

The Everest Voice

A Quarterly Newspaper of Consulate General Office of Nepal, Kolkata (Estd 2000) Shrawan-Kartik 2082 (Jun/Jul-Oct/Nov-2025) Volume-I

Message from the Consul General

On the Occasion of Restarting the Newsletter of the Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata

It gives me great pleasure to announce the reinstatement of the official newsletter of the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata. This platform holds significant value in strengthening communication, showcasing our activities, and deepening engagement with the Nepali community, our Indian friends, and all stakeholders connected to Nepal-India relations. As we resume this initiative, I am confident that it will once again serve as an effective medium to highlight our shared efforts in promoting diplomacy, culture, commerce, and people-to-people ties.

I would like to extend my sincere appreciation to the entire team of the Consulate General for their dedication and hard work in reviving this publication. Your commitment, creativity, and collective effort have made this possible. I am grateful for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing this newsletter grow into an informative and inspiring channel for all our readers.



General Introduction

Consulate General of Nepal Kolkata is one of the oldest diplomatic missions of Nepal. We offer various consular services to Nepali nationals and foreign nationals. Such services may include issuing passports, recommendation letters, and No Objection Certificates for Nepali nationals. Attestation of documents and rescue and repatriation of Nepali nationals are also prioritised business of the Consulate.

West Bengal is a crucial place for Nepal in terms of trade (both import and export), employment, culture, social engagement, tourism, and many more. Both demography and geography play a very important role in Nepal's trade, economy, and society. In fact, the Kolkata corridor is the lifeline of Nepal's third country (other than India) trade. Two riverine (riparian) ports at Kolkata and Haldia are especially of foremost importance.

The Consulate facilitates the smooth and hassle-free movement of Nepal-bound cargo consisting of goods, materials and commodities imported from around the world via seaways. Such goods are transshipped and handled in these ports and transported up to Nepal by rail and trucks.

News and Events

Right Honourable Prime Minister Sushila Karki, who is also in charge of the foreign ministry, has urged Nepali ambassadors and diplomatic missions serving abroad to explore the possibility of granting voting rights to Nepali citizens living, staying, and working abroad during her first virtual interaction with them.

In her first virtual meeting with the envoys, she outlined five directives. She briefed them on the political developments following the Gen-Z movement, emphasizing the government's priority of holding free and fair elections on March 5, 2026. She urged ambassadors to provide recommendations on practical models for out-of-country voting and to coordinate closely with host nations, international organisations, and observer groups. Karki highlighted the government's commitment to good governance, the welfare of migrant workers, tourism revival, and proactive diplomacy as Nepal prepares for LDC graduation. Altogether, 44 diplomats participated in the briefing, during which she reiterated the missions' crucial role in representing Nepal's national interests.



Altogether, 44 Nepali diplomats, including Nepal's permanent representatives and consuls general, were present in the briefings.

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata organized a special meet-and-discussion program with members of the Nepali diaspora residing in Kolkata. The event, held at the Consulate premises, aimed to strengthen community relations and enhance engagement with Nepali nationals living in Kolkata.

During the program, the Consul General Jhakka Prasad Acharya introduced the newly posted officials and exchanged

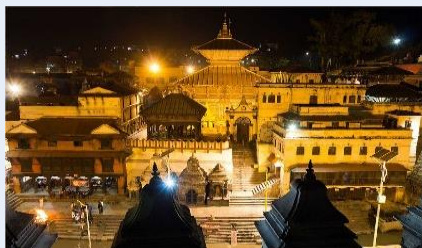
warm greetings with the attendees. Community members shared updates about their livelihoods, business activities, and overall experiences in Kolkata, creating an open platform for dialogue and mutual understanding. The discussion was on the progress and architectural development of the Pashupatinath Temple in Kolkata. Officials and participants exchanged views on ongoing works, future plans, and the cultural significance of the temple for the Nepali community.

Culture and Tourism

Nepal stands as one of the world's most captivating destinations, where natural beauty and vibrant cultural traditions come together to create a truly unique travel experience. Known globally for the majestic Himalayas, including Mount Everest, Nepal attracts millions of visitors each year who seek adventure, spirituality, and authentic cultural encounters. From trekking in the Everest and Annapurna regions to jungle safaris in Chitwan, the country offers unparalleled diversity in landscapes and activities.



Equally remarkable is Nepal's rich cultural heritage, shaped by centuries of history, religion, and ethnic diversity. Home to more than 125 ethnic groups and 123 languages,



Nepal's cultural fabric is a harmonious blend of Hindu and Buddhist traditions. Ancient cities like Kathmandu, Bhaktapur, and Lalitpur showcase exquisite architecture, UNESCO World Heritage Sites, and festivals such as Dashain, Tihar, Indra Jatra, and Lhosar, which highlight the nation's deep-rooted spirituality and communal harmony.

Nepali hospitality—warm, humble, and welcoming—remains at the heart of the tourism experience. Visitors are not only drawn by the country's scenic wonders but also by the genuine kindness of its people. As Nepal continues to promote sustainable tourism and preserve its cultural assets, it remains a destination that inspires, enlightens, and touches the hearts of travelers from around the globe.

Pokhara

Pokhara's tranquil beauty has long inspired many travel writers. Its pristine air, stunning backdrop



of snowy peaks, blue lakes, and lush greenery make it 'the jewel in the Himalaya', a place of exceptional natural charm. With the magnificent Annapurna range forming the backdrop and the serenity of the Cluster of 9 Lakes, including the three major ones - Phewa, Rupa, and Begnas – Pokhara is an excellent destination for a weekend getaway or a long, relaxing holiday. Pokhara Valley, Gateway to the Annapurna region, where many trekkers find Shangri-La, remains high on the list of 'must-visit' places in Nepal. Pokhara once lay on the important trade route between India and Tibet.

There is also an adventurous tourist destination near Pokhara. Kushma Bungee Jump is located only 62 km distance. This place offers various thrilling and fun activities. Kusma Bungee is located at [Kushma Bazaar](#) of Parbat district of Nepal. It is in the centre of the 520 m-long suspension bridge. This bridge is constructed to join Kushma of Parbat district and its Balewa of Banglung district.

Fly To Nepal

The Nearest Paradise — Now Just 90 Minutes Away from Kolkata

With the recent launch of Buddha Air's direct flights between Kathmandu and Kolkata, exploring the mystic land of Nepal has become more convenient than ever before. Operating four times a week from 19th October, this new air route bridges two culturally rich cities in just 90 minutes — offering a quick escape from the hustle of Kolkata to the serene Himalayas of Nepal.



For Indian travellers, especially from the Kolkata region, this new connectivity is not just a travel convenience; it opens the door to a treasure trove of spiritual heritage, natural wonders, and warm Nepali hospitality — all within a short, affordable, and safe journey.

Trade and Investment

Nepal's Consulate Office in Kolkata plays a vital role in deepening economic cooperation between Nepal and India, with a primary focus on **trade facilitation** and **attracting Indian foreign direct investment (FDI)**. As Nepal's closest diplomatic mission to the eastern economic hub of India, the Consulate serves as an essential link between Nepali businesses, Indian authorities, and regional commercial institutions.

One of its most important responsibilities is supporting and simplifying Nepal's trade through the **Port of Kolkata**, which is the lifeline for Nepal's third-country import and export. Since Nepal is a landlocked country, smooth operations at Kolkata Port and Haldia Port are crucial for the movement of goods to and from global markets. The Consulate coordinates closely with port authorities, customs offices, shipping agents, and logistics providers to ensure timely clearance, reduce bottlenecks, and resolve any trade-related issues that may affect Nepal's international commerce.

In addition to trade facilitation, the Consulate actively promotes **Indian FDI into Nepal**. It engages with Indian industries, chambers of commerce, and potential investors to showcase Nepal's investment-friendly environment, highlighting key sectors such as hydropower, tourism, infrastructure, manufacturing, agriculture, and ICT. By organizing business interactions, participating in trade fairs, and encouraging cross-border partnerships, the Consulate works to attract new investments that can support Nepal's economic growth and create long-term bilateral economic ties.

In line with the core foreign policy objectives of Nepal, the Consulate consistently undertakes activities aimed at promoting economic diplomacy. The promotion of Nepali tourism, language, culture, values, and—above all—the dignity of Nepal in West Bengal, India, remains a top priority for the Consulate. To this end, the Consulate regularly engages with Indian authorities, the Nepali community, welfare societies, business associations, and various other professional and social organizations.

Mejor Participations and Engagements

The inaugural flight at Kolkata Airport was graciously inaugurated by Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal in West Bengal on 19th October 2025. His presence marked an important milestone in strengthening air connectivity between Nepal and India. The new flight



is expected to boost tourism, trade, and people-to-people exchanges. This initiative reflects the growing partnership and cooperation between the two neighbouring nations.

Consul General **Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya** participated as the Guest of Honour and speaker at the **Gelephu Road Show** held on 17 July 2025. Which was organised by PHDCCI, Kolkata, India. Gelephu, located in Bhutan, is an emerging tourist destination and a key point along the India–Bhutan border. The event highlighted trilateral cooperation among **India, Nepal, and Bhutan** in promoting bilateral trade, tourism, and sustainable development. In his remarks, Mr. Acharya emphasised the opportunities Nepal can harness from India, particularly the eastern region such as West Bengal. He also noted that both Nepal and Bhutan can benefit greatly from enhanced regional connectivity and shared economic initiatives.

The Merchant's Chamber of Commerce & Industry (MCCI), Kolkata, organized a special session on **"Challenges and Opportunities for Trade at Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata (SMPK)"** on Friday, 8 August 2025. The program featured the Chairman of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Mr. Rathendra Raman, along with a large number of participants from the Indian business community, port authorities, and customs officials.

The Chamber, in partnership with CCG Marketing & Services, is organizing the **India International Grand Trade Fair 2025** from 24 October to 3 November 2025 at City Square Ground, Newtown, Kolkata, as part of its 125th Anniversary celebrations.

As a Guest speaker Consul General **Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya** addressed the inaugural ceremony of the India International Grand Trade Fair 2025, praising the Chamber and CCG Marketing & Services for organizing one of eastern India's leading trade platforms. He highlighted the fair's role in promoting business networking, investment, and international cooperation. Mr. Acharya emphasized Bengal's strategic position as a regional trade and logistics hub connecting Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh. He also noted the importance of MSMEs, start-ups, and the growing participation of Nepali entrepreneurs in strengthening Nepal–India economic ties. The Consul General concluded by expressing hope that the fair would further enhance regional collaboration and shared prosperity. The Consul General of Nepal, Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya, was invited as the keynote speaker for the event. In his address, Consul General Acharya highlighted the various hurdles faced by Nepali businesses at



the port and emphasised the need for infrastructure upgrades and improved facilitation to support Nepali traders.

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata has extended its heartfelt condolences on the passing of Her Majesty, the Queen of Thailand. In this regard, the Consul General, along with officials from the Consulate, visited the Royal Thai Consulate-General in Kolkata to convey their sympathy and offer a formal condolence message. The Consulate expressed deep sorrow over the loss and reaffirmed its solidarity with the people and the Royal Family of Thailand during this time of mourning.



The Nepali Janakalyan Samiti, Howrah, celebrated the **212th birth anniversary of the revered Nepali poet Bhanubhakta Acharya** on 20 July 2025. The Samiti, which has long been dedicated to preserving and promoting Nepali language, culture, and literature in Kolkata, organized a special commemorative program on the occasion and also inaugurated its annual literary magazine, *Bihani*.

The Consul General of Nepal, **Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya**, was invited as the Chief Guest and formally inaugurated *Bihani*. The event featured a variety of cultural performances in Nepali, Hindi, and Bengali, reflecting the rich diversity and shared heritage of the community. The program saw active participation from the Nepali community, poets, local literary writers, and distinguished guests. Notable dignitaries included a Minister from West Bengal and the Ambassador of Nepal from the Embassy of Nepal in India.

Deputy Consul General **Mr. Gagan Bahadur BK** paid a courtesy call on **Mr. Shrawan Kumar, Principal Chief Commissioner of GST & CX, Kolkata Zone**, on 4 September 2025. During the meeting, both sides discussed the tax systems of Nepal and India and explored ways to enhance cooperation. Mr. BK emphasized the need for smoother procedures for diplomatic tax refunds to facilitate the work of foreign missions. The Principal Chief Commissioner acknowledged the importance of efficient coordination and assured continued support.



The **Consulate General Office of Nepal, Kolkata**, was invited to participate in the East Coast Maritime & Logistics Summit 2025 held on 2–3 September at Novotel Varun Beach, Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh. Consul General **Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya** attended the summit, accompanied by Deputy Consul General **Mr. Janak Raj Bhatta**, along with members of the **Nepali business community**. The event was organized by Maritime Gateway in collaboration with the Global Forum for Sustainable Transformation. Their participation was particularly significant as **Visakhapatnam Port is one of the designated Indian ports permitted for Nepali trade**, making the discussions highly relevant for Nepal's trade facilitation. The summit brought together key stakeholders from the maritime and logistics sectors to explore opportunities for enhanced regional connectivity and cooperation.

The Nepal Consulate General Office in Kolkata successfully carried out the rescue of missing and untraceable Nepali citizens in West Bengal. The Consulate coordinated with local authorities to ensure their safety and proper identification. After the rescue, the individuals were transported to the Nepal-India border at Kakarvitta. They were then formally handed over to their families. The Consulate reaffirmed its commitment to safeguarding the welfare of Nepali nationals living or traveling in the region.

Welcome and Farewell

Consul General Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya warmly welcomed the newly posted officials to the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata. The new team members include Mr. Gagan Bahadur BK, Deputy Consul General (Customs); Mr. Tikaram Upadhyaya, Consul (Chancery); and Mr. Subas Chandra Bastola, Accounts Officer. During the welcome interaction, Mr. Acharya highlighted the importance of teamwork and dedication in delivering efficient consular services. He expressed confidence that the new officials would contribute significantly to strengthening Nepal's diplomatic, trade, and community outreach efforts in West Bengal and the eastern region of India. The officials also shared their commitment to fulfilling their responsibilities with sincerity and professionalism. The Consulate looks forward to enhanced cooperation and improved service delivery with the addition of the new team members.

Consul General **Mr. Jhakka Prasad Acharya** bid farewell to Mr. Uddhav Lamichhane, (Accounts), at the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata. Mr. Lamichhane successfully completed his three-year tenure and is returning to Nepal after his dedicated service. The Consul General thanked him for his contributions and extended his best wishes for Mr. Lamichhane's future endeavors.