



MoFA BULLETIN

Current Affairs

August - September 2019 | Vol 4, Issue 2



Ministry of Foreign Affairs
**Policy, Planning, Development Diplomacy
and Nepali Diaspora Division**
Singha Durbar, Kathmandu, Nepal
Tel. 4200182-185, Fax: 4200061, 4200160
Email: ppdo@mofa.gov.np
Website: <https://www.mofa.gov.np/>

This Bulletin is also available at
<https://www.mofa.gov.np/>

Chief Patron:

Hon'ble Pradeep Kumar Gyawali
Minister for Foreign Affairs

Patron:

Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, Foreign Secretary

Editorial Team

Mr. Kumar Raj Kharel, Joint Secretary
Mr. Bishnu Prasad Gautam, Under Secretary
Mr. Vijay Kumar Raut, Section Officer

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A. BILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. JAPANESE FEMALE PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION VISITS NEPAL

A delegation of Japanese female parliamentarians led by Ms. Tomomi Inada, Chief Deputy Secretary-General, Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and Former Minister of Defense visited Nepal on 29-31 August. The delegation paid courtesy calls on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari, Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and Minister for Women, Children and Senior Citizens, Ms. Tham Maya Thapa.

2. CHAIRMAN OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY VISITS THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

At the invitation of Government of the Republic of Korea, Chairman of the National Assembly of the Federal Parliament Mr. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina visited the Republic of Korea on 2-6 September to participate in "2019 Invitation Program for Eminent South Asian Dignitaries". During the visit, the Chairman held meeting with the Speaker of the National Assembly Mr. Moon Hee-sang and discussed matters relating to promoting cooperation between the two Parliaments.

3. PERMANENT SECRETARY OF DEPARTMENT FOR INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT VISITS NEPAL

Permanent Secretary of the Department of International Development (DFID) of the United Kingdom, Mr. Matthew Rycroft CBE, visited Nepal on 2-5 September. During his visit, Mr. Rycroft paid courtesy calls on the former Prime Minister Mr. Pushpa Kamal Dahal 'Prachanda', Finance Minister Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada and Chief Minister of Province No. 5 Mr. Shankar Pokharel.

During the meetings, matters related to support for the economic development of Nepal, investment opportunities and other development agendas as well as proposed Agreement on the Avoidance of Double Taxation were discussed.

4. STATE COUNCILOR AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA VISITS NEPAL

At the invitation of Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, State Councilor and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China Mr. Wang Yi paid an official visit to Nepal from 8 to 10 September.



Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with the State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi

The two Foreign Ministers held delegation level talks where they reviewed all aspects of Nepal-China bilateral relations, and reached understanding to further promote cooperation in various areas of mutual interest.



Nepal and China Delegation level bilateral talks, Kathmandu, 09 September 2019

The two Foreign Ministers witnessed signing of Exchange of Letters on the Hospital Recovery Project in Manang and Chinese assistance of five thousand pieces

of emergency shelter tents. They also witnessed signing of MoU between the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology of Nepal and the Embassy of the People's Republic of China on Volunteer Chinese Teachers' Program in Nepal. Mr. Wang paid courtesy calls on President Mrs. Bidya Devi Bhandari and Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli.

5. THE SPEAKER OF PARLIAMENT OF IRELAND VISITS NEPAL

At the invitation of the Speaker of the Federal Parliament of Nepal, the Speaker of Parliament of Ireland Mr. Sean O'Fearghail visited Nepal from 8 to 12 September. During the visit, Mr. Fearghail called on President Mrs. Bidhya Devi Bhandari and Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Mr. Ishwar Pokhrel. He also held separate meetings with the then Speaker of the House of Representatives, and the Minister of Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali.

During the meetings, various matters pertaining to Nepal-Ireland relations were discussed. The ways and means to further strengthening Nepal-Ireland relations, particularly through the parliamentary exchange, were highlighted in all meetings. The two sides also exchanged views on the importance of enhancing the level of bilateral cooperation, technology transfer and skills and promoting people to people ties.

6. LORD MAYOR OF CITY OF LONDON VISITS NEPAL

The 691st Lord Mayor of City of London, Mr. Alderman Peter Estlin, visited Nepal from 14 to 16 September. During his visit, he paid a courtesy call on the Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli. During the call on, matters relating to Nepal-United Kingdom bilateral relations, economic cooperation, trade and investment, tourism and people-to-people contact and other issues of mutual interests were discussed.

The Lord Mayor also held separate meetings with the Finance Minister Dr. Yubraj Khatiwada and Nepal Rastra Bank Governor Dr. Chiranjibi Nepal. During the meetings the two sides discussed ways of promoting in London trade and investment opportunities in Nepal. The Nepali side shared with the Lord Mayor about the reforms recently introduced for further improving business friendly environment in Nepal. The Lord Mayor also inaugurated the Real Time Gross Settlement System, a project partly-funded by the UK Aid, at a programme hosted by the Nepal Rastra Bank.

7. NEPAL HOSTS THE MEETING OF NEPAL-BELGIUM BILATERAL CONSULTATION MECHANISM

The first meeting of Nepal-Belgium Bilateral Consultation Mechanism was held in Kathmandu on 19 September. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi and Director General for Bilateral Affairs of the Federal Public Service, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation of the Kingdom of Belgium

Ms. Anick Van Calster led their respective delegations to the meeting.

The two sides took stock of all aspects of bilateral relations and exchanged views on further promoting cooperation between the two countries. Views were also exchanged on the importance of exploring high level visits and engaging in global issues such as Climate Change, and on the upcoming first edition of Sagarmatha Sambaad scheduled to be held in Nepal in April 2020.



Foreign Secretary Shanker Das Bairagi and Director General for Bilateral Affairs of the Federal Public Service of Foreign Affairs, Foreign Trade and Development of Belgium Anick Van Cluster at Nepal- Belgium Bilateral Consultation Mechanism Meeting in Kathmandu

The two sides discussed ways of enhancing cooperation in the areas of trade, tourism and investment and promoting people-to-people contacts. Regional and international issues of mutual interest were also discussed during the meeting.

8. CONSULTATION MEETING FOR FINALIZING THE AGREEMENT ON THE BOUNDARY MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

A consultation meeting for finalizing the draft "Agreement between the Government of Nepal and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Boundary Management System" was held in Kathmandu on 25-26 September. The Nepali delegation was led by Mr. Kali Prasad Pokhrel, Joint Secretary/Head of the North East Asia Division of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Chinese delegation was led by Mr. Li Yigang, Counsellor of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China. Following the intensive discussions on the proposed draft, both sides signed the record of discussion on the agreed text.

9. FOREIGN MINISTER MEETS WITH HIS COUNTERPARTS OF NORWAY AND VENEZUELA

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali took part in a series of high-level meetings on the sidelines of the 74th session of UN General Assembly in New York. He held separate bilateral meetings with his counterparts of Norway and Venezuela on 25th September.

The meeting between Foreign Minister Gyawali and Norwegian Minister for International Development

Mr. Dag Inge Ulstein focused on areas of cooperation, including in investment as well as collaboration at multilateral forums on various international issues, including climate change.

10. NEPAL ESTABLISHES DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GHANA, AND SAINT LUCIA

Nepal and Ghana established formal diplomatic relations on 25 September 2019. Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Foreign Minister of Ghana, Ms. Shirley Ayorkor Botchwey signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect. With this, the number of countries that Nepal has established diplomatic relations reached 168. The two Foreign Ministers held bilateral meeting following the signing of the Joint Communiqué.



Foreign Ministers of Nepal and Ghana after signing of Joint Communiqué

Nepal and Saint Lucia established formal bilateral diplomatic relations on 27 August 2019. Ambassador Mr. Amrit Bahadur Rai, Permanent Representative of Nepal to the United Nations, and Ambassador Mr. Cosmos Richardson, Permanent Representative of Saint Lucia to the United Nations signed a Joint Communiqué to this effect in New York. On the occasion, the two Ambassadors expressed their confidence that the formal diplomatic relations will pave way in bringing the two countries and peoples closer at the bilateral and multilateral forums.



Signing of the Joint Communiqué between Nepal and Saint Lucia

11. SECOND JOINT WORKING GROUP (JWG) ON THE MOU BETWEEN MALAYSIA AND NEPAL

The second meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) to discuss on the MoU between Nepal and Malaysia on the Recruitment, Employment and Repatriation of General Workers was held on 10-11 September in Kuala Lumpur.

The meeting discussed implementation modalities of the MoU: Legal/Administrative provisions, mechanisms and procedures, recruitment of Nepali workers, status of the workers, existing visa procedures, process and criteria for determination of medical examination centres in Nepal, registering the workers upon arrival in Malaysia, among others.

12. FIFTH MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA JOINT COMMISSION

The Fifth Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission was held in Kathmandu on 21-22 August. The Meeting was co-chaired by Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Minister of External Affairs of India Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar.

The Meeting reviewed the entire gamut of bilateral relations with specific focus on the areas of connectivity and economic partnership, trade and transit, power and water resources sectors, culture, and education. Views were exchanged on the review of Nepal-India Treaty of Peace and Friendship of 1950 and submission of report by the Eminent Persons Group on Nepal-India Relations (EPG-NIR). Matters related to cooperation in international, regional and sub-regional fora were also discussed. The Joint Commission expressed happiness over the momentum generated in the overall aspects of Nepal-India relations following the exchange of high-level visits in the past two years.

The Joint Commission expressed satisfaction over progress in three new areas agreed during the visit of Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli to India in April 2018, namely, Raxaul-Kathmandu Electrified Rail Line, Inland Waterways and New Partnership in Agriculture.

The two Foreign/External Ministers also witnessed the signing of an MOU on food safety between the Department of Food Technology and Quality Control of Nepal and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with External Affairs Minister of India Dr. Subrahmanyam Jaishankar at the 5th Meeting of Nepal-India Joint Commission

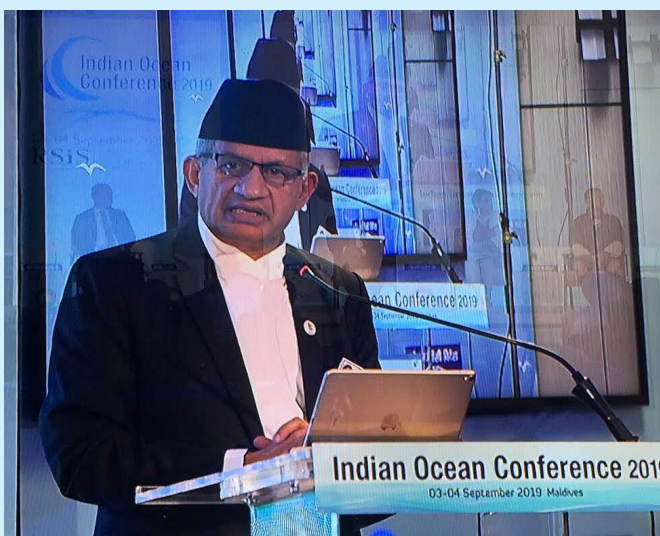
13. REMOTE JOINT INAUGURATION OF CROSS-BORDER PETROLEUM PIPELINE

Prime Minister Mr. K P Sharma Oli and Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi, jointly inaugurated through video conference South Asia's first cross-border petroleum products pipeline from Motihari in India to Amlekhgunj in Nepal on 10 September. The Prime Minister of Nepal expressed appreciation for early implementation of the important connectivity project which was completed much ahead of schedule and announced the reduction of the price of petroleum products by Rs. 2 per litre in Nepal. He expressed confidence that bilateral relations between Nepal and India will continue to further deepen and expand across diverse sectors. Prime Minister K P Sharma Oli extended an invitation to the Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi to visit Nepal and Prime Minister Modi accepted the invitation.

14. NEPAL PARTICIPATES IN THE FOURTH INDIAN OCEAN CONFERENCE

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali participated in the Fourth Indian Ocean Conference held in the Maldives on 3-4 September and addressed the conference which was organized under the theme of Securing the Indian Ocean Region: Traditional and Non-Traditional Challenges.

Addressing the conference, Foreign Minister Gyawali stated that Nepal is in favour of peace, security and observance of international laws in relation to the use of seas. He emphasized the need of an architecture based on inclusiveness, partnership and collaboration among all countries and utilization of resources and sharing of the benefits by all states, including landlocked countries like Nepal.



Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali addressing Fourth Indian Ocean Conference in the Maldives

He emphasized that since Nepal's international trade

passes through the Indian Ocean, Nepal is concerned about the various non-traditional security threats, such as piracy, illicit trafficking of drugs and weapons, human trafficking, and called for collective actions for addressing these threats in an effective manner.

While in the Maldives, Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali called on the President of Republic of the Maldives, Mr. Ibrahim Mohamed Solih and discussed various matters of mutual interest, including promotion of tourism employment for Nepali nationals in the Maldives, common efforts for addressing the adverse impacts of climate change, among others.

15. SIXTH MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA BOUNDARY WORKING GROUP

The Sixth Meeting of Nepal-India Boundary Working Group (BWG) was held in Dehradun, India from 28 to 30 August. The meeting reviewed implementation of the agreed minutes of the 5th meeting held in Kathmandu on 19-21 September 2018. The meeting also discussed review and approval of the recommendations of 9th and 10th Survey Officials' Committee and finalization of Plan, Schedule, and Technical Specifications for undergoing large scale mapping using UAV and clearance from their respective Governments for Pilot Project.

16. ELEVENTH MEETING OF NEPAL-INDIA SURVEY OFFICIALS' COMMITTEE MEETING

The Eleventh Meeting of Nepal-India Survey Officials' Committee (SOC) was held in Dehradun, India from 24 to 26 September. In the meeting, both sides finalized the detailed work plan and schedule of boundary pillar for the field season 2019-2020.

B. REGIONAL AND MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS

1. INFORMAL MEETING OF SAARC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS

The Informal Meeting of SAARC Council of Ministers took place in New York on 26 September on the sidelines of the 74th Session of UN General Assembly. Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali chaired the meeting as Nepal is the current chair of SAARC. The meeting reviewed progress on the decisions of the earlier meeting and directed relevant bodies and mechanisms of SAARC for their smooth functioning. The meeting also agreed for effective implementation of the provisions of South Asian Free Trade Area (SAFTA) and early operationalization of SAARC Agreement on Trade in Services (SATIS).



Foreign Minister chairing the Informal Meeting of the SAARC Council of Ministers

2. ELEVENTH MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC SUB-GROUP ON ANTI-MONEY LAUNDERING AND COMBATING THE FINANCING OF TERRORISM (SGAML-CFT)

The Eleventh Meeting of the BIMSTEC Sub-Group on Anti-Money Laundering and Combating the Financing of Terrorism was held in Bangkok on 3-4 September. Nepali delegation made a presentation on Terror Financing highlighting the major initiatives taken by Nepal in the area and expressed its strong commitment for collaboration with member states to control terrorist financing.

3. THE SECOND MEETING OF THE BIMSTEC WORKING GROUP ON TRADE FACILITATION (WG-TF)

The Second Meeting of the BIMSTEC Working Group on Trade Facilitation took place in Dhaka on 29-30 September. The meeting discussed possibilities and opportunities to enhance trade in the region.

4. NEPAL PARTICIPATED IN THE 74TH SESSION OF UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY (UNGA)

Minister for Foreign Affairs Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali led Nepali delegation to the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA).

Foreign Minister Gyawali addressed the assembly on 27 September stressing on the need for galvanizing multilateral efforts and reiterated Nepal's abiding faith in multilateralism with the UN at the centre. He added, "the only alternative to multilateralism is a better, effective, inclusive and responsible multilateralism".

The Foreign Minister also highlighted Nepal's focus on economic agenda to sustain political gains under an overarching national aspiration of '**Prosperous Nepal, Happy Nepali**'. Foreign Minister Gyawali highlighted the disproportionate and unjust burden of climate change on the least developed countries. He informed the decision of the Government of Nepal to convene a global dialogue 'Sagarmatha Sambaad', to deliberate on critical issues facing the world including the climate change.



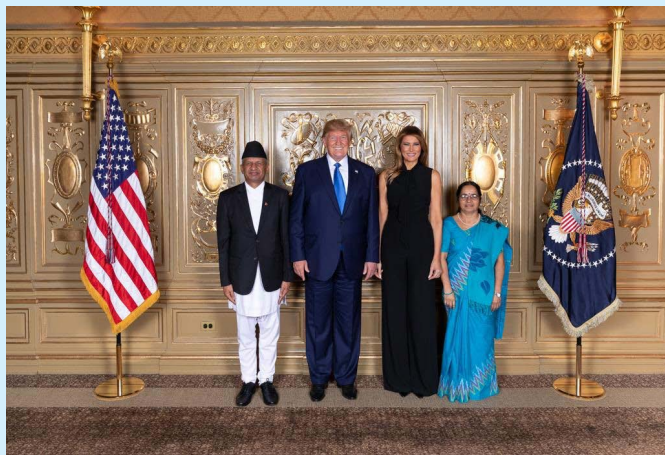
Foreign Minister addressing the 74th Session of the United Nations General Assembly

Foreign Minister Gyawali joined State Luncheon hosted by the Secretary-General of the United Nations Mr. António Guterres in honour of visiting Heads of State/Government and Heads of Delegation on 24 September. Foreign Minister Gyawali had a bilateral meeting with the Secretary-General on 30 September and discussed various important matters related to further strengthening Nepal-UN cooperation.



Foreign Minister Pradeep Kumar Gyawali with the UN Secretary General António Guterres Reception in New York

On 24 September, the Foreign Minister joined a reception hosted by the U.S. President Mr. Donald J. Trump and Mrs. Melania Trump in New York.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali and Mrs. Saraswoti Gyawali with President of the United States Mr. Donald J. Trump and Mrs. Melania Trump

The Foreign Minister addressed annual Ministerial Meeting of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) on 25 September. He underscored various structural and other barriers to development faced by the LDCs and called for greater support for smooth and sustainable graduation. He also addressed the High-Level Meeting on the International Day for the Total Elimination of Nuclear Weapons convened by the President of General Assembly. Foreign Minister Gyawali addressed the Ministerial Meeting of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) on 26th September.

While in New York, Foreign Minister Gyawali attended a number of meetings including annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77 and China; Informal Meeting of Asia Cooperation Dialogue (ACD); “High-Level Dialogue on Peace Operations: Enhancing Partnerships between the UN and International, Regional and Sub-Regional Organizations” organized by the International Peace Institute (IPI); and the annual Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Group of Friends of Mediation under the theme ‘New Technologies for peace and Mediation as Tools for Inclusion: Celebrating the 10th Ministerial Meeting and Looking Ahead. Foreign Minister shared Nepal’s perspectives on the respective issues.

On the sidelines of the UNGA, separate high level meetings were held. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Health and Population Mr. Upendra Yadav addressed the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage (UHC) on 23 September. Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, and Minister for Forest and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Basnet attended inaugural session of the Climate Action Summit organized by the Secretary-General of the United Nations the same day.

The Nepali delegation led by Member of National Planning Commission Mr. Krishna Prasad Oli participated in the first ever SDG Summit known as the High-Level Political Forum organized on 24-25 September. The

HLPF was held to follow-up and comprehensively review the progresses in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

5. SAGARMATHA SAMBAAD NATIONAL CONSULTATION SEMINAR CONCLUDES

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in partnership with the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) and Policy Research Institute (PRI), organized a half-day *Sagarmatha Sambaad* National Consultation Seminar in Kathmandu on 18 September 2019 to inform the stakeholders about the first edition of *Sagarmatha Sambaad* scheduled to be held in Kathmandu on 2-4 April 2020 and to make its process participatory, transparent and representative. *Sagarmatha Sambaad* is a permanent global dialogue forum initiated by the Government of Nepal to discuss and deliberate on world’s pressing issues that of common interest to the states and other stakeholders. The consultation was also aimed at collecting views and suggestions from stakeholders on the proposed theme “Climate Change, Mountains and the Future of Humanity” and to develop sub-themes.

Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali, Coordinator/Chairperson of the *Sagarmatha Sambaad* Steering Committee and Organizing Committee, chaired the first session and delivered a statement in which he outlined the vision, concept, background and process of the *Sagarmatha Sambaad*, and the proposed theme. Minister for Forest and Environment Mr. Shakti Bahadur Busnet spoke on the *Sambaad* itself and underscored the importance of the proposed theme (Climate Change) for the first edition of the *Sambaad*. Foreign Minister also responded to various questions raised during the session. Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi, who also moderated the question answer session, summed up the discussions.



Foreign Minister Mr. Pradeep Kumar Gyawali speaking at Sagarmatha Sambaad National Consultation Seminar, Kathmandu, 18 September 2019

Members of the Federal Parliament, government officials, and representatives from political parties, provincial and local level governments, private sectors, academia,

experts, women and youth, civil society, think tanks and media representatives, among others participated in the consultation.

6. ORIENTATION PROGRAM FOR AMBASSADORS-DESIGNATE

An Orientation Program for Ambassadors-Designate was organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in coordination with the Institute of Foreign Affairs (IFA) on August 27- September 02. 4 Ambassadors-Designate, 3 Consul Generals-Designate, 7 Under Secretaries and 4 Section Officers participated in the program.

C. NON RESIDENT NEPALI, SERVICE DELIVERY INCLUDING PASSPORT AND CONSULAR MATTERS

1. NON RESIDENT NEPALI (NRN) RELATED SERVICES

S. N.	Services (Only from the Ministry)	Number
1	Issuance of NRN Cards	20
2	Processing of Land Purchase Approval to NRN	4

2. PASSPORT SERVICES

S. N.	Activities	Number	Remarks
1	Applications received	79,046	Excluding Live Enrollment Counters
2	Passports issued	77,851	From Districts, Missions and the Department
3	Total Number of passports issued (According to document type)	75,905	Ordinary
		188	Diplomatic
		311	Official
		1,430	Gratis
		17	Travel Document (TD)
		77,851	Total
4	Emails responded including social networks	2,649	
5	Grievance handled	3,034	
6	Lost passport registered in the Interpol	4,511	
7	Feedback Forms Collected	1,068	
8	Revenue collected (From the Department only)	32,71,14,049/-	

3. CONSULAR SERVICES

S. N.	Details of Services	Number
A	Consular and Legal Counseling Section	
1	Recommendation for Medical treatment, religious tour and others	4
2	Recommendation related to India education No Objection Certificate	333
3	Recommendation for Indian pension	2
4	Recommendation for issuing Nepali driving license	121
5	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for character verification	85
6	Recommendation for procurement of chemicals & explosives	28
7	Recommendation to Indian Embassy for issuing vehicle permit	7
8	Correspondence regarding the citizenship renouncement	15
9	Correspondence regarding the Power of Attorney	68
10	Correspondence regarding authenticity of documents issued by the Government of Nepal	5
11	POA, VOR, H-Form Request (Malaysia), and correspondence to the District Administration Office for compensation to Nepali citizens	130
12	Correspondence concerning search and rescue of Nepali nationals	107
13	Correspondence with regards to repatriation of dead body of Nepali nationals abroad	39
14	Number of draft received for the compensation from Malaysia	0
15	Handover of compensation amount from Malaysia to the concerned family	69
16	Correspondence to the government agencies in Nepal	310
B	Visa and Exemption Section	
1	Issuance of diplomatic/ official/gratis visa	563
2	Issuance of diplomatic/ official ID Card	135
3	Issuance of SAARC visa stickers	12
4	Number of recommendation for exemption	737
5	Number of visa recommendation to the foreign missions on GON's nominations	368
C	Attestation Section	
1	Number of attested documents	38,021
Total		41,159