

Embassy of India

Thimphu

Inauguration of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Lab in Rinchen Kuenphen Primary School, Thimphu.

In partnership with the Ministry of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan, India is supporting Bhutan's **Education Flagship Program** which aims at developing ICT curriculum and creating ICT infrastructure in schools across Bhutan. Today, an ICT lab in Rinchen Kuenphen Primary School, Thimphu was inaugurated by Lyonpo Jai Bir Rai, Minister of Education, Royal Government of Bhutan. The ICT lab, equipped with 34 computers, will enhance the students' access to digital resources and enable the integration of ICT in teaching and learning of students. Under the Education Flagship Program, the teachers will also be trained in using ICT tools in the classroom and the existing grade 4 to grade 10 curriculum will be updated to incorporate new disciplines such as coding.

Bhutan - India cooperation in the domain of education is spread over various projects. Under the 12th Five Year Plan, merit based **Undergraduate Scholarships** are being provided to 375 students to pursue undergraduate studies in India. Under India's Project Tied Assistance (PTA) scheme, a project for the **Professional Development of Teachers** is being implemented across all 20 *Dzongkhags*. Further, a PTA project called **Existing Central Schools** is being implemented to create centres of excellence in 58 schools spread across Bhutan. To provide benefits of modern education to children in remote and inaccessible areas, children of nomadic communities and migrant populations as well as children with learning disabilities, a program to establish **20 Boarding Primary Schools** is being implemented by various *Dzongkhags* with India's support.

To complement Bhutan's efforts at digital transformation and e-learning, Government of India has implemented the **E-Library Project in Bhutan**. The project includes the development of an e - library portal, establishment of a data centre in Thimphu Tech Park, creation and management of e- content and creation of e - libraries in 49 schools and 12 colleges in each district of Bhutan. Additionally, a peering arrangement called **NKN-DrukREN** between India's National Knowledge Network (NKN) and Bhutan's Druk Research and Education network (DRUKREN) has created a free information highway between universities, research institutions, libraries, health-care and agricultural institutions of the two countries, benefitting 28 DrukREN members and more than 6000 users.

Government of India is honoured to be a part of Bhutan's pursuit of modernising education to the benefit of its citizens, in line with the vision of His Majesty the King of Bhutan as enunciated in the Royal Kasho on Education Reforms. As digital increasingly becomes the new normal, India stands ready to extend its support to help Bhutan achieve its full potential through digital inclusion and connectivity.

31 July 2021