

# Prospects Of Triveni Custom

Rishikesh Dhakal

*MA in RD and Economics, B.Sc. in Physics, B.Ed. in Mathematics*

*Lecturer at Kumarwanti Multiple Campus, Kawasoti-2, Nawalparasi East, Gandaki*

**Abstract—** *This study attempts to explore the strategical weighty and opportunity of Triveni Custom Office of Gandaki Province of Nepal, a major transit point across Nepal-India. The preliminary objectivity is to access is to functioning encounters and printout possibilities to optimized Triveni Customs' role in regional integration in socio-cultural exchange, tourism promotion, and bilateral economic benefits. The research integrates qualitative and scrutiny of government reports, performance of custom data, and observation of infrastructure assessment of location and social contextualization is possible via mixed-method approach. Verdicts expose critical constraints including underprivileged structure, inadequate cargo handling capacity, poor road connectivity along Korala-Pokhara-Triveni passages and imperfect administrative digitalization. In distinction sizable opportunities occur for unified trip and venture tourism development, leveraging Gandaki sacred Hindu and Buddhist sites and closeness to large pilgrimage population in Indian states. Continuing infrastructure investment on aiming to improve transportation connectivity, predicted to boost trade and connectivity within few years. Improving modernization of customs operation, infrastructure upgrading, bilateral cooperation, and transparent governments is recommended to unlocked sustainable economic growth. This exploration also contributes to realize customs enablement as a catalyst for transboundary development of socio-economic and regional alignment in South Asia.*

**Index Terms—** *cross-border trade facilities, pilgrimage tourism, regional economic integration, infrastructure development, customs administration.*

## I. INTRODUCTION

Economics relation among countries strengthening global connectivity, thus, there is basis need for economic cooperation in-between nations. These connections may include export-import mechanism, social and cultural exchanges, political bonds, and other aspects. In modern era, the systematically recording of goods and capital inflows and out flows are been demonstrates in presents of Customs offices,

it reflects a country's balance of trades (BOT) and balance of payments (BOP). Customs have existed since the third BC in the ancient advanced civilizations such as Egypt and in the Orient (Daniel, 2020).

Through 40 main customs offices and 135 Sub-custom offices Nepal get connected international trade for export and import transactions, (Department of Customs, 2025b). Among of these, in case of Gandaki Province, one Post-Clearance Audit Office, an international boarder office at Pokhara International Airport, two customs offices linked to Tibet (a China territory) and The Triveni Customs Office, that connect Gandaki to Bihar state of India. These customs points are jointly aiding as advantageously axle for regulating cross-border trade and smoothing economic growth of Gandaki and Nepal.

Binayi Triveni Rural-municipality of Nawalparasi east of Gandaki get connect to Indian boarder via Triveni Custom Office. It was formally installed as a main custom office in 2076 B.S. of Bhadra, before it was operated as a small custom sub-office under the control of Bhairahawa Customs. A dilapidated two-story concreted building in approximately area of 961.096 m<sup>2</sup>. Currently it running from a rented house roughly 800m away to north of the Gandaki River and passengers' desk has been functioning from a modest two room concrete building (Department of Customs, 2025b). Although the position of office is at the bank of Narayani River, about 28Km south from the Bardhaghat of east-west highway serving as international boundary, high risk of illegal cross-border activities is looking least possibility.

### 1.1. Statement of Problem

On September, 20, 2015, Nepal adopts new constitution and was soon deep-rooted by a several humanization crises steaming from an unofficial blocked imposed by the Indian government and supported by ethnic Madheshi protesters in the south

region Terahi region (Valerie, 2015). Valerie more explores coted that, Madheshi protestors established blockades at the key entry point stopping the passage of fuel, medicine, and other vital suppliers – approximately 70% of Nepal’s imports from India—thereby severely disrupting the supply chain to this landlocked nation. The epicenter of movement centered business city of Nepal, Birgunj, head-to-head to the Raxaul town of India, it became life-threatening locus of skirmish.

The economic impact was substantial: Nepal’s private sector suffered losses totaling NRs. 202.5 billion (\$ 1.96 billion), which represent nearly 25% of national budget for the year, according to a study of Nepal Economics forum and Alliance for Social Dialog (The Kathmandu Post, 2016). The primary commercial hub city was disturbed at that time and it get spread to other international entry points like Belihia, Rupendhai and Rupauiha, Banke, Nepalgunj of Nepal. These trials not only laden Nepal’s economic improvement but also bound re-evaluation of transboundary social movements.

During that period, middle-men from both sides broken legal and illegal points to supply daily need essential items to Nepali consumers. This situation, occurring on the hill of the devastating 7.8 magnitude earthquake that kills mote that 10 thousand human lives, caused widespread panic among business owners, famers, and the border public. UNICEF and other agency warned that the paralysis pf key services due to blockade further compounded the earthquake’s impact. As UNICEF executive Director Anthony Lake stated: “First, there was devastating act of nature—the earthquake took and damaged so many lives, now political differences among human beings are dealing new blows to the children of Nepal” (Pattisson, 2015). The involvement acme the urgent need to reflect substitute customs office out there commonly affected location like Birgunj and Rupandahi, which are mostly inclined to local political presences.

In the case of Gandaki Province, Pokhara as province capital city, holds tactical importance. Boarder to north by Tibet Autonomous Region of China, to the east by Bagmati province, to the west by Karnali and Lumbini Province, and to the south by Bihar, India (via Triveni), Gandaki covers approximately 21,504 km<sup>2</sup> and home to 2,446,427 people (NSO, 2021). Thus, the location of Provence gives meaning full potential for cross-boarder trade and cultural

exchanges, particularly through the Triveni boarder point.

## 1.2. Purpose of Study

To give proper shape in the economic and social development of Gandaki province, the Triveni customs has crucial role. Even the Federal Ministry of Finance controlled the mechanism of custom administration in Nepal an upbeat and thoughtful policy and infrastructure support, there must be proactive and coordinate approach by province government. On this contextual Gandaki government could control the planned site of the Triveni Custom Office to enhance religious tourism by settled and marketing major religious sites like Muktinath, Manakamana, Barahi, Kawarwari (Devchuli), Akaladevi, Baglung Kalika, Kagbeni, Byas Ashram, Madar-Baba and many more, these gives attraction of noticeably number of Hindu pilgrims from neighboring country India.

Moreover, Himalayan expeditions like Annapurna, Mardi, Panchesa, and Manaslu like long range and short circuit trekking, hiking and opportunity of Himalayan submit gives strong potential for sport and adventure tourism. The professional training centers for Mountaineering and trekking establishment could widen the tourism sector’s appeal. Possible kayaking on the river of Madi, Marshyandi and Kaligandaki rivers shows the river sports along with promotion of eco-friendly homestays with hikes in cultural ironic village like Sirubari, Amaltari, Ghale-Gaun, Panchase, Bhujung and may more could attract young and energetic Indians. We can promote these sites as opportunities for change as educational venue with recreation, such as summer camp offering cultural and experiment country site learning center.

Currently, Birgunj and Bhirahawa Customs centers serves as the primary trade transit points for business travel between India and Pokhara. However, Triveni has the potential to become an advantageous alternative, particularly with improve transportation connectivity through the Triveni-Susta Corridor, linking through Dumkibas and Dedhgaun towards Pokhara. The ongoing end plan infrastructure project, such as the Korala-Pokhara-Triveni Road, are critical to realizing this potential by enhancing accessibility and trade flow (The Himalayan Times, 2018; Arthik News, 2024).

In parallel, Bihar state of India holds number of universities and technical institutions, the educational collaboration with Bihar will enhance educational development and foster cross-cultural exchange through student exchange program at university level. Such initiation could benefit alpha and Z generations of Gandaki province and improve academic environment.

Birgunj lies at apex position than Bhairahawa Custom offices on collection of Customs duty of Nepal, in between these neighboring Custom Triveni must accept challenge on contribution of national economy by omitting obstacles of it. Triveni Custom may seek answer of questions like: Major problem regarding to operation, meaningful role of presence and own value, among civilian on Gandaki Province. A comprehensive study intended to address these questions and spot light on the anticipated and usefulness of this.

1.3. Objectives:

The main determination of study is to focus on following issues:

- To evaluate the possibility and capacity of import and export activities of Nepal facilitated through the Triveni Customs Office.
- To exploring the transportation, tourism and educational prone and cons, and pertaining to discover solution.

II. METHODOLOGY

This study obeys a descriptive and analytical means designed to observed the functioning and socio-

economic power of Triveni Custom Office, In contrast to Bhirahawa and Birgunj Customs Offices. It is fundamentally quantitative, customs revenue target and goal achievement of possible past five years data obtained entirely from secondary sources, which includes Nepal Rastra Bank report, Statistics from Department of Customs and its branches, National Planning Commission, newspaper news and articles, Institutional reports, and other relevant government publications. Field observation and Interview to authorized person also included data collection procedure. A systematic recovering verified datasets and reports from official websites and database also included. Trend evaluation of revenue data among neighboring Customs Offices helped to comparison and analysis their performances, correlation of appropriate macro-economic indices and synthesis of literature and media coverage to contextualize out comes. These tactics allow documentation of functioning encounters and potential boost on the areas for Triveni Customs Office of Gandaki Province.

III. FINDING AND ANALYSIS

The poor performance of Maheshpur Customs performance is not measurable, it might me due to shadow effect of Bhairahawa Customs Office, and it is under control of Bhairahawa Customs. Triveni Custom Office exhibits the poor data viability, in the recent year just Rs. 2 crores (0.02 billion) and achievement percentages get shifting in between 65% to 109%. Here the poor data recording may be due to poor economic activities or insufficient administration effort of Custom Office of Nepal.

Table 1 Custom revenue performance and challenges: Birginj, Bhairahawa, Maheshpur and Triveni Customs Offices

Custom Office	Fiscal Year (FY)	Revenue Collected (Rs. In crores)	Target (Rs. Crores)	% Achievement
Birgunj	2077/78 (2020/21)	17005	17077	99.6
	20787/79 (2021/22)	20412	20303	100.54
	2079/80 (2022/23)	15715	26097	60.19
	2080/81 (2023/24)	15470	24589	64.01
	2081/82 (2024/25)	22573	27901	80.34
Bhirahawa	2077/78 (2020/21)	11254	9966	112.93
	2078/79 (2021/22)	11588	12743	90.94
	2079/80 (2022/23)	7689	11560	49.42
	2080/81 (2023/24)	8084	12784	63.24

	2081/82 (2024/25)	9519	10933	87.07
Maheshpur	2077/78 (2020/21)	27.30	26.71	102.23
	2078/79 (2021/22)	22.334	45.61	48.97
	2079/80 (2022/23)	10.74	33.27	32.28
	2080/81 (2023/24)	15.12	16.36	92.41
	2081/82 (2024/25)	16.66	15.47	103.47
Triveni	2078/79 (2021/22)	0.550	0.59753	108.64
	2079/80 (2022/23)	NA	NA	NA
	2080/81 (2023/24)	1.93165	2.981	64.79
	2081/82 (2024/25)	1.793	2.412	74.64

Source: (Bhairahawa Custom Office, 2025; Birgunj Custom Office, 2025; K. B. Budha, personal communication, November 2, 2025; Maheshpur Customs Office, 2024)

Among of several custom points Bhirahawa and Birgunj Customs Offices play pivotal role for the collection of revenue of Nepal government. According to report of Bhirahawa Customs, this office collected approximately Rs. 170.05 billion revenues in FY 2021/22 and it improved in FY 2022/23, with collection of revenue near of Rs. 204.12 billion, equating about on 60.22% of determined targeted Rs. 260.97 billion for the same year. The performance of Bhirahawa got slightly dipped on collection of Rs. 156.86 billion against the targeted revenue of Rs. 251 billion FY 2080/81 and get recovered in FY 2081/82, able to collect about Rs. 165 billion and reaching a projected 62% to 63% of its planned target of Rs. 265 billion. There is high level fluctuation of revenue collection by Bhairahawa Customs Office, achieving 112.93% from targeted value of Rs. 99.66 billion in the FY 2020/21 and rose slightly revenue to Rs 115.87 billion in the sub sequential FY 2021/22. The sharp declined over performance of Bhairahawa in FY 2022/23 to 49.42% results collection of 76.89 billion revenue from the targeted value of Rs. 115.60 billion. The Inconsistency result of poor functioning may be efficient result of Birgunj Customs Office, during parallel FY 2079/80 Birgunj made collection of Rs. 260.97 of billions from Rs.203.03, 2078/79 FY these trends continuously rose to Rs. 279.01 in FY 2081/82 with 80.34% succession, but for Bhirahawa, for FY 2080/81, targeted was 127.84 billion with 63.24% performance and 87.07% target archived from Rs. 109.93 in FY 2081/82 of Bhairahawa.

In overall, despite the inconsistency in performance, there is noticeable gap between revenue collection and settled target achievement in defined FY of Bhirahawa and Birgunj Customs Offices, they continuously

reinforce Nepal's customs revenue collection. The necessity of policy intervention seems in case of Triveni Customs office is due to poor data recording and transboundary activities. Governmental level coordination, federal engagement, provincial and local stakeholders concern is essential to boost up Triveni into an exciting transboundary trading center, in that way underwriting to sustainable economic progress within Gandaki including nation as a whole.

### 3.1. Challenges faced by Triveni Customs Office

It facing multiple challenges o its operation and revenue generation. Among of them few key encounters are as follows:

- Adequacy infrastructure development: the office own-self-operating from a rented house, lack of specialized services, such as plant quarantine and adequate cargo handling facilities. These deficiencies hinder efficient customs process and deter trade volume growth (Embassy of India, 2023).
- Poor Road connectivity: although the Indian side near Bihar has improved border roads, the crucial Korala-Pokhara-Triveni Road on the Nepal's side remains partly incomplete, restricting smooth freight movement and limiting the customs office's accessibility (Ratipati, 2018; Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021).
- Poor Administration and Insufficiency Staffing: field visit of Triveni Customs Office explored that the larger manual customs procedure and insufficient staffing caused delay to complete nominal task. Inadequate digitalization on custom clearance process reduces transparency as compare to Bhirahawa and Birgunj Customs Offices.

- Geopolitical Security Constraints: the geopolitical sensitivity Triveni-Susta boarder area faces ethnic tension and administrative complexities, disturbing customs operations and undermine trade confidence (Kharel, 2024).
- Transparency Problem: public limitation on office performance data is the major weakness of this customs office, it not only reduces accountability, also encumbering evidences-based policy interference
  - a. Impression on Maneuvers and Revenue: Clearance inefficiency, lower trade output, and suppress revenue generation are common issues in Triveni Customs Office. Consequently, trader always prefer well established custom point that limited functioning of it also.
  - b. Solution Strategy: Bilateral cooperation to neighboring country is crucial to enhance Nepalese Custom offices is the best practices though following solution can boost Triveni's performance:
    - Infrastructure Advancement: accelerate competition and operationalization of the Korala-Pokhara-Triveni roads and customs facilities equipped with cargo yard, sanitation, and quarantine services, in line with improvements seen at Indicated Check Post (ICPs) such as Birgunj (Embassy of India, 2023).
    - Digitalization of Customs Procedure: it was observed that implementation of electronic customs clearance platform, including ECTS (Electronic Cargo Tracking System) and e-documentation can increase transparency and efficiency.
    - Capacity Building: Adequate staffing with proper training on modern trace facilitation and digital friendly office obviously reduces clearance delay.
    - Bilateral Coordination: Leverage India's upgraded Bihar boarder network through coordinate cross-border infrastructure development and jointly manage customs facilities (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021) is an option before establishment of strong and trustable another mechanism at province level.
    - Government Strength and Security Concern: establishment of intergovernmental forums to address geopolitical sensitivity and maintain

boarder security, ensuring uninterrupted custom operation (Nepal News, 2025), more over the present of Narayani River ensure more security as compare to rest places.

Need of investment on infrastructure development and upgrading customs office with modern equipment with reformed policy is crucial, this strategic tactic will not only bring smoothness in Nepal's custom but also reduce work forces on overloaded hub, and foster stable economic growth in Gandaki Province.

3.2. Door of Promoting Spiritual Holiday Business: Gandaki province is the land of several protuberant sites to Hundi and Buddhists pilgrimages, each griping cavernous cultural and religious significance. Muktinath Temple, 3,710m, in Mustang -is reversed in Hinduism as a sacred abode of Lord Vishnu, known as Muktinath, or "Lord of Liberalism" in Buddhism as a site symbolizing spiritual freedom (Holiday Stone Pal, 2023). Descriptions of this temple is been common in various Hindu scriptures like Vishnu purana and Bhagwat and a vital place to devotion for devoted looking for salvation.

Triveni own-self has mythological important site as birth place of Lava and Kush, twins' sons of lord Rama. Triveni, the site of Valmiki Ashram, traditionally regarded as the of sage Valmiki, the celebrated author of Ramayana, one of the Hinduism's foundation epics (Kandel, 2024). The Gaja-Graha Dham on the bank of Gandaki (Narayani) river further enhance Triveni's divine importance, tied to prehistoric Hindu principles, Bhagavat Purana, Book 8, Chapter 3, verses 1-3.

Manakamana, goddess Bhagwati, located in Mahabharat range of Gorkha District, is another well-regarded Hindu shrine drawing thousands of Hindus from different parts of Nepal and India annually and declared in regional experience, and there are all together nine different Manakamana temples. Vyas cave, located in Damauli Bazar of Tanahun district is another historical site, according to legend, Vyasa lived in this cave while compiling the four Vedas and composing the eighteen Mahapuranas, foundation texts of Hindu cosmology, mythology, and spiritual teachings (Exotic India Art, 2022; Wisdom Library, 2025). This cave continuously gives the attraction

Hindu devotees and make connection to Hindu people to Hindu literatures.

Kawarwari of Devchuli hills, Akaladevi, Kagbeni, Kaligandaki (the river of Saligram) and many more holly places located in Mahabharat mountain range, each resounding cultural and religious meaning, and not only spellbound Hindu and Buddhist devotee but also has significant adventurous places to alpha and z generations. For instant, Lumbini, Nepal's UNESCO World Heritage Site. It is the birth place of Gautama the Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, and about one million visitors, 998,938, in the year of 2023, a 10% increase over 2022, with approximately 266,510 (10% of total) from India, reflect strong cross-border religious tourism ties (Outlook Traveller, 2015; UNESCO, n.d.; Lumbini Development Trust, 2024; Kharel, 2024). Other pilgrims' destinations with in Gandaki remain under covered but possess significant religious and cultural value like to Himalayan and Hindu tradition (Badal, 2021; Lumbini Development Trust, 2024).

Being specious site of Ramayana period Triveni Custom may take as a transit point for religious tourism located near the Nepal India border, thus it can be developed as a strategical entrance position to serve spiritual person travelling Indian (particularly state of Bihar and Uttar Pradesh) and Nepal (Gandaki Province) pilgrimage sites. Triveni offers direct land crossing option that facilitate easier access to these sacred places from Indian religious especially Hindu and Buddhist population, fostering integrated travel route connecting India pilgrims' sites center to Nepalese spiritual circuits (Embassy of India, 2023; Tourismmail, 2024).

#### 1) Connection Between Indian and Gandaki's Religious Sites:

India is the largest populated country of world, in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh, in 2025 it is estimated 130 million and 237 million population respectively, predominant of Hindu supporters, 82.7% in Bihar and 79.79% in Uttar Pradesh where minority but accountable population of Buddhist (0.5% in Bihar and 0.2% in Uttar Pradesh), showing a great dealing potentiality of pilgrim base attracted to Gandaki's Sacred sites (Census of India, 2011; Statistics Times, 2025).

Promotional and inadequate infrastructure limiting the Tourism Potentiality:

- Poor road connectivity and limited transport services reduces at critical border points (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021).
- Hospitality infrastructure around Triveni and along Gandaki pilgrim routes its inadequate developed (Shrestha & Kharal, 2025).
- Lack of nominal and dedicated tourism facilities like tourism information center and streamlined visa/customs operation tailor for visitors.
- Improper and un-Integrated promotional campaigns linking Nepalese' and Indian religious site and un-development of spiritual circuits limit the visitors' visiting sites.

#### 2) Possibility for Integrated Tourism Packages:

There is great scope of combo package of religious-cultural-adventure tourism in Gandaki and her periphery. It includes – Annapurna Circuit, Mardi trek, Manaslu Trek, Pokhara site visit- and cultural tourism that highlight local heritage and share organic products from different homestay developed in every local municipal level of Province a side of it, river sport, cycling and mounting tourism etc. can sum-up in a complete package. The combine offerings could extend tourist stays and enhance income impact, especially Indian visitors via Triveni (Badal, 2021; Shrestha & Kharal, 2025).

#### 3) Government and Private Sectors Role:

Both, Government and private sectors stakeholders have equally important to promote Triveni and Triveni Customs Office are key to strengthening sacred tourism.

- The role of federal and Provincial authority is to increase in investment to improve transportation, customs facilities and tourist amenities at Triveni.
- India-Nepal bilateral corporation could simply border formalities and jointly promote cross-border religious tourism (Embassy of India, 2023).
- The private sector can expand accommodations, guided tours, and hospitality services, adding value for pilgrims and adventure tourist (Tourismmail, 2024).

4) Collaboration in between Customs Facilitation and Tourism Promotion:

At Triveni, the efficient custom processing including digitalization, dedicated tourist lines, visa facilitation, better information center, can significantly improve the tourist experience by reducing waiting times and enabling smooth cross-border movement, thereby making Triveni a preference entry point for religious tourism from India (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021; Embassy of India, 2023).

3.3. Current Transportation Infrastructure Linking to Triveni from Gandaki

The Gandaki province is actively developed her transportation infrastructure to boost economy growth. The ongoing Korala-Pokhara-Triveni Road project is crucial for connecting rural Triveni point with Province capital, Pokhara. This road currently remains partially operating but is prioritized to improve freight and passenger transit. The east-west highway, Nepal’s major longitudinal corridor, links Triveni indirectly through connecting district, enabling border trade flow across the country (The Rising Nepal, 2024; IDD Gandaki, 2025).

Trade facilities and multi modal transport Potential: Road links between Triveni and Pokhara, combined with Indian highway and rail connections, significantly reduce transportation time and cost for traders, enhancing the custom point’s viability. Multimodal transport involving road, rail, and potential river options can diversify logistics and mitigate bottlenecks present at more crowded customs points like Birgunj and Bhairahawa (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021; Embassy of India, 2023).

Undiscovered Options of Transport

- River transport: The Gandaki River historically offers potential for inland water transport. while underutilized currently revitalizing river navigation can support bulk goods movement, easy road congestion (IDD Gandaki, 2025).
- Rail connectivity: through Nepal’s rail infrastructure is limited, Indian rail lines terminating near the border is Narkatiaganj provide opportunities for future rail-link expanded expansion to Gandhi province. Promotion of cross-

border rail freight could further improve logistic efficiency (Embassy of India, 2023).

3.4. Infrastructure Project as Backbone of Gandaki Economy

The Gandaki provincial government is advancing multiple road and bridge constructions, targeting over 300km of Blacktopped roads and twenty-five major btdige in fiscal year 2023/24 AD, enhancing original accessibility, including Triveni (The Rising Nepal, 2024). The next 2-3 years, on completion of Korala-Pokhara-Triveni Road, is expected encouragement of tourism, trade and socio-economical revolution after connectivity of boarder area to different economic hubs.

3.5. Dissection of current Customs Hub and Empowering Triveni

The total sum of Pokhara-Jhyalbas-Dedhgaun-Bhimad Khirani-Pokhara route is around 118Km (The Rising Nepal, 2024; Nepal News, 2025), Where the nearest train station is Narkatiaganj and is about 90km from provide multimodal connectivity supporting trade and passenger movements. Regular transportation services operate along this corridor surely faculty cross-border economic activities.

Enhanced transport infrastructure offers the prospect of diverting cargo flow from saturated customs point like beer guns elevating congestion and improving treat efficiency nationally stinting Trivedi connectivity indicated Gandaki province more fully into regional trade networks fostering local economic development and increasing custom revenue potential (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021; Embassy of India, 2023).

Table: 2 Distance between major cities to Triveni via land approximate Source: Google Map, 2025

City	Distance to Triveni Customs	Mode of Connectivity
Patna Bihar India	~220Km	Road and Railway
Motihari Bihar India	~110Km	Road and Railway
Betiya Bihar India	~90Km	Road
Narkatiaganj Railway Junction Bihar, India	~90Km	Road and Railway
Pokhara Nepal	~118Km	Road

3.6. Evaluation of Triveni’s Capacity and Viability as a Boarder Point:

Triveni can be considerable an opportunity for transboundary trade between Indo Nepal business houses, though, currently operates under many obstracles as compared to neighboring custom point like Birgunj and Bhairahawa. The limited capacity due to under developed infrastructure, insufficient manpower, and partial digital recognition of Triveni Custom should be address. While, Nepal’s Customs Department has implemented electronic clearance system like ASYCUDA in main points, Triveni yet to achieve comparable levels of technology efficiency and procedure streamline (Department of Customs, 2025a).

Birgunj stands with Nepal’s largest trade gateway, equipped with the advanced ICPs and supplicated clearance mechanisms that handle the highest volume of bilateral cargo, Bhairahawa also benefits from better infrastructure and greater throughput (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021). By difference, Triveni’s comparatively uncertain output underscores the pressing for infrastructure development and managerial measurements to appreciate its filled imaginable.

Location of Indo-Nepal at the bank of Narayani River serve as natural boundary of customs area. The riverine border, while presenting logistical challenges, also confers strategic advantages by reducing the likelihood of illegal cross-boarder activities such as smuggling -an issue prevents at many land-based customs points (Embassy of India, 2023). The cross-boarder activities coordination among Bihar

government of India side and Gandaki province of Nepal remain in nascent stage, this poor effectiveness warning correspondent, and bilateral corroboration need to simplify custom functions.

Country yard location of Triveni exhibit less urbanization and minimal present of industries shown potentiality of agriculture-based industrialization and have capacity to established modern industry that can stimulate development of Gandaki as well as nexus to National business.

Security and regulatory cooperation have been emphasized in recent high-level India-Nepal talks which reflect shared commitments to address smuggling and improved data sharing. However, delay in implementation of integrated digital custom platforms constrain operational transparency and efficiency, a challenge particularly acute for smaller post like Triveni (Press Information Bureau, 2025; The Kathmandu Post, 2025).

Further ahead, the regional trade dynamics under outline such as South Asia Free Trade Area (SAFTA) focusing to mounting transboundary commerce. Competition of priority infrastructure projects - notably the Korala-Pokhara-Triveni road- coupled with increased multi model connectivity, could enable Triveni to emerge as a critical and more balanced trade way, such development could help reduce the strain and on the stain on overcrowded customs points like Birginj and Bhirahawa, facilitating wider economic diversification in Nepal (Comptroller and Auditor General of India, 2021; Embassy of India, 2023).

Table: 3 Comparative overview Nepal-India Custom Hubs

Aspect	Birgunj	Bhairahawa	Triveni
Infrastructure	Advanced IPCs and tech	Moderate	Limited and developing
Recruitment, Technology	High and digital	Moderate	Low, partial digitalization
Trade throughput	Uppermost	Noteworthy	Nominal
Boarder geography	Land boarder; aperture	Land boarder; apertures	Riverine boarder
Cross-border coordination	Well established	Progressing	Emerging and need strengthening
Growth possibility	High	Medium	High and conditional on improvement

Source: Field Visit, 2025

3.7. Potentiality of Educational Collaboration

Bihar, India, hosts approximately 33 universities comprising 25 government universities -including 21

state universities and 4 central/state-run institutions- 7 private universities, the Nalanda International University (a deem University), and the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Patna (AUBSP, 2025;

Raj Bhavan, 2025). According to al India Survey Higher Education (AISHE) 2021-22, total students' enrollments across Bihar's higher education institutions, including these universities and their affiliate college exceed 23.23 lakhs student (The Times of India, 2024). The wide range of academic discipline is possible in Bihar is due to huge range of students' number, thus, Bihar can offer plenty of opportunities for educational teamwork with societies in Gandaki of Nepal.

Gandaki province, while comparatively smaller, encompass universities and college including Gandaki and Pokhara Universities -its flagship public university Gandaki Medical College, an approximately 168 different domestic universities affiliated campus offering program in health sciences, engineering, management, and humanities (Edusanjal, n.d.). The combined student's enrollment in Gandaki Province's higher education institutes is estimated at approximately 40,000 to 50,000 students as of 2024 (Gandaki University, 2025). Beside of these circumstances the educational collaboration and corporation among the universities of Gandaki and Bihar remain limited, even though many Nepali students are enrolling several universities and institution of Bihar, which are officially not in record.

### 3.8. Closeness of Geography and Transit Advantages

The possibility of transboundary activities get legalization via Triveni Customs can serve as a significant transit point. It is proximity to both Gandaki's academic center and Bihar educational hub provides logical advantages for strains and faculty exchanges, bypassing more congest land boarder and enhancing direct access (Embassy of India, 2023). Upgrading the custom points on visa facilitation, export-import functioning, and infrastructure improvement at Triveni could reduce travel time and update transit, improving the inclusive experience for academic exchange.

### 3.9. Social and Educational Benefits to Student by Exchange Program

The institutional level student exchange program provides multidimensional benefits to students of both communities.

- Academically, students' participants to various academy curriculum and resources methodologies

promoting proficiencies and widening intellectual viewpoints.

- Socially, this program fosters cross-cultural thoughtful and interpersonal webs, enhancing regional harmony between neighboring countries.
- Development of such collaboration and coordination also contribute to human capita growth, which is crucial for Gandaki's socio-economic advancement for this, there must better preparing own youth for participation in global markets.
- This out country academic connection also supports institutional advancement and jointly effort may result development of new model regional educational quality at South Asia.

### a. Visa Challenges Logistic and Institutional Coordination

Although visa and immigration issue are not implementation for Nepalese and Indian citizen in both countries due to longstanding bilateral agreement, this provision is essential to foreign students who are enrolling in the university of Bihar and Gandaki. Experiences from the European Universities, collaboration highlight the importance of tailored visa facilitation policies, including multiple entry visa and streamline processing, to support international students' mobility (European University Association, 2023). Moreover, logical obstacles like transportation viability, accommodation, cultural orientation must be carried by concern institution and government if necessary.

Institutional co-ordinational challenges including aligning academic calendars, credit transfer protocols, and language of instruction, necessitating harmonized frameworks and mutual recognition agreement to facilitate smooth exchanges (Department of Immigration, 2018; AUBSP, 2025).

### b. The system Actionable Steps

For the successful establishment and durable student exchange programs require following reforms:

- Tracing of bilateral Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) among universities and respective educational officials.
- Establishment of dedicated desks within institutions and government bodies to asset exchange logistics.

- Simple visa policy for required student through intergovernmental discourse.
- Conducting joint cultural festivals, academic forum, and workshops based on institutional need and network.
- Adoption of digital platform for virtual collaboration as a complementary or introductory tool.

### 3.10. Linking Education with Socio-economic Goals

Cooperative alignment with wider development objectives will enhance academic outputs by fostering social and economic integration in between Gandaki and Bihar. Beyond education, strengthened relation and spur cross-border trade, cultural exchange, and mutual understanding thereby contributing to regional cohesion and balanced development (Embassy of India, 2023; Gandaki Province Planning Office, 2024).

## IV. SUMMARY

This study gives the strategical reputation and progress forthcoming of Gandaki and Triveni, as a smooth and faster cross-boundary trade in between Nepal and her neighbor. Nearly the bank of river, establishment as a main customs office Triveni has greater role to boost up Gandaki socio-economic growth.

This academic finding explores several major challenges including insufficient infrastructure setting, poor road connectivity -particularly along Triveni-Pokhara-Korala passage- and infant state digitalization with insufficiency administrative dimensions. These demerits cause Triveni to drift relatively neighboring customs Bhairahawa and Birgunj in term of trade volume and revenue collection.

Along with these encounters, the article highlighted the untouched chances for combined holly-trip and venture tourism, Muktinath like temple is an example of religious richness in Gandaki along with world famous trekking rout -Annapurna Circuit and cultural village like Sirubari and Ghale-Gaun for village hospitality. The propinquity of large Hindu and considerable Buddhists in Bihar and Uttar Pradesh will open the door of Triveni for religious tourism, which surely boom local economy.

The regional connectivity and trade flow will be comfortable through ongoing investment in infrastructure development. The article also made highlighted on the issue of education and culture through exchange program at the university level in support of the government, for this there is advocating need of visa facilitation and institutional corporation in case of needy one.

There are few recommendations in this article, modernization and reform in custom administration, and coordinate at policy level to puss for the betterments and pull the obstacles. This action unlocks deprived potentiality of Triveni Customs Office and bring as an epicenter for trade, tourism and gateway of regional development of Gandaki, Nepal.

## REFERENCES

- [1] Arthik News. (2024, January 17). Korala-Triveni Road: Dedhgaun-Jhyalbas section targeted to be completed by mid-November. *Aarthik News*. <https://english.aarthiknews.com/korala-triveni-road-dedhgaun-jhyalbas-section-targeted-to-be-completed-by-mid-november/>
- [2] AUBSP. (2025, July 26). *All Updates and Books for Students and Professionals* [Education]. List of Govt and Private Universities in Bihar. <https://www.aubsp.com/universities-in-bihar/>
- [3] Badal, B. P. (2021). Cultural Tourism: A Review of Karnali. *Research Nepal Journal of Development Studies*, 4(2), 40–55. <https://doi.org/10.3126/rnjds.v4i2.42682>
- [4] Bhairahawa Custom Office. (2025, August 24). *FY 2082/83 Shrawan*. Ministry of Finance, Custom Department. <https://bhairahawa.customs.gov.np/pages/fy-2082-83-shrawan/>
- [5] Birgunj Custom Office. (2025, August 24). *FY 2082/083*. <https://birgunj.customs.gov.np/pages/aa-and-2082-083-18/>
- [6] Budha, K. B. (2025, November 2). *Key Informant of Triveny Customs* [Telephone].
- [7] Census of India. (2011). *Provisional population totals: India* [Government Census Data]. Office of the Registrar General & Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs. Government of India. <https://censusindia.gov.in>

- [8] Comptroller and Auditor General of India. (2021). *Report No. 23 of 2021: Performance audit of Indo-Nepal border road project* (Road Project No. 23 of 2021). [https://cag.gov.in/webroot/uploads/download\\_audit\\_report/2021/Report%20No.%2023%20of%202021\\_INBRP\\_English\\_PDF-](https://cag.gov.in/webroot/uploads/download_audit_report/2021/Report%20No.%2023%20of%202021_INBRP_English_PDF-)
- [9] Daniel, M. (2020, June 4). *The History of Customs from The Beginning to the Present*, Retrieved from *Gerlach Custom, Simply Clear* [News]. Gerlach-Customs.Com. <https://gerlach-customs.com/news/knowledge-base/the-history-of-customs-from-the-beginning-to-the-present/>
- [10] Department of Customs. (2025a). *ASYCUDA system implementation* [Government of Nepal Minisry of Finance Department of Customs]. Department of Customs. <https://customs.gov.np/pages/asycuda-system-implementation/>
- [11] Department of Customs. (2025b). *Customs Offices Contact* [Government of Nepal Minisry of Finance Department of Customs]. Department of Customs. <https://customs.gov.np/pages/customs-office-contact-1/>
- [12] Department of Immigration. (2018, February 1). *Study Visa* [Government of Nepal Minisry of Home Affairs]. Department of Immigration. <https://www.immigration.gov.np/en/page/study-visa>
- [13] Edusanjal. (n.d.). *Educational institutions in Gandaki Province* [Education]. Edusanjal. [https://edusanjal.com/college/local\\_level/gandaki/](https://edusanjal.com/college/local_level/gandaki/)
- [14] Embassy of India. (2023, Jine). *Brief on Development Partnership with Nepal* [Foreign Affairs]. Embassy of India, Kathmandu. <https://www.indembkathmandu.gov.in/development-partnership2>
- [15] European University Association. (2023). *Best practices in visa facilitation for international students* [Education]. European University Association. <https://eua.eu/resources/publications/991:best-practices-in-visa-facilitation.html>
- [16] Exotic India Art. (2022, April 9). *Who was Ved Vyas – The sage who compiled the wealth of spiritual literature?* [Religious]. Exotic India Art. <https://www.exoticindiaart.com/article/ved-vyasa-the-sage-who-compiled-the-wealth-of-spiritual-literature/>
- [17] Gandaki Province Planning Office. (2024). *Who was Ved Vyas – The sage who compiled the wealth of spiritual literature?* Gandaki Province Planning Office.
- [18] Gandaki University. (2025). *Academic programs and institutional profile* [Government of Nepal]. Gandaki University. <https://www.gandakiuniversity.edu.np/>
- [19] HolidayStonePal. (2023). *Hindu pilgrimage sites in Nepal*. HolidayStonePal. <https://www.holidaystonepal.in/blog/hindu-pilgrimage-sites-in-nepal>
- [20] IDD Gandaki. (2025). *Annual Infrastructure Development Report 2080/81 BS* [Infrastructure]. Ministry of Physical Infrastructure Development & Transport Management, Infrastructure Development Department (IDD), Gandaki Provincial. <http://idd.gandaki.gov.np>
- [21] Kandel, S. (2024, December 4). *Triveni Dhaam Nepal: Trinity of Three Rivers, Birth Place of Lava-Kusha, and the Land where the Great Epic Ramayana was Written* [Travell and Tourism]. <http://www.suvaschandrakandel.com.Np/>. <http://www.suvaschandrakandel.com.np/2018/12/triveni-dhaam-nepal>
- [22] Kharel, B. (2024, September 24). *Nepal's Buddhist heritage: A gateway to religious tourism* [Travell and Tourism]. Nepaleconomicforum.Org. <https://nepaleconomicforum.org/nepals-buddhist-heritage-a-gateway-to-religious-tourism/>
- [23] Lumbini Development Trust. (2024). *Tourist arrivals surge by 10.5% in 2023: Lumbini's rising popularity* [Religious]. Lumbini Development Trust. [https://lumbinidevtrust.gov.np/post/2\\_6683bd7b751ce](https://lumbinidevtrust.gov.np/post/2_6683bd7b751ce)
- [24] Maheshpur Customs Office. (2024, August 24). *Comparative details of revenue collection for the last six financial years* [Government of Nepal Minisry of Finance Department of Customs]. Maheshpur Customs Office. <https://maheshpur.customs.gov.np/pages/details-comparably-6th-mahaja-progress-details/>
- [25] Nepal News. (2025, February 25). *Nepal News evening briefing*. Retrieved from Nepal News.

- Nepal* *News.*  
<https://nepalnews.com/s/nation/nepal-news-evening-briefing-tuesday-february-25-2025/>
- [26] NSO. (2021). *National Population and Housing Report 2021 Provincial Report (GANDAKI PROVINCE)* (Statistic Report of Nepal No. 2021). Government of Nepal, Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, National Statistics Office. Thapathali, Kathmandu: National Statistics Office (NSO). [https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/files/result\\_folder/province/Gandaki\\_Province\\_census\\_report.pdf](https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/files/result_folder/province/Gandaki_Province_census_report.pdf)
- [27] Outlook Traveller. (2015, June 19). *Religious tourism soars in Lumbini, Buddha's birthplace* [News]. Outlook Traveller. <https://www.outlooktraveller.com/News/religious-tourism-soars-in-lumbini-buddhas-birthplace>
- [28] Pattison, P. (2015, November 18). Nepal border blockade "threatens the future of the country itself", says UN. *The Guardian*. <https://www.theguardian.com/global-development/2015/nov/18/nepal-border-blockade-india-threatens-future-un-unicef>
- [29] Press Information Bureau. (2025, April 13). *21st Director-General level talks on customs cooperation* [Foreign Affairs]. India-Nepal Customs Cooperation Meeting, Delhi. <https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2121393>
- [30] Raj Bhavan. (2025, August 11). *Universities in Bihar* [Education]. Raj Bhavan, Government of Bihar. <https://governor.bih.nic.in/universities-in-bihar/>
- [31] Ratipati. (2018, July 24). Chhoti Bhansar and Triveni Dumkibas Road in priority: Chief Minister. *Ratopati*. <https://english.ratopati.com/story/5888>
- [32] Shrestha, A., & Kharal, B. (2025, February 3). *A Glance at Regional Tourism: Unlocking New Horizons* [Travel and Tourism]. Nepal Economic Forum. <https://nepaleconomicforum.org/a-glance-at-regional-tourism-unlocking-new-horizons-2/>
- [33] Statistics Times. (2025, February 25). *Population of Bihar*. Retrieved
- [34] The Himalayan Times. (2018, July 31). Korala-Pokhara-Triveni Road significant for province prosperity. *The Himalayan Times*. <https://thehimalayantimes.com/nepal/korala-pokhara-triveni-road-significant-for-province-prosperity>
- [35] The Kathmandu Post. (2016, June 21). The Kathmandupost. Retrieved from Blockade by India resulted in losses totaling Rs202 billion. *The Kathmandu Post*. <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2016/06/21/blockade-by-india-resulted-in-losses-totalling-rs202-billion>
- [36] The Kathmandu Post. (2025, June 10). Nepal's high-value exports see modest growth amid export surge. *The Kathmandu Post*. <https://kathmandupost.com/money/2025/06/10/nepal-s-high-value-exports-see-modest-growth-amid-surge-in-edible-oil-shipments>
- [37] The Rising Nepal. (2024, May 19). Infrastructure construction in Gandaki at fast pace. *The Rising Nepal*. <https://risingnepaldaily.com/news/43181>
- [38] The Times of India. (2024, January 28). Gross enrolment ratio in state increases to 17%. Retrieved from The Times of India. *The Times of India*. <https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/patna/gross-enrolment-ratio-in-state-increases-to-17/articleshow/107196800.cms>
- [39] Tourismmail. (2024, January 28). *Religious tourism gaining ground in Nepal with a new Navagraha temple* [Travel and Tourism]. Tourismmail. <https://tourismmail.com/news/detail/106070/>
- [40] UNESCO. (n.d.). *Lumbini, the Birthplace of the Lord Buddha*. UNESCO World Heritage Conservation. <https://whc.unesco.org/en/list/666/>
- [41] Valerie, J. (2015, December). *Nepal's humanitarian crisis: The blockade explained* [News]. International Crisis Group. <https://www.crisisgroup.org/asia/south-asia/nepal/nepals-humanitarian-crisis-blockade-explained>
- [42] Wisdom Library. (2025, January 14). *Authorship of the Puranas* [Religious]. Wisdom Library Peace Love Dharma. <https://www.wisdomlib.org/hinduism/essay/vaisnava-myths-in-the-puranas/d/doc1527212.htm>