

**Opening Remarks by Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj in connection with Talk and Screening of the film 'Sacred Buddhist Dance' by Benoy Behl on 25 May 2021**

**Kuzuzampo to all my Bhutanese and Indian friends.**

**We are delighted that you have all joined us on a digital platform for this Talk and Screening of the film 'Sacred Buddhist Dance' by Benoy Behl on the eve of *Duechen Nga Zom* or Lord Buddha's Parinirvana.**

**Of course we all know the story of Siddharth Gautam - that of an exceptional individual many centuries ago, who told us of the balance within life, who spoke of the inevitable suffering as well as the antidote, that which lies within the pursuit of everyday life.**

**The Embassy is very grateful to Benoy Behl, Buddhist scholar, Indian documentary film maker and Photographer and Art Historian known for his work in documenting the Buddhist art heritage of India and Asia. He is no stranger to Bhutan having visited this beautiful country on a previous occasion. He has also directed a critical acclaimed film *Guru Padmasambhava* which has been screened at many forums including a screening quite recently at the Embassy of India, Thimphu. So over to Benoy, as he introduces you to his experiences and learnings while**

**working on this unique project - the Cham dance, believed to have been first performed by Guru Padmasambhava, and which has also been practised by monks and lamas over centuries in both India and Bhutan.**

**And to all of my friends, I wish all of you a blessed Dhue Chen Nga Zom.**

**Tashi Delek!**