



India gifts six X-ray machines

These six additional portable digital X-ray machines will be used in the regional hospitals



Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj hands over six portable digital X-ray machines to Foreign Minister Dr Tandi Dorji

Lhakpa Tshering

Even amid a massive humanitarian crisis because of Covid-19 in India, the sustained support for Bhutan in tackling the pandemic is still at the forefront of its relationship.

In its 13th medical consignment delivered to Bhutan since the Covid-19 surfaced in the country, the Indian Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj handed over six units of portable digital X-ray machines to the Foreign Minister Dr Tandi Dorji on 3 May in Thimphu.

These X-ray machines

which will be used in regional hospitals will help in conducting critical health services.

Indian Embassy said India's gesture to continue delivery of essential medical supplies reflects the special bonds of trust and understanding between India and Bhutan that have existed over decades.

It stated that the government and the people of India stand resolutely committed to the long-term well-being and prosperity of the government and the people of Bhutan.

"As a close friend and

neighbour, India has accorded utmost priority to the requirements of Bhutan."

Going forward, the embassy further committed to continue to extend all possible support to Bhutan to minimize the health and economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The gift was in keeping with Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's assurance that India would stand by its close friend and neighbor in fighting the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the Ministry of Foreign

Affairs, the government of India has been assisting Bhutan in its fight against the pandemic under the aegis of the SAARC emergency Covid-19 fund initiated by the Indian Prime Minister in March 2020.

Acknowledging the generous assistance, the foreign ministry in its press release stated, "Despite the enormous surge in Covid-19 cases in India, the people and government of India continue to support Bhutan in its response efforts to Covid-19."

The government of India, since March 2020,

has delivered 13 medical consignments including 550,000 doses of Covid-19 made-in-India vaccines, and essential medicines – paracetamol, cetrizine, and hydroxychloroquine.

The consignments also include medical equipment - personal protective equipment (PPE), test kits, N95 masks, RT PCR test kits, and x-ray machines. And also, it had gifted one portable digital x-ray machine in October 2020.

India is also collaborating with Bhutan for strengthening clinical trial research capacity.

Two new species of snails discovered from Bhutan

Yangchen Lhamo

Two new species of snails discovered from Bhutan: *Sinoennea bhucylindrica* from Pema Gatshel and *Sinoennea nimai* from Zhemgang.

An article describing and reporting the two

new discoveries was published in the *Basteria* journal in April 2021.

The two new species are determined using DNA sequencing along with morphological descriptions. *Sinoennea bhucylindrica* has cylindrical shell with the whorls having prominent

ribs and *Sinoennea nimai* has broad shell above the middle which narrow downs the base. In another article, two new records of a snail and a mussel are reported from Bhutan: *Pisidium stewarti* and *Tibetoradix cf. hookeri* from Jomolhari.

The specimens of the species are deposited at the National Invertebrate Repository Centre under the National Biodiversity Centre (NBC) in Serbithang, Thimphu.

These discoveries indicate the good health of the Bhutanese forests. The study was conducted by the National

Biodiversity Centre (NBC) in collaboration with the Naturalis Biodiversity Centre in the Netherlands and Ugyen Wangchuck Institute for Conservation and Environmental Research (UWICER). The project is funded by the National Geographic Society, BTPEC and the government.