

# **BORDER SECURITY STUDIES IN MUSTANG DISTRICT OF NEPAL**

**BORDER SECURITY STUDIES IN MUSTANG DISTRICT OF NEPAL Kabindra Rai 2023**



**A Thesis Submitted to the  
APF Command and Staff College  
Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University  
In Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in  
Security, Development and Peace Studies**

**Submitted by**

**Kabindra Rai**

**Seventh Batch (2078-2080)**

**Roll No.: 28MSDPS40001**

**TU Registration No.: 12361-94**

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

**July 2023**

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## DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the thesis entitled “**Border Security Studies in Mustang District of Nepal**” submitted to **Armed Police Force Command and Staff College**, is entirely my original work prepared under guidance of my supervisor.

I have made due acknowledgement to all ideas and information borrowed from different sources in course of preparing this thesis. The result of this thesis has not been presented or submitted anywhere else for the award of any degree or for any other purposes. I assure that no part of the content of this thesis has published in any form before. I shall be solely responsible if any evidences found against my research paper. This thesis is being submitted to APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in Partial Fulfillment of Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies.

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**Kabindra Rai**

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**(July 2023)**

## LETTER OF RECOMMENDATION

This thesis entitled “**Border Security Studies in Mustang District of Nepal**” was prepared by **Mr. Kabindra Rai** under my supervision. The Researcher has fulfilled the criteria prescribed by Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University. I hereby forward this for final evaluation and approval.

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**Prof. Dr. Ramesh Raj Kunwar**

**Thesis Supervisor**

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**LETTER OF APPROVAL**

This Thesis entitles “**Border Security Studies in Mustang District of Nepal**” submitted by **Kabindra Rai** to APF Command and Staff College, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tribhuvan University in partial fulfillment of Master Degree in Security, Development and Peace Studies has been approved by the undersigned members of the Evaluation Committee.

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## ABSTRACT

The concept of "Border" (is called *Sajam* in local language *Loba* of upper Mustang) has been incredibly significant throughout the development of human civilization. Since the hunters and gatherers time also demarcations were done for hunting territories. "Border security" refers to measures taken to protect the sovereignty and integrity of a country's territorial boundaries. The study focuses on border security in the Himalayan region of Nepal, where there are numerous challenges due to mainly rugged terrain and climate. The aim of this study was to explore the current scenario, challenges and priorities of border security and to ensure national security, control immigration, and prevent from of illegal activities in Mustang district.

This study utilized qualitative research approach with descriptive analytical nature using primary and secondary data as the source of information. The community people as In-depth interviews (IDIs), Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) and Key Informant Information (KIIs) of government offices, security forces and border experts' interview were conducted in semi-structured questions and some data were collected from APF Border Outpost (BOP) Nechung, APF, Nepal Company Mustang and APF, Nepal Border Security Department also analyzed. Virtual and in-person interviews were conducted in Nepali language. The audio recordings of the KII and FGD and field notes were transcribed and translated into Nepali language, then into English. After categorizing and labeling the data, thematic analysis was performed.

The BOP, Nechung is still 14 km away from international border. The most challenging aspect of operational activities are the geological location, climate and the logistics supply. The study primarily has highlighted the geographical significance of the Mustang district, particularly its historic and vital Korala border which is currently closed. This study has mostly emphasized on the need of providing suitable accommodation, training, logistics, and communication for troops at high altitudes deployment. It also recommends utilizing of modern technology for effective border surveillance and highlights the importance of coordination and cooperation with Chinese counterparts to enhance border security.

*Keywords:* Border, security, challenges, BOP Nechung, Himalayan region, prospects

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**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS /ACRONYMS**

AD	Anno Domini
AIG	Additional Inspector General
AMS	Acute Mountain Sickness
APA	American Psychological Association
APF	Armed Police Force
Arc GIS	Arc Geographical Information System
BOP	Border Out Post
BS	Bikram Sambat
BSD	Border Security Department
CAPF	Chinese Armed Police Force
CBS	Central Bureau of Statistics
CCTV	Close Circuit Tele Vision
CDO	Chief District Officer
CMC	Central Military Commission
COVID-19	Corona Virus Disease- 19
DIG	Deputy Inspector General
DNBI	Disease and Non-Battle Illnesses
E	East
ESRI	Environmental Systems Research Institute
FGD	Focal Group Discussion
FTFs	Foreign Terrorists Fighters

GoN	Government of Nepal
GR	Grid Reference
HACE	High Altitude Cerebral Edema
HAPE	High-Altitude Pulmonary Edema
HKH	Hindu Kush-Himalayan
HQs	Headquarters
IDI	In- Depth Interview
ICIMOD	International Central for Integrated Mountain Development
ITBP	Indo-Tibetan Border Police
JCOs	Junior Commissioned Officers
KII	Key Informant Interview
Km.	Kilometer
MoFAGA	Ministry of Federal Affairs and General Administration
MoFALD	Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development
MoHA	Ministry of Home Affairs
MPS	Ministry of Public Service
N	North
NA	Nepal Army
NCOs	Non-Commissioned Officer
NID	National Investigation Department
No.	Number
NP	Nepal Police

PAP	People's Armed Police
PAPF	People's Armed Police Force
PCL	Proficiency Certificate Level
PLA	People's Liberation Army
PM	Prime Minister
PRC	People's Republic of China
RMR	Resting Metabolic Rate
SF	Security Forces
SLC	School Leaving Certificate
SOs	Senior Officers
SSB	Sashastra Seema Bal
Sq m	Square meter
TAR	Tibet Autonomous Region
THRDA	Terai Human Rights Defenders Alliance
UIAA	Uniform Intermodal Interchange and Facilities Access Agreement
VDCs	Village Development Committee
VIP	Very Important Person
VIS	Vital Installation Security

# CHAPTER I

## INTRODUCTION

### 1.1 Background

The concept of 'Borders' (is called *Sajam* in local language *Loba* of upper Mustang) have been significant since the beginning of human civilization, first as markers for hunting grounds and later for cultivation, among other things. Although their importance has been long recognized, the academic field of border studies only gained attention in the late 1990s. As Brady (2014) noted that the concept of a border has been discussed in the past, with Frederick Jackson Turner arguing for the importance of the frontier in 1893/1920. Shrestha (2003) defined a border as the demarcation of an independent nation with its own government, population, and international relations. Shrestha also emphasized the link between national security and border protection, as the failure to protect a border is tantamount to failing to protect a country's security. Border can be categorized as open, regulated/controlled, or closed, and in Nepal, for instance, an open border exists with India to the east, west, and south, while China to the north has a regulated or controlled border system.

The focus of this study is on managing border security in the Himalayan region, specifically regarding the border with China in the northern part of Nepal. The Hindu Kush Himalayan (HKM) region spans over 4.3 million square kilometers, encompassing eight countries from Afghanistan to Myanmar. It is the origin of ten major river systems, including the Brahmaputra, Indus, and Ganges in India, and is home to a diverse range of species. The region, along with the Tien Shan mountains in Central Asia, has the largest permanent ice cover outside the poles and is known as the "third pole". The livelihoods of approximately 240 million people living in the mountains and 1.9 billion people residing in downstream river basins depend on this region's resources (Barman, 2019).

The HKM region is widely regarded as the most crucial 'water tower' in the world. This is because it serves as the origin of ten of Asia's largest rivers, and holds the largest volume of ice and snow after the Arctic and Antarctic regions. These rivers play a significant role in

supporting the basic necessities of life such as drinking water, irrigation, energy, industry, and sanitation for about 1.3 billion people living in the region and those residing downstream (Shrestha and Bajracharya, 2011).

Nepal is a landlocked country located between the world's two most populous countries, India and the People's Republic of China (PRC), and holds a strategically important location between them. It borders India to the east, south, and west, while its northern border is with the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) of the PRC. The Siliguri corridor, also known as India's "Chicken's Neck," divides Nepal from Bangladesh, and Bhutan is on the other side of the Indian state of Sikkim. Nepal has maintained an open border system with India for centuries, even during the time when it was cut off from the rest of the world until the end of the Rana regime in 1951. After India achieved independence from the British in 1947, Nepal and India signed the Treaty of Peace and Friendship in 1950, which ensured that the border between the two countries remained open for the benefit of their peoples. In contrast, the border system between Nepal and PRC has never been opened rather it is regulated/controlled due to the Himalayas separating the two territories (Jha, 2013).

The new map showing Kalapani, Limpiyadhura and Lipulekh as Nepali territories the total area of Nepal has increased from 147,181 square kilometers to 147,516 square kilometers (The Kathmandu post, 2023). Nepal is situated between coordinates approximately 28°N and 84°E. Nepal's terrain is diverse, with the Himalayan, Hilly, and Terai regions covering 15 percent, 68 percent, and 17 percent of the total area, respectively. It is located in the temperate zone to the north of the Tropic of Cancer. The width of the country from east to west is approximately 800 km, while its north-south extent ranges from 150 to 250 km. Geographically, Nepal can be categorized into three primary regions: the Himalayan region, the mid-hill region, and the Tarai region (Shrestha, 2022).

The Nepal Himalaya is extending 800 kilometers between the Kangchenjunga massif and the Mahakali River account for a third of the Himalayan Mountain systems. Of the 31 Himalayan peaks exceeding 7,600 meters, 22 studded the Nepalese horizon including eight of the world's 14 highest peaks. Mt. Everest (8848m) but according to Khadka (2020), the new measurement has been done and it is 8848.86m, Kangchenjunga (8598m), Lhotse (8511m, Makalu (8481m), Cho Oyo (8201m), Dhaulagiri (8167m), Manaslu (8156m), and

Annapurna (8091m). He also added that above 5000m is under the realm of snow and ice although the permanent snow. Winter snowfall occurs up to an elevation of 2000m. Late summer is also the season of alpine of flowers when the high pastures teem grazing animals from lower valleys. For the mountain communities, it is the time for harvesting their main crops before their winter migration to warmer climes (Gurung, 2004).

The Nepal's Himalaya are divided in ten segments: a) Kangchenjunga: Lumbasumba , Umbak and Kangchenjunga are the three ranges east of river Arun which has also lies on Nepal-China and Nepal-India border b) Khumbu Himal : it has also Mt. Everest which is separated by the great gorge of the Arun river along with the Nepal-China border, c) Rolwaling and Pamori : lies east of Tamba Koshi along with Nepal-China border, d) Jugal and Langtang : the mountain range between Bhote (Sun) Koshi and Bhote (Trishuli) Koshi at Nepal-China border, e) Ganesh and Kutang lie between Bhote (Trishuli) Koshi and Burigandaki rivers and of Nepal-China border, f) Manaslu and Manang : a high snow range between Burigandaki and Marsyangdi rivers lie at Nepal-China border, g) Annapurna and Damodar : between Marsyangdi and Kali Gandaki rivers lies at Nepal-China border, h) Dhaulagiri and Mustang :between the kali Gandaki and Bheri, i) Kanjirowa, Dolpa , Humla : west of Dhaulagiri Himal between Bheri river and Humla Karnali, j) Saipal and Yokapahar: the area west of Humla Karnali and east of Mahakali rivers , Yakopahar Himal the northern ridge continues to Lipu Lekh along the Nepal-China border (Gurung , 2004).

In Nepal, security forces play a crucial role in ensuring both internal and external security. Nepal Army (NA) is primarily responsible for external security, but can also be assigned internal security duties by the government. On the other hand, the Nepal Police (NP), Armed Police Force (APF), Nepal and National Investigation Department (NID) are responsible for maintaining internal security. The APF, Nepal specifically mandated by the government in 2063/12/27 BS, focuses on border security, taking over from the Nepal Army's previous deployment in border areas. This strategic shift, along with the collaboration of the NP, has yielded positive results such as controlling revenue leakage, protecting border pillars, ensuring the safety of border residents, and combating trans-border crime. However, the challenges of smuggling and illegal cross-border activities persist, despite the presence of security forces and strengthened checkpoint procedures (K.C., 2019).

The deploying security forces is a crucial element of border security and acts as a deterrent to potential threats. While Nepal Police also has supportive role in border security to APF, Nepal. The NA collects information through its border security directorates, and the NID analyzes information related to national and border security. However, Nepal has deployed a smaller number of forces at borders in comparison to India and China. Effective border security also requires equipment and technology for surveillance, identification and monitoring, which both APF, Nepal and SSB have insufficient. The APF, Nepal has established its Border Out Posts (BOPs) in every 15-kilometer distance, whereas SSB has established its BOPs in about 3-5 km gap along the entire Nepal-India borders (Upreti, 2021). Both security organizations face similar challenges such as border crimes, smuggling, and natural disasters, which occur on both sides of the border.

Nepal shares its borders in all of these diverse geographical locations. Nepal-China border, which is demarcated by the high Himalayan range, is a unique border as it is declared as a demilitarized zone that covers 20 Kilometer (km) inside from the boundary by the Nepal-China boundary treaty of 21 March 1960. The border has very few security posts, making it one of the peaceful and controlled/regulated borders. However, until now only eight BOPs have been established, and the rugged terrain and high altitude pose major challenges for security personnel in this region. Moreover, transporting necessary logistics and equipment is costly, as airlift is required (Shrestha, 2022).

The border security in Nepal is becoming increasingly complex and challenging. Nepal shares its borders of 27 districts bordering with India and 15 bordering districts, they are Sankhuwasabha, Solukhumbu, Dolakha, Kavrepalanchowk, Sindhupalchowk, Rasuwa, Dhading, Gorkha, Manang, Mustang, Dolpa, Mugu, Humla and Bajhang and Darchula with China. Additionally, Darchula and Taplejung districts are trijunctions linked to both India and China (Shrestha, 2022). These borders have not remained undisputed and pose threats to border security. Therefore, the implementation of effective border security measures remains a challenge for the future, and the government should prioritize and take action to improve border security.

The government of Nepal has entrusted the responsibility of border security to the APF, Nepal since 2001. Currently, Nepal has set up 220 BOPs, whereas India has established

almost 534 along the Nepal-India border. Therefore, Nepal needs to increase its troop deployment on the southern side as well also to the northern part to ensure effective border management. But there is the plan of government of Nepal to increase the BOPs in the future. The rugged terrain along Nepal's northern border has made it challenging to manage and monitor, but efforts are being made to increase the number of BOPs in the region.

Border security system involves various measures to ensure border enforcement and security against illegal activities such as immigration, smuggling of goods, weapons, narcotics, terrorism, and transnational crime. The main objective is to detect and address breaches that can potentially threaten national security. Additionally, the system aims to promote tourism, trade, cultural and educational exchanges. However, there must be a careful balance between implementing security goals and facilitating the flow of goods and people. To achieve this balance, there needs to be close coordination in communication, procedures, and jurisdictions among multiple agencies responsible for regulating the border.

There have been few territorial issues between Nepal and China, specifically in Sankhuwasabha, Taplejung, Rasuwa, and Humla districts. However, these issues were resolved through a border treaty signed on October 5, 1961 (Kansakar, 2001). The treaty also established a provision for maintaining peace along the border by prohibiting armed military patrols within 20 kilometers on either side of the frontier (Shrestha, 2022). The majority of the border between Nepal and China runs through high altitude terrain consisting of snow, rocks, ice fields, glaciers, and uninhabited areas. Even though some territorial border issues existed in the past, the joint boundary commission of Nepal and China was able to resolve them through diplomatic means.

APF, Nepal was founded on 24<sup>th</sup> October 2001 has assigned the basic roles in maintaining law and order. It is mobilized in various mandated jobs some are like VIPs, Vital Installations Security (VIS), border security, internal security, revenue collection support and disaster management etc. The APF, Nepal has harmonious and coherence relationship with NA and NP and other stakeholders, over the years it has earned faith, reputation and good will of the people from all walks of life.

APF, Nepal is promoting the sense of security among the people living in the border areas. Preventing trans-border crimes, unauthorized entry into or exit from the territory of Nepal, preventing from smuggling and any other illegal activities are peacetime tasks for securing the border of Nepal. It has deployed its manpower across the border as per sanctioned structure. Among the main roles, 'to guard border of the country' is one of the important roles of APF, Nepal (Armed Police Act, 2058).

Though APF, Nepal was deployed in the border areas ever since the establishment but separate department headed by Additional Inspector General (AIG) was created in 2007. Currently APF has its unit in all 77 districts of Nepal, so all units that are deployed in adjoining district with neighboring country has permanent office to look after border security. The APF Border Security Department (BSD), is responsible for the border security under this there are different sections and units.

According to APF, BSD, it has deployed approximately 22,000 out of its almost 37,000 personnel to the border area, comprising 59 percent of its total strength still insufficient whereas the government also has plan to increase up to 500 BOPs in few years. APF, Nepal has 220 BOPs alongside India and only 8 with China. There is less deployment towards China side in comparison to India side. The reason behind it is the geographical structure, and probably the settlement areas as there is a very huge population living near the borders of Nepal and India but most of areas near Nepal and China are isolated less population. According to the plan of future deployment in total of 500 BOPs there will have 480 BOPs adjoining with India and 20 BOPs with China (APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2023).

Nepal and India shares 1880 km border and with China it shares 1414 km of border. There are 8581 numbers of border pillars with India and 99 numbers with China (Sapkota, 2022). The starting point of the border pillar of Nepal-India border starts from Taplejung and to Darchula. Likewise, the starting point of the border pillar of Nepal-China border start from Darchula and to Taplejung. There are trijunctions at Darchula and Taplejung (APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2023). The detail of the APF, Nepal BOPs (deployed and future plan deployment) in the border areas with India and China are shown in Appendix 'A'.

The existing operational deployment of APF, Nepal in Himalayan region:

**Table No 1.1***The details of deployed BOPs in Himalayan region districts*

<b>S.N.</b>	<b>Province</b>	<b>District</b>	<b>BOP</b>	<b>Location</b>
1	Koshi	Taplejung	APF, Nepal BOP Olangchugola	Faktanglung Village Municipality-7 Olangchugola
2	Koshi	Shankhuwasabha	APF, Nepal BOP Kimathanka	Votekhola Village Municipality-1 Kimathanka
3	Bagmati	Rasuwa	APF, Nepal BOP Timure	Gosaikunda Village Municipality-2 Timure
4	Bagmati	Dolakha	APF, Nepal BOP Lamabagar	Bingu Village Municipality-1 Lamabagar
5	Bagmati	Sindhupalchowk	APF, Nepal BOP Tatopani	Bhotekoshi Village Municipality-3 Larcha
6	Bagmati	Sindhupalchowk	APF, Nepal BOP Gumba	Jugal Village Municipality-3 Gumba
7	Gandaki	Mustang	APF, Nepal BOP Nechung	Lomanthang Village Municipality-4 Nechung
8	Karnali	Humla	APF, Nepal BOP Hilsa	Namkha Village Municipality-5 Hilsa

*Source: APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2023***1.2 Statement of the Problem**

This research paper has studied to understand the border security of Nepal, it is important to understand the context of the Himalayan region which is geographically tough terrain with difficult atmosphere, hard life so that the trans-border crime can be occurred by the criminal by taking the advantages of the less presence of security forces as well hidden and remote

rout can be used for such activities. The habitation and the socio-cultural system of Himalayan Region in Nepal is distinct and unique. The Government of Nepal (GoN) has given mandate of border security so that border security is managed by the APF, Nepal for both with India and China and responsible for controlling all types of illegal activities in the border. Nepal and China have adopted the regulated/controlled border system.

Despite the increasing attention on border security in Nepal, there is a lack of comprehensive research on the effectiveness of the current border security measures in the Himalayan region of Nepal. While the APF, Nepal is responsible for securing the border in this region, there is a need for more detailed studies on the challenges faced by it and other security agencies in securing the border, such as issues related to terrain, climate, and cross-border movements. Furthermore, there is a gap in research on the impact of border security measures on the livelihoods of communities living in the border areas. Therefore, there is also a need for research that examines the social, economic, and cultural dynamics of the borderlands and how these dynamics shape the effectiveness of border security measures. Addressing this gap which can help policymakers and security agencies to develop more effective strategies for securing the border in the Himalayan region of Nepal while taking into account the needs and interests of local communities. So, my study has focused on fulfilling the gaps faced in securing the border along the Himalayan region of Nepal.

In this context it has felt necessary to discern the following questions in this research:

- a. What is the present scenario of border security in Himalayan region, Nepal?
- b. How can be implemented the effective border security in Himalayan region specially focusing in Mustang district?
- c. What are the priorities to enhance effective border security by APF, Nepal BOPs in the Himalayan region?

### **1.3 Objectives of the Study**

This paper aims to achieve the following objectives:

**1.3.1 General objective:** is to study the border security in Mustang District of Nepal.

### **1.3.2 Specific objectives:** are as follow:

- a. To analyze the present scenario of border security in Himalayan region, Nepal specially focusing in Mustang District.
- b. To explore the prospects and challenges of effective implementation of border security by APF, Nepal in the Himalayan region specially focusing in Mustang District.
- c. To identify the priorities to enhance effective border security by APF, Nepal BOPs in the Himalayan Region.

### **1.4 Significance of the Study**

The study has highlighted the significance of border security in Nepal for both its internal and external security. Nepal has borders with two of the largest countries, India and China, and maintaining cordial relations with them is imperative for Nepal's security. In addition, due to the presence of global terrorism and its impact anywhere and criminal activities in the region, border security is vital to safeguard citizens and prevent from illegal activities like smuggling of weapons and goods. Moreover, border security is necessary to deter illegal immigration and protect natural resources from being exploited across the borders. Finally, border security is crucial for the economic growth of Nepal, as it facilitates trade, tourism and investment with neighboring countries.

Border security policy is a multifaceted and delicate matter for nations. The resources available and security concerns play a pivotal role in shaping a country's border security policy. Since every state has distinct challenges and requirements to address, the difficulties surrounding border security differ significantly. These challenges encompass various issues, including trafficking, transnational organized crime, large-scale migration, political relations, and trade. The cumulative effect of these activities creates an environment where non-state actors can impact the border for its security.

The border security in the Himalayan region is not easy due to various reason such as geography, atmosphere, habitation, logistic support, administration, transportation, communication etc. This research has tried to address all of these significant challenges with recommendation that could be obliging for further studies and planning strategies. It has also

served different academic as well impacts in dealing with border security in the Himalayan region of Nepal. Thus, this research paper is significance for APF, Nepal itself, the policy makers, academicians interested in border security, student and the officers of the law enforcement agencies to understand the conditions and challenges of the border security in the Himalayan region of Nepal.

### **1.5 Limitations of the Study**

This study has not covered all the major border deployment in Nepal or all border security at Himalayan region of Nepal due to time limitations. It covers only the border areas of Mustang district as it has a BOP deployed at Nechung near to Korala border at the Himalayan Region of Nepal for securing the border. Similarly, Key Informant Interview (KII) was done with (7 respondents) including the Chief District Officer (CDO) and APF commanders of Mustang District and geography expert, three Focus Group Discussion (FGDs) of APF, Nepal and other security personnel and in-depth interviews (IDI) with locals had been done during the data collection.

The scope of study focus on the security measures taken to protect the nation's borders, the current challenges being faced by the government, and the potential solutions to enhance the security of the borders especially in the Himalayan Region. This study has also analyzed the effectiveness of the existing border security measures and the need for additional measures. Furthermore, it examines the technological measures taken to secure the border, such as the installation of cameras and sensors. Additionally, the study focused on the role of the government in improving border security and the challenges that it faces in doing.

## **CHAPTER II**

### **REVIEW OF LITERATURE**

The term border has also taken very significance since the long history of the human civilization. The academic study was vigorously come after 1990s. Border security system involves various measures to ensure border enforcement and security against illegal activities such as immigration, smuggling of goods, weapons, narcotics, terrorism, and transnational crime. The various national and international literatures were reviewed for this research.

#### **2.1 International Studies**

The concept of territory defined by various theories since long time. In Kautilya's Saptang theory, the state consists of seven elements for prosperous state (Janapada) in terms of territory: (i) accommodate and support people; (ii) defend the state against enemies; (iii) find occupation of people; (iv) have manageable neighbors; (v) provide pastures; (vi) have arable land, mines, forest and (vii) provide good governance. The nature of Janapada suggests that territory and population are integral components of the state (Kaur, 2010).

Grotius in 1615 AD, as a natural-law theorist described the concept of territory as a space where individuals are free to travel and engage in mutual exchange. In contrast, the consent theorist John Locke in 1689 AD argued that individuals can acquire property in land and other material objects by improving it with their labor, but to govern such people and protect their rights, a jurisdictional authority is required. Thus, Locke emphasized the importance of jurisdictional power to govern the land with authority (Koskeniemi, 2014).

Grotenhuis (2016) explained that Article 1 of the Montevideo Convention outlines the qualifications required for a state to be recognized as a person of international law, including a) permanent population, b) a defined territory, c) a government, and d) capacity to enter into relations with other states. The convention's concept of territory incorporates aspects of the Naturalist, Constant, Ethnographic, and Nationalist theories. The convention also emphasizes the relationship between the border concept and the state's responsibility towards its people, with the state being viewed as a "rational contractor" obligated to provide security, justice,

and social services. This underscores the importance of a state's duty to secure its borders, as they are vulnerable points and have strategic significance.

International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development ICIMOD (2019) mentioned that the Hindu Kush-Himalayan (HKH) region encompassing an area of mountains more than 4,192,000 km sq. in the eight countries of Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan. The region is one of the most dynamic, fragile, and complex mountain systems in the world as a result of tectonic activity and the rich diversity of climates, hydrology, and ecology. The high Himalayan region is the freshwater tower of South Asia; it has the highest concentration of snow and glaciers outside the Polar Regions giving it the name Third Pole (Barman, 2019).

To effectively combat terrorism and implement counter-terrorism measures in accordance with Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and other applicable resolutions, it is crucial to prioritize strong border security and efficient exchange of information at national, regional, and international levels. Maintaining robust border security acts as the primary barrier against the unlawful movement of terrorists, including Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs), as well as illicit goods and cargo across borders (United Nations, 2023).

There is inadequate attention to the major elements of border management. Integration among government agencies is a crucial part of effective border management, as highlighted by the experiences of the British and American governments. Coyne (2015) stressed the importance of information system integration to achieve success in both operational and strategic border security. Solutions to bridge the gap in border security information system integration include screening at borders, document identification, and information sharing.

The surveyed villages identified various factors contributing to food insecurity. Among 186 villages, the primary cause was the insufficient availability of agricultural inputs, followed by damage caused by hazards in 138 villages, limited market access in 133 villages, and lack of employment opportunities in 118 villages (Sumar and Kermali, 2012). The impact of natural disasters is worsened by the absence of infrastructure and the isolation of villages situated along valleys in high mountain regions, leading to disruptions in food production. The isolated and remote villages face ongoing challenges in transportation and accessing

agricultural inputs and products due to the absence of formal roads and limited availability of resources. These difficulties are particularly pronounced during winter due to heavy snowfall or during times of landslides and floods when assistance is most crucial. Additionally, communities experience food shortages and emergencies due to lack of financial resources or significant price hikes, forcing them to resort to borrowing, selling assets, or engaging in exchanges to secure cash for purchasing food. Furthermore, drug addiction emerges as another factor contributing to food insecurity among these communities (Sumar and Kermali, 2012).

Rajagopalan and Prakash (2013) stated that China currently has around 160,000 soldiers stationed in Tibet to carry out border guard and law enforcement duties. In addition, China has the capability to mobilize an extra 100,000 troops from the Central 7 Reserve within six weeks, also to the upgraded infrastructure network. Furthermore, with the improved infrastructure for air operations, China has the capacity to deploy heavy lift planes in Tibet. The ITBT was formed in 1962 for deployment along the India-China border.

Lily (2013) wrote that the People's Armed Police Force (PAPF) is a specialized paramilitary group in China that deals with various internal security issues, such as disaster management, law enforcement, counterterrorism, and riot control, as well as providing support to the Chinese Army's ground forces as required. The PAPF is made up of approximately 1.5 million members, who report directly to the Central Military Commission (CMC), unlike the civilian People's Police. The PAPF, stationed at the Northern Frontier near Nepal's border, was founded in its current form by the ministry of public security (MPS) in 1982, and then by the Public Security Corps, which was governed by the PLA (Xiaoyan and Tingyu, 2010). The law stipulates that the primary responsibility for protecting the land border, preventing armed invasion, and responding to significant contingencies falls on the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and the paramilitary People's Armed Police (PAP), both of which are under the control of the Central Military Commission. The foreign ministry, the public security ministry, and the customs and immigration administrations are among the bureaucracies involved. Patrol officers are permitted to employ police tools and firearms against intruders who utilize violence to avoid capture and endanger other people's lives and property.

Rajagopalan and Prakash (2013) mentioned that the Chinese soldiers are well-adjusted to the climate as they have set up military camps near the border, but these are not permanent bases. On the Indian side of the border, there are only a small number of divisions, with most of the border forces located in the flatlands of Assam. Since these forces are stationed at a low altitude, preparing them for deployment to the border is a significant obstacle for the Indian troops. China has 160,000 troops in Tibet and can mobilize 100,000 more within six weeks due to improved infrastructure. They have heavy lift planes, but altitude and weight restrictions limit their capabilities. China can also deploy intermediate range ballistic missiles and has a modernized logistic system, including this in the TAR that handles millions of tons of cargo.

Construction projects in high-altitude areas face numerous challenges such as unfavorable construction conditions, limited timeframe, extensive transportation distances, adverse natural environment, and severe building damages. These factors significantly impede the implementation of well-established construction techniques. The conflict between engineering construction and environmental preservation becomes exceedingly pronounced. Project management encounters unique geological conditions, harsh natural surroundings, tight construction schedules, insufficient technical equipment, weak support systems, and limited access to information technology. It becomes imperative to enhance organizational and managerial efforts, prioritize effective planning and design, scientifically coordinate construction activities, rigorously supervise processes, optimize personnel deployment, leverage information technology, and enhance the quality and efficiency of military barracks project management in alpine and high-altitude regions (Liu et al., 2020).

On the Indian side of the border, the north-south river flow hinders lateral connectivity, and the altitude rises sharply from sea level to 17,000 feet over short distances. This creates challenges in building road infrastructure as valleys and high mountain passes must be crossed. In contrast, the altitudes on the Chinese side of the border remain relatively stable, making it easier to construct roads and railways. China's long-range heavy artillery capable of firing up to 40 km is important. Compared to China's military capabilities, India's approach appears narrow-minded (Rajagopalan and Prakash, 2013).

Rajagopalan and Prakash (2013) pointed out that China has around 160,000 troops stationed in Tibet to perform border security and maintain law and order. The improved infrastructure in the region allows China to mobilize an extra 100,000 troops from the Central Reserve within six weeks. Additionally, with better air operation infrastructure, China is capable of deploying heavy lift planes in Tibet. On the other hand, the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) was established in 1962 with the primary objective of deployment along the India-China border (Das, 2008).

## **2.2 National Studies**

Pande (1999) coined the term 'Alti-cultural' is about topographic factors comprise fundamental physical features which are helping in creating phenomenal variations in the mountain while alti-cultural factors express the human adjustment in the mountain. He has mentioned this term 'Alti-cultural' while writing about mountain dimensions and it incorporates the interaction of man living in different altitude zones and natural environment is an important aspect that means the human can accommodate gradually in any geography but it may take more time. Man- environment relations and interactions in height dimension present alti-culture. Alti-culture factors are: Life Layer (the height of the mountain restricts life), Habitat (the physical or natural environment sets a definite life of man, animal and plant in specific micro climatic zone), Adaptation (The problem, opportunity and possibility differ with altitude. Men are using different potential zones since ancient time.), Ethic choice (People living in the mountain since long time have develop their own culture) and Corp Zone (the mountain production is not homogeneous, people living in the different altitude have develop their own crop culture) (Pande,1999). He further made clear that the geography of a mountain country cannot be interpreted without analyzing the altitude and its effect.

The protection of the border is considered a matter of national security and is primarily the responsibility of the state. According to Shrestha (2003) failure to protect the border is equivalent to a failure to safeguard national security. The primary goal of border management is to secure the state and maintain interstate relations (Bhardwaj, 2009). Nepal shares open and porous borders with both China and India, which can have both positive and negative implications (Shrestha, 2022). Cross-border crime is prevalent in the southern border region of Nepal, which is characterized by poverty and lack of education, leading to

increased youth unemployment and crime (THRDA, 2011). The Center for Strategic and International Studies in 2010 has highlighted the importance of trained border police, modern equipment, and compatible bureaucratic relationships for effective border security. In addition, Harlon and Herbert (2019) has attributed poor border security to a weak state presence, lack of economic opportunities, and strong border ties among local communities.

Shrestha (2003) focused on Nepal's borders with China and India and emphasized the importance of nationality, sovereignty, integrity, and national security. According to him, a sovereign nation must have well-defined and demarcated boundaries, a permanent population, a strong and independent government, and the ability to conduct international relations beyond its borders. He also discussed the historical background of Nepal, including the role of King Prithvi Narayan Shah in unifying the country, the boundaries of greater Nepal, and the current borders of Nepal. The constitution of Nepal was also cited as mentioning the importance of border security.

Shrestha (2022) elaborated that Nepal shares borders with India to the east, west, and south, and with China to the north. It is not known when and how people from Nepal and India began crossing each other's borders without any obstacles. He again suggests that the open border system was established to facilitate Nepalese youth recruitment in the Gurkha regiment of the British army and the export of British and Indian commercial goods to Nepal without any restrictions. In contrast, the border between Nepal and China is regulated. According to him the current border management system of Nepal has played a critical role in its national security. However, he does not specifically address the threats to Nepal's national security posed by the Indo-Nepal open border system.

According to *Border Security in Time of Transformation* (2010), the issue of border security closely linked with national security. The 2001 terrorist attack changed the way borders are viewed as potential entry points for terrorists. Border security encompasses economic, social, cultural, and security dimensions, and when borders are not regulated and protected, it can lead to conflicts, crises, and smuggling, eventually resulting in catastrophe. Different countries have different systems for managing their borders, and Nepal has a controlled border system with China spanning 1414 km and an open border with India covering 1880 km (K.C., 2019). He also discussed the geographical significance of Nepal's land and the

potential for cross-border crime that could threaten Nepal's internal security. Similarly, Shrestha (2003) explained that the open border with India presents both opportunities and threats to Nepal. Both Nepal and India have established border security forces to prevent smuggling, criminal activities, fake currency transactions, human trafficking, and the flow of arms and ammunition (K.C., 2019).

Similar to other countries around the world, Nepal's existence was recognized prior to the establishment of international boundaries. Nepal and China have a longstanding boundary that dates back to their history, while the boundary between Nepal and India is comparatively recent and was established after the Anglo-Nepal War of 1814-16 (Shrestha, 2022). He further mentioned that Nepal shares its boundary with India on three sides - west, south, and east - but only in the north with China. Demarcating of the Nepal's boundary with China has been problematic in the past, as over 90 percent of the frontier traversers' high altitudes with rocks, snow, glaciers, and ice fields that are mostly uninhabited. Despite this, both countries have respected and continue to respect the traditional and customary boundary line, and have lived harmoniously.

Kansakar (2001) noted that there is no man-made boundary demarcation on land as indicated in the boundary treaties, except for boundary pillars. The unique geographical features of the border area have encouraged criminal activities, which is a major challenge for Security Forces (SF) to deter.

Shrestha (2003) defined that national security and border management are interrelated issues. When a country's peace and security are under threat within its borders, it becomes essential to remain vigilant across international borders as well. If borders are not managed effectively, the country may face undesirable activities by both internal and external elements, disrupting its progress. International borders are sensitive, and insufficient management can lead to disturbances. For instance, the sealing of the Indo-Nepal border for a few days during elections in either country can have ripple effects on the other side of the border. The citizens' national character is a crucial factor in ensuring national security. Therefore, leaders, bureaucrats, security forces, intellectuals, and the general public should all possess strong national character, well organized and coordinated for the border management.

K.C. (2019) stressed the need for Nepal to enhance its border security in response to changing security dynamics. To achieve this, the government should have comprehensive strategic plans and be prepared to implement them. This involves developing effective border laws and regulations, as well as investing in innovative technology and infrastructure. While APF, Nepal has been deployed at the frontier, the absence of specific border laws has hindered the effective implementation of rules and regulations, especially in areas like cross-border crimes and border development programs. The government should ensure that border security responsibilities are clearly defined to avoid duplication of functions by other government agencies. Border security is crucial for both internal and external national security and Nepal should take necessary steps to safeguard its sovereignty.

Rajbahak (1992) emphasized the significance of Nepal's open border with India, as it fosters a strong relationship between the two countries through interdependence in critical aspects of their national life. Despite this, the open border has not achieved the desired objectives on its own, despite creating close ties between the people of the two nations. He discussed the reasons behind the open border, such as the Indo-Nepal Treaty on Peace and Friendship of 1950 and geographical factors, and how it impacts political and economic relations between the two countries.

Sapkota (2009) focused that Nepal's border security is closely tied to its foreign relationships with India and China. He noted that Nepal's border security policy must be implemented to ensure the overall security of the state. In today's world, technology is advancing rapidly and while it can be used for human welfare, it can also be used by terrorist groups to cause harm. Therefore, border security must be maintained from all physical, moral, and professional perspectives in order to control such activities.

The boundary agreement was done on 21 March 1960 and the treaty was made on 5 October 1961 resulted in dividing the Nepal- China borderline into 13 sectors. There is a regulated border regime. The demarcation and erection of border pillars on the Nepal -China border line was made in 1961-62, the dispute amicably resolved 32 spots including the Mount Everest and the third phase of periodic supervision and maintenance of the border pillars had been completed in 1988. The boundary lines mostly follow the watershed of the Himalaya range. Now the fourth boundary inspection, supervision and maintenance of the border pillars

and the preparation of boundary protocol have been going on for the last eight years (Shrestha, 2022)

Kansakar (2001) discussed the history of Nepal's border with India and China, including the delimitation and delineation of the Nepal-India border after the Anglo-Nepal War of 1814 and subsequent Treaty of Peace. However, the concept of the Indo-Nepal open border remains enigmatic, though there are various benefits due to Indo-Nepal open border but from practical point of view. He again noted that the open border poses security threats to Nepal, including illegal smuggling, trafficking of girls and women to brothels in India, drug trafficking, movement of criminals and terrorists, and other such activities. While mentioning the prospects and problems of Nepal's international borders, he did not specifically address the security threats posed by the Indo-Nepal open border. Border security is the tool to enhance national interest. COVID-19 led to lockdown for the first time in the history that halted border activities with both neighbors. During this time increased coordination and interaction showed the possibility of increased border management and the border security becomes challenging and ineffectiveness during the pandemic (Rimal, 2021)

Gaige (1975) described that Nepal and India share approximately 850 miles of international border, out of which 550 miles run through flat land either cultivate field or forest. These borders are demarcated by stone pillars erected about every quarter mile. An examination of Indo-Nepal border problems into 4 categories: Border demarcation disputes, political terrorists (outlaws on either side who used the other side of the border as a hiding place), smuggling and migration of settlers from one country to another. As a rule, Nepalese and Indian officials cooperate in an effort to maintain law and order along the border this is facilitate by the extradition agreement at first signed by both countries in 1834. He again explained that India's major aim in the Himalaya is reinforcement of its defense against China. Nepal's principal concern is its own national integrity. A distinct need to be made between a closed border and a controlled border which is one across there is no movement of people or goods. Neither Nepalese nor Indian wants to close the border.

Approximately 670 miles of Nepal's international border is also shared with the Tibetan region of China. Over the years, the Nepal had a number of border difficulties with the China (Gaige, 1975). But there are no such big issues of border between Nepal and China because

most of the problem were settled down during the 1961 treaty for border settlement. A very few issues are there but there is the consensus of the formation of the joint working group for border issues and there are some international principles such as natural object (watershed) for the border demarcation which can be applied.

Shrestha (2022) explained that Himalayan range is the natural wall between Nepal and China but there are difficulties in comparison to the plain geography at the border to India. There are 34 main mountain passes. Himalaya region consists of 15 percent of the total area of Nepal. 14 percent are under the snow cover. In the context of land use, 18 percent of the total land is covered by settlement, 18 percent by snow and water, 13 percent is pasture land, 38 percent is forest, 12 percent is rocky, steep slopes, and 1 percent of the land is covered by human settlement and roads.

Shneiderman (2013) discussed how the Nepal-China international border has been governed by a bilateral treaty for over fifty years, with the entire length of the border covered by a border zone. "Border inhabitants" who reside within 30 km of the border on both sides have been issued "border citizen cards" since 2002, which allow them to cross the border without a passport or visa and travel up to 30 km on the other side. This cross-border migration has expanded the scope of past theories for understanding sovereignty and ethno-cultural/social identities in the Himalayan region. However, the border between Nepal and China remains largely sealed, and as a result, border inhabitants on both sides have not been able to fully benefit at the local level (Jha, 2013).

Jason (2009) suggested that Nepal can improve its security at border points and the airport with the help of international actors and the United Nations. The recommended approach includes sharing best practices, funding better equipment, and discouraging corruption through financial incentives. International border security experts can also provide logistical support, suggest equipment, and help to secure directed funding to modernize and bolster existing checkpoints. The United Nations can play a crucial role in this effort by maximizing the opportunity given to it when Nepal requested additional funds for border security in 2007. Countries that have airlines operating direct flights to/from Kathmandu, including Thailand, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates, should also increase

scrutiny of incoming passengers from Kathmandu for illicit materials (Miklian, 2009). The use of Interpol's expertise and working relationship could also be helpful in this regard.

Harlon and Herbert (2019) pointed out that such environments have led to the development of illicit trade in the border zone. After the Mumbai attack in 2008, the Group of Ministers on Reforming National Security recommended that the Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB) as a border guarding force, while in Nepal, the APF was declared as a border security force (Border Security in time of transformation, 2010) after the peace talks between the government of Nepal and Maoist in 2005. Despite the deployment of security forces along the border, there have been reports of crimes. There is a strong need for research to identify the problems of border security forces while deploying in the border area.

For more than half a century, a bilateral agreement has been in place to manage a border area along the entire length of the international border between Nepal and China's Tibetan Autonomous Region (TAR). People living within 30 km of the border on both sides are classified as "border inhabitants" and issued "border citizen cards" since 2002, allowing them to travel up to 30 km on the other side without a passport or visa (Shneiderman, 2013). Despite this arrangement, residents in the Nepal-TAR border region have not been able to derive sufficient benefits due to the sealed nature of much of the border (Jha, 2013).

In 1960, Nepal and China signed a peace and friendship treaty that involved a border adjustment agreement, following the establishment of formal diplomatic ties in 1960 and resident ambassadors exchange between the two countries (Bhattarai, 2010). This agreement replaced the Treaty of Thapathali of 1856 and recognized Tibet as part of China, ending any disputes that had arisen. During the Indo-China War in 1962, Nepal maintained neutrality. Since then, both countries have maintained friendly relations and upheld the principles of peaceful coexistence (Poudel, 2017).

Nepali (1964) mentioned that during the visit of Chinese Prime minister (PM) Zhou En Lie in 1961 (April 26-29) 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 form 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 tasks within the short time frame though there were the geographical difficulties. There are 79 static border pillars 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 government of Nepal established the APF, Nepal on October 24, 2001, as part of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), with the objective of combating terrorism and other global criminal activities. The APF is an elite force tasked with safeguarding the country's international borders with China and India. Its primary duties include preventing crimes such as smuggling, poaching, trafficking in arms and ammunition, and drug trafficking, while also maintaining a vigilant watch over border pillars and preventing anti-social and anti-national elements from crossing the border.

In January 2008, the Cabinet decided to establish a Border Security Department within the APF Headquarters, which is responsible for directing, monitoring, and supervising primarily border security operations. The department is headed by an Additional Inspector General (AIG) and is tasked with preventing and controlling trans-border crimes. The APF has 228 Border Outposts (BOPs) located across the provinces, with 220 on the southern side and 8 on the northern side, which are directly responsible for border security. All APF units work together in support of achieving this mandate (APF Special Publication, 2021).

Border security is of utmost importance in the Himalayan region of Nepal due to its strategic location and extensive borders with neighboring countries, such as India and China. Nepal's border with India is around 1,880 km long on three sides (east, west, and south), while its border with China is approximately 1,414 km long. A total of 27 districts in Nepal share borders with India, and 15 are linked to China, with Darchula and Taplejung districts sharing borders with both countries. The borders run through difficult terrain and remote areas (Shrestha, 2023).

After reviewing the different literatures, it is acknowledged that the border security is essential for any country to protect its sovereignty and integrity. There are different types of border system open, closed regulated or controlled. In terms of Nepal, it has open border

system with India and the closed or regulated border system with China. In the Himalayan region, security forces face different challenges and constraints for deployment due to rough and difficult terrain as well as climatic difficulties. In terms of border security in the Himalayan region, APF, Nepal has the prime responsibilities to safeguard the border. It is found that there are challenges of logistic, accommodation, food, communication etc.

### **2.3 Research Gap Analysis**

One of the primary functions of a state system is to guard its borders and its people. Nepal shares border with China and India and the responsibility of border security falls under the domain of Armed Police Force, Nepal. The research gap in the context of border security in the Himalayan region of Nepal by APF, Nepal refers to the existing knowledge or information gap that needs to be addressed in this specific area of study. While some studies may have touched upon aspects of border security in Nepal, there is a lack of comprehensive research specifically focused on the Himalayan region, where APF, Nepal plays a crucial role for border security. This research aims to bridge this gap by delving into the unique challenges and dynamics of border security in the Himalayan region, particularly in areas such as Lomanthang rural municipality in the upper part of Mustang district where the BOP of APF, Nepal has been established and the location is located at the international border to the PRC. By conducting primary data collection through interviews, discussions, and interactions with key stakeholders such as the District Security Committee, other security forces, APF Nepal personnel, and local residents, this study has pursued to provide valuable insights and contribute to a better understanding of border security in this region whereas other Himalayan parts are resemblance.

## **CHAPTER III**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

This chapter deals with the methodology of the study. Basically, how research paper is designed for the depth study of identified problem is presented. The primary and secondary data sources are used for the justification of the study. For the qualitative data interpretation, qualitative content analysis, and thematic analysis were entertained as the technique then collect a data through interview. This section deals with following sub-chapter in the study.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

This was a qualitative study design utilized descriptive methods with analytical approach. It was designed to explain the research methods used to meet the stated objectives of the study. The methodology was undertaken in relation to the research paradigm, data collection and analysis techniques used to study in regards to border security in Himalayan region, Nepal. The data were collected from the primary and secondary sources. It was based on an analysis and assessment of data acquired from an array of primary and secondary sources, including websites, publications, reports, and research papers. A relevant analysis and interpretation were carried out with the collected data. For the qualitative data interpretation, qualitative content analysis, thematic analysis was entertained as the technique then collect a data through interview. In addition to these, primary data were collected using qualitative methods such as interview, observation, KIIs and FGDs.

#### **3.2 Conceptual Framework**

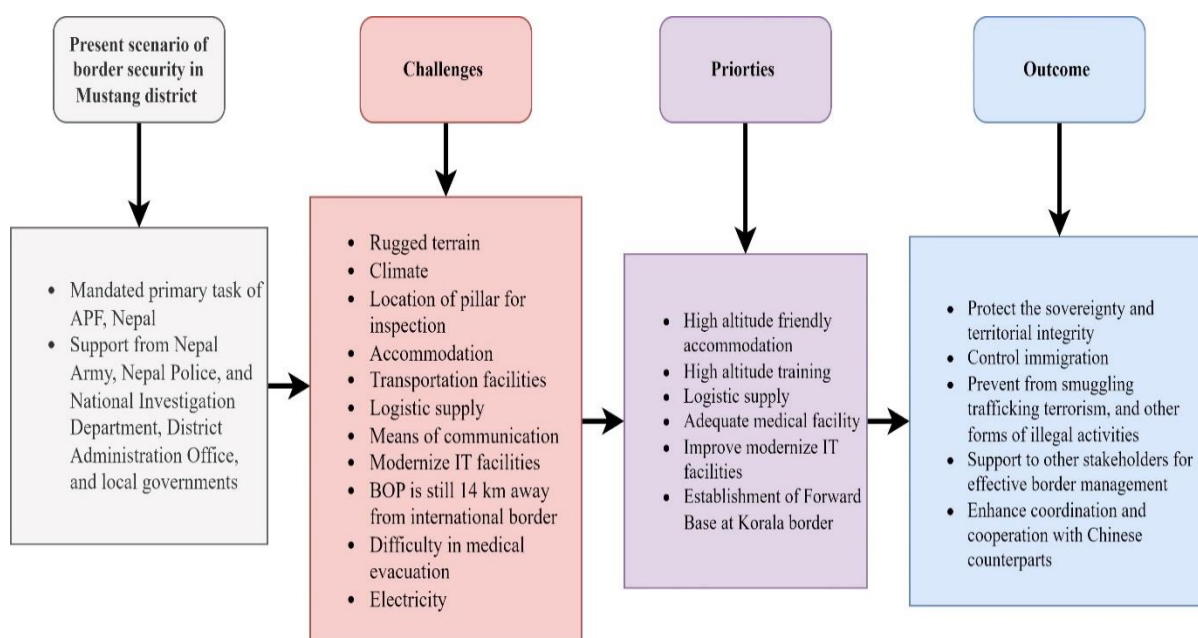
This conceptual framework has lived at the center of an empirical study. It has represented the researcher's synthesis of the literature on how to explain a phenomenon. It is a comprehensive overview or strategy that gives meaning to this research by providing a well-planned arrangement of the components of the study. This was framed with aiming to map out the action's requirements in the sequence and concepts, or ideas regarding the various aspects of this research.

The following framework has been designed by the researcher. It gives a clear mental image of the study about border security in Himalayan region by APF, Nepal at Mustang district. It shows the existing condition of the border security in Mustang district having the challenges. There are priorities which leads the outcome in the future and creates conducive condition for the effective border security duties.

The conceptual framework is designed as follows:

**Figure 3.1**

*Conceptual framework*



*Source:* The author's own work, 2023

### 3.3 Area of the Study and Site Selection

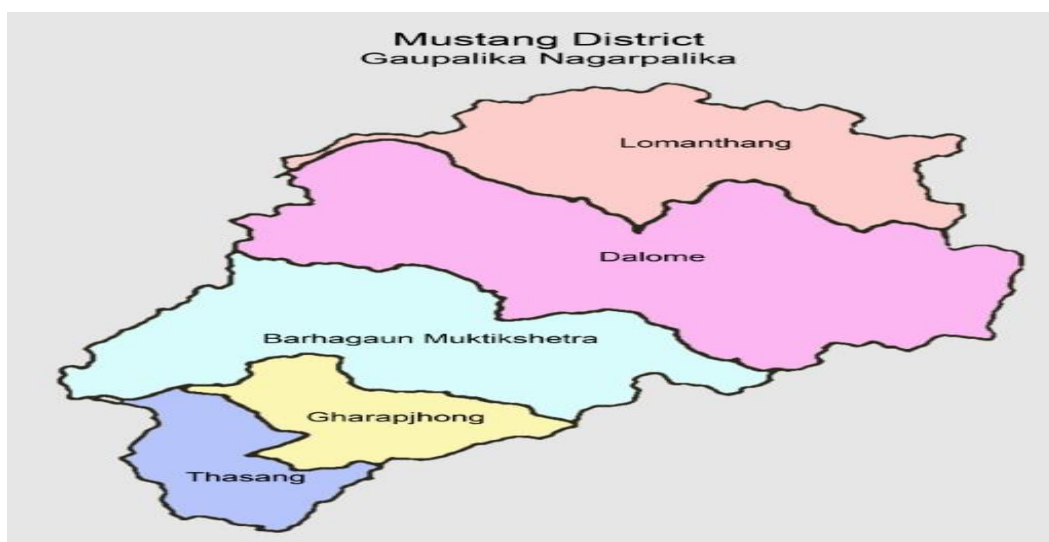
This study has focused on border security in the Himalayan region of Nepal. Mustang district lies on one of the eleventh district in Gandaki Province, is 5<sup>th</sup> largest district (by area) of Nepal, covers an area of 3,573 km (1,380 sq m) and a population of 1,4596 (Census 2021). Agriculture and animal husbandry, tourism and trade are the main occupations. The entire district is included within the Annapurna Conservation Area, the largest protected area of

Nepal. The total area of the Lo Manthang rural municipality is 727 square kilometers (281 sq m) and the total population according to the 2021 census is 1430 that is the numbers decreasing to compare with 2011 census. It is divided into 5 wards (MoFALD,2018). Previously Lo Manthang was a village development committee which was upgraded into a rural municipality merging adjoining VDCs of Chhoser and Chhonhup. The rural municipality came into existence on 10 March 2017, fulfilling the requirement of the new constitution of Nepal 2015. (Bahl et al.,2022).

The researcher visited the district headquarters where the main offices, including the no. 33 APF Nepal Company Headquarters, are situated. And mainly visited Lo Manthang rural municipality, where the APF, Nepal BOP, Nechung at Lomathang rural Municipality-4 in Mustang district (MoFAGA, 2018). The BOP was established in May 29, 2020 which is 110 km far from the district headquarters, Jomsom. which is 3990 m high from the sea level. During the seven-day (Jestha 6-12, 2080 BS.) stay, primary data collected through semi-structured interviews on In-depth interviews and focused group discussions with various stakeholders, including the District Security Committee, other security forces, elected representatives, APF Nepal personnel, and local residents of the rural municipality.

### Figure 3.2

*Map of Lo Manthang rural municipality*



Source: Ministry of Home Affairs, 2022

The figure 3.2 showing the location of surroundings at Lo Manthang rural Municipality, Upper Mustang where the APF, Nepal BOP Nechung is situated.

### **3.4 Sample**

The convenience sampling technique was used to select the study area for the study, which includes gathering information on border security in the Himalayan region across the entire district and mainly to the rural municipality where the APF, Nepal BOP is situated. The researcher visited the study area, engaged with relevant offices and community members, and collected qualitative data. A total of 7 KIIs, 3 FGDs comprised of 7-10 members and 30 locals were selected as the sample of research data collection and included in the study.

### **3.5 Sources of Data**

Primary and Secondary source of data is used to undertake study. Primary data was obtained from field visit and observation of Mustang District where APF, Nepal BOP is situated and due to tough and difficult terrain that limits the researcher to visit few places for study. Qualitative data collection techniques such as Focused Group Discussions (FGD) and Key Informant Interviews (KII) were conducted to obtain valuable insights.

The researcher has obtained the data by district level security committee, locals, APF, Nepal different ranks and files, border security experts and secondary data has been obtained through the published sources like books, reports, articles, journals, official publications, booklets, books, souvenirs, newspaper articles, research papers, and different websites. But this research has focus on collecting the both primary and secondary data to analyze the research questions.

#### **a. Primary Data**

The primary data for this study was obtained through in-depth interviews (IDIs) conducted with various individuals related to border security. These interviews focused primarily on the district security committee, local residents of Lomanthang Rural Municipality, security forces (with a particular emphasis on APF personnel deployed in the Mustang district and BOP Nechung), APF officers, District Administration Office officials, and Municipal Officials as the KII and FGD. The interviews were conducted face-to-face or over the

telephone, utilizing well-designed questions by the researcher. Additionally, focused group discussions were employed as a method of data collection. The researcher also gathered primary data through direct observation in the study area. The researcher had taken care to formulate questions that were easily understandable for the respondents, and the researcher ensured effective and clear communication when asking the questions. The purpose of the study was thoroughly explained to the participants beforehand.

The collected data was carefully reviewed and validated upon completion. Any inaccuracies or inconsistencies were promptly addressed and corrected. To ensure data quality, the researcher diligently verified the data during the collection process.

### **b. Secondary Data**

The secondary data sources for this study included a wide range of materials such as articles, reports from government and intergovernmental organizations and relevant websites. Additionally, valuable information was gathered from relevant books, studies and publications. The report on other district BOP, Company and documents from Armed Police Force Headquarters Border Security Department and Operation Department were also taken into consideration.

### **3.6 Data Collection and Interpretation**

The collected data has been systematically described, analyzed, and presented to showcase the state of Border Security in Himalayan region of Nechung, Mustang. The data undergone various processing steps, including editing, coding, classification, creating data files, programming, and tabulation.

This study predominantly employed qualitative methods for data collection. Upon receiving approval from the Faculty of Humanities and Social Science, APF Command and Staff College, the researcher visited the field in Lo Manthang rural Municipality of Mustang. The researcher conducted meetings and discussions with community members, district security committee members, government officials, and APF personnel and people in various wards of the rural municipality. For 7 KII interviews, multidisciplinary experts were selected and interviewed such security experts, Chief district officers, APF commanders, geographers. Of

7 KIIs, virtually taken 2 and 5 were taken in- person interview. 3 FGDs with APF, Nepal and other security forces personnel were taken 7-10 person in a group .30 in depth interview (IDI) conducted with local individuals, even particularly with Mukhiya also (in local language called *Khimba* as a respected village head) and security personnel to gather information about the security conditions and geographical and logistical challenges related to the deployment of BOP, Nechung. The researcher prepared approved open-ended questions in English, which were then translated into Nepali as the guiding document for the discussions, interviews, and focused group discussions. During these interactions, the researcher facilitated the discussions based on the prepared questions, while a note taker recorded detailed information in the documents.

### **3.7 Ethical Consideration**

Norms and values, ethics and discipline, honesty and integrity, carefulness and confidentiality, respect for international property rights, openness and honor, legality and valued to respondents are consider as ethical consideration. During this research, code of ethics of American Psychological Association (APA) 7<sup>th</sup> edition is followed strictly.

The research is purely academic and there is no sponsorship for the research purpose. Acknowledgement and intellectual property rights are reserved as per the law of the research during the entire process. This study promised to protect the confidentiality of the individuals and organizations respectively. There is no dishonest practice in the entire research. The sources and data are kept confidential as per the fundamental ethic of research. Therefore, this research is conducted by adopting of ethics as responsibility, justice, and the respect for the intellectual property rights, conscious on multiple roles, rule of consent, confidentiality and privacy. The Researcher acknowledged and cited for the guidance and intellectuality for their credit to carry out this research during entire research period. The identity is kept anonymous, if necessary, the pseudonym is use to protect the identity in qualitative parts. During the KII and FDG and interviews written and verbal informed consents were taken.

## CHAPTER IV

### FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

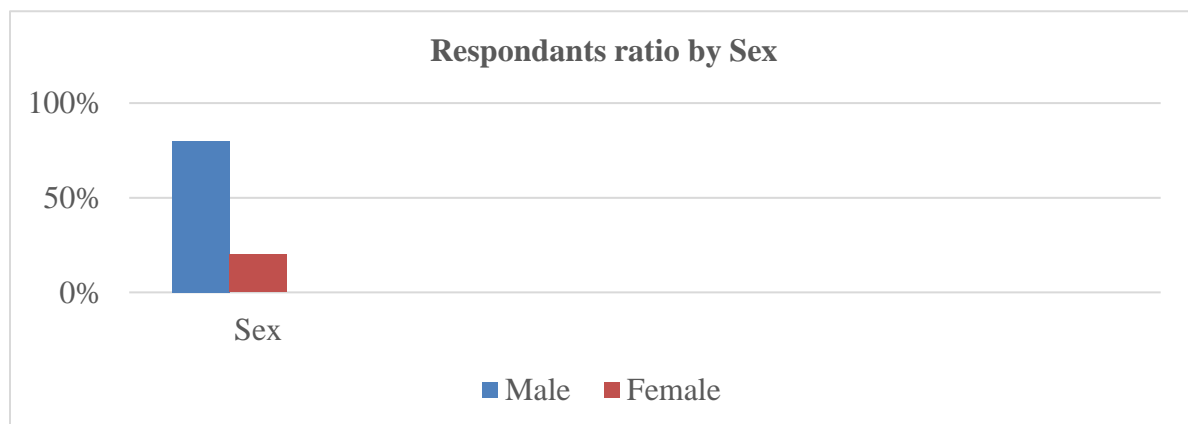
In this section, mostly data is presented in multiple forms like pie-chart, table, bar graph etc. along with its analysis in the context of the study. For the study, mostly primary data is used followed by the secondary data respectively. As the method of the study, mostly qualitative data are collected to justify the rationale of the study. As the tools of the qualitative data, household visit, interview, key informant interview, focus group discussion are applied in this study. The analysis tools of qualitative data are referenced by narrative analysis, discourse analysis and thematic analysis in this study. The KII, FGD, IDI related questions and some pictures are included in Appendices ‘B’ and ‘C’

#### The Status of Respondents in the Field

The researcher has collected various information and the perception on the different aspects of border security along the Mustang district. During the visit, the status of various level of respondents such as by sex, border people, age, education, ranks the overall status of the respondents of the study are presented given below:

**Figure 4.1**

*Ratio of respondent by sex*

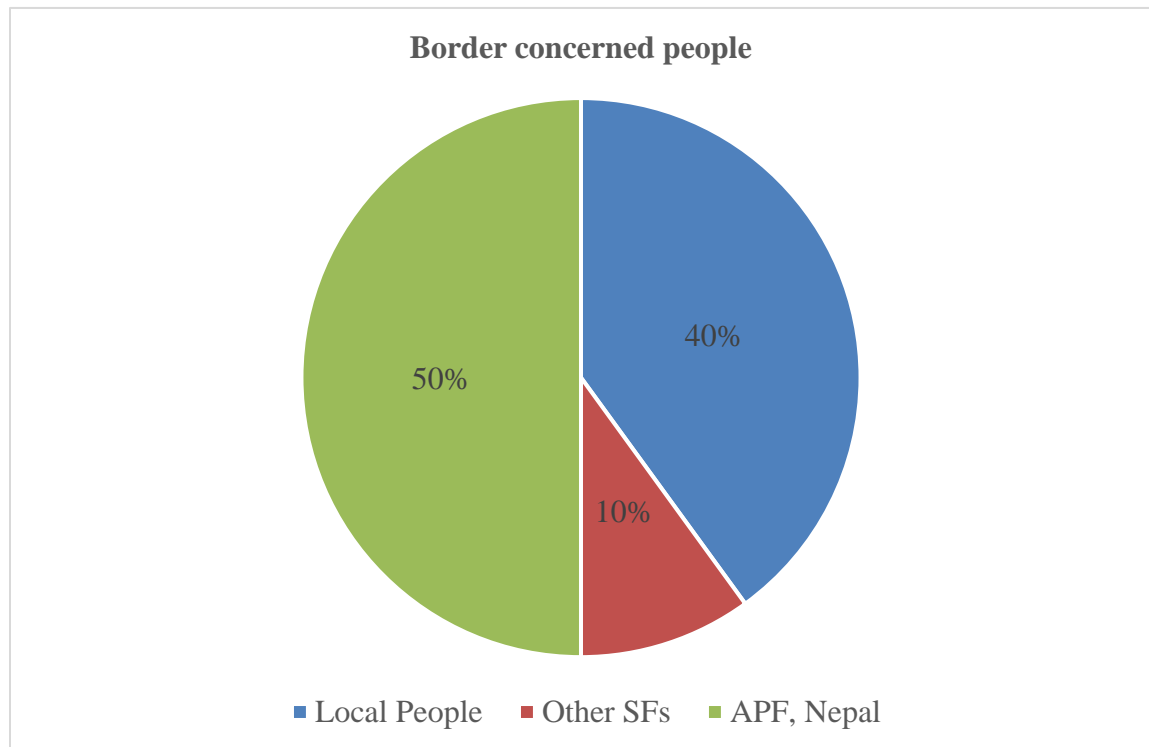


*Source:* Field study, 2023

The figure 4.1 indicates the number of respondents based on the sex. In this study, 80 per cent respondents are male; whereas 20 percent are female. This figure simplifies that most of the respondents were male who are mostly known and for the security forces deployed in the border areas. This figure indicates that there is minimal at *Jomsom* and no presence of female security personnel in BOP *Nechung*, this is because the construction of the BOP building is not finished yet and that is also temporarily situated at integrated check point offices of GoN, that accommodation is not female friendly. Further locals of that area are not interested in joining security forces.

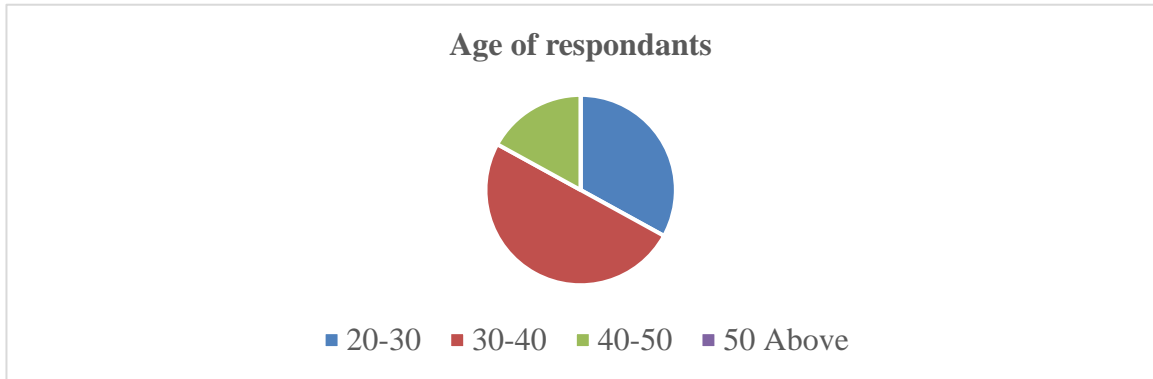
#### Figure 4.2

*Ratio of respondents of border concerned people*

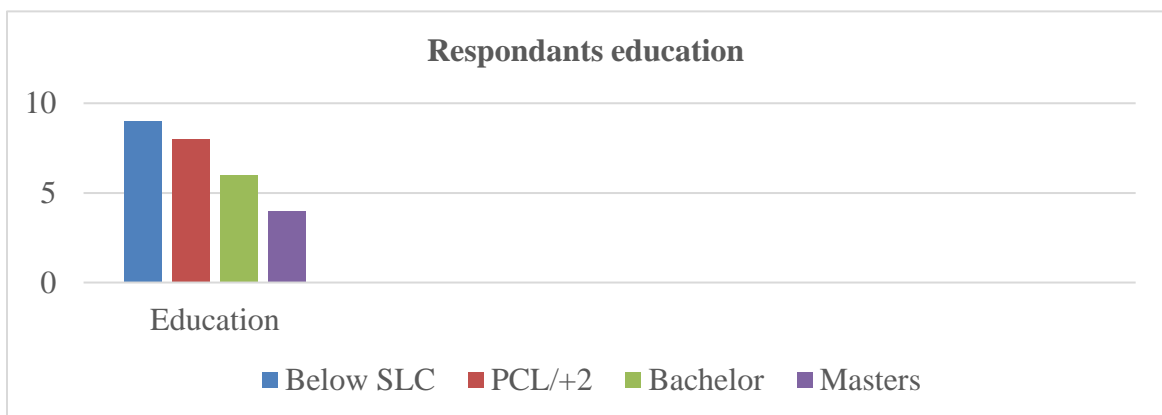


*Source:* Field study, 2023

The figure 4.2 states that 40 percent of respondents are from Local people followed by other Security forces 10 percent and 50 percent from APF Nepal. In the field, the researcher met with district security committee, CDO, NP, NA, APF and local people who are closely known about the District and the Border Security as well the area.

**Figure 4.3***Age of respondents**Source: Field study, 2023*

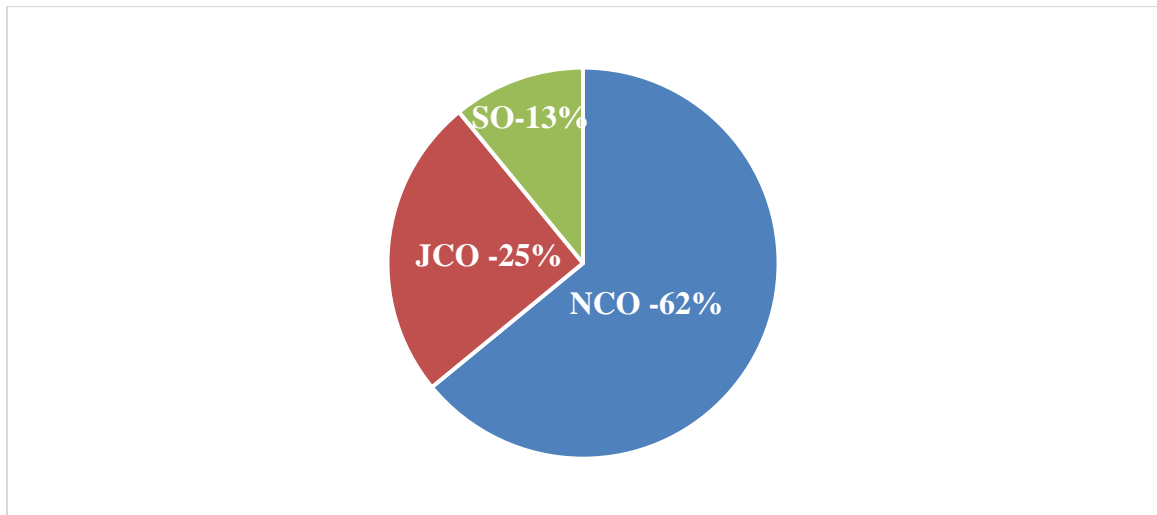
The figure 4.3 indicates 12 respondents are involved from the age-group of 20-30 years and, 18 respondents are taken from the group of 30-40 years; this age-group is the main young personnel. Other 6 are from age 40-50 are responsible for the logistic and administration and the command level. The age of security personnel which are almost below 40 years is a good practice as to get deployed in such conditions needs a good physical condition as well as medical readiness.

**Figure 4.4***Level of education of respondents**Source: Field study, 2023*

The figure 4.4 highlights the education status of respondents in this study. The researcher has taken the Security forces offices and local household visits and interviewed all respondents. Out of all respondents who participated have received below SLC were 9, Certificate level were 8, Bachelor level 6 and in Master level 4. The number of respondents simply indicates the overall educational level and also level of understanding of condition of the border and its security. Here, the data shows that the researcher tried to know the sensitivity of border security in the high altitude of Mustang District from the different groups to gauge the difference in-between of them. Mostly the new generations are the once with the higher level of education and good level of understanding.

**Figure 4.5**

*Level of ratio by ranks of respondents*



*Source:* Field study, 2023

The figure 4.5 presents the distribution of respondents based on their ranks, showing that the majority of participants were Non-Commissioned Officers (NCOs), accounting for 62 percent of the total. Comparatively, Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) made up 25 percent of the respondents, while Senior Officers (SOs) represented 13 percent. The study focused on personnel deployed in the Mustang district of Nepal. The data collected aimed to understand the sensitivity of border security in the high-altitude Mustang District, comparing the perspectives of different ranks within the APF, Nepal.

#### 4.1 Existing Operational Deployment of APF, Nepal in Himalayan Region

The Researcher's observation and FGDs, KII-3,4&7 had similar concerns, they highlighted that..

*An effective border security system, which includes strong fencing and advanced technologies such as CCTV, is vital for ensuring quick responses to potential threats. Additionally, the presence of two modern buildings like Chinese security troops near the border shows the altitude friendly accommodation of counterparts. Moreover, due to the COVID-19 pandemic the Korala border was closed that resulted in a significant decrease in cross-border crimes and illegal crossings in the border area. To ensure continuous monitoring of the border, it is essential to be very closure the Unit at the border.*

The BOP is situated 14km away from Korala Border, it is crucial to establish a forward base or consider relocating the BOP. However, any decision made regarding this matter should carefully take into account the availability of suitable infrastructure at an altitude of 4600 meters to guarantee effective border security in that specific location.

**Table 4.1**

*Operational deployment of APF, Nepal in Himalayan region*

<b>Deployment</b>	<b>Number</b>
Independent Companies	11
Dependent Companies	3
BOPs	8
High Altitude Training Center	1

*Source:* APF, Nepal headquarters, 2023

Ensuring the presence of security forces in border is imperative to safeguard the country and combat trans-border crimes. It is crucial for the government to strategize thoroughly,

ensuring deployment of BOPs according the necessary to effectively perform the duty on unique circumstances.

One of the experts of border security as a KII-7 highlighted that...

*Due to extreme cold temperature only a few security posts are established and some even have to be shifted to low altitude during winter seasons due to massive fall in the temperature. The high altitude, rug terrain are the major problems faced by the security forces in the high altitudes transporting necessary logistics and equipment is costly as airlift is required.*

Nepal's border spans from a minimum elevation of 60 meters above sea level to a maximum height of 8,848.86m. The APF, Nepal's locations of BOPs elevations vary. Such as it includes Olanchugola at 3,240 m., Kimathanka at 2,840 m., Hilsa at 3,640 m., Lamabagar at 1,960 m., and Nechung at 3,950 m. (APF, Nepal Headquarters, 2023). This information indicates that Nechung is the highest location, while Lamabagar is the lowest up to now.

#### **4.2 Mustang District**

Mustang District is one of the eleven districts of Gandaki Province covers an area of 3,573 km<sup>2</sup> and has a population (2021) of 14,596. Jomsom is district headquarters . Mustang is the 5<sup>th</sup> largest district (by area) of Nepal. It straddles the Himalayas and extends northward onto the Tibetan Plateau. The elevation ranges from 1,372 to 8,167 meters. The name "Mustang" is derived from the Tibetan word meaning, "Plain of Aspiration" (CBS, 2011). This district shares 134.16 km (83.36 m) long international border with TAR of China where 16 boundary pillars are in existence (RMR, 2014). In 2017, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development (Nepal) re-structured the area into five rural municipalities with five areas each (MoFALD, 2018).

From the arid and barren terrain of the Lower Mustang to the lush valleys and cascading waterfalls of Upper Mustang, it offers a captivating blend of contrasting landscapes. It was once an important trading route between Nepal and Tibet. It is adorned with ancient monasteries, intricate murals, and traditional Tibetan architecture, preserving its cultural

identity and captivating history. The Mustang district is the place of tourism so that many tourists visit there for trekking and for the pilgrimage to the renowned Muktinath temple.

#### **4.3 Border Outpost Nechung and Its Responsibilities**

APF,Nepal established BOP at Nechung of Lomanthang rural municipality-4 in Mustang district in May, 2020 with GR 29<sup>0</sup>14'10.1" N and 83<sup>0</sup>57'46.3" E. Its height from sea level is 3950m. It is 96 km from Jomsom which takes estimated about 7 hours ride in vehicle and from BOP to Korala it is 14 Km takes 45-minute ride. Total of 16 Border Pillars (18 to 33) are located in Mustang district and which falls on responsibility of BOP Nechung which is 134.14 km International Border. Nearest security organizations are NA Bajra Dal Company and NP Border Police Post in Lomanthang are 12 Km and 8 km from BOP.

#### **Figure 4.6**

*Under construction building of BOP, Nechung*



*Source: Field study, 2023*

Figure 4.6 is new building. During the visit the researcher's observation, meeting with the technical person and workers and FGD-3 of security personnel, all had similar saying on BOP under construction building..




*The construction of a dedicated building for BOP Nechung was under construction process. During a research visit in June 2023, it was observed that the construction*








*work was still in progress. It is noticed that the building will be handed over to the BOP by the contractor before the upcoming winter season. The workers and the technical person claimed the buildings are in the level of altitude friendly.*

BOP Kimathanka is temporarily established in rental property, BOP Tatopani utilizes government offices, BOP Lamabagar uses of hydropower houses. Some BOPs have their own land, others are still in the process of acquiring land. Despite these challenges, APF, Nepal continues to operate year-round duties. The residents in certain areas like habitants of Hilsa and Nechung often move to lower-lying regions of Jomsom, Pokhara, and Kathmandu, particularly during the months of Mangshir, Poush, Magh, and Falgun. Consequently, there is a necessity to construct high-altitude resisting buildings suitable for BOPs.

**Table 4.2**

*Details of border pillars in Mustang district*

SN	Border Pillar No	Location	Photo	Remark
1	18	Lomanthang-4		
2	19	Lomanthang-4		
3	20	Lomanthang-4		

4	21	Lomanthang-4	 A concrete marker with the Nepali word 'नेपाल' (Nepal) at the top, the number '21' in the middle, and the year '2016' at the bottom. It is set in a dry, open landscape.	
5	22	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with 'नेपाल' (Nepal) at the top, '२२' (22) in the middle, and '२०१६' (2016) at the bottom. The background shows a blue sky and a fence.	
6	23	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with '中国' (China) in red at the top, '23' in the middle, and '1962' at the bottom. The marker is set in a dry, open landscape.	
7	24	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with 'नेपाल' (Nepal) at the top, '२४' (24) in the middle, and '२०१६' (2016) at the bottom. A building is visible in the background.	
8	25	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with 'नेपाल' (Nepal) at the top, '२५' (25) in the middle, and '२०१६' (2016) at the bottom. The marker is set in a rocky, open landscape.	
9	26	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with 'नेपाल' (Nepal) at the top, '२६' (26) in the middle, and '२०१६' (2016) at the bottom. The marker is set in a rocky, open landscape.	
10	27	Lomanthang-1	 A concrete marker with '中国' (China) in red at the top, '27' in the middle, and '1962' at the bottom. The marker is set in a dry, open landscape.	

11	28	Lomanthang-1		
12	29	Lomanthang-1		
13	30	Lomanthang-1		
14	31	Lomanthang-1		
15	32	Lomanthang-2		
16	33	Lomanthang-2		

Source: BOP Nechung, 2023

The table 4.2 shows the physical condition, location and the accessibility of the border pillars at Mustang district. All the pillars are visited and monitored by APF, Nepal patrol except no 33 pillar because of the terrain and weather and inadequate budget. No. 24 pillar lies at Korala border, the researcher has physically visited and observed it.

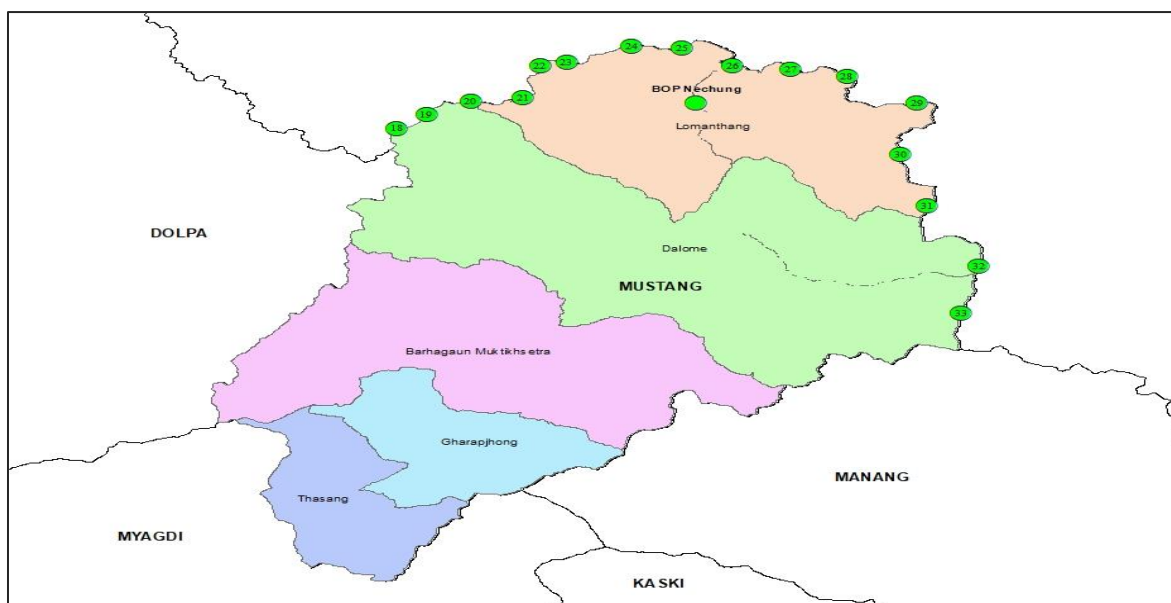
During the visit, one of the KII-4, who was deployed as the commander at BOP Nechung and he clearly mentioned about the security condition of district and border..

*Not all pillars along the border are accessible in all weather conditions, and specifically, the no. 33rd pillar is not visited by APF patrol due to challenging terrain, inadequate equipment, and the requirement of additional budget. However, other pillars are visited multiple times. The border has been closed due to COVID-19, resulting in a decrease in the number of people crossing at the Korala border. The Chinese side of the border is securely fenced, and the terrain is predominantly difficult, making it nearly impossible to cross the border from any district location. Additionally, there are no issues with cross-border grazing.*

The location of the pillars is very important for recording and the patrolling by the security forces. So that the following are the map extracted from ArcGIS which means geographic information system (GIS) software developed by Esri. It provides a framework for capturing, managing, analyzing, and visualizing geospatial data (Thomas,2009).

**Figure 4.7**

*Ariel view of border pillars in map*

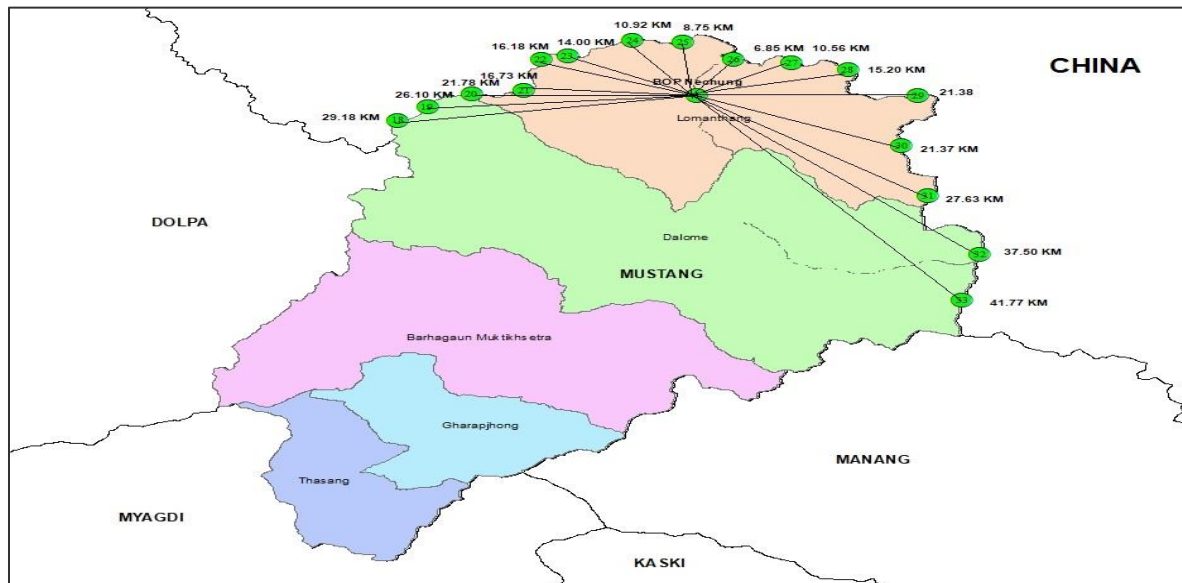


Source: Extraction from ArcGIS, 2023

The figure 4.7 shows there are 16 border pillars (18-33) in Mustang district, as the numbering is done from west to east. These pillars lie in two rural municipalities of the district and pillar no 24 lies in Korola pass which is accessible by road. Pillar no. 33 is geographically located in difficult terrain so its regular inspection is very hard. All pillars are plotted in map using ArcGIS and the Grid Reference (GR) were provided by the BOP as well as Company, the coordinates are not indicated due to administrative instructions from headquarters.

### Figure 4.8

*Aerial distance of border pillar from BOP Nechung*



*Source:* Extraction from ArcGIS, 2023

The figure 4.8 shows the aerial distance of border pillars are calculated using ArcGIS and the value may have technological variation. Farthest pillar is pillar number 33 which is almost 41.77 km away from BOP Nechung and the nearest is pillar no 26 which is around 6.85 km. Though pillar no. 24 is 10.92 Km from BOP but it has road from BOP and is 14 km and it is the Korola pass. Out of 16 border pillars 15 border pillars ranging from pillar number 18 to 32 are regularly monitored and inspected physically but pillar number 33 is very hard to inspect regularly due to geographical and climatic constraint.

The researcher has interviewed IDI-7, the local of 55 years old former *Mukhiya* (in local language called *Khimba* is a respected village head) revealed that.

*After Tihar festival, the road will be closed and remain inaccessible until the end of Falgun. During this period, a majority of people relocate to Jomsom, Pokhara, and Kathmandu. Only a small number of individuals choose to stay at Nechung. They usually stock up on essential supplies, and occasionally, a truck may transport goods if the road conditions allow. However, regular rental vehicles stop to operate during this time. Due to the scarcity of firewood, there is no option for heating. Nevertheless, the locals offer assistance to the BOPs in terms of logistic support.*

It is good to understand the condition and the structure of the border pillars. The following are the border pillars of Mustang district. APF, Nepal has responsibility to guard the border and observe and secure the pillars. Some pillars are easy to visit like no. 24 pillar lies at Korala border which is vehicular accessibility whereas no. 33 pillar is in remote and at difficult terrain.

**Table 4.3**

*Details of counterpart in Mustang*

SN.	Unit	Distance from International Border	Remarks
1	CAPF, Dangosen	30 Km	
2	CAPF, Damadong	20 Km	
3	CAPF, Yaraksang	30 Km	
4	Chinese Army, Dakbeu Camp	5 Km	
5	CAPF, Korala	1.5 Km	
6	China Police, Dongbasen	30 Km	
7	China Police, Korala	1 Km	

*Source:* BOP Nechung

The table 4.3 displays the deployment of counterpart security forces. It reveals that Chinese security forces have a higher presence at the border in comparison to their Nepalese counterparts. Particularly, at the Korala border, sophisticated buildings have been constructed to serve as integrated government offices.

#### **4.4 Current State of Border Security and Perception of Respondents in Mustang**

As per key informant interview with border security experts and professionals, interview with security personnel and district security committee members and other stakeholders regarding different issue following perceptions were drawn.

Most of responders cited that as comparison to past government border in Mustang has fairly managed and situation is getting better but still a lot of works needed to be done. The border out post of APF, Nepal Nechung had already established for 2 year and had tasked with protecting and securing the border, control trans-border criminal activities and continuously cooperation and coordination with concern counter parts and authority as well. There are no any issues of border territorial concern with counterparts. Further, there is good coordination and cooperation among security agencies and all concerned authorities in maintaining harmony and proper management of border. The local people are very cooperative towards APF Nepal and also providing the allocate budget of local government authority for maintain the temporary infrastructure in initial stage.

During the field survey, the researcher has visited the Jomsom, Lomanthang, Nechung, and Korala border and interviewed to locals and one of the IDI-27 of 30 years old Tata sumo driver who drove from Jomsom to Korala border since 10 years, he stated that..

*Due to the closure of the border following the COVID-19 pandemic and the construction of a fence by the Chinese counterparts, significant border issues, transborder crimes, and the unauthorized crossing of humans and livestock have been effectively prevented.*

As a result, there is a notable reduction in such incidents at border. Such measures of border closure and the physical barrier have addressed security concerns and fostered a safer and controlled border environment. The following some points which are extracted for the Mustang and BOP, Nechung:

During the interviews with district security committee members as FGD-1, FGD-2 of APF, personnel from Jomsom and KIIs 2&3 of senior officers of security forces from Jomsom, the following points were extracted.

*Though there are nearly 50 different institutions as well as numerous non-Governmental agencies working in the field of border management of Nepal but there is lack of better cooperation among them. The current state of border security is vital issues for territorial integrity and require for foreign diplomacy in proper line with government security doctrine.*

*There are all together 16 pillars in Mustang district numbering from 18-33, out of this 18-32 are physically inspected regularly but pillar no 33 is not possible to inspect due to geographical constraint and lack of equipment to reach there. There is no any border encroachment issues or border disputes recorded till date in district Mustang.*

*As international border is 14km away from BOP Nechung and terrain is very challenging, also as there is heavy snowfall or 4 months so due to climatic and geographical constraint it is impossible to regularly inspect the border pillars and international border area.*

*There is a Tibetan Refugee Camp in Rural Municipality Garpajhong-1, Jomsom, Mustang near at Marpha which shelters around 208 Tibetan refugees. Approximately more than 10 years before the camp is existed. It was found that there were no big issues raised inside the camp for security matters.*

During the field survey, IDI-15 of 56 years old woman from Gurung community at Nechung mentioned about the use of language for communication, who was very good in Nepali language. She stated that..

*'Loba' language is the language of Lobas who live in Upper Mustang which is very similar to the Western Tibetan language can speak by other communities also. Language is always a barrier and Chinese Counterparts hardly understands Nepali language and only few of them understand and communicate in English. Even the Chinese officials are comfortable in Tibetan language rather than Chinese language.*

Language is very important. Most of the people communicate in *Loba* and Nepali language at Upper Mustang. And there are no local people who join in security forces. So that there is no

chance to deploy Local for BOP. Presently locals are using for the language assistance during patrolling. the communication can be done in *Loba* or Tibetan language with Tibetan people of border towards Chinese side.

#### **4.5 Prospects and Challenges of Border Security by APF, Nepal**

High mountain terrain is often inaccessible, uninhabitable or of no apparent value, yet people and states still fight to possess it. Long, bloody wars have been fought, and are being fought, for mountain real estate located between 10,000 and 23,000 feet (3050 and 7015 meters). Mountains are generally classified as low (600 to 1500 meters), medium (from 1500 to 3500 meters) and high-altitude Mountains (above 3600 meters). The Himalayan Mountain chains of Asia stretches 1,500 miles and Nepal contains 8 of the world's 10 highest peaks.

The researcher has collected perception regarding different issues of high-altitude deployment of Armed Police Force, Nepal. It is an elite force established to surpass then ongoing internal conflict. The force was engraved with twelve principal mandates which now have reached to fourteen. The organization has been deployed in different formation in various parts of the country (Low Terai to high mountains) to accomplish mandated tasks.

High altitudes are characterized by extreme cold, strong winds, thin air, intense solar and ultraviolet radiation, deep snow, raging thunderstorms and blizzards, and heavy fog and rapidly changing weather, including severe storms. The vast mountainous terrain with high altitude is another key factor which has hindered APF, Nepal's operational readiness in the northern border. The respondents perceived the acclimatization is also an issue for high altitude deployment. But acclimatization is a temporary issue for the troops, as least problematic issue in high altitude. On top of that, the terrain is no more perceived as a problem in high altitude deployment, though it is one of the major issues.

The researcher had asked about the border security challenges in Nepal specially in Himalayan region, Mustang and one of the KII-1, security expert said that..

*In terms of Nepal's border security, there are more issues on the border with India. The border security situation on the Chinese side is not problematic, but due to the difficult terrain, it is not easy to deploy security personnel at all the*

*border crossings. It is not impossible to have security personnel in difficult weather conditions. But the government has to invest for that. It is necessary to provide weather-friendly barracks and uniforms for communication and treatment facilities properly.*

During the visit, FGD-1 a group of different security forces who were deployed at Mustang district revealed similar types of challenges..

*Mustang border is situated at highest place of mountain areas and very difficult to regulate daily conduct of the logistic supports is the major problem. Lack of integrated approach of all the institutions/ organizations because of the location and the infrastructure, is another challenging factor in achieving effective border security management*

From experience, it shows that maintaining communication is one of the tactical challenges in high altitude operation. It doesn't mean that equipment, weapons and terrain are not challenging, but it means communication equipment has regularly betrayed the troops. Though they have communication devices the troops cannot rely on them, because those devices cannot function in high altitude after certain altitude. Lack of communication equipment, repeater towers, low mobile connectivity and coldness are the major factors inside communication. 81percent of respondents perceive the communication as a major challenge.

One of the KII-3 who is expert on high altitude diseases and explained about the disease and illness, and its impact on health in high altitude. He revealed that..

*The effects of high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE), high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE), acute mountain sickness (AMS), and a host of other diseases and non-battle illnesses (DNBI) that can negatively impact combat operations. HACE is the most severe illness and can progress to death over 1 to 3 days and in some instances in less than 12 hours, if not treated. HAPE can be rapidly fatal and is the most common cause of death among the altitude illnesses.*

The most common illness at high altitudes is acute mountain sickness (AMS), which is caused by rapid ascent to high altitudes. Altitude illness can begin to occur at 2400m or less than 3000m serious illness can occur. Since the deployment at Mustang there were not such serious illness occurred to APF, personnel but rarely AMS caught evacuated on time to the

lower altitude. Emergency medical evacuation in High Altitude is must. Thus, Helicopter rescue should be always kept in mind. Nepal Army is supporting on it.

About the local product and the goods available for daily food consume, 55 years old former mukhiya IDI - 7, during the interview mentioned that..

*At higher altitudes, the availability of agricultural produce such as barley, potato, wheat, and fruits like apples is limited to specific seasons. The presence of meat from animals like goat, sheep, yak, and local chicken is also scarce, depending on the time of the year. Consequently, the reliance on transportation becomes crucial, as these food items are sourced from Jomsom and Pokhara using vehicles that can traverse the roads only for seven months, specifically from Chait to Kartik. For the remaining months, the local inhabitants rely on stockpiled food supplies.*

APF, Nepal BOP stays for whole year without shifting to the low level of altitude. During the months from Kartik to Falgun, the foods use to stock or the local's product use to consume. The locals also helps and that indicates there are good relationship between locals and Security personnel

Proper and efficient logistics are the mandatory pre requisites for the deployment of troops in high altitude. Severer snowfall and windy climate make life very tough. Thus, infrastructures should be built to resist them. During the interview with 3 FGDs of concerned security forces and the KII-5 from district administration office, KII-6 APF, Nepal local commander, the researcher has extracted the below mentioned points as an issue of operational challenges for high altitude operation security forces.

- a. Barracks: Heating system should be included in the infrastructures because the temperature falls below 0 degree Celsius.
- b. Clothing: Clothing (including boots, Gloves, Caps etc.) used in high altitude should be winter resistant and convenient.
- c. High altitude equipment: High Altitude equipment such as rope, carabineer, ice axe, hammer, shovel etc. should be of UIAA (Uniform Intermodal Interchange and Facilities Access Agreement) standard. It began creating safety standards in

1960 with the testing of ropes. It has since developed standards for over twenty types of safety equipment, including helmets, harnesses and crampons.

- d. Food: Food plays a major role in the morale of troops. Especially in high-altitude High-quality ration should be arranged as the calorie requirement increases there.
- e. Equipment and arms: A known fact is that efficiency of weapon decreases in high altitude. Thus, arrangement of special equipment and arms are preferred. The accessories of weapons (i.e., oils and lubricants) are also be as per the altitude and weather requirements.
- f. Communication and other equipment: Communication is a difficult aspect in high altitude. Frequently the electricity cuts up to 2/ 3 days. Thus, Radio sets of High range should be provided to those areas.
- g. Physical slackness: Troops might feel dizziness and sagginess which might decline the efficiency of them. Thus, more recreational environment is needed like indoor games.
- h. Effect of snow: 24/7 exposures to snow may bring psycho effect in human brain and troops might get exhausted. Thus, homely environment must be maintained.
- i. Morale of troops: Morale of troops is a major factor in the high-altitude deployment. Thus, timely relief of the troops is important that was managed.

The FGD -2 and 3 of APF, Nepal personnel of different ranks from Jomsom and Nechung who were deployed at the border and experienced all seasons, they mentioned that..

*The barracks, clothing, food and the communication are the major things while deploying at altitude like Nehucng. Due to the weather and the frequent electricity cut, the communication stops for 3/ 4 days. If the vehicles and the road close, the supply of the logistics stop. The timely relief has been done, that increases the morale of the troops.*

#### **4.6 Enhancing Capacity of APF in Himalayan Region**

In the border there are many works and the prime role of border security is done by the APF, Nepal. So Integrated border management is one of the recent management systems emerge for the border management. It refers to a holistic approach that aims to effectively manage

and secure a country's borders by coordinating and integrating the efforts of various agencies and stakeholders involved in border control. It encompasses the seamless collaboration and information sharing among customs, immigration, law enforcement, and other relevant authorities to enhance border security, facilitate legitimate trade and travel, and prevent illegal activities such as smuggling, trafficking, and terrorism. Integrated border management involves the implementation of efficient procedures, technologies, and systems that enable harmonized border controls, risk assessment, and border surveillance. By promoting cooperation and coordination, integrated border management ensures a comprehensive and coordinated response to border-related challenges, promoting national security and facilitating the legitimate flow of goods and people across borders.

During the interviews most of the KII-4 who the border expert and explained that...

*The APF, Nepal operating on the border is guided by its established act, which outlines its role in safeguarding the nation's borders. However, there is still need of more clarity on demarcation defining the scope of border security responsibilities. Presently, the APF operates under the jurisdiction of various institutions without explicit mention of its rights and duties. Given these circumstances, for APF, Nepal to effectively lead Nepal's border security efforts, it must proactively prepare itself to assume a prominent role, adopting an integrated border management approach.*

The current law is not enough for border security. It is necessary to make a separate law for this. Duties of security personnel working in border security, controlling of trans-border crimes, seizure of illegal transaction, control of refugees, coordination with foreign security personnel. If necessary, the method of using force/ rules of engagement should also be mentioned in the law.

The researcher has done FGD-3 from different ranks who were deployed at BOP Nechung, they focused that.

*First of all, there is proper need assessment for the security and the location for the deployment at the Northern region. After that, establishing its force only in necessary areas this manpower should be well equipped by proper logistic management. And during the patrolling (single or jointly), locals are helping as language assistance.*

The Integrated border management system can be the future pavement which enable seamless coordination and collaboration among various agencies, empowering the APF to meet the challenges of border security comprehensively and efficiently. In terms of communication, it seems urgent necessary to teach the local language like *Loba* at Upper Mustang, Tibetan languages and Chinese language to the units of the APF, Nepal at Northern part. There is a lack of paved roads in many places.

#### **4.7 Positive Aspects of Deployment of APF in Mustang**

In this study, after taking IDI interviews with local people and based on the thematic analysis, most of them mentioned following positive aspects towards the presence of APF, Nepal for border security in Mustang district, Nepal.

*Deployment of APF in high altitude has strengthened the inland security environment of high-altitude districts. APF, Nepal has played major role in maintaining the security issues in the local areas. It further controlled the illegal transportation of herbs, poaching activities and most importantly sense of security.*

*High Altitude Areas are the tourist destinations and the APF, Nepal has played major role in providing security to tourists and the touristic destinations. Tourists also feel safe after the deployment of APF in different high-altitude destinations. It has directly and indirectly supported the foreign exchange earnings.*

*To produce manpower capable of rescuing tourists and locals in the event of various catastrophes in the high mountainous region such as plane and helicopter accidents, avalanches, landslides, leaks, road mishaps and risks from avalanches. To produce manpower to rescue the injured from the high mountainous region in case of any accident that may occur during adventure tourism such as mountaineering, skiing, rock climbing or sky diving. APF has played remarkable role on these issues.*

*Population is decreased in Mustang district year by year and the main cause is they migrate to city areas like Pokhara and Kathmandu and it was also found that at least one family member from most of the families were in abroad for many purposes. So APF, Nepal has become the friends to the local any time and they exchange the happiness and sorrow during*

*the stay at there and APF, Nepal has been coordinating with Chinese counterparts in local and district level and it is playing major role in coordination also.*

#### **4.8 The Priorities to Enhance Effective Border Security**

APF's presence in northern border is not an easy task. In spite of the difficulties APF, Nepal is serving professionally. Based on the findings from the FGD, KII and IDI interviews, following things should be prioritized to improve border security in Mustang district, Nepal.

a. High altitude training

Though APF has established High Altitude Training Center in Manang, which is yet to be operationalized. No troops have got high altitude survival training and high-altitude tactical training. Thus, it is very much important to start such trainings.

b. Basic medical facility

As we saw in the data, the medical assistance is very much essential for the troop deployed in high altitude. APF has provided a GAMOW's bag to the high-altitude units. Only providing the bag is not sufficient, emergency medical facilities should be established. The high altitude can cause the health problem to the personnel. So that there is essential of immediate medical evacuation by helicopter.

c. Logistics and food supply

Troops in the high altitude are using the same thermal and military gears which could be used in the winter season in low altitude. It needs special dress, food and personal equipment for the troops at high altitude. During the year, 4 months (Mangshir to Falgun), the road transportation will close due to winter season, the adequate food should be stored

d. Establishment of forward base at Korala border

The Korala border presently is closed and it is situated at 4600m height. The APF, BOP Nechung is still 14 km far from the border. So that for the effective border security, it will essential to be very near at the border, and for that either BOP or Forward base is essential in the future while the border will open and become flow of people and goods.

e. High altitude friendly accommodation

The unique conditions of high-altitude environments necessitate consideration of diverse factors related to the terrain and weather. So that crucial elements such as accommodation infrastructure and training become essential prerequisites for deploying troops in high-altitude regions. The accommodation should be constructed as per the high altitude friendly and the personnel can stay for whole year on duty.

f. Improvement of information technology

For surveillance and the information gathering, the modern technology is very useful which helps for effective border security. So that the border security needs to enhance the ICT.

The acclimatization emerges as a critical factor due to the significant reduction in oxygen supply. The challenges encompass various aspects such as high altitude, accommodation, logistic support, communication, and welfare, all of which profoundly impact the morale of the troops. Additionally, APF, Nepal takes the forefront in deploying forces to safeguard the border at Himalayan region under such demanding conditions. Therefore, prioritization of time and location becomes essential in determining the deployment of troops and for their mobilization strategies.

## **CHAPTER V**

### **SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION**

The overall goal of this study was to analyze the border management and issue in Northern Border of Nepal focused in Mustang District and issues and challenges through the lens of border security and APF, Nepal in specific. This study has followed the accepted research guidance strictly. The Researcher mostly used the narrative analysis, discourse analysis, thematic analysis for qualitative analysis of the findings and discussion.

#### **5.1 Summary**

The Himalaya and its foothills make up the northern border of the country and represent 16 percent of the total land area. This is the least inhabited region of Nepal. Most permanent settlements are at less than 4000m altitude, although there are summer settlements as high as 5000m. The unique features of northern border area require unique operational requirement for the security forces. There has not been much research conducted by APF, Nepal to enhance the operational effectiveness before the deployment in northern border area. APF, Nepal personnel also lacks training and skills for high altitude deployment which has caused operational risks in the northern border area.

Lack of communication infrastructure to get connected with family, limited entertainment and sports option and long-term deployment, lack of incentives has caused low motivation to the APF personnel to be deployed in northern area. This has also directly affected the operational effectiveness of APF, Nepal in northern border area.

Nepal's boundary with China lies in the north only. The ruggedness of Nepal-China boundary is clearly revealed by its length which is 1414 kilometers. No remarkable or noticeable territorial dispute has existed between Nepal and China.

The operational deployment in northern border is not out of challenges. This study has aimed to study analyze the present border management system in Mustang, its prospects

and problems and its challenges in Northern Border of Nepal. The Researcher has used descriptive design and sequential explanatory method for the research. Various data were gathered from secondary as well as primary source specially structured interviews with key informants as well as people in Mustangs and security personnel.

Nepal shares 99 pillars with China, it has established fourteen Companies and eight BOPs in the northern border of Nepal. The unique features of northern border area require unique operational requirement for the security forces. There has not been much research conducted by APF, Nepal to enhance the operational effectiveness before the deployment in the northern border area. APF, Nepal personnel also lacks training and skills for high altitude deployment which has caused operational risks in the northern border area.

High altitudes are characterized by extreme cold, strong winds, thin air, intense solar and ultraviolet radiation, deep snow, raging thunderstorms and blizzards, and heavy fog and rapidly changing weather, including severe storms. The established BOPs have faced different types of operational challenges in northern part due to lack of proper infrastructure, special training and logistics and equipment. At altitude, the first enemy is the environment which restricts smooth supply chain. The effects of high-altitude cerebral edema (HACE), high-altitude pulmonary edema (HAPE), acute mountain sickness (AMS), and a host of other diseases and non-battle illnesses (DNBI) that can negatively impact operations.

The study shows that maintaining communication is one of the tactical challenges in high altitude operation. It doesn't mean that equipment, weapons and terrain are not challenging, but it means communication equipment has regularly betrayed the troops.

In the context of district Mustang there are all together 16 pillars that starts from 18 to 33 adjoining China. Its sole responsibility of single BOP which makes it very hard for regular monitoring and inspection not only with the numbers but additionally due to the geographical and climatic constraint. Further the personnel are not well trained for high altitude operational activities from disaster management to other regular duties. For around 4 months the snowfall and harsh climate makes the job more tedious. Since the deployment of APF, Nepal in northern border the peace and security situation has been

maintained, it has also put its concern on high altitude terrorism, support to disaster rescue and relief and coordination with cross border counterparts. Now, APF, Nepal has to improve on trainings, facilities, logistics' management and infrastructural development.

## 5.2 Conclusion

The concept of 'Borders' (is called *Sajam* in *Loba* language) have held great significance throughout the history of human civilization. During the hunters and gatherers time also demarcations was done for hunting territories. Thus, Border security refers to measures taken to protect the sovereignty and integrity of a country's territorial boundaries. There are some theories which are relevant to border security for study.

In Kautilya's Saptang theory, it is explained that there are some elements for prosperous state (Janapada) in terms of territory. The nature of Janapada consists: defend the state against enemy, manageable neighbors, territory and population are integral components of the state.

John Locke in 1689 AD as a natural rights theorist argued that individuals can acquire property in land and other material objects by improving it with their labor, but to govern such people and protect their rights, a jurisdictional authority is required. Thus, Locke emphasized the importance of jurisdictional power to govern the land with authority.

Montevideo Convention's Article 1 delineates some criteria necessary for a state to be acknowledged as a legal entity in the international community. These prerequisites encompass: the existence of a permanent population, a clearly defined territory, a functioning government, and the capacity to engage in diplomatic relations with other states.

For the border security, it susceptible to various security concerns, including cross-border illegal activities, smuggling, and transnational threats. The rugged terrain, limited infrastructure, and vast expanses of unmonitored areas pose significant challenges for effective border management. To address these challenges, a comprehensive approach to

border security is essential. This should involve a combination of measures such as enhancing surveillance capabilities through the deployment of advanced technologies, improving physical infrastructure, strengthening border enforcement agencies, and promoting international cooperation and information sharing.

APF, Nepal plays key role in border security. It also has deployed in Himalayan region of Nepal. High altitude deployment is not only an internal security issue, it is an issue of foreign diplomacy. So that APF Nepal and GoN should assure a significant deployment of the troops in the northern border with sufficient training, skills, adequate resources. The deployment in northern border is operationally and logistically challenging and tough.

In this regard, the researcher selected the study area at BOP, Nechung lies at Lomanthang Rural municipality, Mustang which is the mountainous region. The high-altitude environments require great adaptation and knowledge by all personnel involved. A failure to recognize this fact can spell more problems.

The oldest and important Korala Border lies there, but now it is closed after COVID-19 and while the border operates it will be essential to cover the work more. Despite the current state of APF, Nepal deployment in Mustang, BOP Nechung is necessary to upgrade up to Company and few more BOPs or forward base establishment either temporary or permanently in some reasonable area. In terms of BOP/Forward Base, it is required with constructing the modern infrastructure where the troops can live 24/ 7 in whole years for the duty at the Korala Border. It is also necessary to bring a new and innovative border development program by the government for border area people to develop a good bonding among the people and government bodies. The new technologies and devices will be required to install in vital place for the purpose of security and necessary amendment of existing laws for proper conducting trans business and trade.

The findings of the research lead to suggest that APF, Nepal has to improve on High-Altitude Training, logistics management, Supply Chain Management, required medical facility and infrastructural development for the effective operationalization in this area. It

is crucial of the GoN to provide budget to improve facilities, logistics and infrastructure of BOPs deployed in the Himalayan region.

This research paper is prepared on the basis of deployment of BOP level unit in northern border in Mustang district in terms of border security point of view. Further researches need to be carried out including other aspects of security deployment of APF unit above the BOP Level.

## APPENDICES

### Appendix 'A'

(Refer to page no. 7)

#### APF, Nepal Border Outposts at Border with India and China Border

	APF, Nepal Brigade in Province	District	BOP	Country
1	Koshi	Solukhumbu	0	
2		Shankhuwasabha	1	China
3		Taplejung	1	China
4		Pachathar	4	India
5		Ilam	7	India
6		Jhapa	18	India
7		Morang	11	India
8		Sunsari	10	India
<b>Total</b>			<b>52</b>	
1	Madhes	Saptari	8	India
2		Siraha	7	India
3		Dhanusha	7	India
4		Mahotari	9	India
5		Sarlahi	11	India
6		Rauthat	5	India
7		Bara	8	India
8		Parsa	17	India
<b>Total</b>			<b>72</b>	India
1	Bagmati	Rasuwa	1	China
2		Sindhupalchowk	2	China
3		Dolakha	1	China
4		Chitwan	6	India
5		Dhading	0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>10</b>	
1	Gandaki	Manang	0	
2		Mustang	1	China
3		Gorakha	0	
4		East- Nawalparasi	1	India

<b>Total</b>			<b>2</b>	
1	Lumbini	West-Nawalparasi	5	India
2		Rupendehi	6	India
3		Kapilwastu	9	India
4		Dang	5	India
5		Bake	8	India
6		Bardia	8	India
<b>Total</b>			<b>41</b>	
1	Karnali	Humla	1	China
2		Mugu	0	
3		Dolpa	0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>1</b>	
1	Sudurpaschim	Kailali	18	India
2		Kanchanpur	20	India
3		Dadeldhura	5	India
4		Baitadi	3	India
5		Darchula	4	India
6		Bajhang	0	
<b>Total</b>			<b>50</b>	
<b>Total BOPs</b>			<b>228</b>	

Detail of BOPs in northern and southern borders of Nepal

Description	Border Points	Current 228 BOPs				348 BOPs after 120 Additions			
		District	No of BOP	Border Distance of District	Average Distance	No. of BOPs	No of BOPs	Border Distance of District	Average Distance
Very average distance (KM)	Nepal-India	Darchula	4	131	32.75	Chitwan	6	88	14.67
		Baitadi	3	59	19.66	Dang	6	79	13.17

	Nepal-China	Humla	1	213	213	Humla	2	213	106.5
Low average Distance (KM)	Nepal-India	Sarlahi	11	51	4.64	Sunsari	18	61	3.39
		East-Nawalparasi	1	4	4	Rautahat	9	29	3.22
	Nepal-China	Mustang	1	52	52	Sindhupalchok	2	57	28.03

Average distance among BOPS by districts (with future plan)

S.N.	Current BOPs	No.	Current Average Distance (KM)	No. of BOPs in process of addition	After 120 BOPs additions	Average distance after being 348 BOP(KM)	Average distance after being 500 BOPs (KM)
१	Nepal-India	<b>220</b>	8.54	<b>108</b>	<b>328</b>	<b>5.73</b>	3.92
२	Nepal-China	8	176.75	12	20	<b>70.7</b>	70.7
<b>Total</b>		<b>228</b>		<b>120</b>	<b>348</b>		

Average distance of established BOPs and future plan BOPs deployment at border

**Appendix 'B'****(Refer to page no.31)****1.Focal Group Discussion with District Security Committee, Security Forces and Other Stakeholders**

For thesis paper: Border Security Studies in Mustang District of Nepal

Date: ..... (DD/MM/YY Location: .....

Meeting Participants:

S. No	Name	Address	Organization	Signature

**Questions:**

1. What are your thoughts on the current state of border security status in Mustang?
2. What are the major border security challenges to achieving effective border security in the Mustang?
3. What are existing government efforts for proper border security and management in district?

4. What roles do you think local government authorities and provincial authorities should play in securing our borders?
5. How is coordination between law enforcing agencies and other concerning authorities, local bodies as well regarding border issues and how often the issue of border security and management being discussed in formal forum?
6. How is doing the coordination and cooperation with Chinese Counterparts regarding border management?
7. Is the location of APF, Nepal BOP appropriate or it needs to be relocated or need to be established more?
8. Is local government or district level, provincial level authorities or civil society organization organize an awareness campaign regarding border issues?
9. Are there any cases related to illegal crossing of human as well as animals?  
If yes how often and how are they solved?
10. How cooperatives are people residing in border area and their perception on APF as Border Security unit and further recommendations?

## **2. Questions for Security Force deployed in border (APF, Nepal & Nepal Police)**

### 1. Demographic Description:

- i. Name (Optional):.....
- ii. Organization / Unit:.....
- iii. Gender:        Male / Female
- iv. Age
  - a) 20-30            b) 30-40            c) 40-50            d) 50 +

- v. Education Level
  - a) Below SLC    b) PCL/10+2            c) Bachelors            d) Masters
- vi. Rank
  - a) Officer            b) Junior Officer            c) NCOs
- 2. How often you go for patrol around the border area?
- 3. What is situation in winter and how do you manage?
- 4. How do you coordinate with stakeholders in district?
- 5. What is mechanism of cooperation and coordination with Chinese counterparts?
- 7. What is coordination mechanism among Nepal Police, Nepali Army and NID?
- 8. Is the location of BOP tactically suitable for border management?
- 9. Perception on Operational Challenges
  - a. Is the logistics provided enough and suitable enough for sustain in high altitude deployment (clothing, equipment's, barracks, communication etc.)?
  - b. What are things to be improved?
  - c. Are troops well trained to be operational in high altitude? Mention the number of troops trained for deployment?
  - d. How is the medical support and what are Casualty Evacuation plans for troops as well as other people around?
  - e. How is the communication system for office as well as your personnel means of communication? Explain
- 10. Points out in number from top to bottom what are existing challenges do you face during your deployment?

11. What are suggestion for higher authority for betterment of living condition as well as operational effectiveness?
12. Is there any cases of reported border security issues and complaints received from either Chinese Counterparts of locals?
13. What are means other than yours that Chinese Counterparts use for monitoring the border?
14. What do you think are the biggest challenges to achieving effective border security?
15. Any suggestion and recommendation for APF

### 3. Questions for local people

Name: ..... Age/Gender:...../... Ethnicity:.....

Address:.....

Level of education: a) Literate (level) ..... b) Illiterate.....

#### Peoples' Perception towards Border Security and Border Security Force

1. What are the present security challenges in your area pertaining to Border Security and Management?
2. Are there any illegal activities, trafficking issues, animals crossing issues? If yes, how do you deal with it.
3. What are prospects and problems faced on either side for border management issue?
4. What is your expectation from APF as border security force?
5. How should Local, provincial and Central Government act to manage the border properly and scientifically?

**4. Questions for key informant interview (border security experts and professionals)**

Name: ..... Age/Gender:../...

Education:.....

Position / Title:.....

Organization:.....

Field of Expertise:.....

Checklist for key informant interview:

1. What are your thoughts on the current state of border security?
2. What do you think are the biggest challenges to achieving effective border security?
3. What role do you think local law bodies, provincial government should play in securing our borders and management?
4. Is the existing laws and policies enough to contest the challenges of border?
5. Do you think that the Government should invest more resources in monitoring and securing our borders?
6. Enlisting new emerging concerns relating to border security and any other ideas or suggestions for improving border security?
7. How should government act to enhance the capacity of APF to operate in Northern frontiers?
8. Any suggestion and recommendation to APF

Thank you

## Appendix 'C'

(Refer to page no.31)

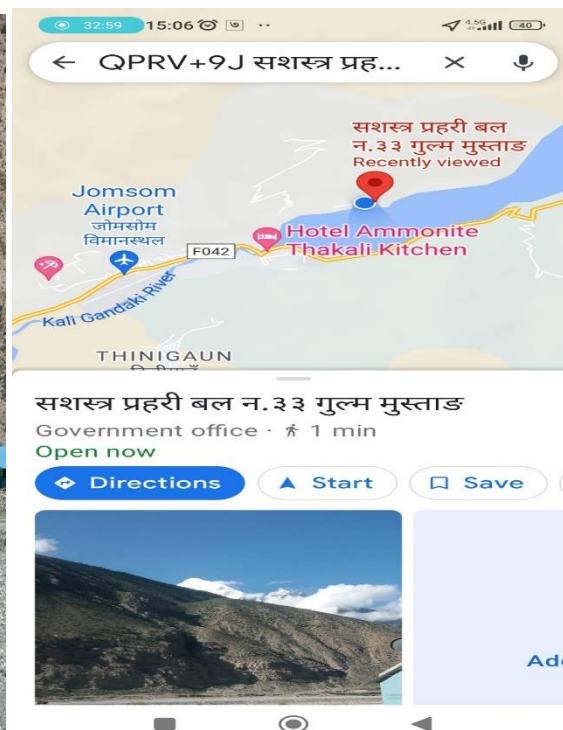
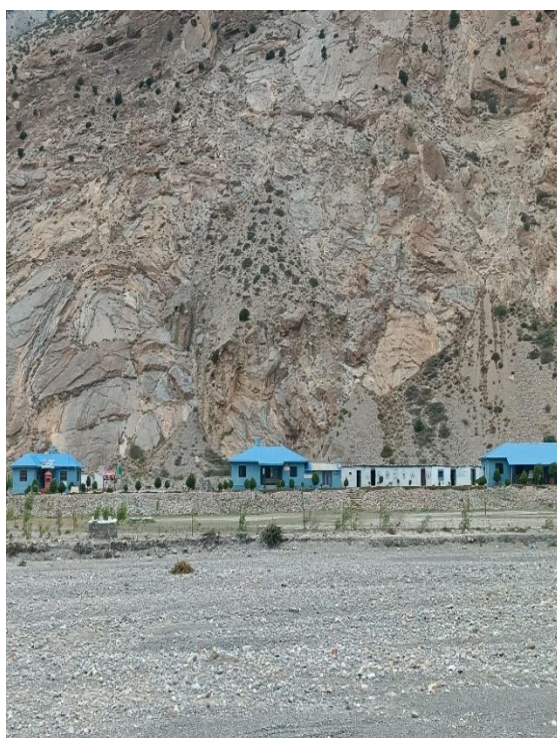
**Some pictures of KII, FGDs, Observation and Interviews with Local During Field Visit**



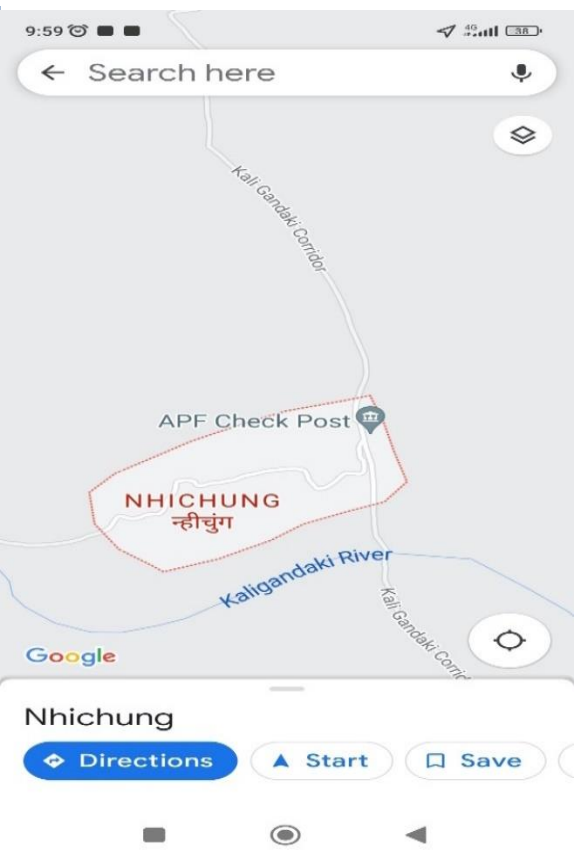
With district security committee



Focal group discussion with ranks and file at no. 33 company Hqs Mustang



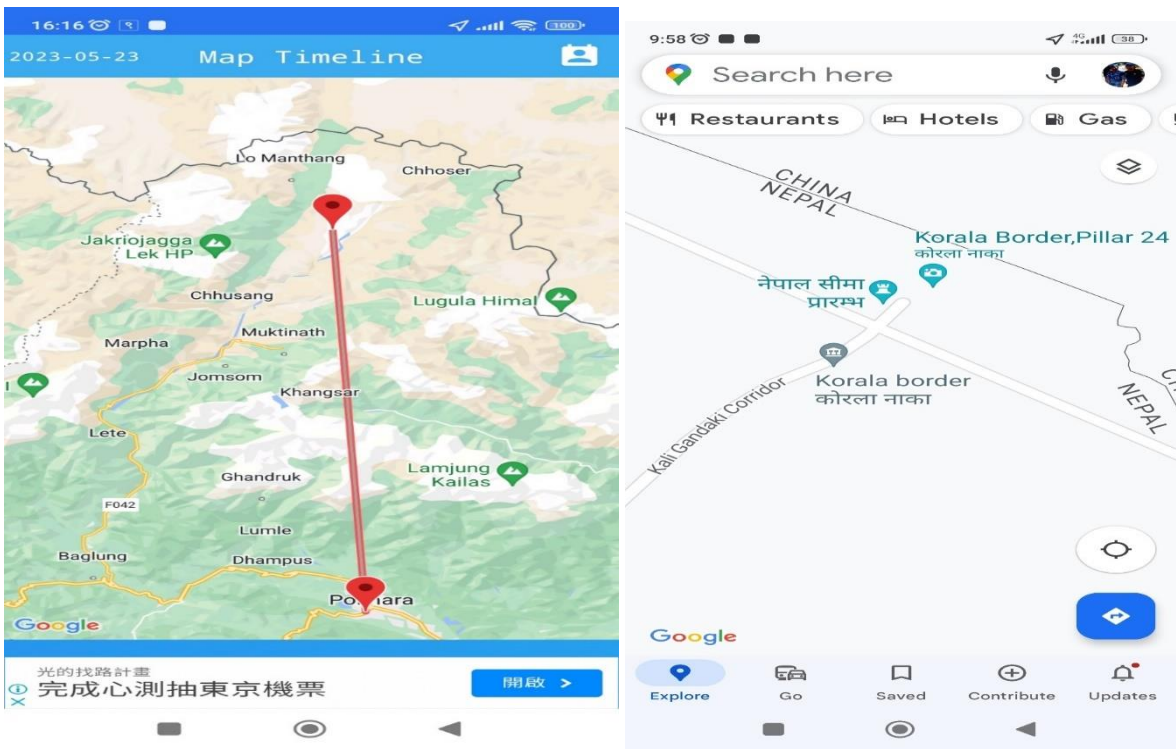
Location of no. 33 APF, Nepal Coy. Jomsom, Mustang



BOP Nechung location observation



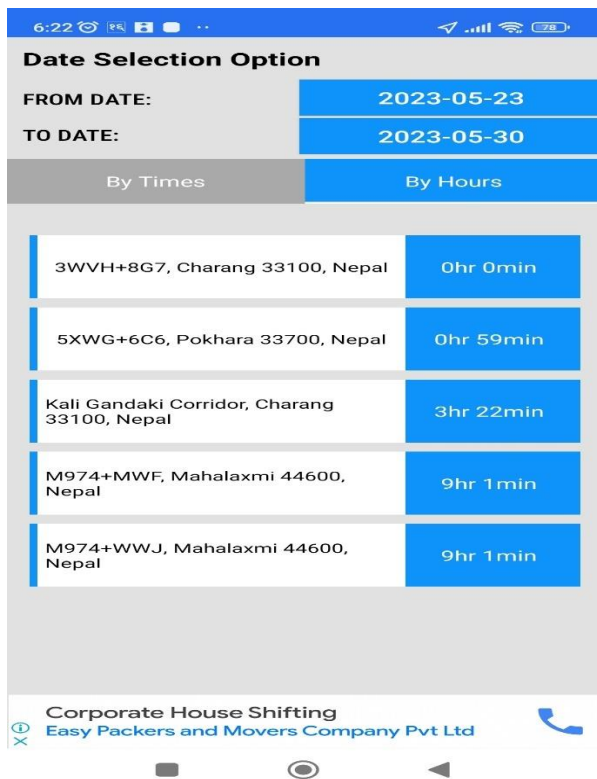
Ward president, Lama priest and Gurung woman of Lo Manthang -5



Korala border observation google map location



Korala border observation with local and BOP Cdr. and google map



Field visit Korala



KII with the renowned geography expert of Nepal

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