

India-Bhutan relations

Diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan were established in 1968 with the establishment of a special office of India in Thimphu. The basic framework of India- Bhutan bilateral relations is the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation signed in 1949 between the two countries and revised in February 2007. The Golden Jubilee of the establishment of formal diplomatic relations between India and Bhutan was celebrated in the year 2018.

India and Bhutan share a unique and time tested bilateral relationship, characterized by utmost trust, goodwill and mutual understanding. The special relationship has been sustained by a tradition of regular high level visits and dialogues between the two countries.

Government of India has consistently supported the socio-economic development of Bhutan. Hydro-power cooperation between the two countries is an example of win-win cooperation.

India is Bhutan's largest trading partner. In 2018, total bilateral trade between the two countries stood at Rs. 9227.7 crores. Major exports from India to Bhutan are mineral products, machinery and mechanical appliances, electrical equipments, base metals, vehicles, vegetable products, plastics and articles. The major items of export from Bhutan to India are electricity, ferro-silicon, portland cement, dolomite, carbides of calcium carbides of silicon, cement clinkers, timber and wood products, potatoes, cardamom and fruit products.

India is the most popular educational destination for Bhutanese students -almost 4000 Bhutanese students are enrolled in Indian Universities at any time, many of whom are also provided scholarship by Govt. of India.

There are vibrant cultural exchanges between the two countries. A number of Bhutanese pilgrims travel to holy Buddhists sites in India. Reflecting the special nature of the relationship, the two countries share an open border with regular exchange of travelers in both directions for work, tourism, shopping, medical care etc.

Recent visits

List of visits from Indian Side to Bhutan (Since January 2018) (President, Prime Minister and External Affairs Minister)

Sr. No.	Visit	Date
1	External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar visited Bhutan.	07-08 June, 2019
2	Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi paid a State Visit to Bhutan.	17-18 August 2019

List of visits from Bhutanese Side to India (Since January 2018) (His Majesty the King, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister)

Sr. No.	Visit	Date
1	Prime Minister, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay visited Assam, India.	1-4 February, 2018
2	Foreign Minister, Lyonpo Damcho Dorji visited India.	20-23 February, 2018
3	His Majesty Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuck, the King of Bhutan visited India to attend the State Funeral of the former Prime Minister of India, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee.	17 August, 2018
4	Prime Minister, Lyonchhen (Dr.) Lotay Tshering undertook his first official visit to India at the invitation of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,	27-29 December, 2018
5	Lyonchhen (Dr.) Lotay Tshering visited India to attend Swearing-in-Ceremony of PM Shri. Narendra Modi.	30 May-01 June, 2019

Useful Resources:

Embassy of India, Thimphu Website:

<https://www.indembthimphu.gov.in/index.php>

Embassy of India, Thimphu Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/IndiainBhutan/>

Embassy of India, Thimphu Twitter account (India in Bhutan @Indiainbhutan)

<https://twitter.com/indiainbhutan?lang=en>

Embassy of India, Thimphu- You tube channel (Embassy of India in Bhutan)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC4kNze8j609kDjiXZH3anFQ>

Nehru -Wnagchuck Cultural Centre, Embassy of India, Thimphu, Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/NehruWangchuckCulturalCentre/>

National Portal of Bhutan

<http://www.bhutan.gov.bt/>

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