

**Address by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj at the 15th
Mangdechhu Authority Meeting- 22 September 2021**

**Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Minister of Economic Affairs
of Bhutan;**

**Maj Gen. V. Namgyel, Ambassador of Bhutan to India;
Distinguished Colleagues from India and Bhutan.**

After Chukha, Kurichhu and Tala, the 720-MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project has been the latest feather in the India - Bhutan Hydropower Cap. Commissioned in 2019 by the Prime Ministers of India and Bhutan, the Project has increased Bhutan's Electrical Power Generation Capacity by 44% to 2,326 Mega Watts. The commissioning of the Project has also assisted Bhutan in increasing its hydropower revenue by 31% in 2020. And the revenue has provided much-needed financial cushion against a COVID-19 induced economic slowdown in 2020 and 2021.

I commend the Chairman and the Project Management for successfully completing the construction and commissioning of the Project in just 7 years. The 720 MW project has been dubbed as a 'benchmark project' within the region since this was completed in a swift timeframe at an optimal cost, without compromising on quality and performance parameters. Within two years of its commissioning, the Project has generated more than 5,000 Million Units of energy.

In recognition of its excellence in Civil Engineering, the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project was awarded the prestigious

Brunel Medal by the Institution of Civil Engineers (ICE), London. We have been informed that the ICE award panel was particularly impressed with the Project's social and environmental credentials. I congratulate the Royal Government, the designers, the engineers, the workforce and the Management for delivering this stupendous project with a low carbon footprint. It is also heartening to note and at a time when Climate Change is more real than ever, the project will play a contributory role, by reducing 2.4 million tons of Green House Gas emissions each year.

Today we will discuss the handing over of the Mangdechhu Project to the Royal Government of Bhutan. The Government of India was privileged to be a part of the journey, and is now equally privileged to hand this over to you.

I wish successful and productive outcomes at the meeting today.

Thank you!
