

12 October 2021

Dear Reader,

On the occasion of the first anniversary of the launch of the e-Newsletter of the Embassy of India, Thimphu, we are delighted to bring to you a bumper edition that covers the events and activities hosted by the Embassy through the months of August and September 2021.

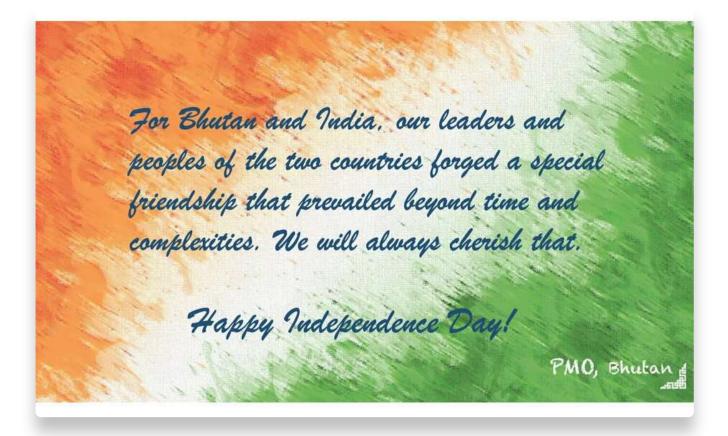
An India@75 Amrit Mahotsav Special Week was hosted by the Embassy from 2-7 August with special events as for example a Webinar on space with ISRO, Ambassador's interaction with the Lady Dragons of Bhutan, an interface with keynote speakers from Assam, prize distribution of the "What India means to me?" videobyte competition and the handing over of the prestigious Brunel Medal awarded by the Institution of Civil Engineers UK to the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project for civil engineering excellence. Independence Day 2021 was celebrated, with the Chancery building being lit up in the Indian tricolor in the evening of 14 August. There was also an open interaction between the Ambassador and the members of the Indian community on 15 August. The highlight of the month was, perhaps, the first match of the India@75 Cricket Series held at the India House Cricket Ground, attended by various local dignitaries. Congratulations Bhutan, as you gave us a drubbing at this event!

India and Bhutan took the next step for the launch of Bhutan's Satellite into space with the signing of an Implementation Arrangement between the ISRO and the Department of Information Technology and Telecom at this end. Along with senior officials from GOI and RGoB, Lyonpo Loknath Sharma and Ambassador participated in the Authority Meeting of the Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Power Project and the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Power Project. Hindi Diwas was celebrated on 14 September, which was followed by a month-long online introductory Hindi language course delivered by the Mahatma Gandhi International Hindi University, Wardha for Bhutanese officials and tourist guides.

More in the newsletter, which I am delighted to share!

Tashi Delek, Jai Hind!

Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan



twitter.com

Independence Day: Greetings from the Prime Minister of Bhutan

"I take this occasion to convey our appreciation to the government and people of India, particularly the Embassy of India team here, for the support during these difficult times. I offer my warmest wishes on this special occasion. Happy Independence Day.": Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering, Prime Minister of Bhutan.



Independence Day: Greetings from the Foreign Minister of Bhutan

"As India celebrates its 75th Independence Day, I wish to send my warm greetings to the people of India. May India continue to enjoy the vibrant values of Democracy and continued progress in the coming years.": Dr. Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister of Bhutan.



twitter.com

Independence Day: Celebrations of the 75th Independence Day of India in Bhutan

Members of the Indian community in Bhutan turned out in large numbers to join us for the celebrations of the 75th Independence Day of India on 15 August 2021. An open interaction was held between the Ambassador and Indian nationals on this occasion including a Question & Answer Session.





twitter.com

Independence Day: The Embassy of India lit up in the flag colors

As part of the Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in Bhutan, the Embassy of India's Chancery building was lit up in the Indian tricolour on the eve of Independence Day i.e. the evening of 14 August 2021.



Independence Day: Ambassador's interview to 'The Journalist' newspaper on 15 August 2021

"India stands resolute with Bhutan": Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in her interview to 'The Journalist' newspaper published on the 75th Independence Day of India against the backdrop of #AmritMahotsav celebrations.



.......

Bilateral: India and Bhutan sign the Implementing Arrangement for the Joint Development of a Small Satellite for Bhutan!

The Implementing Arrangement is a document that lists out the terms and conditions for cooperation between India and Bhutan on the actual development, launch and operation of the Joint Satellite, thus giving practical shape to a shared vision to take the bilateral partnership to new frontiers!

VIEW MORE



indembthimphu.gov.in

The 15th Authority Meeting for the 720 MW Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project

The Mangdechhu Hydroelectric Project, inaugurated by Prime Ministers of Bhutan and India in August 2019 has been a benchmark Project for its timely completion and excellence in Civil Engineering . The Project is the recipient of the prestigious Brunel Medal from the Institute of Civil Engineers, London for its design and environmental credentials. The Mangdechhu Project Authority discussed the key issues related to its operations and handing over of the Project to the Royal Government.



indembthimphu.gov.in

The 15th Authority Meeting for the 1020 MW Punatwangchhu - II Hydroelectric Project

The Punatsangchhu - II Hydroelectric Project Authority met to discuss key issues for the Project nearing completion. Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Ambassador of Bhutan to India and senior officials of the Royal Government and Government of India participated in the meeting. Speaking at the meeting, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj spoke of the win-win cooperation in the hydropower sector which has provided much needed financial cushion to the Royal Government during the COVID - 19 pandemic and has ensured energy security for the region, pulling people out of poverty. She added that the Punatsangchhu - 2 Project, once commissioned will be a state-of-the-art Project inculcating technical and geological innovations.



twitter.com

Bilateral: Ambassador addressed the 15th Round Table Meeting between Bhutan and its Development Partners

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj congratulated Bhutan as it is set to graduate to Middle Income Country status. She said that the Bhutan - India partnership that has been prompted as much by economic impulse as by moral principles and emotional bonds.





Ambassador's visit to the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Power Project site

Ambassador visited the site of the 1020 MW Punatsangchhu - II Project in Wangdue Phodrang, which is almost 91% complete and is nearing completion. Once commissioned, the Project will increase Bhutan's Hydroelectric Generation Potential by 43%. Ambassador also visited the first highway tunnel of Bhutan of 1.5 kms length, constructed by the Punatsangchhu - II Project.





India Focus: India takes over the UNSC Presidency on 1 August 2021

A momentous day as India took over the Presidency of the United Nations Security Council for the month of August 2021. India's UNSC Presidency will reflect our world view anchored in #VasudhaivaKutumbakam.

VIEW MORE



twitter.com

. .---.,

Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi addressed the 76th Session of the United Nations General Assembly! A powerful and impactful address by PM Modi with big takeaways! Do watch!

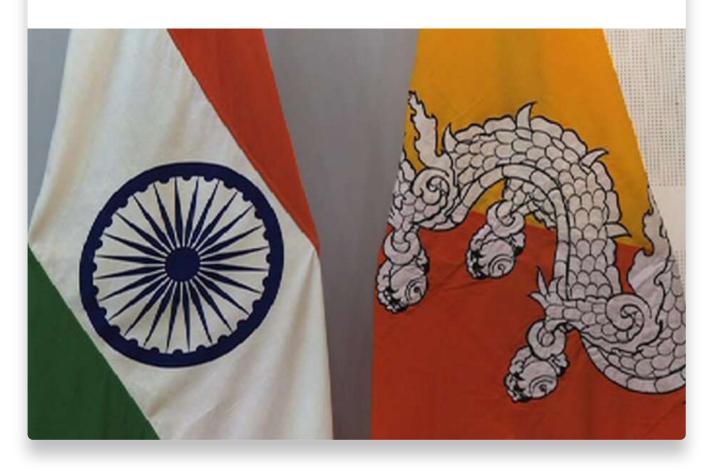
VIEW MORE



twitter.com

India Focus: Neeraj Chopra wins a Gold Medal for India at the Tokyo Olympics

India strikes 'Gold' at the Tokyo Olympics 2020 with an iconic Javelin throw by Neeraj Chopra on 7 August 2021.



bbs.bt

Bilateral: Third Bhutan India Development Cooperation talks for the 12th Five Year Plan

Foreign Secretary Dasho Kinga Singye and Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj signed the Minutes of the Third Bhutan - India Development Cooperation Talks. With the signing of the Minutes, Government of India has allocated its entire commitment of Nu./Rs. 45 billion for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan to various Development Projects in Bhutan. New Projects of the Royal Government will be provided support including COVID - 19 Response Project, Water Flagship Project, Development of Motanga Industrial Park and the Stray Dog and Waste Management Project.



twitter.com

Amrit Mahotsav: 1st match of the India At 75 Cricket Cup held on 30 August 2021

Watch a short video of he #IndiaAt75 Cricket Cup which will be an annual event in #Bhutan and was attended by eminent #Bhutanese from all walks of life. 5 lakh people in Bhutan tuned in from their TV sets! — on BBS Television. This short video captures the friendship and the fun!



Development Partnership: Inauguration of a Motorable Bridge at Berdungma, Trashigang

One of the 524 High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP) being supported by the Government of India in Bhutan, the motorable Bridge was inaugurated by Lyonpo Ugyen Dorji, Hon'ble Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs. The construction of this Bridge will help provide connectivity between Berdungma and Thungkhar Chiwog of Thrimshing Gewog and Chidungkhar Chiwog of Gomdar Gewog, Samdrup Jongkhar. By improving the connectivity of Trimshing Gewog, this Project will enable the farmers of this region to go for commercial agriculture through increased market access.

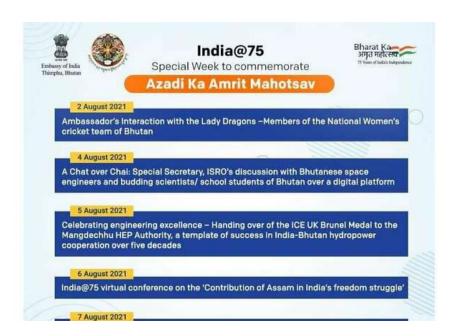


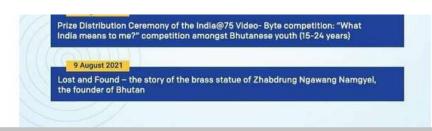


Capacity Building: IGNITE - A Virtual Startup Mentorship programmes launched for Bhutanese entrepreneurs

On 14 September 2021, the Embassy lauched a virtual startup mentorship program titled 'Ignite' for Bhutanese entrepreneurs, being organised in collaboration with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade of India, Invest India, Startup India, and TiE Delhi-NCR. Key participants at the event included Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Economic Affairs Minister of Bhutan; Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, Ambassador of India to Bhutan; Ms. Shruti Singh, Joint Secretary, Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade; and Shri Srikant Sastri, President, TiE Delhi-NCR as well as over 200 Bhutanese startups and resource persons from India. The virtual sessions will be held from October 2021 to January 2022 and

will provide an opportunity for Indian startups to virtually mentor about 200 Bhutanese startups in a hands-on learning format.





Amrit Mahotsav: A brief summary of the celebrations of the India@75 Special Week in Bhutan

Do watch this brief summary video of the India@75 Special Week in Bhutan, as part of the ongoing #AmritMahotsav celebrations in Bhutan.

You are also invited to watch the full video of the Amrit Mahotsav special events (F) https://t.co/vq4Lqql0pW



Amrit Mahotsav: India@75 Special Week - Ambassador's meeting with the Lady Dragons

As part of India@75 Special Week celebrations, the Embassy of India organised an interactive session between Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj and the Lady Dragons of Bhutan's National Cricket Team on 2 August 2021. The Lady Dragons commenced practice at the cricket ground of the India House Estate that continued through the month of August 2021, as a special gesture from the Embassy of India.





Amrit Mahotsav: India@75 Special Week event - ISRO Webinar with Bhutanese students

Another chapter of the India@75 Special Week was held on 3 August 2021 to celebrate #AmritMahotsav in Bhutan wherein Shri Umamaheshwaran, Scientific Secretary, ISRO recalled India's glorious space technology journey during the 75 years of Indian Independence and interacted with school and college students of Bhutan.

VIEW MORE



twitter.com

Amrit Mahotsav: India@75 Special Week - Handing over of the Brunel Medal for Civil Engineering Excellence

On 4 August 2021 Economic Affairs Minister Loknath Sharma received the Brunel Medal 2020 from Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, which was awarded by the Institution for Civil Engineers

UK to the Mangaechnu Hydroelectric Power Project for CIVII Engineering excellence. Speaking at the Brunel Medal Award Ceremony, Ambassador said that the Mangdechhu Project is a benchmark project for South Asia, completed in a swift- timeframe at an optimal cost without compromising on quality and performance parameters.

VIEW MORE



twitter.com

Amrit Mahotsav: India@75 Special Week virtual conference on Assamese freedom fighters

The Embassy of India organised an #IndiaAt75 virtual conference on 6 August 2021 with Lyonpo Loknath Sharma and keynote Assamese speakers Samudragupta Kashyap and Dr. NG Mahanta on the contribution of Assam in India's freedom struggle & tracked the connectivities & synergies that link Assam-Bhutan.



Amrit Mahotsav: India@75 Special Week - Prize distribution ceremony at India House

Dasho Tshewang Tandin, President, Royal Thimphu College and Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj distributed the prizes to the winners of Videobyte competition: "What India Means to Me" on 7 August 2021, as part of the celebrations during the India@75 Special Week.



Capacity Building: ITEC Day celebrations in Bhutan

On 15 September 2021, we celebrated 57 years of knowledge-sharing and friendship made possible by MEA's flagship ITEC Programme, under which more than 2000 Bhutanese have availed ITEC training scholarships to study at India's top institutes.





Capacity Building: e-ITEC training for judicial officers from Bhutan

The 11th Module of the 14-week e-ITEC training for judicial officers from Bhutan was held successfully! The 14-week capsule style e-ITEC training for Bhutan's judiciary is a yet another capacity building and knowledge sharing initiative between India and Bhutan!

VIEW MORE

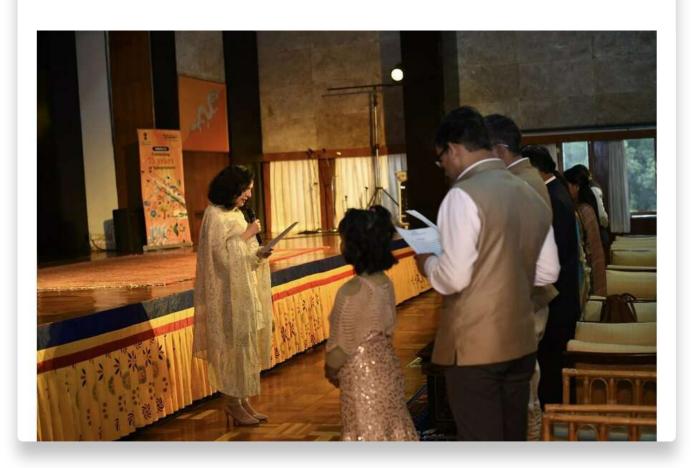


twitter.com

Capacity Building: Online Hindi classes organized for Bhutanese tourist guides

In a first, online #Hindi classes for #Bhutanese officials and Tour Guides taught by faculty members of the Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya commenced from 20 September 2021. This course will help the Bhutanese students in their official work and equip them to read, write and speak fluently in #Hindi! Another training programme delivered by

VIEW MORE



twitter.com

Culture: Hindi Diwas celebrations were held on 14 September in Bhutan

"हिंदी भाषा ही नहीं भावों की अभिव्यक्ति है |" हिंदी दिवस के अवसर पर राजभाषा प्रतिज्ञा लेते हुए भारतीय दूतावास, थिमफु के अधिकारी।



Culture: Yoga classes hosted by the Embassy's Yoga Guru at the Centre for Bhutan Studies

Personalized Yoga classes are being conducted by Yoga Guru KVSSN Murthy of the Embassy as part of an ongoing training course for Bhutanese researchers and civil servants being conducted at the Centre for Bhutan Studies and Gross National Happiness, Thimphu.





Education: 3 Bhutanese students secure India Bhutan Friendship Scholarship at IIT Kanpur

We are delighted to share that Neelish Monger, Tara Chhetri & Tulasi Ram Ghalley have bagged GOI's prestigious full-ride India-Bhutan Friendship Scholarship for pursuing M Tech programmes in 2021-2022 at the Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur.

VIEW MORE



twitter.com

Education: Another batch of Bhutanese scholars begin studies at Nalanda University

Ambassador extended congratulations to five meritorious Bhutanese students who were selected for the Government of India Scholarships at Nalanda University:

Sangay Wangmo, Leki Dorji, Dawa Tshering Chungkha, Namgay Dorji and Jeewan Kumar Bastola.