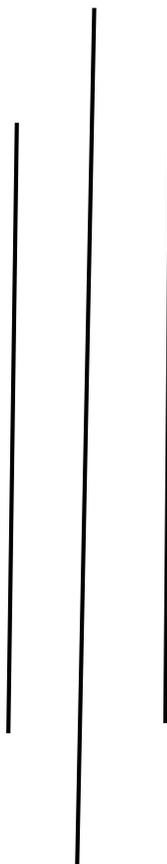




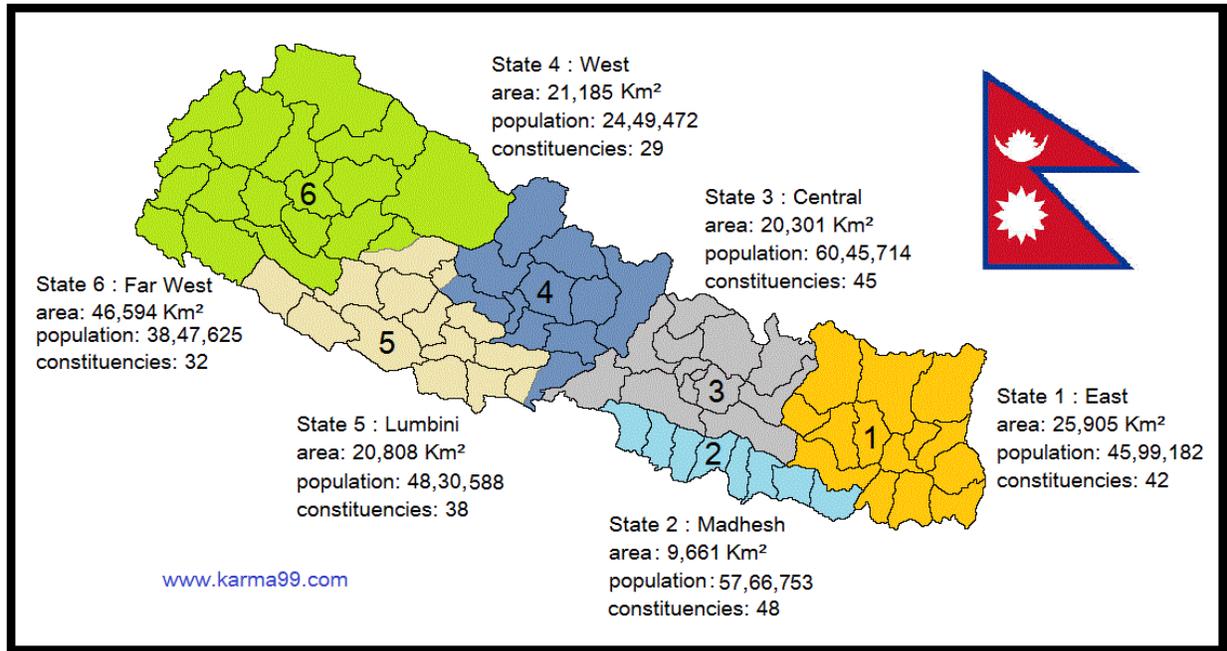
Municipality Profile of Baglung Municipality

2019

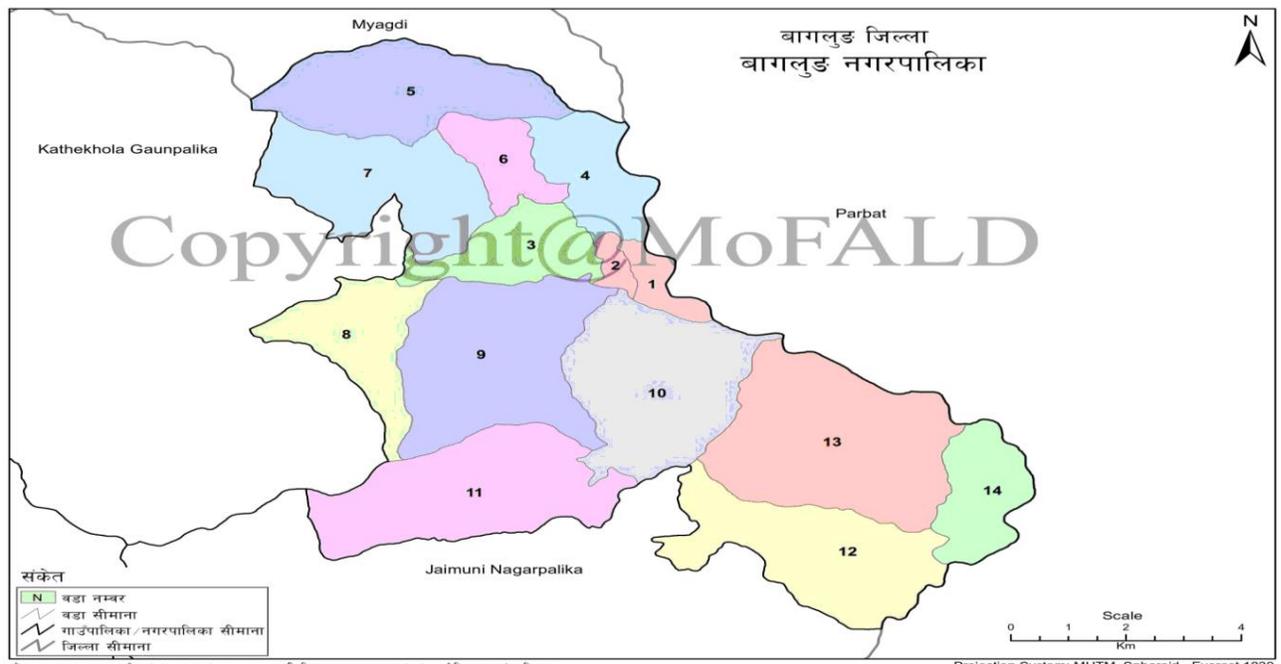


Baglung Municipality
Office of Municipal Executive,
Baglung

Administrative Map of Nepal



Map of Baglung Municipality



स्रोत: स्वयम्भू नक्सा (स्केल १:२५,०००/१:५०,०००), मापी विभाग र जनगणना २०६८, केन्द्रिय तथ्यांक विभाग
तयार पार्ने: गाउँपालिका, नगरपालिका तथा विशेष, सरलित वा स्वायत्त क्षेत्रको संख्या तथा सीमाना निर्धारण प्रयोग

Overview

Baglung Municipality takes pride on its cultural heritage, folk songs, cultural heritage and beautiful sceneries, tapestries of landform, wildlife and beautiful river flowing by. The center, which is Baglung Municipality, is located at 275 km west of Kathmandu and works as a connecting hub of other four municipalities: (Kusma, Beni, Jaimuni, and Kathekhola). The Municipality oversees holy Kaligandaki river from either sides. Geographically located in central Nepal and administratively in the western region, Baglung is a gateway to Mustang and Dhaulagiri mountain peak.

The city of Baglung has been an administrative headquarter for Baglung District and Dhaulagiri Zone, which serves as the major center for business, finance, education, service and healthcare for the people of mid-Kali Gandaki valley that encompass afore mentioned local governing bodies. The road connectivity has strategically placed Baglung municipality at the crossroads of major north-south and east-west highway systems of Nepal. Tracks have been opened for Kaligandaki Corridor, a highway connecting Tibet to the north via Mustang and border towns in the southern Nepal. The corridor connectivity will join Lumbini to Tibet. Similarly, the city is located at the cross-section of Kaligandaki corridor highway and Pushpalal (Mid Hill) Highway that transverse Nepal in north-south and east-west directions respectively.

The municipality, the erstwhile district and zonal headquarter, has a large presence of government and non-governmental institutions. A number of governmental, non-governmental as well as political conferences and rallies are held throughout the year. In addition to major highways several narrow seasonal unpaved roads connect the municipality with adjoining rural areas.

Geographical location gives a vantage point for landscape viewing as the municipality is situated on a plateau overlooking the Kali Gandaki gorge directly south of the Dhaulagiri Himalayan range. Views of the snow-clad Himalayas are regular views from across the municipal territory. Bhakunde and Panchakot are sites, which are the point where the extended Dhaulagiri and Annapurna ranges are visible for naked eyes. Terraced fields, waterfalls, forests, deep gorges and caves are abundant throughout the area. The terrain is suitable for trekking, biking, and rafting as per season and situation.

Baglung can be a new destination for adventurous tourism. It also serves as a starting point for trekkers to Mustang, Dolpa, Mt. Dhaulagiri. Dhorpatan Hunting Reserve, the only hunting reserve in Nepal and a habitat for blue sheep and snow leopard, also falls within district boundaries. Recent surge in interest in the hunting reserve, Putha himalayan range, round Dhaulagiri trekking and Guerrilla trek have placed Baglung on tourist maps. Several tall suspension bridges are other attractions and must go destination across the district. One of them, the highest in Nepal, connects municipality ward 12, 13 and 14 within southern boundaries of the city with Kushma above Kaligandaki river providing amazing from over the river.

Baglung enjoys warm summers and mild winters. Annual average temperatures range from a maximum of 26 °C and a minimum of 19 °C. Highs above 35C (95 °F) and lows below 0C (32 °F) are rare. The average annual rainfall recorded is 1060.9 ml. Rainfall is heavily affected by the monsoon and most of it occurs during the months of June through September. Rest of the year is mostly dry and sunny. Due to large topographic variation climate ranging

from hot subtropical to temperate montage climate can be experienced within the municipality limits.

Historically, Baglung connects to the cultural city Bhaktapur. Three hundred years ago, Newar traders from Bhaktapur arrived in Baglung and established permanent trading houses and market. Traders seeking to barter grains from the south with salt from Tibet frequented a trade route along the banks of Kaligandaki river since ancient times. During this era Baglung was also proclaimed as district headquarters and official judicial, military, mint and taxation offices were established. After establishment of the current district and zonal system, Baglung retained its status as headquarters serving the area. Several irrigation channels, pastures, watering holes, fruit gardens are established in Baglung Municipality.

The total area of the Baglung Municipality is 98.01 km² (37.84 sq. m) and the total population of the municipality according to 2011 (2068 BS) Nepal Census is 57,823. The density of this municipality is 590/km² (1500/sq mi). This municipality is divided into 14 wards. The elevation of this municipality varies from 650m to 2600m altitude from sea level. However, the municipality office is located at 3350 feet above from sea level.

Municipality enjoys multicultural and multiracial community. The majority of the population belongs to ethnic communities of Brahmin, Chhantyal, Magar, Chhettri, and Dalits. Smaller groups of Gurung, Thakali and Newar, also live in the area. Hinduism, Buddhism and Islam religions are practiced in the area. The average literacy rate of this municipality is 85%.

Rishiram Sharma was the first person to be elected as the Mayor of the municipality. He provided leadership from 2054 B.S- 2058 B.S. He was followed by Bidur Khadka as city president. Initially, the municipality had area

from local bazaar, restructuring included the village of Titang, Bhakunde, Raidanda, Amalchaur, Payyapata and Narayanasthan into it. The boundary of this municipality extends to the mountainous Parbat district in the east, Kathkhola Rural Municipality in the west, Beni Municipality in the north and Jaimini municipality in the south.

Religious sites bestow Baglung as a destination for pilgrimage. Baglung Kalika Temple, Jangeshwar Mahadev Temple, Nairaghat, Panchakot and Kundule are the main religious sites as well as Bhakunde, Kundule and Panchkot, are the main tourist destination in Baglung Municipality. A View Tower has been built in the ward 10 (Bhakunde) for observing scenery in the municipality.

Road connectivity is the dominant transportation, though it has facility of an airport. Baglung is a center for healthcare in the region. Dhaulagiri zonal hospital is the major healthcare provider in the region with specialists in many fields of medicine. It is also emerging as a referral hospital for other area hospitals. Several privately operated hospitals have come into operation in recent years providing additional healthcare services. Baglung Municipality is a Banking and financial hub of the Kaligandaki valley region. Almost all major national banks have branches and regional offices in the city. Financial services are also provided by many co-operatives and finance companies that operate out of the city. Remittance plays a major role in economy of the area. People from Baglung and nearby also have a tradition of enlisting in the British and the Indian Army. Baglung and the region receive one of the highest amounts of remittance earned from foreign employment in Nepal. As of 2010, pension fund alone distributed to ex-servicemen of the Indian Army by the Pension Paying Office at Baglung stands at around US\$20 million. Transportation sector is

another major source of employment in Baglung. Many small and medium scale transportation companies provide bus, jeep and freight services to adjoining rural communities and to the major cities in the nation. There are many shops and restaurants catering to the locals and visitors. The town is bustling with many grocery stores, newsstands, repair shops, tailors, beauty parlors, clothing and electronics outlets. There are few small scale industries. Most of the manufacturing work is limited to production of construction materials and home furnishings. Schools and institutions of higher education also employ a significant number of people.

Several temples in and around Baglung are pilgrimage sites. Most famous religious sites in Baglung, is the Kalika Bhagawati Temple, which is visited by thousands of pilgrims each year. An annual fair, one of the largest in Nepal, is held during the Chaite Dashain festival. Panchakot is also being developed under patronage of Shree Muktinath Baba Kamalnayan Acharya as a center for pilgrimage and religious education. Balewa Bhairavsthan is an ancient temple perched atop a mountain ridge that is frequented by devotees on Tuesdays. Balaji temple Kundule, Gaurighat, Niraheghat, Khaniyaghat, Malika and Maikuti are other sites visited by pilgrims.

Table 1

Detailed Name lists of the heads and deputies of the municipality since its inception

| S. N | Name | Position | Working Period | Elected/ Nominated |
|-------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. | Rishiram Sharma | Mayor | 2054-2059 B.S | Elected |
| 2. | Padma Chanda Rajbhandari | Deputy Mayor | 2054-2059 B.S | Elected |
| 3. | Janak Raj Paudel | Mayor | 2074- Present | Elected |
| 4. | Surendra Khadka | Deputy Mayor | 2074- Present | Elected |

Table 2**Financial Transaction Status of Baglung Municipality**

| S.N | Income | Total Amount | S.N | Expenses | Amount |
|----------|--|--------------|----------|------------------------------------|--------------------|
| | Description | | | Description | |
| 1 | last year's Responsibility | | 1 | Current expenditure | 528368966.7 |
| | Bank | 74741069.65 | 2 | Capital Expenditure | 323211142.3 |
| 2 | Revenue(internal income) | | 3 | Financial Condition Payment | |
| | Internal Revenue | 33453008.65 | | Payment of Debt | |
| | Revenue Sharaing | 95536511.99 | | Payment of Interest | |
| | Road Division | 2950955 | | Other Payment | |
| | Municipality Development Fund | 25999949 | | | |
| | Other Income1 | 5668228.19 | | | |
| 3 | Financial Transfer (center) | | 4 | Investment | |
| | Financial Consolidation Grants | 156600000 | | Debt Investment | |
| | Conditional Grant | 360464000 | | Share Investment | |
| | Special Grant | 10000000 | 5 | mortgage Return | 2478890 |
| 4 | State Government Grant | | 6 | Fund Expenses | |
| | Financial Consolidation Grant | 11612899.6 | 7 | Return Last Year Conditional Grant | 46511391 |
| | Ministry of Social Development (Purchase of Pharmaceutical Equipments) | 700000 | | | |
| | Sarbasiddha Dham Conditional Grant | 2000000 | 8 | Balance | |
| | Suppliment Grant Received from Province | 2500000 | | Cash Balance | |

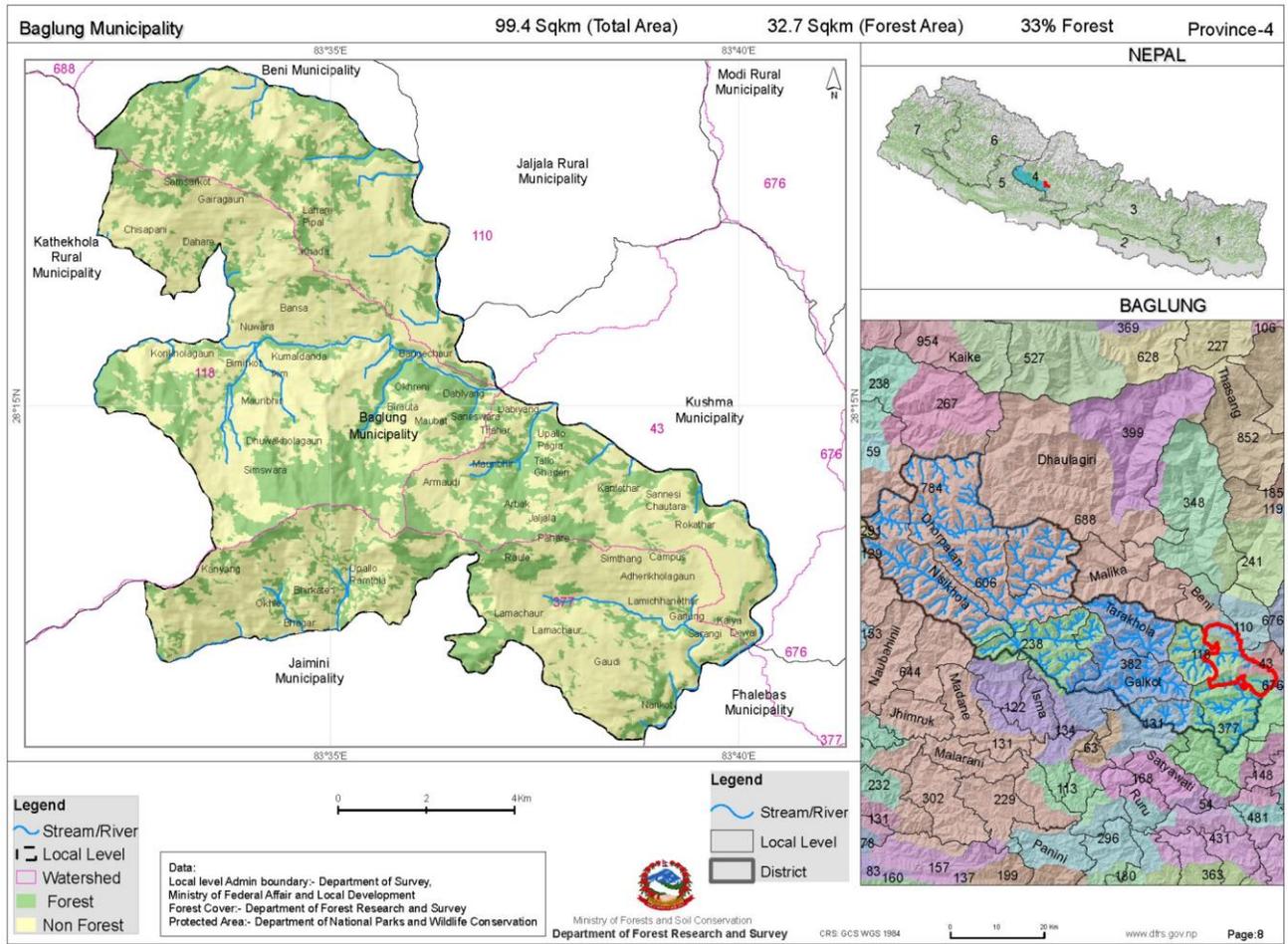
| | | | | | |
|----------|--|---------------------|--|--------------|-----------------------|
| | Complementary Grant Received From Infrastructure Office Parbat | 5734400 | | Bank Balance | 42424923.16 |
| 5 | Amount Received From Thematic Body | | | | |
| | Senior Citizen Honor and Social Security Allowance | 116895000 | | | |
| | Prime Minister Employment Program | 6753458 | | | |
| | Cultural Promotion Program | 6000000 | | | |
| | Tourism Infrastructure Development Program | 5800000 | | | |
| | Local Infrastructure Partnership Development Program | 9950000 | | | |
| | LGCDP Program | 228000 | | | |
| | Bishwoshor Poor Association | 394000 | | | |
| | Agribusiness Promotion and Market Development Program | 2649984 | | | |
| 6 | Mortgage Income | 6218721.38 | | | |
| 7 | Other Miscellaneous Income | 145127.7 | | | |
| | Total | 942995313.08 | | | 942,995,313.08 |

Table 3**Tourism sites (Cultural, Historical and Archaeological) of Baglung Municipality**

| S.N | Name of touristic sites | Ward | Importance For | Number of per day tourist visit |
|-----|-------------------------------|------|----------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. | Kalila Bhagawati Temple | 1 | Temple | 500 |
| 2. | Shiva Parbati Temple | 1 | Temple | 20 |
| 3. | Sun Jhakri Temple | 1 | Temple | 20 |
| 4. | Ganesh Temple | 1 | Temple | 30 |
| 5. | Sati Cave Temple | 1 | Temple | 10 |
| 6. | Laxminarayan Temple | 1 | Temple | 25 |
| 7. | Govinda Memorial Martyrs Gate | 1 | Gate | 220 |
| 8. | View Tower | 1 | view observation | 220 |
| 9. | Birendra Aishworya Park | 2 | Park | 300 |
| 10. | Gyanodaya Buddha Monastery | 3 | Religion | 5 |
| 11. | Kailam Pokhari Forestry | 3 | Park | 5 |
| 12. | Nirayaghat | 4 | Religious Importance | 50 |
| 13. | Dhodeni | 4 | Religious Importance | |
| 14. | Rangabangkoteswor | 4 | Temple | |
| 15. | Gaurithan Shive Temple | 4 | Temple | 100 |
| 16. | Cow Stall | 5 | cow conservation | 15 |
| 17. | Malika Bhagwati | 5 | Temple | 150 |
| 18. | Panchakot | 6 | Religious | 250 |
| 19. | Sansarkot | 7 | Religious | 100 |
| 20. | Majkot | 7 | Religious | 50 |
| 21. | Rayakot | 7 | Religious | 45 |
| 22. | Karikot | 7 | Religious | 45 |
| 23. | Balamkot | 8 | Religious | |

| | | | | |
|-----|--------------------------|----|---|----|
| 24. | Hilay ko Daurali | 8 | site scene /Visualization | |
| 25. | Jamindanda | 8 | Site Scene/ Visualization | |
| 26. | BandeChour | 8 | Site Scene/ Visualization | |
| 27. | Manakamana Temple | 9 | Religious | 30 |
| 28. | Rani Bhumikot Bhairav | 9 | Religious | 10 |
| 29. | View Tower | 10 | Site Scene/ Visualization | 50 |
| 30. | Baraha lake | 10 | Lake | 50 |
| 31. | Homestay | 10 | Homestay | |
| 32. | Mulabari | 10 | Picnic Spot | 20 |
| 33. | Surya | 10 | Film shooting | 30 |
| 34. | Chamerogupha | 10 | Cave | 10 |
| 35. | Halhaley (The Monastery) | | Mountains Observations | 10 |
| 36. | Bhairabsthan Temple | 12 | Site Scene Visualization | 20 |
| 37. | Buddha Bihar | 12 | Religion/ Site Scene /Visualization | 2 |
| 38. | Mulabari | 13 | King Palace/ Site Scene Visualization | 20 |
| 39. | Pagjakot | 13 | | |
| 40. | Cable Car | 14 | Site Scene/ Visualization/Transpo rtation | |
| 41. | Banjee Jump | | Adventurous | |

Forest Area



Forest is one of the most important national as well as municipal resources, useful to human, livestock as well as to wildlife and for the conservation of environment. Despite the fodder, forest is the major sources of domestic energy in the form of fuel- wood, timber/poles for households and industrial uses. Thus, though, we have big challenge of utilizing forest for the present and conserving for the next generation in such industrial era. We can't deny the fact that our municipal people's livelihood is very much reliable in the Forest. Forest covers 1796.554 hectare of the total area of Municipality where community forest covers 1785.054 hectare, Confession Forest takes around 747 hectare and Religious Forest is 4.03 hectare respectively.

Table 3**Ward Wise Population on Baglung Municipality**

| Ward No | Household no | Male | Female | Total | Area(sq km) | Population Density |
|----------------|---------------------|--------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. | 1082 | 1766 | 1977 | 3743 | 1.39 | 2692.8 |
| 2. | 2111 | 3552 | 3780 | 7332 | 0.72 | 10183.33 |
| 3. | 2610 | 4467 | 5147 | 9614 | 4.48 | 2145.89 |
| 4. | 832 | 1547 | 1944 | 3491 | 4.49 | 777.5 |
| 5. | 587 | 963 | 1299 | 2262 | 8.79 | 257.45 |
| 6. | 617 | 1131 | 1463 | 2594 | 2.95 | 879.32 |
| 7. | 897 | 1611 | 2150 | 3761 | 7.87 | 477.89 |
| 8. | 715 | 1135 | 1603 | 2738 | 5.49 | 498.72 |
| 9. | 981 | 1682 | 2290 | 3972 | 11.92 | 333.22 |
| 10. | 867 | 1520 | 1963 | 3483 | 10.87 | 320.42 |
| 11. | 549 | 1008 | 1321 | 2329 | 11.14 | 209.06 |
| 12. | 1206 | 1878 | 2709 | 4587 | 9.86 | 465.21 |
| 13. | 1347 | 2091 | 2950 | 5041 | 13.78 | 363.44 |
| 14. | 781 | 1197 | 1679 | 2876 | 4.35 | 661.14 |
| Total | 15182 | 25548 | 32275 | 57823 | 98.01 | 589.97 |

Above table is placed according to the census of Nepal of 2011, which number is increasing in these days. Mainly the population density growing wards are 1,3,4,14. Especially ward which are connected to the urban cities population are in the rising trend which has enable people for easy access of modern technology and comfort lifestyle.

Table 4**Source of Drinking Water based on Household**

| S.N | Source of Drinking Water | No. of Households |
|-----|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Tap | 14180 |
| 2. | Handpump/Tubewell | 11 |
| 3. | Closed well | 98 |
| 4. | Open well | 170 |
| 5. | Direct water | 627 |
| 6. | Brook's/ river's water | 29 |
| 7. | Other | 8 |
| 8. | Not defined | 59 |
| 9. | Total | 15182 |

Table 5**Use of Fuel Based on Number of Households**

| S.N | Fuel Types | No. of Households |
|-----|--------------|-------------------|
| 1. | Wood | 9683 |
| 2. | Kerosene | 69 |
| 3. | L P Gas | 5292 |
| 4. | Carcoal | 4 |
| 5. | Dung | 63 |
| 6. | Electricity | 1 |
| 7. | Other | 7 |
| 8. | Not defined | 63 |
| | Total | 15182 |

Based on the census of Nepal of 2011, 64% household of total households of Baglung Municipality use woods and logs as the major source of fuel. Likewise, LP Gas is in the second source of fuel which consist 34% of total households of Municipality.

Table 6

Use of Electricity Based on Households

| S.N | Source of Electricity | Number of households |
|-----|-----------------------|----------------------|
| 1. | Electricity | 14660 |
| 2. | Kerosene | 406 |
| 3. | Biogas | 28 |
| 4. | Solar | 9 |
| 5. | Other | 16 |
| 6. | Not defined | 63 |
| | Total | 15182 |

Table 7

List of Educational Institutions of Baglung Municipality

| Types | Government | Community | Private | Total |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| Lower | 51 | | 9 | 60 |
| Lower Secondary | 13 | | 4 | 17 |
| Secondary/Higher Secondary | 23 | | 14 | 37 |
| Campus | 1 | 2 (partial government funded) | | 3 |
| Academy | | | 2 | 2 |
| Other | Technological Institution | 4 | | |
| | Skill Development Center | 0 | | |

| | | | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----|--|--|
| | Community Child Development Center | 85 | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----|--|--|

Source: Education Section- Baglung Municipality

Table 8

Women's Part in Literacy Rate of Country

| Description | Counted year- 2011 |
|----------------------|--------------------|
| Total Literacy Rate | 74.49 |
| Male Literacy Rate | 84.70 |
| Female Literacy Rate | 67.41 |

According to the census of Nepal of 2011, 5 years and above's population is counted in the literacy rate where 241105 populations are in total and 1,73,300 are literate in Baglung Municipality. Based on the same census, literacy rate of Baglung Municipality is 71.88 in total consisting 80.59 male and 65.39 as female literacy rate.

Environment and Sanitation

Baglung Municipality has implemented various program to make a clean and safer environment conducting various environmental programs regarding everyday garbage of the city. It has made well planned view of disposing waste materials as well as dumping sites far from the city area with the long term vision based on the environmental act, rules and regulations of Nepal's government.

Agriculture and Economy

Economically, the population of Baglung Municipality mainly relies on the agricultural production. Though it has listed in the source of high remittance within the country, agriculture is the basic subsistence for people. It has been still a challenge to oppose traditional way of farming due to lack of modern skill and equipment and to apply the another way of income generating activities.

Table 9**Famous Natural and Cultural Heritages of Baglung Municipality**

| | S.N | Name of heritage | Type of heritage | Importance For |
|---------------------|-----|---|-------------------|---|
| Tangible heritage | 1. | Kalika Temple | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 2. | Biswosanti Sarbasiddha Panchakot Dham | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 3. | Bhairabsthan Temple | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 4. | Gauridham Temple | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| Intangible Heritage | 5. | Chitraasthmi Mela | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 6. | Hanuman Nach | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 7. | Lakhe Nach | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| | 8. | Ropai Nach | Cultural heritage | Religion/Tourist |
| Natural Heritage | 9. | Kaligandaki River | Natural heritage | Religion/Rafting/ Energy production |
| | 10. | Malika Community Forest | Natural heritage | fuel production |
| | 11. | Gaja Daha (Pond) | Natural heritage | Tourist/ water source |
| | 12. | Baraha Taal (lake) | Natural heritage | Tourist/ water source |

Table 10**Natural Source (minning/minerals) of Baglung Municipality**

| Ward | Decription of Source | Location |
|-------------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| 5 | Iron Mine | Mauribheer |
| 7 | Iron, copper Mine | Seto Pahara |
| 9 | Copper Mine | Khanigaun |
| 11 | Iron, Copper Mine | Khanigaun |
| 13 | Stone Mine | Various Places of Ward 13 |

Nepal lies in the central part of 2500km long Himalayan belt. Almost 83% of Nepalese territory is mountainous in which Baglung Municipality is not outside this framework. It is also an urban municipality with vast natural resources such as water, minerals, forest, varieties of agricultural products and medical herbs. For the economic development of the Municipality, proper use of such valuable resources, especially mineral resources, is extremely important. God gifted geological environment herein are suitable for metallic, nonmetallic mineral deposits as well as huge amount of construction materials, dimension and decorative stones. With the lack of continues efforts and support to find the such mineral deposits is keeping people deprived from taking economic benefit from such valuable things. Though, these days, Baglung Municipality is seeking partner organization to excavate such minerals, it is not so easy to invest money on such activities due to poor economic status of the Municipality. Recently, Copper and Iron mine feasibility study has been carried out in various places of municipality such as Tityang and Rayadanda. According to this initial study, positive result, regarding the excavation of above listed areas, is highly expected which will enable to strengthen the economy of the people in particular and municipality's in general. With more mines in operation, industries could be established which would enable job opportunity for numerous people.

Brief Description of Importance Cultural and Natural Heritages of Baglung Municipality:

1. Kalika Bhagwati Temple (A Cultural and Tourist Destination)



The Temple of Baglung Kalika Bhagawati, also known as Kalika Bhagawati temple, is one of the famous temples in Nepal. It is one of the most religiously significant places, located on Baglung Municipality, western part of Nepal, is constructed in deep inside the dense forest just above the northern side of Kali Gandaki.

According to Hindu Religion, Kali is one of the most powerful and one of the fiercest forms of Shakti and is often associated with the power, Shakti. Goddess Kali is considered Kali, consort of Lord Shiva which also means time or death as Lord Shiva is often considered as 'Kala', the eternal time. She is the prime goddess of the Dasa Mahavidyas, ten fierce goddesses of Tantra or the Tantric goddesses. The major festival of the temple, Chaite-Dashain, is held on the eighth day of the Shukla Paksha (bright lunar fortnight) of the month of Chaitra, with thousands of devotees visiting. The devotees light oil lamps and perform pooja. The other major festival of temple is held on the occasion of greatest nepalies festivals, Dashain, which runs from the Shukla Paksha of the month of Ashwin and ending on the Purnima (full moon).



Mostly During the festival of Navaratri/Nauratha, the temple is crowded with devotees coming from every corner of Nepal to celebrate the festival there. People also come here to perform pooja to get victory over their enemies, win legal suits, win the heart of their beloved and protection from black magic. It is said that the goddess fulfills the wishes of the devotees if they could please her. She is also known as Bhavatarini literally meaning 'rescuer of the universe.

The temple of Baglung Kali was built by Pratap Narayan and was renovated in late 1990s. There are various other small temples like that of Lord Shiva, Radha Krishna, Laxmi Narayan, etc. inside the Baglung Bhagwati temple compound. According to local folklore the King of Parbat District, Pratap Narayan Singh Malla, received an idol of goddess Kalika as part of the dowry in his marriage with King Manimukunda Sen's daughter. Whilst returning to his residence after the marriage ceremony, the bride groom and others from the marriage procession took shelter in the forest. On the following day, not a single person was able to move an idol, so, the king constructed a temple on that spot.

Traditionally devotees practiced live animal sacrifices goat, cock, and duck at the temple in the belief that this would enable their wishes to be fulfilled. There are four doors in this temple, the door of the eastern side remains always closed once as soon as the eastern door opened by the priest he saw a big serpent, therefore, he immediately closed the door forever. Temple is also a picnic spot of Baglung and beautiful place for sight-seers. There are tall trees of Salla (pine) near the temple. On 13 April 2016 the sacrificing of pigeons was stopped on the basis that pigeon represented a symbol of peace. The pigeons are instead released from within the temple's grounds.

Every year, thousands of religious pilgrims from all over the world come to visit the temple. Not only the Hindu devotees, all kind people are reaching there from all over the world come to the temple to get Siddhi (knowledge) on their field of interest. Also, people conduct their marriage inside the temple with a belief that their married life will be blessed with every kind of happiness.

Near the western gate of the temple, there is an undivisible flame in Agni Kunda sacred place of fire and rest houses. There are big bronze bells and idols of a lion outside the temple.

2 Biswosanti Panchakot Dham





Panchakot is made by symbolically merging the names of five different places (kots): Tatajalkot, Karikot, Majhkot, Raynaraynakot, and Sansaarkot. These places are also related with the ancient kings. The kings established different religious places to worship divine energy and to get power from it. This place will be a common religious site of all communities at the same place, including those of adivasi, janajati and Arya communities, so that this place becomes a temple. Panchakot into just a religious site which Infrastructure worth Rs 140 million. The construction was started with the amount that was collected through a Maha Yagya (Vedic ritual) organized in 2014. A 108-feet-tall urn is being installed as the main attraction of Panchakot. Many new religious structures are under construction at the moment.

A 3-storey-tall building for guests, pavement, and a temple of Gandaki goddess are being constructed. Structure necessary to place a 5,555-kg bell, statue of lord Hanuman, Ganesh temple and so on are already done. Along with the development of other structures, a cow ranch is also being constructed in Ward 5 of Baglung Municipality and Jaljala Rural Municipality.

Panchakot can be reached by a 30-minute bus ride from the district headquarters Baglung Bazar. Due to transportation access, influx of domestic tourists in Panchakot has increased rapidly. The number of foreign tourists visiting this place is comparatively lower.

Panchkot has been selected for internal tourism area due to the extremely close and motorable road from district headquarters. People can reach there by travelling eight kilometers from the district headquarters. Infrastructure of Panchkot is now being constructed speedily with a target of one lakh tourists annually. These symptoms are showing initially.

With the initiation of Swami Kamalayanayan Acharya (Muktinath Baba), finance has been collecting from the year 2071 through various annual religious festivals (Mahayagya) for the construction of various religious and tourist structures in Panchkot. The numbers of tourists are coming to study and observation the South Indian style temple and other infrastructure. The construction of a structure of around Rs. 20 million has been constructed in Panchkot from three years. And a detailed project report (DIPR) cost of Rs. 60 million has been prepared for the construction of main structure global peace kalash.

The goal of building the world's highest Bishwo Shanti Kalash (world peace Kalash) will be constructed in this regard called Panchkot, which includes Tallikkot, Ringrakkot, Maghkot, Karkikot and Alkotkot within Baglung municipalities. The height of one thousand 100 meters from the sea level, more than a dozen snowy canals can be seen from Panchkot including Annapurna, Dhaulagiri and Nilgiri.

Apart from the cultural and religious importance, Panchakot is also famous for a scenic view of mountains. Locals here are expecting an increase in economical activities through promotion of Panchakot as a tourist destination.

3 Bhairabsthan Temple



Bhairabsthan Temple, which is located in the top of the ward 12 of Municipality, is the another importance Hindu religious place which is always crowded specially in the occasion of the greatest Festivals Dashain and every third day of the week on the behalf of the saying that once brown king rulled this area and made the kote. On worship day, people usually sacrifices he-goats thinking that their wishes will be fulfilled if they made the

kaalbhairab happy. There are some cultural inn and rest house for travelers around the temple. There is still a tradition of collecting worshipping things and worshipping god only after the sunset. According to religious belief, it is regarded as the idol of Kal Bhairav.

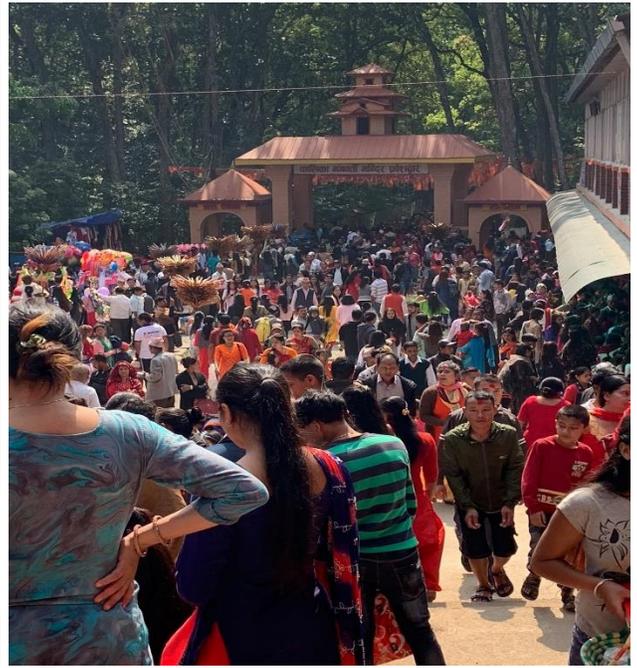
5. Tirupati Balaji Dham



It was established in 2042 B.S. as a small infrastructure by Swami Parpanaacharya in Kundule, Baglung Municipality-4, which has been under construction funded by various organizations and persons as a donation in large area with the similar previous structure. He has done six master degree in various subjects and he started to inspire others and established the Academy for various subjects where almost 100 students are enrolled now. It is mostly recognized as the temple of Bishnu. Swami Kamalnaayan Acharya is the focal person for establishing this temple as the Saligram Museum where has been the collection of various Saligrams making tunnel for the safety which are regarded as the symbol of the god according to Hindu mythology. Under this tunnel, the origin of the Kali Gandaki River and the surrounding are shown to the Triveni Dham.

6. Chaitrastami Mela (Fair)





Every year at the Bhagwati Temple, a place of religious and tourist importance, spread over the 2 ropani area, the devotees get crowded every year during the Navadurga period of Ashwin Shukla Paksha and Chaitra Shukla Paksha. On this auspicious period, Chaitra Asthmi Mela (Fair), which is taken as the greatest fair of the Baglung Municipality, is jointly conducted by Industry Commerce Association, Baglung and various partner organizations near the Baglung Kalika Temple, where people comes to be involved in this fair as a participant, as an audience, as a devotee etc. This fair is conducted for the commercial purposes also where various goods and products are kept in exhibition and local farmers sell their goods during the fair.

The fair includes a rath yatra (chariot proceeding), a musical program by renowned artists of Nepal, folk songs, open Kalika cup men volleyball, open 20/20 cricket and open casket competition etc. The objective of Fair is mainly to make the fair more service oriented rather than profit oriented supporting the religious tourism development of Baglung. It is especially regarded to promote tourism and to sell the local goods which are famous all over the world.

7. Hanuman Naach



The Hanuman Naach, that carries historical significance, is a three-century-old folk culture. Based on the Hindu epic, Ramayana, this dance is exhibited in every odd year with 26 youth, especially Newars, taking part in it. The dance is named after Hanuman, the greatest disciple of Lord Ram in Hindu mythology.

7. Lakhey Naach



Lakhey dance is considered a symbol of demonic Bhimasur. It is clear from the myth that lakhey dancing began to take place when the Newar Community transformed it into a culture regarding the state of distress of Bhimasur's wife over the loss of husband during the demise of Bhimasur. Lakhey is a demon in Nepalese folklore. He is depicted with a ferocious face, protruding fangs and man of red or black hair. Lakhes figure prominently in Newar. The Lakhey tradition is found in Newar settlements throughout Nepal. Lakhes are said to be demons who used to live in the forests and later became protectors to the townspeople. The other common legendary being in Nepalese folklore who is depicted as a fat, hairy ape-like creature.

Lakhey Dance is one of the most popular dances of Nepal. Performers wear a Lakhey costume and mask perform dances on the streets and city squares during festivals. The mask is made of papier-mache and yak tails are used for the hair. The Lakhey dance is characterised by wild movements and thumping music. He is worshipped as a deity. City dwellers offer food and ritual items to him as he moves through the city accompanied by his musical band giving dance performances.

The Lakhey stops at major crossroads and market squares to give a performance. During the dance, a small boy is known as Jhyalincha taunts the Lakhey making him chase him in anger. Jhyalincha always manages to slip into the crowd and escape. Accordingly, in various places of Nepal. This dance is practiced every year until the burial day of the burial place of Gathemangal, at the 10th month in the Nepal Sambat calendar which corresponds to August, by Sakhya communities or Buddhists only during that time period.

8. Ropai Naach

Baglung Municipality is famous for its Bhadaury Naach (Dance which is performed only after the plantation of paddy). This dance is performed on the main day of the Krishna Asthami period, celebrated by the local youths in very attractive traditional costumes. The dance is performed in the manner of flogging through the folklore of local youth. This dance, which is quite fun, is competitively contested between the Shakya and Newar communities.

9. Baraha Lake, Bhakunde



Baraha Tal (Lake), an enchanting Lake situated in the serene place of Baglung Municipality – 10, Bhakunde, is the tourism destinations. The serenity of Baraha Lake and the magnificence of the peak summit of Dhaulagiri rising behind it create an ambiance of peace and magic. The Barha Tal has covered 4 ropani lands. It offers mountain views and

glimpses of greenery hill. There is the water origin on southern & exit on the northern side. By means of this source large area is irrigated below it. In the middle of the lake, there is land outgrowth on which some mature tree is erected, on the western side there is roofless temple known as Baraha temple surrounded Baraha lake in Bhakundey wall.

It is hard to guess from when this lake exists. According to local people, there is a common belief that many years ago the lake was aroused by the declination of the fertile field on the rainy season. From this disaster, a custom of worshipping Baraha was established, which is still exist.

10.Kaligandaki River



The Kaligandaki River is named after the Hindu goddess Kali. The River springs up on the

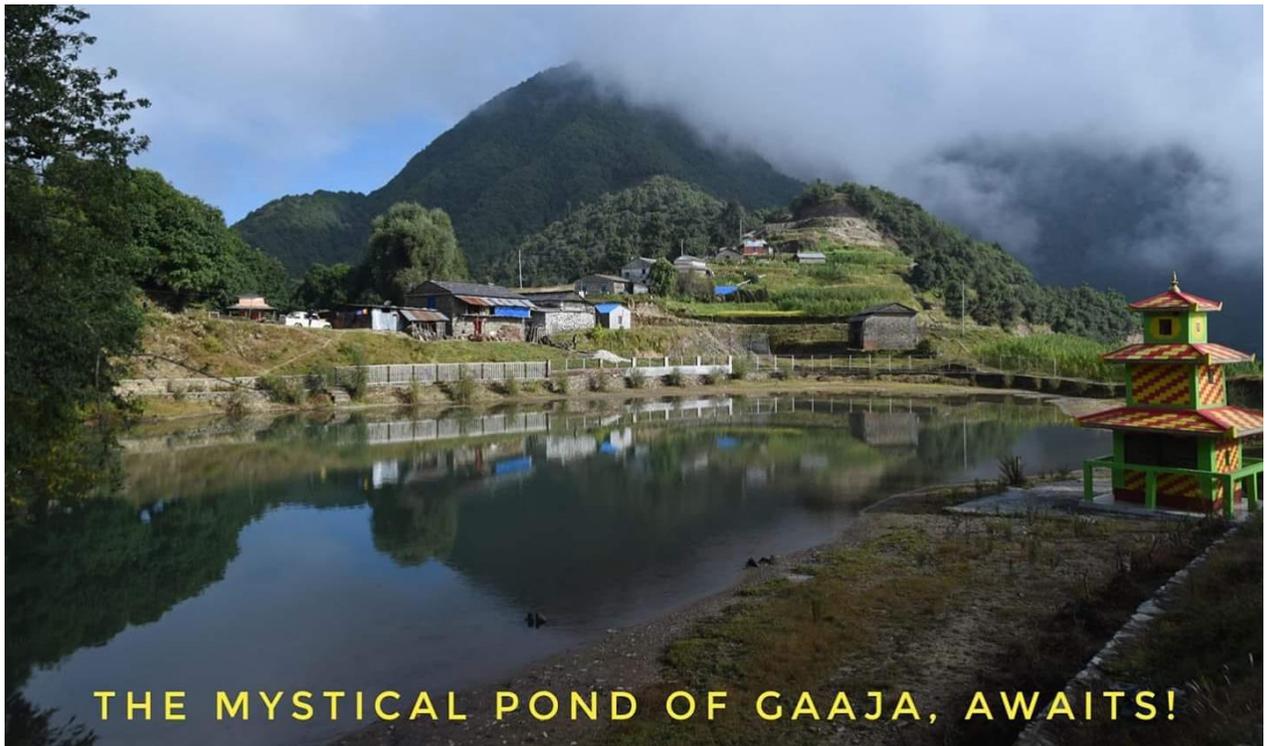
edge of the Tibetan plateau in the Upper Mustang Region. It tumbles down to the plains through Dhaulagiri and Annapurna ranges carving through one of the deepest Canyons in the world. The Kaligandaki is one of Nepal's finest and most fun medium length Rivers, merging great white water with some of the Nepal's fine scenery and fascinating villages. It runs with clear and blue water and offers breathtaking mountain views. Along the journey it travels through tiny villages and pristine land.

This river is one of the most holy in Nepal and the way is dotted with cremation and burial mounds along with many small temples. This river offers a great range of rapids and gives you technical and fun rafting.

So much so that the moniker "land of suspension bridges" is used to identify Baglung. Important crossings over Kaligandaki river are located at Pharse, Nirahe, Nayapul and Kaiya. The bridge over Kaligandaki connecting Kaiya with Kushma is notable for having the highest and longest span in Nepal. A mechanical cable-car spans the Kaligandaki river connecting ward 14, Narayansthan, with Kushma.

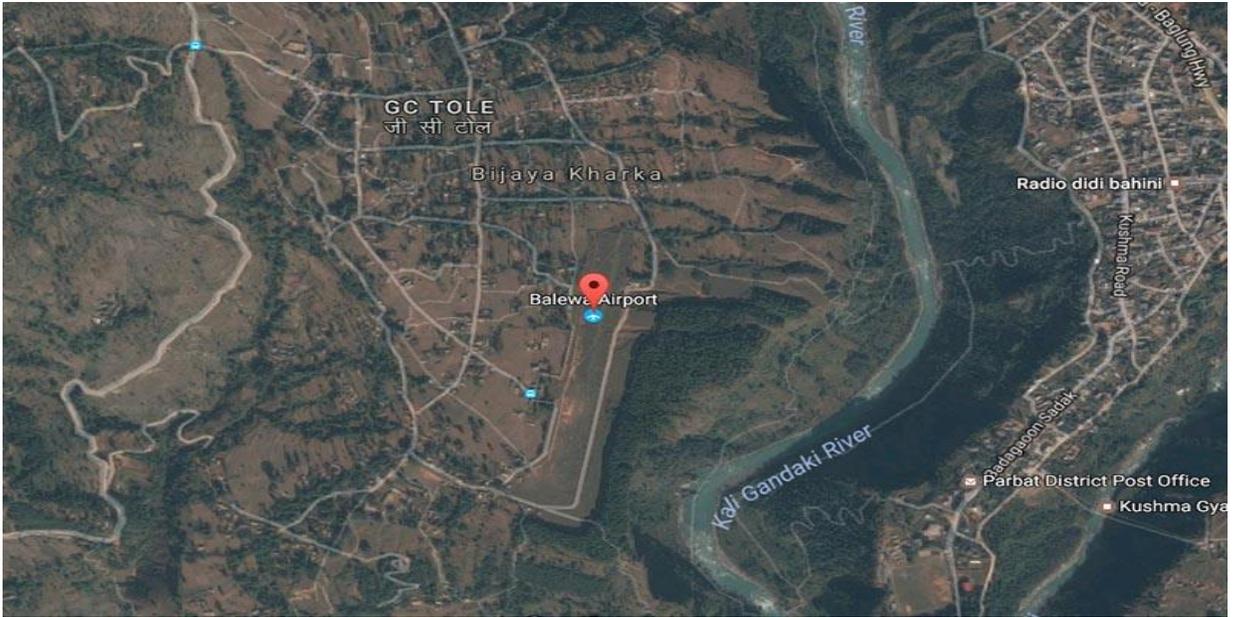
11.Gaja Daha (Lake)





Gaja Daha, located at an altitude of 2,600 meters, culturally important and touristically unique, is one of the tourist destinations of Baglung district located in Baglung Municipality-8. After crossing 3 km from the district headquarters, Gaja lake can be reached through the tourist village of Bhakunde, Sigana and Rashe. The Himalayan view from Lake has made everyone more attractive. The Rhododendron that blooms in spring season enhance the beauty of Lake. Locals have come up with conservation plan of lake to develop this area as natural, religious and cultural destinations with building of other infrastructure to pull tourists. Gaja lake is an important destination for trekkers looking for dense jungle paths. Although, a few years ago, a master plan which aimed at building infrastructure such as view tower, pedestrian, community lodge near lake, was developed, for the overall development of lake, it couldn't be done accordingly because of various problems. if such plan implemented making infrastructure and proper publicity there is tremendous potentiality of tourism development of municipality.

12. Baglung Balewa Airport



Baglung Airport (Balewa Airport) is an airport serving Baglung Municipality, located in the western region of Gandaki Province of Nepal. It was originally opened in 1965 but ceased to operate after the access of road to Pokhara, was established in 1992. On 14

January 2018, the Civil Aviation Authority of Nepal, Airline companies and the Baglung Municipality signed an agreement to reopen the airport. On 14 March 2018, Tara Air conducted its test flight to the airport, officially reopening it 26 years after its closure. If regular flight service resumed at Balewa Airport, Baglung will be just 45 minutes away from Kathmandu via air route and Pokhara, just eight minutes away. The Balewa Airport which was converted into a grazing ground for cattle following years of being unused has now been made capable to accommodate aircrafts. Baglung Municipality has agreed even to bear the loss to conduct aircraft regularly. Following the municipality's announcement, various airline companies became ready to operate their services to Balewa. Though Two 12-seater flights from Nepal Airlines Corporation and Tara Air were set to operate every week, now it has again remained closed due to various problems.