

# KENDRIYA VIDYALAYA, HINOO, RANCHI

PERSONALITIES OF THE WEEK

## Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck



Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck, Bhutan King was chief guest at India's Republic Day parade this year[2013]. He born 21 February 1980 is the son of Jigme Singye Wangchuck and the 5th and current reigning Dragon King (Druk Gyalpo) of the Kingdom of Bhutan. He became King on 14 December 2006. A public coronation ceremony was held on 6 November 2008, an auspicious year that marked 100 years of Monarchy in Bhutan.

Khesar (pronounced Gesar) is the eldest son of the fourth Dragon King of Bhutan, Jigme Singye Wangchuck, and his third wife, Queen (Ashi) Tshering Yangdon.

As he opened the session of parliament on Friday, 20 May 2011, the King announced his engagement to Jetsun Pema, born in Thimphu on 4 June 1990. They were married on 13 October 2011 in Punakha Dzong. The royal wedding was Bhutan's largest media event in history.

He signed a new treaty of friendship with India in February 2007, replacing the treaty of 1949. Many government initiatives were undertaken by the new King with a view to strengthening the system in preparation for the democratic changes in 2008.

Following his 2006 visit to Thailand as Crown Prince, the King has been immensely popular in Thailand. The number of Thai tourists visiting Bhutan has increased steadily since the visit. In November 2011, the King with Queen Jetsun made a state visit to Japan; they were the first state guests to Japan since the 2011

earthquake. The Royal Visit had a similar effect, with reports that the Japanese were infatuated with the King and country. The young monarch has been frequently described by international media as 'charming' and 'handsome'. He is known for his personal touch with his people, and often referred to as the 'People's King'. Bhutan King was the chief guest at India's Republic Day parade this year [2013].