



# India rolls out its nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive

Sita Tamang

**L**yonchhen Dr Lotay Tshering congratulated the Indian counterpart Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the people of India for the landmark launch of nationwide COVID-19 vaccination drive yesterday.

Lyonchhen said India's pursuit of securing and distributing the vaccine of such an impressive magnitude is an indication of PM Modi's display of profound and compassionate leadership in the Indian subcontinent.

The Prime Minister said: "We hope it comes as an answer to pacify all the sufferings we have endured during this pandemic. We send prayers for the good health and well being of Your Excellency (PM Narendra Modi) and the people of India."

Thanking the Prime Minister of Bhutan PM Modi tweeted that a vaccine which was earlier believed to be impossible in such a short period has now become a reality.

PM Modi also thanked the efforts of the scientists, doctors and innovators.

As India kicked-off its ambitious drive, a sanitation worker became the first Indian to receive the Covid vaccine as the country began the world's largest inoculation drive



**PM Narendra Modi**

yesterday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched the programme, which aims to vaccinate more than 1.3 billion people against the Covid. The Indian premier also paid tribute to front-line workers who will be the first to receive the jabs.

"We are launching the world's biggest vaccination drive and it shows the world of our capability," PM Modi, said, addressing the country during the launch.

India has recorded the

second-highest number of Covid-19 infections in the world after the United States.

Millions of doses of two approved vaccines - Covishield and Covaxin - were shipped across the country in the days leading up to the start of the drive.

Meanwhile, as Bhutan eagerly awaits the vaccine to arrive home the country as of yesterday recorded 842 cases of Covid-19 with 288 active cases while 553 cases has been declared as recovered and only one death reported thus far.

# "Caravan 2021 - Bhutan", a program organized to celebrate Bhutanese art and culture.



Yangchen Lhamo

**T**he Asian Literary Society in association with the Journal of Asian Art, Culture and Literature organized "Caravan 2021 -Bhutan" a program to celebrate the rich heritage of Bhutanese art, culture, and literature.

Due to the present Covid-19 scenario, this event was conducted online on 10 January.

The former education minister and the chief guest Thakur S. Powdyel delivered the inaugural address and highlighted the grandeur of Bhutanese culture.

A panel discussion on the rich heritage of Bhutanese art, culture, and literature was also organized in which the panelists Kunzang Choden an eminent writer, Gopilal Acharya a former journalist and a writer, Chablop Passu the founder of Bhutan Toilet Organization brought to light various unique aspects of Bhutanese art, culture, and literature.

The former Governor of

Sikkim Balmiki Prasad Singh and former secretary of Ministry of External Affairs of the Government of India Dr. Amarendra Khatua also shared their thoughts about Bhutan and reminiscences of their stay in the land of the thunder dragon.

In a scintillating discussion, Dr. Bishakha Sarma a linguist Anita Chand a poet spoke about various interesting facts about Bhutanese people, languages, dances, festivals, etc.

An exciting segment of "Caravan 2021 - Bhutan" program was the soulful performances of Bhutanese songs and dances by various artist including Ugyen Dema Doya, and Pranjali M Bhat.

An online art exhibition on the theme "Bhutan" was also organized by the society where various artworks were displayed.

Many Bhutanese and Indian poets and writers participated in the session on poetry recitation and storytelling.

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