



‘India is committed to grow the extraordinary ties of friendship and cooperation that the two countries enjoy, per the priorities and needs of the Government and people of Bhutan’

The new Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Ruchira Kamboj, speaks to Bhutan Times Sonam Penjor about her new appointment, the Indo – Bhutan relationships and Bhutan’s 12th year Plan.

She presented credentials to His Majesty The King at the Tashichhodzong last week. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, who previously served as India’s High Commissioner to South Africa, is the first woman Ambassador of India to Bhutan.



Please kindly provide your brief biography

I am a career diplomat from the Indian Foreign Service, and have been around for a while!

What are your reaction when you heard about you transfer to Bhutan as Ambassador?

I felt extremely privileged; I am now deeply honored to represent the voice of India in this uniquely beautiful country.

Your views on the Indo-Bhutan relationship

It is no exaggeration when we say that India and Bhutan share extraordinary ties of friendship and cooperation. Marked by mutual understanding, goodwill and timeless respect, it is a partnership forged

not only by our shared experiences but also by our civilizations growing together, overlapping in both history and culture, existing for thousands of years. And most importantly, at the heart of the India-Bhutan friendship is the belief that our future will only serve to embolden companionship.

Our bilateral ties have continuously maintained an upward growth trajectory and are a testimony to the wisdom and vision of the Druk Gyalpos of Bhutan and the successive Governments in India, who have imparted character, direction and substance to this relationship.

If I may add, our time tested relations serve as an epitome of immaculate neighborly relations

for the rest of the world.

What are your priorities as the Indian Ambassador to Bhutan?

India is committed to grow the extraordinary ties of friendship and cooperation that the two countries enjoy, per the priorities and needs of the Government and people of Bhutan. We hope to further cooperate in the traditional areas while exploring new areas which are relevant today and where we can contribute meaningfully to the development of Bhutan, per the priorities and needs of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

How do you think of fostering ties between India and Bhutan?

I am happy to say that even as cooperation

in conventional sectors such as education, health, information technology and skills-development continues to grow, our cooperation with Bhutan is extending to new areas such as space technologies where the South Asia Satellite will provide new opportunities to the people of Bhutan, and which can provide access to wide ranging applications such as disaster management, weather forecast and communication. Also, both our countries are blessed with a young population. New technologies are pushing our societies to continuously adapt. It is incumbent on us to respond to the aspirations of our youth and adapt to the change that is taking place around us. Going

forward, the intent is to do just that.

Any additional comments?

As I see this, what sets Bhutan apart from the world is its unique development paradigm of simultaneous cultural and economic advancement. Embedded within the soil which covers this country and the souls of your people is a respect for nature unlike much the world has seen. Your beauty stems from your compassion: compassion for the blades of grass and roaming animals. A compassion greater than anything seen before, for the delicate balance of life, unbroken for billions of years on this Earth. And trust me, there is nothing more magnificent than this to behold.