



NIICE

NEPAL INSTITUTE FOR
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ENGAGEMENT

SEMINAR ON

**TERRORISM IN SOUTH ASIA:
Challenges to Regional Peace
and Security**

KATHMANDU MARRIOTT HOTEL

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

9 July 2025

TERRORISM IN SOUTH ASIA: Challenges to Regional Peace and Security

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TERRORISM IN SOUTH ASIA:

Challenges to Regional Peace and Security

DATE : 9 July 2025, WED
TIME : 14:00-18:30 hrs
VENUE : Bagmati Ballroom I, Marriott Hotel

PROGRAM SCHEDULE

SESSION I Evolving Terrorism Landscape in South Asia and Implications for Nepal

- 14:00-14:05 Welcome Remarks, **Sumitra Karki**,
Director, NIICE.
- 14:05-14:15 Opening Remarks, **Dr. Pramod Jaiswal**,
Research Director, NIICE.
- 14:15-14:25 Remarks, **Shisir Khanal**, *Former Minister of Education of Nepal and Member of Parliament of Nepal.*
- 14:25-14:35 Remarks, **Chanda Chaudhary**, *Former Minister of Women, Children and Senior Citizen of Nepal, Member of Parliament of Nepal.*
- 14:35-14:45 Remarks, **N.P. Saud**, *Former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Minister of Irrigation of Nepal and Member of Parliament of Nepal.*
- 14:45-14:55 Remarks, **Sunil Bahadur Thapa**, *Former Minister of Industry of Nepal, Advisor to the President of Nepal.*
- 14:55-15:05 Remarks, **Dr. Minendra Rijal**, *Former Minister of Defence of Nepal.*
- 15:05-15:25 Questions and Answers
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SESSION II **Cross-Border Terrorism and the Geopolitics of Extremism in South Asia**

Chair: **Maj. Gen. Dr. Purna Silwal, (Retd.),** *Security Expert*

15:30-15:40 Chair Remarks

15:40-15:50 Remarks, **Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla,** *Professor and Former Head of Department of Central Department of Political Science at Tribhuvan University.*

15:50-16:00 Remarks, **Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya,** *Former Foreign Secretary of Nepal.*

16:00-16:10 Remarks, **Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada,** *Former Diplomat and Professor at National Defence University.*

16:10-16:20 Remarks, **Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai,** *Advisor to Former PM Sushil Koirala and Former Diplomat.*

16:20-16:30 Remarks, **Amb. Shankar Das Bairagi,** *Former Foreign Secretary and National Security Advisor of Nepal.*

16:30-16:50 Questions and Answers

16:50-17:15 Tea Break

SESSION III

Terrorism in South Asia: Regional Implications and Policy Responses

Moderator: **Sumitra Karki**, *Director, NIICE*

17:15-17:20 Chair Remarks

17:20-18:20 ***Panel Discussion***

- **Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatt**, *Former Member of Parliament of Nepal.*
- **Maj. Gen. Binoj Basnyat, (Retd.)** *Security Expert.*
- **Apekshya Shah**, *Head of the Central Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University.*
- **Brig. Gen. R.C. Khatry, (Retd.)** *Security Expert*
- **Jay Nishaant**, *Executive Chair, Nepal Democracy Foundation.*
- **Chiran Jung Thapa**, *Security Expert*

18:20-18:40 Questions and Answers

18:40-18:45 Vote of Thanks

18:45-20:30 Dinner

**PROFILE OF
PARTICIPANTS**

(In Order of Appearance or Confirmation Received)



Dr. Minendra Rijal

Dr. Minendra Rijal is a senior leader of the Nepali Congress and a seasoned politician with a doctorate in Business Administration. A long-time advocate of democratic governance and human rights, he has served multiple terms as

Member of Parliament and held key ministerial roles, including Minister of Defence and Minister of Information and Communications. He is the key architect of inclusive electoral system in Nepal. Known for his moderate and diplomatic leadership, Dr. Rijal is respected for promoting transparency, institutional reform, and developmental policy, blending academic insight with decades of political experience to shape Nepal's democratic future.



N.P. Saud

N.P. Saud is a central member of the Nepali Congress and is the former Minister for Foreign Affairs. He represents Kanchanpur-2 in the Federal Parliament of Nepal and has previously held ministerial roles in irrigation and education. A veteran of Nepal's democratic movements, he

began his political journey in the 1980s through the Nepal Student Union, which he led from 1991 to 1996. Saud was elected to the Constituent Assembly in 2013 and has served on key parliamentary committees. Mr. Saud was also at the forefront of the most recent People's Movement of 2006.



Chanda Chaudhary

Chanda Chaudhary is a leader of Nepali Congress and current Member of Parliament. Chaudhary entered parliament in 2017, having been elected as a representative of the Rastriya Janata Party Nepal. She served as Minister for Women, Children, and Senior Citizens of Nepal. Chaudhary was previously a member of the Central Committee of Loktantrik Samajbadi Party, and in September 2022, she joined the Nepali Congress. She is the founder chair of the Nepal-India Women Friendship Society, and recently received the “She The Change – Nari Udyami Award 2019” for her contributions as a social entrepreneur supporting women entrepreneurs. She has also served as Assistant Minister for Youth and Sports, led the Terai-Madhesh women's wings, and had engagement with the People of Indian Origin Chamber of Commerce & Industry in Nepal.



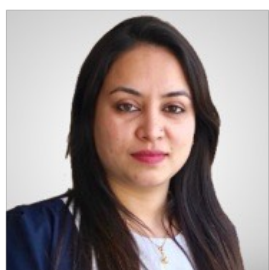
Shisir Khanal

Shisir Khanal is a Member of the Federal Parliament representing the Rastriya Swatantra Party (RSP). He served as the Minister of Education, Science and Technology in 2023, where he advocated for systemic reform, innovation in education, and accountability in public institutions. Prior to politics, he co-founded and led ‘Teach For Nepal’, a pioneering nonprofit addressing educational inequity.



Sunil Bahadur Thapa

Sunil Bahadur Thapa is former Ministry of Industry of Nepal. He also served as Minister of Petroleum, Commerce and Supplies of Nepal. He is the Joint General Secretary of Nepali Congress and the Political Advisor to the President of Nepal. He joined politics in 2012 as active member of Rastriya Prajatantra party and later moved to Nepali Congress. Previously, he worked with UNHCR from 1988- 2012 a career that spanned twenty two years and took him to disaster prone countries for the protection and reparation of refugees. He holds Master's of Art in Government with emphasis in Public Administration from Claremont Graduate School, Claremont, California



Sumitra Karki

Sumitra Karki is the Director at NIICE. She served as the Program Coordinator and Research Associate from July 2017 to April 2024. Her research focus is on issues related to Gender, Non-Traditional Security Issues and Geopolitics of China and South Asia. She is pursuing MPhil/ PhD in International Relations from Central Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. She has co-edited 'Human Rights and Human Security in South Asia' published by Adroit Publishers, New Delhi.



Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla

Prof. Dr. Meena Vaidya Malla was the Head of the Central Department of Political Science, Tribhuvan University. She has written a number of research articles on contemporary issues of politics and Governance. She is decorated with Dirgha Sewa Padak, Mahendra Vidhya Bhusan Ka, by the then King, and Suprabal Jansewashree by the president of Nepal. She has been associated as an expert and guest faculty member in Army Command and Staff College on Advanced course on national Security since its start.



Amb. Madhu Raman Acharya

Ambassador Madhu Raman Acharya is a distinguished diplomat, former Foreign Secretary (2002–2005), and Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN (2005–2009). Known for championing independent, interest-driven diplomacy, he led key missions in New Delhi and Dhaka, and contributed to peace-building through UN roles in Iraq, Cambodia, South Africa, and Liberia. A leading foreign policy thinker, he has authored seminal works such as Nepal Worldview and The Talking Points. He consistently advocates for a principled, development-linked foreign policy, strengthened diplomatic institutions, and differentiated regional strategies. He remains active in diplomacy and academia, promoting public diplomacy and strategic reform in Nepal's international engagement.



Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada

Amb. Dr. Shambhu Ram Simkhada served as Nepal's Permanent Representative to the UN and Ambassador to Switzerland (1994–2003), also chairing the UN Human Rights Commission in 2000/2001. As a Member of the Special Committee Secretariat (2009–2012), he played a key role in integrating and rehabilitating rebel combatants—Nepal's most successful post-conflict peacebuilding initiative. A Visiting Professor in Geneva and Tribhuvan University, he has published extensively on conflict, governance, and state-building.



Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai

Amb. Dr. Dinesh Bhattarai is a Former Foreign Policy Adviser to the Prime Minister of Nepal. He was Nepal's Ambassador/Permanent Representative to the UN including Conference on Disarmament and International Organizations. He was accredited to the WTO in Geneva, FAO in Rome and UN Industrial Development Organization in Vienna. Dr. Bhattarai was also Ambassador to the Swiss Confederation, Republic of Italy and the Republic of Croatia. He served as First Secretary (Political Affairs) at the Embassy of Nepal in New Delhi and Deputy Chief of Mission at the Embassy of Nepal in Washington D.C.. He obtained his PhD in International Relations from Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. He has co-authored a book, "Nepal-India: Democracy in the Making of Mutual Trust", published in 1993.



Amb. Shanker Das Bairagi

Amb. Shanker Das Bairagi has served as Foreign Secretary (2015–2020), Chief Secretary (2020–2023), and National Security Advisor (2023). He has represented Nepal at global platforms including the UN General Assembly, WTO, WHA, and Davos. His overseas postings spanned New Delhi, Brussels, Canberra, New York, and Geneva. He played a central role in organizing SAARC and BIMSTEC summits and expanding Nepal's bilateral frameworks. Currently, he chairs the Institute for Strategic and Socio-Economic Research (ISSR).



Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatt

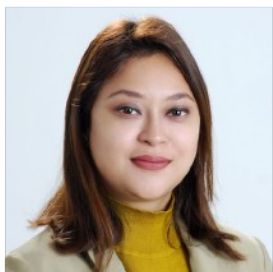
Dr. Deepak Prakash Bhatt is Chairperson of GCCSG. He was a Member of Parliament of Nepal. Previously, he served as a member of High-Level Task Force on Reorienting Nepal's Foreign Policy and as a member of Technical Committee and Secretariat formed for Supervision, Integration and Rehabilitation of Maoist Army Combatants. He has also participated at the DKI Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies, Hawaii, Study of United States Institutes on Foreign Policy, HMG Security and Justice Course at University of Birmingham, and Advanced Level Course on Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Course of Transition International, the Netherlands.



Maj. Gen. Binoj Basnyat (Retd)

Maj. Gen. Binoj Basnyat (Retd.) is decorated with Order of Suprabal Jana Seva Shree; Order of the Lion from the Republic of Finland and Order of Cross of Merit from the Federal Republic of Germany. He holds MPhil in Defense and Strategic Studies from University of

Madras and is an alumni of National Defence College, New Delhi; Command and General Staff Officer's Course from US Army Command and General Staff College; Advanced Security Co-operation Course from APCSS, Hawaii; Executive Course in Defense Decision Making from the Centre of Civil Military Relations, Naval Post Graduate School, USA and graduate of the Royal Military Academy, UK and the War College, India.



Apekshya Shah

Apekshya Shah is the Head of the Central Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University. Her expertise spans diplomacy, foreign policy, and public policy.

Formerly the Opinion Editor at The Kathmandu Post, she holds a postgraduate degree in Diplomacy and Foreign Policy from City, University of London. A 2020 Distinguished Humphrey Fellow, she completed executive training at Harvard Kennedy School. She also serves as the technical lead for Nepal and the World, an initiative under the Nepal Economic Forum focused on foreign policy and economic diplomacy.



Brig. Gen. R.C. Khattry (Retd.)

Brig. Gen. R.C. Khattry (Retd.) is as Managing Director of Eagle Think Tank, a platform focused on defence and geopolitical analysis. He has served as Military Attaché for India, Sri Lanka, and the Maldives from 2021 to 2024. He

was a Resource Person for Strategic Studies at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy (DIRD), Tribhuvan University in 2024. He is also a recipient of the prestigious Sukeertti Medal for distinguished service to the nation. He has graduated from Indian Military Academy, India and holds Master Degree in Military Strategy from Army Command and Staff College, China.



Jay Nishaant

Jay Nishaant, Executive Chair of the Nepal Democracy Foundation, is a governance and development expert with extensive experience in democratic institution building, parliamentary affairs, and international cooperation. He has held leadership roles at the Millennium Challenge

Corporation (MCC) and the National Democratic Institute (NDI). A Stanford University Fellow in democracy, development, and the rule of law, he is passionate about teaching, training, writing, and speaking on political party management, legislative processes, leadership development, international business, and global affairs.



Chiran Jung Thapa

Chiran Jung Thapa specialises in National security affairs and counter-terrorism. He has a Masters degree from Columbia University and a Bachelors degree from State University of New York, college at Geneseo. He has also completed a Leadership in Homeland security course from Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University and a program on Terrorism and security studies from Marshall Center in Germany. He has also completed Advanced Security cooperation course from Asia Pacific center for security studies in Hawaii. He had authored multiple security related chapters and remains a global counter-Terrorism resource person.



Bibek Dhoj Thapa

Bibek Dhoj Thapa is Program Coordinator and Research Associate at NIICE. His research focuses on New technologies in IR, Nepal's Neighbourhood Studies and Security. He was a Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute of South Asian Studies at Sichuan University, China. He is currently pursuing his Master's at the Department of International Relations and Diplomacy, Tribhuvan University.



Maj. Gen. Purna Silwal (Retd)

Maj Gen (Retd.) Dr. Purna Silwal held several positions in the Nepali Army, including Military Secretary, Chief Operations Officer, and Principal Staff Officer. He commanded Air Defense Battalion, Infantry Brigades, the Valley Division and others.

Internationally, served as a UN peacekeeper in Lebanon and DR Congo, and as Military Advisor at Nepal's Permanent Mission to the UN in New York and holds PhD from Tribhuvan University. After retiring, he was appointed to Nepal's High-Level National Security Policy Formulation Committee and the National Security Policy Action Plan Task Force.



Dr. Pramod Jaiswal

Dr. Pramod Jaiswal is the Research Director at NIICE. He is Visiting Fellow at Sandia National Laboratories, US; Senior Fellow at the Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies, India; Non-Resident Fellow at India Studies Center, Ubon Ratchathani University, Thailand and Senior Research Fellow at Institute for National and

International Security, Belgrade. He is also an alumnus of the Near East South Asia Center, National Defence University, Washington DC.

CONFERENCE TEAM



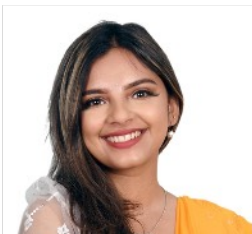
Manila Prajapati
Research Associate
NIICE



Sharon Bhattarai
Research Associate
NIICE



Januka Regmi
Media and Outreach
NIICE



Yutsi Dotel
Research Intern
NIICE

ABOUT NIICE

The Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement (NIICE) is an independent, apolitical, and non-partisan think tank based in Nepal. It was established in February 2016 under the Companies Act 2006 of Nepal.

NIICE is committed to promoting policy-oriented research, fostering strategic dialogue, and enhancing Nepal's engagement with the regional and global powers. Its major focus is international affairs, security and issues of development.

RESEARCH

NIICE has four Research Centers:

- 1.Center for China Studies
- 2.Center for Neighbourhood Studies
- 3.Center for Indo-Pacific Affairs
- 4.Center for Non-Traditional Security Studies

NIICE has Eight major Research Topics

- 1.Border and Transboundary Water Politics
- 2.China's Belt and Road Initiative
- 3.Climate Change and Energy
- 4.Defence and Security
- 5.Disaster Management
- 6.Global Governance, Sustainable Development, and Smart Cities
- 7.International Economy and Development
- 8.Refugee and Migration

NIICE regularly publishes Research Commentaries, Research Papers, Books and Book Reviews on foreign policy, security issues and issues of development.

FLAGSHIP EVENTS

NIICE has hosted some of the major events which has attracted global attention.

- Water and Peace Summit - 60 Speakers
- Indo-Pacific Future Forum - 150 Speakers
- NIICE Global Conclave – 220 Speakers
- Dialogue on Border Security - 35 Speakers
- International Studies Convention – 330 Speakers
- Understanding Nepal's Foreign Policy – 150 Speakers
- International Women Summit – 80 Speakers
- Understanding International Migration – 70 Speakers

ENGAGEMENT

NIICE has partnership with hundreds of reputed think tanks and universities that focuses on NIICE's Research topics.

It also offers different ways for scholars and policy makers to engage with NIICE through:

- Internship Programme and
 - Visiting Fellowship.
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Nepal Institute for International Cooperation and Engagement is an independent, apolitical and non-partisan think tank which believes in freedom, democracy and a world free from conflict. We envision a world, where sources of insecurity are identified and understood, conflicts are prevented or resolved, and peace is advocated.

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