

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING
BETWEEN
THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA
AND
THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN
ON
THE NEHRU-WANGCHUCK SCHOLARSHIP

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THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF INDIA (GOI) AND THE ROYAL GOVERNMENT OF BHUTAN (RGOB) (Hereafter referred to singularly as "the Party" and collectively as "the Parties");

GUIDED by a common desire to further strengthen the friendly relations between their two countries;

RECALLING the India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty 2007, in particular, its Article 7 dealing with cooperation in the field of education;

DETERMINED to expand the possibilities of fostering mutually advantageous cooperation between them in the economic, commercial, scientific, technological, educational and cultural fields;

DESIROUS of making available to the deserving Bhutanese nationals, the opportunity to undertake study at premier Indian institutions;

Have reached the following terms and conditions signed based on the principle of mutual understanding and agreement:

1. Purpose/Objective

This Memorandum of Understanding (hereinafter called the MoU) serves to set forth the areas of cooperation, obligation of the Parties, apportionment of cost and other cooperation between the Parties in the mutually agreed areas;

The "Parties" shall establish an award to be known as the 'Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship' (hereinafter designated "the scholarship"), which shall be recognized by the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India as an award created and established with the purpose of making available scholarships, open to all eligible nationals of Bhutan.

2. Areas of Cooperation and Collaboration

A. The areas of cooperation

1. The areas of cooperation shall be for undertaking studies in selected Indian universities and institutions for courses leading to graduate and postgraduate degrees/diplomas, with priorities especially accorded to postgraduate studies to be financed by funds made available by the Government of India under the terms of the present MoU.

- II. The scholarship could be used for both Undergraduate and Postgraduate professional studies in prestigious institutions in India.
- III. The budget for the management of the Scholarship will be discussed and agreed between the two Governments under the relevant Project Tied Assistance (PTA) project. The release of the budget will be as per agreed PTA mechanism between the two sides.
- IV. The Royal Civil Service Commission and Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Royal Government of Bhutan, in collaboration with the Government of India, will identify the priority areas for civil service and non-civil service respectively on annual basis for the period of the 13th Five Year Plan.

B. Award Committee

- I. Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) will form a committee drawing members from relevant Agencies for short-listing the candidates.
- II. For the purpose of identifying and selecting the recipients of the said scholarships, the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India and agree to institute an Award Committee in Bhutan consisting of a Commissioner, Royal Civil Service Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan as Chairperson, one member nominated by the Embassy of India, Chief and above from the Ministry of Education and Skills Development, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade and Chief of the Human Resource Development Division, Royal Civil Service Commission.
- III. The Award Committee shall exercise the utmost care in selecting the most deserving candidates for the scholarships. Only such candidates as are capable of meeting the rigorous scholastic demands of the premier Indian institutions shall be selected.
- IV. The Award Committee shall draw up its own rules of procedure in keeping with the clauses of this MoU. The RCSC shall provide secretariat service to the Committee.
- V. At its first meeting, the Award Committee shall also draw up the eligibility criteria, selection procedure and the general terms and conditions for the operation of the above scholarships. These would be formulated with the

consent of and in consultation with the Government of India and the authorities concerned of the Royal Government of Bhutan. Such eligibility criteria, selection procedure and the general terms and conditions for the operation of the scholarships shall be circulated at the time of inviting the applications for the scholarships each year. These may be revised as required with the consent of and in consultation with the authorities concerned of the Government of India and the authorities concerned of the Royal Government of Bhutan.

C. Administration of the scholarship

- I. The Royal Government of Bhutan, through the Royal Civil Service Commission (RCSC) shall be responsible for the administration of the scholarships.
- II. The RCSC, Royal Government of Bhutan, shall call for eligible applicants for the scholarships in conformity with the eligibility criteria, selection procedure and the general terms and conditions for the operation of the above scholarship every year.
- III. After receiving the names of selected awardees, the RCSC, Royal Government of Bhutan, would allocate the scholarships to the awardees as per the established procedure and shall facilitate further administrative requirements.
- IV. The selection of candidates shall be based strictly on merit. The proven intellectual and academic quality of a high standard would be the primary requirement. The intellectual standard sought would be very high. Beyond academic distinction, however, candidates will also be required to show the integrity of character, initiative, leadership interest in and respect for their fellow beings and a desire to work for the development of Bhutan.
- V. A list of available and eligible Graduate and Post-graduate courses at Indian Institutes and Universities shall be drawn up and circulated at the time of inviting applications for the scholarships each year. Such list shall be prepared and thereafter revised every year with the consent of and in consultation with the Government of India.
- VI. The administration of Scholarship shall be governed by the Bhutan Civil Service Rules and Regulations for the Civil Service Sectors.

3. Validity

- I. This MoU will be valid for a period of 5 years, unless amended or cancelled by the Parties based on mutual consent.
- II. The terms and validity of the present MoU shall be reviewed after every 5 years in case of requirement.

4. Termination

This MoU may be terminated by either Party, at any time, by giving two months written notice. The Parties shall mutually consult with each other to determine whether activities or programs under this MoU should be continued or not. Termination will not affect the validity of any activities or programs made under this MoU.

5. Dispute Settlement

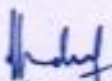
Any dispute regarding the interpretation or application of this MoU will be resolved through mutual consultation between the Parties and based on the principles of mutual understanding and respect.

6. Commencement

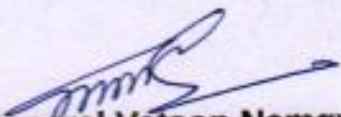
This MoU shall come into effect on the foregoing represents the understanding reached between the Parties on the matter referred to this MoU and does not create any legally binding obligations upon the parties signed at Thimphu, Bhutan on the 17th day of September 2026.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF the undersigned, being duly authorized thereto by their respective Governments, have signed the present MoU.

DONE at Thimphu in duplicate in the English language on the 17th day of September of the 2026, both texts being equally authentic.



(Mr. Sandeep Arya)
Ambassador of India to Bhutan
Government of India



(Major General Vetsop Namgyel)
Ambassador of Bhutan to India
Royal Government of Bhutan