



# India & Bhutan

along the friendship trail





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**along the friendship trail**







**MINISTER OF STATE FOR EXTERNAL AFFAIRS  
INDIA**

**RAO INDERJIT SINGH**

India's relations with Bhutan are founded on traditionally close friendship and mutual respect. Over the decades, the mutually beneficial economic cooperation between the two countries has been steadily growing and manifesting itself in tangible benefits for the people of the two neighbouring countries.

I am confident that in coming years, the traditions of friendship, cooperation and trust between India and Bhutan will reach for new horizons.

It is my pleasure to be associated with this special publication which captures some of the rare glimpses of the fascinating journey of friendship and cooperation between the people of India and Bhutan.

**Rao Inderjit Singh**  
**Minister of State for External Affairs**



HHH THE CROWN PRINCE

TASHICHHODZONG

THIMPHU, BHUTAN

Dear Friends,

It is always a pleasure to speak or write about the wonderful state of relations between Bhutan and India. As the President of Bhutan India Friendship Association, I fortunately have many occasions to do so.

There is so much to highlight about our unique and lasting friendship. Yet, I feel it is important to sometimes look beyond our great historical, political and cultural ties, towards that which is of greatest importance - the future - the future of our friendship.

I believe in dynamic change and that all relationships must adapt to changing times. The true measure, for me, of the success of our relationship has been this remarkable quality in our friendship. In the beginning, Bhutan and India were different nations to the ones we see today - one freshly independent and one newly entered into the modern world. Yet from such a time to this day, our relationship has been marked by continuous goodwill and cooperation in all spheres.

As we look into the future, the most important players are our youth. The future is theirs and therefore the direction of our relationship will be determined

by them. Our bonds will be cemented for generations if the youth appreciate and cherish the special ties, unique bonds and mutual benefit of our relations, much as the older generation today does. On our part we need a clear vision of future partnership in all areas - be it government, business or culture. In other words, we need to nurture our friendship - not take it for granted, in spite of the strength of its foundations.

I dedicate this book and the exhibition at which it is launched, to the youth of Bhutan and India. I urge them to participate in this everlasting journey of friendship.

Long live Bhutan India Friendship!

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a horizontal line underneath the name.

**Trongsa Penlop Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck**  
**Crown Prince of Bhutan**



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# India-Bhutan Relations





## VISIT OF FIRST KING OF BHUTAN TO INDIA

1906

Trongsa Penlop Sir Ugyen Wangchuck in Calcutta 1904



## India-Bhutan Relations : An Overview

The ties between Bhutan and India are not recent. Ideas, people and goods have always traversed the steep paths and the high passes between the two neighboring countries, to the enormous benefit of both. Padmasambhava, the great Buddhist teacher known as Guru Rimpoche, came to Bhutan from the far north west of the subcontinent in the eighth century and propagated Buddha's teachings and philosophy.

The tides of history that ebbed and flowed through Asia, touched the two cultures as they evolved, each in its uniquely different way. In the 17th century, an erudite lama of the Drukpa Kagyu sect, Shabdrung Ngawang Namgyal, unified Bhutan and established the Chhoesi or dual leadership system wherein the Je Khenpo headed the spiritual sphere, while temporal affairs were looked after by the Druk Desi. While the political system

the Shabdrung established lasted until the beginning of the 20th century, his death was followed by political infighting among the various Penlops (Governors). Ugyen Wangchuck, the Trongsa Penlop (Governor) emerged as the strongest leader, and was crowned King of Bhutan or Druk Gyalpo in 1907. His visit to India in 1906 set the tone for the close ties between the two countries. All succeeding holders of the Raven Crown have continued to maintain close ties with India.

### INDIA-BHUTAN COOPERATION

After India's independence, the Treaty of Friendship and Cooperation was signed in 1949 by India's first Prime Minister, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, and King Jigme Wangchuck (1926-1952), and laid the groundwork for the warm bilateral ties, which continue to this day. In 1958, Pandit Nehru, accompanied by his daughter,

**THE VISIT OF THE SECOND KING OF BHUTAN**

January 1935

His Majesty King Jigme Wangchuck, the second King of Bhutan and Her Majesty Queen Phuntsho Choden at Calcutta. Extreme right is Rani Choying Wangmo and extreme left is Raja Sonam Tobgye Dorji. The children seated in front of the King and Queen are the Crown Prince Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Ashi Kesang Choden Dorji, who later became the King and Queen of Bhutan



Indira Gandhi, visited Bhutan. The arduous journey then took a week, and involved travelling by foot, muleback and being ferried across slippery, high mountain passes by the sure-footed yak. Now a Delhi-Paro flight takes three hours. A grainy, 16 mm black and white film taken of Pandit Nehru's visit, shows the Prime Minister wearing a kulu cap, riding through the spectacular Paro valley, clearly relishing the whole experience.

Since then there have been many visits by leaders of both countries. The present King, His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, who ascended the throne in 1972, has visited India frequently and was the Chief Guest at the Republic Day parade of 2005. He has had close associations with all past and present Indian leaders. His Majesty once famously described the Indo-Bhutan relationships as a "shining example of how

a large and powerful country like India and a small landlocked nation like Bhutan can live together as good neighbours in perfect peace with our relations based on perfect trust, understanding and friendship".

Bhutan has been declared one of the ten global hotspots for biological diversity. From the lush, tangled greenery of the southern district of Tsirang to the wild, unspoilt remoteness of the Ha valley in the west and the gentler slopes of the central Bumthang valley, in Bhutan every viewpoint, every turn in the road, every skyline, is breathtaking. In spring, the valleys brim with drifts of peach, apple and pear blossom; in summer, hedges of roses line the Himalayan roadsides and mauve cosmos covers slopes and meadows. In autumn, the willows turn a flaming maroon and dull gold. Blue pines are found at higher altitudes and rhododendrons line the high passes.



## THE FRIENDSHIP TREATY

8th August, 1949

Paro Zimpon Tandin and Drabi Lopen signing the Treaty of Friendship between India and Bhutan at Darjeeling. In the background is Ha Dungpa, who later became the Prime Minister



Bhutanese architecture fits beautifully into this landscape, having consciously retained its traditional designs, while using modern construction materials. The dazzling maroon and white of dzongs and chortens are spectacular, outlined against the pines and set against the ever-present backdrop of the mountains all along the magnificent rivers. These rich natural resources, used carefully, are bringing prosperity through hydroelectric power, timber and mining projects. Bhutan's industries are expanding gradually; construction is the largest component (19.9 percent), followed by electricity generation (9.6 percent), manufacturing (7.6 percent) and mining (1.9 percent).

His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck has carefully nurtured Bhutan's socio-economic and political development that seeks to promote not just equitable material progress but gives

equal emphasis to environmental and cultural preservation and good governance. With this holistic approach, the King has contributed a development lexicon that is gaining increasing international recognition: Gross National Happiness (GNH). Today, the traditional and modern coexist in Bhutan. The Bhutan Broadcasting Service was inaugurated in 1999, the same year as cable television and the internet; a mobile phone network was set up in 2003. Even the villages, home to over 75 percent of the population, have been drawn into the global nexus by the extensive road network of over 4,000 kms and an international STD/ISD system. The flag carrier, Druk Air, flies from the international airport at Paro to Kathmandu, Dhaka, Bangkok, New Delhi and Kolkata.

Agriculture is still the main means of livelihood, accounting for 26.7 percent

**STRENGTHENING TIES**

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with senior officials from Bhutan in New Delhi



of the GDP; the main cereals are maize, paddy, wheat, barely, buckwheat and millet; cash crops include apples, oranges, vegetables and cardamom. A recent Indo-Bhutan memorandum of understanding pledged Indian assistance in this sector, including strengthening Bhutan's agricultural marketing systems. Bhutanese personnel will be trained in India and there will be an exchange of experts and farmers at grassroots level.

Planned development in Bhutan began in the sixties. In the current Ninth Five Year Plan (2002-2007), the Government of India's financial package is Rs 1984 crore. Since the early sixties, India and Bhutan have collaborated on many projects to establish the infrastructure of the Bhutan economy. Collaboration in the hydroelectric power sector benefits both: Bhutan's revenues are boosted while India meets its growing

energy needs. The 336 MW Chukha and the 60 MW Kurichu Hydro-Electric Power projects are two such ventures, while current projects include the 1020 MW Tala Hydro-Electric Power project which will be completed in 2006. Detailed Project Reports are under preparation for three other projects, Punatsangchu I and II and Mangdechhu, with a total generating potential of 2500 MW.

Other collaborative ventures include the Penden Cement Plant in Samtse district and the 0.5 million ton Dungsum Cement Plant. India and Bhutan are collaborating in the construction of two major hospitals: the prestigious 350-bed Jigme Dorji Wangchuck National Referral Hospital in Thimphu and a 150-bed Regional Referral Hospital in Mongar, which will serve seven districts in the eastern region. Also in the pipeline are rail links between the border towns of India and Bhutan.

## A FRIENDLY HANDSHAKE

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck with Prime Minister  
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in Bhutan



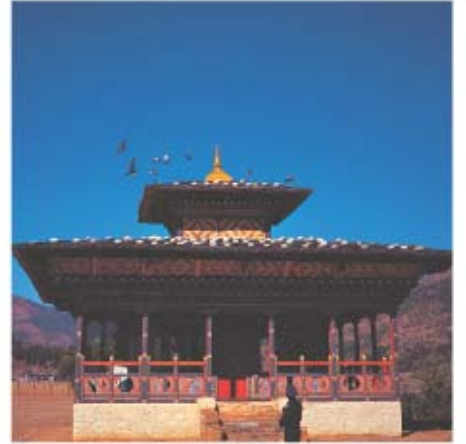
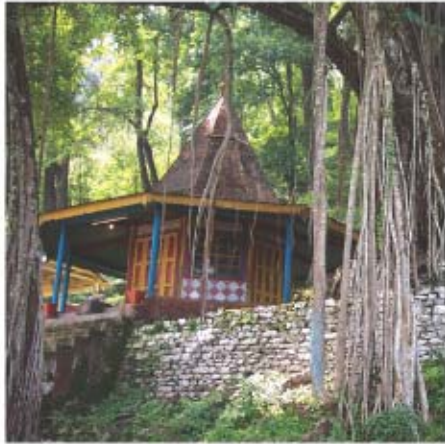
Nearly 95 percent of Bhutan's total exports are to India, comprising electricity, cement, timber, wood products, minerals, cardamom, food products, potatoes, oranges, raw silk and alcohol. Over 88 percent of Bhutan's total imports are from India. These include petroleum products, rice, automobile and spares, machinery and fabrics. The Agreement on Trade and Commerce establishes the right of duty free transit for Bhutanese merchandise for trade with third countries.

The Bhutanese educational system is expanding with 476 schools in 2005, over 162,000 students and 5,772 teachers. The country has an overall literacy rate of 54 percent. India and Bhutan have been closely associated on the educational front for decades. Many Bhutanese children study in Indian schools and colleges and the Government of India provides 50 scholarships annually

for Bhutanese students to study in institutes of higher learning in India. Another 50 scholarships are awarded under the Colombo Plan Scheme. Under this scheme, too, 13 Indian teachers from Delhi University are sent to the prestigious Sherubtse College in Eastern Bhutan, which was affiliated to the Delhi University until the establishment in 2004 of the Royal University of Bhutan. India provides technical expertise and the services of specialist working in various fields. In the area of Defence, an Indian Military Training Team (IMTRAT) helps the Royal Bhutan Army in the field of training.

As President Abdul Kalam has said, "Open borders and free trade have provided a conducive framework for the exploitation of our respective comparative advantages. We are now developing a web of interlinkages which will bring our countries even closer together."





# Land & People





**Bhutan or Druk Yul - the Land of the Thunder Dragon - is located in the Eastern Himalayas, covering an area of 38394 sq kms. Its borders touch China in the north, and its western, southern and eastern regions share a 700 km border with India, abutting the states of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal and Assam. Over 72.5 percent of Bhutan is covered by forests and the northern peaks reach a height of 7500 m. Over 75 per cent of the population of 752,700 depends on agriculture and animal husbandry for a livelihood, though production of hydro-electric power, cement, wood and fruit products is growing. Dzongkha is the national language and Mahayana Buddhism the official religion. The 5,000 strong monastic body is presided over by the Je Khenpo (Chief Abbot) and is represented in the National Assembly and the Royal Advisory Council.**









**BHUTAN**

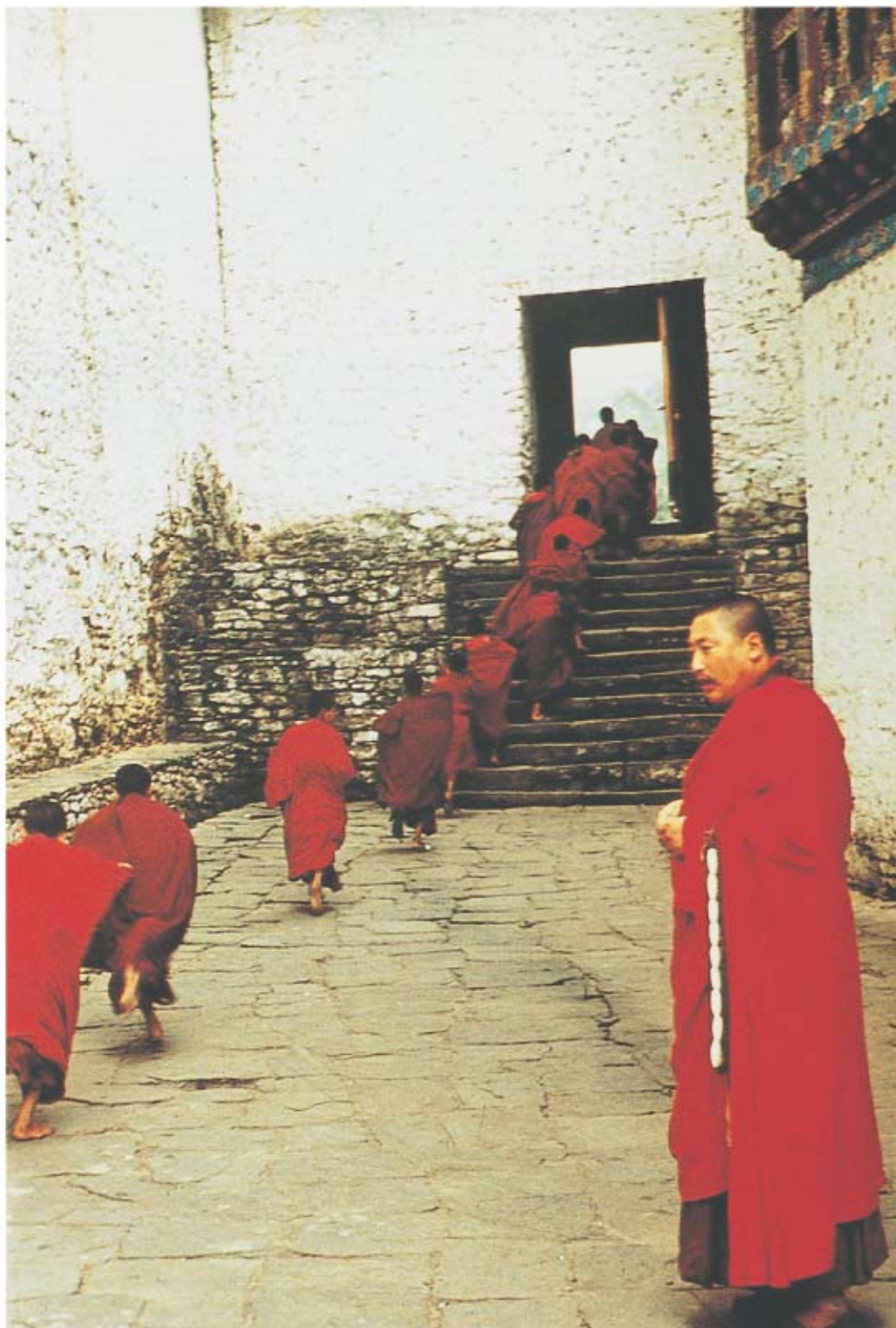
Dressed to go to the Thimpu Tsechu Dance Festival

*left*

**BHUTAN**

Chortens in Yonphula in eastern Bhutan



**BHUTAN**

Acolytes flying out of Tongsa Dzong

right

**INDIA**

The buddhist monks in India











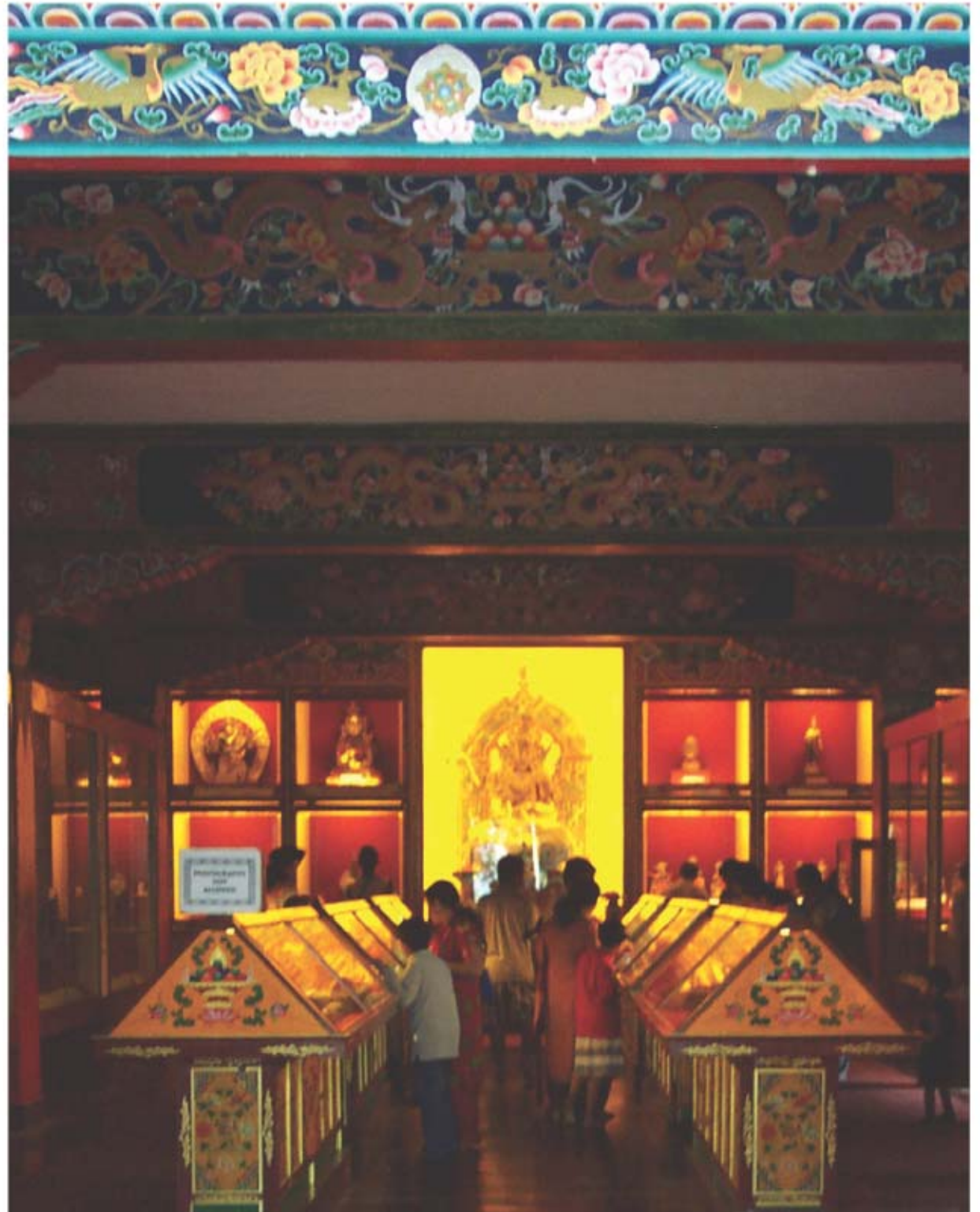
**INDIA**

Inside Buddhist Centre in Gangtok

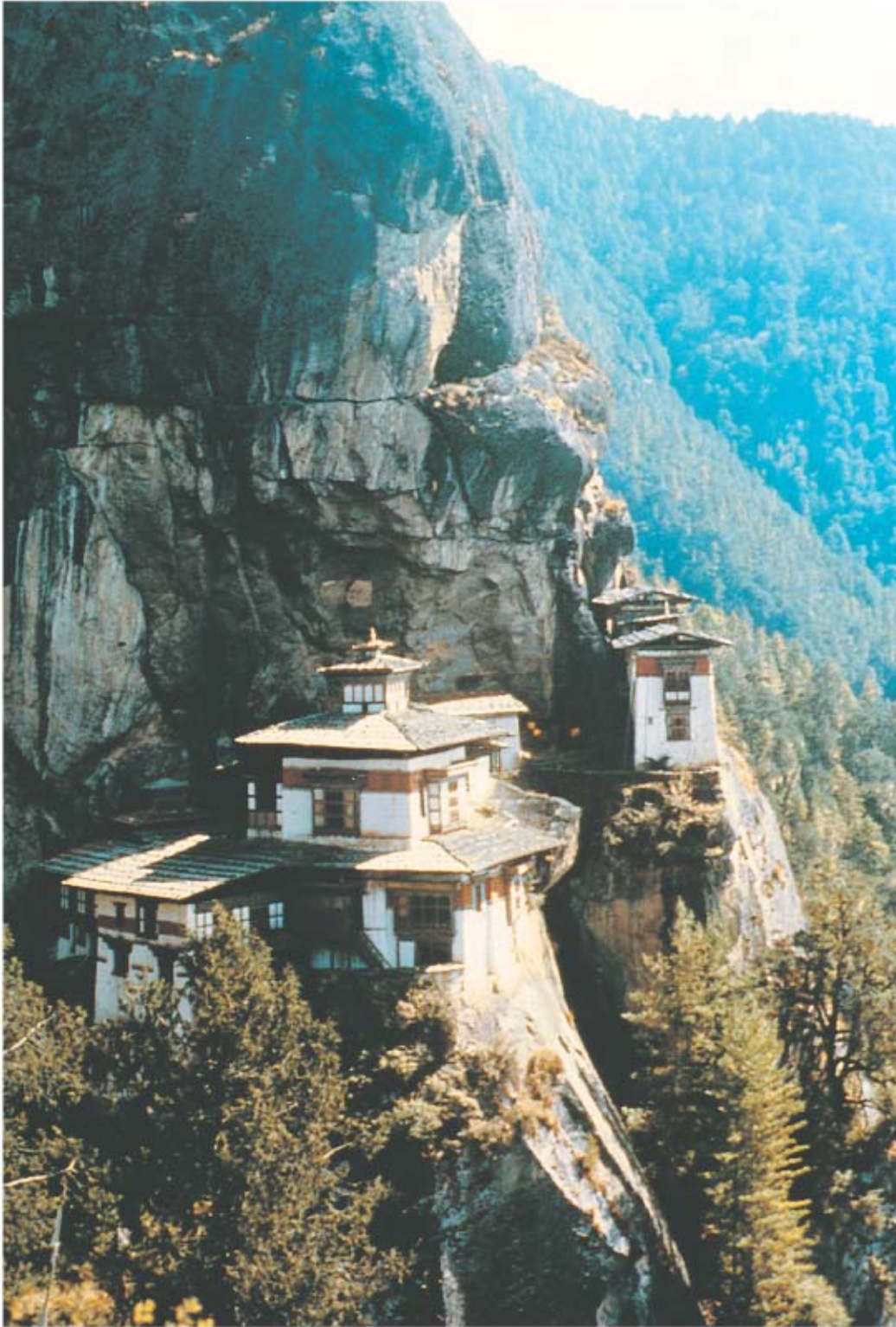
Left

**BHUTAN**

Masked dancers at the Thimpu Tsechu Dance Festival





**BHUTAN**

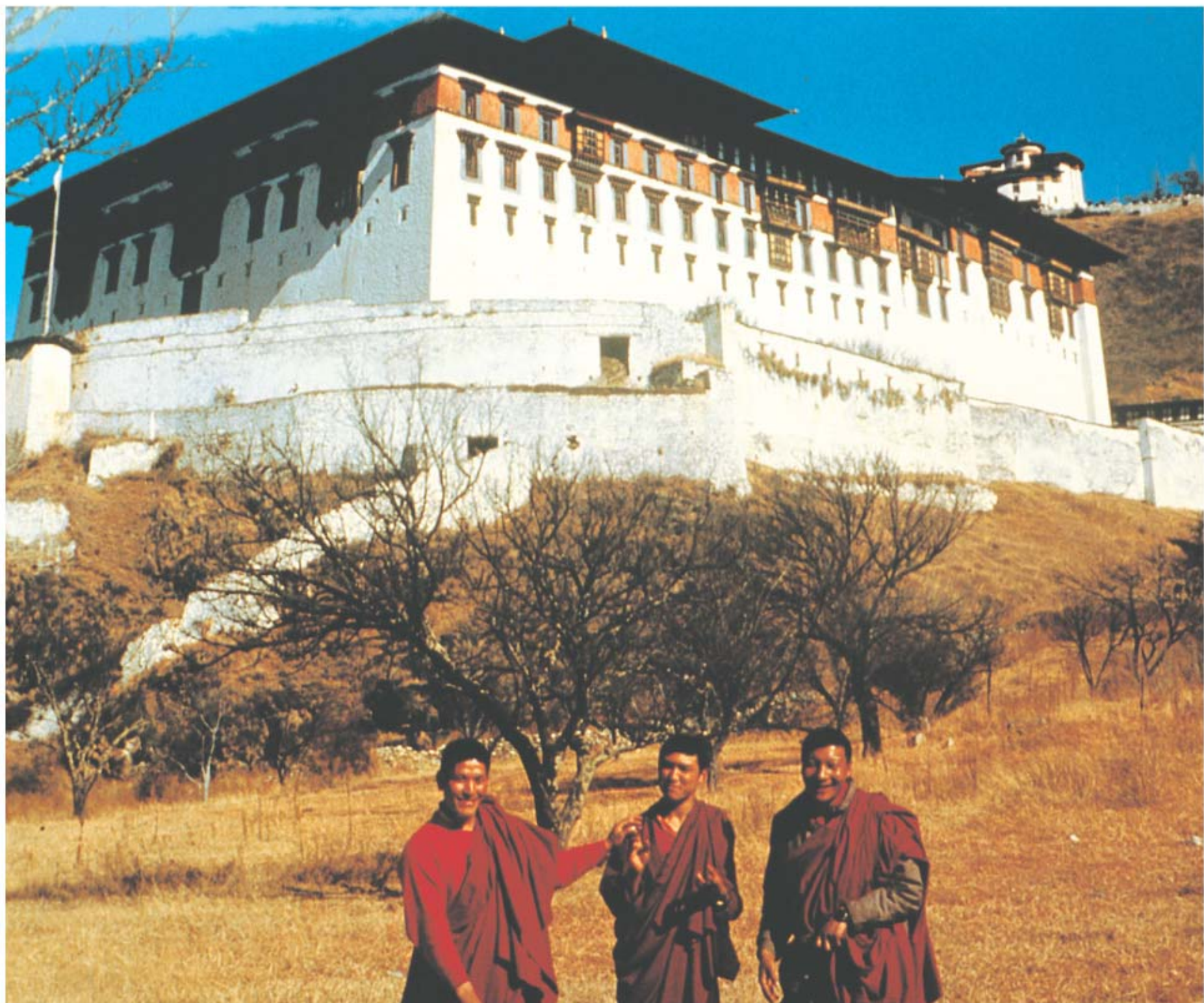
View of the Takstang Monastery in Paro

right

**BHUTAN**

Young lamas outside Paro Dzong











**BHUTAN**

Masked dancers perform on the India House lawns  
in Thimpu

*left*

**BHUTAN**

Early morning bargains at the Paro market





# Political Bonds





**Bhutan is one of India's closest neighbours. India and Bhutan enjoy a close relationship based on trust and mutual understanding. This special relationship has been sustained by the tradition of regular and extensive exchange of views at the highest levels between the two countries. These visits have been marked by mutual respect and have served the purpose of deepening the understanding between the two neighbours so as to continuously move the bilateral relationship in directions which result in tangible benefits for the people of the two countries. This year His Majesty the King of Bhutan was the chief guest at the Republic Day celebrations in New Delhi.**



**EXTENDING A HANDSHAKE OF FRIENDSHIP**

1954

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru exchanging a warm handshake with His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the third King of Bhutan, during a state visit to India

**GUARD OF HONOUR IN DELHI**

January 31, 1954

During the first state visit, the King of Bhutan inspecting  
Guard of Honour in New Delhi





**PANDIT NEHRU WITH THE MAJESTIES**

1954

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, the 3rd King of Bhutan and Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck with Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his sister, Smt. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit in Delhi



# HOSPITALITY IN STYLE

1954

Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck of Bhutan with Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. In the background are His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, and Smt. Indira Gandhi

President Dr. Sarvepalli Radha Krishnan with Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck of Bhutan and Smt. Vijaya Laxmi Pandit





#### GOING TOGETHER

1954

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, King of Bhutan and Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck with Smt. Indira Gandhi in India

right

#### GALLOPING ALONG THE PATH OF FRIENDSHIP

1954

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck of Bhutan on an excursion in India









## A HISTORIC JOURNEY OF FRIENDSHIP

1958

*left*

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru arrives in Bhutan on a horseback

The daunting logistics of Pandit Nehru's visit to Bhutan required elaborate arrangements. It took six days of hard trekking by foot, mule and yak to reach the Bhutanese capital. Panditji was accompanied by his daughter Indira, Apa Pant and some select Foreign Ministry and Home Ministry officials. In absence of any road communications from India to Bhutan, the party travelled by air to Bagdogra, then by road to Gangtok and Nathu-La in Sikkim and onwards to Ytung in Tibet. The King of Bhutan made special arrangements for the Prime Minister's party to ride by yak, in spite of its formidable bulk, it is the most comfortable mount for rough hill treks. Pandit Nehru rode on a yak across Chumbi Valley into Bhutan, and then switched to horseback on the road to Paro, where he was received by the King

## GUARD OF HONOUR

1958

Bhutanese Army presents a guard of Honour for Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru









#### **A JOURNEY INTO THE HIMALAYAS**

1958

Smt. Indira Gandhi riding a yak during the visit of Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru to Bhutan

#### **THE TRADITIONAL WAY**

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, King of Bhutan, looks on as Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru dons the traditional Bhutanese shoe Tshog Lham in Bhutan

And Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru in traditional Bhutanese attire with His Majesty





#### WELCOME AT THE BORDER

1958

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru being received at the Tibet-Bhutan Border by Prime Minister Jigme Palden Dorji of Bhutan (2nd from L), accompanied by senior officials of Bhutan

right

#### ON THE WAY TO PARO

1958

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi being escorted to Paro Dzong









#### WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS

Paro, 1958

From right to left - Smt. Indira Gandhi, Jigme Palden Dorji, Prime Minister of Bhutan, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Her Majesty the Queen and His Majesty the King of Bhutan with senior Government officials of Bhutan

left

#### AT HOME WITH THE ROYALS

Ugyen Pelri Palace, Paro 1958

Their Majesties the King and the Queen with Prime Minister Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi. Also seen in the picture is the late Royal Grand Mother. The then Crown Prince HRH Jigme Singye Wangchuck is flanked by his two sisters, HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck (L) and HRH Ashi Sonam Choden Wangchuck (R) in front





#### SHARING IS CARING

1958

A traditional meal is served to Pandit Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi after the long journey to Bhutan

right

#### WELCOME IN PARO

1958

Prime Minister Pandit Jawarharlal Nehru and Smt. Indira Gandhi being escorted to Paro Dzong by the royals













#### **ADDRESSING THE PEOPLE OF BHUTAN**

September 23, 1958

"Our only wish is that you remain an independent country choosing your own way of life and taking the path of progress to your own will...we are members of the same Himalayan family and should live as friendly neighbours helping each other"- Pandit Nehru





## LONG TERM PERSPECTIVE

February 1961

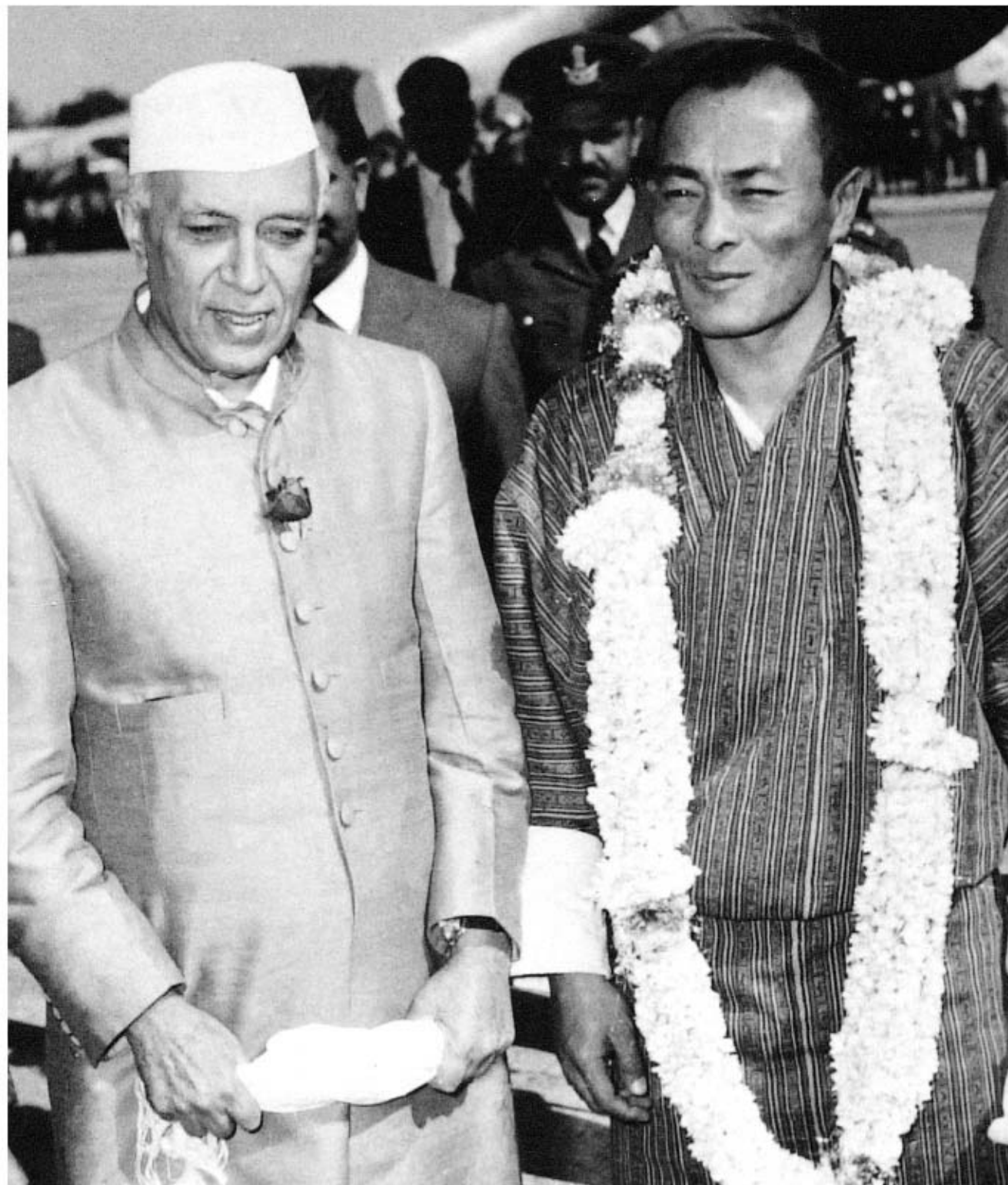
His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in India with the specific purpose of discussing Bhutan-India relations in a long term perspective

left

## LEAVING BEHIND A LEGACY OF GOODWILL

1958

Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, bidding farewell to Her Majesty Queen Ashi Kesang Choden Wangchuck







**EXCHANGE IN TRADITIONS**

1961

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck is presented with a ceremonial turban in New Delhi

*left*

**A WARM WELCOME**

1961

Pandit Nehru and King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck in New Delhi







#### AT THE STATE BANQUET

1961

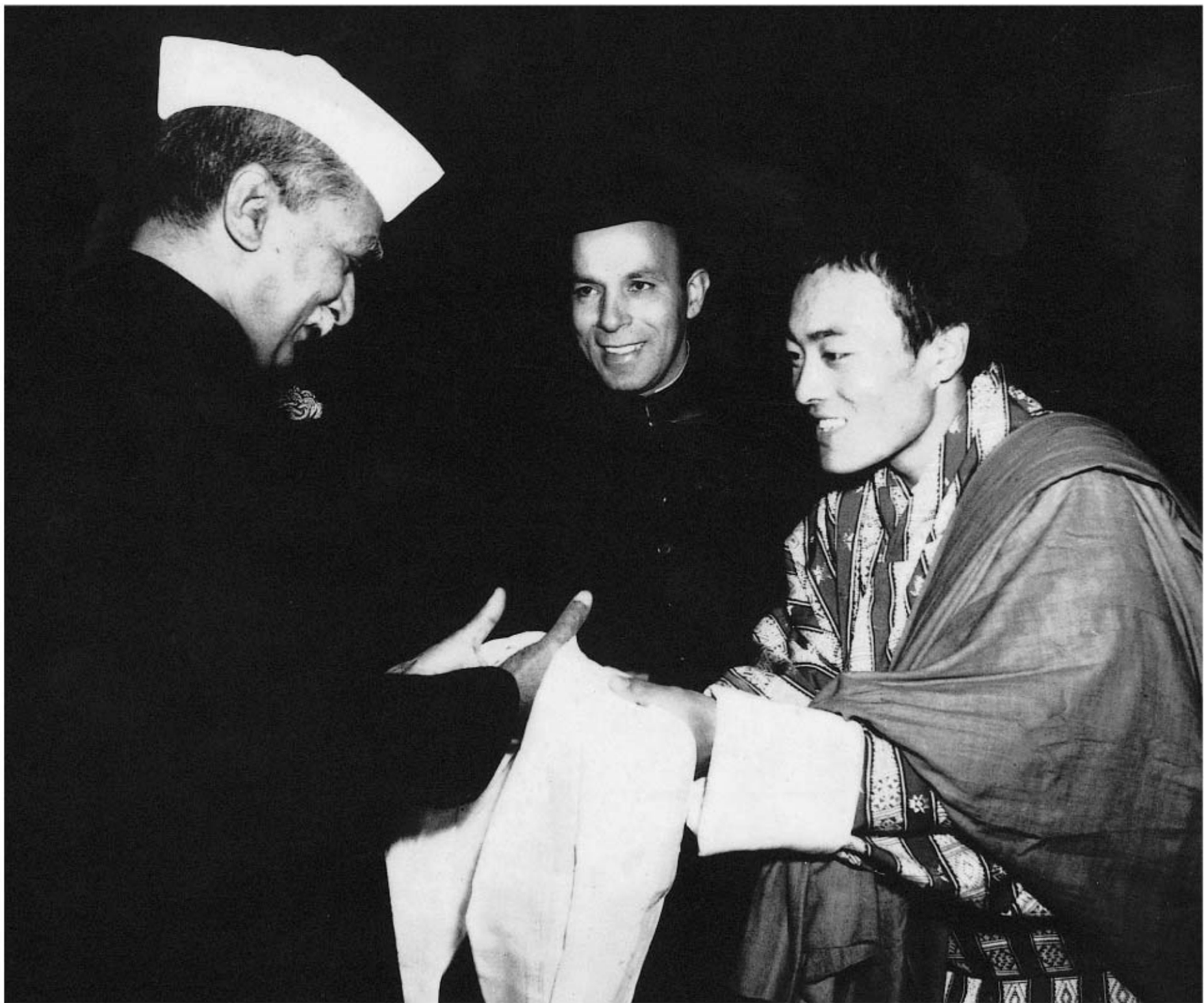
Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Smt. Indira Gandhi at Rashtrapati Bhavan

right

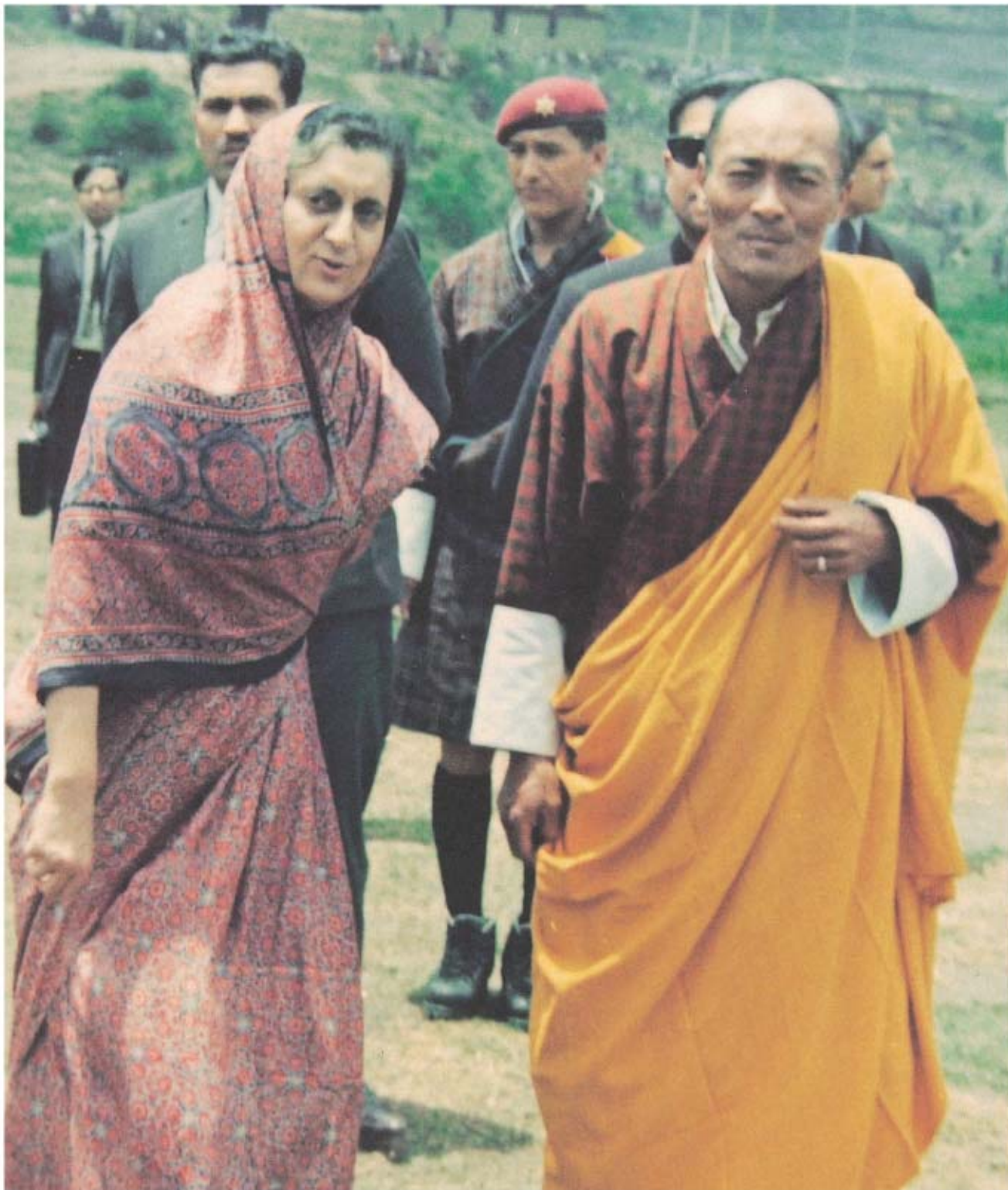
#### HONORING THE FRIENDSHIP

1954

President Dr. Rajender Prasad honoring His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck





**GOODWILL VISIT**

3 May, 1968

On arrival, Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi at Paro airfield, with His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck. During the visit, she inaugurated the Phuntsholing - Thimphu highway and laid the foundation stone of the 'India House' complex for the Indian Embassy





**A PROUD MOMENT**

1968

His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi sharing the podium at the opening ceremony of the Phuntsholing-Thimphu highway







## ROYAL HOSPITALITY

April 1970

President V.V. Giri and Smt. Giri with royal family members of Bhutan

Left

## BUILDING TIES

1968

Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi inaugurating the Phuntshling-Thimphu highway in Bhutan







## FIRST HEAD OF STATE

April 1970

President V.V. Giri of India was the first head of state to visit Bhutan.

"I have visited the world and never have I seen such beauty, such welcome as in your country. I will never forget it." - President V.V. Giri

*right*

## AT THE ROYAL PALACE

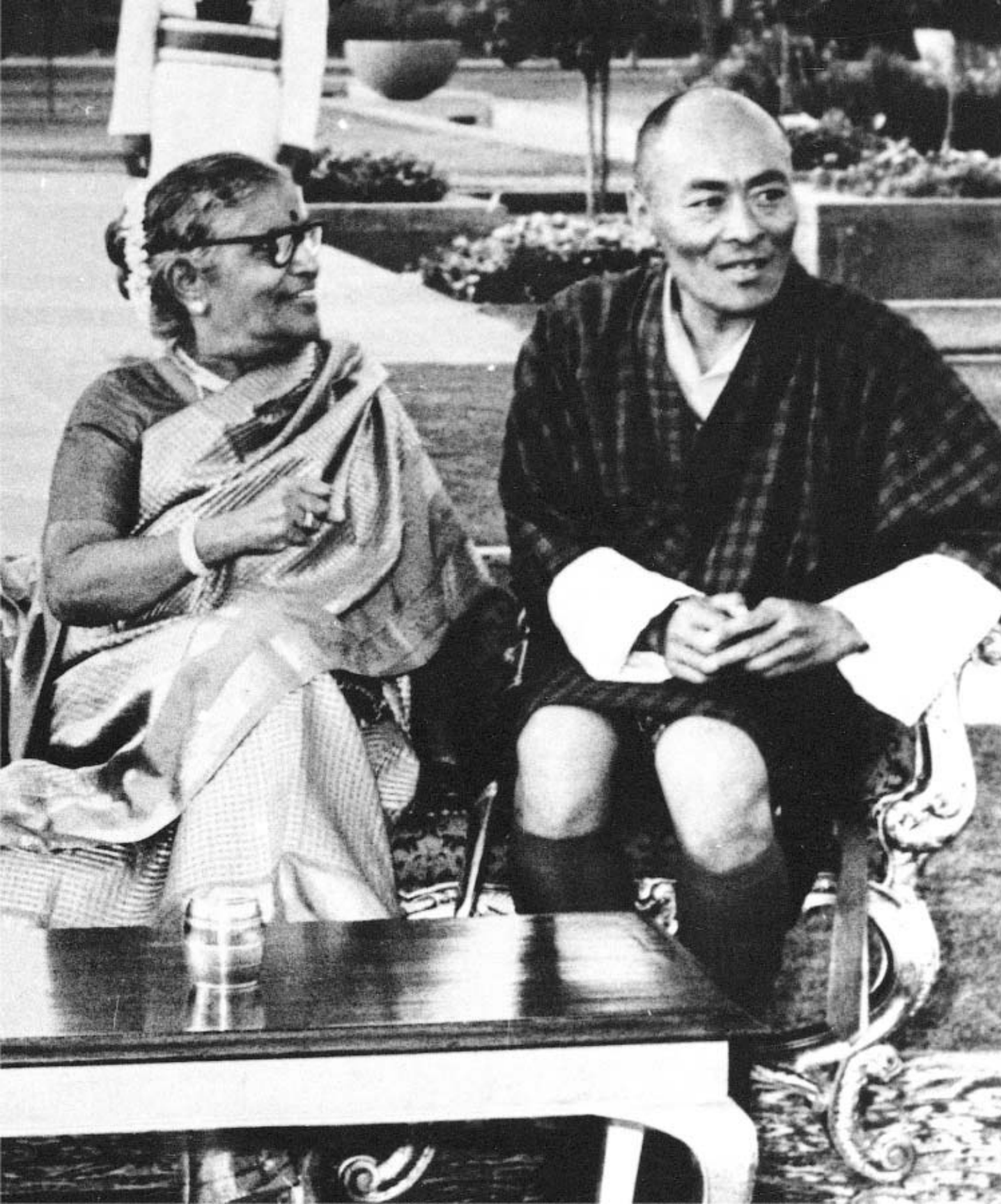
HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck, His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, President V.V. Giri and Crown Prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck











**IN THE GARDENS OF RASHTRAPATI BHAVAN**

April 12, 1971

His Majesty King Jigme Dorji Wangchuck, Smt. Giri, President V.V. Giri and Crown Prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck in the mughal gardens at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi





#### A MAJESTIC GIFT

April 12, 1971

A black stallion being presented to the Crown Prince Jigme Singye Wangchuck by President V.V. Giri on his visit to Delhi

*right*

#### PRAYING FOR THE DEPARTED SOUL

1972

Mrs. Indira Gandhi paying homage to the late His Majesty Jigme Dorji Wangchuck by lighting butter lamps in Bhutan







#### A WARM WELCOME FOR THE KING

December 1974

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck and HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck being received by President Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed and Prime Minister Indira Gandhi

right

#### AT THE BANQUET

December 1974

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck and HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck with President Shri Fakhruddin Ali Ahmed at Rashtrapati Bhavan





**FRIENDLY CONVERSATION**

December 1974

Smt. Sonia Gandhi in conversation with HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck in New Delhi



**AT THE STATE BANQUET**

December 1974

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck and HRH Ashi Dechen Wangmo Wangchuck at a state banquet with Prime Minister Indira Gandhi





**AT NEW DELHI AIRPORT**  
1977

His Majesty being greeted by Foreign Minister A.B. Vajpayee and Prime Minister Morarji Desai

*right*  
**WARM GREETINGS TO THE KING**  
January 1984

President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Smt. Indira Gandhi warmly receiving His Majesty the King of Bhutan at the airport





**FRIENDS FOREVER**

1984

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck with President Giani Zail Singh

*right***AND THE FRIENDSHIP CARRIES ON**

February 1, 1985

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck being received by President Giani Zail Singh and Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at New Delhi Airport





**FRIENDLY MOMENTS**

February 1985

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Mrs. Soniya Gandhi with  
His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck in New Delhi



**GUARD OF HONOUR AT PARO, BHUTAN**

October 1985

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi inspects the Bhutanese  
Guard of Honour



**THE ROYAL SALUTE AT PARO**

1985

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and His Majesty  
Jigme Singye Wangchuck



**GOING THE TRADITIONAL WAY**

September 1988

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi on an excursion with  
His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck at Haa, Bhutan







#### **PAYING TRIBUTE**

October 1985

His Majesty presenting the Druk Wangyal medal for late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi posthumously to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi at Tashichhodzong in Thimphu

*Left*

#### **AT KURJE LHAKHANG, BUMTHANG**

September 1988

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Smt. Sonia Gandhi with His Majesty, along with Priyanka Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi at Kurje Lhakhang in Bumthang



**A WARM RELATIONSHIP**

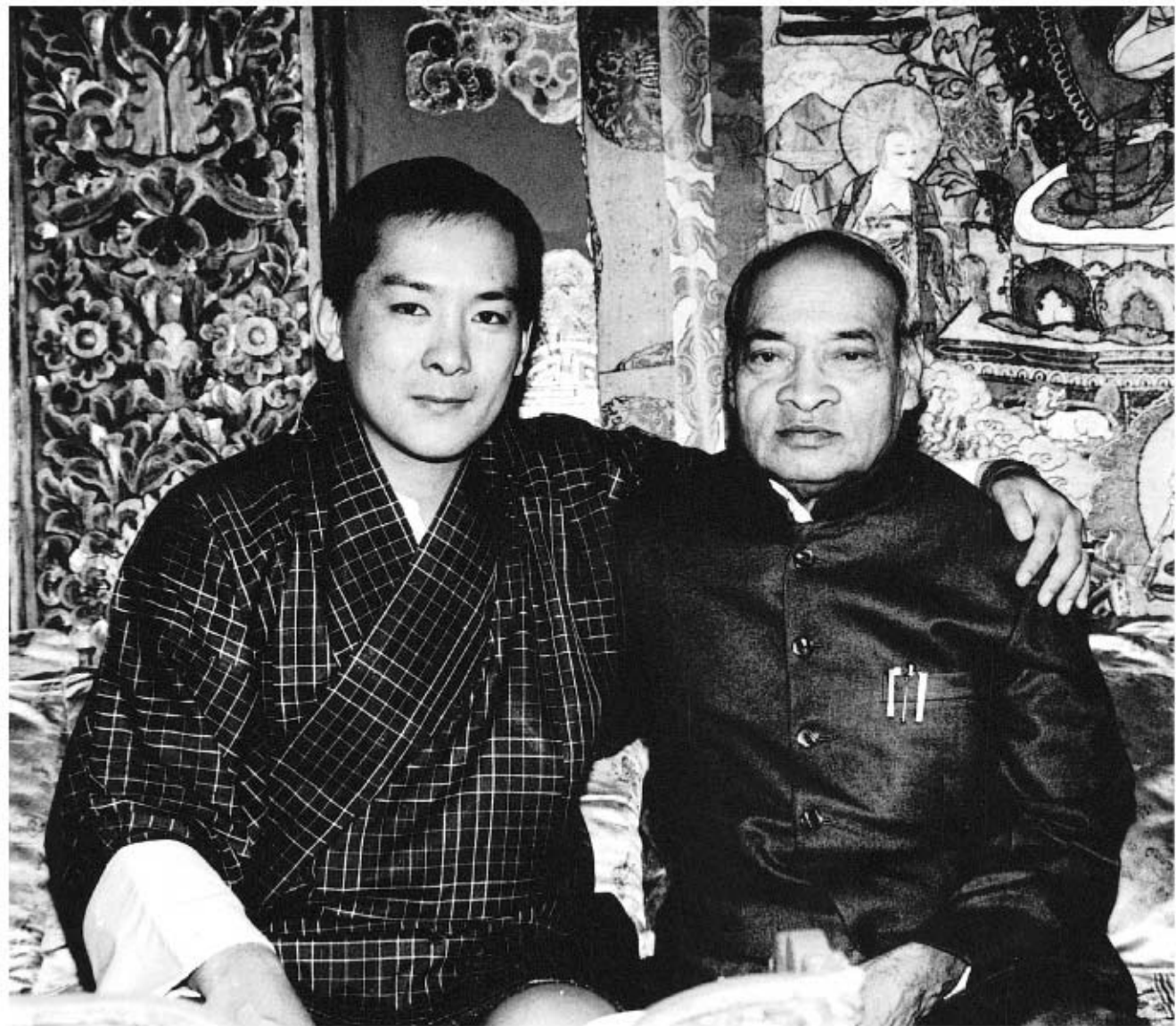
November 1990

President Shri R. Venkataraman with His Majesty, the King of Bhutan in New Delhi

**AT THE ROYAL PALACE**

1993

His Majesty the King of Bhutan with Prime Minister  
Narasimha Rao at the Ugyen Pelri Palace at Paro in Bhutan







## FRIENDLY MOMENTS

November, 1990

His Majesty with Prime Minister Chandra Shekar in New Delhi

*opposite top left*

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck with President K.R. Narayanan at New Delhi

*opposite top right*

January 1997

His Majesty with President Shankar Dayal Sharma at New Delhi

*opposite bottom left*

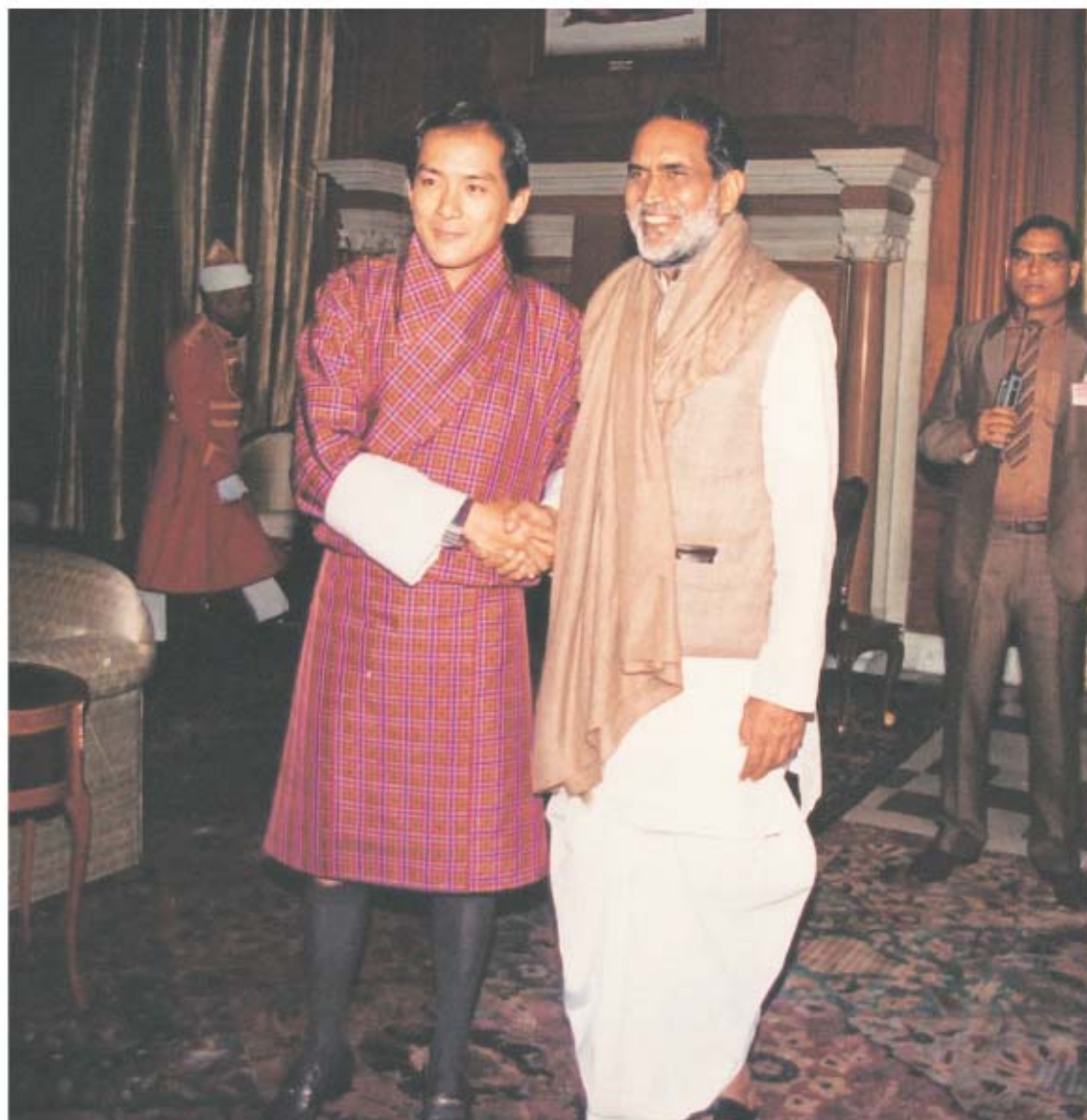
11 May 1997

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck with Prime Minister I.K. Gujral at the IXth SAARC Summit in Male

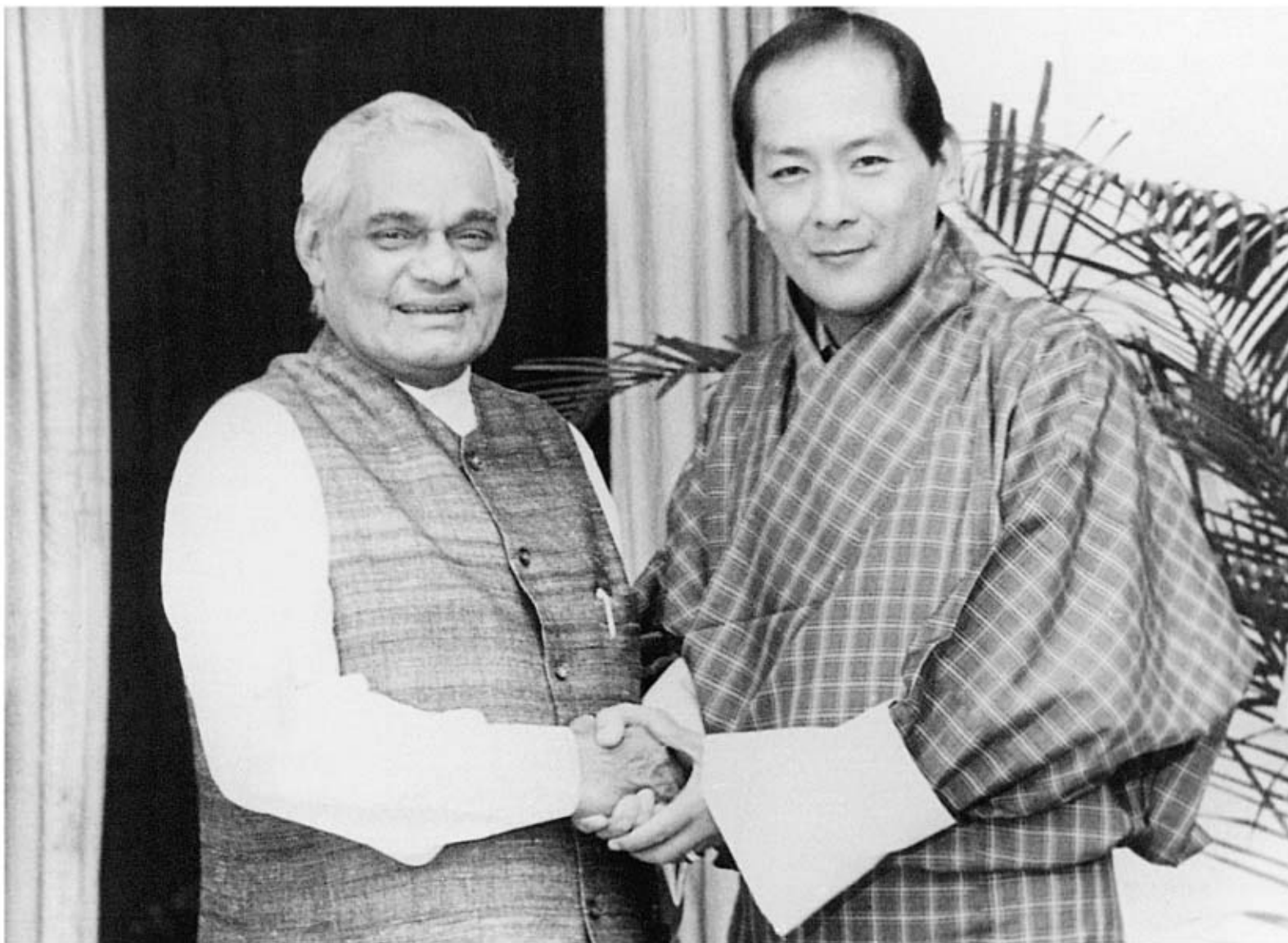
*opposite bottom right*

1997

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck with Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda





**A WARM HANDSHAKE**

October 6, 1998

Prime Minister Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee with the King of Bhutan in New Delhi

**A LEADERSHIP IN HARMONY**

September 2003

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck with Prime Minister  
Shri Atal Behari Vajpayee and President Dr. A.P.J.  
Abdul Kalam in New Delhi







#### A NEW GENERATION

2003

HRH the crown prince, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, the Crown Prince of Bhutan with President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam at New Delhi

right

#### CONSOLIDATING THE FRIENDLY TIES

January 2005

His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck and HRH Trongsa Penlop Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck with Smt. Sonia Gandhi









#### IN CELEBRATION TOGETHER

January 2005

President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, His Majesty the King of Bhutan and Crown Prince during the Republic Day celebrations

right

#### AT THE BANQUET HALL

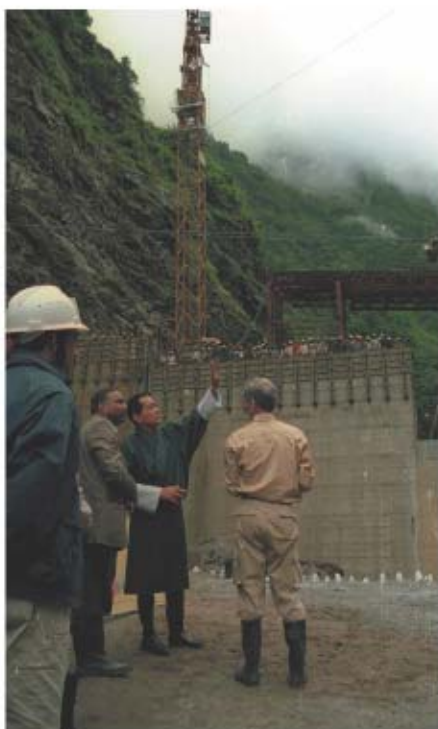
26th January, 2005

President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam with His Majesty Jigme Singye Wangchuck, along with HRH Trongsa Penlop, Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck at the Rashtrapati Bhavan









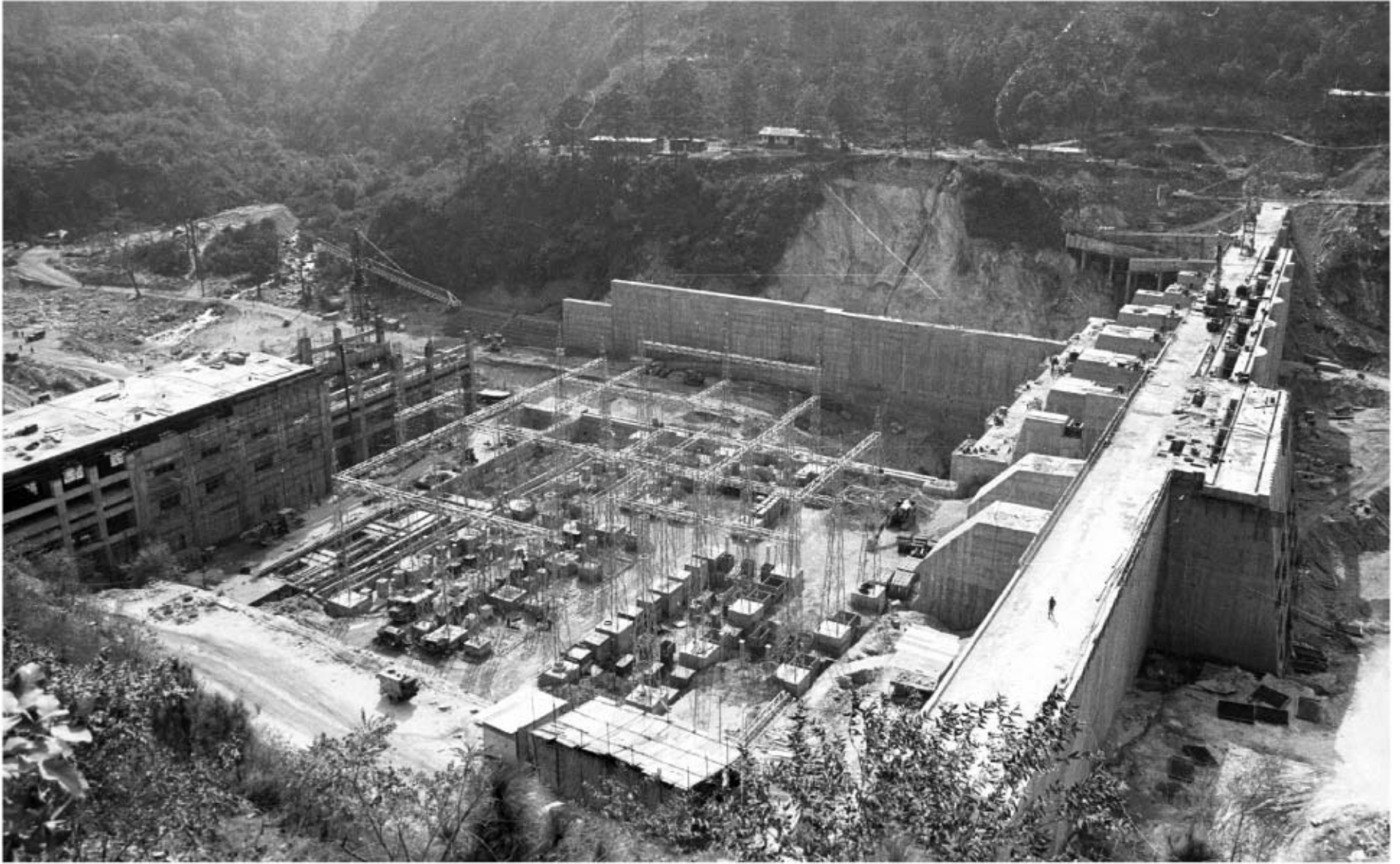
# Economic Co-operation





**Cooperation between Bhutan and India on mutually beneficial projects has continued for over 50 years. The Indian Border Roads Organization, DANTAK, has constructed 1,600 km of roads in Bhutan. They have also built 5000 m of bridges, constructed the airport at Paro as well as numerous helipads all over the country. DANTAK has laid 524 km of telecommunication lines and have built 14 telephone exchanges. The Central Water Commission of India spearheaded the investigation of potential Hydro Electric Power schemes and set up Hydro Metrological and Wireless Stations for Flood Forecasting, which provides a joint mechanism for both countries to cooperate on flood forecasting. India's technical assistance to Bhutan which started with survey and mapping through Central Water Commission and Geological Survey of India now extends to fields as diversified as generation and transmission of hydroelectric power, broadcasting, roads, aerial survey, IT & telecommunications, health and education.**





#### KURICHU HYDROPOWER PROJECT

Kurichu Hydroelectric plant in progress in the earlier years of construction



## KURICHU HYDROELECTRIC PLANT

Kurichu Hydroelectric plant at Gyelpozhing in eastern Bhutan. The project is being undertaken with the financial and technical assistance of the Government of India. Its successful completion and the benefits being accrued to the peoples of Bhutan and India is yet another example of the excellent state of Bhutan-India relations and cooperation. Export of power to India is made possible through a 132 KV transmission system of 198 km that connects the project to the Indian grid.





**CHUKHA HYDRO POWER PROJECT**

His Majesty with President R. Venkataraman at the inauguration of Chukha Hydro Power project in 1988. Cooperation in Hydro Projects between India and Bhutan dates back to 1961. The Chukha Project of 336 MW capacity which was successfully commissioned during 1986-88 is shining example of Indo-Bhutan Friendship and techno economic cooperation for the mutual benefits of the two countries













## THE TALA PROJECT

Realising the development potential of hydro power resources for techno economic cooperation for mutual benefits and encouraged by the successful completion and operation of Chukha Hydel Project, an agreement for implementation of the Tala Hydro electric project of 1020 MW installed capacity was signed between the Royal Government of Bhutan and Government of India on March 5, 1996. The Project is expected to complete during 2005-2006

The famous zig zag road to Tala Hydro Power Project's Power House is seen on the left









#### 1020 MW TALA PROJECT

All under control, the tala project will be ready and operational by 2005-2006

#### left TALA TUNNEL

The Tala Hydropower project with 27 kms of tunnel makes it one of the largest project in the region



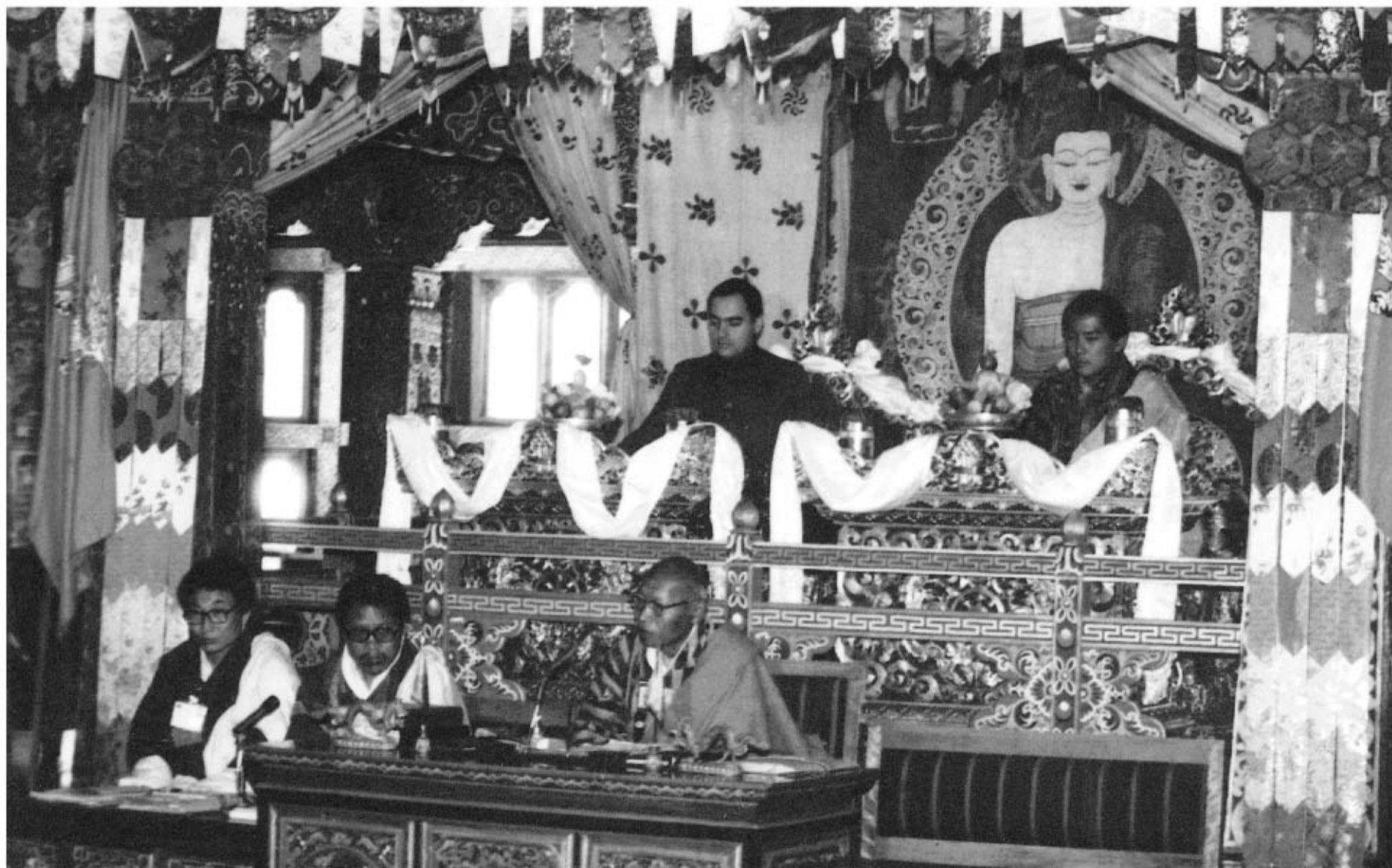




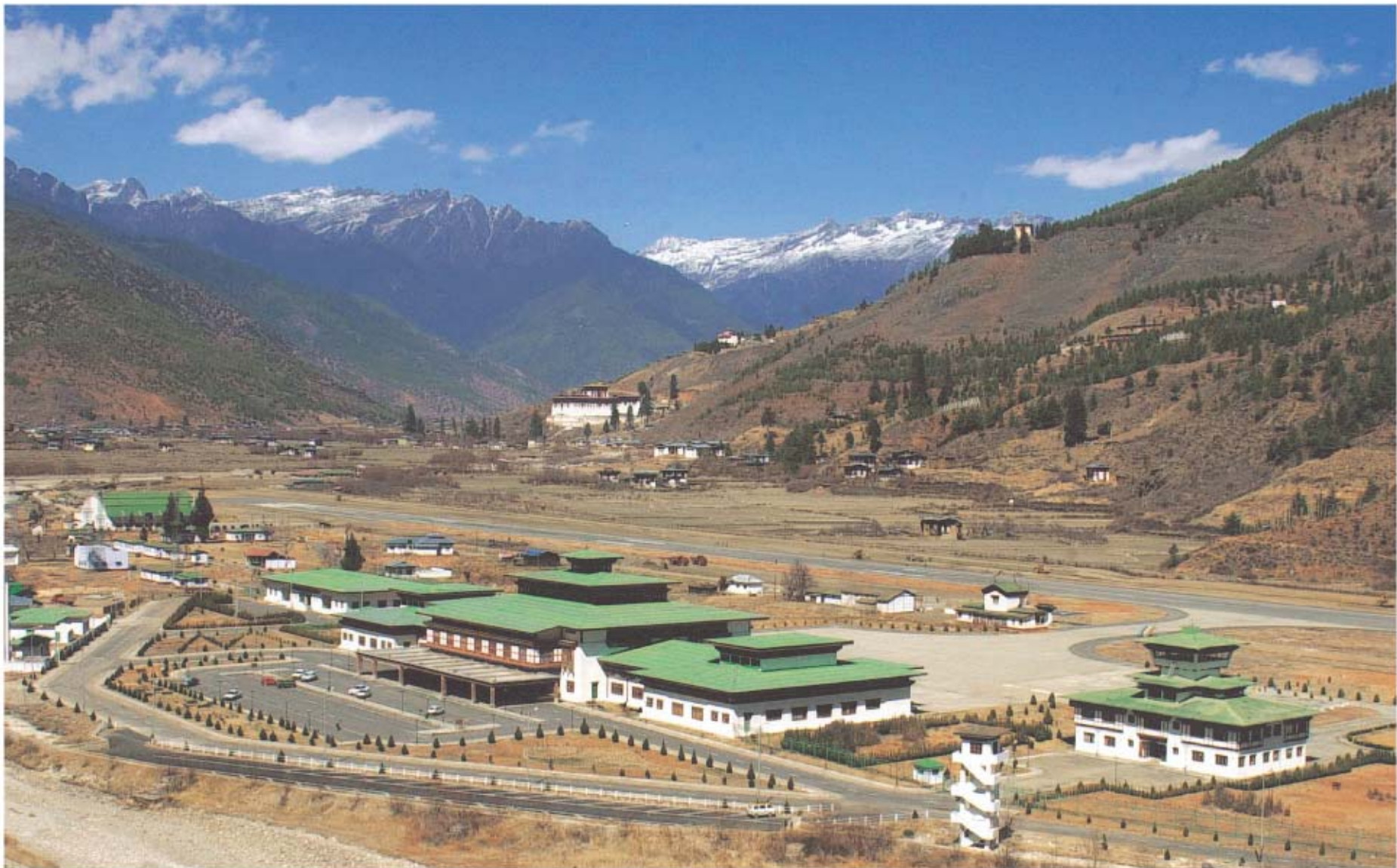
# **A HISTORIC MOMENT**

September, 1965

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi addresses the 63rd session of the National Assembly of Bhutan





**PANAROMIC VIEW**

Bhutan's airport terminal building at Paro

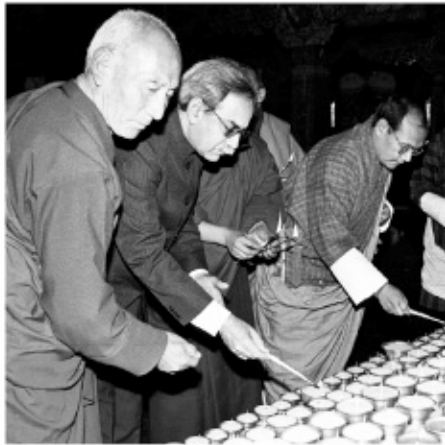
## ESTABLISHING RAILWAY LINKS

January 25, 2005

Bhutan and India signed an MoU for the establishment of Railway links between bordering towns of India and Bhutan . MoU on the preparation of detailed project reports for Punatsangchu (Stage II) and Mangdechhu Hydro Electric Projects in Bhutan was also signed on this occasion







# Cultural Ties





**Culture in the larger sense has formed a strong bond between India and Bhutan for centuries. Besides the flourishing people to people contacts formal exchanges at the governmental level have taken place in the form of visiting cultural troupes and exhibitions. An exhibition, 'The Living Religious and Cultural Traditions of Bhutan' toured New Delhi and Kolkata and a Festival of India was held in Bhutan on the theme 'Eternal Friendship and Cooperation' in 2003. The National Museum in Bhutan has close associations with museums in India and His Majesty King Jigme Singye Wangchuck has endowed a chair on Buddhist Studies at Nagarjuna University in Andhra Pradesh, India. The restoration of the 17th century Punakha Dzong (monastery), the summer seat of the monastic body, damaged by floods, was an important joint cultural project undertaken by the two governments. The consecration ceremony of the repaired Dzong was held in May 2003. Currently, GOI is assisting in renovation of the oldest Dzong in Bhutan at Simtokha.**

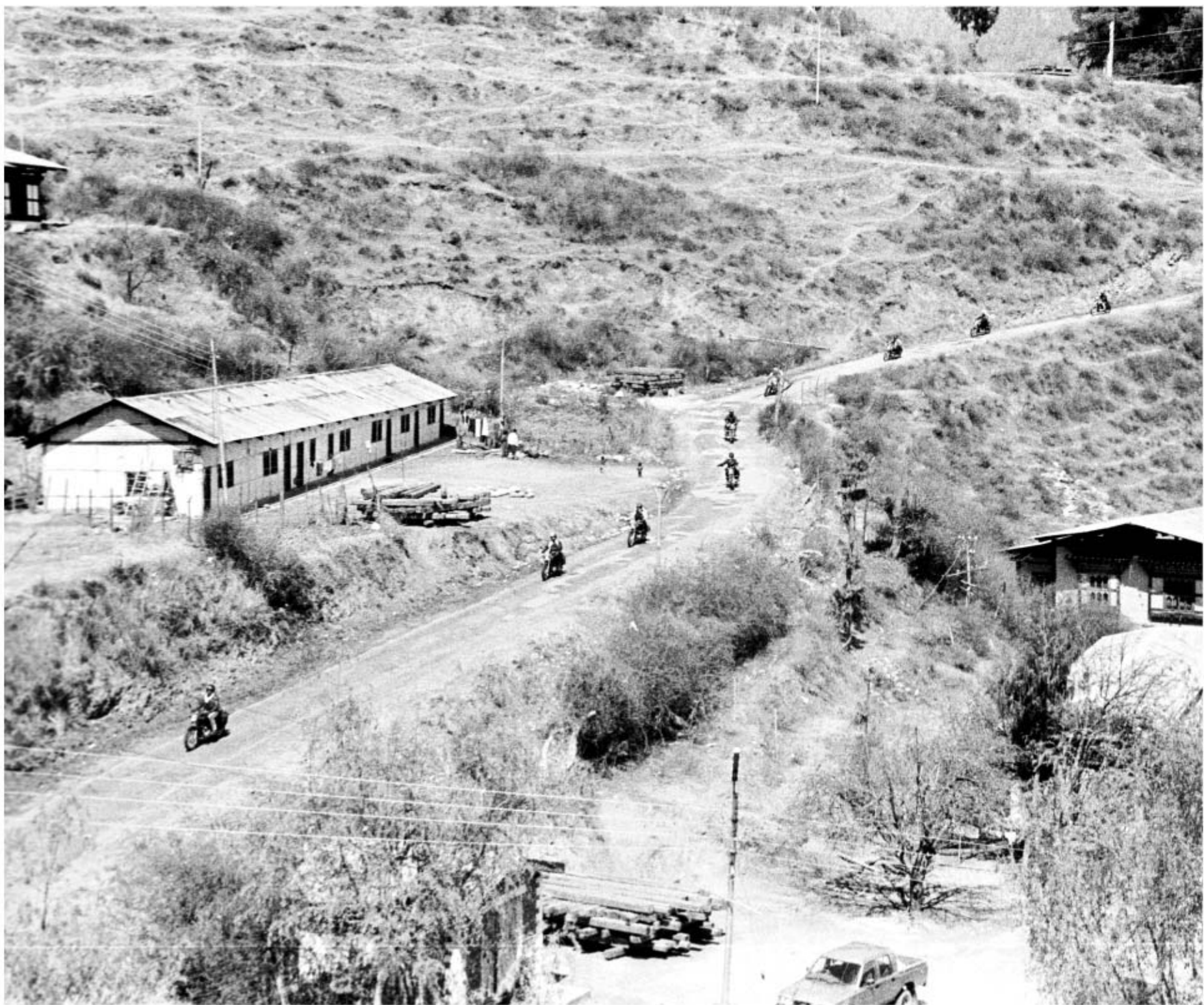
**An India-Bhutan Foundation to encourage people to people exchanges was established in 2003 under the patronage of the Vice President of India and the Crown Prince of Bhutan.**



**PEACE RIDERS FROM INDIA**

November 1995

Indian Ambassador to Bhutan Dalip Mehta flags off thirty six riders on seventeen motorbikes and scooter to various parts of Bhutan to promote peace





**PROMOTING FRIENDSHIP**

2002

Bhutanese Education Minister Lyonpo Sangay Ngedup and Indian Ambassador Mr K.S. Jastoria also joined five hundred guides and scouts from SAARC countries who gathered in Thimphu



**STRENGTHENING SPIRITUAL TIES**

June 2003

An exhibition on Nalanda as part of the Festival of India in Bhutan







#### REMEMBERING THE TSUNAMI VICTIMS

28 December, 2004

His Majesty the King, members of the Royal Family, Cabinet Ministers, senior officials and Indian Community in Thimphu performing a special prayer and lighting 1,000 butter lamps at the Tashichodzong in Bhutan in memory of Tsunami victims. The Government of Bhutan also made a symbolic contribution of Rs. 5 crore to India.



## THE FESTIVAL OF INDIA IN BHUTAN

June 2003

Their Majesties, the Queens and the Prime Minister of Bhutan inaugurating the Festival in presence of Minister of State for External Affairs Vinod Khanna and the Indian Ambassador





**Culminating event**

**FESTIVAL OF INDIA BHUTAN 2003**

Indo-Bhutanese Collaborative Production

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## अनहद यात्रा

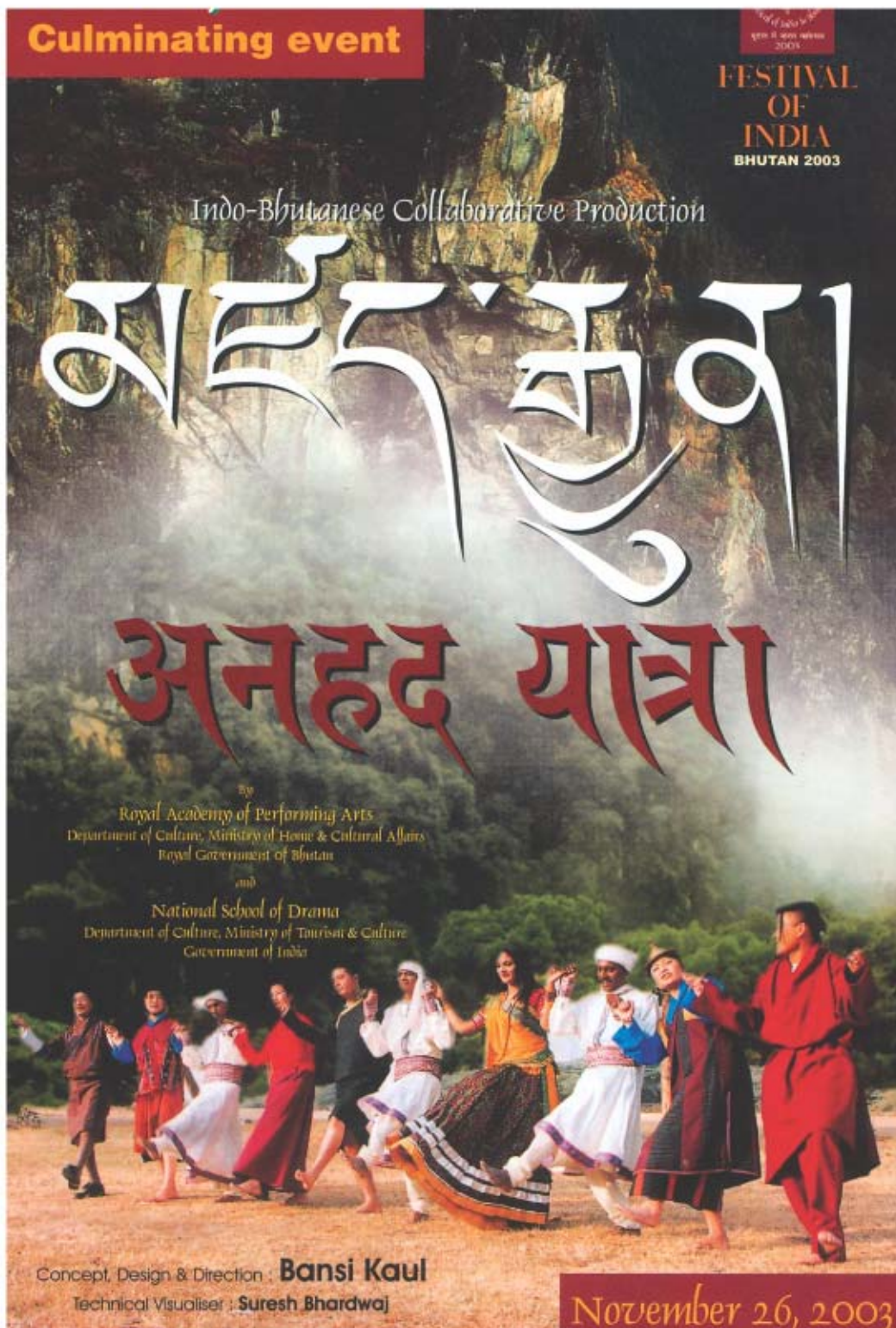
Royal Academy of Performing Arts  
Department of Culture, Ministry of Home & Cultural Affairs  
Royal Government of Bhutan

and

National School of Drama  
Department of Culture, Ministry of Tourism & Culture  
Government of India

Concept, Design & Direction : **Bansi Kaul**  
Technical Visualiser : **Suresh Bhardwaj**

**November 26, 2003**



**INDO-BHUTANESE  
COLLABORATIVE PRODUCTION**

June 2003

Anhad Yatra a music and dance drama, produced by the joint efforts of artists of the two countries, acclaimed much appreciation during the festival of India in Bhutan



### **STORY OF MILARAPA**

During the Festival in 2003, a story of Milarapa being narrated in a musical echoing the spiritual connection between India and Bhutan

*below*

### **SPIRITUAL CONNECTION**

The spiritual connection between India and Bhutan being conveyed through music and dance drama by artists of the two countries



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