

**Embassy of India
Thimphu**

Press Release

Bharat Mitra Samman - Indology Award 2023

At a special ceremony at India House on 10th May, Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso, President, College of Language and Cultural Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, was conferred the prestigious Bharat Mitra Samman - Indology Award 2023. The award is a recognition of Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso's outstanding contribution in the field of Indian philosophy and language studies. Hon'ble Lyonchhen Dasho Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

2. His Eminence Tsugla Lopen Karma Rangdrol, Hon'ble Lyonpo D N Dhungyel, Minister of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, Dasho Ugyen Namgyel, Gyalpoi Zimpon, senior officials from the Royal Government, faculty and officials from the Royal University of Bhutan, eminent scholars, civil society organizations, members of business community and the media were present at this special ceremony.

3. Congratulating Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso on the conferment of prestigious Indologist award for his scholarly work and achievements in the area of Indian philosophy and language studies, Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Mr. Sudhakar Dalela, in his remarks, highlighted that it is the first time Bharat Mitra Samman Indology has been conferred on a Bhutanese scholar.

4. The award was conferred upon Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso by Mr. Kumar Tuhin, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations. Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso expressed gratitude for the honor in his acceptance speech, highlighting the importance of cultural and people to people exchanges in strengthening ties between India and Bhutan.

5. Bharat Mitra Samman is a distinguished Indologist award instituted by the Indian Council for Cultural Relations in 2015, to recognize eminent scholars who have made an outstanding contribution to India's cultural heritage by studying, teaching, or conducting research in India's philosophy, thought, history, art and literature, culture, languages and society. The Award is conferred every year on foreign nationals and comprises a Citation, a Medallion, and prize money equivalent of US\$ 20,000.

6. The ceremony concluded with a captivating music performance by an Indian and Bhutanese ensemble.

11 May 2024, Thimphu