

Embassy of India

Thimphu

Press Release: **Award of ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award 2021 to Mr. Sonam Dorji**

The Indian Council for Cultural Relations' Distinguished Alumni Award for the year 2021 was awarded by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj to Mr. Sonam Dorji, Executive Director of Music of Bhutan Research Centre on 26 May 2022 at the India House Estate.

2. Mr. Sonam Dorji has been awarded the ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award in recognition of the significant accomplishments in his field and outstanding contribution to the promotion of understanding, goodwill and friendship between India and Bhutan. The Award has also been granted for his attainments in the field of music and performing arts, especially as an ICCR alumnus. The Award comprises a Plaque and Citation specially designed and curated by ICCR.

3. Mr. Dorji is a master musician, vocalist and composer who plays several instruments originating from both Bhutan and India. He is currently pursuing a doctorate in music from the Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda with an ICCR Scholarship awarded to him during the last academic year 2021-2022.

4. Mr. Sonam Dorji is the second Bhutanese recipient of the ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award, the first Award having been received by Lyonpo Damcho Dorji in 2018. Mr. Sonam Dorji studied for more than six years in two India's renowned educational institutions viz. Visva Bharati University from 1999-2003 and the Maharaja Sayaji Rao University of Baroda from 2006-2007, the latter through the award of an ICCR Scholarship.

5. The ICCR's Distinguished Alumni Award was instituted in 2015 to recognize foreign students who have studied in various Indian universities under the ICCR sponsored or supported Scholarship Schemes and have made exemplary contributions in diverse fields, especially towards the promotion of understanding, enhancing goodwill and friendship between India and their respective country.

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26 May 2022