

Embassy of India  
Thimphu

Press Release: **Re-opening of the Paro Ta Dzong,  
National Museum of Bhutan**

Government of India is delighted to have supported the renovation and consolidation of the Paro Ta Dzong as a development project under the 11<sup>th</sup> Five Year Plan of Bhutan. Following completion of this renovation project, the Paro Ta Dzong was opened to the public after a long hiatus of nine years. Ambassador of India Ruchira Kamboj attended the re-opening of the Ta Dzong on 25 June 2020 joining Bhutanese dignitaries to celebrate this occasion.

The Paro Ta Dzong, which houses the National Museum of Bhutan, sustained extensive damage due to an earthquake in 2011. It was built in 1649 by La Ngonpa Tenzin Drugdra, the first Penlop of Paro. Following a command given by the 3<sup>rd</sup> Druk Gyalpo, the Dzong was re-developed into the first museum of the country. The National Museum is the repository of the country's history and treasures such as collections of ethnography, philately, numismatics, textiles, bronze and copperware. It also exhibits many Bhutanese artworks from thangkas to postage stamps, weaponry to bronze ornaments and sacred treasure relics. Over 3000 permanent artworks at the Ta Dzong reflect the cultural heritage of Bhutan over 1500 years.

The renovation project involved detailed structural assessment and redesign of the unique round structure of the Ta Dzong to incorporate seismic resilient measures. In addition to overall consolidation to build strength to the main structure, the circulation and exhibition spaces were re-designed, service amenities were integrated from a functional angle including emergency exits, surveillance and security systems and latest technology upgradation to enable virtual tours of the National Museum. The successful completion of this project marks another milestone in the unique India-Bhutan development partnership through the implementation of five year plans as envisaged by the Royal Government of Bhutan.

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