

Singing Contest by Women Groups on the theme of making Disaster Resilient Future Rapti City



The banner features logos of NSET, SIAS, Practical Action, Tomorrow's Cities, UK Research and Innovation, and GCRF at the top. The main text in Nepali and English reads: 'सुन्दर, समुन्नत र प्रकोपहर्षबाट सुरक्षित हाम्रो प्रदेश राजधानी राप्ती उपत्यका (देउखुरी) शहर निर्माणमा केन्द्रित तीज गीत प्रतियोगिता २०८० TEEJ Singing Contest 2023 in Rapti among Women Groups on the occasion of Nepali Holy Festival TEEJ भदौ ३१, २०८० September 17, 2023'. It also lists the organizers: Rapti Rural Municipality, Shitaganga Rural Municipality, and NSET, and the sponsors: Rapti Rural Municipality, Shitaganga Rural Municipality, and Tomorrow's Cities project.

The women groups from the Rapti Valley (Deukhuri) participated in a Singing Contest organized in Rapti while marking TEEJ festival. TEEJ is a popular festival of Nepali Hindu women celebrated with joy and hope. TEEJ Singing is one of the main components of this celebration. The contest was focused on the theme of making planned, inclusive, equitable and resilient future Rapti City where women groups could express their wishes, aspirations and ideas for making disaster resilient Rapti city. The event was organized in Rapti on September 17, 2023 with the support from Tomorrow's Cities project.



Participants and Organizers dancing on TEEJ Songs

Chairperson Prakash Bista from Rapti Rural Municipality, in his opening remarks, welcomed all the participants and highlighted the importance of the theme selected for the day. “We are now in the planning phase to develop our new city considering aspects of planned urban development and ensuring new city that is disaster resilient too”, Mr. Bista remarked.

The event was attended by Vice Chairperson from Rapti, Ward Chair from Shitaganga and also representatives from PIDA and Tomorrow's Cities project.



The TEEJ Singing Contest was jointly organized by Rapti Rural Municipality, Provincial Infrastructure Development Authority (PIDA), Lumbini Province and National Society for Earthquake Technology - Nepal (NSET) in coordination with Gadhwara Rural Municipality, Shitaganga Municipality and Tomorrow's Cities, International & Nepal Partners.

There were total 5 teams from different wards of Rapti and Shitaganda Municipalities contesting:

- Janamukhi Women Group, Shitaganga -8 led by Ms. Khimsara Ale.
- Women Group, Shitaganga -9 led by Ms. Bimala Pariyar.
- Women Group, Rapti -4 led by Ms. Juna KC.
- Deukhuri Today led by Ms. Srijana Thapa.
- Langhali Yough Club, Shitaganga -8 led by Ms. Dhurmati Gharti.



Participating Teams



The contestants focused on how we could build Tomorrow's Rapti City resilient towards Multi-Hazard Risks and make a planned, safer, inclusive, equitable and prosperous city to live in.

A team led by Ms. Khimsara Ale from Shitaganga-8 voiced for securing enough open spaces while planning new Rapti city. They have asked to prioritize building better education and health facilities and also stressed creating job opportunities. The contestants stressed on earthquake resistant construction of housing and other infrastructures which are also resilient other hazards like floods and landslides. They shared on how terrible it was to face floods, landslides, fire in the localities in the past also facing global epidemics, the COVID-19. They aspired to have future Rapti city safe from all types of disaster risks.

Some extracts from their singing are as follows:

<p>घाम अस्ताउने जुन उदाउने आउँछ पालो फर्केर राजधानीमा स्वागत गर्छौं फुल छर्केर । आगो, भूकम्प, पहिरोमा सयौं धनजन मुछिए छोरा गुमाए छोरी गुमाएर सिन्दुर पुछिए । आपत, विपत् प्रकृतिको नियम हुन्न नकार्न भूकम्परहित दिगो विकास गरौं सपार्न । उदाहरण दिन सको लुम्बिनीलाई जहाँ नि नहोस् कतै एकादेशको हाम्रो कहानी सपनाको राजधानी हेर्ने हाम्रो चाहना हरितालिका तीजको सबलाई शुभकामना ।</p>	<p>“Sun sets, Moon rises turn by turn We welcome you with the flowers. Lost much in Fire, Earthquake, Landslides Lost sons, daughters, and spouses too. Can't avoid hazards and nature's law But lets do sustainable and disaster resilient development Wish we have Lumbini as an example - Lets make it reality, not a tale! We are willing to see our dream capital city, We are now extending festive wishes to you all!”</p>
<p>उपस्थित आयोजक सम्पूर्ण दर्शकलाई दुई हात जोडी नमस्कार गर्छौं सबैलाई भूकम्परहित घरहरु बनाउनुपर्छ खुला ठाउँ उचित ठाउँ राख्नुपर्छ शिक्षा स्वास्थ्य सम्पन्न भएका शहर रोजगारी पाउनुपर्ने सबको रहर ।</p>	<p>We extend our respectful greetings to you all the organizers and audiences, We should make earthquake resistant houses And we need to maintain open spaces as well Wish we have city with good education and health facilities And job opportunity like everyone dreams for!</p>
<p>दाङमा सधैं राजधानी बुटवललाई छाडेर स्वागत गर्छौं यो मञ्चलाई दुई हात जोडेर वर्ष दिनको तीज आयो सबै मिली मनाउने सपना देखौं राजधानीलाई सुन्दर बनाउने बाढी पहिरो भूकम्पले हरेक वर्ष सताउँछ अकालैमा ज्यान जान्छ मन अताउँछ</p>	<p>Capital city moved from Butwal to Dang We welcome you all in this stage as well Celebrating Teej festival after a year Lets dream to have better capital city Suffered frequently from Flood, Landslide and Earthquake Many are killed and we feel panic!</p>



The judge panel was composed of social activist, school teacher and DRR practitioner that decided winners of the Contest.

- The First Prize with Cash Amount NPR5000 to Team from Janamukhi Women Group.
- The Second Prize with Cash Amount NPR4000 to Team from Deukhuri Today.
- The Third Prize with Cash Amount NPR3000 goes to Team from Langhali Youth Club.

Vice Chairperson Ms. Kamalapati Chaudhary from Rapti Rural Municipality awarded the winners with Certificate and Cash prize. She expressed her happiness to join such an event with social message and also congratulated the winners and participating teams.



Winners of the Teej Singing Contest awarded

Please refer: Report on Teej Event in Tomorrow's Rapti: [Singing by Women Groups on the Theme of Tomorrow's Rapti City while Celebrating Nepali Holy Festival Teej](#)

Also following media coverage:

- **Nepal Television:** [NTV News on Teej Singing in Rapti](#)
- **Naya Yougbohd National Daily:** <https://nayayougbohdh.com/news/2023/09/18/197718> (सपनाको राजधानी शहरबारे सोच निर्माण गर्न 'तीजको भाका')
- **Deukhuri Today:** <https://deukhuritoday.com/main-news/46615> (सुन्दर, समुन्नत र प्रकोपबाट सुरक्षित राजधानीको शहर बनाउन तीज गीतको माध्यमबाट संदेश प्रवाह)

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