

STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES



A Thesis

Submitted to APF Command and Staff College

Faculty of Humanities and social science,

Tribhuvan University

In Partial fulfilment of the Requirements

**F o r M a s t e r ' s D e g r e e i n
Security, Development and Peace Studies**

Submitted by

SUSHIL K.C.

Ninth Batch (2080-2082)

Roll Number: 123740108

TU Registration No: 7-1-280-109-2003

**APF Command and Staff College
Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu, Nepal**

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DECLARATION

I, SUSHIL K.C. declare that the thesis entitled **STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES** submitted to APF Command and Staff College is my own original work unless otherwise indicated or acknowledged in the thesis. The thesis does not contain materials which have been accepted or submitted for any other degree at the University or other institution. All sources of information have been specifically acknowledged by references to author or institution.

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LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled **STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES** has been prepared by **Mr. SUSHIL K.C.** under my guidance and supervision. I hereby recommend it in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the Master's Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies, Tribhuvan University. I hereby recommend this thesis for the final evaluation and approval

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Thesis Supervisor

April 2025



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LETTER OF APPROVAL

This thesis entitled **STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES** submitted by **Mr. SUSHIL K.C.** to the APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuwan University, in partial fulfillment of the requirements for a Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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Sushil K.C.

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ABSTRACT

Border security is a central aspect of national sovereignty, particularly for Nepal, since it shares a 1,414 km border with China. The research examined the opportunities and challenges of increasing deployment of the Nepal Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal along the Nepal-China border. The research employed qualitative research methods such as key informant interviews, interview, and field observations in Rasuwa District and other northern border regions.

Findings indicated that logistical problems, bad infrastructure, and a lack of personnel pose significant barriers to border security. While the APF, Nepal, has established 10 BOPs along the northern border, it is hindered by long distances from the border, rented buildings, and a lack of surveillance equipment. The study also identifies the imbalance of security personnel with a more prominent presence of China in most areas. A language barrier, with a lack of Chinese or Tibetan speaking APF, Nepal personnel, also complicates operations.

The research also analyses border treaties, security coordination, and rising issues of illegal operations such as smuggling and unauthorized cross-border travel. While there do exist joint patrols and coordination talks with the Chinese government, they remain irregular. The research suggested the deployment of additional APF, Nepal infrastructure upgrading, the implementation of language training schemes, and the strengthening of Nepal-China diplomatic interactions to increase security.

A successful multi-dimensional responded that encompasses capacity building, infrastructure development, and cross-border coordination is needed to achieve border security. The study provided policy lessons to deploy more APF, Nepal personnel to preserve national sovereignty and regional stability.

Keywords: Border security, APF, Nepal, China-Nepal border, cross-border cooperation, security challenges.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AI	Artificial Intelligence
APF	Armed Police Force, Nepal
BADP	Border Area Development Program
BOP	Border Out Post
CCTV	Closed Circuit Television
CMC	Central Military Commission
DSP	Deputy Superintendent of Police
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
HSK	Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi
IBM	Integrated Border Management
Km	Kilometer
MOFA	Ministry of Foreign Affairs
MOHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MCC	Millennium Challenge Corporation
NIA	National Immigration Administration
PAPF	People's Armed Police Force
PLA	People's Liberation Army
SSB	Sastra Seema Bal
TAR	Tibetan Autonomous Region
MoU	Memorandum of Understanding

CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introductions

Nepal is a land-linked country with a plain border mostly with India and most Himalayan and high-altitude borders with China. Nepal has a border around 1,880 km long with India on the east, west, and southern sides and about 1,414 km Northern border with China (Adhikari, 2021). The challenges in China-Nepal's bilateral partnership are primarily due to disagreements over the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) and the Boundary Management System (BMS). The BMS, proposed by China, aims to address illegal border crossings, but Nepal has yet to ratify it. Nepal's reluctance to accept high-interest loans and wavering commitment to the One-China policy have stalled project implementations and the formation of a new coalition government in Nepal in July 2024 further complicates the situation, as the Nepali Congress party has historically opposed BRI loans due to debt concerns (Dolma, 2024). More border facilities are located on the southern border than the northern border for a variety of reasons, including resource availability and physical closeness. Nepal's northern border with China poses particular and difficult border security issues. Uninhabited high-altitude areas made up of rocks, snow, glaciers, and ice fields make up more than 90% of Nepal's borders with China (Jha, 2010).

The vital role that APF, Nepal plays in advancing good governance through cooperation with international peers and partners, its role in preventing trans-border crimes also the key tenets of good governance, including responsibility, openness, involvement, readiness, and the defense of human rights, are all in line with efficient border management. Border security is further strengthened by the establishment of Border Surveillance Groups at the local government level also in border security measures the significance of preserving national integrity, protecting sovereignty, enforcing the rule of law, fighting corruption, and supporting justice and ethics (Aryal, 2022).

Moreover, the historical and cultural ties between the border communities on either side of the frontier complicate enforcement efforts. The shared ethnic and cultural heritage often blurs the lines of national boundaries, making it difficult for security forces to implement

strict border controls without disrupting traditional ways of life (Gurung, 2003). There are particular and difficult border security issues along Nepal's northern border with China's Tibet Autonomous Region. This area offers both natural protection and chances for illicit cross-border operations including smuggling, human trafficking, and unapproved commerce due to the harsh climate and rugged terrain of the Himalayas (Miklian et al. 2011).

In 1960, Nepal and China signed a peace and friendship treaty that included a border adjustment agreement, following the establishment of formal diplomatic ties and the exchange of resident ambassadors between the two countries. This treaty replaced the Treaty of Thapathali of 1856 and officially recognized Tibet as part of China, resolving historical disputes. During the Indo-China War in 1962, Nepal maintained a neutral stance, balancing its diplomatic relations with both India and China while upholding its commitment to regional stability and peaceful coexistence (Bhattarai, 2010).

Nepal-China border security challenges arise from historical, geopolitical, and infrastructural factors reflecting China's strategic ambitions in the Himalayas. China views Nepal as part of the "five fingers of Tibet," emphasizing its regional significance. This perspective is bolstered by projects like the Lhasa-Kathmandu Road, which strengthens connectivity while symbolizing China's influence. Nepal's position as a buffer state between China and India adds complexity to its security, especially during periods of domestic instability. The rugged terrain hinders surveillance, increasing cross-border vulnerabilities. Tibetan refugees and China's suppression of dissent further impact the border's stability. Balancing relations with China and India is essential for Nepal to safeguard sovereignty and address evolving regional dynamics (Patterson, 1962).

Nepali, (1964) mentioned that during the visit of Chinese PM Zhou En Lie in 1961 April 26th -29th announced in the joint press meet that the Sagarmatha was not the claim of China, was the point of the solution of issue about it. Nepal China had agreed to formed Joint Working committee to solve the issues of border by the high-level bilateral agreement so that the committee had worked hard from 1960 march to 1963 August (2 years and 5 months) and they finished the given tasked within the short time frame though there were the geographically difficulties. There are 79 static border pillar and the international principle of border demarcation of watershed and the natural was adopted (Nepali, 1964). Since then, there are not border issues between Nepal and China despite some resolvable issue.

The National Immigration Administration (NIA), also known as the Exit and Entry Administration, operates under China's Ministry of Public Security. It is responsible for formulating and implementing immigration policies, managing border control, overseeing foreigners' stays, and handling refugee and nationality matters. Additionally, the NIA coordinates the enforcement of laws related to illegal immigration, including the investigation, detention, and repatriation of individuals who enter, stay, or are employed unlawfully in China. It also collaborates with international agencies to address cross-border crimes and enhance immigration security measures (Bhandari, 2018).

1.2 Statement of the problem

A problem statement articulates the nature of the issue, providing a clear understanding for stakeholders, including users and management (Davis, 2019). Border security has been a prime task in Nepal. Specially, the issues are prevalent in border management (Adhikari, 2020). The Nepal-China border, particularly in the Mustang district, presents unique challenges and opportunities for border security management. The area is covered with rugged terrain, thin population, and limited infrastructure which make it difficult for effectively border security (Baral B. , 2019) Because of its difficult terrain, harsh weather, and inadequate infrastructure, the 1,414-kilometer China-Nepal border poses serious security and administrative issues. APF, Nepal is in charge of guarding this border, preventing illicit activity, and maintaining national security. APF, Nepal deployment along the China-Nepal border is faced with logistical and operational challenges, despite its strategic significance.

Inadequate infrastructure, a shortage of personnel, outdated surveillance equipment, and issues in monitoring distant border regions are some of the main obstacles. The necessity for a more effective deployment plan is further underscored by the escalating concerns of cross-border crimes including human trafficking, smuggling, and illegal border crossings. Further complicating border management is the need to strike a balance between security enforcement and diplomatic sensitivities in Nepal's relations with China.

1.3 Research Questions

A research question is the specific question a study aims to answer, guiding the methods, data, and analysis, it should be crafted with specificity, considering existing data and ongoing

research, and often undergoes refinement through an iterative process (Shah, 2023). In order to conduct this research, a set of questions had been formulated to ascertain the research objectives.

1.3.1 What is the current status of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China Border?

1.3.2 What are the challenges that APF, Nepal's deployment along Nepal-China Border?

1.3.3 How can the APF, Nepal strengthens its deployment along Nepal-China Border?

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The general objective of this study is to navigate the challenges and strategies of APF, Nepal deployment in China-Nepal Border. For this, the specific objectives of the study are:

1.4.1 To analyze the current status of APF, Nepal in Nepal-China Border.

1.4.2 To explore the challenges that facing by APF, Nepal's along Nepal-China Border.

1.4.3 To identify the priorities that strengthening deployment of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China Border.

1.5 Significance of the study

The deployment APF, Nepal along the China-Nepal border is a crucial aspect of national security, border management, and regional stability. Nepal faces challenges in ensuring effective surveillance, preventing illegal activities, and maintaining sovereignty. Also due to rugged terrain, harsh weather conditions, and limited infrastructure make deployment and operational efficiency difficult in Northern border. Additionally, emerging security threats such as smuggling, illegal cross-border movements, and potential geopolitical tensions require Nepal to strengthen its border security mechanisms.

Despite the strategic importance of securing the Nepal-China border, there has been a notable lack of comprehensive research on the specific challenges faced by the APF, Nepal in this region. This research studied to assess the current state of APF, Nepal deployment along the China-Nepal border, identify key challenges, and explore potential strategies for

strengthening border security. It evaluates the effectiveness of existing policies, logistical constraints, and the role of technology in enhancing security measures. By addressing these gaps, the study seeks to provide policy recommendations to enhance the operational efficiency and effectiveness of APF, Nepal deployment along the China-Nepal border.

1.6 Limitations of the Study

Some of the major limitations of the research had been listed below.

1.6.1 Focused on specific areas of deployment, leaving much of the northern frontier unexplored.

1.6.2 Limited geographical coverage and sample size restricted to select security personnel, local community members, and agencies.

1.6.3 Reliance on qualitative data collection methods, which are subjective and may not fully reflect the quantitative effectiveness of border security measures.

CHAPTER II

REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE

A review of literature is a comprehensive analysis of existing research, studies, and publications related to a particular topic. It helps to identify gaps, theoretical frameworks, key findings, and methodologies used in previous studies. A literature review also provides a foundation for new research by synthesizing past knowledge and highlighting areas that require further investigation (Creswell, 2018).

A literature review helps define relevant theories and models that support the research. For example, border security studies often refer to the concept of securitization theory (Buzan et al 1998), which explains how states frame border management as a national security issue. By reviewing previous studies, researchers can determine what has already been explored and where there are unanswered questions or inconsistencies (Boote & Beile, 2005). In security studies, literature reviews help inform policy suggestions by analyzing what has worked in other countries or regions (Newman, 2020).

2.1 Theoretical Perspective

A theoretical review focuses on critically examining and integrating multiple theories related to a phenomenon, often leading to the refinement or development of new theoretical frameworks. (Battistone et al., 2023). Some of the theoretical aspect related to border security are mention below.

2.1.1 Securitization Theory

Buzan et al (1998) stated that foundational perspective on how security threats are constructed and how they are framed as issues of existential importance that require extraordinary measures, the process of securitization involves framing a particular issue such as border security as a security threat through political discourse. In the context of border security, this theory suggests that states and policymakers can create a narrative that justifies increased militarization and law enforcement at borders. The securitization of borders allows governments to implement measures such as enhanced surveillance, border patrols, and

military presence to protect against perceived threats, such as illegal immigration, terrorism, and transnational crime.

2.1.2 Border Control Theory

Andreas (2000), focused on how borders serve as regulatory mechanisms to control the movement of people, goods, and information between states. This theory highlights the role of border security in preventing illegal activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, and cross-border terrorism. According to Andreas (2000), border security involves not only physical barriers such as walls and fences but also technologies like surveillance cameras, biometric systems, and electronic monitoring to control entry and exit. This framework is crucial for understanding how security forces, such as border patrol agencies, enforce regulations and maintain national security.

2.1.3 Geopolitical Theories of Border Security

Herz (1957) and Agnew (2003) argued that borders are not merely lines on a map but are deeply embedded in political, economic, and cultural contexts, the Borders, from a geopolitical perspective, are sites of contestation and power struggles, with neighboring states' policies often influencing security practices. For example, a border might be heavily secured not only due to local threats but also due to the broader geopolitical dynamics between neighboring countries, such as competition, rivalry, or cooperation.

2.1.4 Theories of Border Mobility and Migration

According to Cassarino (2007), borders are not only barriers but also pathways for legitimate movement, such as trade, tourism, and migration. Migration theories often focus on the economic, political, and social reasons why people cross borders, which are influenced by factors such as employment opportunities, political instability, and conflicts. Border security measures, therefore, must balance the regulation of cross-border movements with human rights concerns, particularly for refugees and migrants. Understanding the dynamics of border mobility is essential for creating security policies that prevent illegal immigration while accommodating legitimate migration flows.

2.2 Thematic Perspective

According to Almaghlouth et al. (2025) a thematic review is a qualitative research method that systematically analyzes and synthesizes existing studies to identify patterns, themes, and insights within a specific topic. It aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the subject by exploring diverse contexts and perspectives. Thematic reviews are applicable in diverse fields, such as healthcare, where they help identify systemic issues in patient safety (Puttaroo et al., 2024), and in engineering, focusing on specific phenomena like convective heat transfer (Fauzi et al., 2023).

Nepal's northern border with China spans some of the most difficult terrains in the world, making surveillance and enforcement challenging. The high altitudes, harsh weather conditions, and difficult access routes limit the operational capacity of security forces (Sukhre, 2002). Nepal's strategic location between India and China presents both opportunities and risks. The increasing influence of China in Nepal, particularly through investments and development projects, complicates the security landscape (Aryal, 2022). The open border with India exacerbates security challenges, allowing for easier cross-border crime and smuggling (Upreti, 2021).

Shifting populations and internal migration contribute to illegal activities such as human trafficking and smuggling, which threaten national security (Dhungel, 2023). Local perceptions of these demographic changes highlight the need for effective governance and security measures to mitigate risks (Dhungel, 2023).

The APF, Nepal is pivotal in enforcing border security, combating organized crime, and collaborating with local authorities to address security threats (Upreti, 2021). Their efforts are essential in fostering a comprehensive national security strategy that balances internal and external threats (Kunwar, 2024).

Heyman and Smart (1999) explored the complex relationship between states and illegal practices, arguing that illegality is not merely an external force opposed to state authority but is often deeply intertwined with state functions. The authors emphasized how states, through their legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms, paradoxically facilitate and even depend on certain illegal activities. The book examined various case studies to illustrate how corruption, smuggling, and other illicit practices are embedded in state structures and

governance. Challenge the conventional view of states as purely law-enforcing entities and instead highlight their role in shaping and sustaining illegal economies. This perspective provides valuable insights into the functioning of state power, legality, and informal networks within different socio-political contexts.

Guragain et al (2024) founded that Nepal's geopolitical factors contribute to cross-border criminal activities. The study identifies various interest groups within Nepal, each with their own agendas, creating opportunities for organized criminal networks. The interplay of supply and demand dynamics, political and economic conditions, and changing political and economic conditions creates fertile ground for organized crime. The study calls for comprehensive strategies to address transnational organized crime in Nepal, including strengthening border security measures and international cooperation.

The article by Kunwar (2024) analyzed Nepal's national security, highlighting both internal and external threats. It highlights the evolving nature of security threats, shifting from traditional border security and military defense to socio-political instability, economic crises, and environmental factors. Internal security issues include political instability, bureaucratic inefficiency, ethnic and religious tensions, and environmental degradation. The article calls for a comprehensive national security policy that aligns with Nepal's unique geopolitical and socio-economic context, emphasizing unity among political and security institutions.

Dhungel (2023) examined how demographic shifts in Nepal impact national and border security. The research focuses on the perceptions of local-level elected representatives regarding the root causes of demographic changes and their effects on border security governance. Key challenges identified include illegal border crossings, human trafficking, and smuggling, all exacerbated by internal migration and cross-border movements. The study highlights the necessity for effective strategies to address these security threats, emphasizing the role of local authorities in mitigating risks associated with demographic changes.

Michaels (2024) stated a comprehensive exploration of Nepal's history, culture, and geopolitical significance. The book researches into the country's evolution from prehistoric times to contemporary developments, including the establishment of the republic, the Maoist insurgency, and the 2001 royal massacre. It also examines Nepal's interactions with neighboring countries, the impact of British colonialism, and its rich traditions in arts, architecture, and handicrafts. Drawing from primary sources in Nepali, Sanskrit, and other

indigenous languages, an updated and nuanced narrative of Nepal's unique cultural and historical landscape.

Gallien & Weigand (2021) explored the global dynamics of smuggling, emphasizing its economic, political, and social dimensions. The handbook highlights how border security policies impact informal trade networks and livelihoods, arguing that strict enforcement can sometimes fuel illicit activities rather than curb them. The study advocates for balanced approaches that consider both security and economic sustainability in border management.

Mehta, R. (2022) explored the relationship between Nepal and China, focusing on its historical ties with India. It delves into the political, economic, and cultural aspects of this relationship, tracing the deep-rooted connections between Nepal and Tibet, the shifts in foreign policy, China's growing influence in Nepal through infrastructure projects, trade, and tourism, and the impact on border communities and local lives along the Nepal-China border.

Khadga & Bhattarai (2022) analyzed Nepal's foreign relations amidst escalating Sino-Indian and Sino-U.S. rivalries. Traditionally, Nepal has maintained a policy of non-alignment, neutrality, and equidistance, avoiding alliances due to its strategic location. The authors highlight Nepal's ambition to foster development by positioning itself as a transit hub between China and India, leveraging initiatives like China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, India's hesitance toward trilateral cooperation under the 'China-India-Nepal' framework has prompted Nepal to engage with alternative partners, such as the U.S.-funded Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC). This shift underscores Nepal's strategic balancing act in response to regional power dynamics.

Gupta, R. (2021) examined China's strategic interests in Nepal, focusing on geopolitical influence, economic investments, and security concerns. China's interests in Nepal are driven by counterbalancing the growing US and Indian influence in the region, as prompted by initiatives like the Millennium Challenge Corporation. China also aims to expand its economic presence in Nepal through infrastructure projects under the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). However, many Chinese projects in Nepal have faced delays and not materialized as expected since the 2017 agreement. Gupta's analyses suggest China seeks to secure its interests, expand its economic presence, and maintain regional power balance.

The northern frontier of Nepal, characterized by its rugged Himalayan terrain and extreme climatic conditions, presents unique challenges for border security. This region, bordering the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, provides both natural protection and opportunities for illegal cross-border activities such as smuggling, human trafficking, and unauthorized trade (Rippa, 2020).

Poudyal (2023) stated Nepal's border management with China is a strategic approach to maintaining peaceful coexistence and territorial integrity amidst geopolitical challenges. The 1961 Boundary Agreement and subsequent protocols have established a stable border, compared to disputes with India. Effective border management involves diplomatic dialogue, mutual trust, historical documentation, legal frameworks, confidence-building measures, direct communication channels, regional collaboration, regular border inspections, technical expertise, and local stakeholder involvement. This balanced approach ensures Nepal's sovereignty while fostering peaceful relations with China.

Shrestha (2019) offered a detailed analysis of the impact of colonial legacies and regional power structures. It addresses contemporary challenges like territorial disputes and border encroachments, as well as cross-border trade, migration, and security concerns. It also emphasizes the role of international law and diplomatic engagements in resolving border issues, emphasizing Nepal's reliance on diplomatic dialogue to assert territorial claims. The study also highlights the importance of border infrastructure for effective border management.

Rosenblum (2012) examined U.S. border security and immigration enforcement between official ports of entry. The report highlights challenges in detecting and preventing unauthorized crossings, emphasizing the role of personnel, surveillance technology, and policy measures. It discusses the balance between security enforcement and humanitarian concerns, stressing the need for effective strategies to manage border control while addressing economic and social factors.

Shneiderman (2013) examined the unique status of individuals residing in the border areas between Nepal and the TAR. These individuals possess state-sanctioned border citizenship cards, granting them legal permission for cross-border movement. This arrangement serves as a mechanism for both Nepal and China to assert sovereignty by regulating mobility across their shared border. Simultaneously, it acknowledges the complex realities of local

populations whose daily lives and identities transcend national boundaries. His analysis sheds light on how such policies challenge traditional notions of citizenship and sovereignty, highlighting the dynamic interplay between state control and individual agency in border regions.

According to Dhakal (2020), the socio-economic conditions of border communities significantly influence border security dynamics. Many people living along Nepal's northern frontier depend on cross-border trade with China for their livelihoods, which often leads to a mix of legal and illegal activities. This economic dependency complicates strict enforcement of border security, as it disrupts traditional economic practices and can lead to social unrest. Increased security measures may limit access to vital markets and resources, potentially exacerbating poverty and causing resentment. Balancing security with the needs of local communities is essential to avoid negative socio-economic impact.

Mishra (2021) stated the socio-economic conditions along Nepal's border are shaped by its political dynamics and relations with China and India. Economic development, particularly due to China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), has altered local economies, creating disparities between regions with better infrastructure and more isolated areas. While the BRI has improved infrastructure in some regions, it has also intensified resource competition and geopolitical tensions, especially with India. These factors complicate Nepal's efforts to balance development goals with the need for strong border security.

Murton (2020) explored border corridors as evolving spaces of connectivity and contestation, offering insights into Nepal-China border management. His analysis emphasizes how initiatives like the BRI transform these corridors into strategic areas for economic integration and geopolitical influence. Murton highlights the dual role of these corridors in fostering trade and development while increasing state surveillance and control. In Nepal, these corridors are reshaping borderlands into hubs of transnational interaction, though challenges like sovereignty issues and local resistance persist. His work underscores the complexities in managing these dynamic spaces in Nepal-China relations.

Lily (2013) noted that The People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) is a specialized paramilitary force in China responsible for various internal security functions, including disaster management, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and riot control. With 1.5 million members,

it operates under the Central Military Commission (CMC). Established in 1982, it is stationed along Nepal's northern border and later within the People's Liberation Army (PLA).

Bhandari (2018) focused on the National Immigration Administration (NIA) is an executive agency under China's Ministry of Public Security, responsible for developing and enforcing immigration policies, managing border control, overseeing foreign nationals, and addressing refugee issues. The NIA also regulates nationality matters and handles the repatriation of individuals who illegally enter or stay in China. Established on April 2, 2018, the NIA supervises front-line detachments that enforce immigration laws, safeguard national security, and ensure the lawful movement of people across borders.

Despite historical ties and agreements, several issues have arisen along Nepal's northern frontier. Poudel (2021) reported that on September 1, Prime Minister Sher Bahadur Deuba pronounced the formation of a committee to investigate a border dispute with China in Humla district. The committee had examined allegations that China has built 11 houses on Nepali land between border pillars 11 and 12. This issue gained attention a year earlier when the Nepali Congress, then in opposition under Prime Minister K. P. Sharma Oli, accused China of encroaching on Nepali territory in Humla.

According to Koirala (2022) Nepal faced border security challenges due to its rugged terrain, limited access points, and extreme weather conditions. To address these issues, Nepal is prioritizing projects like the Syaphrubesi-Rasuwa Gadhi Road and China's Qinghai-Tibet Railway extension. These initiatives aim to enhance connectivity, curb illegal border activities, and strengthen economic ties with China. However, Nepal also faces challenges like maintaining neutrality amid Sino-Indian tensions, balancing regional diplomacy, and securing international support.

Subedi A. (2024) discussed Chittaranjan Nepali's significant contributions to Nepalese history, especially through his focus on heroic figures. Nepali's work, which includes studies of Nepal's military figures and border issues, highlights his dedication to preserving the country's historical narrative. Subedi explored how Nepali's writings help to contextualize Nepal's struggles and triumphs, emphasizing his influence as both a historian and bureaucrat. The article underscores the importance of Nepali's historical interpretations in shaping Nepal's national identity.

Mulmi (2021) traced Nepal's engagement with China back to the Qing Dynasty and examines the shift in Nepal's geopolitical stance after the 1950s, particularly after Tibet's annexation by China. It also discusses China's expanding footprint in Nepal through investments, infrastructure projects, and political outreach, reshaping its diplomatic strategies and regional positioning.

He provides a view of how China's policies towards Tibet affect Nepal, particularly regarding refugee management and cultural exchanges. The development of highways, rail links, and trade routes under China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is reshaping Nepal's connectivity options. However, challenges such as terrain, political sensitivities, and economic feasibility are also discussed also the role APF, Nepal in border security and preventing anti-China activities.

Gavrilis (2010) examined the complexities of interstate boundaries, highlighting how border security dynamics evolve based on state policies, local conditions, and external influences. He emphasizes the need for flexible governance, cooperation between neighboring states, and adaptive security measures to manage borders effectively. The study underscores that rigid border controls can disrupt local economies, while strategic coordination enhances stability and enforcement.

Saxer M. (2013) examined the trade dynamics between China and Nepal, focusing on the Upper Humla region in northwestern Nepal. The region has experienced significant economic changes over the past five decades, largely due to modernization efforts and development initiatives. The decline in Upper Humla's prosperity is influenced by political and economic changes in Nepal and Tibet. The study highlights the complexities of trans-Himalayan trade, emphasizing the role of local communities in adapting to changing trade routes and policies. It critiques the top-down approach of some projects and advocates for local knowledge and needs in development planning.

Jones & Johnson (2016) examined how borders are not just geopolitical lines but influence everyday life through social, economic, and political interactions. They highlight how border enforcement, security measures, and policies shape local communities and cross-border relationships. The study emphasizes that borders are dynamic spaces where state control and everyday practices intersect, requiring flexible governance approaches.

Yeh E.T. (2021) explored the complex interplay of sovereignties in the Limi Valley, located in Nepal's Humla district near the Tibet Autonomous Region. The valley was previously part of Nepalese territory, but its residents were administratively aligned with the Tibetan government, challenging conventional notions of state territorial sovereignty. Yeh examines how the residents navigate the overlapping sovereignties of Nepal and China, as well as the non-state sovereignty of the Tibetan government-in-exile. The community's social sovereignty is grounded in pre-modern laws, codes, and practices, reflecting a historically sedimented trace of Limi's traditional systems. Yeh also discusses how Limi villagers selectively invoke state sovereignty through legal channels to facilitate greater mobility, demonstrating a strategic engagement with state laws to serve community interests.

The construction of infrastructure like the Trans-Himalayan railway poses environmental risks, given the fragile ecosystem of the Himalayan region (Bhattarai, 2022). Bhattarai, G. (2023) explores the geopolitical and diplomatic implications of the 2015 agreement between China and India to use the Lipulekh Pass as a trade route without Nepal's consent. The agreement undermined Nepal's territorial sovereignty and raised concerns about its geopolitical significance being overlooked by its immediate neighbors. The Sino-Indian agreement exemplifies the challenges Nepal faces in maintaining its sovereignty while fostering friendly relations with its neighbors. Bhattarai suggests that Nepal should engage in continuous dialogue with both China and India to ensure its concerns are acknowledged and addressed in future bilateral agreements, the complexities of Nepal's foreign relations amidst Sino-Indian interactions and the potential marginalization of smaller states' interests when neighboring giants pursue bilateral initiatives.

Prajapati M. (2024) deemed Nepali Prime Minister K.P. Sharma Oli's visit a landmark event, advancing Nepal's participation in the BRI and strengthening bilateral relations. His visit to China in December 2024 was significant for Nepal-China relations and the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). The visit, attended by Chinese Premier Li Qiang, aimed to strengthen Nepal's socio-economic progress through discussions on infrastructure development, trade, investment, tourism, agriculture, and regional connectivity. The visit resulted in the signing of a BRI cooperation framework agreement, outlines collaboration on infrastructure projects, and nine agreements and Memoranda of Understanding (MOUs) covering diverse sectors.

Bhattarai G. (2021) analyzed the Nepal-India border disputes in the Himalayas, highlighting historical, political, and geopolitical factors that complicate resolution. The disputes stem

from differing interpretations of historical treaties and maps, nationalist sentiments, power asymmetry, lack of trust, political instability in Nepal, and India's strategic security concerns. He advocates for Nepal to adopt a balanced foreign policy, foster dialogue, and international mediation to resolve the disputes, promoting sustained diplomatic engagement and cooperation.

2.3 Research Gap

From these studies several gaps on border security of Nepal can be analyzed. In terms of Rasuwa district, few studies have explored on what are challenges along China border. The pertinent issue of physical security and environment challenges are unexplored domain. Limited comparative studies on Nepal-China border dynamics with other borders (e.g., Nepal-India) are discovered. From the literature, field visit and interview we can see that APF, Nepal deployment in India side is more than China side, and the article as well books concern to Nepal-China border is written less rather than Nepal-India border. Geopolitical tensions between China and India are acknowledged, yet their impact on Nepal's border security strategy and diplomatic relations remains insufficiently studied. The socio-economic consequences of border security measures on local communities, particularly the balance between traditional livelihoods and modern security protocols, require more attention. Furthermore, the role of local governments in border management is underexplored, despite their potential to bridge national security strategies with local needs.

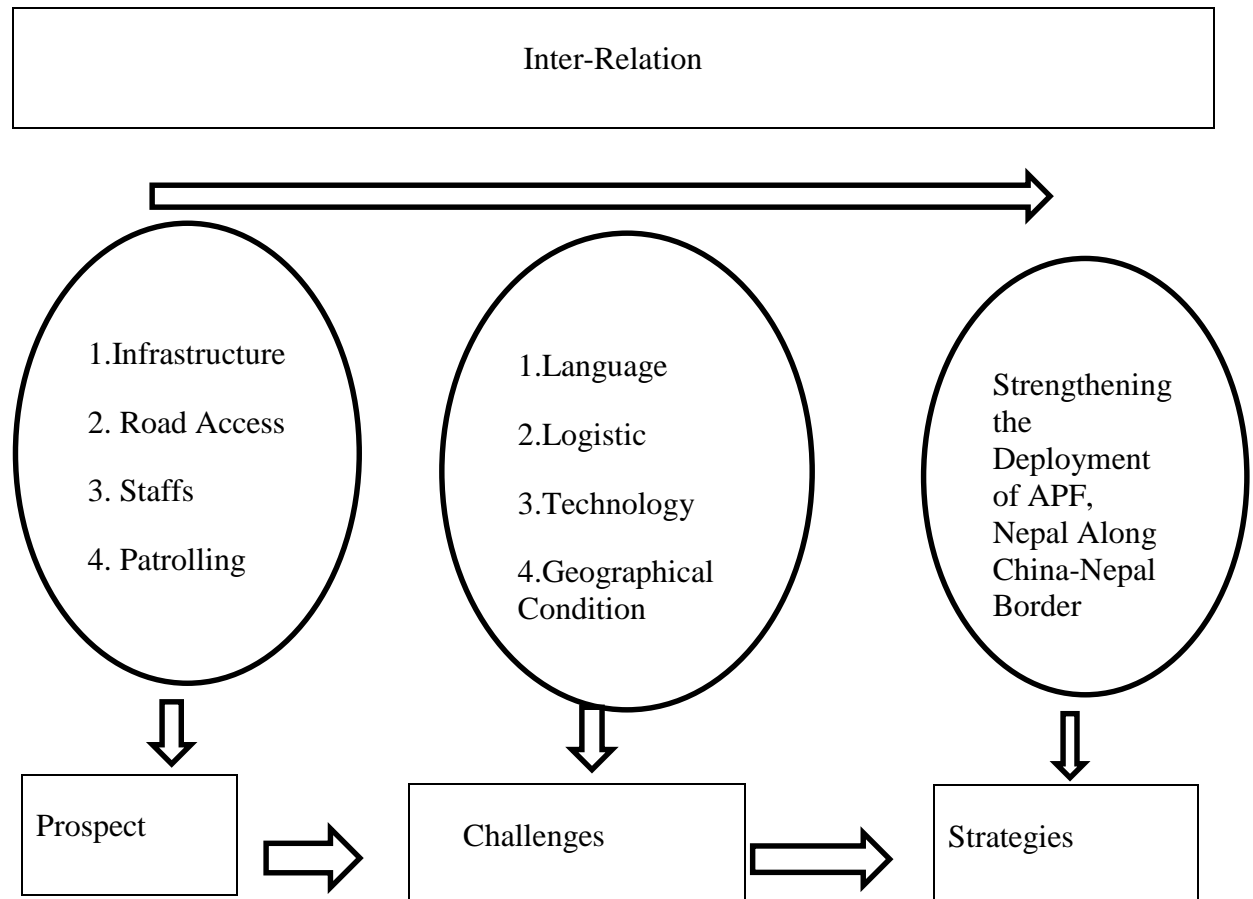
2.4 Conceptual Framework

The research framework of this study delineates a comprehensive approach to exploring the strengthening development of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China Border. It begins with a clear identification of the problem and sets specific research questions and objectives aimed at understanding the existing security measures, challenges, and strategies implemented. The framework incorporates both primary data, collected through interviews and questionnaires with key stakeholders, and secondary data from the websites, books and various journals. This data is then subjected to thematic and comparative analysis to provide a detailed understanding of the border security issues. The research findings are systematically presented, leading to a synthesis of conclusions and actionable recommendations aimed at enhancing border security measures. This structured framework ensures a thorough and

balanced investigation, offering significant insights into the complexities of border management in Nepal-China border. The following figure shows the clear flow of research:

Figure 2.1

Conceptual Framework for Nepal-China Border Security



Source: Adopted & Modified from Cassarino (2007), Herz (1957) & Agnew (2003)

The research flow in prospect of APF, Nepal i.e. infrastructure, road access, staffs and operational activities, whereas challenges focus on language barrier, logistic barrier, technology barrier and geographical barrier, for this 72-interview done and for strengthening the deployment of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China border 6 key informant interview (KII) had been done. In summary, field observations and interviews were conducted to assess the prospects and challenges, and key informant interviews were carried out to discuss strategies

CHAPTER III

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research methodology refers to the systematic plan or approach used to conduct research, encompassing the tools, techniques, and procedures employed to collect and analyze data. It defines how the study is structured to achieve its objectives and answer the research questions (Creswell, 2018). Research methodology simply describes the techniques and procedures used to identify and analyze information regarding a specific research topic. It is a process by which researchers design their study so that they can achieve their objectives using the selected research instruments. It includes all the important aspects of research, including research design, data collection methods, data analysis methods, and the overall framework within which the research is conducted (Sreekumar,2023). This research engaged following design, tools and modality in acquiring the objective of the proposed research.

3.1 Research Design

Research design is the overall strategy or blueprint that outlines how the research will be conducted, specifying the type of study data collection methods, and the time frame. It ensures that the research process is coherent and logical (Yin, 2014), Phenomenological research is a qualitative approach that focuses on understanding individuals' lived experiences and perceptions. It aims to uncover the essence of phenomena as interpreted by participants, emphasizing their subjective viewpoints and the meanings they attach to their experiences (Haki & Prahastiwi, 2024).

This study adopts an exploratory in qualitative method, descriptive in qualitative method and field observation of Rasuwa utilizing qualitative methods to delve deeply into the status of APF, Nepal along China-Nepal border, border security challenges and strategies to APF, Nepal in Nepal's northern part. The research was begun with an extensive literature review to establish a theoretical foundation and identify existing knowledge and gaps. Following this, structured interviews were conducted with key stakeholders, including APF, Nepal officers, local community, and security experts to elicit detailed responses about operational challenges, resource limitations, and the effectiveness of current border security measures to APF, Nepal.

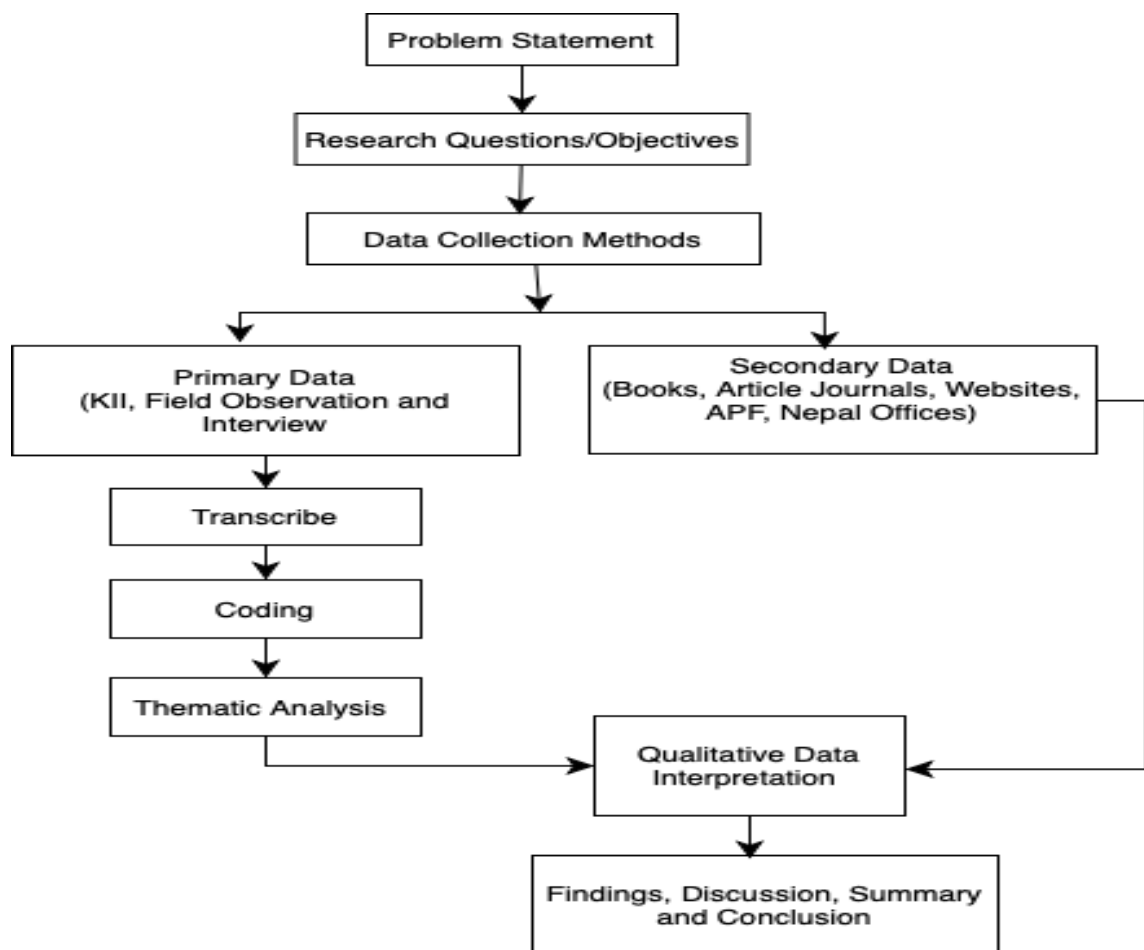
The qualitative data collected from these methods were recorded, transcribed, and analyzed using thematic analysis to identify and report patterns within the data. Ethical considerations, such as informed consent, confidentiality, and anonymity, were strictly adhered to throughout the study. The final phase has been involved synthesizing the findings into a comprehensive report, highlighting key insights and themes.

3.2 Methodological Framework

Methodological frameworks provide a structured approach to research design, including preparatory, basic, and final stages, which are crucial for developing educational products (Osipov et al., 2024). The flow has given below.

Figure 3.1

Methodological Flow of the Study



Source: Literary Review, 2025

3.3 Sources of Data

Sources of data refer to the origin of information used in research, including primary sources (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations) and secondary sources (e.g., books, journals, reports). They provide the evidence needed to support findings (Babbie, 2020).

This study has been drawn on a combination of primary and secondary data sources to comprehensively address the strengthening deployment of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China Border. Primary data were collected through questions survey, telephone interview with BOPs Commanders who deployed near China Border, structured interviews with key stakeholders such as APF, Nepal officers, Local community, local community leaders and security staffs.

Secondary data sourced from a range of documents and publications, including government reports and policy documents that detail existing border security measures and strategic frameworks along China-Nepal border. Academic journals and books provided theoretical foundations and contextual background has been offered additional perspectives on security and development issues. Media articles will be analyzed to capture current and historical events related to border security, such as incidents of smuggling and other illegal activities and strengthening the deployment of APF, Nepal along China-Nepal border. The main source is given below.

3.4 Data Collection Tools, Techniques and Method

Data collection is the systematic process of gathering information from various sources to address a research question or test a hypothesis. It can be categorized into: Primary Data: Collected firsthand through methods such as surveys, interviews, experiments, and observations (Creswell, 2018). Secondary Data: Gathered from existing sources like books, journal articles, government reports, and online databases (Neuman, 2014). The data analysis for this study was employ a qualitative approach, focusing on thematic analysis to systematically identify and interpret patterns and themes within the collected data. Primary data gathered through semi-structured interviews, and field observation.

The findings had been presented clearly and systematically, combining narrative descriptions with illustrative quotes from participants to provide depth and context. Key themes and

patterns had been highlighted, and their implications for strengthening deployment of APF, Nepal along China -Nepal border had been discussed. Additionally, comparative analysis had employed to contrast the perspectives of different stakeholder groups, providing a comprehensive view of the border security challenges and potential improvements.

The final report had synthesized these findings, offering actionable recommendations and insights for policymakers, security agencies, and other relevant stakeholders. This mixed approach had been ensuring a robust and nuanced understanding of the issues, enabling the study to make well-informed recommendations grounded in empirical evidence. Some of the data collection tools and techniques had been listed below.

3.4.1 Key Informant Interview (KII)

KII involves conducting in depth interviews with individuals who have specialized knowledge, experience, or insights on a particular subject which are selected based on their expertise, professional role, or involvement in the area of study (Creswell, 2009). The KII were security experts, journalist and local level Government representative who possessed extensive knowledge and experience regarding the Nepal-China border. KII A, B, E, and F contributed to strengthening the deployment of the APF, Nepal along the China-Nepal border, as well as discussing potential challenges and opportunities, KII C, D provide experience and knowledge regarding APF, Nepal strengthening along China-Nepal border.

Table 3.1

Key Informant Details

S.N.	Key Informant	Area / Expert	Methods
1	KII A	EX- AIG of APF, Nepal	Direct Personal Interview
2	KII B	Coy Commander of Rasuwa District	Mobile Interview
3	KII C	Local Representative of GON	Direct Personal Interview
4	KII D	Journalist	Mobile Interview
5	KII E	Ex- AIG of APF, Nepal	Direct Personal Interview
6	KII F	Officer of Border security Department of APF, Nepal	Direct Personal Interview

Source: Researcher ethical consideration, (2025)

Most of the KII had been chosen APF, Nepal staff because they had the real field experience knowledge which are significance to doing research.

3.4.2 Interview and Field Observation

Case studies, on the other hand, serve as a comprehensive framework for investigating complex issues, enabling the use of various data collection techniques, including interviews and observations, to understand the intricacies of a particular case ("The Role of Context in Qualitative Case Study Research: Understanding Service Innovation", 2022).

Case Study and field observation specially done by observing in border side and try to observed the pattern of peoples who went to China side and what things they took from there, observation of logistic arrangement in BOP, and other things also like livelihood of local peoples, their perception to APF, Nepal etc. Interview had been done in the Rasuwa District specially Timure from Jan 4 to Jan 11 2025. Within 8 days conducted the interview with Nepal Police personnels, APF, Nepal personnel, local shop owners, peoples who cross the borders, Custom Officers, INGO staff and 10 BOPS commanders who deployed in norther part of Nepal. Detail has be given below.

Table 3.2

Interview Details

S.N.	To Whom	Numbers	Gender	Where
1	Local Shopkeeper	6	5 Male/ 1 Female	Timure
2	APF, Nepal Staff (Field & ex-Deployment)	33	27 Male/ 6 Female	Timure & Kathmandu
3	Nepal Police Staff	4	4 Male	Timure & Kathmandu
4	Custom Office Staff	4	4 Male	Timure
5	Local Peoples who went to China Side	15	7 Male/ 8 Female	Timure
6	BOP Commanders	10	10 Male	Along China border

Source: Researcher ethical consideration, (2025)

Field Observation in Timure, Rasuwa district and interviewed with local peoples and shopkeepers helped to know their experienced toward the APF, Nepal for give special suggestions.

3.5 Area of Study

The area of study refers to the geographical, thematic, or population context within which the research is conducted. It defines the scope and boundaries of the research, such as a specific region, community, or sector being analyzed (Neuman, 2014).

The field observation had been done in Timure (Rasuwa Distric) of Nepal in Jan 4 to Jan 11 2025 where closely monitoring the deployment of APF, Nepal along China-Nepal border and the challenges they are facing while in a duty. This research focused on nine key districts along Nepal's northern frontier: Darchula, Humla, Mustang, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Dolakha, Gorkha, Sankhuwasabha, and Taplejung. These districts share borders with the China and are essential for understanding border security dynamics in the region. The study specifically examined nine main border points: Tinker (Darchula), Hilsa (Humla), Nechung (Mustang), Tatopani and Gumba (Sindhupalchowk), Timure (Rasuwa), Kimathanka (Sankhuwasabha), Samdo (Gorkha), and Olangchugola (Taplejung). Tatopani, Timure, and Nechung are significant trade routes between Nepal and China, attracting substantial cross-border movement and trade. In contrast, Tinker, Hilsa, Kimathanka, and Olangchugola are more remote, presenting unique border security challenges.

These locations are marked by harsh geographic and climatic conditions, which affect the operational capacity of the APF, Nepal in maintaining security. The study investigated border security measures at these points, the challenges faced, and the socio-economic impact on local communities. By focusing on these areas, the research provided a comprehensive understanding of the border security issues in Nepal's northern frontier.

3.6 Ethical Consideration

Ethical considerations in research involve ensuring the rights, dignity, and well-being of participants are protected. This includes obtaining informed consent, ensuring confidentiality, avoiding harm, and maintaining integrity in data collection and reporting (Bryman, 2012).

The researcher has not presented the work of others as if it was his own works, the plagiarism and self-plagiarism. The research has maintained the study's integrity and protect participant's privacy. The participant consent was ensured during the study. Confidentiality and anonymity were preserved to protect participants' identities. The methodology has employed triangulation using KII, field observation, and interview which ensures the validity of the study.

CHAPTER IV

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Finding

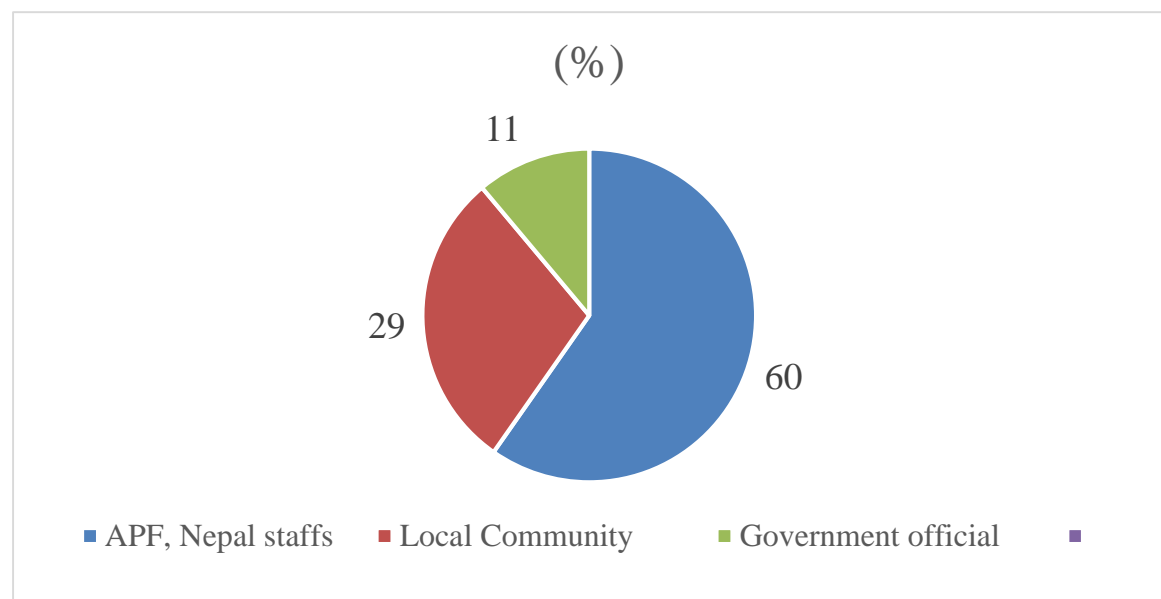
The findings were derived from a semi-structured questionnaire administered to key stakeholders such as APF, Nepal officers specially BOPS Commanders, Government officials, local community, Security personnel who deployed in China-Nepal border and security experts. The aim was to gather in-depth responses regarding operational challenges, resource limitations, and the effectiveness of current border security measures, as well as to obtain their insights on these issues. A summary of the interview responses is presented below.

4.1.1 Field of Respondents

The study gathers insights from 43 APF, Nepal staffs including BOP commanders, 15 local community of Timure, 4 staff of Nepal Police, 4 Custom office staffs and 6 shopkeepers of Rasuwa district, and indirectly involved in border governance to examine border security challenges in Nepal-China border.

Figure 4.1

Respondents from various background



Source: Field Study, 2025

The pie chart represents the distribution of respondents based on three categories: APF, Nepal staff, the local community, and government officials. The largest portion, comprising 60% of the respondents, belongs to APF, Nepal staff, indicating their significant representation in the survey. The local community accounts for 29% of the respondents, reflecting their involvement in the study. Government officials constitute the smallest share, making up only 11% of the total respondents. Most respondents are from APF, Nepal because they had a knowledge about the research question and supportive to finding and discussion.

4.1.2 Border Security Measures and Challenges

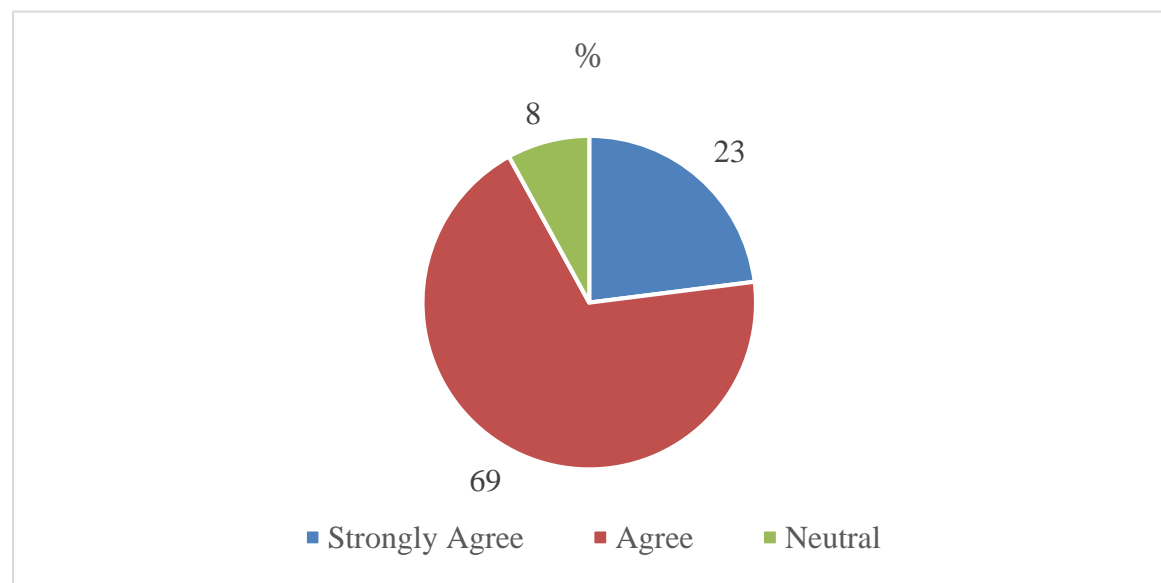
Border security in Nepal, particularly along the northern frontier, is managed through a comprehensive strategy, with the APF, Nepal playing a crucial role in border pillar monitoring, curbing illegal activities and other border management measures. Perceptions were gathered from respondents through pre-defined questions, offering valuable insights into the effectiveness of current border security measures and challenges.

a. Establishment of APF, Nepal Border Outposts

In response to inquiries regarding the establishment of dedicated APF, Nepal border outposts, the following responses were obtained.

Figure 4.2

Establishment of dedicated APF, Nepal BOPs



Source: Field Study, 2025

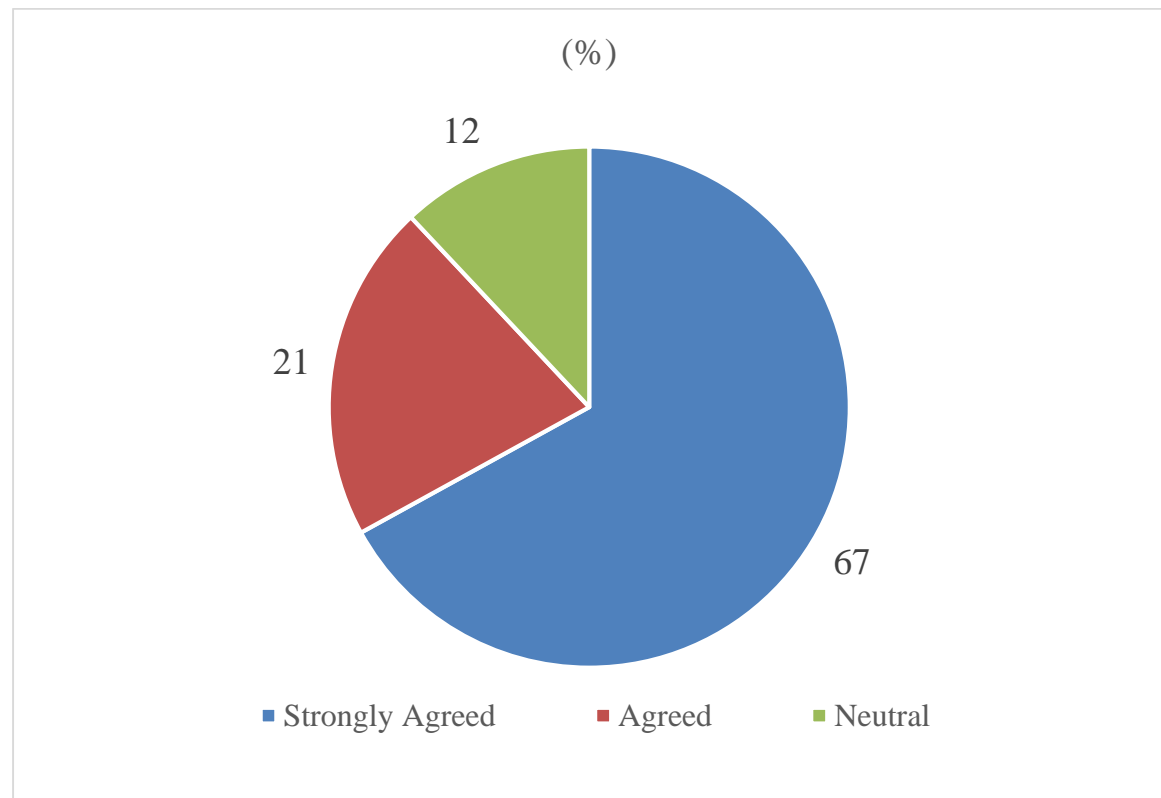
The analysis of respondents' feedback shows a positive outlook on the effectiveness of APF, Nepal border outposts. Approximately 23 percentage strongly believe in their deterrence capability, attributing this to enhanced security measures and visibility at border points. Additionally, 69 percentage agree, emphasizing their importance in security purpose. A small portion remains neutral, possibly due to uncertainty about their impact in geographically isolated terrain. Overall, the findings suggest broad satisfaction with APF, Nepal BOPs, confirming their significant role in deterring illegal cross-border activities and enhancing border security.

b. Strengthening the deployment of APF, Nepal in China side Border

With the local peoples of Rasuwa districts and security personnel while interviewing about the need of strengthening the deployment of APF, Nepal along China-Nepal border, the responses has been given below.

Figure 4.3

Does needed to strengthening the APF, Nepal in China Border side



Source: Field Study, 2025

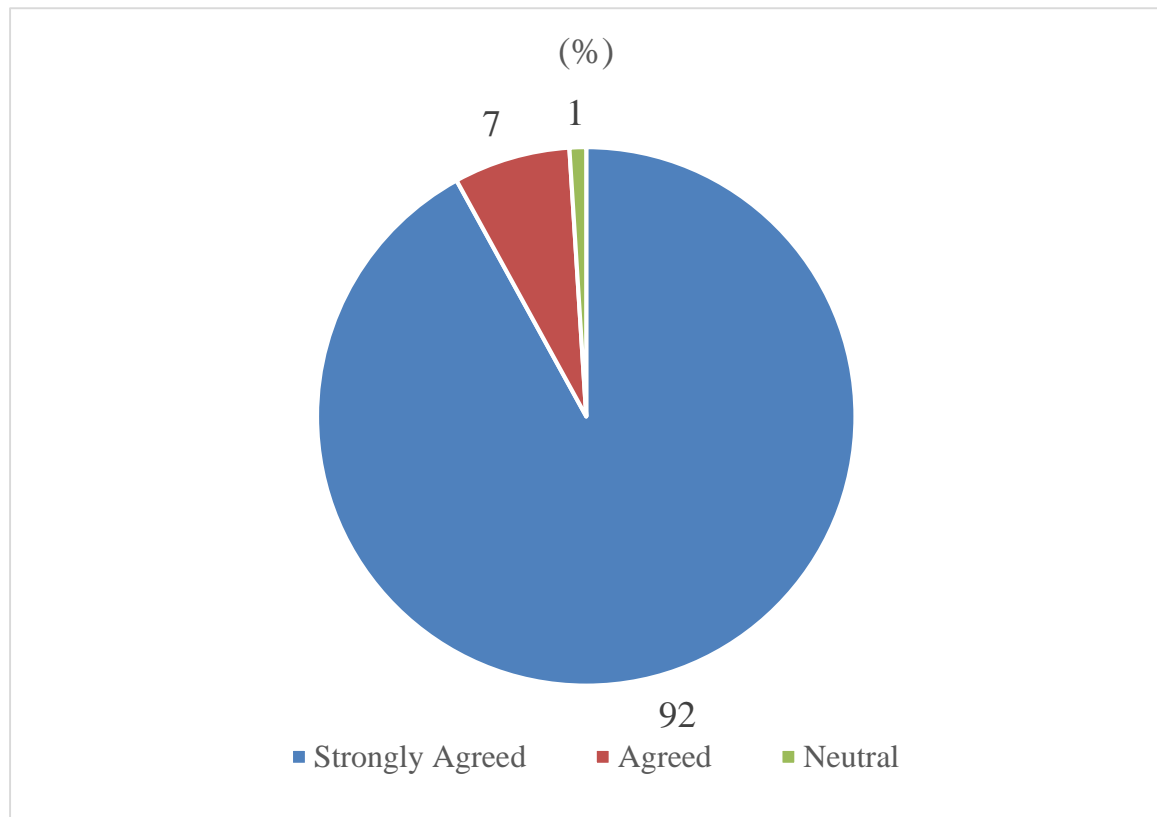
In terms of recent deployment of APF, Nepal along China-Nepal border, does needed the strengthening the deployment in terms of strengths, logistic and other things, among the different respondent 67 % highly agreed, 21% only agreed but 12 % being neutral because if APF, Nepal deployed more than current strengths it will more challenges to local peoples for taking items from China side to Nepal without Tax. However, most of them were highly agreed that more deployment with good logistic it enhances the internal security and prevent illegal activities.

c. Tibetan Language needed for coordination

With the interview with BOPs commanders as well staffs who deployed in field specially in Timure side came to know that most of the local peoples were taking Tibetan language so to the APF, Nepal needed more language classes from office to conversation with counter parts and local shopkeeper. The response from them were listed below.

Figure 4.4

Does Tibetan Language need to APF, Nepal Staff



Source: Field Study, 2025

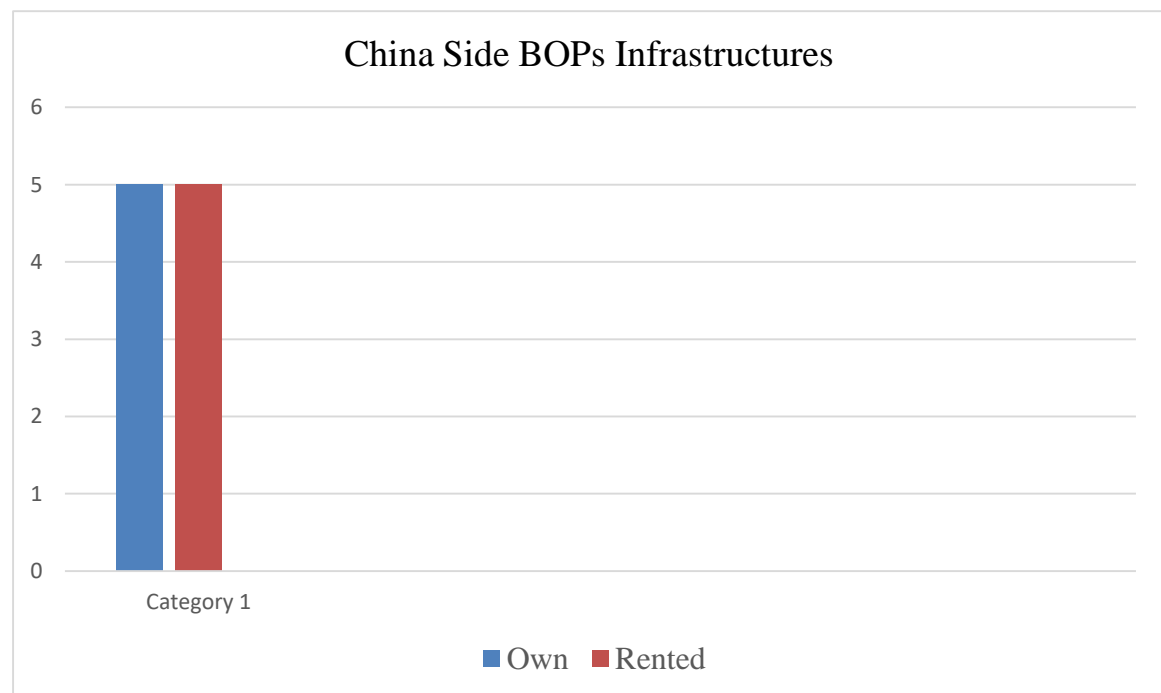
While making the telephone interview with different BOPs commanders and interview with other deployed staffs among them 92% strongly agreed to needed Tibetan language class to APF, Nepal staff who deployed in China side border, and 7% responded that they agreed but 1% neutral about it because some of the BOPs there were local APF, Nepal staff who can understand the language of them. To ensure effective coordination and cooperation with counterparts, the language barrier remains a major challenge. Respondents recommended that the higher authorities introduce language classes for APF, Nepal staff. Additionally, they emphasized the need to recruit personnel from households near the China-Nepal border to facilitate smoother coordination in the future.

d. Conditions of Border Outpost Along China Side

The major problem of the APF, Nepal staff were that most of the offices were rented, due to insufficient logistics facilities it hampers operational activities. The following figure showed the ten BOPs, whether they were own or rented.

Figure 4.5

Own Infrastructure or Rented for BOPs



Source: Field Study, 2025

Among the ten BOPs, five have their own infrastructure (Olanchugola, Lamabagar, Timure, Nechung, and Tinker), but they lack sufficient logistics. The remaining five BOPs operate from rented houses, which are neither well-equipped nor located close to the China-Nepal border, directly impacting APF, Nepal's operational activities. To enhance efficiency, improvements in infrastructure and logistics are essential for all BOPs. The rented BOPs are located in Humla, Sindhupalchok, Sankhuwasabha, and Gorkha (BOPs Hilsha, Gumba, Kimanthanka, and Samdo).

e. Distance Border from BOPs

Most of the BOPs offices of APF, Nepal is far from China Border side. The following Table had shown the distance of BOPs office from China border side.

Table 4.1

Distance of BOPs

S.N.	BOPs Name	Distance from Office to China Border side
1	BOPs Olanchugola, Taplejung	12 KM
2	BOPs Kimanthang, Shankhawasabha	200 Meters
3	BOPs Lamabagar, Dolakha	13 KM
4	BOPs Tatopani, Sindhupalchock	7 KM
5	BOPs Gumba, Sindhupalchock	72 KM
6	BOPs Timure, Rasuwa	3.2 KM
7	BOPs Samdo, Gorkha	16 KM
8	BOPs Nechung, Mustang	14 KM
9	BOPs Hilsa, Humla	400 Meters
10	BOPs Tinker, Darchula	11 KM

Source: Field Study, 2025

The table provides a list BOPs along the Nepal-China border, detailing their respective distances from their offices to the border. The distances vary significantly, ranging from as close as 200 meters (Kimanthang, Sankhuwasabha) and 400 meters (Hilsa, Humla) to as far as 72 km (Gumba, Sindhupalchok). Most BOPs are located within a range of 3 to 16 km from the border, highlighting variations in accessibility and strategic positioning. These outposts play a crucial role in border security, surveillance, and management, ensuring Nepal's territorial integrity and cross-border activities. While interviewing with commander of BOP Gumba, he stated that the distance is 72 km far from border because there are no any peoples lived and the terrain is very difficult to survived in term of climate, road access etc. Even for reaching BOP Samdo it takes 2-3 days from Gorkha District.

f. Numbers of Security Personnel Both Side

The following table shows the current strengths of APF, Nepal staff and China Side Security Personnels.

Table 4.2

Numbers of Security Personnel

S.N.	BOPS Name	Staffs of APF, Nepal	Staff of China side
1	BOP Olanchugola, Taplejung	15	45-50
2	BOP Kimanthang, Shankhawasabha	25	50
3	BOP Lamabagar, Dolakha	30	40-50
4	BOP Tatopani, Sindhupalchock	27	100 Plus
5	BOP Gumba, Sindhupalchock	18	50 Plus
6	BOP Timure, Rasuwa	30	100 Plus
7	BOP Samdo, Gorkha	20	45
8	BOP Nechung, Mustang	35	120
9	BOP Hilsa, Humla	25	50 Plus
10	BOP Tinker, Darchula	20	60 Plus

Source: Field Study, 2025

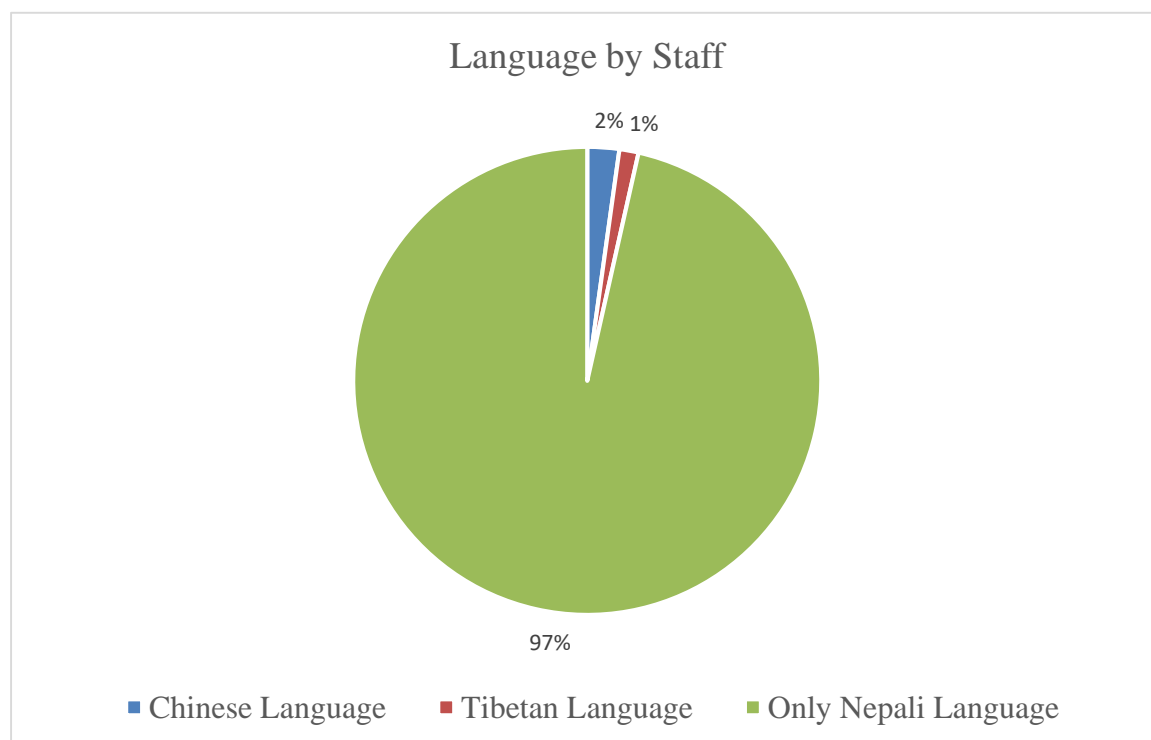
On the Nepali side, each BOP is staffed with 15 to 35 personnel, whereas the Chinese side generally has a higher deployment, with some locations exceeding 100 personnel. This disparity highlights differences in operational scale and border security priorities between the two countries. Additionally, staffing data for some Chinese locations remains unspecified or varies within a range. This staffing comparison provides valuable insight into security deployment along the Nepal-China border, which is essential for effective border management and strategic planning. Due to challenges such as limited road access and logistical constraints, the current deployment of APF, Nepal along the border remains low. From interview with APF, Nepal staff came to know that there are future plans to increase personnel with improved logistical support.

g. Strengths of personnel who knows Chinese and Tibetan languages

Currently from Nepal side total strengths of deployment in China border were 227, but the staffs who knows the counter parts language are very few i.e 5 staff knows the Chinese and 3 staff knows Tibetan language, which are shown in below figure.

Figure 4.6

APF, Nepal staff who knows Tibetan & Chinese Language



Source: Field Study, 2025

The chart highlights the linguistic capabilities of 227 APF, Nepal staff stationed at various BOPs. Only 5 staff members are proficient in the Chinese language, specifically in BOPs Timure, Kimanthanka, Lamabagar, Hilsa, and Tinker. Additionally, 3 staff members can communicate in Tibetan, while the vast majority 219 personnel lack proficiency in both languages. This indicates a significant communication barrier for cross-border coordination and suggests a potential need for language training programs to enhance operational effectiveness along the Nepal-China border. Even KII F told they had a plan to made a language session to APF, Nepal staff for operational deployment along Nepal- China border.

4.1.3 Nepal-China Border Agreement

The Sino-Nepal Boundary Agreement (1960) established a foundation for resolving border disputes between Nepal and China. The 1961 Sino-Nepal Boundary Treaty formally demarcated the 1,414 km border, with 79 border pillars erected by 1963. The 1961 treaty confirmed that Mount Everest falls on Nepal's side, while Tibet holds the northern slopes. Between 2012 and 2016, Nepal and China conducted joint inspections of border pillars, reaffirming existing agreements and resolving minor disputes. The Tatopani and Rasuwagadhi border crossings were officially designated as major trade transit points, with Rasuwagadhi becoming the primary route after the 2015 Nepal earthquake damaged Tatopani. Bilateral talks continue to address border concerns, including pillar misplacement in Humla and trade route enhancements.

4.1.4 Boundary Treaty of 1961 and Subsequent Protocols

On October 5, 1961, Nepal and China signed their first boundary treaty, following the completion of a joint border survey. The treaty established the border using natural landmarks, including mountains, passes, and pasturelands, based on the watershed principle of the Himalayas. Despite the joint demarcation, disputes and counterclaims emerged in 32 areas. A joint boundary commission was then formed to officially define and mark the boundary. The Nepal-China border is now marked by 79 primary pillars and 20 secondary pillars.

4.1.5 Nepal China Border Markers

The history of Nepal-China border markers reflects the evolving relations between the two countries, focusing on mutual respect for sovereignty, cooperation in border management,

and diplomatic resolution of boundary disputes. These markers are crucial for maintaining peace, security, and facilitating trade and cooperation. The committee aims to ensure accurate demarcation and maintenance of the border, with regular inspections mandated every 10 years to prevent disputes and maintain clear boundary lines. The committee consists of three mechanisms: the Joint Inspection Team, led by officials from both countries' Ministry of Foreign Affairs, conducts field inspections, the Joint Expert Group, composed of surveyors and cartographers, analyzes data, and the Joint Inspection Committee, overseeing the implementation of inspection findings and ensuring adherence to protocols.

Table 4.3

Border Markers along Nepal China Border

Joint Team No.	Demarcated Segments	No of Main boundary Markers
1	Lipudhura to Lapche Pass	12
2	Marem Pass to Chakla Pass	20
3	Gyala Pass to Thaple Pass	7
4	Kerabas to Chusumdo	12
5	Bhaise Bridge to Neule Bridge	10
6	Popti Pass to Tiptala Pass	18
	Total	79

Source: Data adapted from Shrestha (2003), “*Border Management between Nepal and Ejkpcö*.”

The data shows joint demarcation efforts along the Nepal-China border, with 79 main boundary markers installed across six segments. This demarcation strengthens border clarity and maintains territorial integrity between Nepal and China. Even if needed further border marker there should be the political level coordination in future. The committee's operations span the entire Nepal-China border, which stretches across various terrains, including mountainous regions and remote areas. Specific focus areas have included regions like Humla district, where boundary disputes have been reported. For instance, in 2021, a panel was formed to study border issues from Limi Lapcha to Hilsa in Humla.

4.1.6 Nepal China Border Inspection and Monitoring Committee

The Nepal-China Border Inspection and Monitoring Committee is a joint mechanism between Nepal and China, consisting of officials from both countries. Its purpose is to maintain the 1,414 km Nepal-China border, prevent encroachments, and resolve boundary disputes. The committee conducts regular inspections of border pillars and reports any displacement or damage. The committee collaborates with APF, Nepal and China's border security personnel to prevent illegal border crossings and ensure territorial integrity. Regular bilateral meetings are held to address emerging border concerns and discuss infrastructure development along transit points. In recent years, Nepal and China have agreed to digitize border mapping for better monitoring and dispute resolution using advanced GIS and satellite imagery. The committee plays a vital role in maintaining border security, resolving disputes, and facilitating trade relations between Nepal and China.

Table 4.4

Composition of the Nepal-China Border Inspection and Monitoring Committee

S.N.	Position	Representative
1	Chairman	Joint Secretary, North East Asia Division, MOFA
2	Member	Joint Secretary MOHA
3	Member	Deputy Director, Survey Department
4	Member	Brigadier General Nepali Army
5	Member	DIG, Nepal Police
6	Member	DIG APF, Nepal
7	Member	Investigating Director, NID
8	Member Secretary	Under Secretary, North East Asia Section, MOFA

Source: Data of 2077 B.S. Council of Ministers, Government of Nepal, 2025

This Committee is a high-level government body that oversees border-related matters between Nepal and China. Its responsibilities include monitoring and managing border security to prevent encroachments, illegal activities, and unauthorized crossings, maintaining proper maintenance of border pillars, resolving border disputes, and coordinating between government agencies to address border management issues. The committee also engages in

diplomatic discussions with China to strengthen bilateral relations regarding border policies. The committee consists of senior officials from key government agencies, including the Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Joint Secretary of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Deputy Director of the Survey Department, Brigadier General of the Nepali Army, Deputy Inspector General of Nepal Police, and Investigating Director of the National Investigation Department. The committee's significance lies in its coordinated and strategic approach to border security, strengthening Nepal's ability to protect its borders, manage disputes effectively, and enhance diplomatic ties with China.

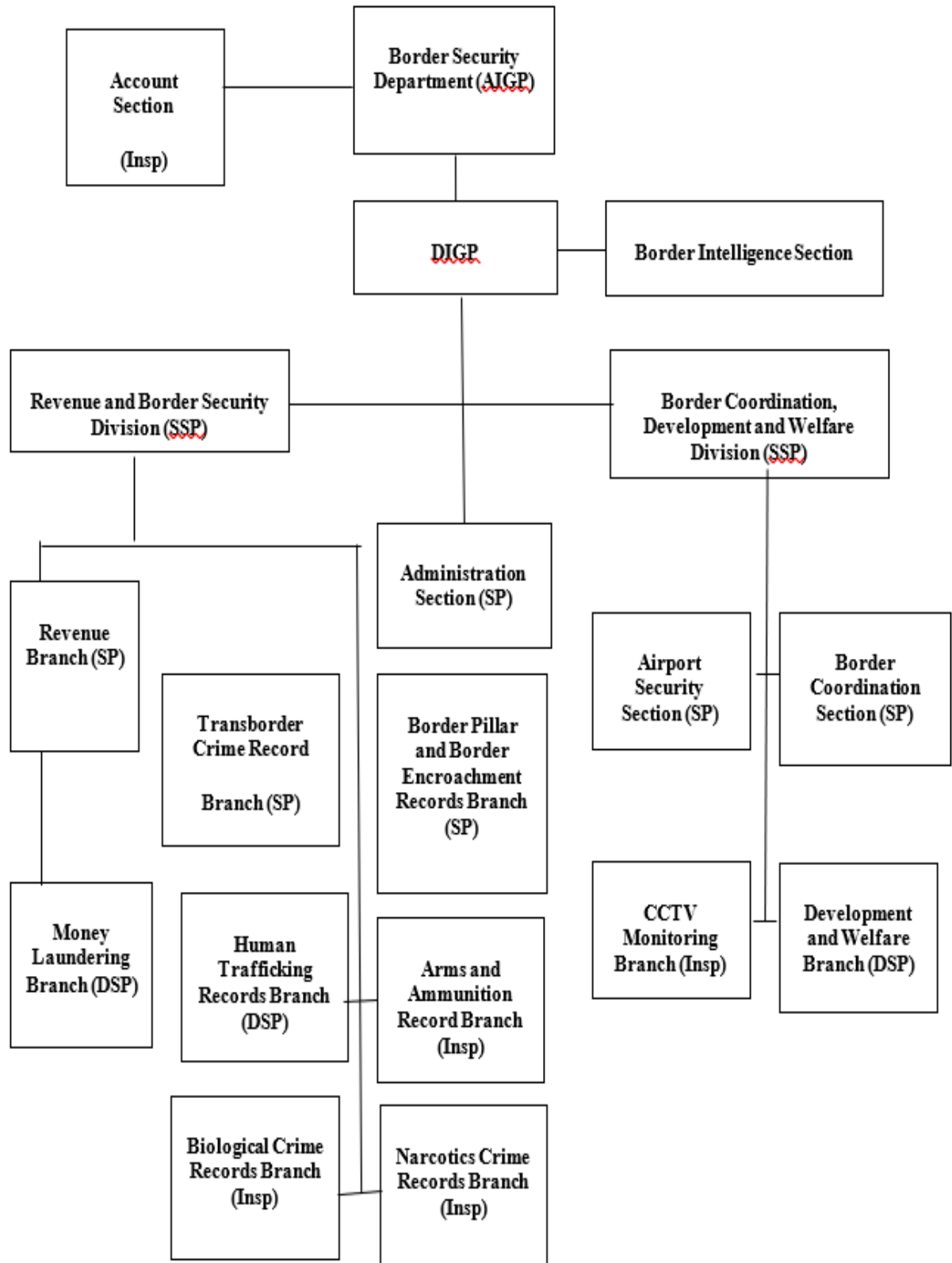
4.1.7 Armed Police Force, Nepal in Border Security

The APF, Nepal, established on October 24, 2001, is a paramilitary force tasked with maintaining law and order, combating insurgency, and addressing terrorism. It works alongside the Nepalese Army and Civil Police, gaining trust and reputation from various sectors. The APF, Nepal mission is to safeguard the nation's sovereignty, integrity, and fundamental rights of all Nepali citizens by ensuring peace and security. It plays a key role in fostering a sense of security among people living in border areas, preventing trans-border crimes, unauthorized entries and exits, smuggling, and other illegal activities to secure Nepal's borders.

According to the APF Act, 2058, Chapter 2, Article 6 (f), guarding the national border is one of its primary responsibilities. Although APF, Nepal has been deployed along the border since its inception, a dedicated department led by an Additional Inspector General was established in 2007. Today, APF maintains a unit in each district across Nepal, with units stationed in districts bordering neighboring countries, each having a permanent office to oversee border-related matters. A total of 76 APF personnel, headed by the departmental chief, are assigned to the Border Security Department at the APF Headquarters, working across various sections and units.

Figure 4.7

Organogram of Border Security Department



Source: O&M report of APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2024

4.1.8 Operational Deployment of APF, Nepal in Northern Border

APF, Nepal has 254 borders out post (BOP) alongside India and only 10 near China. There is a very big difference in the deployment between these countries when we go through the data. The reason behind it is the geographical structure, and the people's movement between both countries. In India side the movement for both countries no needed visa for crossing the border while in China side needed passport and visa approval.

Table 4.5

Operational Deployment of APF, Nepal in Northern Border

S.N.	Deployment	Number
1	Independent Companies	11
2	Dependent Companies	3
3	BOPs	10
4	Mountaineering Rescue Training School	1

Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2024.

The operational deployment of the APF, Nepal along the northern border consists of several key units and establishments. These include 11 Independent Companies, 3 Dependent Companies, 10 BOPs, and 1 Mountaineering Rescue Training School. These deployments are strategically placed to ensure robust security and preparedness in the region, especially given the challenging terrain. The overall aim is to enhance the operational capacity of the APF, Nepal in effectively managing the border and conducting rescue operations when necessary. But due to less movement of the peoples along China side and the geographical conditions and limited road access there is less people's movement and deployment was also less.

Table 4.6*Northern Deployed BOP District*

S.N.	Province	District	Name of the BOPS	Location
1	Koshi	Taplejung	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Olangchugola	Faktanglung Village Municipality-7, Olangchugola
		Shankhuwasabha	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Kimathanka	Votekhola Village Municipality-1, Kimathanka
2	Bagmati	Rasuwa	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Timure	Gosaikunda Village Municipality-2, Timure
		Dolakha	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Lamabagar	Bingu Village Municipality-1, Lamabagar
		Sindhupalchowk	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Tatopani	Bhotekoshi Village Municipality-3, Larcha
			Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Gumba	Jugal Village Municipality-3, Gumba
3	Gandaki	Gorkha	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Samdo	Chumanubri Rural Municipality-1, Samdo
		Mustang	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Nechung	Lomanthang Village Municipality-4, Nechung
4	Karnali	Humla	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Hilsa	Namkha Village Municipality-5, Hilsa
5	Sudur Pashim	Darchula	Armed Police Force, Nepal BOPS Tinker	Byas Rural Municipality-1, Chhayalake

Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2025.

The table lists the Border Outposts (BOPs) of APF, Nepal, distributed across various provinces. These outposts are strategically established in remote and challenging border regions to enhance security and safeguard Nepal's territorial integrity. They serve as key points for monitoring cross-border activities, preventing illegal movements, and

strengthening Nepal's presence along its frontiers. The placement of these BOPs shows the effective border management and facilitates coordination with security agencies and local level government of Nepal.

4.1.9 APF, Nepal's Activities in Northern Border

Despite the lots of challenges APF, Nepal had been doing different activities like patrol/ joint patrols, coordination meeting, checkpoint, providing the security to local peoples etc.

a. Patrols /Joint Patrols

APF, Nepal conducts regular and joint patrols with Chinese counterparts along the Nepal-China border to enhance security, prevent illegal activities, and ensure border protocol compliance. These patrols promote cooperation, monitor cross-border movement, and address border issues through mutual understanding while respecting sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Table 4.7

Patrols and Joint Patrols along Northern Frontier

S.N.	Fiscal Year	Joint Patrols	Patrols
1	078/079	0	7
2	079/080	2	28
3	080/081	10	256
4	081/082	4	341

Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2025

APF, Nepal had seen a significant increase in regular patrols and joint patrols along its northern border over four fiscal years. This is due to the increasing importance of border security and the need for coordinating security efforts with Chinese authorities. The data shows that patrols increased from 7 in Fiscal Year 078/079 to 28 in Fiscal Year 079/080, with a significant rise in Patrol Year 080/081 to 256 and 10 Joint Patrols in Fiscal Year 081/082.

The fluctuation in joint patrols could indicate changes in Nepal-China security cooperation or shifting priorities in border management. The steady rise in regular patrols suggests Nepal is prioritizing independent border security operations.

b. Coordination Meetings

Nepal and China were holding coordination meetings to enhance border security and address mutual concerns. The meetings focus on intelligence sharing, resolving disputes, planning joint patrols, preventing cross-border crimes, and ensuring adherence to protocols. The aim is to strengthen bilateral relations while respecting each other's sovereignty, creating a more secure border environment and fostering long-term cooperation.

Table 4.8

Coordination Meeting with Chinese Counterparts

Fiscal Year	District Level	Battalion Level	Company Level	Local Level	Total
078/079	5	0	0	2	7
079/080	9	1	2	2	14
080/081	5	0	5	8	18
081/082	3	1	5	6	15

Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2025.

The data showed a fluctuating number of coordination meetings between APF, Nepal, and Chinese counterparts over four fiscal years. These meetings were held to strengthen cross-border cooperation, address security concerns, and facilitate communication on border management. The highest number of meetings was 18 in 080/081, with a significant rise in company and local-level discussions. However, the total dropped to 15 in 081/082, with battalion and company-level engagements remaining stable. The meetings took place at various administrative levels, ensuring communication at multiple tiers of border security operations. The trend suggests shifting priorities and evolving strategies in Nepal-China border management.

c. Checkpoints and Illegal Goods Seizure

The APF, Nepal, is a key force in securing Nepal's northern frontier by operating checkpoints to monitor cross-border movement and prevent illegal activities. These strategically placed checkpoints intercept contraband, including smuggled goods and illicit items, ensuring border security and maintaining law and order. Over time, the types of seized contraband have evolved, from timber to high-value items like gold and electronics. This highlights the need for improved enforcement measures and the APF, Nepal commitment to strengthening border security.

Table 4.9

Confiscation of Illegal Goods

SN	Fiscal year	Total confiscated goods in Rupees	Items seized
1	078/079	1,15, 200	Timber
2	079/080	13,98, 905	Liquors, Cigarette and groceries
3	080/081	2,25,54,178	Clothing, liquor, groceries, gold and tobacco products
4	081/082	1,33,11,134	Illegal money, footwear, electronics, clothing, liquor, groceries, gold and silver, and tobacco products.

Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2025.

The data highlighted the confiscation of illegal goods over four fiscal years, showing a significant rise in both quantity and value. The APF, Nepal seized these items to curb illegal trade, prevent smuggling, and maintain border security. The types of goods varied each year, including timber, liquor, cigarettes, groceries, clothing, gold, silver, electronics, and even illegal money. These confiscations took place at various border points and checkpoints, primarily along Nepal's frontiers. The increasing volume and variety of confiscated items suggest a rising trend in smuggling activities, requiring stronger enforcement and border monitoring efforts.

d. Chinese Language Course for its Staff

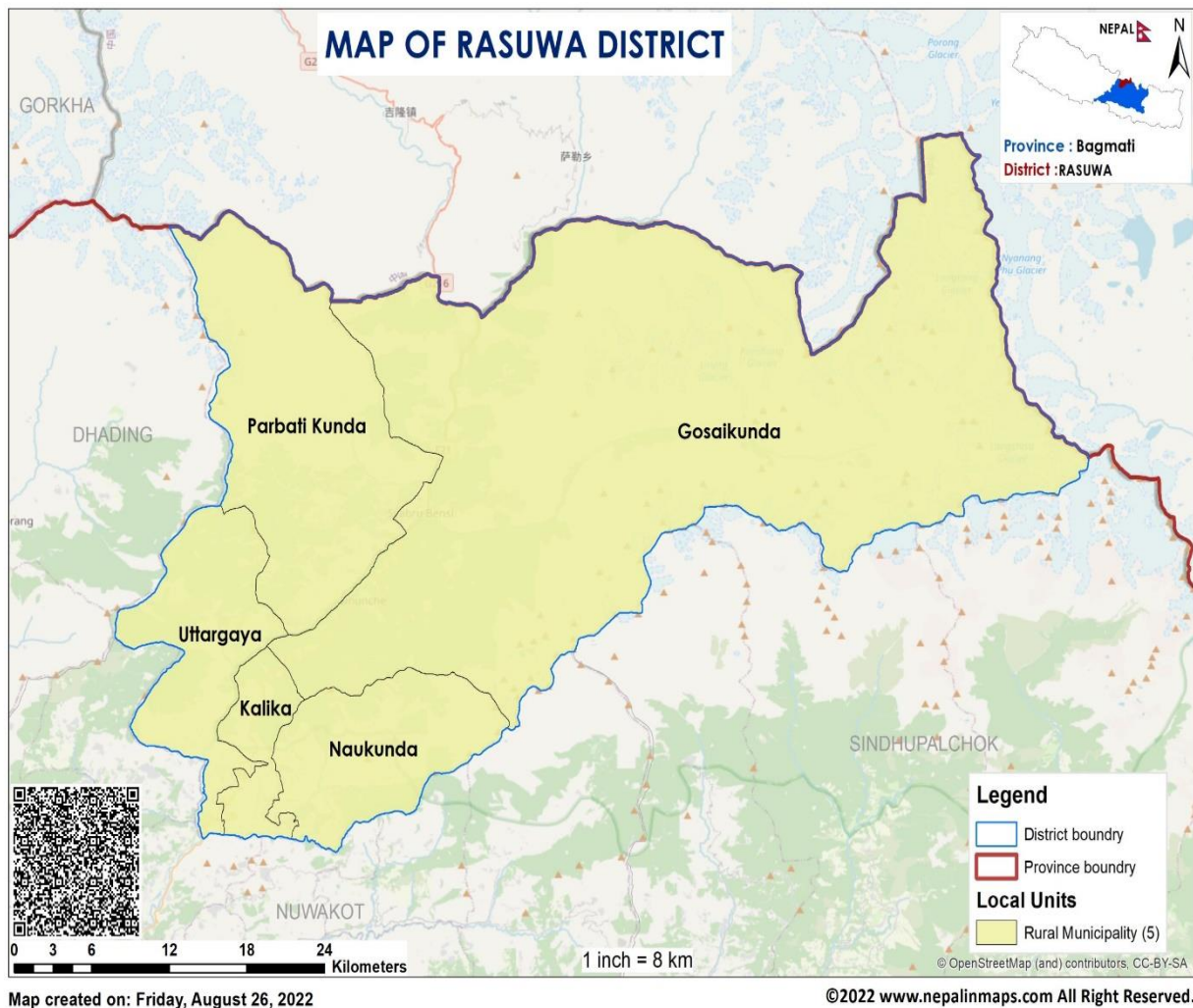
APF, Nepal is implementing language training programs for its border staff to improve communication skills in local and foreign languages. The program aims to enhance interactions with border communities, operational efficiency, and cross-border coordination. Recently, 30 personnel completed an eight-month Chinese language course, some of which earned HSK certifications, an international Chinese language exam.

4.1.10 Rasuwa District

Rasuwa, a mountainous district in central Nepal, is known for its rugged terrain, rich cultural heritage, and significant hydropower potential. With a population of approximately 46,689, it shares borders with Tibet, China, Nuwakot, Sindhupalchok, and Dhading districts. The main transportation and highway is the Pasang Lhamu Highway (H18), which connects Rasuwa to Kathmandu and the Chinese border at Rasuwagadhi. The Rasuwagadhi Border Crossing is a major international border point between Nepal and China, facilitating trade and tourism.

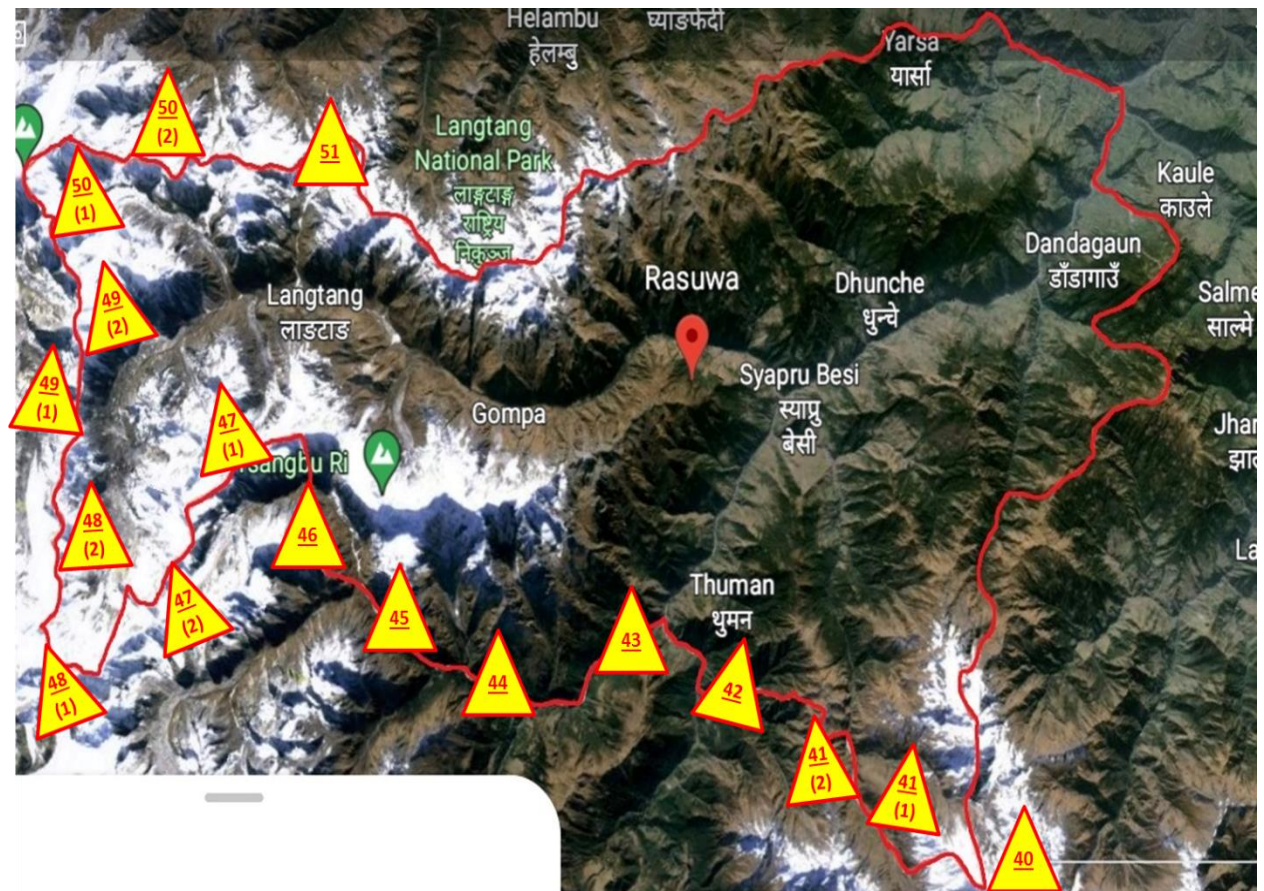
Rasuwa is rich in hydropower potential, with several projects under construction, including the Upper Trishuli-1 Hydropower Project (216 MW), Upper Trishuli-3A (60 MW), Upper Trishuli-3B (37 MW), Rasuwagadhi Hydropower Project (111 MW), and Sanjen Hydropower Project (78 MW). Tourism and natural attractions include Langtang National Park, Langtang Valley, Gosainkunda, and Rasuwagadhi Fort. Rasuwa plays a crucial role in Nepal-China trade due to its border crossing with China. Hydropower potential contributes significantly to Nepal's renewable energy sector, and the trekking industry and religious tourism contribute significantly to the local economy.

Timure, a village in Nepal's Rasuwa District, is a significant trade point along the Nepal-China border. Located near the Rasuwagadhi border crossing, it has been a vital route for trans-Himalayan trade for centuries. The Rasuwagadhi-Kerung border post opened Nepal's second international trade route with China. Despite the 2015 earthquake damaging infrastructure, reconstruction efforts have revitalized Timure's role as a commercial hub, with trade volume exceeding billions of Nepali rupees annually. The ongoing development of border facilities, including a proposed dry port, underscores Timure's growing economic importance.

Figure 4.8*Map of Rasuwa District**Source: Nepali maps, 2025*

4.1.11 Border Pillar in Rasuwa District

In Rasuwa District, there is in total 17 Border pillar available near China border. Which are the responsible to APF, Nepal BOPS and Company to monitor and report to higher authority.

Figure 4.9*Border Pillar of Rasuwa*

Source: BOP Timure, 2025

The map showed the Rasuwa district territory and yellow triangular showed the Border pillar along Nepal-China side with pillar numbers. All total 17 pillar were available in Rasuwa District. Quarterly APF, Nepal staff were done the patrol to see the border pillar conditions.

4.1.12 APF, Nepal Deployment in Rasuwa

Deployment of APF, Nepal had very few in respect to work and area of operation. The following table shows the total deployment of APF, Nepal in Rasuwa district.

Table 4.10*Deployment of APF, Nepal in Rasuwa District*

S.NO.	Name of the Unit	Strength
1	No. 20 Company Hq, Rasuwa	56
2	BOPS Timure	30
3	Tatopani Security Base1	15
4	Mailung Hydro Security Base	15
Total		116

Source: BOP Timure

The table presented the deployment of the APF, Nepal, in Rasuwa District, with a total strength of 116 personnel across four units. No. 20 Company Headquarters, Rasuwa, has the highest deployment with 56 personnel, followed by BOPS Timure with 30 personnel. Both Tatopani Security Base 1 and Mailung Hydro Security Base have 15 personnel each. This deployment reflects a strategic distribution of forces for border security and infrastructure protection in the district. But in interview with the BOP commander the staff were very less for operational activities.

4.1.13 Challenges for Strengthening the Deployment of APF, Nepal

Different challenges have been facing by the APF, Nepal while deploying along China-Nepal border, some of the challenges has been listed below.

Table 4.11*Challenges and Overcome Strategy*

S. No	Challenges	Where	How Challenges	How to Strengthening
1	Language Barriers	ALL BOPs	Counterpart Coordination & Communication	Chinese & Tibetan Language class Needed
2	Road Access	ALL BOPs	107 KM walking	Government of Nepal

			road in BOPS Samdo & in BOPS Tinker due to bad road condition using Indian Road	should make a Vehicle Movement Road
3	Ration Management Problem	BOP Olanchugola BOP Lamabagar BOP Gumba BOP Samdo BOP Nechung BOP Tinker	Due to extreme cold weather, Bad Road Condition	Road Condition Upgrade
4	Less Staff	BOP Tatopani BOP Timure BOP Nechung	Many Places deployed duty including Custom Office	Add more Staff in BOPS
5	Joint Checking	BOP Timure	In Border more Nepal Police staff were deployed, it creates misunderstanding to APF, Nepal Staff	Solely deployed APF, Nepal Staff in Border Side
6	Rent House	BOP Kimanthang BOP Tatopani BOP Gumba BOP Samdo BOP Hilsa	Due to rent house, Physical exercise and Operational activities affected	APF, Nepal HQ should allocate the Budget for making own office
7	Duty Tenure of Commanders	BOP Tatopani BOP Timure BOP Nechung	6 Month duty time is insufficient for Operational effectiveness	At Least 6 Month plus 3-3 month according to Commander Performance
8	CCTV Installation	Most of the BOPs	Not having CCTV can affect on Physical evidence	Needed Budget for Installing CCTV and Monitoring from HQ

			of Border Crime	
9	Not Aware about terrain	ALL BOPs	Soldiers who deployed for 6 Month, came from different places, but they don't aware about local Culture, Language	Pre-Deployment Induction Training to all Staff
10	Not having Joint Patrol	ALL BOPs	Due to not having frequently joint patrol in border side, it sometime creat understanding dilema	From HQ level, needed Coordination with Couterpart
11	Deployment far from Border	BOP Olanchugola BOP Lamabagar BOP Gumba BOP Samdo BOP Nechung BOP Tinker	BOP Gumba is around 72 KM far from Border and other BOPS average 10 KM far, its effect on Operational Challenges	From HQ Level should focus to rearrange to place the BOPS.
12	Medical Evacuation	ALL BOP except BOP Tatopani, BOP Timure	If health Problem arises due to bad road condition very hard to reach in Hospital	Needed Medical items and Trained Manpower
13	Logistic Items	ALL BOP	Due to less Logistic items available it effects on Operational Challenges.	Should add more logistic item as per requirement

14	Not having Development Program	ALL BOP	Like in Southern border, Border area Development Program is less, so it creates less coordination with local Peoples	Strengthening the BADP in Border site
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Source: Researcher Compilation, 2025

The APF, Nepal faces numerous challenges at Border Outposts (BOPs) along the Nepal-China border, including language barriers, poor road access, ration management issues, staff shortages, joint checking issues, accommodation challenges, short duty tenure, lack of CCTV monitoring, limited terrain awareness, no joint patrols, distant deployment from the border, medical evacuation issues, logistical constraints, and lack of development programs. To strengthen operational effectiveness, the table recommends language training, infrastructure development, increased staff deployment, operational autonomy, permanent offices, extended duty tenure, CCTV surveillance, pre-deployment training, enhancing joint patrols, relocation of BOPs closer to the border, improving medical facilities, logistics support, and implementing Border Area Development Programs (BADP). Language training should be introduced to APF, Nepal personnel, infrastructure development should be improved, and commanders' rotations should be adjusted for operational efficiency. Strategic placement of BOPs closer to the border is crucial for better security.

4.2 Discussion

The discussion section of research papers plays a critical role in interpreting and contextualizing findings, serving as a bridge between data analysis and broader implications. It involves restating research findings, comparing them with existing literature, and articulating the significance of results, particularly in fields like medical science, where clarity is paramount (Jasim, 2023). The deployment of the APF, Nepal, along the Nepal-China border had been a central component of Nepal's border management. The geographical, economic, and political significance of this border calls for proper security measures. While APF, Nepal has a major role in safeguarding national sovereignty, its

deployment is confronted by several challenges, including logistical limitations, infrastructure inadequacies, and language barriers. Triangulating KII, field observation, and interviews combining empirical evidence with academic research, this discussion explores the opportunities and challenges associated with APF, Nepal's presence along the northern border. The analysis focuses on the importance of strengthened border deployment, identifies major operational challenges, and proposes policy recommendations for more improvement.

4.2.1 Importance of Strengthened Border Deployment

It is found that the strengthening of border security is essential for maintaining Nepal's sovereignty and territorial integrity, preventing illegal activities, and promoting diplomatic relations with China. Research on border security emphasizes the need for effective border management of the border for national security and stability in the economy (Andreas, 2011). The APF, Nepal, deployed at key locations along the border, is a deterrent to smuggling, illegal crossings, and other transnational crimes. The strategic value of Rasuwa and Sindhupalchowk as major routes for trade makes their security even more pertinent (Murton, 2017).

A study on paramilitary-natured forces highlights that well-equipped and well-trained border forces in enhancing national security (Singh, 2019). The functions of APF, Nepal extends beyond law enforcement to include disaster response and cross-border coordination and is hence paramount in Nepal's security policy.

Furthermore, the growing importance of Nepal-China trade relations necessitates a balanced approach to border security. Strengthening APF, Nepal's presence along the border not only enhances security but also ensures smoother trade and movement. Effective border management can promote confidence-building measures, thereby strengthening diplomatic ties with China.

4.2.2 Challenges in Deployment

The study found that despite its crucial role, the deployment of APF, Nepal faces different challenges which are as follows:

a. Logistical and Infrastructure Constraints

The study revealed that one of the most critical challenges faced by APF, Nepal is the inadequacy of infrastructure and logistical support at BOPs. Moreover, many BOPs operate from rented buildings with inadequate logistical support, hampering operational efficiency. Studies on border security indicate that inadequate infrastructure is a significant barrier to effective border management (Heyman & Smart, 1999). For example, research on India's Border Security Force (BSF) highlights how poor road networks and insufficient logistical facilities weaken security operations (Gupta, 2019).

In Nepal, some BOPs, such as BOP Gumba, is located 72 km from the actual border, making timely response to security threats challenging. This supports the argument by Jones & Johnson (2016) that the geographical remoteness of border posts can undermine security efforts. Investing in permanent infrastructure and upgrading access roads is thus imperative. The lack of permanent infrastructure also poses difficulties in maintaining continuous surveillance and operational readiness. Establishing permanent structures and upgrading road networks would improve the effectiveness of APF, Nepal's deployment. Likewise, another critical concern found that there is lack of modern communication systems and surveillance technology at many BOPs. The use of outdated equipment makes difficult real-time monitoring and rapid response capabilities.

b. Manpower Shortages and Language Barriers

The result showed a significant personnel gap compared to Chinese border security forces. While APF, Nepal offices between 15 and 35 personnel per BOPS, Chinese forces reportedly deploy more than 100 personnel at some points. The differences in numbers could lead to security vulnerabilities, as emphasized in studies on border force deployment. A lower number of security personnel means reduced surveillance coverage, slower response times, and limited operational flexibility.

In addition to manpower shortages, language barriers further hinder cross-border coordination. Moreover, it is found from the study that only a handful of APF, Nepal personnel are Chinese or Tibetan speakers, creating communication challenges in cross-border coordination. Language barriers have been identified as a major challenge in international border security cooperation (Gavrilis, 2010). The result suggests that the

increasing frequency of cross-border interactions and mandatory language training for APF, Nepal personnel would enhance their operational capacity. Likewise, it is found that A lack of cultural awareness among border personnel also impacts their ability to engage effectively with local communities and their Chinese counterparts. Integrating cultural training into the APF, Nepal curriculum would create cross-border relations and good cooperation.

c. Economic and Social Implications

The increased deployment of APF, Nepal personnel along the border may affect local communities, particularly in terms of cross-border trade. Some respondents worry that stricter security measures could limit the informal movement of goods, which many locals rely on for their livelihood. This concern is supported by research showing that heavy border security can disrupt traditional economic activities (Gallien & Weigand, 2021). To ensure sustainable border management, it is important to find a balance between security and economic needs. Policies that support legal trade while maintaining security could help address both concerns effectively.

4.2.3 Need for Policy Reforms and Strategic Improvements

To improve border security, several policy measures are necessary. Investing in permanent Border Outposts (BOPs) for APF, Nepal would enhance surveillance and response capabilities. Research shows that permanent facilities improve border security efficiency (Newman, 2011). Upgrading transportation and communication infrastructure in remote areas is also crucial for better connectivity and operational effectiveness. increasing APF, Nepal personnel at major border points is essential to address manpower disparities. Studies highlight that a higher number of personnel strengthens enforcement and response capacity (Rosenblum, 2012). More personnel would help improve security and ensure faster reactions to border incidents.

Adopting advanced surveillance technologies, such as artificial intelligence, drones, and big data analytics, would significantly enhance monitoring and threat detection. Technology-driven surveillance has proven effective in strengthening border security operations (Coulthart & Riccucci, 2021). Incorporating Chinese and Tibetan language training in APF, Nepal would improve communication and coordination with Chinese authorities. Cultural awareness training would also help APF, Nepal personnel engage effectively with local communities and cross-border officials. policies should balance security and economic needs.

Facilitating legal trade while preventing illegal activities would create a fair and sustainable approach to border governance. These measures will ensure a stronger, more effective, and community-friendly border security strategy for Nepal.

4.2.4 Strengthening the Deployment of APF, Nepal Along the China Border

Enhancing the deployment APF, Nepal along the Nepal-China border requires a different approach incorporating infrastructure development, human resource enhancement, technological advancements, intelligence sharing, policy reforms, and logistical support. The key areas for improvement include:

a. Infrastructure Development

To strengthen surveillance and response capabilities, it is essential to establish additional well-equipped BOPs at strategic locations. Improving road connectivity along the border will facilitate the rapid mobilization of forces, ensuring effective patrolling and emergency response. Additionally, strengthening telecommunication networks, including satellite and radio communication, will enable seamless coordination among security agencies.

b. Human Resource Enhancement

Deploying additional APF, Nepal personnel to cover vulnerable areas is crucial for maintaining robust security along the border. Personnel should receive specialized training in border security, high-altitude operations, intelligence gathering, and crisis management. Furthermore, enhancing the living conditions, allowances, and benefits of APF, Nepal personnel stationed in remote and harsh terrains will improve morale and operational effectiveness.

c. Technological Upgradation

Modernizing border security infrastructure is essential for effective surveillance. Deploying CCTV cameras, drones, and satellite monitoring systems will enable real-time monitoring of border activities. Geographic Information System (GIS) and Global Positioning System (GPS) technology should be integrated for better terrain mapping and patrolling efficiency. Also, equipping personnel with night vision goggles and infrared cameras will enhance security operations during nighttime.

d. Coordination and Intelligence Sharing

Strong collaboration with Chinese border security forces is vital for joint patrolling, intelligence sharing, and crisis response. Enhancing coordination between APF, Nepal, Nepal Police, and the National Investigation Department will create a unified approach to border security. Engaging local communities in information-sharing initiatives can further help in identifying and preventing illegal activities along the border.

e. Legal and Policy Framework

A well-defined border security policy should be formulated to clearly establish APF, Nepal role, jurisdiction, and responsibilities along the Nepal-China border. Stricter immigration policies, including biometric verification systems at border checkpoints, will help regulate cross-border movements and prevent illegal activities. Additionally, strengthening laws and enforcement mechanisms is necessary to combat human trafficking, wildlife poaching, and contraband smuggling.

f. Logistical and Operational Support

Providing APF, Nepal personnel with modern firearms, non-lethal weapons, and armored vehicles will enhance their operational capacity. Personnel stationed in extreme weather conditions should be equipped with high-altitude survival gear and necessary clothing to ensure their safety and efficiency. Establishing quick response teams will enable APF, Nepal to address emergency situations, such as border intrusions or natural disasters, with speed and effectiveness.

CHAPTER V

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

5.1 Summary

The research examined the challenges of securing Nepal's northern frontier, which spans 1,414 km and is characterized by high-altitude terrain, extreme weather, and limited infrastructure. The study highlights Nepal's geopolitical positioning between India and China, emphasizing the security and diplomatic challenges arising from cross-border movements, smuggling, and regional power dynamics. With China's growing influence through infrastructure projects and economic engagements, Nepal must strengthen its security apparatus while maintaining diplomatic balance.

The main research problem addressed in this study is the current status of APF, Nepal along Nepal-China border and the challenges faced by APF, Nepal in ensuring effective deployment. To navigate these challenges, the study sets the following objectives: Analyze the present deployment scenario of APF, Nepal along the Nepal-China border, Explore the operational, logistical, and diplomatic challenges faced by APF, Nepal, identify strategies to strengthen the deployment and enhance the security mechanisms in the region.

By addressing these objectives, the research aims to contribute to policy discussions on national security, border management, and regional stability. The study employs a qualitative research approach, incorporating interview, KII, and field observations in Rasuwa District and other strategic northern border areas. Primary data were gathered from APF, Nepal officers, local community members, government officials, and security experts. Structured interviews and telephone interviewed were conducted to collect firsthand insights into operational challenges, resource limitations, and border security measures. Secondary data from government reports, policy documents, academic journals, and media sources were analyzed to provide historical and contextual background.

The APF, Nepal's deployment along the China-Nepal border faces several challenges, including limited deployment and infrastructure, logistical and resource constraints due to harsh geographical conditions, disparity in security personnel, language barriers, inconsistent Nepal-China security coordination, and a need for policy reform. The APF, Nepal operates

only ten Border Outposts, many located far from the actual border. The lack of well-maintained roads and infrastructure also hampers timely security responses. The study also highlighted the need for a more robust security policy framework that integrates technological advancements, such as surveillance drones, biometric systems, and real-time communication networks, to address the security challenges along the northern border.

5.2 Conclusion

The research provided comprehensive insights into the existing security landscape, challenges, and possible solutions. The study confirms that while APF, Nepal plays a critical role in border security, multiple logistical, operational, and policy-related gaps must be addressed for effective border management. The research findings highlight infrastructural deficiencies, personnel shortages, language barriers, and limited technological advancements as key challenges. These findings align with previous literature on border security, emphasizing the importance of permanent infrastructure, strategic personnel deployment, advanced surveillance technology, and cross-border coordination.

The research reveals several major issues in the border security of APF, Nepal. Firstly, many BOPs were operating under suboptimal conditions, leading to inefficiencies in surveillance and response times. This is consistent with previous studies highlighted the weakening of national security and increased risk of illegal activities. Secondly, there is a significant difference in manpower between Nepal and China's border security forces, with Nepal having a limited number of personnel per BOP and China having larger forces in bordering regions. This imbalance affected Nepal's ability to effectively monitor and manage border security. Thirdly, the lack of Chinese or Tibetan language proficiency among APF, Nepal personnel created communication hurdles in cross-border operations. Fourthly, the study revealed a rise in smuggling and illegal activities, attributed to surveillance gaps, weak coordination, and poor infrastructure. The study also highlighted the importance of balanced border policies, which facilitate legal trade while minimizing security risks, for sustainable economic and diplomatic relations.

The study explored border security challenges and solutions using various theoretical frameworks. It supports the securitization theory, which suggests states frame border security as a national security issue to justify increased militarization and law enforcement. The border control theory emphasizes the need for regulating cross-border movements through

technological advancements and strategic surveillance mechanisms. The study also reaffirms the intertwined nature of border security with geopolitical power struggles, emphasizing the need for a carefully managed border policy that balances security needs with economic cooperation. The research also supports the theories of border mobility and migration, arguing that borders serve as both barriers and pathways, necessitating policies that regulate security while accommodating legitimate trade and migration.

The policy recommendations for APF, Nepal to improve its effectiveness in securing the Nepal-China border include investing in permanent infrastructure, increasing personnel strength, integrating advanced surveillance technologies, introducing Chinese and Tibetan language programs for smoother cross-border communication, strengthening border diplomacy through joint patrols and intelligence-sharing, and balancing security and economic interests. These measures aim to enhance operational capacity, address manpower shortages, and ensure adequate surveillance and response capabilities.

The study emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to border management along the Nepal-China border. Despite improvements in border security, infrastructural gaps, deployment constraints, and strategic weaknesses persist. The study suggested a multi-pronged strategy involving policy reforms, infrastructural development, technological advancements, and improved cross-border cooperation to strengthen Nepal's border security framework, ensure national sovereignty, economic stability, and diplomatic balance in the region.

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Field Interview for local peoples of Timure (Rasuwa)

Dear Sir,

1. I am Inspector Sushil K.C. from Armed Police Force, Nepal. The purpose of this document is to seek your assistance in order to carry out my Thesis during Serial Number 9 APF, Command and Staff College, Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu. The topic on which I intend to carry out my research is “STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES”. In order to assist me in conducting my research, I request you to answer the following questions. I shall remain highly obliged for your kind cooperation.

Age:

Education:

Gender:

- 1) How many times does movement or activity occur on the Nepal-China border each month?
- 2) Which goods or commodities are typically transported across the Nepal-China border?
- 3) What are the advantages of opening the Timure Border?
- 4) What are the problems that security forces face on the China-Nepal border?

Interview Questions to BOPs Commander and Company Commander

Dear Sir

1. I am Inspector Sushil K.C. from Armed Police Force, Nepal. The purpose of this document is to seek your assistance in order to carry out my Thesis during Serial Number 9 APF, Command and Staff College, Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu. The topic on which I intend to carry out my research is “STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES”. In order to assist me in conducting my research, I request you to answer the following questions. I shall remain highly obliged for your kind cooperation.

Age:

Education:

Gender:

- 1) What are the major challenges at the China-Nepal border?

- 2) Do we have any APF Nepal staff who speak Chinese and Tibetan Languages?

- 3) How to overcome such challenges for strengthening the deployment of AP Nepal Along China-Nepal Border?

- 4) What is the relationship with local peoples & counterparts?

Interview Questions to Key Informant Interview (KII)

Dear Sir

1. I am Inspector Sushil K.C. from Armed Police Force, Nepal. The purpose of this document is to seek your assistance in order to carry out my Thesis during Serial Number 9 APF, Command and Staff College, Sanogaucharan, Kathmandu. The topic on which I intend to carry out my research is “STRENGTHENING DEPLOYMENT OF APF, NEPAL ALONG CHINA-NEPAL BORDER: PROSPECT & CHALLENGES”. In order to assist me in conducting my research, I request you to answer the following questions. I shall remain highly obliged for your kind cooperation.

Age:

Education:

Gender:

- 1) What is the future prospect do you see between Nepal China Border?
- 2) How can we strengthen deployment of APF Nepal along China-Nepal Border?
- 3) What challenges are in are facing by APF, Nepal for deployment in China-Nepal Border?
- 4) what policy does need by Government of Nepal for strengthening deployment of APF (Nepal along China-Nepal Border)?

Glances of Field Visit



Source: Field Interview with Custom Officer and Apf, Nepal Personnel (Jan 8, 2025)



Source: Interview with local and APF, Nepal Personals in Timure, Rasuwa (Jan 6, 2025)



Source: Interview and Field Observation along Nepal-China Border Rasuwa (9 Jan, 2025)



Source: Field Observation in Rasuwa (10 Jan, 2025)