

Scholarship recipients with the Deputy Prime Minister Thuli Dladla. (Courtesy pics)

India increases scholarships for local students by 33%

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DEPUTY Prime Minister Thulisile Dladla has applauded the Government of India for increasing the number of scholarships awarded to local students by 33%, from 31 to 41 recipients this year.

Dladla made the remarks on Friday during the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) Scholarship Programme awarding ceremony at the UN House in Mbabane.

She was accompanied by Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Relations Pholile Shakantu and Minister of Education and Training Owen Nxumalo.

She described the ICCR scholarship programme as more than an academic opportunity, saying it continued to strengthen relations between Eswatini and India, while investing in the country's future.

"The ICCR scholarship programme is much more than an academic opportunity; it is a bridge between nations, a symbol of friendship and an investment in the future of young people.

Through this programme, many students have had the privilege to pursue their studies in India, gaining not only academic qualifications but also exposure to a rich culture, diverse perspectives and lifelong experiences that continue to benefit our country," said Dladla.

She congratulated the recipients and urged them to remain focused, disciplined and committed to excellence.

"You now carry the hopes of your families, your communities and the country.

Make the most of this opportunity to learn as much as you can and return as ambassadors of knowledge, integrity and service," said Dladla

Dladla who was the acting prime minister also urged the students to avoid wayward behaviour and alcohol abuse.

She thanked parents, guardians and teachers for supporting the learners.

Minister of Education and Training Owen Nxumalo encouraged the students to make good use of the opportunity and represent the country with dignity, while Minister Shakantu emphasised the importance of international partnerships in advancing education.

India's High Commissioner to Eswatini, Ram Prasad, announced the increase in scholarships and reaffirmed India's commitment to supporting deserving learners through education.

Former ICCR scholarship recipient Muzi Mhlongo shared his experience of studying in India, highlighting the country's rich culture.

He also assured the new recipients that the monthly allowance provided under the scholarship was sufficient to live comfortably.



One of the scholarship recipients shares a moment with the DPM.