

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release: Ground Breaking Ceremony “Salang Tendrel” for Gelephu Dry Port

Today, the ground breaking ceremony “Salang Tendrel” for Gelephu Dry Port was organized in Gelephu, Bhutan. Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, Minister for Economic Affairs graced the Salang Tendrel as the Chief Guest. Shri Prashant Kumar Das, Consul General, Consulate General of India, Phuentsholing also participated in the ceremony.

The construction of Gelephu Dry port is one of the infrastructure projects implemented (frontloaded) by the Department of Trade, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Royal Government of Bhutan, Thimphu in the 12 FYP and is expected to facilitate internal distribution of goods, promote cross border trade through improved cargo handling services and bring economic benefit to the central eastern and southern Dzonkhags.

The Dry port will be constructed on 26.07 acres of land at Gelephu, which is about 1 km towards Sarpang from Gelephu Thromde along the Sarpang-Gelephu Highway. The project is funded under Government of India’s Transitional Trade Support Facility Program and the construction will be executed in five work packages. The project is expected to be completed by December, 2024.

For the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan, Government of India has committed an amount of Nu. 45 billion out of which Nu 28 billion has been earmarked as Project Tied Assistance, Nu 8.5 billion is being funded for High Impact Community Development Projects/Small Development Projects and Nu. 8.5 billion is allocated as Program Grant.

The Transitional Trade Support Facility is committed over and above for an amount of Nu. 4 billion. The Transitional Trade Support Facility is being used for the development of Trade Infrastructure at Pasakha, Samtse Nganglam, Gelephu, Export Promotion and Investment Promotion, Development of Cottage and Small Industrial Estate, Enhancing Bhutan’s Ease of doing business, and developing Bhutan’s Integrated Taxation system, Integrated Business Licensing and e – customs management system. The Government of India stands resolutely committed to the well being and socioeconomic development of Bhutan in keeping with the aspirations and priorities of the people of Bhutan.

Dated: 12 July 2022