



NEWSLETTER

#10 SEPTEMBER 2024

Dear Reader,

You may have noticed a change on the masthead of this newsletter. Yes, Mechukha now has a new brand identity that is expected to bring awareness among avid nature and adventure enthusiasts about the pristinely exciting Mechukha. This is a moment of immense pride for the destination and promises much in its journey towards a sustainable tourist destination. This month we look at religious practices that paint a vivid picture of the local culture, where communities spend time to pray for prosperity and healing. The procession with the 'Tiranga' on Independence Day against the backdrop of the lovely mountains of the eastern Himalayas was a spectacle by itself. Read on and plan a trip to Mechukha.

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

CHORTEN IN MECHUKHA



The chorten is a stupa used for prayer and pujas. Devotees walk around the chorten in a clockwise direction while reciting mantras. Each Memba village has its own chorten. Clockwise circumambulation around a chorten (stupa) is traditionally done in odd numbers due to their symbolic significance in Buddhism. Odd numbers, especially 3, represent the Three Jewels (Buddha, Dharma, Sangha) and the cycle of rebirth. The number 1 symbolizes unity, 5 represents the five aggregates or Wisdoms, and 7 signifies completeness and spiritual accomplishment, such as the Seven Factors of Enlightenment.



WORKSHIP AND PRAYERS IN MECHUKHA



In the center of Mechukha, spirituality is woven into the fabric of everyday life. The peaceful valley inhabited by the Memba tribe is synonymous with prayers and rituals passed down through generations. Every Memba Household holds its own sacred space in the house, where daily worship is a more personal and family oriented event. In addition to these intimate ceremonies, communities gather in Gompas (Monasteries), Chortens, Neh (Pilgrimage sites) and other places to worship prayers, light butter lamps and chant for the blessings of health, prosperity and peace. Every prayer and ritual is manifest for reverence a symbol, they offer sacrifices not only to the divine but also to the natural world that sustains their existence. Worship at Mechukha is not a distant ritual it is a living, breathing tradition, touching every heart and home.



Yangdup Shabden

This is a practice centred around the worship of deities to gain and increase wealth and property. About 75% of people belonging to the Memba tribe engage in Yangdup Shabden, highlighting its importance in community's pursuit of prosperity. The expenditure of this workshop is around INR 1.5 lakhs

Tsedup



This ritual focuses on ensuring long life and robust health for entire families. It is a practice cherished for its role in fostering well-being and longevity. This worship is practiced by most of the Membas every year in their own residence. The average cost of this is around INR 45 thousands.

Torgya

This exorcism ritual is performed to protect against evil spirits. The worship is performed by around 70% of the Memba people. This ritual is quite expensive compared to other rituals.



Lhasang

Held for just one day, Lhasang is a ritual designed to seek divine strength and positivity in every facet of life. This day is dedicated to invoking blessings for personal development and community growth. It is a cost-effective ritual that can be performed at any time, depending on individual needs and the specific requirements of the worship.



Gaylong Shedip

This worship is focused on the quick recovery of patients, providing them with the necessary energy and strength to overcome illness. This is performed when someone in house falls sick.



Dinze

Dinze is a ritual conducted for 49 days on end, following the death of a person. Weekly sessions are held for a total of 49 days. This practice supports the spiritual journey of the deceased.



Gyo

Gyo is held 49 days after Dinze, for three consecutive days by 15 to 20 'lamas'. This ritual further aids in the transition of the departed soul. It is one of expensive ritual which costs around 3 to 4 lakhs



Bangsang

Performed on the third day after the birth of a child, Bangsang is essential for the health of both the newborn and the mother. It ensures a healthy start for the new life and supports maternal well-being.

After the completion of the Puja the owner of the house invites their well-wishers and neighbourhood. The guests offer gifts to the baby, the feast and chang is also arranged by the owner.



Konggyur

Konggyur involves the reading of texts that contain scientific knowledge. These texts are typically read by lamas and contribute to our understanding of various scientific aspects.



Tanggyur

Similar to Konggyur, Tanggyur includes a wealth of scientific and technological formulas. It is also read by lamas, adding depth to our repository of knowledge.

HAR GHAR TIRANGA CAMPAIGN

The 'Har Ghar Tiranga' campaign was launched at the Mechukha Town here on August 14 2024. Early in the morning, the Tiranga procession began from Govt. Higher Secondary School Mechukha. ADC Mechukha Smt. Tana Yaho, toured led the procession around Mechukha Town and ended in the Govt. Higher Secondary School. Participants from 13th Grenadier, 20th BN ITBP, Mechukha Police team, students of various school and members of the general public carried a 50 meter long



tricolour flag singing patriotic slogans. In the rally, approximately 15 bikes, led by ADC Smt. Tana Yaho and her team, made the event even more special.



LAUNCH OF LOGO AND TAGLINE FOR DESTINATION - MECHUKHA

On the occasion of India's 78th Independence Day, Hon'ble minister Education, Rural works, Parliamentary Affairs Tourism and Library, Shri Pasang Dorjee Sona unveiled the exclusive logo and tagline for Destination Mechukha under Swadesh Darshan 2.0. From among 10 respondents to the Logo and Tagline competition conducted earlier, a brand identity for the tourist destination positioned as one for trekking, meditation and exploration selected by the Destination Management Committee was launched. Social Media Handles of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 - @visit_mechukha was also launched in the presence of DC Shi Yomi, all the Head of Officers and the general public.

