

## **Embassy of India**

### **Thimphu**

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#### **Press Release : Third Bhutan - India Development Cooperation Talks**

Today, Foreign Secretary of Bhutan, Dasho Kinga Singye and Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Smt. Ruchira Kamboj signed the Minutes of the Third Bhutan - India Development Cooperation Talks. With the signing of the Minutes, Government of India has allocated its entire commitment of Nu./Rs. 45 billion for the 12th Five Year Plan of Bhutan to various Development Projects in Bhutan. New Projects of the Royal Government will be provided support including COVID - 19 Response Project, Water Flagship Project, Development of Motanga Industrial Park and the Stray Dog and Waste Management Project.

The signing of the Minutes follow the Third India - Bhutan Development Cooperation Talks which were held on 28 June 2021 in a virtual mode. The Indian Delegation was led by Mr. Rahul Chhabra, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs and the delegation from Bhutan was led by Mr. Kinga Singye, Foreign Secretary, Royal Government of Bhutan. “The Development Assistance model between India and Bhutan is unique, in that it is based off mutual trust and mutual understanding and always off the wishes, aspirations and priorities of the Bhutanese people”, commented Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj, at the signing ceremony.

The Bilateral Development Cooperation Talks is an important bilateral mechanism to review the entire gamut of India’s Development Partnership with Bhutan. Government of India has committed Nu./Rs. 45 billion for the implementation of various Development Projects and Nu./Rs. 4 billion for the Transitional Trade Support Facility for Bhutan’s 12th Five Year Plan. 77 large and intermediate projects and 524 Small Development Projects (SDPs)/ High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDPs) are at various stages of implementation under the 12th Five Year Plan.

With Bhutan’s 12th Five Year Plan (2018-2023) completing its third year, the two sides reviewed the overall progress of the ongoing Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, as well as the SDPs/HICDPs. Bhutan’s Foreign Secretary commended India’s role in the socio-economic transformation of Bhutan and also highlighted the impact of HICDPs at the grassroots level. He also appreciated India’s gesture to front-load the release of funds for various projects, keeping in view the COVID-19 pandemic. During the talks, both sides also agreed to implement new PTA projects across various sectors including road infrastructure,

water management, industrial parks and COVID-19 management.

India deeply values its privileged partnership with Bhutan. The Indian side remains committed to continue to support Bhutan in its development efforts.

The two sides agreed to hold the next Development Cooperation Talks on a mutually agreed date. The Development Cooperation Talks were held in a friendly atmosphere in keeping with the special relationship between the two countries.

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21 September 2021