IMPEDING EFFECTIVE MEASURES



More Reports, Rhetoric than Actions

Access to Resources, Aid Dumping, No Clear Outline of Expected Outcomes



Health Issues/Medical Response more Important than Business Survival – Lockdown Vs Opening – no clear Strategy

Relationship between the Private Sector vs Municipalities/Local Government



Voice of the SMEs lost as Larger Establishment have better Access to Resources

SILVER LINING



Domestic Tourism



Regional and Spiritual Tourism (avg 14% growth)



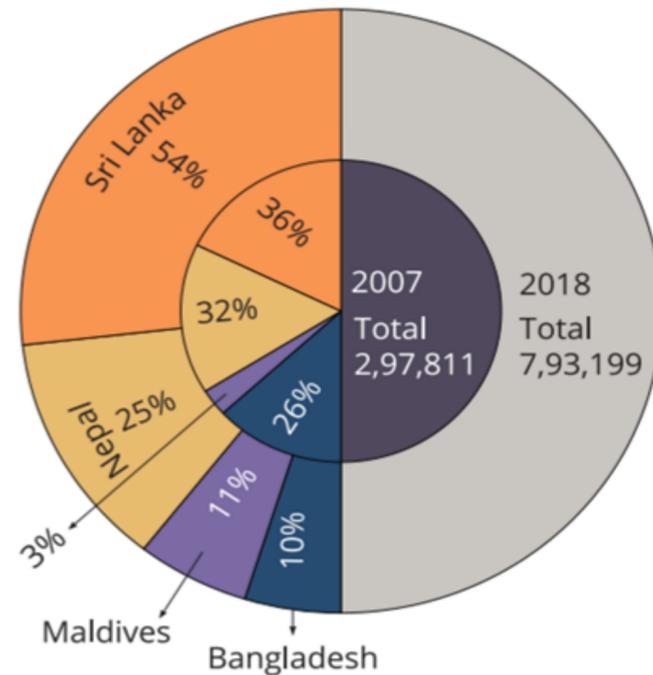
Focus on Indian-Chinese – South Asian Tourists

Re-Tooling and Skilling

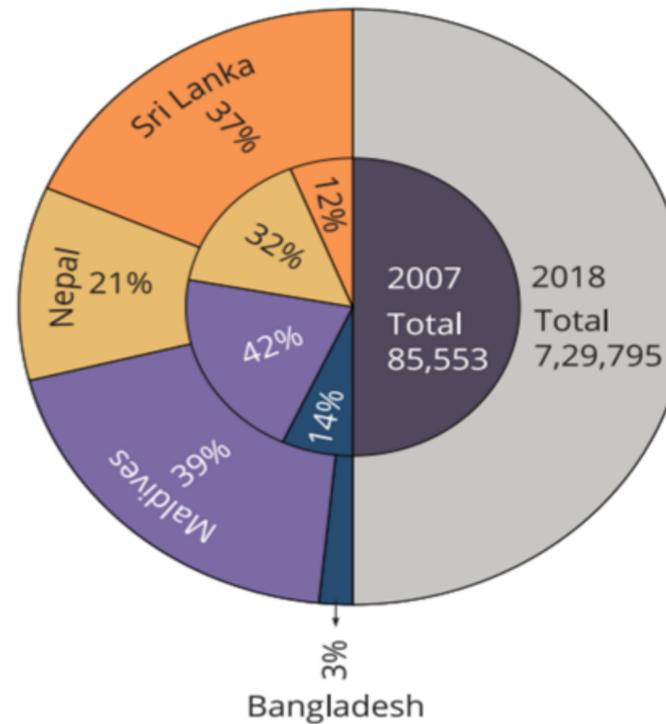


Estimated 5 million Nepali sightseers take domestic trips annually.

Indian Tourists in South Asia (N4)



Chinese Tourists in South Asia (N4)



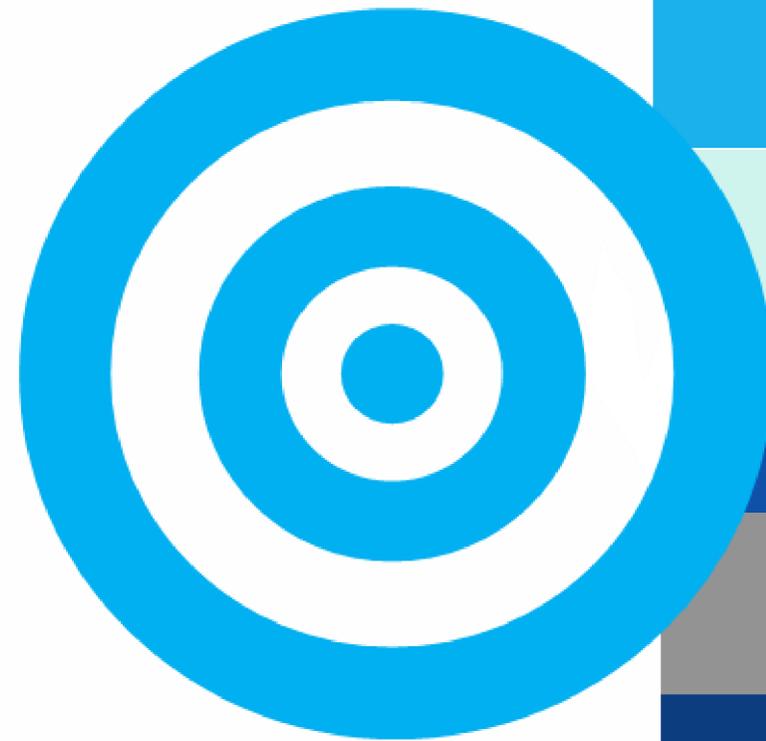
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COVID -19 RESPONSE (Tactical Level)

Trekking opened up from Oct 15



Visa must be obtained through the Trekking Company/Tour Operators



Must submit Negative Results from a PCR Test (72 hours), hotel booking for 7 day quarantine .



On the 5th day, another test needed to proceed to the destination



Limited commercial flights already resumed, domestic flights fully resumed with strict COVID 19 mitigation protocol



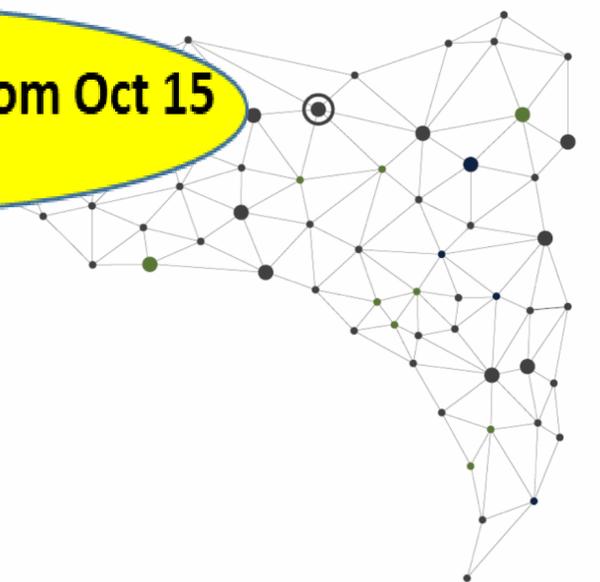
Masks are required all the time



20 Million \$ Job Retention Funds for Tourism Workforce



Possibility of Introducing Tourism Leave Travel , Interest rate reduction by 1% for Tourism Industry .



MUNICIPALITIES AND THE GAME PARKS –COVID -19 Challenge

NEW CHALLENGES

1. Hundredfold increase of illegal extraction of forest resources
2. Poaching of animals
3. Threats and challenges to biodiversity to 1.3 million hectares of critical forest – threat to Tiger population
4. Illegal encroachment – small huts with no building codes



CAUSES

1. Growing financial uncertainty among people living in close proximity to protected areas
2. Many migrant workers returned after losing jobs from India through Tarai where most of the game parks are located,
3. Restrictions by the Municipalities on movement – so literally no options to look for a job

CHALLENGES

1. Municipalities lack of budget and resources
2. They can not enforce wildlife friendly building codes due to encroachment
3. No ability to monitor the game-park and buffer zone



OPPORTUNITIES

1. The Crisis has brought the game parks and the community – more close due to survival issue
2. The Rangers of the Parks are offering training and voluntary work opportunities (payment according to quality/safety) to the local youths, especially the migrant workers

