



# Bolstering friendship through education

Bhutan receives Nu 17.213-million for the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship from Embassy of India



Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj along with the dignitaries and the recipients of the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship at the ceremony

## Sonam Penjor

Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over a cheque of Nu 17.213-million (m) towards release of funds on the award of scholarships to Bhutanese nationals for the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship on 7 December this week.

The cheque was handed over to chairperson of the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) as expenses for scholarship recipients who will pursue their studies in reputed universities across India.

The Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship is a prestigious scholarship program which is a symbolic of the special relationship

between Bhutan and India by providing eight scholarships every year and had increased to nine scholarships from 2020-2021 from Bhutan's best and brightest candidates to study in premier India Institutes.

The press release from the Indian Embassy, Thimphu states that the development of human resource capacities in areas critical to Bhutan's development is envisaged through this scholarship program. This scholarship is also open to candidates both from government officials and private sector employees.

"It is a matter of pride that three Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship awardees have secured admis-

sion in M.Tech programs in the Indian Institutes Technology at Bombay and Delhi in the current academic session. These new scholarships were introduced by the Prime Minister of India on the occasion of the 40th birth anniversary celebrations of His Majesty the King on 21 February 2020," the press release further elucidated.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said that the extension of the Nehru Wangchuck scholarship MoU reflected the understanding shared by both the GoI and the RGoB on the importance of educational exchanges and for giving recognition to talented Bhutanese youth.

The Nehru-Wangchuck

scholarship was instituted on 19 June 2009 with the signing of Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two countries.

The primary objective of the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship Scheme is to provide opportunities for Bhutanese nationals to undertake postgraduate studies in select premier Indian Institutions, added the Ambassador.

RCSC Chairperson Karma Hamu Dorjee said that this program is an exemplary embodiment of relationship between Bhutan and India and would enhance in keeping an objective of creating a knowledge-based society.

This MoU was renewed on 17 January this year

by both governments to launch the third phase of the Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship program.

As on date, a total of 105 Bhutanese have been awarded this scholarship. During the historic visit of PM Modi to Bhutan in June 2014, the budget outlay for Nehru-Wangchuck scholarship was doubled from Nu 10-m to Nu 20-m a year.

Meanwhile, the first recipients of this scholarship are Srijana Gajmer and Sonam Tshering who are due to complete the 1st semester of M. Tech (Control & Automation) and M. Tech (Computer Science & Engineering) through online classes and digital channels in December 2020.

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