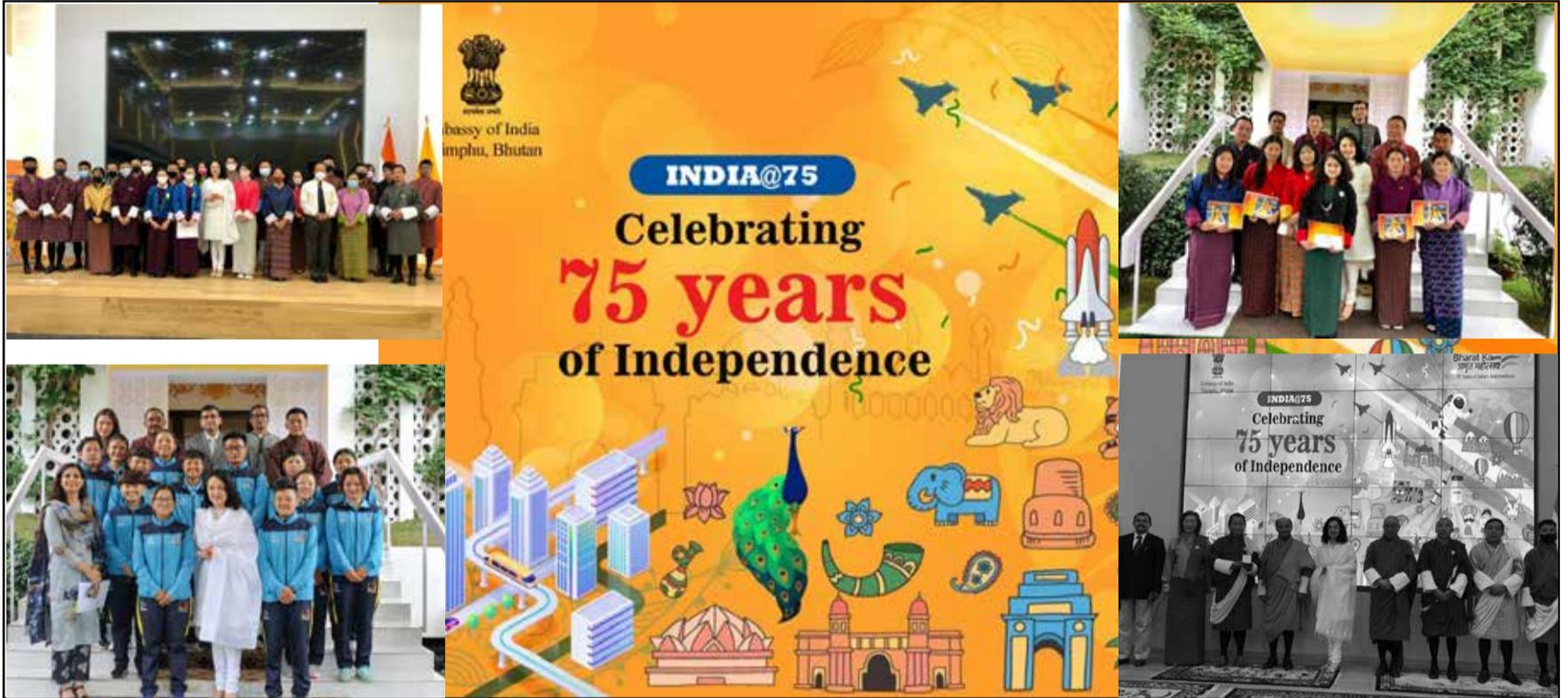


Gearing to celebrate 75th Independence Day of India



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Tenzin Choden / Thimphu

To celebrate 75 years of India's Independence, and to pay respect to all the leaders who fought bravely for India's freedom in the past, Embassy of India in Bhutan hosted myriads of events.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched 'Azaadika Amrit Mahotsav' marking the 75th year of India's Independence. The Mahotsav has been launched on March 12 to commemorate 91 years of Dandi March.

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 Embassy organized a conference on the contribution of Assam in India's freedom struggle, connectivity and synergies between Assam and Bhutan in hybrid format.

The event was graced Economic Affairs minister,

Lyonpo Loknath Sharma, senior government officials, heads of educational institutions and think tanks, members of the business and tourism sectors, journalists, and students and academicians from across Bhutan. A large number of high school students as well as students from various colleges under the Royal University of Bhutan participated in the conference virtually.

Speaking at the conference, Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj highlighted that Assam is a key Indian state with whom Bhutan shares close ties from the historical, trade, and tourism perspectives. Ambassador Kamboj remarked on the dynamic leadership role played by the Chief Minister of Assam Shri Himanta Biswa Sarma in connecting India's north east region with neighbouring countries, including Bhutan, under Government of India's 'Act East' policy.

At the conference, Mr. Kashyap spoke about the contribution of freedom fighters from Assam in

India's freedom struggle, such as Gomdhar Konwar and Gopinath Bardoloi. He also touched upon tourist sites associated with the freedom movement, in order to promote the visit of Bhutanese tourists to Assam once the Covid situation improves.

Dr. Mahanta spoke in detail about the contemporary connectivities and synergies between Assam and Bhutan, and the immense potential for expanding cooperation. The talk by the two speakers was followed by an interactive session with the participants from Bhutan.

Indian scientists were awed when Bhutanese students raised various questions on outer space at the India@75 Space Odyssey-Showcasing India's achievements in Space Technology event held today as part of celebrations to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India's independence.

According to the Indian Embassy, space technology is a promising area of Indo-Bhutan cooperation.

In pursuant to the MoU signed between the two countries last year, India and Bhutan are currently collaborating on the joint development of a small satellite for Bhutan which will be launched by the end of this year.

For Amrit Mahotsav celebrations - a video-byte competition themed at "What India Means to me" was launched by the Embassy. "India is like My Best Friend- who is there with you during your ups and downs," states Samten Tenzin Dolma.

Meanwhile, as part of the India@75 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of India's Independence, the Embassy of India organised an interaction on 1 August 2021 between the Ambassador of India to Bhutan Ruchira Kamboj and Bhutan's Women's National Cricket Team.

Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said, "I am truly delighted that the Indian Embassy is able to play a small role in helping our

girls train for the International Cricket World Cup. They are an absolute inspiration for the youth of Bhutan and I wish them all the very best."

The Lady Dragons, as they are fondly known, will be participating in the upcoming International Cricket Council (ICC) Women's Asia qualifier in Malaysia in November 2021. The tournament in Malaysia is a precursor to the 2022 ICC Women's T20 World Cup to be held in New Zealand in 2022.

In order to celebrate the common love for cricket between India and Bhutan and in keeping with the close and friendly relations between our two countries, the Indian Embassy has offered its grounds for the month of August to the Women's National Team for their training sessions. During this time, the team will also attend yoga classes led by Mr. KVSSN Murthy, the yoga teacher at Nehru-Wangchuck Cultural Centre.