



**SWADESH
DARSHAN 2.0**
DEVELOPING SUSTAINABLE DESTINATIONS

अतुल्य! भारत
Incredible India



शि योमी जिला
SHI YOMI DISTRICT



NEWSLETTER

#14 JANUARY 2025

Dear Reader,

As another year marks its beginning, here's wishing all readers another great year of achievements, prosperity, and good health.

This January highlights some incredible developments unfolding in Mechukha. From the inauguration of India's tallest prayer wheel, the Dorjee Sempa Khorchen, to the foundation of transformative projects aimed at enhancing tourism and local growth, Mechukha is set to shine brighter than ever. Equally exciting is the recent visit of the Femina Miss India 2024 team for their annual calendar photo shoot, and the annual celebration of the vibrant Si-Donyi Festival celebration.

- **Liyi Bagra** A.P.C.S, Deputy Commissioner, Shi-Yomi District & Chairman-Destination Management Committee-Mechukha

INAUGURATION OF INDIA'S TALLEST PRAYER WHEEL



Dorjee Sempa Khorchen, the tallest prayer wheel in India, was inaugurated on 3rd January 2025 in Mechukha, Arunachal Pradesh, by the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister, Shri Chowna Mein, and Shri P.D. Sona, Minister of Education, Tourism, Rural Works, Parliamentary Affairs, and Libraries. Dedicated to the memory of Shri Pasang Wangchuk Sona and Smt. Rinjin Drema Sona, its consecration was performed by His Eminence Rev Dzogchen Ganor Rinpoche, Mechukha Rinpoche, and Rev Thinley Norbu. The ceremony witnessed the presence of dignitaries, spiritual leaders, and the local community. The Dorjee Sempa Khorchen, a beacon of spirituality and heritage houses 1.6 billion prayers inscribed within. This monumental structure not only serves as a center of Buddhist spirituality but also as a cultural and tourist attraction, enriching the vibrant cultural tapestry of Mechukha.

Adding further significance to the day, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister laid the foundation stones for several transformative developmental projects, including:

- **Mechukha Adventure Park** (Swadesh Darshan)
- **Mechukha Cultural Haat** (Swadesh Darshan)
- **Convention Hall at Mechukha**
- **Motorable Suspension Bridge over Yargyapchu River at Thargeling Village**
- **Road Construction from PMGSY Road to Thargeling Village**

These projects are envisioned to not only elevate Mechukha's status as a tourist destination but also to spur economic growth, marking a transformative chapter in the region's development.

Speaking at the event, the Hon'ble Deputy Chief Minister expressed his commitment to preserving the rich heritage of Mechukha while paving the way for sustainable growth and development. He acknowledged the collective efforts of all those involved in these landmark initiatives and emphasized the

government's dedication to improving infrastructure, tourism, and local livelihoods. The inauguration of the Dorjee Sempa Khorchen and the initiation of these key projects underscore a significant step towards preserving Mechukha's spiritual heritage while fostering growth and connectivity. These developments are set to leave a lasting legacy for generations to come, ensuring that Mechukha continues to shine as a jewel of Arunachal Pradesh.



VISIT OF FEMINA MISS INDIA TEAM AT MECHUKHA

Mechukha was selected as the location for the Annual photoshoot by the Femina Miss India 2024 team. In December the team visited Mechukha Valley in Shi-Yomi and during their visit, the beauty queens also toured the forward post of Lamang, where they met with Indian soldiers stationed in the



region. This visit to Lamang was aimed at honoring the dedication and service of the Indian armed forces, as well as to promote the natural beauty and cultural heritage of Mechukha Valley.

The valley is renowned for its picturesque landscape, including snow-capped mountains, gentle hills and Yargyap chu river that flows through it. The Femina Miss India team's visit underscored its potential as a tourist destination. By showcasing Mechukha's natural beauty and rich cultural heritage, the visit is sure to encourage tourism and bring attention to serene and relatively unexplored landscape of Arunachal Pradesh on the global platform.

SI-DONYI FESTIVAL CELEBRATION IN MECHUKHA



Every year on the 6th of January, the vibrant town of Mechukha comes alive with the celebration of the Si-Donyi Festival, a significant cultural event for the Tagin community of Arunachal Pradesh. This festival, steeped in tradition and spirituality, symbolizes the harmonious coexistence of nature and humanity.

The Si-Donyi Festival is dedicated to Si, the Earth, and Donyi, the Sun, who are revered as life-sustaining deities. The rituals performed during this festival are steeped in gratitude to these deities for their blessings and invoke prosperity, health, and peace for the community. Traditional chants, offerings, and dances form an integral part of the celebrations.

The festival showcases the community's vibrant cultural expressions, including traditional music, dances, and colorful attire. Local delicacies are prepared and shared, fostering a spirit of unity and joy among the people. Visitors from across the region and beyond gather to witness and partake in this unique cultural experience.

In Mechukha, the Si-Donyi Festival is a reaffirmation of the community's commitment to preserving its heritage while embracing the changes of modern times.

