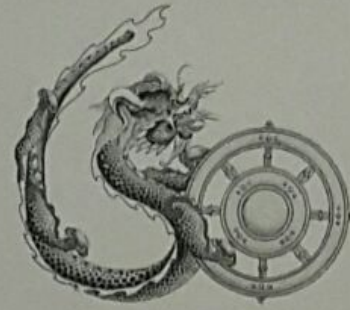




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**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Royal Government of Bhutan**



MFA/BDA-1/102/2285

2 October 2015

PRESS RELEASE

At the invitation of Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay, Prime Minister of Bhutan, H.E. Mamata Banerjee, Chief Minister of West Bengal, India, will visit Bhutan from 5th to 9th October 2015. The Chief Minister will be accompanied by a 19-member delegation which includes the Minister-in-Charge for North Bengal Development, the Minister-in-Charge for Housing and Youth Affairs, Chief Secretary, several senior Secretaries and other officials of the West Bengal Government.

During the visit, the Chief Minister will call on Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay and meet with Lyonpo Damcho Dorji, Foreign Minister and Lyonpo Norbu Wangchuk, Minister for Economic Affairs. Lyonchhen Tshering Tobgay will host a dinner in honour of the Chief Minister and her delegation. Discussions during the visit are expected to touch on further strengthening cooperation and enhancing the very friendly ties that exist between Bhutan and West Bengal.

The Chief Minister will attend a Business Conclave being jointly organized by the Bhutan Chambers of Commerce & Industry and the Indian Chambers of Commerce on 5th October 2015. She will also visit prominent historical and cultural sites in Thimphu and Paro.

The visit is highly significant as it is the Chief Minister's first visit to Bhutan. West Bengal is one of Bhutan's most important adjoining State in India with which we have strong trade, economic and cultural relations. The visit will further strengthen friendship, understanding and cooperation between Bhutan and West Bengal as well as Bhutan and India relations.

