

GOVERNANCE

Issue 81 | August 4, 2023

The Growing Concern of Nepalese Involvement in the Russian Army for the Ukraine War

WEEKLY

Photo by Khabarhub

Nepal's government has come under scrutiny for its lack of accountability over diplomatic matters, leading to a series of far-reaching impacts. Among the pressing issues surfacing is the involvement of young Nepalese individuals in the Russian Army, specifically in the Ukraine war. This development poses a significant threat to Nepal's stance on the non-aggression pact and highlights the harsh realities of labor migration and the exploitation of economic constraints in underdeveloped countries by more powerful nations.

The non-aggression pact signed between Nepal, the United Kingdom, and India explicitly states that Nepali citizens are only allowed to serve in the armies of India and Britain. The implications of this issue extend beyond individual decisions, potentially straining Nepal's bilateral relations with its friendly nations. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs also made a statement on Tuesday urging Nepali citizens not to go to war-torn countries for security-related work.

The precise number of Nepalese individuals recruited into the Russian Army remains uncertain. Nonetheless, there are indications that Russia has intensified its recruitment campaign, primarily targeting Nepalese residing in foreign countries, especially in the Middle East. This trend highlights the vulnerability of Nepalese workers who seek better economic opportunities abroad due to the limited prospects at home.

One of the major reasons cited by Nepalese individuals who have joined the Russian Army is their disillusionment with the Nepalese government's self-centered approach. They express a lack of confidence that the government will adequately address their financial burdens and concerns. Moreover, leaving the Russian Army is not a feasible option for many, given the promising salary and potential for improved economic conditions in the future. This dilemma showcases the complex challenges faced by Nepalese migrant workers abroad and reflects the government's failure to provide sufficient incentives for them to remain within the country's borders.

The situation calls for urgent attention from Nepalese authorities to safeguard the principles of the non-aggression pact and protect the interests of their citizens. Furthermore, it underscores the need for comprehensive reforms in labor migration policies to prevent the exploitation of Nepalese workers by foreign entities. If left unaddressed, this issue could have lasting implications on Nepal's diplomatic ties and the well-being of its workforce, both at home and abroad.

Read more: [Khabarhub](#)

Governance Issues of the Week

1. The Constitutional Council's recent meeting has failed to appoint the successor of Chief Justice Hari Krishna Karki, who is retiring from the position on August 5. The constitution mandates the appointment of Chief Justice a month prior to the position becoming vacant. Besides, the Supreme Court also has another 6 out of 21 judges' positions vacant.

Read more: [The Kathmandu Post](#)

2. The Nepal Telecommunication Authority (NTA) has instructed Nepal Telecom and NCell to implement TERAMOCs technology, which would allow it direct access to citizens' call details and SMS. The government had earlier prepared to pass a telecommunication bill to implement the technology, but the process was halted due to widespread opposition.

Read more: [Republica](#)

3. According to a study conducted by the Institute for Integrated Development Studies (IIDS), the IT sector has generated an annual income of NRs. 67.4 billion through exporting information technology services to foreign countries. The technology export reportedly contributed 1.4 percent to the GDP and 5.5 percent to the foreign exchange reserves in 2022.

Read more: [Ekantipur](#)

4. The tiger population in Nepal has tripled from 121 in 2009 to 355 in 2022. But though there has been progress in conservation, managing the tigers remains a significant challenge. In the last 5 years alone, 58 human deaths resulted from tiger attacks showing a lack in human-wildlife mitigation strategies.

Read more: [Online Khabar](#)

5. The House of Representatives and National Assembly has passed a law to address the problems of loan shark victims. It was incorporated in the Bill to amend some Nepal Acts 2080, which now awaits the final approval from the president. The ordinance addressing loan shark victims had earlier become inactive after failing to table in the parliament within 60 days.

Read more: [Naya Patrika](#)

6. The Ministry of Water Supply convened a meeting with provincial water ministers, secretaries, and division chiefs to address the increasing drinking water crisis induced due to climate change and other factors. The attendees agreed to collaboratively tackle the issue by gathering data on incomplete water projects to ensure a nationwide water supply.

Read more: [The Himalayan Times](#)

Nepal Governance Weekly is an analytical update of Nepal's current affairs based on media and real sources mining, to sensitize the communities on hot news on various governance issues from the perspective of accountability.

Presented by

accountabilitylab
NEPAL



Copyright © 2021 Accountability Lab Nepal, All rights reserved.

Our return e-mailing address is:
nepal@accountabilitylab.org