

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Press Release: India-Bhutan Cooperation on Cyber Security

1. As a part of the Government of India's 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' (India@75) celebrations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, the Indian Embassy – in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs [*States Division*], Government of India; the Government of Karnataka [*Department of Electronics, Information Technology, Biotechnology and Science & Technology*]; and the Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan – organised a virtual workshop today on Cyber Security.

2. Government officials at the event included Ms. Meena Nagaraj (IAS), Director, Department of Electronics, IT & Bt, Government of Karnataka; Mr. Jigme Tenzing, Director, Department of Information Technology and Telecom, Ministry of Information and Communications, Royal Government of Bhutan; and Ms. Dechen Chhoeden, Deputy ICT Officer, [Bhutan Computer Incident Response Team \(BtCIRT\)](#).

3. Speaking at the event, the Embassy's Deputy Chief of Mission Mr. Niteen Subhash Yeola said that "This workshop is a useful platform for sharing knowledge in the area of cyber security with particular focus on tech startups. Our aim is to connect leading tech centres and startups of Karnataka – the premier IT hub of India – with counterparts in Bhutan".

4. Mr. Karthik Rao Bappanad, Head of the [K-Tech Centre of Excellence for Cyber Security](#), Karnataka (CySeck) presented an overview of the centre, on the importance of cybersecurity, and ways to build cybersecurity capacity in the government sector. Ms. Lakshmi Das, COO of [Prophaze](#), a startup which helps its clients improve their web application cybersecurity and reduce costs through AI automation.

5. About 150 entrepreneurs and officials from Bhutan participated at the event, including ICT functionaries from the RGoB Ministries, Dzongkhags (districts), Royal Bhutan Police, Thromdes (municipalities), banking & financial institutions, leading companies, etc.

6. The Embassy had earlier organized a virtual workshop on 13 April 2022 with women tech entrepreneurs from Karnataka and Bhutan. In recent years, the Government of India has been actively engaging with Bhutan to connect the startup ecosystems of the two countries. The Indian Embassy had organised the first ever Bhutan-India Startup Summit on 28-29 February 2020 in Thimphu, which was attended by the Hon'ble Commerce and Industry Minister of India Mr. Piyush Goyal, during which Bhutanese startups exchanged ideas and knowledge with top Indian industry representatives. Flowing from the successful Startup Summit, there have been a number of collaborative initiatives including capacity building programmes for Bhutanese entrepreneurs.

7. The workshop with Karnataka provided the startups a platform to connect together for focused discussions. In the context of Bhutan's emphasis on economic recovery, this workshop is in line with various up-skilling initiatives of the Royal Government such as the Skills Development Plan (SDP), Youth Engagement and Livelihood Program (YELP), and Build Bhutan, with its emphasis on knowledge-sharing among startups. It was agreed to explore opportunities for collaboration between the Government of Karnataka and the Royal Government of Bhutan in the areas of Artificial Intelligence, Internet of Things, Machine Learning and Robotics.

8. India is collaborating with Bhutan on a number of data and technology initiatives including Bhutan's Flagship Program 'Digital Drukyl' and the National Knowledge Network NKN-DrukRen Connect Initiative. India remains a steadfast development partner of Bhutan across all sectors including such new and emerging areas of startups and technology.



Thimphu
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