

DG, ICCR, SHRI KUMAR TUHIN, PRESENTED THE ICCR'S BHARAT MITRA SAMMAN – INDOLOGY AWARD 2023 TO LOPEN LUNGTAEEN GYATSO OF BHUTAN



On May 10, 2024, the Embassy of India in the Kingdom of Bhutan hosted an award ceremony at India House in Thimphu. Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso, President of the College of Language and Culture Studies at the Royal University of Bhutan, was honored with the ICCR's prestigious Bharat Mitra Samman – Indology Award 2023. The award was presented by Shri Kumar Tuhin, Director General of ICCR, in the distinguished presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs and External Trade of Bhutan, Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel.

The ceremony was graced by the Ambassador of India to Bhutan, Shri Sudhakar Dalela, along with senior officials from the Royal Government of Bhutan, eminent scholars, and representatives from various civil society organizations.

In his address, the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bhutan emphasized the profound historical and cultural ties between India and Bhutan and the essential role both neighbours play in promoting regional stability and development. Director General of ICCR, Shri Kumar Tuhin, reiterated ICCR's commitment to strengthening people-to-people connections and enhancing India-Bhutan cultural ties.

Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso's contributions to Indology have been significant. He studied Buddhism at the Ngagyur Nyingma Institute in Mysore, Karnataka, and the Sikkim Institute for Higher Nyingma Studies in Gangtok, Sikkim. Additionally, he studied Sanskrit literature at Sampurnanand Sanskrit University in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh. His scholarly work has significantly advanced the study and appreciation of Indology, enriching academic discourse and bolstering cultural ties between Bhutan and India.

The Bharat Mitra Samman – Indologist Award, instituted by ICCR in 2015, recognizes foreign scholars who have made outstanding contributions to India's cultural heritage through the study, teaching, or research in Indian philosophy, history, art, literature, culture, languages, and society. The award includes a citation, a medallion, and prize money equivalent to USD 20,000.

