

Nepal Startup and SME Summit 2025

"Innovate, Invest, Transform: Empowering Nepal's Future Entrepreneurs"

The **Nepal Startup and SME Summit 2025** will be organized by the **Entrepreneurship and SME Department of the Nepali Congress Party** and will take place on **29th-30th January, 2025** at the Nepali Congress Party Office in Sanepa, Lalitpur. This two-day event is designed to provide a dynamic platform for young entrepreneurs, policymakers, and stakeholders to engage in transformative discussions about the future of entrepreneurship in Nepal. The summit will feature **80 startups and SMEs** showcasing their products and services, with approximately **6000 participants and visitors** expected, primarily youth leaders affiliated with the Nepali Congress Party.

Objectives of the Summit:

- 1. Promote Economic Transformation:** Explore innovative strategies that drive economic growth and entrepreneurship in Nepal.
- 2. Foster Investment:** Discuss opportunities and challenges related to attracting investments in Nepal's startup and SME sector.
- 3. Advance Digital Economy:** Understand how Information and Communication Technology (ICT) is shaping Nepal's digital economy.
- 4. Policy Reformation:** Advocate for policy reforms that support youth and women entrepreneurship.
- 5. Strengthen Nepali Congress Party:** Align the party's vision with the aspirations of young entrepreneurs and future leaders.

Thematic Focus Areas:

- **Economic Transformation through Innovation and Entrepreneurship:** Discussing the role of innovation and entrepreneurship in transforming Nepal's economy.
- **Invest in Nepal: Future of Startups and SMEs:** Exploring the investment landscape, opportunities, and challenges for startups and SMEs in Nepal.
- **Agricultural Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges:** Identifying business opportunities in agriculture and overcoming challenges in agri-entrepreneurship.
- **Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development: Preparing for the IT Sector:** Focus on the future workforce needed for a growing IT sector in Nepal.
- **Women Entrepreneurship: Towards Equitable Economic Development:** Highlighting the role of women in entrepreneurship and their contributions to Nepal's economy.
- **My Entrepreneurial Journey:** Inspirational stories and experiences of successful entrepreneurs.

The summit will be inaugurated by **Hon'ble Sher Bahadur Deuba**, former Prime Minister and President of the Nepali Congress Party. The event will be attended by **Nepali Congress Central Committee members, Members of Parliament, current cabinet ministers**, and leaders from **local and provincial governments**.

This event will not only promote a vibrant startup ecosystem but also contribute to fostering a new generation of entrepreneurs who can drive economic change in Nepal.

Nepal Startup & SME Summit 2025

Date: 29th and 30th January 2025 (16th and 17th Magh, 2081)

Time: 9:00 AM to 5:30 PM

Venue: Nepali Congress Party Office, Sanepa

Day 1: January 29, 2025 (16th Magh, 2081)

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM

- **Inauguration Ceremony**
 - Welcome Remarks and Speeches by Chief Guests
 - Presentation of the Program's Objectives and Significance
 - Formal Commencement of the Summit through the Inaugural Speech

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Thematic Panel Discussion 1: Economic Transformation through Innovation and Entrepreneurship

- **Moderator:** Narottam Aryal, President, King's College
- **Panelists:**
 - Dr. Chiranjivi Nepal, Former Governor, Nepal Rastra Bank
 - Anjan Shrestha, Senior Vice President, FNCCI
 - Gyanendra Dhungana, CEO, Nabil Bank
 - Bidhusi Rana, President, Goldstar Shoes
 - Gaurav Pandey, Vice President, NAS IT
- **Q&A Session:**

A discussion on how innovation and entrepreneurship can contribute to Nepal's economic transformation.

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Networking Break

An opportunity for participants to network and engage in discussions.

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Thematic Panel Discussion 2: Investment in Nepal – The Future of Startups and SMEs

- **Moderator:** Raju Nepal, Former Senior Banker
- **Panelists:**
 - Chandra Dhakal, President, FNCCI
 - Shova Gyawali, President, FEWAN
 - Umesh Kumar Gupta, Head, IEDI
 - Siddhant Raj Pandey, CEO, Business Oxygen
 - Nirvana Chaudhary, Managing Director, Chaudhary Group

Q&A Session

An analysis of opportunities and challenges in investing in startups and SMEs in Nepal.

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Exhibition Tour Break

Participants will have the opportunity to explore the exhibition and observe innovative products

2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Thematic Panel Discussion 3 - Agricultural Entrepreneurship: Opportunities and Challenges

- **Moderator:** Sunita Numaphuki, Chairman, Agri Nepal
- **Panelists:**
 - Dilip Dhungana, Chairman, Rastriya Banijya Bank
 - Ambika Poudel, Chairman, Hilife Agro and Foods Industries
 - Shanta Baskota Koirala, Vice President, FNCSI
 - Sitaram Kaphle, Chairman, Muktinath Krishi Company

Q&A Session:

Exploring the possibilities and challenges of entrepreneurship in the agriculture sector.

3:45 - 5:00 PM

Networking Break

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with each other.

Second Day: 17th Magh, 2081 (30th January, 2025)

10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Thematic Panel Discussion 4 - Entrepreneurship and Workforce Development: Preparing for the IT Sector

- **Moderator:** Yograj Kandel Sharma, Board of Director, Siddhartha Business Group of Hospitality
- **Panelists:**
 - Prof. Dr. Mahananda Chalise, Dean, Tribhuwan University
 - Dr. Mirgendra Karki, Executive Director, CNAS
 - Bhibhusan Bista, Founder, Young Innovation
 - Karvika Thapa, CEO, Kimbhu Tech
 - Sulav Budhathoki, CEO, ING Group

Q&A Session:

Discussion on the critical topics of education and workforce development for the IT sector.

11:30 AM - 11:45 AM

Networking Break

Opportunity for networking and discussions among participants.

11:45 AM - 1:15 PM

Thematic Panel Discussion 5 - Women Entrepreneurship: Towards Equitable Economic Development

- **Moderator:** Aasha Thapaliya, Sr. Economic Journalist
- **Panelists:**
 - Rabina Thapa, Former President, NRNA
 - Sambridhi Gyawali, CEO, Nepal Republic Media
 - Nikita Acharya, Founder, UG Cakes
 - Yamuna Shrestha, CEO, BYD Nepal
 - Alisha Shrestha, Amnil Technologies

Q&A Session:

Analysis of the opportunities and challenges in women entrepreneurship.

1:15 PM - 2:15 PM

Exhibition Tour Break

Participants will have the opportunity to tour the exhibition and explore innovative products.

2:15 PM - 3:45 PM

Program: My Entrepreneurial Journey

- **Coordinator:** Bimala Tumkhewa, President, Sancharika Samuha

- **Panelists:**
 - Pukar Malla, Founder and Chairperson of Daayitwa
 - Laxmi Pandey, Chairperson, National Association of Rural Municipalities
 - Shweta Khadka, Actress & Entrepreneur
 - Tanka Nath Ghimire, Founder, Rani Mahal Resort

Q&A Session

3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Networking Break:

Participants will have the opportunity to interact with each other.

5:00 PM - 5:30 PM

Closing Ceremony

Award Distribution: Recognition of outstanding entrepreneurs from startups and SMEs

Closing Remarks and Program Conclusion