



## A Glorious Retrospect: 116<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration



The 116<sup>th</sup> National Day celebrations for the Dzongkhag took place at the Public Ground, graced by the presence of Mongar Rab-dey, regional and sector heads, RBP (Royal Bhutan Police), De-Suup volunteers, schools, the business community, and the enthusiastic public of Mongar.

A diverse array of cultural performances graced the occasion, featuring the indigenous song *Azhang Gawai* presented by the Konbar and Takchu communities from Mongar Gewog, enriching the festive atmosphere. Further, prizes were conferred upon the runners-up of the futsal and basketball tournaments, which served as an engaging prelude to the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day celebrations. The excitement soared with a thrilling lucky draw generously sponsored by multiple proprietors. The event concluded with a Tashi Laybey, encapsulating the



presence of joyous celebration.

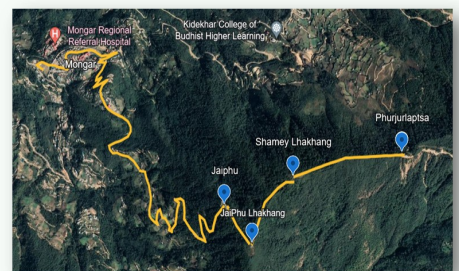
Contributed by: Culture Office

### Highlights

- National Day Build-up Programs
- Dignitaries Visit
- Home Exam School Results
- Cardamom Production
- Advanced Irrigation System
- Common Forum-An Electoral Platform to LISTEN
- SCADA System for Gyalpoizhing Town
- Renovation of Wengkhar Nagtshang

### Wellness on the Move: Health Walk

As the first build-up program for the celebration of the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day, the Dzongkhag organized Health Walk on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023. Over 200 participants, representing regional offices, the business community, Mongar Rabdey, various Gewogs, schools, Dzongkhag staff, and members of the public, enthusiastically took part in the event. The walk traced the ongoing construction of the eco-trail from Phujurlaptsa to Jaiphu Pam and through the town, encompassing a total dis-

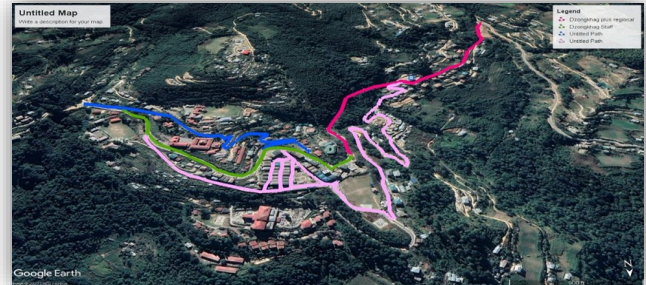


tance of approximately 10 km. The health walk also featured Riwo Sangchhoe and Moenlam at Phujurlaptsa, Shamey, and Jaiphu Pam led by Lam Neten, while the day ended with educating participants and the public about important facets of non-communicable disease (NCDs) and mental health, providing valuable insights for overall health and awareness at the public ground.

Contributed by: Planning Office

## A Cleaner World for a Brighter Future: Mass Cleaning Campaign

The Dzongkhag Administration organized a Mass Cleaning Campaign on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2023, as a part of the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day Celebration. Approximately 300 participants from various sectors including civil servants, Dessups, Rabdey, Royal Bhutan Police, business community, and the public joined forces, covering areas from Changshingpek to Ridaza. A substantial 4 truckloads of waste were gathered and transported to the Konbar landfill. Complementing the cleaning efforts, both the general public and participants were educated on the theme, 'My Waste, My Responsibility,' fostering the vision of achieving Zero Waste by 2030.



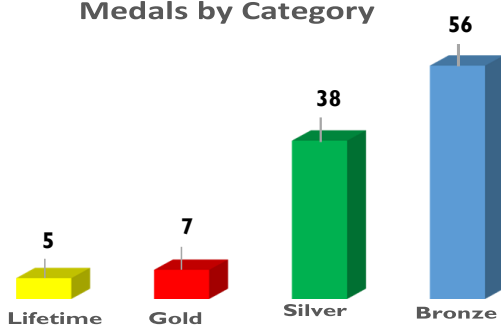
Sl. No	Place/Area	Amount
1.	Mongar town areas (Changshikpek-Ridaza)	Approx. 4 bolero loads of waste
2.	Changshingpek to Kilikhar	Approx. 1 bolero load of waste
3.	Kilikhar to Korila	2 boleros of waste
4.	Yadi to Korila	1 bolero load of waste
5.	Gyalpoizhing and Lingmithang	1 DCM load of waste
6.	Ganggola to Chali	1 bolero load of waste



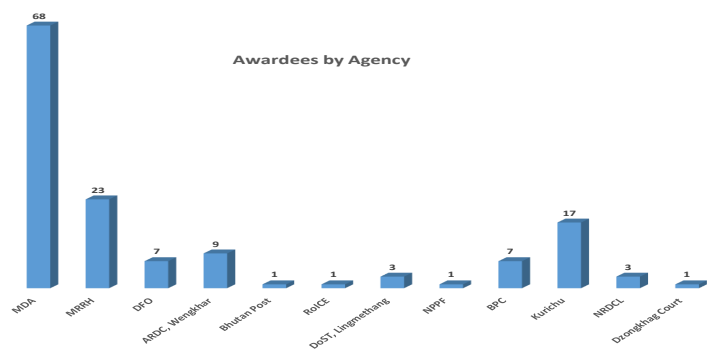
Contributed by: Dzongkhag Environment Office

## Honouring Excellence: Royal Civil Service Award (RCSA) Ceremony

Medals by Category



Awardees by Agency



The Dzongkhag Administration organized the 2023 Royal Civil Service Award Ceremony held at Dratshang Kuenrey on 15<sup>th</sup> December 2023. A total of 106 recipients from diverse professional groups within the Dzongkhag Administration and 11 regional offices were honored with Civil Service Medals. These recipients, across four categories—Lifetime Medal, Gold Medal (30 years of service), Silver Medals (20 years of service), and Bronze Medals (10 years of service)—received medallions and khadar from Ven. Lam Neten and Dasho Dzongdag in recognition of their service.

Contributed by: Dzongkhag HR Office

### Nangten Jelkha and Kurim

On 16<sup>th</sup> December 2023, the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day. Addition- Dzongkhag Administration, ally, the Mongar Norbu in collaboration with Mongar Choeling Dratshang conduct- Rabdey, unfurled the Guru Rinpoche Thongdrel and displayed sacred Nangtens at the Mongar Norbu Choeling Dzong as part of the build-up program for celebrating the



116<sup>th</sup> National Day. Addition- ally, the Mongar Norbu Choeling Dratshang conduct- ed 'Zhabdrung Daknangmai Sungchok' and offered Soelkha to the Goenpo Chamdrel as a kurim. Hundreds of people gathered to offer prayers and receive blessings.



Contributed by: Culture Office

### Whitewashing of Choetens in the Gewogs

In commemoration of the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day, the various Gewogs under the Dzongkhag undertook a noble initiative of white

washing of ancient Choetens, preserving their historical and cultural significance. Additionally, clearing of overgrown bushes surrounding these revered Choetens was conducted, ensuring their visibility and preservation for future generations. This collective endeavor served as a tribute to the rich heritage and traditions encapsulated within these sacred monuments, enhancing their beauty and sanctity.



Contributed by: Culture Office

### Tribute Through Sport: Futsal Tournament



Another build-up program for the celebration of the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day was the Men and Women Open Futsal Tournament. The Gyalpoizhing Women's team clinched victory in the women's category, while Revival FC emerged triumphant in the men's category. The thrilling matches ended in the awarding of the winners and runners-up prizes, a moment of recognition and celebration held at the public ground amidst the festive atmosphere of the 116<sup>th</sup> National Day festivities.

Contributed by: Culture Office

### Home Exam School Results

The recent home examination began on 15<sup>th</sup> November and ended on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2023, across all Dzongkhag schools and the results were declared on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2023. A total of 6,139 students from classes PP-XI sat for the examinations, achieving an overall pass percentage of 93.97%. Notably,

among the 7 Extended Classrooms, Chaskhar Pam, Jaibab, Muhung, and Saling ECRs achieved 100% results while Silambi PS, Pangthang PS, Kalapang PS, and Ganglapong PS also secured 100% performance among 24 Primary Schools. Lingmethang MSS led among 7 Middle Secondary schools with 97.21%, while Yadi CS excelled with 95.29% among 5 Higher Secondary schools. This achievement reflects the collective efforts of both students and educators. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the schools who excelled in their 2023 examinations.

Overall Performance of Schools		
Category of Schools	Pass	Fail
ECRs	98.75%	1.25%
Primary School	93.73%	6.27%
Middle Secondary School	91.28%	8.72%
Higher Secondary School	92.13%	7.87%

Contributed by: Education Office

## Dignitaries Visit

### Visit of the JICA Chief Representative

On 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023, Mr. YAMADA Tomoyuki, Chief Representative of JICA, and officials from JICA Office Thimphu visited Mongar Dzongkhag. The meeting focused on two critical topics: optimizing JICA volunteers' role in the region and addressing pressing waste management issues. Discussions emphasized leveraging

volunteers' skills for local development and exploring strategies to improve waste management practices. The visit aimed to foster collaborative efforts between JICA and Mongar Dzongkhag, laying the groundwork for sustainable development and partnerships to tackle regional challenges.



Contributed by: Dzongdag Office

### Visit of Indian Ambassador

The Indian Ambassador to Bhutan, His Excellency Shri Sudhakar Dalela, embarked on an insightful journey to the Dzongkhag, engaging with officials to review the impactful India-Bhutan Friendship projects and their contributions to local communities. On 7<sup>th</sup> December 2023, HE visited the

Mother and Child Hospital (MCH), followed by visits to the Gyalsung Project Site at Lingmethang, KHPC Powerhouse and dam. HE also visited Mongar Dzong & Kuenrey on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2023 and offered prayers.



Contributed by: Dzongrab Office

### Crops of Fortune: Cardamom Production

Due to favorable market prices in 2023, cardamom farmers in Mongar Dzongkhag are encouraged to sustain their farming efforts. Across 13 Gewogs covering 403 acres in dry land farming, approximately 25 MT were produced, generating income of Nu.22.548 million from local trader sales. Additionally, 290 kg of produce is ready for dispatch, with the year's price doubling to a maximum of Nu.400 per kilo compared to the previous year. Previously, Agriculture Sector initiatives distributed seedlings to certain Gewogs, promoting multiplication within communities by sharing saplings among Gewogs and villages. Looking ahead, the Dzongkhag plans to establish two solar dryers for cardamom, one each in Silambi and Gongdue Gewogs, while technical assistance will persist from dedicated Extension Offices in the Gewogs.

Cardamom production in 2023, Mongar Dzongkhag							
Sl.	Gewog	Total Est. area in Ac	Total Est. production (Kg)	Sold (Kg)	Balance/unsold (kg)	Rate (Nu / kg)	Value (Nu.)
1	Jurmed	0.25	50.00	50.00	0.00	850	42,500.00
2	Saling	7.00	1,050.00	1,050.00	0.00	980	1,029,000.00
3	kengkhar	1.50	225.00	225.00	0.00	850	191,250.00
4	Balam	7.00	1,000.00	1,000.00	0.00	850	850,000.00
5	Gongdue	193.41	6,492.00	6,492.00	0.00	1,020	6,621,840.00
6	Dramedtse	15.00	2,145.00	2,145.00	0.00	850	1,823,250.00
7	Shermuhoong	16.00	2,119.00	2,119.00	0.00	930	1,970,670.00
8	Ngatshang	10.00	1,563.50	1,563.50	0.00	900	1,407,150.00
9	Tsamang	22.00	2,800.00	2,800.00	0.00	850	2,380,000.00
10	Tsakaling	27.45	4,433.00	4,213.00	220.00	850	3,581,050.00
11	Silambi	101.60	3,000.00	3,000.00	0.00	830	2,490,000.00
12	Chhaling	1.00	0.00	0.00	0.00		0.00
13	Na-Rang	1.50	260.00	190.00	70.00	850	161,500.00
<b>Total =</b>		<b>403.71</b>	<b>25,137.50</b>	<b>24,847.50</b>	<b>290.00</b>		<b>22,548,210.00</b>

Contributed by: Agriculture Office

## Watering the Future: Advanced Irrigation System

The Agriculture Research Development Centre (ARDC) Wengkhār successfully piloted an advanced irrigation system at Korkang village, Tsakaling Gewog. This innovative system utilizes real-time data for weather, soil moisture, and temperature, integrating rain sensors to prevent overwatering and runoff. Employing drip irrigation with centralized management, this system efficiently waters crops, aided

by a water pump that reduces energy consumption. Mr. Sonam Dorji, an entrepreneur, implemented this system across his 2-acre citrus orchard, costing Nu. 103,081.00, with 30% funding from CARLEP/IFAD. The automated irrigation system positively impacts water efficiency, labor requirements, and orchard productivity. Expected benefits include increased crop yields by preventing water stress, nutrient leaching, and supporting fruit development.

The system aims to mitigate risks associated with inadequate or excessive watering, with its impact assessed in the upcoming season.



Contributed by: Tsakaling RNR Office

## Fodder Oat Cultivation: A Supplement to Winter Fodder Scarcity

Fodder oat cultivation combats winter scarcity for ruminants, vital for stable milk production. To counter this, free distribution of oat seeds aids winter fodder growth. The Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, funded by CARLEP, provided 5250 KGs of oat seeds in October, 2023. This benefitted 356 households, expected to yield 2124.50 MT of green fodder, optimizing dairy production in lean seasons. Green oat fodder also aids winter fodder preservation as green silage. A good irrigation, fertilizer application, a cut and carry system of management would ensure the beneficiaries to harvest



the green oat fodder for three consecutive times. However, continuous oat cultivation in the same plot depletes soil nutrients, advocating crop rotation to maintain soil fertility. This program significantly improves rural livelihoods through dairy farming, suggesting continued subsidy support to combat rural poverty.

Contributed by: Livestock Office

## Spark Awareness: Fire Safety Sensitization

On 3rd January 2024, RBP (Royal Bhutan Police), Mongar, in collaboration with the Dzongkhag Administration, organized a fire safety sensitization program to 27 monks including Lams from the Mongar Dratshang. The primary focus of this comprehensive session was to impart essen-

tial knowledge and practical skills regarding Dzong fire safety. In essence, this collaborative effort symbolizes a proactive approach to fire safety education, setting a commendable precedent for fostering a culture of preparedness, vigilance, and community resilience. against



Contributed by: Disaster Management Focal

## A New Tshogpa for Zangkar Chiwog



dates tying in votes, a Re-Election was mandated per Section 463 of the Act. Following the Third Local Government Elections on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2023, where 37 postal voters and 110 EVM voters determined the outcome. Oath of Allegiance was administered by Dasho

The ECB, under the Election Act of Bhutan, called for a Bye-Election in Zangkar Chiwog, Dramedtse Gewog, Mongar Dzongkhag due to an incumbent's demise. With two Tshogpa candi-

Dzongpon, Dzongkhag Court, while the ECB certification was handed over to the elected candidate by Dasho Dzongdag at Dratshang Kuenrey in presence of dignitaries.

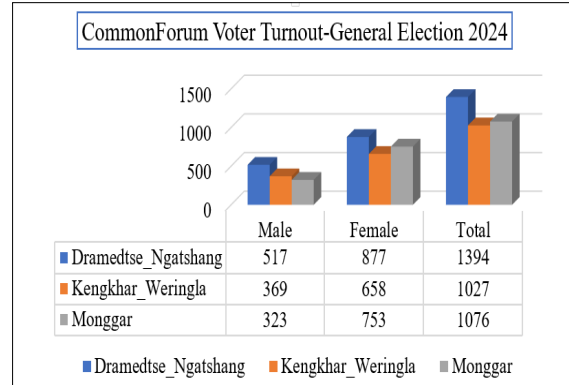
Contributed by: Election Office

## Common Forum-An Electoral Platform to LISTEN

The Dzongkhag Electoral Authority in Monggar conducted a series of common forums for the 2024 General Election from 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December 2023 covering all three Demkhongs. According to the figurative data, more women (2,288) than men (1,209) participated. Dramedtse\_Ngatshang had the highest voter turnout (1,394), while Kengkhar\_Weringla had the lowest (1,027). 74 forums were held across 17 Gewogs and a Throm. The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner shared electoral information during a forum at Wengkar Community Meeting Hall on 28<sup>th</sup> December 2023, fostering public engagement for the upcoming election.



The Election Commission of Bhutan (ECB) plays a pivotal role in



fostering democratic participation by organizing common forums. These forums serve as essential platforms where voters can engage meaningfully with political parties and candidates. By providing this inclusive space, the ECB ensures equitable opportunities for all parties to present their pledges. This approach significantly reduces potential inconveniences caused by simultaneous party meetings. Ultimately, these common forums aim to empower voters by facilitating informed decision-making and encouraging active participation in shaping the democratic process.

Contributed by: Election Office

## Revolutionizing Water Management: SCADA System for Gyalpoizhing Town



The Gyalpoizhing Town Water Supply system was successfully implemented through the Flagship Project by the De-Suung Partnership Project. The Project benefited 532 households with a population of 3,200, and it is projected for a population of 10,339 by 2052. The construction of an 11 km pipeline and two water reservoirs of 1,030,000 liters and 75,000 liters capacities cost Nu 42 Million.

In 2023, the DHI Research and Innovation Venture Excellence Center spearheaded the automation of water supply management in Gyalpoizhing through the implementation of SCADA (Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition) technology, operating within the Innotech Department. This innovative endeavor involved an investment of Nu.3.6 Million. The SCADA system was strategically designed to remotely monitor and regulate various field devices integral to water supply, such as water flow and level sensors, solenoid valves, and a multi-parameter water quality sensor encompassing measurements for Total Dissolved Solids (TDS), pH levels, and Chlorine content.

This centralized SCADA infrastructure was deployed with the primary objective of gathering and processing real-time data. Its comprehensive functionality enables efficient supervision, providing the operator with a sophisticated desktop dashboard. This dashboard serves as a control center, facilitating the analysis and adjustment of water flow rates, identification of losses within the distribution network, and fine-tuning of electric valves, all achievable without the need for physical on-site visits. This advanced system enhances operational efficiency, empowers monitoring capabilities, and optimizes control mechanisms for the water supply management in Gyalpoizhing.

Contributed by: Engineering Office

## Preserving Legacy, Restoring Splendor: Renovation of Wengkhar Nagtshang



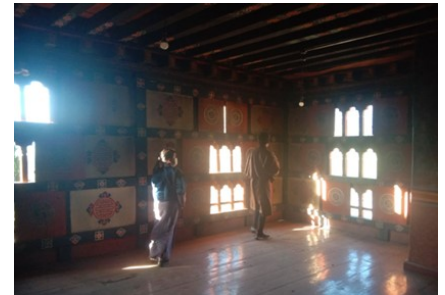
Wengkhar Nagtshang is highly sacred and holds special importance for the Bhutanese, as it has relics and artifacts that attract numerous individuals seeking blessings, and it is also the birthplace of Zhabdrung Jigme Drakpa. The Nagtshang has sustained considerable damage from the earthquake, necessitating prompt renovation. Although the renovation was planned in the 12<sup>th</sup> Plan, the renovation could not be carried out on time due to shortage of technical expertise. As a result, the



project was spilled over into 13<sup>th</sup> Plan.

The dzongkhag administration sought technical assistance from the Department of Culture and Dzongkha Development (DoCDD) for the renovation, given its need for specialized expertise. Ms. Sonam Choden, Architect and Mr. Namgyal Wangchuk, Civil Engineer from the DoCDD visited the site on Dec. 29, 2023. The officials were on the way to Thimphu from a site visit to the Trashiyangtse Rig Sum Goenpa. Before visiting the Wengkhar Nagtshang, the officials met with the Dzongdag, who

outlined crucial issues, including the urgency of the renovation, a shortage of engineers, limited renovation capacity, and budget utilization given that half of the fiscal year 2023-2024 had already passed. Dzongdag also instructed the officials to collect essential additional information and prepare a comprehensive report for the Director and the officer in-charge, and expressed Dzongkhag's commitment and support to start the renovation work.



*Contributed by: Culture Office*

## Welcoming a New Member



On 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023, the Dzongkhag Administration warmly welcomed Miss Pema Wangmo, ICT Associate to the Dzongkhag civil service fraternity. Before joining the agency, she successfully completed a 15-day induction program at the GovTech Agency. The Dzongkhag wishes her all the best.

*Contributed by: ICT Office*

The Planning Unit of Monggar Dzongkhag has released the 12th FYP Report for Monggar Dzongkhag. The report is accessible through the link <http://www.mongar.gov.bt/index.php/five-year-plan>. Kindly take time to read it.



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