



**61ST ANNUAL TSHECHU REPORT, MONGAR
DZONGKHAG, 2023**



Culture Sector



1. Brief History of the Institution of Mongar Tshechu

In olden times, unlike other Dzongkhags, Mongar Dzong did not have Cham and Tshechu events. Consequently, Dzongpon Dorji Peljor, along with other members including Agay Sonam Dendup, Yakgang Lama, Mongar Khochey Karpo, Belpa, and Kuenzang, convened a meeting. During the meeting, they collectively decided to organize a Tshechu, each member making individual commitments to contribute to the Tshechu. Yakgang Lama, for instance, pledged to provide mask dancers and folk dancers along with the masks worn by the dancers. Similarly, Mongar Khochey made a commitment to provide two pigs for pork, while members of the public pledged to contribute beef, Kharang, Maize, Tengma, and vegetables.

The Dzongpon pledged to provide rice to the Sungchops presided over by Lam Neten, a group that comprises Yakgang Lama and his relatives, folk dancers, and mask dancers, for three days each year. Legend has it that, to cultivate the rice, the Dzongpon organized the production of Chuzhing, leading to the naming of the place Khalangzi. (The place called Khalangzi is located 30 minutes' drive from the Mongar Dzong). Consequently, and based on these traditions, an annual Tshechu celebration is held.

During the tenure of Dzongpon Babu Karchung, challenges arose as the Tshechu, mask dances, and dancers faced dependencies and numerous issues. To address these and enable the independent organization of Tshechu within the Dzong, Dzongpon summoned a carpenter from Drametse to craft the masks. Under the coordination of Lam Jangchub Dorji, 37 Gomchens crafted Chamgho using poplin cloth. They also crafted 'Chagtshen' instruments, and in the Iron Ox year of the 16th century (1961), the government-sponsored (Zhungwang) Tshechu was inaugurated. As a result, the official annual Tshechu tradition commenced from the 7th to the 10th day of the 10th month in the Bhutanese calendar, spanning four days.

Since 1999, the dances of the Zhung Dratshang (Geycham) have been incorporated into the Tshechu festivities. A Thru program took place on the 5th day of the 10th month in the Bhutanese calendar, followed by Chmajuk on the 6th day. The Tshechu continued for four days, spanning from the 7th to the 10th day of the same month.

The sacred Cham of Tsakaling such as Pedling Tergi Homcham was incorporated in 2005 and Rigma Chudruk Cham in 2008 owing to its significance and to preserve it.

(Reference: *gzhonsgar rdzong dang mongar rdzong chagsrgabs rnalas baa pai chu rguen*’ Lopen Kuenzang Thinley)

2. Glimpses on the Annual 61st Tshechu of Mongar

The 61st annual Tshechu of Mongar unfolded its splendor from the 19th to the 22nd of November 2023, a captivating symphony of cultural resonance. Before the grand commencement, a Thru, or cleansing ceremony, took center stage on the 17th of November 2023. This sacred ritual was impeccably led by the Venerable Lam Neten, graced by the presence of Dasho Dzongdag, Dasho Drangpon, Dasho SP, esteemed LG Members, Regional and Sector Heads, Lopens, Monks, Mask Dancers, and Folk Dancers.

On the eve of the grand spectacle, the 18th of November 2023 witnessed the graceful dance of Chamjuk, a meticulous rehearsal, accompanied by the Bum Tashi program within the sacred confines of the Dratshang Kuenrey. The inaugural day of this cultural extravaganza unfolded with the performance of sacred Pedling Cham, including the ethereal Pedling Tergi Homcham, the enchanting Shinjey Phomo, and the divine Sangay Lingpa Ngacham. As the festivities progressed, the second day brought forth the mesmerizing Rigma Chudruk Cham of Tsakaling, and the profound Pedling Gingsum.

On the third day, the atmosphere was infused with the captivating Pholek Molek Cham, the powerful Durdag Cham, the rhythmic Tumngam Cham, and the mystic Raksha Mangcha. The fourth day continued the artistic tapestry with the enchanting Shazam Cham, the graceful Drametse Ngacham, and the spiritually significant Guru Tshengay Cham.

In a harmonious culmination, the breathtaking Thongdrel of Jebang Nyernga unfurled on the fourth day, a magnificent tapestry portraying the seated Padmasambhava surrounded by divine beings. This sacred Thongdrel, raised with reverence before dawn, gracefully descended by morning, weaving a tale of spirituality and artistry.

Throughout the four days of the Tshechu, a multitude of souls, numbering in the thousands, congregated to witness this spectacle, seeking not only the visual feast but also the blessings that permeated the air. Presiding over this grand affair was Lam Neten of Mongar Rabdey, a beacon of wisdom and spirituality, guiding the faithful through this enchanting journey of cultural celebration.

Glimpses from the Tshechu Celebration



Figure Number 1: Going in line for the Thru



Figure Number 2: Marchang Program



Figure Number 3: Chamjuk by Boechampa



Figure Number 4: Chamjuk by Gechampa



Figure Number 5: Lam Neten Standing for Cham Gi Tshogtam



Figure Number 6: Explaining about the Cham



Figure Number 7: Dasho interacting with the public



Figure Number 8: Bardo Cham



Figure Number 9: Active Atsara



Figure Number 10: Shinjey (Lord of Death)



Figure Number 11: Phento



Figure Number 12: Raksha Mangcham

1. Report on stalls in the Mongar Public Ground during Tshechu



Throughout the five day annual Tshechu held from 19/11/23 to 22/11/2023, the Dzongkhag public ground hosted a total of 216 stalls. These stalls were diversified showcasing various products such as cuisine, garments, toys and more. Additionally, engaging g games were set up for entertainment purposes. The primary aim of these stalls was to generate funds in support of the annual Tsechu.

1. Work Plan

1. Demarcation of plots by Dzongkhag: 13/11/2023 to 14/11/2023
2. Plot allotment by Dzongkhag: 15/11/2023
3. Construction of Sheds by business people: 16/11/2023 to 17/11/2023
4. Installation of Electricity by BPC: 18/11/2023 onwards
5. Main Event/Tshechu : 19/11/2023 to 22/11/2023

2. Plot Details and Rates.

Sl. No	Plot Type	Size	Nos	Rate of each plot including waste management charge of Nu. 1000/- (Nu.)
1	Hotel	5 m Front	22	11,000/-
2	Jumbo	4 m Front	20	11,000/-
3	General	4 m x 3 m	146	7000/-
4	Games	As per requirement	10	7000/-
5	Kids Play station		12	6,000/-
6	Others		6	-
Total Nos of plot:			216	

3. Plot allotment Details.

a. Plot Type I: Hotel

1. The plot preference were given to the Restaurant license holders of Mongar Town.
2. 18 people registered for operating hotel with restaurant license and thus the plots were directly allocated to them over a Lucky dip for the plot selection.
3. Upon issuing the plots to the 18 restaurant license holders of Mongar town, 4 plots remaining were allotted through lucky dip system to all the registered individuals irrespective of possession of license.

b. Plot Type II: General

1. From a total of 150 plots, 50 plots were reserved for the business owners of Mongar town holding valid license as of today. However only 14 business owners registered.
2. The remaining plots were then allocated to all the registered people regardless of the possession of license through a lucky Dip system of “YES” and “NO”.
3. After the plot allotment, 4 plots were left un-allotted.

c. Plot Type III: Jumbo

1. 5 plots out of 20 plots were reserved for the business owners of Mongar Town, possessing a valid business license but only 4 business owners of monger town has registered.
2. Remaining plots were then allocated to general public via a Lucky Dip system of “YES” and “NO”.

d. Plot Type IV: Games

□ As per the Annexure I of the Guidelines on the Management of Games of skill 2023 by the Department of Law and order, Ministry of Home Affairs, only the following games were allowed.

1. Short Range Archery
2. Short Range Khuru
3. Zeko (Throwing the rings)
4. Bowling
5. Fishing the bottles
6. Hitting the cans or objects
7. Hammering the running ball
8. Shooting the balloons or other appropriate targets.

e. Plot Type V: Tambola

□ In line with the Guidelines on the Management of Games of skill 2023 by the Department of Law and order, Ministry of Home Affairs, the committee decided not to allow it this year.

f. Plot Type VI: Children’s Play Station

□ As allotted in the previous years, the plots were allotted as per the requirements of the clients.

4. General Procedures:

1. The business license holders of Mongar town were given preference for plot allotment on production of original copy of license on the spot.
2. Business people from other Dzongkhags and without license had to pick up lot to get a plot allotted.
3. The rates for different Plot types were maintained same or deduced proportionately except for the Jumbo plot.
4. The rate for the Jumbo plot type was increased from **Nu. 9,000/-** to **Nu. 10,000/-**. It is fixed taking into account the size of Plot size which is almost double the size of the General Plot size.
5. The rate for Games plot size were reduced due to change in the nature of games allowed as per the guidelines from the Department of law and order, MoHA, 2023.
6. For the children play station plot size, the rates were applied depending on the size of plot requested by the shopkeepers, so it was applied proportionately to General Plot size rate.
7. The Waste Management charge for each plot was increased from **Nu. 500/-** to **Nu. 1000/-** which was irrespective of the individual plot rates. It is based on the past trend of littering waste indiscriminately after the event and time consumed in cleaning up the litters.
8. The Total Rate of each plot will be rate of each plot and the waste management charge.
9. Payment for plots and utility services were collected on the spot after lucky draw.
10. Any allotted plot owner not willing to pay the rental before the start of making the shed were stopped and cancelled the plot.

5. Water supply and Public toilets.

1. Municipal service section were responsible for providing water supply.
2. The municipal team used HDPE pipe for providing water to the hotels were 2 technicians were deployed during the entire duration of the Tsechu in the public ground.
3. The toilets were used on the basis of pay and use system which was a pivotal method in maintaining clean toilets.
2. Two muster rolls were designated in maintaining the toilets and collecting the fees during the course of the event. They were required to hand over 50% of the sum generated from the toilet fees to Dzongkhag Administration and keep the remaining 50%.
4. A total of Nu. 25,000/- was handed over to the Dzongkhag administration.
5. A Total of Nu. 1300/- was used in purchasing the buckets and jugs to maintain the toilets.

6. Waste Management

1. Three common wire mesh bin were provided at the entrance and the stall owners were made to manage their own waste.
2. Two refuse collectors was deployed during the event were the waste was collected once a day every day in the morning till the end of the event.

7. Security and crime control

1. RBP office supported by Dessups provided security and monitored the events as per their SOP.
2. Pavilion at public ground was used as control room for the RBP.

2. Procurement of costumes for Mask Dancers and Folk Dancers

Kuzuzangpo to all!

I am reaching out to you all with a heartfelt request to support our Mask and Folk dancers, ensuring that their performances become truly spectacular. Many of you are aware that these individuals, mostly from the villages, have been a cornerstone of our Annual Tshechu for decades, with some dedicated performers even contributing their talents for more than three decades. Their unwavering dedication to promoting and preserving our unique culture and traditions is truly commendable.

However, it is disheartening to note that the last time they received new costumes was in 2016. It has been 7 years, and I strongly believe it's time to provide them with a fresh set of costumes. Unfortunately, this year, we are facing acute financial constraints, making it impossible to allocate funds from the Annual Tshechu budget for this purpose.

The costumes they wear not only enhance the visual appeal of their performances, but also create a captivating and immersive experience for our audience. As civil servants, we have been granted a raise in our salaries, and as token of our gratitude, I propose that we contribute a small amount from this increase to support the dancers.

Your modest financial contribution will not only showcase your commitment to preserving our country's arts and culture, but will also empower our dancers to deliver breathtaking performances that will leave a lasting impression. Moreover, it will serve as an inspiration for our local youth to actively participate in the preservation of our cultural heritage.

Thank you for your generosity, dedication, and pride in our cultural traditions. Together, we can ensure that our Mask and Folk Dancers have the resources they need to continue enriching our cultural heritage and captivating audience for years to come.

*****THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY AND SUPPORT TO OUR PROPOSAL*****

Figure Number 13: Donation request Letter by Dasho Dzongdag



Figure Number 13: Folk Dancers with their new costumes Figure Number 14: Mask Dancers with their new costumes

3. Summary of the Donations and its Expenditure

Collection Summary of Costumes			
	Contributor	Amount	Remarks
1	Dzongkhag	23864	
2	Mongar HSS	10000	
3	Kilikhar HSS	11300	
4	Ridaza School	3600	
5	Konbar School	2780	
6	Mongar MSS	11610	
7	MS. Lotay Construction	45000	
8	MS Bikey Construction	20000	
9	Regional Office, DoST, Lingmithang	10000	
10	Regional Heads	60000	
	Total	198154	

Expenditure Details			
S.#	Particulars	Amount	Remarks
1	Kira, Gho, Wonju , Tego	143400	
2	Transportation Charge	1000	
3	Stitching Charges of Tego and Wonju	3000	
4	Tshoghlham for Dancers	40000	
5	Total Expenditure	187400	
6	Total Collection	198154	
7	Balance Amount	10754	

Under the discerning guidance of Dasho Dzongda, exquisite new ensembles, including Ghos for Mask Dancers and Kiras, Tegos, Wonjus, and Tshoghlams for folk dancers, have been procured. These splendid costumes, a testament to Dasho Dzongda's commitment to cultural richness, will be housed within the Dzongkhag and will grace the performers during not only the Tshechu celebrations but also on other significant occasions, adding a touch of elegance and tradition to these momentous events.

4. Summary of the Expenditure for the Annual Tshechu

Summary of the Expenditure for the Annual Tshechu 2023		
Sl/no	Particular	Amount
A	Expenditure for Musician, folk, and Mask Dancer	
1	DSA for Mask Dancer	1,145,900.00
2	DSA for Folk Dancer	475,200.00
3	DSA for Musicians from RAPA	58,470.00
4	DSA for Musician (Wangchuk)	22,000.00
Total		1,701,570.00
B	Expenditure for cooking and catering	
1	Food/Groceries/Refreshment	567,459.17
2	Catering bill	1,106,810.00
3	Hospitality for dancer	107,996.00
Total		1,782,265.17
C	Expenditure for Dratshang	
1	Tshok and Zhugdrel	204,433.00
2	Chagyap and Soelra	360,000.00
Total		564,433.00
D	Others(Chadri & RIB carpet)	
1	RIB Carpet/Transportation	122,075.00
2	Transportation of Carpet	17,000.00
3	Hardware Bill	144,185.00
4	Tsechu Meeting	880.00
Total		284,140.00
Grand Total(A+B+C+D)		4,332,408.17

Expenditure from the Ground Collection			
Sl No	Particular	Bill No	Amount
1	Refreshment and stationary	Note sheet	27325
2	Labour Payment for Toilet Const.	Note Sheet	444204
3	Labour Payment for Flag Pole.		24676
4	Plot demarcation, Water Supply		7000
5	Ground Cleaning		
6	Lunch and Dinner for Security	Bill	88920
	Total		592125
Total Expenditure for Tshechu from RGOB and Ground Fund			4,924,533.17

5. Minutes of Meeting for Post Tshechu Celebration

5/01/2024

Mini Conference Hall

S#	Issues	Way Forward
1	Issues with the DSA for the practice days of the mask and folk dancers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> From Next year, 42 days of practice will be held which comprises; 30 days of practice, two days Gap (Preparation), and 10 days starting from Thru and the Tshechu Celebration
2	Officials from Dzongkhag not involved during the preparation of Soelra and Chagyep.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decided to include our accountant and also detail out its expenditure with the list.
3	Thru Celebration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For the Thru celebration, lunch should be sponsored by Tshongpas of Mongar Town and Tshogchang by Gewog from 'Next Year'.
4	No separate account to transfer the balance amount of ground collection.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The balance amount from the ground should be transferred to Mongar Phendhey Zhitshog Account.
5	Morning and evening meals for Participants; Dratshang Lams, Lopens, and Monks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> It was decided that from next year, the morning and evening meals or Lams, Lopens, and monks will be given to Dratshang as a Kamphok. The kamphok should include morning breakfast and evening dinner. The exact total number of heads who will be present at the meals should be listed. Mask dancers and folk dancers dinner and breakfast will be served through catering
6	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Shortage of water for the hotels during Tshechu. Jumbo plot being underutilized and thus not needed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use of G.I pipe instead of HDPE pipe for water supply as HDPE pipe frequently gets air-locked Procure Syntax for more storage. Cancellation of the Jumbo plot and allotting it as a general plot Allowing of gambling needs to be reviewed since it is difficult to monitor. The vehicle parking along Gate towards the hospital lane needs to be discussed as cases are reported from that area yearly.

7	Security: insufficiency of Lodging for Desuups who are on Duty for the Tsechu.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lodging for Desuups needs to be discussed.
8	BPC: Lack of funds for electricity fees for the stalls in the ground.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Suggested to include fees in the plot allotment rate as the BPC does not have separate funds for the electricity installed in the stalls.

KADRINCHE LA!