



ZHEMGANG MONTHLY

FROM STEPS TO LEAPS

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Month That Was

HE Lyonpo, MoA visits Zhemgang



APA Signed for 2019-2020



Zhemgang CS Wins Regional Archery



Zhemgang Dzong gets a facelift



New Tali Truelku instated



Advocacy on new Land Act



Berti in Zhemgang is home to White-bellied Heron, one of world's critically endangered birds. For Berti community, the endangered bird is a boon. The community has witnessed many positive developments over the years.

GOSHING GETS A NEW MILK PROCESSING UNIT

A tiny step towards White Revolution in the Community of Lamtang, Goshing Gewog, Zhemgang. No where near AMUL of Gujarat but the direction is set and step has been taken. We have to keep moving. We have lots of hard working reincarnates of Dasho Nishoka in the form of Extension Workers spread all across eight Gewogs. The MPU will serve as a platform for rural development. Zhemgang now have a count of five MPUs including the newly inaugurated at Goshing.



Thank you sponsors



Contact us at:

cbt.zhemgang@gmail.com

Thinley Jamtsho (Sr. Planning Officer)

00975 - 17895562

Jigme Dorji (Chief Forestry Officer)

00975 - 17638946

Sonam Zangmo (Economic Development Officer)

00975 - 17532534

YE-BANKING INCENTIVE CONGREGATION 2019 AT GOSHING PS

To facilitate interaction and real time financial transactions between banks and school children, the Royal Monetary Authority (RMA) organised a two-day Youth Ethics (YE) banking incentive camp at Goshing Primary School in Zhemgang on October 30.

YE-banking is an incentive-based school-banking programme, which recognises and rewards schools for their collective efforts put in together by teachers and students during the yearlong academic session in the fields of academics, co-curricular, behavioural ethics and financial values.

During the incentive day, the bank points (merits) earned and accumulated throughout the year by children of various schools get converted to cash incentives that are further deposited into children's YE-banking accounts.

During the two-day programme about Nu 800,000 was credited to the 16 participating schools. Jigme Losel Primary School in Thimphu received the highest amount of about Nu 120,000.

RMA officials said that the camp also provides hands on experience and inclusive opportunities to connect ethics, values and learning to banking practicalities.

The initiative was first preconceived by Tshering Yangchen, a Class VI student of Jigme Losel Primary School during the Global Money Week game challenge in 2017.

"I am privileged and honoured beyond words to Dasho Governor and RMA for recognising my simple idea and formalising it into such big programme that is benefiting children across the country," said Tshering Yangchen.

Besides the financial benefits, the YE-banking camp remains a much-awaited programme for schools and students for various opportunities.

"Our children woke up as early as 3am, excited to attend the camp," said the officiating principal of Lauri principal school. "This is the first time our children got such opportunity to travel out of Lauri."

The principal of Wangsel Institute in Paro, Dechen Tshering, said that despite being physically challenged, the children are grateful for the opportunity to take part in the programme. "It was a great opportunity for our children to make new friends from other schools."

Zhemgang Dzongrab, Kinzang Dorjee, said that it is more likely that Bhutanese children and people in the rural pockets would face critical challenges of keeping pace with the emerging financial technology developments.

"It is of utmost importance and duty of policy makers, teachers and financial institutions to nurture and educate our children on the inevitable financial life skills and equip every child with updated knowledge, skills and experiences of keeping pace with the financial digital transformations," he said.

RMA with support of the Saving Bank Foundation for International Cooperation in Germany have conducted the YE-banking camp for 16 schools so far.

Participants from Sakteng, Goshing, Zangkhar, Umling, Tabadramtoe, Dechenling, Wangduechholing Lower Secondary Schools, Laya and Phobjikha Central Schools, Tshangkha and Arekha Middle Secondary School, Wangsel Institute in Paro, Khaling Muenselling Institute and Y-VIA Gelephu took part in the camp. (Source-Kuensel)



Inception of RSAHP in Zhemgang Dzongkhag

Inception Workshop on Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program was conducted from 30th of September to 4th of October 2019 at RLDC Conference Hall, Zhemgang. It was attended by Gups and Gewog Administrative Officers (GAOs) of eight gewogs and HAS from various health centers under the district. It was organized by the officials from Public Health Engineering Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health, Thimphu with financial and technical support from SNV, Thimphu. Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program (RSAHP) is a program under the Public Health Engineering Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of health which takes care of sanitation. Pour flush toilet is supposedly the only toilet that is considered to be an improved toilet among those different kinds of toilets being used by the Bhutanese populace. Today, the coverage of Pour Flush toilet in the district stands at 52.77% only. With this inception, we look forward for 100% in Zhemgang in the next couple of years.

Contributed by ADHO, Health Sector



Words of Wisdom from Golden Throne

Royal Institute of Management Convocation Ceremony
Thimphu
August 10th, 2019

“As you hold a special place of influence within the nation’s ecosystem, it is imperative that you always promote and defend the peace and unity that we enjoy,”

“Climb higher on the shoulders of past achievements. Your task is not to fill the old shoes or to follow a well-trodden path but to forge a new road leading to a brighter future,”

“Today we realize that although the intentions were good, this has led to systemic constraints and has posed unintended structural limitations,”

“... a system served its purpose then, but over time, it has outlived its usefulness. It may have stifled innovation, creativity, enterprise, adversely affected leadership, accountability, and prudent resource management. “These are problems we cannot ignore, and have to be addressed.”

“..... jobless growth of economy was a ubiquitous problem and not unique to Bhutan. “Our focus must, therefore, be on generating employment.”

“..... We have to figure out ways to use technology to solve problems to improve governance, democracy, education, agriculture, to create jobs, enhance well-being, to make our cities safer and cleaner to benefit our people.”

“..... time has arrived to think about how to make use of emerging technological advancements such as Digital Identification, Artificial Intelligence, Block chain, Internet of Things, Big Data, Quantum Computing, Machine Learning, Virtual Reality and Augmented Reality, etc., which present unlimited opportunities for Bhutanese.”

“Being a small nation makes us a smart nation. This is not out of choice, but out of necessity, “Technology is indispensable to realize this aspiration.”

“.... Bhutan has talented people, who, given the right training and preparation, could take advantage of technology to achieve higher productivity and greater well-being.”

Compiled by Dechen Pema Yangden

Mason training for improved toilet construction

The Mason Training for improved toilet construction was conducted at Pantang Gewog Center, Phangkhar Gewog from 21st to 25th of October 2019. There were 40 participants, a participant each from 40 Chiwogs of 8 Gewogs in the Dzongkhag. Officials from Public Health Engineering Division, Department of Public Health, Ministry of Health and SNV Office, Thimphu and Dzongkhag Health Sector, organized and coordinated the training. Mason training is a part of Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program (RSAHP). This training was provided with an aim of providing knowledge and skills to the participants who are expected to benefit the public in the rural communities in constructing improved toilet, especially pour flush toilet. With such activities in place in the field of Sanitation and Hygiene, the quality of improved sanitation facilities and its coverage is expected to rise at the fullest by the end of the two-year project on Rural Sanitation and Hygiene Program.

Contributed by Thinley Tobgyal, ADHO



Zhemgang Prepares for Bird Festival



Birds of Zhemgang (Source: Zhemgang Forest Division)

Distribution: Western Europe, North-west Africa, Indian Subcontinent, South-east Asia.

Diet: It feeds on invertebrates including many pest insects, acorns, beechnut and other seeds, fruits, young birds and eggs, bats and small rodents.

They are the main source of movement and propagation of European Oak & Holm Oak

The bird mimics the sound of others birds such as tawny owl.

The bird nests on trees or large shrubs, lays 4-6 eggs and both sexes feeds their young ones.

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Common Name: Eurasian Jay
Scientific Name: *Garulus glandarius*
Family: Corvidae



33-Nyishantso, Numbong BO



7. White-throated Kingfisher *Halcyon smyrnensis*

How Many Species of Kingfishers are found in Bhutan?

Kingfishers belong to the family Alcedines. There are 120 species of Kingfisher around the globe. 42 species are threatened as per the IUCN. <http://datazone.birdlife.org>.

In Bhutan, there are Nine species of Kingfishers. Blyth's Kingfisher *Alcedo hercules* is a near threatened species.

Zhemgang Forest Division have recorded three species of Kingfisher i.e Common Kingfisher, White-throated Kingfisher, and Crested Kingfisher.

White-throated kingfisher is a common visitor at Bermo Botanical Garden.



These woodpecker species inhabit subtropical or tropical moist montane forests and high altitude shrublands.

These woodpeckers are monotypic species.

The Darjeeling woodpecker species is distributed in India, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, China and Vietnam.

Birds of Bhutan have record of 20 species of woodpeckers of which ZFD have recorded occurrence of seven species.



Darjeeling woodpecker
Dendrocopos darjellensis

- It breeds from West Asia eastwards across South Asia, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal
- This species is declining in its western range, but is abundant in much of South Asia, being seen at almost any wetland habitat in its range
- Breeding season: March-August
- Feeds on insects, snails and other invertebrates, mostly picked from ground. Also feeds on grains.
- The birds is usually seen in pairs or small groups, not far from water.
- The bird is observed in Buli wetland under Zhemgang Dzongkhag

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Common Name: Red-wattled Lapwing
Scientific Name: *Vanellus indicus*
Family: Charadriidae



Shetab Jamtslo, Numbong BO

- The Bird is found in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, India, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand & Vietnam.
- Natural Habitat: Temperate forests, sub-tropical or tropical moist montane forests.
- The birds can be seen in dense wet or dry forest with plenty of vines & bamboo, scrub and swampy woodlands.
- Elevation: Found at an altitude of up to 2600m
- Diet: Feeds on small insects, bark beetles, ants, termites, spiders and small other invertebrates
- Often forages in pairs or may join small flocks of mixed species.
- Its nests are built using bamboo pieces and breeding takes place between March and July

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Common Name: White-browed Piculet
Scientific Name: *Sitta ochracea*
Family: Picidae

Common Rosefinch *Carpodacus erythrinus*

The mature male has brilliant rosy-carmine head, breast and rump; heavy bill; dark brown wings with two indistinct bars, and a white belly. Females and young males are dull-colored with yellowish-brown above, brighter on the rump and greyer on head; buff below.

Extinct
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Common Name: Himalayan Blue-tail
Scientific Name: *Tarsiger rufilatus*
Family: Muscicapidae



Features: The bird has white throat, orange flanks, blue tail and red-start like stances. Male has blue upperparts and breast sides. Female has olive brown upperparts and breast sides.

Habitat type: Forest understorey and dense bushes in the forest and clearings.

Diet: Feed on invertebrates, fruits and seeds.

Distribution in Zhemgang: Numbong, Zhemgang and Duenmang.

Conservation Status: Least Concern



Common Name: Green-bellied Malkoha
Scientific Name: *Phaenicophaeus tristis*
Family: Cuculidae

Features: The bird is waxy bluish black with long graduated tail with white tips to the tail feathers.

Habitat type: Dry scrub, dense thickets and thin forests

Diet: Insects, caterpillar, lizards

Distribution in Zhemgang: Dakpai, Buli, Tali, Zhemgang and Panbang area

Conservation Status: Least Concern



Common Name: Chestnut-tailed Starling
Scientific Name: *Sturnia malabarica*
Family: Sturnidae



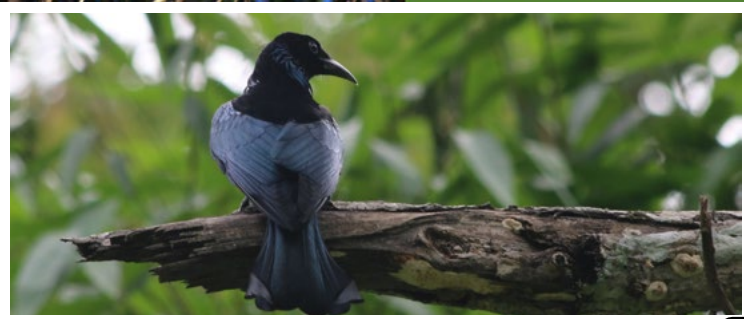
Features: The bird has grey upperparts and blackish remiges, underparts are whitish tinged rufous, especially on the flanks and crissum. They have yellow bill with pale blue base.

Habitat type: Open woodland and cultivated areas.

Diet: The bird is omnivorous, feeding on fruits, nectar and insects.

Distribution in Zhemgang: Tingtibi and Panbang

Conservation Status: LC



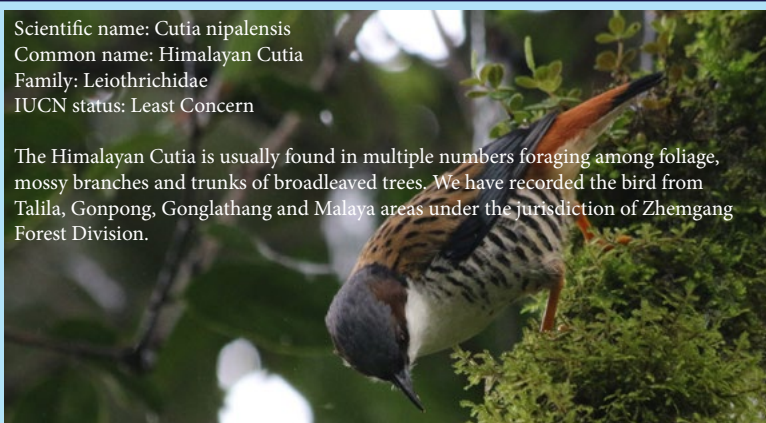
Birds in Zhemgang..Cont

14. Chestnut-bellied nuthatch (*Sitta cinnamoventris*)



Scientific name: *Cutia nipalensis*
Common name: Himalayan Cutia
Family: Leiothrichidae
IUCN status: Least Concern

The Himalayan Cutia is usually found in multiple numbers foraging among foliage, mossy branches and trunks of broadleaved trees. We have recorded the bird from Talila, Gonpong, Gonglathang and Malaya areas under the jurisdiction of Zhemgang Forest Division.

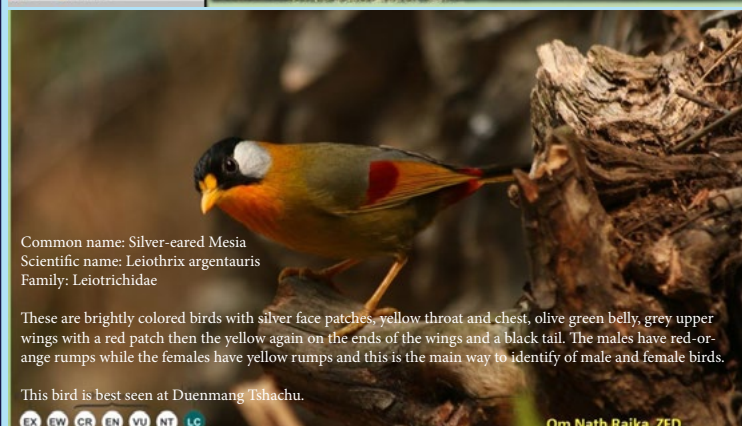


Common name: Silver-eared Mesia
Scientific name: *Leiothrix argenteauris*
Family: Leiothrichidae

These are brightly colored birds with silver face patches, yellow throat and chest, olive green belly, grey upper wings with a red patch then the yellow again on the ends of the wings and a black tail. The males have red-orange rumps while the females have yellow rumps and this is the main way to identify of male and female birds.

This bird is best seen at Duenmang Tshachu.

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Scientific name: *Vanellus duvaucelli*
Common name: River Lapwing
Family: Charadriidae
IUCN status: Near Threatened

This species inhabit sandbanks and shingle banks of river. It is one of the two Lapwing species recorded within the jurisdiction of Zhemgang Forest Division and can be observed along Mandgdechhu and Chamkhar-chhu river basin, usually singly or in pairs.



Common name – White-bellied Heron
Scientific name – *Ardea insignis*

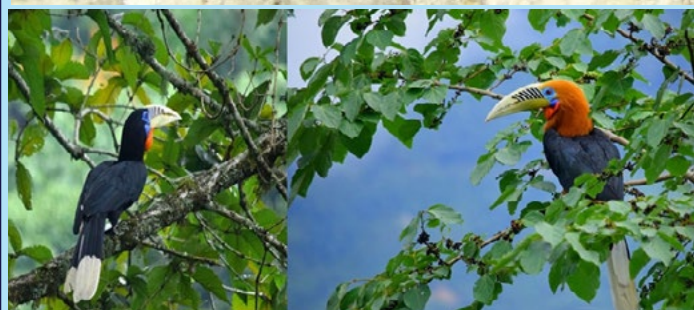
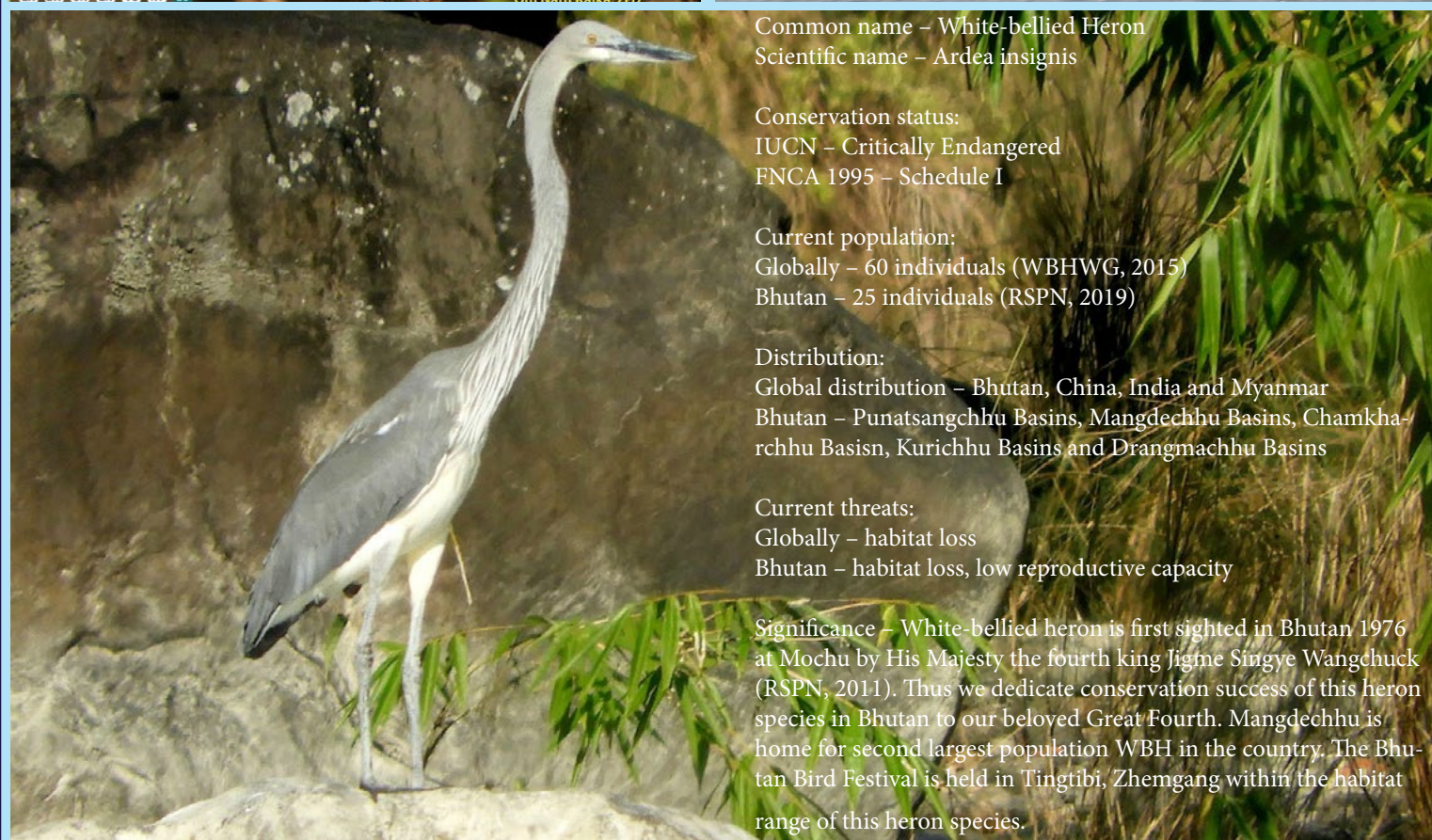
Conservation status:
IUCN – Critically Endangered
FNCA 1995 – Schedule I

Current population:
Globally – 60 individuals (WBHWG, 2015)
Bhutan – 25 individuals (RSPN, 2019)

Distribution:
Global distribution – Bhutan, China, India and Myanmar
Bhutan – Punatsangchhu Basins, Mangdechhu Basins, Chamkhar-chhu Basins, Kurichhu Basins and Drangmachhu Basins

Current threats:
Globally – habitat loss
Bhutan – habitat loss, low reproductive capacity

Significance – White-bellied heron is first sighted in Bhutan 1976 at Mochu by His Majesty the fourth king Jigme Singye Wangchuck (RSPN, 2011). Thus we dedicate conservation success of this heron species in Bhutan to our beloved Great Fourth. Mangdechhu is home for second largest population WBH in the country. The Bhutan Bird Festival is held in Tingribi, Zhemgang within the habitat range of this heron species.



Common Name: Rufous-necked Hornbill
Scientific Name: *Aceros nipalensis*

A Rufous-necked hornbill is a species of hornbill found distributed in northeastern India, western Thailand, north-western Vietnam and Bhutan. It is among the largest Bucerotinae hornbill with a length of about 117cm. The male and female bird can be identified by the colour of the under part; neck and heads are rich rufous in male and black in female.

The bird is found nesting in hilly forest, mainly broadleaved forest at an altitude of 150-2200m and had also been recorded in woodlands. The nesting period starts from March-June and prefers tall and broad girth trees. The bird depends on fruiting trees. Due to hunting and significance loss of habitat, the birds is locally extinct in Nepal. The bird is listed in CITES Appendices I & II and Vulnerable in IUCN Red Lists of Threatened Species.

"Our Flag does not fly because the wind blows it; It flies with the last breath of Every Soldier who died defending it".

A letter to his wife from dying husband in the fairly surviving war to triumph over Victory.

Dear Mhendrell,
With pride, held up your head high,
For I am now, history and paragon to my country.
And be prepared to see me,
Honored with flag and marching comrades.
Not to dishonor with tears,
When you know, I was never meant to live longer.
It was just a matter of time.
Why feel crestfallen when you have the access,
Through the chimes of bells and bugles.
By the sounds of yelling and woofing of soldiers,
Perfect marching sounds of footsteps,
So perfect to envision.

My dear wife,
I dearly wished for a proper adieu,
For my first ever perpetual leave.
When fairly chances of surviving.
I knew my life was on the brink to an end.
My savior, my dear refile,
Now heavy and niggling.
My hands trembling and stops scribbling.
Fearless flying bullets and artillery,
Scares me no more,
But It's so early, shattering your plans and promises.
I fear to leave at bay
And your forgiveness to endowment.
My medics, keeps me awake.
Despite my obedient breath so reluctant.
Defying my pitiful Iron heart.
Damn! I know nothing seems to work.
When it's on the verge to submit for an eternal sleep.
But for now, madam...I am off for duty.
This time, never to return,
To forever retain me in thriving words,
I leave this letter to solace my heart and stories to narrate.
To my children and to those who are unaware.
I left bravely shielding the bullets on my chest to triumph over victory.

Contributed by
Tshewang Dorji (Former Kidu Officer)

SOME BBF ACTIVITIES



Newsletter Team

Advisor

Mr. Lobzang Dorji, Dzongdag



Coordinator

Mr. Karma Wangchuk, Dy. CDEO



Photography, Design & Layout

Mr. Mohan Subba, IT Officer



Mr. Thinley Jamtsho, Sr. Planning Officer



Editorial Team

Ms. Dechen P. Yangden, Teacher, ZCS LC



Ms. Tshering Pelden, Teacher, ZCS LC

