

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

**Press Release: ICCR's Generation-Next Democratic Network Programme
[25 November 2021 – 2 December 2021]**

As part of the celebrations of the 75th year of Indian Independence popularly known as the *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, the Indian Council for Cultural Relations i.e. cultural outreach arm of the Ministry of the External Affairs is organizing a 'Gen-Next Democratic Network Programme' with the visit of 75 young leaders from 75 democratic countries across the globe to India.

2. The Gen-Next Democratic Network Programme is being organized in three groups of 25 young leaders each from November 2021 onwards. In recognition of the special and privileged relations between Bhutan and India, Bhutan has been included in the first group of 7 countries from which delegations have been invited for the Gen-Next commencing from 25 November 2021 till 2 December 2021. The Bhutanese delegates will be interacting with other young leader delegates from Sweden, Jamaica, Tanzania, Sri Lanka, Poland and Uzbekistan.

3. The Embassy of India has nominated the following delegates from Bhutan to participate in the 1st group of the Gen-Next Democratic Network Programme:-

- (i) Mr. Ngawang Gyeltshen, Artist and entrepreneur
- (ii) Ms. Tshering Denkar, Blogger and creator of Denkar's Getaway
- (iii) Mr. Pashupati Diyali, Architect and lead vocalist, B4B Band
- (iv) Ms. Sonam Yangden, Writer and Youth leader

4. This Programme will enable the Young Leaders from democratic countries to have a glimpse of India, imbibe the spirit of the country's democratic tradition, visit prominent democratic institutions and be informed about developmental progress achieved by India over the past 75 years. The visit includes calls on senior India dignitaries, visit to the Parliament of India and other institutions of national importance. A visit to the Taj Mahal has been programmed as part of the itinerary for all delegates.

5. Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj briefed the four Bhutanese delegates on 18 November 2021, ahead of their departure to India for attending the Gen-Next Democratic Network Programme. She commented that the "Gen-Next Programme will include first-hand experience of various facets of Indian culture and will involve interaction of the delegates with important institutions and people who mark today's vibrant India. I am confident that the Gen-Next Programme will further strengthen the special relationship between India and Bhutan and that the Bhutanese delegates will return with unique and memorable experiences of their engagements during the visit."

23 November 2021