

WIFI means connectivity

Tejaswi Das, 34, has been working as an engineer in Bengaluru, India. When COVID-19 hit the world and the lockdowns followed in India and Nepal, Tejaswi was not able to make her routine visit to her home. It took a long while for the restrictions to be relaxed, and Tejaswi didn't lose the chance to hit the road.

When Tejaswi finally entered Nepal, she had to go through a regular health check-up at the Kakarbhitta Ground Crossing Point (GCP), where she was asked to present her vaccination card. Yet, to her dismay, she didn't carry a physical copy of her card, and all she had was an electronic scan on her phone, which she couldn't access without internet. The only means for her to access the internet connection during the travel would be through a mobile SIM card, but she could not it obtain before reaching home.

A staff member at the GCP informed Tejaswi of the free WIFI services. While waiting her results of the COVID-19 tests, the staff suggested she stay in the Safe Waiting Space with WIFI services to ease her wait. With the WIFI services, she could access the vaccination card. But, more importantly, she was able to connect virtually with her family and inform them of her whereabouts.

So, how important are the WIFI services for migrants? "It is the most basic and essential service needed at the border because not every migrant has a Nepali SIM card, while we still need to access our documents online when demanded. Also, it was a great relief for me when I informed my family of my whereabouts. This is of absolute necessity," said Tejaswi.