



HEADLINE STORIES

Celebrating the 71st Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Je Khenpo



On the auspicious occasion of the 71st birth anniversary of His Holiness the 70th Je Khenpo, Trulku Ngawang Jigme Chökyi Drakpa Rinpoche, the Mongar Dzongkhag Administration, with Norbuchoeling Dratsang, offered prayers and zhabten for the long life and continued well being of His Holiness.

The prayer ceremony was held at Dratsang Kuenray and was attended by the Lama Neten, Dasho Dzongdag, Lopens, Dasho Drangpoen, regional and sector heads, and other officials.

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The Visit of Hon'ble Minister of MoICE to Mongar Dzongkhag



In a significant effort to streamline and improve the ease of doing business across Bhutan, the Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment (MoICE), in collaboration with the Cabinet Secretariat, launched the National Business Regulatory Reform Consultations 2026. As part of the nationwide consultation, the MoICE team visited Mongar Dzongkhag on 11 August 2026 and held an interactive consultation with Dzongkhag Tshogdu

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Strengthening Community Safety, Protecting Heritage: Awareness Program for Tshogpas in Mongar

On August 5, 2026, Division X (Mongar Police Station), in collaboration with Mongar Dzongkhag Administration and RENEW, conducted a training and awareness program for 83 Tshogpas on Community Policing, Crime Prevention, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and cultural heritage protection. The program aimed to strengthen community safety, enhance local leadership, and promote the protection of cultural and social values.

Participants were briefed on Chorten vandalism, community surveillance, neighborhood watch, local patrolling, and Chorten mapping and reporting requirements under the 10th Dzongkhag Tshogdu Resolution. The program also covered crime prevention, domestic violence, fire safety, emergency preparedness, LPG leakage response, and traffic safety. RENEW Plus introduced its support services for survivors and vulnerable individuals, while raising awareness on GBV prevention, reporting, and referral mechanisms.

The Dzongkhag Culture Sector conducted a session on the importance of cultural heritage in preserving Bhutan's identity, traditions, and values. Tshogpas were encouraged to actively safeguard heritage through community participation, monitoring, and awareness. They were also sensitized on the procedures for seeking approval for construction, renovation, alteration, and site development involving heritage sites.

The program strengthened collaboration among the Royal Bhutan Police, RENEW, Mongar Dzongkhag Administration, Culture Sector, and local leaders, reinforcing community participation in promoting safer communities and safeguarding Mongar's rich cultural heritage.

Contributed by: Culture Sector

School Visit and Review of Mid-Term Result

The Mongar Dzongkhag Administration has commenced a series of school visits and Midterm Result Review meetings to assess academic performance, understand challenges faced by schools, and engage directly with teachers and civil servants serving under Mongar Dzongkhag.

The programme began on 3 August 2026, with Mongar Middle Secondary School as the first school visited. Led by the Dasho Dzongdag, the visiting team comprises of Dasho Dzongrab, officials from the Education Office, the Human Resource Officer. As of now the team has visited 13 of 33 schools under Mongar Dzongkhag as part of the ongoing school visit and Midterm result review meeting.

The first major agenda of the programme was the Midterm Result Review, providing an opportunity to assess the academic performance of schools based on the midterm examination results. The Education Office presented an overview of the budget distribution and a detailed analysis of the midterm results, highlighting the performance trends and areas requiring further attention and improvement.

The Dasho Dzongdag emphasized that the midterm results should serve as an important basis for schools to reflect on their performance and identify areas for achievement and improvement.

Where schools have recorded a decline in performance, he encouraged the school management and teachers to examine the underlying factors and develop appropriate strategies to address the gaps. At the same time, schools that have

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The Visit of Hon'ble Minister of MoICE to Mongar Dzongkhag

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members and the local business community. The initiative is guided by the Government's commitment to creating a business environment where regulations facilitate, rather than hinder, private investment, entrepreneurship, and economic growth. During the consultation, the MoICE team shared encouraging progress under the Comprehensive Business Regulatory Review, reporting that 151 of the 196 identified business bottlenecks have already been resolved. The consultation also provided a platform for local entrepreneurs and business representatives to directly raise their concerns, challenges, and recommendations related to existing business regulations with the Hon'ble Minister and relevant officials.

In addition, the Department of Tourism presented the Tourism Minimum Facilities Initiative (TMFI) under the TASHEL Framework. Supported by a development budget of Nu. 11 million, the initiative aims to establish minimum national service standards and enhance tourism infrastructure, including improvements to public toilets across the country. It also includes the introduction of two Integrated Roadside Stations (IRS) under the Economic Stimulus Programme, with the aim of improving facilities and ensuring better experiences for visitors travelling across Bhutan.

Contributed by: PEDS sector

Celebrating the 71st Birth Anniversary of His Holiness the Je khenpo

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The celebration brought together the spiritual and administrative leadership of the Dzongkhag in a shared expression of devotion, gratitude and reverence for His Holiness.

During the ceremony, collective prayers were offered for His Holiness for a long and healthy life and to continue his profound spiritual service for the benefit of all sentient beings.

As a part of the occasion, butter lamps were lit and offered with heartfelt aspirations for the longevity of His Holiness.

The offering of butter lamps symbolised the collective aspiration to dispel the darkness of ignorance, illuminate the path of wisdom and strengthen the flourishing of the Dharma.

The occasion was also a moment for the people and officials of Mongar to express their deep respect and gratitude towards His Holiness for his unwavering dedication to the preservation and propagation of the Buddha Dharma.

Offering of zhabten and other sacred prayers, the officials offered sincere aspirations that His Holiness may remain in this world for countless years, continue to guide the faithful and benefit all sentient beings through his wisdom and compassion.

The ceremony concluded with prayers and aspirations for His Holiness to remain in good health, live for many aeons and continue turning the profound wheel of Dharma from his golden throne for the benefit of all beings.

Contributed by: Culture Sector

Wengkhar Nagtshang Heritage Gallery: Preserving Our Past, Inspiring Our Future

A new chapter in preserving the heritage of Wengkhar Nagtshang is taking shape with the development of the Community-Centered Heritage Gallery, a joint initiative of the Department of Culture and Mongar Dzongkhag Administration. The gallery was developed with the aim of giving a safe and meaningful home to the old documents, artifacts, sacred objects, and stories that carry the history and identity of the community.

Over the years, many of these valuable collections have been kept in limited spaces and have had little opportunity to be seen or appreciated by the younger generation. The new gallery provides an opportunity to preserve them properly while also helping young people understand and connect with the history, traditions, and values passed down through generations.

The two-level gallery brings together traditional heritage and modern ways of presenting history. Visitors will be able to explore curated stories through holograms, oral testimonies, digital media, and interactive displays. These features are intended to make the experience more engaging and meaningful for local communities, students, and visitors.

Among the key features is a narrative on the legacy of Zhabdrung Jigme Drakpa, along with oral accounts from the community, sacred objects including “ngathens”, old manuscripts, and other significant artifacts.



Together, these collections tell the story of the place not only through written records, but also through the memories and traditions of the people. Rather than simply serving as a space to display artifacts, the gallery aims to provide a place where people can learn, reflect, appreciate, and connect with their heritage. It adds a new dimension to Wengkhar Nagtshang as a sacred site, while helping preserve and share its history, stories, and traditions with future generations and visitors. The Heritage Gallery is now all set for public viewing following its consecration in October 2026.

Contributed by: Dasho Dzongdag

Construction of the Khadrak and Thilling Bridges

The Khadrak and Thilling bridge projects were undertaken with financial support from the Small Development Project (SDP) under the High Impact Community Development Project (HICDP) and the Royal Government of Bhutan (RGoB). The bridges were initiated to improve connectivity and accessibility for the communities residing in the surrounding areas, as well as to facilitate the movement of pilgrims travelling to religious sites in the region.

The abutment works for both the Khadrak and Thilling bridges were successfully carried out by M/s Jawa Lamdro Construction, Yedi, Mongar, and were completed within the scheduled project period. The timely completion of the abutments provided a strong foundation for the subsequent bridge assembly and launching works.

The successful completion of the bridge projects was made possible through the valuable support and cooperation of various stakeholders. The Department of Surface Transport (DoST), Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport (MoIT), provided essential assistance, particularly in making available the missing bridge components and providing the necessary launching equipment. This support was instrumental in overcoming some of the technical and logistical challenges encountered during the bridge launching process.

The project also received immense support from the Dasho Dzungdag, Gup, and Member of Parliament (MP) of Drametse-Ngatshang, who played an important role in facilitating the construction activities and assisting the project team in obtaining the required bridge components. Their support and coordination with the local communities contributed significantly to the smooth implementation of the project.



Khadrak Bridge

The construction of the Khadrak and Thilling bridges has been an important infrastructure initiative for the local communities, providing safer and more reliable connectivity across the river. Although bridge work involved considerable logistical and technical challenges, the project also provided valuable practical lessons, particularly in bridge launching, roller arrangement, teamwork, and site management.

Site Challenges at Khadrak

One of the major challenges encountered during the construction of the Khadrak bridge was the stability of the soil at the original abutment location. The ground conditions were found to be unsuitable for safely establishing the proposed abutment at the initially selected site. Given the importance of ensuring the long-term stability and safety of the bridge, it was necessary to reconsider the original location.

As a result, the bridge site had to be relocated to the present location where the ground conditions were more suitable for the construction of the abutment. This relocation required additional planning, coordination, and adjustment of the construction approach. The experience highlighted the importance of

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Construction of the Khadrak and Thilling Bridges

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carefully assessing ground conditions and soil stability before finalizing bridge locations and commencing major foundation works.

Challenges in Material Transportation

Another significant challenge for both the Khadrak and Thilling bridges was the transportation of construction materials to the opposite side of the river. Existing wooden bridges provided access across the river, but they could not accommodate heavy vehicles. Consequently, heavy construction materials and equipment could not simply be transported directly by truck across the existing crossings.

This created additional logistical difficulties for the project team. Materials had to be carefully managed and transported using methods suitable for the available access conditions. The situation required considerable coordination, manual handling, and planning to ensure that the necessary materials reached the construction area without damaging the existing wooden bridges or compromising safety.

The experience demonstrated how existing infrastructure and site accessibility can have a major influence on the cost, duration, and method of construction, particularly in remote areas.

Launching the bridges presented another major technical challenge. The available launching space at the sites was limited, leaving little room for assembling and positioning the bridge before pushing it across the river. Because of this constraint, the launching operation had to be carried out very carefully.

The bridge had to be progressively pushed towards the opposite bank while maintaining proper alignment and stability.

Every stage of the launching process required close attention from the team. The limited working space meant that there was little margin for error, and the bridge could not be moved without careful coordination between the workers involved.

The launching process therefore required not only technical knowledge but also patience, communication, and teamwork. The successful completion of the launching demonstrated the importance of having an experienced and coordinated team when working under difficult site conditions.

Lessons Learned from Bridge Launching

Under the guidance of DASHO DZONGDAG, I got golden opportunity to coordinate and launched two baily bridges.

The launching of the Khadrak and Thilling bridges provided several important practical lessons. One of the key lessons was the correct layout and positioning of the plain rollers and rocking rollers. Proper roller arrangement is essential to ensure that the bridge moves smoothly and remains properly supported during launching.

The rollers had to be placed at specified distances and in the correct positions to distribute the load effectively. Accurate placement helped maintain the alignment of the bridge and reduced the risk of uneven movement during the launching operation. This experience reinforced the importance of carefully checking measurements and roller positions before beginning the actual launch.

Another challenge was the fitting and assembly of the bridge components. Some of the bridge parts were from an older bridge system,

Construction of the Khadrak and Thilling Bridges

cont. from Pg 06

and fitting these components together required additional time and adjustment. Differences in the condition and fit of the old components meant that the team had to work carefully to ensure that the parts were properly assembled and secured.

The launching operation also demonstrated that successful bridge construction is not solely dependent on individual technical skills. Teamwork was one of the most important factors in completing the launching successfully. Workers had to communicate continuously, coordinate the movement of the bridge, monitor the rollers, and respond immediately to any difficulty encountered during the process. A well-coordinated team was therefore essential for maintaining safety and controlling the bridge during the launch.

Economic and Social Benefits

Despite the challenges encountered during construction, the Khadrak and Thilling bridges are expected to provide meaningful economic and social benefits to the surrounding communities.

The project directly benefits approximately 51 households, particularly by improving access and reducing the difficulties associated with crossing the river. Better connectivity can make it easier for residents to transport goods, access services, travel for education and other purposes, and maintain connections with nearby communities.

The bridges also have significance beyond the immediate beneficiary households because the area is associated with pilgrimage routes. Improved access will benefit pilgrims travelling to Aga Nye, making their journey more convenient and safer. The bridges are also expected to benefit people from Tashiyangtse and Lhuentse who travel in the

area as part of their pilgrimage.

In this way, bridges serve not only as physical infrastructure but also as an important connection between communities, places of religious significance, and local economic activities.

The construction and launching of the Khadrak and Thilling bridges was a challenging undertaking that required the project team to overcome difficult soil conditions, limited site access, transportation constraints, restricted launching space, and difficulties associated with fitting older bridge components.

The relocation of the Khadrak bridge site demonstrated the importance of responding appropriately to ground conditions, while the difficulties in transporting materials highlighted the logistical challenges of working in remote areas. The launching operation, in particular, provided valuable lessons on the layout and placement of plain and rocking rollers, maintaining specified roller distances, careful bridge alignment, and the importance of teamwork.



Thilling Bridge

Contributed By Engineering Sector

School Visit and Review of Mid-Term Result

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demonstrated significant improvement were congratulated and encouraged to sustain the momentum and continue building on their progress.

The Dasho Dzungda also spoke about the changing nature of today's youth and the need for educators to understand and respond to the evolving needs, behaviours and challenges of young people. He emphasized the importance of adopting appropriate approaches and strategies to engage, guide and motivate students in an environment where young people are increasingly exposed to new influences and challenges.

The address also touched on the 108 chorten project and GMC related initiatives, highlighting the importance of understanding and supporting broader development priorities while continuing to deliver quality public services at the local level.

A key component of the school visit was the open session with teachers and school staff. The session provided an open and constructive platform for civil servants to raise issues, challenges and concerns affecting their professional responsibilities and the functioning of their schools. Discussions covered a range of human resource, administrative, infrastructure and other workplace-related matters.

One of the major concerns raised by the schools was the shortage of human resources. Teachers and school staff highlighted that limited staffing has placed additional workloads and responsibilities on the existing workforce, affecting the ability to effectively manage their regular duties. The discussions provided an opportunity for the Dzongkhag team

to better understand the staffing requirements and challenges faced at the school level. Schools also highlighted concerns related to infrastructure, particularly the need to address ageing infrastructure and improve facilities to provide a more conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The school visits therefore serve not only as a platform for reviewing academic results, but also as an avenue for strengthening communication between the Dzongkhag Administration and schools. By engaging directly with teachers and school staff, the programme aims to better understand challenges on the ground, identify areas requiring support, and collectively explore practical measures to improve school performance and the overall working environment.

The programme will continue across schools in the Dzongkhag, with the visiting team engaging with school management, teachers and civil servants to review progress, listen to concerns and reinforce the shared responsibility of ensuring quality education and effective public service delivery.

Contributed by HR Sector

A Life Sown in Service

I began my journey as a civil servant in 2003, when I was posted to Daksa Primary School under Gongdu Gewog. It was my first posting, and little did I know then that this place would become such a meaningful part of my life.

In those days, there were no motorable roads leading to the school. I had to walk on foot from the Mongar Dzongkhag Administration to reach Daksa. The journey was difficult, but I never saw the distance as a reason to turn back. From my very first day, I had one simple goal that was to serve the community, to teach the children, and to share whatever knowledge I had with them.

My inspiration to become a teacher came from my own teachers. I looked up to them as role models and wanted to become someone who could make the same difference in the lives of children. Over the years, I have come to realise that teaching is not simply about completing a syllabus. It is about laying the foundation for the future of our country.

One of the moments I hold closest to my heart came in 2013, when His Majesty the King conferred upon me the National Order of Merit (Gold) for my dedicated service in remote and difficult areas. The recognition meant more to me than an award. It reminded me that even the quiet sacrifices made in the remotest corners of the country can have meaning.

One of the biggest achievements in life is seeing my students grow into capable individuals who go on to serve the nation. Many of my former students are now civil servants themselves. Whenever I see them serving the country, I feel a deep sense of pride not only in them, but in the profession I chose and the sacrifices I made along the way.

To me, civil service means doing things for others, rather than for ourselves. It means putting others before ourselves, setting a good example, and becoming a role model for those around us.

I often think of nation building as building a house. Before a house can stand tall, its foundation must be strong. As a teacher, I believe my role is to help build that foundation. The children I teach today are the people who will carry our country forward tomorrow. If I can help make that foundation stronger, then I believe my years of service have been worthwhile. My only wish is to continue building that foundation for as long as I can.

To the young civil servants joining the service today we should never fail in your duty to the nation, we should serve with integrity and support our colleagues and work as a team. Most importantly, never stop learning and never become complacent.

I have never believed that a better life is always found beyond our borders. For me, there is a deeper fulfilment in serving the King, Country and People.

A seed does not grow in a day. It needs patience, care and sacrifice. I believe our service is the same. We may not live to see all that we sow, but one day, the nation will reap what we have planted.

After all these years, I do not count the roads I walked or the comforts I left behind. I look at the children who have grown from my classroom into people who now serve the nation. For 23 years since 2003, teaching at Daksa PS has remained my deepest privilege till date.

That is my harvest, that is my pride and that is enough.

By Lopen Yeshe
Daksa Primary School



A Journey of Discovery and Gratitude

It is my pleasure to share a few words about the memorable trip to Gelephu organized by our school management for the top three students from Grade 9 to 12.

Our journey began on 14th August at around 6 am from Mongar. We stopped at Yangbari for breakfast and continued our journey towards Gelephu. After crossing India, we stopped for lunch and eventually reached Sarpang Central School at around 5:30 pm, where we were warmly welcomed and accommodated for two nights.

The following day was filled with exciting and meaningful experiences. We visited the New Sarpang Dzong, where we had the opportunity to see various religious items that are to be included in the upcoming GMC's 108 stupas. This also gave us a glimpse of the development taking place under the GMC project.

We then visited a water park, where we thoroughly enjoyed the various slides and water attractions. Later, we went shopping at Dathgari before having dinner at a restaurant in Gelephu, kindly hosted by our honorable Principal.

On 16th August, we began our journey back to Mongar. We stopped for lunch at Nganglam Lower Secondary School and finally reached Mongar at around 6 pm.

Overall, the trip was not only enjoyable but also a valuable opportunity to experience new places, learn about the developments taking place in Gelephu which created lasting

memories with our friends and teachers.

I would like to express our sincere gratitude to Sarpang Central School for their warm hospitality and to Nganglam Lower Secondary School for welcoming us during our journey. We are also deeply grateful to Dasho Dzongdag for supporting this programme and to our school management team for organizing such a wonderful opportunity and recognizing the efforts of the students.

Finally, we would like to extend our heartfelt appreciation to Kidheykhar Central School for generously providing the bus for our journey, which made our travel possible and convenient throughout the trip. This trip will certainly remain a memorable part of our school life.



Tashi Dema
XII COM A
Mongar HSS

Classroom with No Walls: What Happens When We Trade the Blackboard for the Breeze

If you ever find yourself losing faith in the future, I highly recommend spending a day in a primary school.

Every morning, our classrooms are filled with a beautiful, chaotic energy a whirlwind of untied shoelaces, missing pencils, and bright eyes full of wonder. At this age, children don't just look at the world, they devour it with curiosity. They remind us daily that true education isn't about forcing young minds to sit still in neat rows, staring at a blackboard. It is about lighting a fire. And as educators, the best way to catch that spark is often to open the classroom door, step outside, and let our community become the textbook.

We so often confine learning to four walls, forgetting that our local environment is the most vibrant classroom available. This realization hit me crystal clear during a recent Grade 6 English lesson.

We were exploring the story "The People Who Hugged the Trees" a moving account of Amrita and her community risking everything to shield desert trees from the Maharajah's axes. It is a powerful narrative of courage and environmental justice.

Yet, as we read, I realized that if we treated this text merely as a comprehension exercise to harvest

new vocabulary, we would miss its true soul. To really understand the story, my students needed to bridge the gap between that distant, historic desert and the lush green ridges right outside our own school windows.



So, we moved our class outside and sat beneath the local canopy.

Instantly, the black ink on the textbook page came alive.

Environmental preservation was no longer an abstract idea in a

book, it was right there in front of us, rustling in the wind. The courage of Amrita became a mirror reflecting our own sacred values of Tha Damtse our deep commitment to the living world and Ley Jumdrey, the understanding that our small choices today ripple into the future.

Classroom with No Walls: What Happens When We Trade the Blackboard for the Breeze

Our students may be small, but when they learn to love and respect where they come from, their potential becomes limitless. A story about tree huggers from centuries ago stops being just another lesson to memorize it becomes a catalyst, inspiring our children to write their own stories of conservation. After all, the tallest trees in our valleys always start with the deepest roots.



Dema Wangmo
Teacher, Baging Primary School

Sitting in the grass, holding a single leaf, the lesson naturally expanded beyond English into science, ethics, and deep personal responsibility. The students didn't just analyze characters on paper, they grappled with real world choices.

By bringing our local surroundings into daily lessons, we give our youngest learners a true anchor. Before we ask them to navigate an increasingly digital, globalized future, we must first teach them to recognize the birds outside their windows and appreciate the ancient wisdom in the soil beneath their feet.

Discovering Drepong: First Impressions, Reflections, and Vision for the Future

Arriving at Drepong Gewog under Mongar Dzongkhag as an Agriculture Supervisor was a new and meaningful experience for me. As I began my journey into the community, I felt a mixture of excitement, curiosity, and responsibility. Being placed in a new working environment gave me the opportunity to meet new people, understand their way of life, and learn about the agricultural practices, opportunities, and challenges faced by the community.

My first impression of Drepong was that it is a community with significant potential for agricultural development. The hardworking nature of the people, their strong dependence on agriculture, and the availability of land and natural resources provide a solid foundation for improving agricultural production and livelihoods. At the same time, I realized that farming in a rural community is not always easy. Farmers face challenges such as limited access to modern technologies, irrigation facilities, farm inputs, markets, transportation, pests and diseases, and changing climatic conditions. Understanding these realities made me realize that my role as an Agriculture Supervisor is not limited to providing technical advice. It also involves working closely with farmers, understanding their needs, and supporting them in finding practical and sustainable solutions.

During my initial days in Drepong, I felt that building trust and maintaining good relationships with the community would be among the most important steps in my work.

Every community has its own knowledge, traditions, experiences, and ways of doing things. Therefore, I believe agricultural development should bring together local knowledge and appropriate modern technologies. Rather than simply introducing new practices, I would first like to listen to farmers, understand their priorities, and identify the challenges that directly affect their livelihoods. By doing so, I hope to ensure that agricultural interventions are relevant, practical, and locally appropriate.

Looking ahead, I foresee several areas where agricultural activities could be strengthened to improve the livelihoods of the people of Drepong Gewog. One important area is cropping diversification and commercial vegetable production. Encouraging farmers to cultivate high-value vegetables and suitable fruit crops based on local conditions could provide additional sources of income while also strengthening household food security. Demonstration plots could be established to allow farmers to observe improved cultivation practices, compare results, and gain confidence before adopting new technologies on their own farms.

Another promising area is greenhouse and protected cultivation. Where conditions are suitable, greenhouse production could enable farmers to grow vegetables beyond the normal production season and increase the availability of fresh produce. However, the establishment of greenhouses alone will not guarantee success. Farmers would need practical training in greenhouse management, irrigation, nutrient management, pest and disease control, and proper crop planning.

Discovering Drepong: First Impressions, Reflections, and Vision for the Future

Promoting integrated pest management and efficient use of water and other inputs would also be important for ensuring that protected cultivation remains productive and sustainable. Improving market access would also be a key priority. Increased agricultural production will have limited benefits if farmers are unable to sell their produce at fair and reliable prices. Therefore, I hope to support farmers in strengthening farmer groups and cooperatives, improving production planning, maintaining quality standards, and developing connections with nearby markets and institutions. Collective marketing could help farmers reduce transportation costs, negotiate better prices, and supply larger quantities more consistently. Stronger coordination between production and market demand could also reduce losses and encourage farmers to view agriculture as a viable business.

Most importantly, I hope to contribute to capacity building among farmers and youth. Regular practical training, farmer-to-farmer learning, exposure visits, and field demonstrations could help strengthen agricultural knowledge and skills. Particular attention could be given to young people, encouraging them to view agriculture not only as a traditional occupation but also as an opportunity for business, innovation, employment, and entrepreneurship. With appropriate support, motivated youth could play an important role in introducing new ideas and technologies into the agricultural sector of the gewog.

As I begin my work in Drepong Gewog, I understand that meaningful agricultural development cannot happen overnight. It will require patience, cooperation, regular communication, and active participation from farmers, gewog officials, relevant agencies, and other stakeholders. My aim is to gradually understand the community, identify its strengths and challenges, and support initiatives that are practical, sustainable, and beneficial to the people.

My first arrival in Drepong therefore felt like more than the beginning of a new job. It marked the beginning of an opportunity to learn, serve, and contribute to the community. I look forward to working alongside farmers and community members, learning from their experiences, and supporting agricultural initiatives that can improve household income, strengthen food security, and enhance the overall livelihoods of the people of Drepong Gewog. I believe that through collaboration, innovation, and a strong commitment to the community, Drepong can unlock its agricultural potential and build a more productive and sustainable future.

Contribute by: Susmika Subba, ES Drepong

Livestock sector staff coordination meeting and training.

A four day Livestock Sector Coordination Meeting and Training was held from 24–27 August 2026 at RPPBC, Lingmithang, bringing together 18 participants. The program combined two days of institutional coordination with two days of hands on technical training.

Days 1–2 (Coordination): The sector reviewed FY 2025-26 physical and financial progress, discussed the 4th round of LSD vaccination planning, and presented the approved FY 2026-27 budget and work plan. Priority geogs and milestones were identified for three key deliverables: carp fish farming, free-range egg production and ghee production since milk production was not an issue. Annual progress reports on production, breeding, nutrition, and animal health were presented. Individual Work Plans (IWPs) were incorporated into the MAX system aligning with approved budgets. Sessions also covered artificial insemination techniques and breed intensification strategy alongside open discussions on field-level issues such as staff welfare, HR shortages and travel allowances.

Days 3–4 (Training): Practical training covered three digital platforms with one-on-one support.

- VIS (Veterinary Information System) for recording veterinary events and understanding system interoperability.
- FRS 2.0 (Farm Registration System) for registering pig and poultry farms including data entry and verification.
- NDIS (National Dairy Information System) for dairy farmer/herd registration, milk production recording, and other test and management aspects reporting.



Key Outcomes: Consensus on FY 2026-27 priorities and budgets, refined LSD vaccination plan, IWPs integrated into MAX, supervisors gained practical proficiency in VIS, FRS 2.0, and NDIS, field issues were raised for resolution and accountability on past commitments was reinforced.

Challenges: Time constraints compressed some sessions (especially MAX/IWP work and NDIS practice), varying digital literacy among participants required extra support and network/device limitations occasionally hindered practice sessions.

Recommendations: Organize follow-up refresher training for FRS 2.0 and NDIS, ensure DCLPO review data entered and follow-up on meetings RoD by the sector.

Contributed By Livestock Sector

Hazelnut Cultivation in Mongar Dzongkhag



Mongar dzongkhag has the second highest number of hazelnut growers in the country, with 1,170 growers, almost half of them women.

Over the past two years, the dzongkhag has contributed almost 3 tonnes to the national harvest each year. Early estimates for this year are encouraging, with the harvest expected to nearly double.

Mongar was also the first dzongkhag where hazelnut trees were grafted. More than 17,000 trees have been grafted here as of 2026.

Mountain Hazelnuts' Operations Head

Pema Loday, says several hundred grafted trees produced their first harvest this year.

This has generated interest among growers in grafting their own trees next year.

In Narang Gewog, the provision of chain link fencing has drawn new interest in hazelnut cultivation altogether.

Mountain Hazelnuts is also trialling blueberry intercropping with hazelnuts in the dzongkhag, a first for the region. Intercropping gives growers an additional source of income. Growers in other dzongkhags have already had success intercropping strawberries with hazelnuts.

Contributed by Agriculture Sector

Dasho Secretary's visit to Chali PS on 3 Aug 2026



Annual Marathon, Gz MSS 1 Aug 2026



Students moving for Sports Meet 21 Aug 2026



Farmer Showing his Kiwi fruit Production



Farmer Showing her Hazel nut Production

Offering Long life Prayers on the Birth anniversary
of Chabje Je Khenpo 17 Aug 2026



Celebration of Kidney Foundation Day 16 Aug 2026



Bidding farewell to the Culture Officer



New CS joined Mongar Dzongkhag



During School Visit

