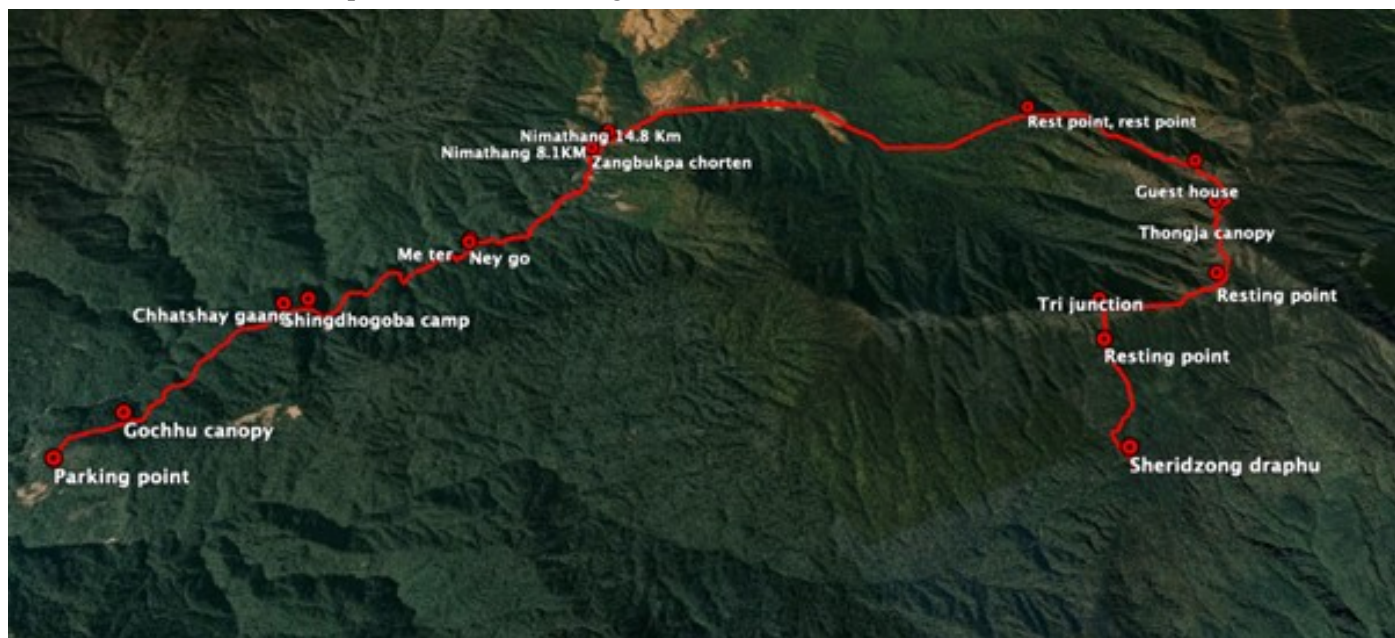




## Discover Eastern Bhutan's Hidden Trail (Sheri Dzong-Ugyen Draphug- Aja Nye)

### 1) Discover the Sacred Sheri Dzong Nye

Sheri Dzong is one of the eight sacred dzongs blessed by Guru Rinpoche, located along the border of Trashigang and Monggar Dzongkhags. Revered for its deep spiritual significance, the site is a place of devotion, reflection, and purification for pilgrims from across the country. According to sacred belief, the cliff from which the holy water, known as Thrichhu, gushes forth resembles a sacred Vase (Bumpa), while the rock upon which the water falls is like a mirror. This natural formation is believed to symbolically perform Lhasang Thrisel—a powerful ritual of purification that cleanses individuals and places of obstacles, negativities, and harmful forces.



Pilgrims visit Sheri Dzong to receive blessings and spiritual cleansing, seeking relief from physical, mental, and spiritual impediments. To support visitors, basic guest house facilities with toilets and a kitchen are available at the site, and being operated by the community. Reaching Sheri Dzong is itself a journey of faith. The pilgrimage involves approximately a six-hour trek from the nearest road point at Gangkhar village, offering visitors not only a spiritual experience but also an opportunity to connect with the pristine natural surroundings.



## 2) Discover the Sacred Ugyen Draphug Nye Pilgrimage



Nestled in the breathtaking landscapes of Monggar Dzongkhag, the Ugyen Draphug Nye (also known as Ugyen Drak) is a revered pilgrimage site closely linked to the famous Aja Nye (Aja Ney) complex. Both were blessed by the Guru Padmasambhava in the 8th century, making this area a spiritual retreat for many. Situated at an elevation 3,700 meters (about 11,800 feet) above sea level in Sherimuhung Gewog, Ugyen Draphug Nye is



one of several sacred cliffs and meditation spots believed to purify sins and guide pilgrims toward enlightenment. The journey to this sacred site is part of a multi-day pilgrimage, with a five-hour hike from Sheri dzong and a

seven-hour trek from Aja Nye, offering an immersive experience through Bhutan's pristine natural and spiritual landscape.

A two-unit shelter lodge was constructed with support from GEF funding to provide comfortable accommodation for pilgrims.

## 3) A Journey of Discovery: Ugyen Draphu–Aja Nye Hiking Expedition

A hike was undertaken along the trail stretching from Sheri dzong to Aja Nye via Ugyen Draphu, with the primary objective of studying its potential for structured tourism development (cultural tourism). The journey offered valuable insights into the trail's natural beauty, cultural significance, and readiness to be positioned as a sustainable hiking destination in eastern Bhutan.

The hike involved traversing the traditional route from Sheri dzong to Aja Nye, passing through Ugyen Draphu, allowing the team to closely observe trail conditions, accessibility, and visitor experience. This hands-on assessment was crucial in understanding how the trail can be developed while preserving its pristine environment and spiritual value.

As part of the visit, existing facilities along the route



were reviewed, including resting points, signage, and basic amenities. While the infrastructure established so far reflects commendable efforts, the assessment also highlighted areas requiring enhancement, such as development of hot-stone bath at Nimathang, improved way-finding, rest shelters, sanitation facilities, and safety measures.

*Contributed by: Dasho Dzongdag*



## Scrub bull sterilization program in Mongar



A two-week-long Scrub Bull Sterilization Program was implemented across all Gewogs of Mongar Dzongkhag with financial support from CARLEP to reduce indiscriminate breeding by inferior sires and to encourage the uptake of Artificial Insemination (AI) among dairy farmers. Scrub bulls were identified in advance by Gewog Extension Officers and pooled at common, accessible locations within

each Geog. Sterilization was carried out using open surgical castration for very young and old bulls, and Burdizzo castration for suitable age groups, following standard animal welfare practices.

The program was successfully executed, resulting in the sterilization of 695 scrub bulls across the Dzongkhag. Chaskhar Gewog recorded the highest number (168), followed by Mongar (152) and Depong (92), while moderate coverage was observed in Chali (90) and Saling (75). Lower numbers were reported from Silambi (37), Gongdue (37), Balam (31), and Tsakaling (13), reflecting differences in cattle population density, accessibility, and availability of scrub bulls.

The program achieved its objectives and represents a key intervention for systematic breeding control in Mongar Dzongkhag; annual implementation of similar programs is recommended to sustain genetic improvement. The Dzongkhag Livestock Sector, Mongar Dzongkhag, acknowledges CARLEP, Gewog Administrations and field staff for their support and coor-

*Contributed by: Livestock Office*

## Cattle show in Balam Gewog



A cattle show was conducted at Balam Gewog on 28<sup>th</sup> December, 2025 with the theme, "Better Breeds, Better Livelihoods". The event was graced by DASHO DZONGRAB as the Chief Guest along with other invited guests. The show was organized with the objectives to improve the dairy husbandry practices

and appreciate the outcome of cross breeding initiatives. A total of 126 farmers and 44 guests had participated in the event making it into a grand success.

The technical committee team visited around 200 cattle rearing households to conduct pre-selection using the standard cattle judging criteria. The shortlisted cattle from three categories were further scrutinized and selected 15

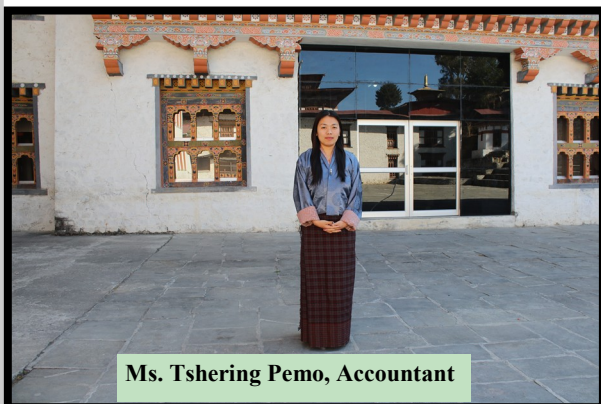
cattle from each category for the rally during the program.

The program concluded with the awarding of the prizes to all 15 finalist in each categories. And top three milk producers in the year 2025 from dairy farmers group were presented with the prizes.



*Contributed by: Livestock Office*

## Welcoming New Members



Ms. Tshering Pemo, Accountant

Monggar Dzongkhag is delighted to warmly welcome Mr. Karma Sonam, a graduate of the Royal Institute of Management specializing in Information and Communication Technology and Miss Tshering Pemo, a graduate of the Royal Institute of Management in Financial Management, as they begin their professional service with the Dzongkhag. Their induction marks a positive and timely addition to the Dzongkhag workforce, bringing in fresh perspectives, academic rigor and professional competence to strengthen public service delivery.

The Dzongkhag Administration extends

its heartfelt congratulations and best wishes to both Mr. Karma Sonam and Miss Tshering Pemo for a successful and fulfilling career ahead. With confidence in Mr. Karma Sonam's technical expertise to enhance ICT services and overall operational efficiency, and Miss Tshering Pemo's financial acumen to promote sound financial governance and accountability, the administration looks forward to their meaningful contributions. Both are encouraged to serve with dedication, integrity and a spirit of innovation in fulfilling their responsibilities to the people and the nation.



Mr. Karma Sonam, ICTA

Contributed by: HRO

## Summary of Land Services Delivered in the Year 2025

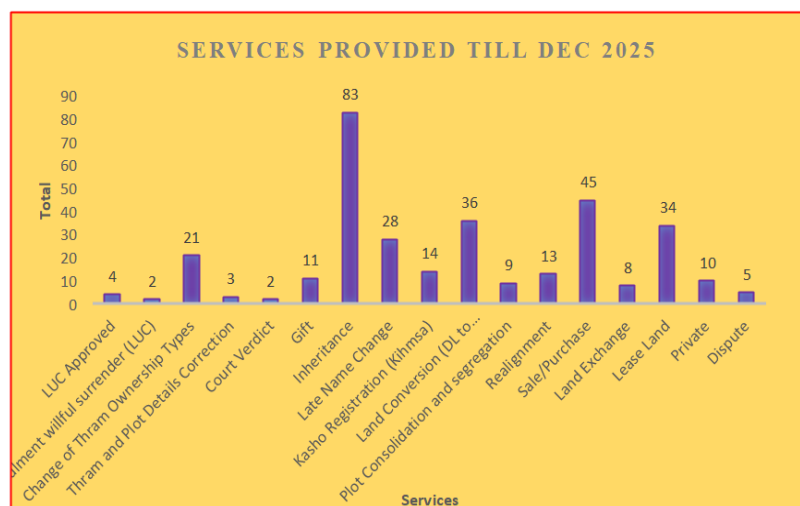


Table No. 1. Total Number of Services provided in Monggar Dzongkhag 2025

ers of LUCs, 2 court verdict cases, and 10 private land acquisitions.

The completion of these cases and issuance of Lagthrams demonstrates the Dzongkhag Land Sector's commitment to efficient service delivery, accurate land records, and secure land ownership across all gewogs.

In 2025, the Dzongkhag Land Sector successfully completed 323 land service cases across various gewogs, with all cases fully approved. A total of 572 Lagthrams (land certificates) were issued to landowners, covering new land transactions as well as replacements for lost certificates.

Of the total cases, 83 were inheritance cases, 45 were sale and purchase cases, 36 involved land conversions, and 34 concerned lease lands. Other services included 28 late name changes, 21 changes in thram ownership type, 14 Khasho registrations, 13 plot realignments, 11 gift transactions, 9 plot consolidations and segregations, 8 land exchanges, 4 LUC approvals, 3 corrections to thram and plot details, 2 annulments or voluntary surren-

Contributed by: land Office



## Celebrating the 118<sup>th</sup> National Day



The Dzongkhag Administration joyfully commemorated the 118th National Day at the Mongar Public Ground with great enthusiasm, unity, and patriotic spirit. The auspicious celebration was graced by the presence of the Chief Guest, Dasho Dzongdag, who was accorded a warm and dignified traditional ceremonial reception. The event brought together an esteemed gathering of Members of Parliament, National Council members, representatives from Mongar Rabdey, personnel of the Royal Bhutan Police (RBP), Desuups, and civil servants from various agencies, reflecting a strong sense of collective participation and national solidarity. The solemn yet celebratory atmosphere underscored the deep respect and loyalty of the people towards the Golden Throne and the enduring values of the nation.

The program was further enlivened by captivating traditional cultural performances that showcased Bhutan's rich heritage and artistic traditions, adding color and vibrancy to the occasion. These performances not only entertained the audience but also reinforced the importance of preserving and celebrating Bhutanese identity. As a special highlight of the celebration, participants were presented with a commemorative souvenir pamphlet marking the historic Royal Wedding of 2011, serving as a cherished token and a reminder of the unity, harmony, and blessings bestowed upon the nation. Overall, the celebration stood as a meaningful tribute to Bhutan's sovereignty, cultural legacy, and the shared pride of its people.



Contributed by: DT Office

## Dzongkhag Level Action Research Seminar 2025 Concludes in Mongar



Mongar, December 15, 2025 — The Dzongkhag Level Action Research (AR) Seminar 2025 was successfully held at Druk Zhongar Hotel with 23 teacher-researchers,

Education Officials, and Principals. Participants shared outcomes of year-long AR projects, highlighting improvements in students' learning and professional growth.

The closing ceremony was graced by the Honourable **Dasho Dzongdag**, who emphasized, *"Education is the foundation of the nation, and continuous, reflective research by teachers is essential for meaningful change in classrooms and schools."* Inspired by his words, teachers committed to extending AR practices, strengthening Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), and sharing insights through collaborative platforms, fostering evidence-based teaching and a culture of professional inquiry across Mongar Dzongkhag.

Contributed by: Education Office



## Boosting Tourism in the Region

### 1. Stakeholder meeting in Guwahati

A stakeholder meeting to boost tourism in the region was organized by the Bhutan CG Office, Guwahati, and was attended by representatives of Assam tour operators and Dzongdags from the eastern Dzongkhags. The meeting facilitated a meaningful and constructive discussion among all parties, focusing on key challenges, opportunities, and strategies for enhancing the region's tourism potential. Participants emphasized the importance of coordinated efforts, improved promotion, and sustainable tourism practices.



The stakeholders unanimously agreed to collaborate closely and work in partnership to strengthen tourism infrastructure, attract more visitors, and promote the region as a vibrant and attractive destination.

### 2. River rafting and Fly-Fishing

River rafting and fly-fishing are emerging as exciting adventure tourism activities with strong potential to attract both regional and international tourists. The pristine rivers of our country, surrounded by scenic landscapes and rich biodiversity, offer ideal conditions for adventure sports as well as nature-based experiences. To promote these activities and build local capacity, a trial rafting expedition was conducted as part of a hands-on training program for local community members.

The trial rafting route starts from Gongrizomsa to Telung, at Yangbari Golden Masheer Lodge, and could be extended till Pangbang. The distance from Gongrizomsa to Telung is about 14 km of river course. The stretch was found to be ideal for river rafting and kayaking, featuring suitable rapids, safe flow conditions, and breathtaking surroundings.



Alongside rafting, the river also holds promise for fly-fishing, adding to its appeal for international adventure and eco-tourism enthusiasts. With proper training, infrastructure, and promotion, river rafting and fly-fishing can become key attractions, generating livelihood opportunities for local communities while positioning the region as a premier adventure tourism



*Contributed by: Dasho Dzongdag*



## Status and Progress of HICDP Projects

### 1. SDP Work Progress

In the 13th Plan, Dzongkhags and Gewogs have received 67.50 M and 30.70 M fund respectively under the High Impact Cooperation Development Project (HICDP). The works under the HICDP are progressing steadily with systematic implementation of road improvement components, bridge construction, water supply & irrigation system. Regular field supervision and coordination have helped address site-specific site challenges including utility constraints, and traffic management. Blacktopping of shorter



length of road and far away from the plant required careful planning due to difficulties in

maintaining uniform mix temperature and mobilization of equipment.

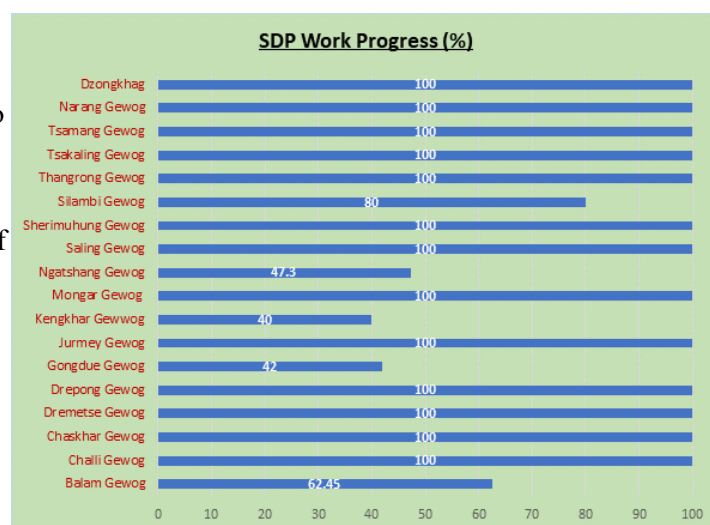


However,

**Quality Checks**

these challenges were mitigated through combined phased execution, resource sharing, and continuous monitoring. The implementation process highlighted the importance of advance planning, stakeholder coordination, and timely deployment of resources.

Quality monitoring was accorded high priority throughout the execution of HICDP projects. Regular inspections and prescribed tests were carried out at various stages to ensure strict compliance with approved specifications. Granular Sub-Base (GSB) materials were subjected to impact and gradation tests prior to laying, while compaction and field density tests were conducted after completion of laying to confirm adequacy, strength, and suitability. Continuous quality surveillance, proper documentation, and prompt rectification of any deviations have significantly enhanced construction quality and durability. The lessons learnt from execution and quality control practices will contribute to more efficient and effective implementation of future projects.



Contributed by: Dashed Dzongdag



## Honoring Civil Servants

The Dzongkhag Administration, Mongar, solemnly organized the Royal Civil Service Award Ceremony for the year 2025 at the Dratshang Kuenray today, in recognition of the dedicated service and unwavering commitment of its civil servants. Out of a total of 60 award recipients from

various professional groups under the Dzongkhag Administration, 41 recipients were present to receive the honor in person. The ceremony was conducted in a dignified and spiritual setting, reflecting the significance of the occasion and the deep appreciation accorded to years of loyal service rendered to the Tsa-Wa-Sum and the people.

During the ceremony, the awardees were ceremonially offered khadar from the Kuenrey, followed by the presentation of service medals and certificates by the Chief Guest, Dasho Dzongdag. The recipients were categorized into four distinguished groups: Lifetime Medal, Gold Medal for 30 years of dedicated service, Silver Medal for 20 years of service, and Bronze Medal for 10 years of service. Among the honorees, two received the prestigious Lifetime Medal, eight were awarded the Gold Medal, thirteen received the Silver Medal, and eighteen were conferred the Bronze Medal. The Dzongkhag Administration extends its heartfelt congratulations and sincere gratitude to all the awardees for their exemplary service, dedication,



Contributed by: HR Office



## December Month in Pictures



Celebrating the 118<sup>th</sup> National Day

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