

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Release of Government of India's Support for ESP

Today, fourth tranche of INR/Nu. 2.5 billion (250 crores) was handed over by Ambassador of India to the Minister of Finance of the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB) in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan H.E. Dasho Tshering Tobgay. It was part of Government of India's (GoI) support of INR/Nu. 15 billion (1,500 crores) towards the Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP). So far, GoI has released INR/Nu. 10 billion (1,000 crores) to the RGoB in fulfillment of the GoI's commitment to ESP under the bilateral development cooperation programme.

2. At the handover ceremony, Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan thanked the GoI for its support towards the ESP which benefited enormously farmers, youth, small and medium industries, hospitality and tourism, and others. Ambassador mentioned GoI's ongoing support to the RGoB in the successful implementation of the 13th Five Year Plan towards Bhutan's national development priorities.

3. The RGoB launched the ESP last year to reinvigorate the domestic economy through fiscal and monetary measures in priority sectors such as agriculture and livestock, cottage and small industries, tourism, start-ups, creative industry, Desuung Skilling Programme (DSP), One Gewog One Product (OGOP), youth employment and training, education, and rural home ownership. A separate ESP Secretariat in the RGoB oversees the execution, review and monitoring of the programme.

4. India and Bhutan share an exemplary partnership characterized by trust, goodwill, mutual understanding, and strong bonds of friendship and close people-to-people ties. Government of India has committed support of INR/Nu. 100 billion (10,000 crores) for Bhutan's 13th Five Year Plan period (2024-2029), which covers Project Tied Assistance (PTA) projects, High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP), support for Economic Stimulus Programme (ESP) and budgetary support in the form of Programme Grant. Till date, funds amounting to about INR/Nu. 22 billion (2,200 crores) have been released by India to RGoB for these programmes.

**1 October 2025
Thimphu**