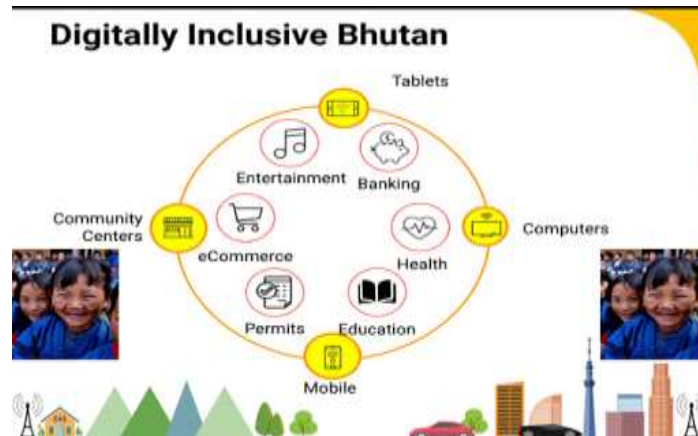


Press Release: Digital Drukyul



The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated the digital transformation of countries and demonstrated that the present and the future of Government to Citizen services, education, health and the economy will be increasingly digital/virtual. **In this context, India is proud to partner with the Royal Government of Bhutan on Digital Drukyul- a flagship programme under Bhutan's 12th Five Year Plan.** In line with Bhutan's developmental philosophy of Gross National Happiness, Digital Drukyul aims to harness the power of information and communication technology to accelerate Bhutan's digital transformation into a smart, connected and inclusive society.

Digital Drukyul comprises eight programs: **Electronic Patient Information System** to digitise medical records, **Digital Identity** to enable the Government to deliver public services electronically, **E-Business National Single Window** to facilitate international trade and approval of business licenses by streamlining procedures, **Bhutan Integrated Taxation System** for ease of paying taxes, **Integrated Citizen Services** for leveraging technology to provide inclusive citizen-centric services, **Digital Schools** for providing e-learning platforms and digital pedagogy training for teachers, **Enhancement of ICT Capability and Capacity** for enhancing the capacity of the ICT sector to provide services and solutions and the **Government Initiated Network** which will connect 1000 government offices in the country.

Government of India is providing the Royal Government with the financial resources for the implementation and execution of 6 critical projects under Digital Drukyul

1. The **E-Business National Single Window**, being implemented by the Ministry of Economic Affairs, is being funded by the Government of India at a cost of Nu 280 million under Government of India's **Trade Facilitation Support**. **The project will promote Ease of Doing Business in Bhutan, help businesses thrive and foster international trade.**
2. The **Bhutan Integrated Taxation System**, being implemented by the Ministry of Finance, is being funded under Government of India's **Trade Facilitation Support**. The project will radically

improve tax administration and compliance in Bhutan, thereby enhancing collection of revenue by the Royal Government.

3. The **Integrated Citizen Services**, being implemented by Cabinet Secretariat is being funded under Government of India's **Project-Tied Assistance** at a cost of Nu 150 million. The project will streamline core citizen-centric services and increase Good Governance in Bhutan, a key pillar of Gross National Happiness.

4. The **Digital School**, being implemented by the Ministry of Education, is being funded under Government of India's **Project-Tied Assistance** at a cost of Nu 66 million. The project will integrate e-learning into the teaching environment in Bhutan, create an Education Management Information System (a central database on educational institutions to aid policy makers) and provide training to teachers on emerging digital pedagogy. The project complements His Majesty's vision as demonstrated in the recent Royal *Kasho* on Education Reform.

5. The **Enhancement of ICT sector's Capability and Capacity**, being implemented by the Ministry of Information and Communication, is being funded under Government of India's **Project-Tied Assistance** at a cost of Nu 110 million. The project will help train 500 ICT professionals in Bhutan to develop products and services of international standards.

6. The **Government Initiated Network**, being implemented across Ministries, is being funded under Government of India's **Project-Tied Assistance** at a cost of Nu 800 million. The project will build a reliable network infrastructure, connecting all Ministries, agencies, *dzongkhags* (districts), *dungkhags* (sub-districts) and *gewogs* (villages) in Bhutan.

Overall, The Government of India is contributing Nu 1.98 billion during the 12th Five-Year Plan (2019-2023) to Bhutan's multi-faceted digital transformation which would enhance good governance, promote socio-economic development and inclusion, foster ease of doing business and provide efficient and effective public services to the citizens of Bhutan. The people and the Government of India are committed to the well-being and prosperity of the people of Bhutan, in keeping with the wishes, aspirations and priorities of the Royal Government, against a backdrop of the exceptionally close and friendly ties between the two countries.

May 11, 2021