

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Press Release : Government of India provides a grant of Nu./Rs. 810.22 million towards key development projects in Bhutan

Today, Government of India has released an amount of Nu./Rs. 810.22 million to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the smooth implementation of various development projects in Bhutan. These projects are spread over diverse sectors inter alia Education, Culture, Industrial Development, Highways and Infrastructure development. This grant has been made under the Project Tied Assistance (PTA) committed by the Government of India to the Royal Government of Bhutan for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan.

Out of this grant amount, Nu./Rs. 71.5 million has been earmarked for the **Construction of a Dzong in the Sarpang Dzongkhag** that will house the offices of local administration and the district monk body. The Dzong will incorporate modern building technologies while preserving the traditional Bhutanese Architecture.

An amount of Nu./Rs. 92 million will be dedicated to the **Development of Jigmeling Industrial Park** in Sarpang. This project will create manufacturing facilities for cottage, small, medium and large industries in central Bhutan, and will provide a favourable environment for the development of private industries and socio-economic well being of the region.

India is supporting **Education Flagship Program** which is being implemented in all 20 Dzongkhags and 4 Thromdes of Bhutan. This project aims to enhance ICT skills of students, supply digital devices to schools and augment trainers' competencies in computer coding. An amount of Nu./Rs. 275 million has been released for this program. Further, for the **Construction of the Royal Institute of Law** in Paro, an amount of Nu./Rs. 168 million has been dedicated.

For the **Development of Sports Infrastructure** in seven Dzongkhags of Bhutan, Nu./Rs. 52 million is being released under the grant. This project, being implemented by the Bhutan Olympic Association, will provide the youth and the urban residents an opportunity to partake in sports and recreation.

In support to Infrastructure Development projects, an amount of Nu./Rs. 66.67 million has been released for the **Improvement of Sunkosh Dagepala Highway** and an amount of Nu./Rs. 85 million has been committed for the **Resurfacing of Samtse Tashochoeling Tendruk Road**. Both the projects would help improve the connectivity in the southern Dzongkhags of Samtse and Dagana.

For the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan, Government of India has committed a financial support of Nu./Rs. 45 billion comprising Nu./Rs. 28 billion of Project Tied Assistance, Nu./Rs. 8.5 billion of assistance towards High Impact Community Development Projects and Nu./Rs. 8.5 billion of Program Grant assistance. Since the start of the 12th plan, India has released Nu./Rs. 22.86 billion till date.

The people and the Government of India stand resolutely committed to the long term well-being and prosperity of the people and the Royal Government of Bhutan.

Dated : 30 April 2021.