

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Press Release: Signing Ceremony of MoU on Cooperation in the Areas of Environment

A virtual signing ceremony between India and Bhutan for the Memorandum of Understanding on Cooperation in the Areas of Environment was held on June 18, 2021. The MoU was signed by India's Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change Shri Prakash Javadekar and Bhutan's Foreign Minister Dr. Tandi Dorji in his capacity as the Chairperson of the National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan.

2. The objective of the MoU is to renew earlier cooperation and collaboration between India and Bhutan in the environmental sector and expand the areas of cooperation in the field of environment to promote a mutually beneficial partnership. Going forward, India and Bhutan will cooperate on projects related to climate change, air, waste and chemical management or any other area that is mutually decided. The collaborative activities under the MoU will include but will not be limited to technical assistance, capacity building, exchange of knowledge, best practices and technology transfer, exchange visits by experts, scholars and delegations, projects and seminars.

3. One of the outcomes of the MoU will be the constitution of a Joint Working Group to identify the specific areas of cooperation between India and Bhutan. Additionally, a senior official of the environment sector will be designated to monitor the planning and performance of activities carried out under the MoU.

4. As two countries and close friends who are committed to a climate action, a healthier planet and a sustainable future, today's MoU between India and Bhutan is a timely step to add further momentum to our excellent bilateral ties and to facilitate greater institutional linkages between actors working in the environmental sector in India and Bhutan.

Thimphu

18 June 2021