

The Everest Voice

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Message from the Consul General

On the auspicious occasion of the publication of the second issue of the Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata Bulletin, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the entire team involved in bringing out this important publication.



This bulletin stands as a valuable platform to strengthen communication, promote cultural understanding, and highlight the dynamic relations between Nepal and India, particularly in the West Bengal region. The Consulate General of Nepal's continued effort to document activities, engagements, and shared values—alongside its core functions of trade facilitation, tourism promotion, and safeguarding the interests of Nepali businesses and nationals—reflects its strong commitment to fostering closer ties with the Nepali community and friends of Nepal in Kolkata and beyond.

On this special occasion, I would also like to extend my warmest greetings and best wishes to all on the upcoming Nepali **New Year 2083**. May the New Year bring peace, prosperity, good health, and happiness to all.

Official Activities and Services

Consular Services

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata continued to deliver essential consular services efficiently to the Nepali community and other service seekers. A total of 3 passports were issued, while 39 visas were granted to applicants. The Consulate also issued 9 travel No Objection Letters (NOLs) to facilitate necessary travel procedures. In addition, 16 cases of consular correspondence were handled, reflecting the Consulate's ongoing administrative and facilitation role.

These figures highlight the Consulate's continued commitment to providing timely and effective services, while supporting mobility, documentation, and official processes for stakeholders.

Trade Facilitation

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata continued to play a vital role in facilitating Nepal-bound import cargo by issuing Transit No Objection Letters (NOCs) during the reporting trimester.

A total of 498 Transit NOCs were issued in the month of Mangsir, followed by 732 in Poush, 802 in Magh, and a significant increase to 2,852 in Falgun.

This steady rise in the number of Transit NOCs, particularly in Falgun, reflects growing trade activities and the Consulate's proactive role in ensuring smooth transit facilitation for Nepal's import cargo. The Consulate remains committed to supporting efficient trade logistics and strengthening Nepal's supply chain connectivity through Kolkata.

Rescue and Facilitation

The Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata, successfully rescued three Nepali girls from Nuwakot, Bhojpur, and Sankhuwasabha districts from different locations in West Bengal by coordination and collaboration with local authorities and concerned stakeholders.

The Consulate facilitated necessary arrangements to ensure their secure return and formally handed them over to their families at the border. The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata continues to play an active role in safeguarding the welfare of Nepali nationals in its jurisdiction, particularly in cases involving vulnerable individuals.

News and Events

Nepal Successfully Concludes General Election

Nepal successfully concluded its General Election on March 5 under the leadership of the Interim Government headed by Prime Minister Sushila Karki. The nationwide electoral process marked an important



democratic exercise, conducted with broad public participation and institutional coordination.

The election was held in a peaceful, free, and fair manner across the country. Voters from diverse regions actively participated in the democratic process, demonstrating their commitment to democratic values and governance.

The overall management of the election reflected effective planning, coordination, and adherence to electoral norms. Authorities ensured the process remained orderly and transparent, contributing to a credible and smooth election outcome.

The successful completion of the General Election stands as a testament to Nepal's continued dedication to democratic principles and institutional integrity.

Culture and Tourism

Nepal Sales Mission in Kolkata: Strengthening Tourism Ties

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata, in collaboration with the Nepal Tourism Board, Buddha Air, and SOTTO Nepal, successfully hosted the Nepal Sales Mission – B2B Networking Program on January 30, 2026, at the Hotel Hindustan International,



Kolkata. This strategic initiative aimed to revitalise Nepal's tourism sector by showcasing its diverse portfolio, ranging from adventure and nature to spiritual and MICE tourism, to the high-potential West Bengal market. The event featured a high-impact B2B session where over 125 stakeholders from both nations engaged in direct dialogue, establishing professional networks and developing tailored tour packages. The mission effectively positioned Nepal as a premier, year-round destination for Indian travellers. The program also highlighted the convenience of Buddha Air's 90-minute direct flight between Kolkata and Kathmandu.



Furthermore, a landmark Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was signed between the Global Tourism Welfare Association (GTWA) and SOTTO Nepal, creating a permanent

framework for joint promotional events and sustainable tourism practices. The event was further enlivened by cultural performances and a promotional lucky draw that awarded tour packages to 15 Indian travel and tour agencies, fostering a spirit of collaboration.



Destination Highlights

The Ultimate Trek to the Base of the Highest Mountain in the World

The Everest Base Camp classic route isn't merely another trail stitched onto a map; it's practically a legend amongst trekkers, with tones of awe and accomplishment.

This route, towards the base of the world's highest mountain, Mount Everest, is a coveted prize on almost every trekker's bucket list. It's more than just a scenic trek through the Himalayas; it's a transformative experience that will push your physical and mental limits further than you can ever imagine. The sense of accomplishment that washes over you as you stand at Everest Base Camp, humbled by the sheer magnanimity of the mountain, is unparalleled.



This is a legendary and difficult trail. It's a demanding trek that will test your willpower and require meticulous preparation. The path meanders through an elevation gain of over 18,000 feet, taking you from the bustling town of Lukla, which is nestled in the valleys, to the base of Mount Everest.

The terrain you'll encounter throughout this journey is as diverse as it is challenging. Beautiful green forests give way to stark, rocky valleys etched with glacial blankets. You'll traverse suspension bridges, navigate through sections with loose earth, and even cross the edge of the mighty Khumbu Glacier, all while constantly battling the effects of a steep altitude. Be warned, some sections of this trek are notoriously tricky, demanding a good level of fitness, surefootedness, and a huge dose of determination. But for those who are prepared, the rewards are beyond imagination.

Trade and Investment

Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata, Organises One-Day Interaction Program on Export and Investment Promotion at Nepal-India Border

The Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata successfully organised a one-day interaction program on “Export and Investment Promotion: Problems, Issues and Challenges in the Nepal-India Border (Jogbani/Biratnagar Area)”, which concluded on 7 December 2025.



The primary objective of the program was to deliberate on recent developments in Nepal-India trade and transit, particularly the Government of India’s decision approving direct movement of all categories of Nepal-bound goods to the Integrated Check Post (ICP), Biratnagar via both rail and road. Three working papers were presented on about “Export and Investment Promotion” by Mr Gagan Bahadur BK, Deputy Consul General of Nepal; “Biratnagar Customs: Capacity, Process and Practices” by Mr Bimal Kumar Shah, Customs Officer; and “Nepal-India Trade and Transit: Private Sector Perspective” by Mr Avinash Bohara, representing the Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI).

In his closing remarks, Consul General Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya outlined the current trade scenario between Nepal and India, highlighted major challenges in facilitating cross-border trade, and elaborated on the initiatives undertaken by the Consulate General to safeguard the rights and interests of Nepali traders and to promote smoother transit arrangements.

Mr Yubraj Kattel, Chief District Officer of Morang, reaffirmed his commitment to taking serious action against cross-border illegal trade and assured participants of proactive measures to address bilateral hurdles and enhance coordination among concerned authorities.



Mejor Participations and Engagements

Participation in the Building Global Capabilities for International Trade Program

Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal in Kolkata, participated as a Guest of Honour at the high-level program titled “Building Global Capabilities for International Trade with South and Southeast Asia,” organised by ASSOCHAM in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India, on January 8, 2026, in Kolkata.



The event convened a distinguished panel of officials and industry leaders, including Mr A. Ajay Kumar, Joint Secretary (MEA), and Mr R. Srinivasa Naik, Chief Commissioner of Customs, Kolkata, alongside prominent representatives from the ASSOCHAM Logistics and MSME Councils. Delivering a keynote address, the Consul General underscored the enduring economic synergy between Nepal and India, identifying India as Nepal’s largest trading partner and its primary gateway for global commerce. Highlighting the scale of this partnership, he noted that approximately 68% of Nepal’s imports and 70% of its exports are routed through India, emphasising that the continued modernisation of the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port is fundamental to Nepal’s economic integration and the seamless facilitation of third-country trade.

Visit to Diamond Harbour

A delegation from the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata, led by Consul General Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya, visited Diamond Harbour on March 13, 2026, to observe the handling and transportation process of fertiliser shipments destined for Nepal. During the visit, they reviewed procedures for unloading cargo from mother vessels and transferring it to smaller ships for onward transport to Kolkata Port. The officials held discussions with pilots and relevant port authorities regarding safe and efficient handling of Nepal-bound fertiliser consignments. Emphasis was placed on ensuring proper logistics, safety standards, and timely delivery of essential goods. The visit reflects the Consulate’s continued efforts to facilitate smooth transit and trade operations between Nepal and India.



Chennai Port Visit

A delegation from the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata, comprising Deputy Consul General Mr Deepesh Lekhak and Vice-Consul Mr Suresh Raj Regmi, completed an observation visit to the Chennai Port in Tamil Nadu from February 9-13, 2026. During the visit, the team observed the infrastructure of the Chennai Port Trust office, the two terminals, Chennai Container Terminal (CCTL) and Chennai International Terminals (CITPL), operated by DP World and PSA International, respectively.



Furthermore, the team also observed rail links and warehouses and gathered information regarding the various services provided by the port. The delegation held meetings and discussions with senior officials, including the Chairman of Chennai Port, Mr S. Viswanathan; Secretary, Ms C. Tara Sugirthar; Traffic Manager, Mr S. Kripanandasamy; and the Operations Director of DP World, Mr Jimon Joseph. It was observed that the two terminals at the port are operated competitively by two private companies and are equipped with state-of-the-art facilities. A presentation on the services provided by the terminal was given by Mr Jimon Joseph, Operations Director of DP World. Similarly, an observation of the other terminal was facilitated by the operators of PSA International. Additionally, it was noted that the port handles only a limited volume of dusty (bulk) cargo. It was assessed that Paradwip or any other bulk cargo handling port could be an alternative for bulk cargo transshipment to Nepal.

International Customs Day Program at Kolkata

Deputy Consul General (Trade) participated in the International Customs Day Program organised by Kolkata Customs Zone at the Calcutta Customs Club, Maidan, under the theme "Customs protecting society through vigilance and commitment, on February 15, 2026. The event was hosted by Chief Commissioner R. Srinivasa Naik, highlighting the role of customs officers in ensuring secure trade and border protection. Honourable Justice Rajarshi Bharadwaj attended as the Chief Guest, while Rajendra Singh was present as the Guest of Honour. Representatives from the trade and logistics sector, including the Phonex Group, also participated in the program.



Holi Program by International Marwari Federation

The Consul General Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya, participated as the Chief Guest in a Holi program organised by the International Marwari Federation in Kolkata. Addressing the gathering, he highlighted the deep-rooted cultural ties between Nepal and India, emphasising the significance of shared festivals such as Holi in strengthening bilateral relations. He noted that such cultural exchanges play a vital role in fostering mutual understanding and people-to-people connections between the two nations. The event witnessed participation from members of the Nepali and Indian communities, reflecting the spirit of unity and harmony and an important aspect of its cultural diplomacy efforts.



Visit to Haldia Dock

A delegation from the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata, led by Consul General Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya, visited Haldia Dock/Port on March 5, 2026. The delegation met with the managing director of the Haldia Port, along with the Traffic Manager and other high-level officials. The delegation discussed the pertinent issues related to transshipment from Haldia Port to Nepal, especially the frequent rail restrictions near Hajipur in Bihar and other locations in West Bengal. The delegation also visited the port terminal area, the canal system of the port, the coal parking area, the container management area, as well as the leased land and building of Nepal Transit and Warehousing Company Limited at Haldia.



Delegation of Birgunj-Based Journalists Visits Kolkata and Haldia Port

With coordination by the Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata, a delegation of journalists from Birgunj, Nepal, visited Kolkata in the first week of Poush as part of an exposure and interaction program.

During their visit, the delegation toured key locations including Haldia Port, gaining firsthand insights into port operations, logistics management, and trade facilitation mechanisms relevant to Nepal's international trade.



The journalists held interactive sessions with officials from customs authorities, port authorities, and customs agents to better understand procedural frameworks, challenges, and opportunities in the movement of Nepal-bound cargo through Indian ports. The delegation also engaged with members of the Nepali community in Kolkata, discussing their experiences and contributions to strengthening Nepal-India relations.

Nepal Bankers' Delegation Visits Kolkata

A delegation of 18 bankers from Nepal, organised in coordination with the Bankers' Association of Nepal, visited Kolkata for an observatory program aimed at strengthening Banking and trade facilitation mechanisms between Nepal and India.

During the visit, the delegation held comprehensive discussions with officials from port and customs authorities, focusing on improving banking coordination with Indian counterparts. Key areas of discussion included streamlining financial transactions, enhancing payment systems, and addressing procedural challenges to facilitate smoother trade and transit operations.

The bankers also explored operational aspects of port logistics and customs clearance processes to understand better how banking channels can support efficient cargo movement for Nepal-bound goods.

Consul General of Nepal Participates in Business and Industry Conclave 2025

The Consul General of Nepal in Kolkata participated in the "Business and Industry Conclave 2025: 15 Years of Pioneering Progress" organised by the Government of West Bengal in Kolkata.

The conclave highlighted the achievements made over the past 15 years across various sectors in West Bengal and provided a platform to discuss prospects for investment, industrial growth, and economic development. The program brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and international stakeholders to exchange views on enhancing business opportunities and regional cooperation.

A representative from the World Bank also participated in the event, sharing insights on global economic trends, investment climate, and development priorities.

During the program, discussions focused on sectoral progress, infrastructure development, and strategies to attract further investment, emphasising the importance of collaboration between government institutions and private sector stakeholders.

The participation of the Consul General of Nepal underscored the continued commitment to strengthening economic engagement and exploring avenues for enhanced trade and investment cooperation between Nepal and India.

Consul General of Nepal Participates in MOFA Meeting Led by Foreign Minister

Consul General of Nepal, Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya and officials in Kolkata have participated in a newly appointed Foreign Minister's addressing program organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal.

The meeting was attended by the newly appointed Honourable Foreign Minister, Balananda Sharma, and brought



together officials from Nepali missions abroad. The main aim of this program was to provide policy direction and guidance to Nepal's diplomatic missions and their officials.

Addressing the participants, Minister Sharma emphasised the importance of performing duties with the utmost dedication and responsibility. He directed all missions and officials to ensure that their work consistently serves the best interests of the nation and its people at the highest level.

The meeting highlighted the Government of Nepal's commitment to strengthening diplomatic engagement and enhancing the effectiveness of its missions worldwide.

Consul General of Nepal Participates in Decennial Program on India's Neighbourhood First Policy

Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal in Kolkata, participated in a program marking the decade of India's "Neighbourhood First Policy" held in Kolkata.



The event was jointly organised by the Kolkata Society for Asian Studies, the Department of International Relations of Jodhpur University, and the Indian Council for World Affairs.

The program brought together scholars, diplomats, and policy experts to reflect on the progress and impact of India's Neighbourhood First Policy over the past decade. Discussions focused on regional cooperation, connectivity, economic integration, and the evolving dynamics of South Asian diplomacy.

The participation of the Consul General highlighted Nepal's continued engagement in regional dialogue and its commitment to strengthening bilateral and multilateral cooperation within the neighbourhood.

Consulate General of Nepal Participates in Virtual Investment Promotion Program

The Consul General of Nepal and officials from the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata participated in a virtual interaction program aimed at promoting foreign direct investment (FDI) in Nepal. The program was jointly organised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Nepal and the Investment Board, Nepal. During the interaction, the Consulate presented the current economic scenario of Nepal and highlighted potential sectors for investment, particularly targeting investors from West Bengal. The presentation also focused on opportunities for exporting Nepali goods to West Bengal, emphasising trade expansion prospects. The program served as a platform to strengthen economic cooperation and promote bilateral investment and trade relations.

Consul General of Nepal Attends Oath-Taking Ceremony of West Bengal Governor

Kolkata, March 12, 2026 — Jhakka Prasad Acharya, Consul General of Nepal in Kolkata, attended the oath-taking ceremony of the newly appointed Governor of West Bengal, R. N. Ravi, held at Lok Bhawan.



The ceremony was attended by dignitaries, government officials, and members of the diplomatic community. On the occasion, Consul General Acharya extended his congratulations to Governor Ravi and conveyed his best wishes for a successful and fruitful tenure.

The event marked an important occasion in the administrative leadership of West Bengal, reflecting the continued engagement between diplomatic representatives and state authorities.

MoU Signed for Land Swap Between Consulate General of Nepal and Rail Authorities

In accordance with the decision of the Government of Nepal dated October 9, 2025, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been signed to facilitate a land swap arrangement between the Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata and Bharatiya Rail Vikas Nigam Limited.



The MoU was signed among the Consulate General of Nepal, Bharatiya Rail Vikas Nigam Limited, and Kolkata Metro. The agreement aims to streamline infrastructure development and enhance cooperation between the concerned parties through the exchange of designated land parcels. The initiative is expected to facilitate ongoing and future development works related to railway and metro projects in Kolkata.



This development reflects the continued collaboration between Nepal and India in promoting mutually beneficial infrastructure and urban development initiatives.

National Yoga Day Celebrated at the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata

The National Yoga Day, the first day of Magh, was celebrated at the Consulate General of Nepal, Kolkata, with the participation of all staff members and officials.



The program aimed to promote awareness about a healthy lifestyle and the benefits of yoga. During the event, participants were briefed on the importance of regular yoga practice for physical and mental well-being.

The celebration also included a practical session where all attendees actively practised basic yoga techniques under guidance, fostering a spirit of wellness and mindfulness among the participants.

The event reflected the Consulate's continued efforts to encourage healthy living and well-being among its staff and the broader community.

Welcome and Farewell

Consul General Mr Jhakka Prasad Acharya warmly welcomed the newly posted Deputy Consul General Mr Deepesh Lekhak (Trade) and bid farewell to Deputy Consul General Mr Janak Raj Bhatta (Trade) at the Consulate General of Nepal in Kolkata. Mr Bhatta completed his three-year tenure and returned to Nepal after his dedicated service. The Consul General thanked him for his contributions and extended his best wishes for his future endeavours.