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5th Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Summit: Proceedings of the Conference

Date: 22nd June 2024

Organized by: Global Leaders Foundation, New Delhi (India)

Associated with: Bhutan Tara Excursion (Registered Travel Agent of Bhutan) – GLF Bhutan Member

The 5th Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Summit convened amidst great anticipation and ceremonial splendor on the morning of 22nd June 2024 at the picturesque Royal Thimphu College in Thimphu, Bhutan. Organized by the esteemed Global Leaders Foundation in collaboration with Bhutan Tara Excursion, the summit served as a pivotal platform to fortify the enduring bond between Bharat and Bhutan, under the resonant theme "Bharat - Bhutan Relations: Evolution, Challenges and Recent Developments 3.0." Attended by approximately 60 participants, including 50 delegates from India and over 10 distinguished guests from Bhutan, the event aimed not only to celebrate historical ties but also to chart a course for future cooperation in various spheres.

Inaugural Session

Commencement

The summit commenced punctually at 10:30 a.m., graced by the esteemed presence of Chief Guest, His Excellency Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel, Hon'ble Foreign Minister of the Royal Government of Bhutan, who arrived with his esteemed wife to underscore Bhutan's commitment to nurturing bilateral ties. Also in attendance were H.E. Sangay Khandu, Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly of Bhutan, and H.E. Dasho Kamal Bahadur Gurung, Member of the National Assembly of Bhutan, whose participation highlighted the significance of the occasion.

Welcome Address

The inaugural session began with Mr. Ramesh Tripathi, Chairman of Global Leaders Foundation, New Delhi (India) honoring the dignitaries with traditional mementos and shawls, symbolizing mutual respect and cooperation. In his poignant welcome address, Mr. Tripathi eloquently articulated the deep-rooted cultural, economic, and strategic synergies that bind Bharat and Bhutan, setting the tone for a day of insightful deliberations.

Addresses by Distinguished Guests

His Excellency Lyonpo D. N. Dhungyel

The summit gained further momentum with His Excellency Lyonpo D.N. Dhungyel's insightful address, where he traced the bilateral relations through historical epochs to contemporary diplomatic engagements, emphasizing trust and cooperation as the cornerstones of the Bharat-Bhutan partnership.



Deputy Speaker H.E. Sangay Khandu and Member of Parliament H.E. Dasho Kamal Bahadur Gurung

Deputy Speaker H.E. Sangay Khandu and Member of Parliament H.E. Dasho Kamal Bahadur Gurung complemented the proceedings with their perspectives, enriching the dialogue with nuanced insights into avenues for deepening cooperation.

Keynote Presentation

Professor (Dr.) Bijay Singh, Vice Chancellor of ICAI University, Aizawl, Mizoram, took the stage to deliver a scholarly discourse on the historical trajectory and contemporary dimensions of Bharat-Bhutan relations. His presentation not only highlighted India's pivotal role in Bhutan's development but also underscored the shared values and synergies that have strengthened ties over the years.

Summit Proceedings

Miss Sonam Yangden, the adept anchor, skillfully guided the summit proceedings, maintaining an engaging atmosphere that kept participants enthralled throughout. A tea break at 11:30 a.m. provided a casual setting for informal discussions and networking among delegates, fostering camaraderie and exchange of ideas.

Post-Break Session

The post-break session featured presentations by three Indian delegates on diverse topics, each contributing unique perspectives that resonated with the audience and Bhutanese dignitaries alike. The highlight of the summit, however, was the presentation of the South Asian Excellence Awards, a prestigious recognition honoring individuals from both nations for their exceptional contributions to regional cooperation and development. This was followed by a convivial Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Lunch, where informal interactions deepened personal bonds among participants.

Afternoon Session

The afternoon session resumed with five Indian delegates presenting their research papers, delving into subjects ranging from trade and cultural exchanges to hydro-power collaborations and mineral resources. Each presentation enriched the ongoing discourse, demonstrating the multifaceted nature of Bharat-Bhutan relations and identifying new avenues for mutual growth.

Professor (Dr.) Bijay Singh and Mr. Ramesh Tripathi brought the summit to a ceremonious close by awarding certificates to presenters and participants, acknowledging their scholarly contributions and unwavering commitment to fostering bilateral relations. The 5th Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Summit concluded with a joint declaration outlining actionable steps to deepen cooperation and friendship between the two nations, marking a significant milestone in their shared journey.



Summit Duration

Spanning from 20th to 25th June 2024, under the chairmanship of Shri Ramesh Chandra Tripathi of Global Leaders Foundation, the summit not only celebrated the enduring friendship between Bharat and Bhutan but also reaffirmed their shared commitment to sustainable development and regional stability. Professor Bijay Singh's impactful keynote address encapsulated the summit's spirit of mutual respect, shared values, and common goals, resonating with all participants.

Conclusion

In conclusion, the 5th Bharat-Bhutan Friendship Summit exemplified the steadfast camaraderie and mutual admiration between the two nations, highlighting a robust framework for continued dialogue, collaboration, and prosperity in the years ahead. As the sun set on Thimphu, it left behind a legacy of strengthened ties and renewed optimism, paving the way for a future where Bharat and Bhutan stand united in their pursuit of shared aspirations.

Thank You