

India – Bhutan Relations

Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 with the appointment of a resident representative of India in Thimphu. Before this our relations with Bhutan were looked after by our Political Officer in Sikkim. The basic framework of India – Bhutan bilateral relations is the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation of 1949 between the two countries, which was updated and signed during the visit to India of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck in February 2007.

2. The updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty not only reflects the contemporary nature of our relationship but also lays the foundation for their future development in the 21st century. The Treaty provides, amongst other things, for perpetual peace and friendship, free trade and commerce, and equal justice to each other's citizens. Our bilateral political relations with Bhutan have matured over the years and are characterised by close trust and understanding and extensive cooperation in the field of economic development, particularly in the mutually beneficial sector of hydroelectric power.

High Level Visits

3. This special relationship is further sustained by the tradition of regular visits and extensive exchange of views at the highest levels between the two countries. VVIP visits from both sides are given below:

Our President's visits to Bhutan

- i. Shri V.V. Giri in April 1970 and June 1974
- ii. Shri R. Venkataraman in October 1988
- iii. Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil in November 2008

Our Prime Minister's visits to Bhutan

- i. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in 1958
- ii. Smt. Indira Gandhi in 1968
- iii. Shri Rajiv Gandhi in October 1985 and September 1988
- iv. Dr. Manmohan Singh in May 2008 (State Visit)
- v. Dr. Manmohan Singh in April 2010 (for 16th SAARC Summit)

Visit of H.M. Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan to India

- i. In February 2007 as Crown Prince
- ii. In December 2009 (State visit)
- iii. In October 2010 (to Delhi and Kolkata)
- iv. In October 2011 (State visit by H.M. the King & and H.M. the Queen, Ashi Jetsun Pema Wangchuck)

Visits of Prime Minister of Bhutan, Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley to India

- i. In July 2008
- ii. In July 2009 (to felicitate the new Government in India)
- iii. In Sept 2010 (to Bodh Gaya)
- iv. In Sept 2011 (to Kolkata)
- v. In Dec 2011 (To deliver the 4th Prof. Hiren Mukherjee Memorial Annual Parliamentary Lecture at Central Hall of Parliament in New Delhi).

4. Other high level visits can be seen at [Annexure-I](#).

5. The Royal Bhutan Consulate in Kolkata was inaugurated by the Governor of West Bengal in the presence of the Bhutanese Foreign Minister on 17 December 2009 (102nd National Day of Bhutan).

Agreements/MoUs

6. A list of Agreements and MoUs signed between India and Bhutan is given at [Annexure-II](#).

Economic Cooperation

7. Mutually beneficial economic inter-linkages between India and Bhutan have been an important element in our bilateral relations. India continues to be the largest trade and development partner of Bhutan. Planned development efforts in Bhutan began in the early 1960s. The First Five Year Plan (FYP) of Bhutan was launched in 1961. Since then, India has been extending financial assistance to Bhutan's FYPs. So far, nine Five Year Plans of Bhutan have been completed.

8. Some of the major projects in Bhutan carried out with Indian assistance in the past include 1020 MW Tala Hydroelectric Project, 336 MW Chukha Hydroelectric Project, 60 MW Kurichhu Hydroelectric Project, Penden Cement Plant, Paro Airport, Bhutan Broadcasting Station, Major Highways, Electricity Transmission and Distribution System, Indo-Bhutan Microwave Link, Exploration of Mineral Resources, and Survey and Mapping.

9. **Ninth Five-Year Plan (2002-2008):** GOI assistance to Ninth Five Year Plan (2002-08) of Bhutan was Rs. 2610.14 crore. This included Rs 907 crore for project tied assistance, Rs 820 crore as Programme grant and rest as various refunds and subsidies. Major GOI assisted projects completed in the Ninth Plan include 350 bedded JDWNR Hospital in Thimphu, Regional Referral Hospital in Mongar, Phase I of double-laning of Thimphu-Phuentsholing road, double laning of Paro-Chuzom road, construction of 10 new schools, 306 low income housing units, Renovation of Semtokha Dzong, two Youth Centres, RENEW Centre, Human Resource Development, Telecommunications and projects in agriculture and allied sectors. GOI also funded feasibility studies for establishing rail linkages between border towns of India and Bhutan.

10. **Tenth Five –Year Plan (2008-13):** The Government of India committed assistance worth Rs. 3400 crores during the 10th FYP. This includes Project tied Assistance (Rs 2000 crore for about 70 projects in key socio-economic sectors such as agriculture, ICT, media, health/ hospitals, education/ schools, capacity building, energy, culture and infrastructure etc), Programme Grant (Rs 700 cr.) and the Small Development Projects (Rs 700 cr.). During his address to the Joint Session of the Bhutanese Parliament in May 2008, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh informed that the total bilateral economic engagement with Bhutan over the next five years to be of the order of Rs./ Nu. 100 billion. Some of the important projects being executed under the 10th Plan include construction of Supreme Court, strengthening of Constitutional Officers such as Royal Audit Authority, Election Commission, anti-Corruption Commission and Attorney General, renovation of major Dzongs, preparation of DPRs for major power projects, widening of major roads, scholarships and expansion of tertiary educational institutions. The regular Project Monitoring Committee (PMC) meetings and Plan Talks comprising concerned GOI and RGoB members are held regularly to monitor implementation of various projects.

11. **Mega Projects:** In addition to the GOI assistance mentioned in the above para, GOI also provides support to Bhutan to develop various other developmental projects known as mega projects due to their size.

12. Bilateral cooperation in the hydropower sector has been carried forward with the formal inauguration of the 60 MW Kurichhu Hydroelectric project in April 2006, and commissioning of the 170 MW first unit of 1020 TALA Hydroelectric Project in July 2006. All six units have been commissioned by end March 2007. GOI has agreed to provide assistance to Bhutan in developing the hydropower sector and to purchase at least 10,000 MW of power from Bhutan by 2020. For the purpose ten hydropower projects have been agreed during the first Empowered Joint Group (EJG) Meeting held in Delhi in March 2009. Of these 10 projects, the three projects – Punatsangchhu-I Hydro Electric Project, Punatsangchhu –II and Mangedechhu HEPs – are under construction. For 4 projects viz., the Kholongchhu HEP, Amochhu Reservoir, Wangchu RoR and Bunakha Reservoir projects, respective PSUs have submitted DPRs to the two governments for approval. For remaining 3 projects - the Kuri Gongri HEP , the Chamkharchhu-I HEP and Sankosh Reservoir Hydroelectric Project (HEP) - DPRs are expected to be finalised by 2012.

13. GOI is also committed to the establishment of a 1 million tonne cement project, Dungsum Cement Plant at Nganglam. The project is under construction and is expected to be operational by early 2012. During his visit to Bhutan Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced the construction of the first ever rail link between India and Bhutan, connecting Hashimara to Phuentsholing, called the “Golden Jubilee Rail Line”. The technical studies on the alignment of the rail line have started. RITES has, however, encountered problems from the owners of Tea Gardens which fall on the proposed railway line. Ministry of Railways along with the Government of West Bengal are trying to resolve the issue. During PM’s visit to Bhutan in April 2010 for the 16th SAARC Summit, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh and the Prime Minister Jigmi Y. Thinley jointly laid the Foundation Stones for the Punatsangchhu –II and Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Projects (HEPs) and the Project ‘Bhutan Institute of Medical Sciences (BIMS)’, and launched the Project Implementation Document for the ICT Project “Chipen Rigphel – Enabling A Society, Empowering A Nation” (Total Solutions Project).

14. **Standby credit facility:** GoI has extended a standby credit facility of Rs 300 crores to RGoB in March 2009 to help Bhutan overcome rupee liquidity crunch.

Trade with India

15. India is not only Bhutan's main development partner but also its leading trade partner. A free trade regime exists between India and Bhutan. The India-Bhutan Trade and Commerce Agreement which expired in March 2005, has been renewed for a period of 10 years. Currently, the major items of exports from Bhutan to India are electricity (from Tala, Chukha and Kurichhu Hydroelectric Project), base metals and articles, minerals, vegetable fat and oils, alcoholic beverages, chemicals, cement, timber and wood products, cardamom, fruit products, potatoes, oranges and apples, raw silk, plastic and rubber products. Major exports from India to Bhutan are petroleum products, mineral products, base metals and articles, machinery, automobiles & spares, vegetable, nuts, spices, processed food and animal products, chemicals, wood, plastic and rubber. The Agreement on Trade and Commerce also provides for duty free transit of Bhutanese merchandise for trade with third countries. Sixteen exit/entry points in India identified in the Protocol for Bhutan's third country trade are: Jaigaon, Chamurchi, Ulta Pani, Hathisar (Gelephu), Darranga, Kolkata, Haldia, Dhubri, Raxaul, Panitanki, Changrabandh, Phulbari, Dawki, New Delhi, Chennai and Mumbai. Of these, Kolkata, Haldia, Mumbai and Chennai are the designated seaports, Dhubri is the riverine route, New Delhi, Chennai, Mumbai and Kolkata are the air routes and Raxaul is the rail route. The others are the designated road routes.

16. During 2010, imports from India were of the order of Rs. 2930 crores and constituted 75% of Bhutan’s total imports. Bhutan’s exports to India in 2010 amounted to Rs. 2600 crores and constituted 90% of its total exports. Total trade in 2010 grew by about 26% from 2009.

[Rupees in Billion]

Year	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
Exports to Bhutan (Imports from India)	6.98	7.58	10.26	10.19	12.80	13.05	15.09	17.33	23.3	29.30
Imports from Bhutan (Exports to India)	4.70	5.13	5.92	7.76	9.97	14.48	22.72	21.48	20.5	26.00

Source: Royal Monetary Authority, RGoB

17. **Trade Talks:** The India Bhutan Bilateral Trade Talks were held in New Delhi on 18-19 August 2011. At the request of RGoB, GoI has agreed to the use of Dalu LCS (land custom station) and Ghasuapara LCS (both in Meghalaya) as additional exit/ entry points for Bhutan's trade with Bangladesh. Ghasuapara LCS will be used only as exit point for Bhutan for the present till the necessary infrastructure in place for it to be used as entry point also. In addition, 4 additional entry/ exit points for India-Bhutan bilateral trade – Upper Khogla (West Bengal), Dalmore or Birpara (West Bengal), Bokajuli (Assam) and Rangapani (Assam) – have also been agreed. GoI also agreed to open two alternate routes to industrial estates in the border towns of Phuentsholing (from Highway at Bolan Chaupati, near Mangalabari in Jalpaiguri district (WB) to Alay village at border near Toribari/ Pasakha industrial estate of Bhutan) and Samdrup Jongkhar (road from Bokajuli in Daranga (Assam) up to Matanga industrial estate, Samdrup Jongkhar). Pursuant to these talks, GOI has issued notification allowing Bhutanese passengers duty free access at Indian airports, as well as exempting exports to Bhutan from any export bans in India on some essential items subject to limits.

18. Several important economic and commercial conferences and trade fairs and exhibitions have been held in Bhutan and in India to further our bilateral economic and commercial relations. For details, please see [Annexure-III](#).

Educational and Cultural Cooperation

19. There is close bilateral cooperation in the educational and cultural fields between India and Bhutan. India provides technical expertise and services of specialists to Bhutan in various fields.

- Government of India's scholarships are granted to 85 Bhutanese students at undergraduate level and 77 at postgraduate level every year in Indian Institutions of higher learning.
- ITEC /TCS of Colombo Plan (80 slots) training slots are provided to Bhutan every year.
- Ambassador's scholarships are granted to meritorious and deserving students for studies in India.
- Ten Bhutanese students are admitted to Sainik schools in India and all expenditure is borne by the GOI.
- During his visit to Bhutan, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh announced the government of India's decision to institute a Nehru-Wangchuck Scholarship to encourage students from Bhutan to study in leading Indian universities and institutions. The scholarship has already been implemented.

20. A large number of Bhutanese students study in Indian schools and colleges on private basis. To facilitate this, the Education Consultants of India Limited held a seminar- cum-counselling Session in Bhutan in May 2007 for the benefit of Bhutanese students desirous of pursuing further studies in India. Bhutan's Sherubtse College is affiliated to Delhi University. About 30 India-based lecturers are posted to this College under the TCS of Colombo Plan.

21. **Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre:** Dr. Karan Singh, President, Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR), GoI, and Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, RGoB jointly inaugurated the “Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre” at Thimphu on 21st September 2010.

22. **India-Bhutan Foundation (IBF):** India-Bhutan Foundation was established in August 2003 during the visit to India of the present King and the then Crown Prince with the aim to enhance people to people exchanges in the focus areas i.e. education, cultural exchanges and environment preservation. Ambassadors of Bhutan and India are the co-Chairpersons of India- Bhutan Foundation. GoI has contributed Rs 5 crore as main corpus amount for IBF with a matching contribution from RGoB. IBF supported in holding of the first ever seminar between India and Bhutan on the Gross Nation Happiness (GNH) from 11-12 March 2010 in Thimphu. The seminar was organized by the Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS) and Seminar Education Foundation (SEF) of India. India-Bhutan Foundation also sponsored a Literary Festival “Mountain Echoes”, which was organized by ‘Siyahi’, a leading literacy consultancy in India in Bhutan from 17-20 May, 2010. This was the first ever India-Bhutan Literary Festival, in which leading authors, publishers and poets from both sides including renowned personalities such as Gulzar, Chetan Bhagat, Sanjay Hazarika, Patrick French etc participated. The Festival was inaugurated by Her Majesty, the Queen Mother, and Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley delivered the key note address focusing on GNH. The second series of the Literary Festival “Mountain Echoes” was held in Bhutan from 20-24 May 2011.

23. The cooperation was not only limited to official exchanges between the two governments. The people-to-people contacts were also diversified. Annexure-IV provides details of important bilateral events and activities held in area of art and culture.

Election Commissions

24. The institutional cooperation has been formalised through signing of an MoU between the two Election Commissions during the visit of our Chief Election Commissioner in May 2006. Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan visited India earlier in Feb 2006 and recently in January 2010 and May 2009. Several teams of officials from the Election Commission of Bhutan including Dzongdas (District Collectors) and Dzongkhag (district) officials have visited India to observe various state and local elections. India has extended full assistance to Bhutan in formulating its election laws.

25. Government of India also provided a grant of Rs 47.506 million to Royal Government of Bhutan to source electronic voting machines from India. Several Election Observers from India visited Bhutan during the National Council Elections and two rounds of mock elections. Government of India also provided helicopters during the National Council elections to transfer election officials and equipment to remote areas.

26. MOU for cooperation between the Election Commissions of India and Bhutan was renewed during the visit to Bhutan by CEC D. S.Y. Quraishi. Chief Election Commissioner, Shri Navin Chawla visited Bhutan in October 2009. A four member delegation from the Election Commission of India led by Chief Election Commissioner, Shri N. Gopaldaswami visited Bhutan to observe the National Assembly Elections in March 2008. Shri Shyam Saran, Special Envoy of Prime Minister and former Foreign Secretary, and Shri Salman Haider former Foreign Secretary visited Bhutan as Election Observers from the GoI in March 2008.

27. The Government of India also facilitated holding of a workshop in Thimphu for senior bureaucrats in Bhutan on ‘Democratic Constitutional Monarchy’ with eminent civil servants from India acting as resource persons. Specific Election Coverage Training programmes were also organized for journalists from both public and privately owned media in Bhutan with the help of External Publicity Division which was well appreciated in Bhutan.

Interaction between the two Parliaments

28. The officials of the Bhutanese Parliament have been attending various training programmes conducted by the Bureau of Parliamentary Studies and Training (BPST) in the Indian Parliament. BPST has also organized Orientation Programmes for Members of the Bhutanese Parliament. Speaker of the Bhutanese Parliament Lyonpo Jigme Tshultim visited India during August-September 2008. During the visit, he extended an invitation to our Speaker to visit Bhutan. Speaker, Lok Sabha, Smt. Meira Kumar, led an Indian Parliamentary delegation to Bhutan from 26-29 May 2010. The delegation included the Leader of Opposition, Smt. Sushma Swaraj, Dr. (Kum). Girija Vyas, MP, Shri Vishwa Mohan Kumar, MP and Secretary General and other officials from Lok Sabha Secretariat. This was the first visit of an Indian Speaker to Bhutan. During the visit, it was agreed to constitute a Parliamentary Friendship Group to promote regular exchange of Parliamentarians from both the sides. The speaker attended the opening ceremony of the 5th session of Parliament of Bhutan and addressed the Joint Session of Parliament. Both sides agreed to sign an MOU on Parliamentary cooperation. Parliamentary Friendship Groups have been formed in the Parliaments of both countries. Bhutanese Speaker visited India from 9-12 July 2011 for SAARC Speaker's Conference. An MOU between the two Parliaments has been signed between the two sides during the visit of Bhutanese Speaker to India from 23-26 Nov 2011.

Indian Community

29. Foreign residents / workers in Bhutan are estimated at about 37,000 (RGoB figures), the bulk of which are Indian nationals, excluding day workers which number around 7000.

March 2012

High Level Visits between India and Bhutan**From India to Bhutan**

S. No.	Name	Date	Purpose
1.	Addl. Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests	27-29 Sept. 2011	9 th Meeting of the SAARC Environment Ministers
2.	Secretary, Ministry of Environment & Forests	November 2011	Climate Summit for Living Himalayas
3.	Dr. S.Y. Quraishi, CEC	16-19 Sept. 2011	MOU for cooperation between the Election Commissions of India and Bhutan was renewed.
4.	Prof. D.P. Agrawal, Chairman, UPSC	8-11 Sept. 2011	MOU for cooperation between the UPSC of India and the RCSC of Bhutan was renewed.
5.	Foreign Secretary	August 2011	
6.	Home Minister	22-23 July 2011	For 4 th SAARC Home/Interior Ministers Conference
7.	EAM and FS	February 2011	led a delegation of senior officials of MEA and MHA and 20-member media contingent for 33 rd Session of the SAARC Council of Ministers and Secretary and Official level meetings
8.	Smt. Meira Kumar, Speaker, Lok Sabha	May 2010	
9.	Dr. Karan Singh, President, ICCR	Sept. 2010	For inauguration of the Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre, the Cultural Wing of the Embassy
10.	Shri Tarun Gogoi, Chief Minister of Assam and Shri Digvijay Singh, General Secretary, Congress	9-12 August 2011	For the Conference on Happiness and Economic Development
11.	Shri Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar	May 2011	
12.	Shri Shivshankar Menon, National Security Adviser to PM	April 2011	
13.	Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, Minister of State for Defence, GOI, Lt. Gen. S. Ravishankar, DG, Boarder Roads Organisation	April 2011	DANTAK's golden jubilee celebrations
14.	Shri Namo Narain Meena, Minister of State for Finance, GOI	22-24 August 2010	For the 4 th meeting of SAARC Finance Ministers
15.	Dr. M.M. Pallam Raju, MOS for Defence	24-26 April 2011	For DANTAK's Golden jubilee celebrations
16.	Shri Shivshankar Menon, NSA	21-22 April 2011	
17.	Shri Shivshankar Menon and Smt. Nirupama Rao, Foreign	13-14 August 2010	

	Secretary		
18.	Dr. D. Subbarao, Governor of RBI	June 2010	For the 39 th Board of Directors meeting of the Asian Clearing Union
19.	Shri K.M. Chandrasekhar, Cabinet Secretary/ Shri R.K. Pachauri, Chairman, IPCC	March 2010	
20.	Shri U.N. Panjiar, Secretary, Ministry of Water Resources	July 2010	
21.	Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Adviser to PM	November 2009	
22.	Shri Pawan Kumar Bansal, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Water Resources	October 2009	To attend the International Conference on 'Deepening and Sustaining Democracy in Asia
23.	Shri P. Chidambaram, Home Minister	August 2009	first ever visit of any Indian Home Minister to Bhutan
24.	External Affairs Minister (EAM) Shri S.M. Krishna	June 2009	First official visit abroad after assuming office
25.	Shri Pranab Mukherjee, former External Affairs Minister	November 2008, July 2007 and December 2006	
26.	Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Minister of Power	December 2008	
27.	Shri Shyam Saran, Special Envoy to PM on Climate Change	July 2009	
28.	Shri Navin Chawla, former Chief Election Commissioner	October 2009	
29.	Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller and Auditor General of India	September 2009	
31.	Smt Nirupama Rao, former Foreign Secretary	September 2009	First official visit abroad after assuming office
32.	Shri M.K. Narayanan, National Security Advisor to PM	November 2009	
33.	Shri Shivshankar Menon, former Foreign Secretary	November, May and February 2008 and February 2009	
34.	Shri Wajahat Habibullah, Chief Information Commissioner	October 2007 and May 2009	

From Bhutan to India

1.	Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley	November 2008	For the 2 nd BIMSTEC Summit in New Delhi in November 2008
2.	Prime Minister Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley	February 2010	Private visit for the Tenth Sustainable Development Summit and the Global Excellence Awards
3.	Lyonpo Minjur Dorji , Home Minister	February 2011 and October 2010	For the IIC Festival
4.	Lyonpo Nandlal Rai, Minister of Information and Communications, RGoB	August 2011	To participate in the NAASCOM-BPO Strategy Summit in Bangalore

5.	Lyonpo Ugyen Tshering, Foreign Minister	January/February 2010	
6.	Lyonpo Khandu Wangchuk, Minister for Economic Affairs	September 2011, February 2011, January, Oct. and November 2010, January and March 2009	
7.	Lyonpo Pema Gyamtsho, Minister for Agriculture and Forests	February 2011	
8.	Lyonpo Zangley Dukpa, Health Minister	August 2011, January, July and November 2010, November and September 2008	
9.	Lyonpo Wangdi Norbu, Finance Minister, RGoB	November and December 2011	
10.	Dasho Kunzang Wangdi, Chief Election Commissioner of Bhutan	January 2010 and October 2011	
11.	Her Majesty Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuk, the Queen Mother of Bhutan	18-25 January 2010 and 9-24 January 2012	For Jaipur Literary Festival
12.	HM Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, the Queen Mother of Bhutan (Q4)	4-15 December 2011	To attend the Golden Jubilee celebrations at the National Institute of Design as Chief Guest
13.	Lyonpo Yeshey Zimba, Minister for Works and Human Settlement	January 2010	To Gujarat to attend international seminar on Buddhist Heritage
14.	Lyonpo Jigme Tshultim, Speaker of the National Assembly	August- September 2008 and July and November 2011	
15.	Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye, First Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Bhutan	June 2010, September and December 2011	
16.	Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications	March and May 2010	
17.	Foreign Secretary	February and September 2010	
18.	Home Secretary	September 2011	

List of Agreements and MoUs signed between India and Bhutan

S. No.	Nam of MoU/Agreement	Date/Year of Signing
1.	MoU for Nehru Wangchuck Scholarship	June, 2009
2.	Air Services Agreement.	22-12-2009
3.	Co-operation on Search and Rescue Services	22-12-2009
4.	Consultancy Services for preparation of National Transmission Grid Master Plan for Bhutan.	22-12-2009
5.	Preparation of DPR for Kholongchhu Hydroelectricity Project(486MW) in Bhutan.	22-12-2009
6.	Preparation of DPR for Amochhu Reservoir Hydroelectricity Project(620) in Bhutan.	22-12-2009
7.	Preparation of DPR for Chamkharchhu-I Hydroelectricity Project(670) in Bhutan.	22-12-2009
8.	Preparation of DPR for Kuri-Gongri Hydroelectricity Project(1800) in Bhutan.	22-12-2009
9.	Technical Assistance to National Environment Commission Secretariat, RGoB	22-12-2009
10.	Development of the Bhutan Institute of Medical Science(BIMS) at Thimphu	22-12-2009
11.	Development of ICT in Bhutan	22-12-2009
12.	Collaborative project on seed technology in Bhutan for Harmonization of seed testing and standards among SAARC countries.	22-12-2009
13.	Drug Demand Reduction and prevention of illicit trafficking in narcotic drugs, psychotropic substances and precursor chemicals and related matters.	22-12-2009
14.	Implementation Agreements for Punatsangchhu-II and Mangdechhu HEPs.	April, 2010
15.	MoU for cooperation between the Election commissions of India and Bhutan	reviewed in September 2011
16.	MoU between UPSC and RCSC	renewed in September 2011
17.	Updated India-Bhutan Friendship Treaty	February 2007
18.	Agreement laying down the framework for cooperation in the field of hydropower and the Protocol to the Agreement	July 2006 and 2009

Important economic and commercial conferences and trade fairs and exhibitions etc.

- Coinciding with the Coronation and centenary events a trade fair known as the 5th India Trade Show in December 2008 which witnessed participation by many Indian companies including from the North East.
- Coinciding with the SAARC Car Rally, a conference on 'ICT for sustainable and inclusive development in SAARC' was held in Thimphu on 19th March 2007.
- A Workshop for SAARC countries on Applications of Tele-health to Service Delivery in Public Health and Environment was organized by the Ministry of Health, RGoB in collaboration with the School of Telemedicine and Biomedical Informatics, Sanjay Gandhi Post Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGIMS), Lucknow in Thimphu from 27-31 July 2009.
- Over 40 Indian companies, organised by the Indian Trade Promotion Organisation (ITPO), participated in the 9th SAARC Trade Fair held in Thimphu from 11-14 September 2009.
- About 50 Bhutanese and 45 Indian companies participated in the Bhutan-India Regional Friendship Trade Fair held in Gelephu from 8-12 January 2010.
- About 16 Indian and 13 Bhutanese companies in areas of automobiles, handlooms, handicrafts, electronics, furniture, agricultural products and food items participated in the 2nd Bhutan India Regional Friendship Trade Fair (BIRFTF) 2011 held from 28 January -1 February, 2011 in Phuentsholing.
- The 3rd Bhutan India Relation Friendship Trade Fair was held in Gelephu from 20-26 January 2012.
- Bhutanese companies participated in the 30th & 31st India International Trade Fair held in New Delhi in November 2010 and 2011.
- A Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) team of businessmen/industrialists visited Bhutan in July 2007 and in August 2009.
- A business delegation from Bhutan led by Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, visited India on invitation of GOI in January 2008 to participate in the CII Partnership Summit in New Delhi. It also visited important business organisations and institutions in Mumbai, Bangalore and Kolkata. A seminar- cum-workshop on business opportunities in Bhutan was also organised in Delhi during the above visit.
- A Bhutanese delegation led by Secretary, MoEA, RGoB and comprising officials from MoEA, Tourism Council of Bhutan and Bhutan Chamber of Commerce & Industry visited Kolkata and Mumbai from September 28 to 2nd October, 2010 for conducting the Investment Road Show in order to attract Indian investors to invest in Bhutan following the recent release of RGoB's Economic Development and revised FDI Policies.
- A 30 member delegation from NASSCOM visited Bhutan in November 2008 during which NIIT agreed to establish a Centre of Excellence at the College of Science and Technology in Bhutan and Infosys agreed to train 100 Bhutanese students every year.
- Druk-PNB, the first FDI joint venture bank in Bhutan with PNB holding 51 per cent in the joint venture, opened on January 27.
- A Construction Expo and Trade Expo (held by M/s Leo Advertising, India in collaboration with BCCI) were held in 2010. BCCI also organised 'Spring Consumer Expo' and '1st International Education Fair' in Thimphu in March/ April 2011, in which a number of Indian companies participated.
- About 50 Indian companies participated in the five-day international trade fair organized by the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry from 3-7 September 2010 in Thimphu.
- The first ever Young Presidents Organisation (YPO), Mumbai Chapter, and perhaps the most powerful ever business delegation was in Bhutan during April 7-10, 2011. A number of YPO

members, especially involved in sectors like chemicals, tourism, education, etc. evinced keen interest for further follow up to concretize interaction with Bhutan.

- A 13-member CII delegation led by Mr. S. Sen, Principal Advisor, CII visited Bhutan from 21-23 July 2011. The companies were in areas of hydropower, tourism, agricultural equipment, food processing and quality, education and city waste management. The visit was organized by the Bhutan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), as per the MOU signed between CII and BCCI.

Important events in the field of Art and Culture

- Bhutan participated in the First Exhibition of SAARC Museum of Textiles and Handicrafts (Textile Traditions of South Asia), Seminar – Festival of South Asian Folklore, SAARC Fusion of Music Bands, SAARC Food Festival and SAARC School Students and University Students Exchange Programme organized in December 2007.
- A Kathak dance troupe led by Mrs. Aditi Mangaldas invited by the Embassy in August 2009 gave performances at various places in Bhutan.
- The renowned sitarist Mr. Shujaat Hussain Khan and his troupe (sponsored by ICCR) gave performance at the Embassy auditorium on the occasion of Independence Day 2010.
- Kathak dance was performed by Sharmishtha Mukherjee and a photographic exhibition entitled 'Buddhism in India' by Sondeep Shankar was inaugurated at NWCC in Thimphu during the inauguration ceremony of NWCC on 21 September 2010.
- The Embassy, in collaboration with ICCR, opened its Cultural Wing, entitled “Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre (NWCC)” at Thimphu. The Centre was jointly inaugurated by Dr. Karan Singh, President, ICCR and Lyonpo Minjur Dorji, Minister for Home and Cultural Affairs, RGoB on 21st September 2010. The inauguration was followed by a cultural programme (classical Kathak dance performed by Sharmishtha Mukherjee), and thereafter, a photographic exhibition entitled 'Buddhism in India' by Sondeep Shankar was opened by Dr. Karan Singh and Lyonpo Minjur Dorji.
- Around 40 vehicles took part in the 4th Indo-Bhutan Friendship car rally with the theme ‘connecting people of India and Bhutan’ from 2-5 March 2011. The rally took off from Guwahati and reached Thimphu via Samdrup Jongkhar, Mongar and Trongsa. The rally is being organized by the Friendship Car Rally Association with support from Bhutan - India Friendship Association and India-Bhutan Foundation. The rally was first started in 2007 and since then has been an annual affair.
- On the occasion of the Independence Day on 15 August 2011, H.M. the Queen Mother, Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, H.E. Lyonchhen Jigmi Y. Thinley, Prime Minister of Bhutan and Ambassador Pavan K. Varma jointly released a Postal Stamp and Souvenir Sheet commemorating the visit of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Bhutan in September 1958. This was followed by a performance by fusion band from Nagaland, “Abiogenesis”. The visit was sponsored by ICCR.
- The Embassy on 10th October 2011 hosted a cultural evening followed by dinner to celebrate the wedding of His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan and Ashi Jetsun Pema (the wedding took place on 13 Oct 2011). The cultural performance included traditional welcome songs by Manganiar singers from Rajasthan and a dance presentation showcasing three classical dance forms of India – Kathak, Odissi and Bharatnatyam.
- The first ever seminar between India and Bhutan on the Gross Nation Happiness (GNH) was held from 11-12 March 2010 in Thimphu. The seminar was organized by the Centre for Bhutan Studies (CBS) and Seminar Education Foundation (SEF) of India with the support from India-Bhutan Foundation.
- A Literary Festival “Mountain Echoes” was held in Bhutan from 17-20 May, 2010. The festival, sponsored by the India-Bhutan Foundation, was organized by ‘Siyahi’, a leading literacy consultancy in India. Her Majesty, the Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, was patron of the Festival. This was the first ever India-Bhutan Literary Festival organized in Bhutan with the aim to provide a platform for authors from both countries to engage in a cultural dialogue and celebrate tales of shared landscape in the Himalayan region. About 35 leading authors, publishers and poets from India participated at the Festival. The participants from Indian side included Gulzar, Chetan Bhagat, Sanjay Hazarika, Patrick French etc, and from the Bhutanese side, Dasho Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan Studies, Dasho Kinley

Dorji, Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communications, Sonam Kinga, Siok Sian Dorji etc. participated. The Festival was inaugurated by Her Majesty, the Queen Mother on 17th May 2010. Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley delivered the key note address focusing on GNH.

- The second series of the Literary Festival “Mountain Echoes” was held in Bhutan from 20-24 May 2011. About 60 leading authors, publishers, poets, film and media personalities from India and Bhutan participated at the festival. The noted participants from Indian side included Aman Nath, Anita Roy, David Davidar, Imtiaz Ali, Indrajit Hazra, Kai Bird, Laila Tyabji, Malvika Singh, Namita Gokhale, R. Madhavan, Roham Sippy, and Ambassador Pavan K. Varma and from the Bhutanese side these included Dasho Karma Ura, (President, Centre for Bhutan Studies), Dasho Sonam Kinga (Member of Parliament), Dasho Kinley Dorji (Secretary, Ministry of Information and Communication), Siok Sian Pek Dorji (Executive Director, Centre for Media and Democracy), Namgay Zam (Journalist), Kunzang Choden (Writer), Lily Wangchuk (Writer and CEO, Bhutan Media Foundation) and Gopilal Acharya (Journalist and Writer). Her Majesty Queen Mother Ashi Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck, the Chief Royal Patron of the Literary Festival, along with the Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchen Jigmi Y. Thinley and Ambassador Pavan K Varma, inaugurated the festival on 20 May 2011. H.M. Queen Mother delivered the inaugural address and Ambassador gave the welcome address. This was followed by a dance performance by Sharmistha Mukherjee based on Tagore’s songs (as a tribute to Guru Rabindranath Tagore on the occasion of his 150th birth anniversary).