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MINISTRY OF ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
THIMPHU

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER

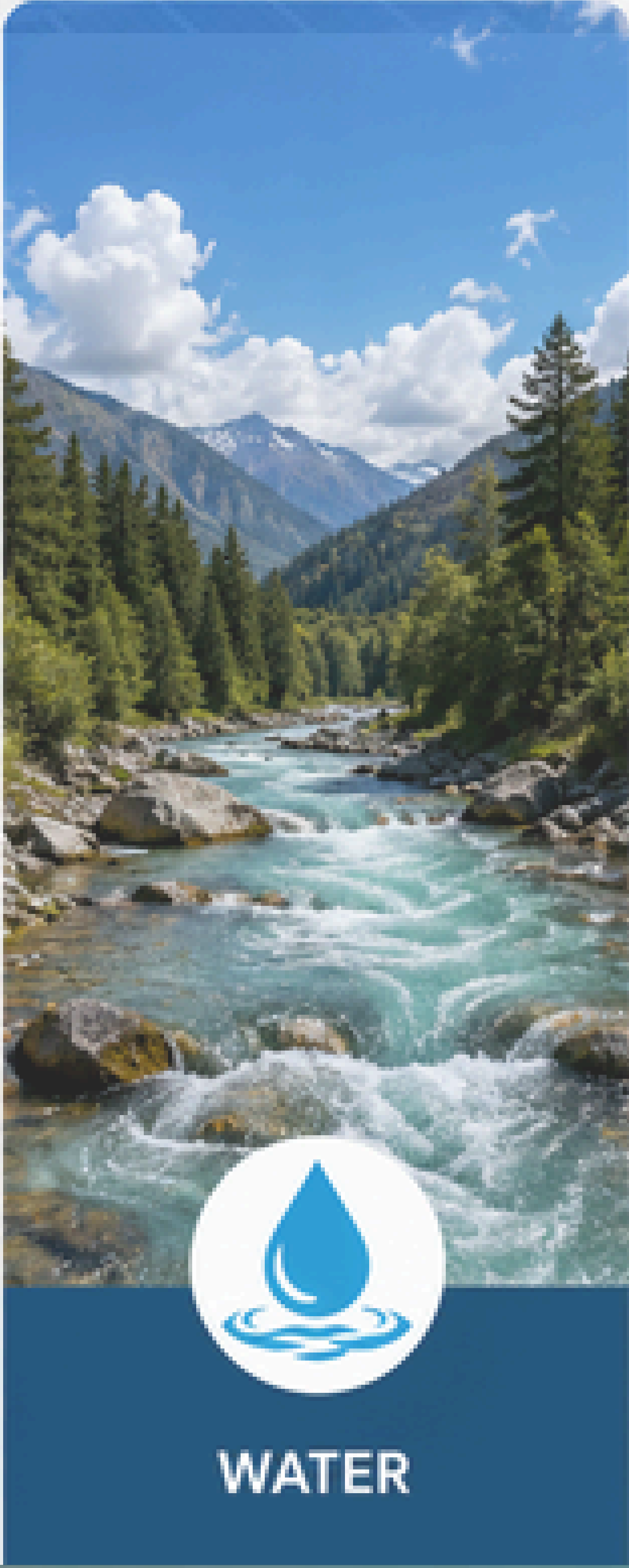
FISCAL YEAR 2025-2026



ENERGY



FORESTRY



WATER



GEOLOGY AND
MINES

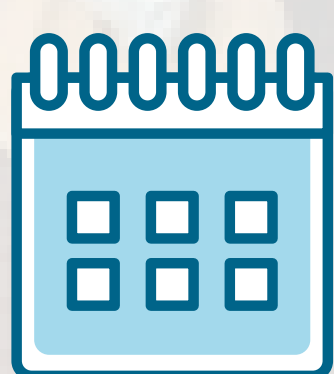
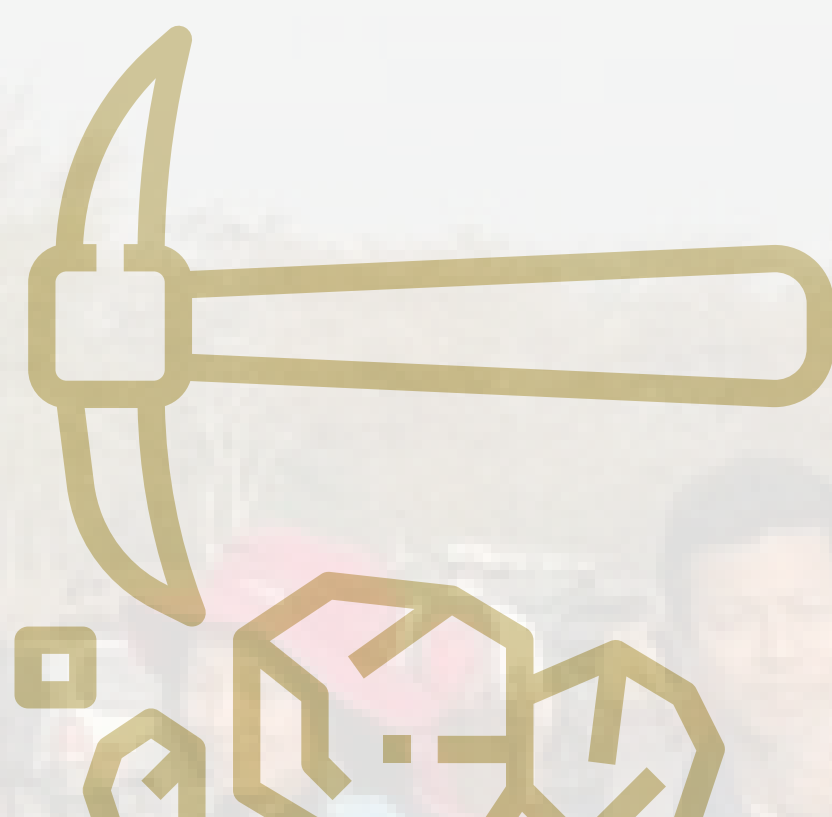
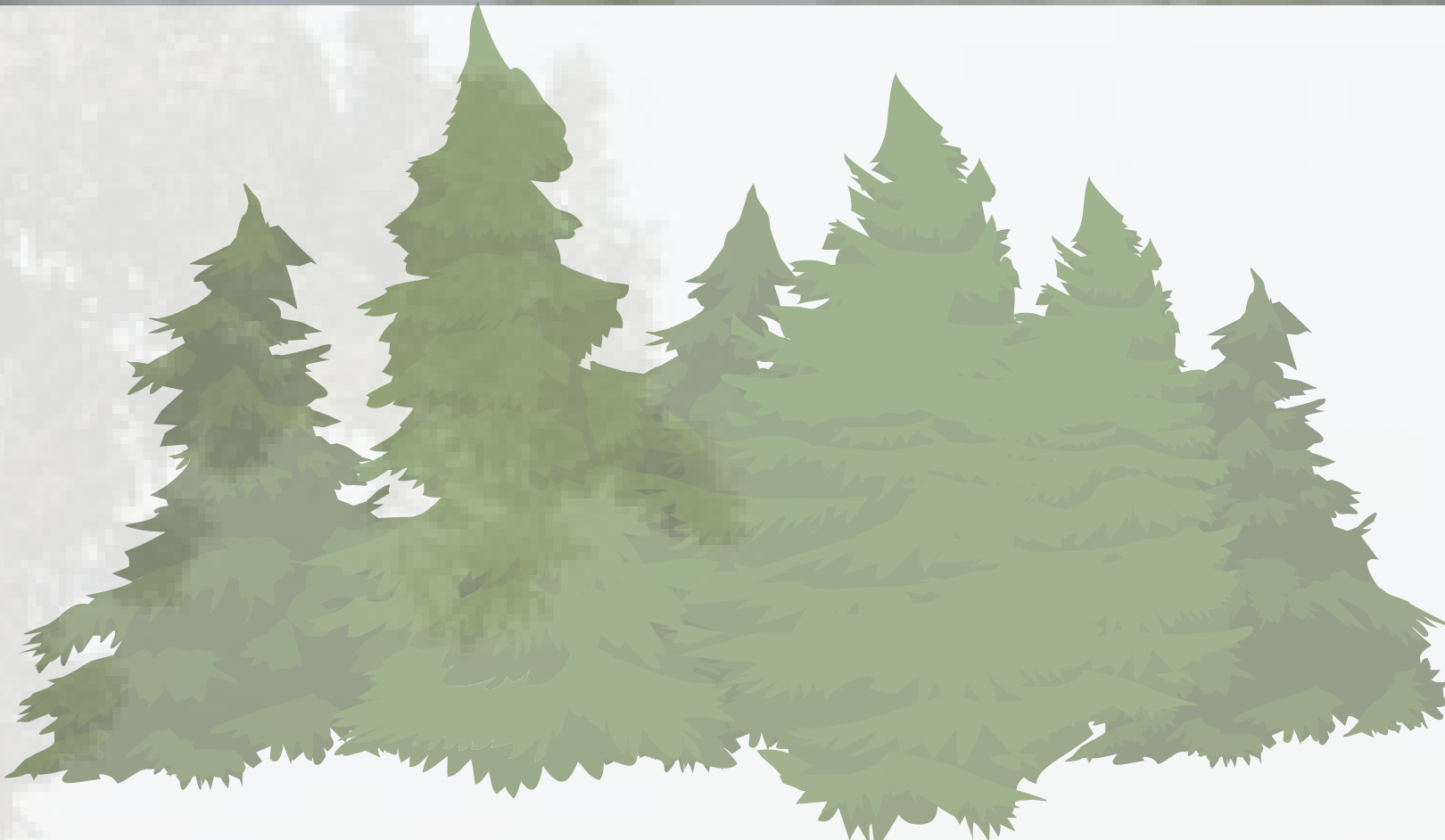
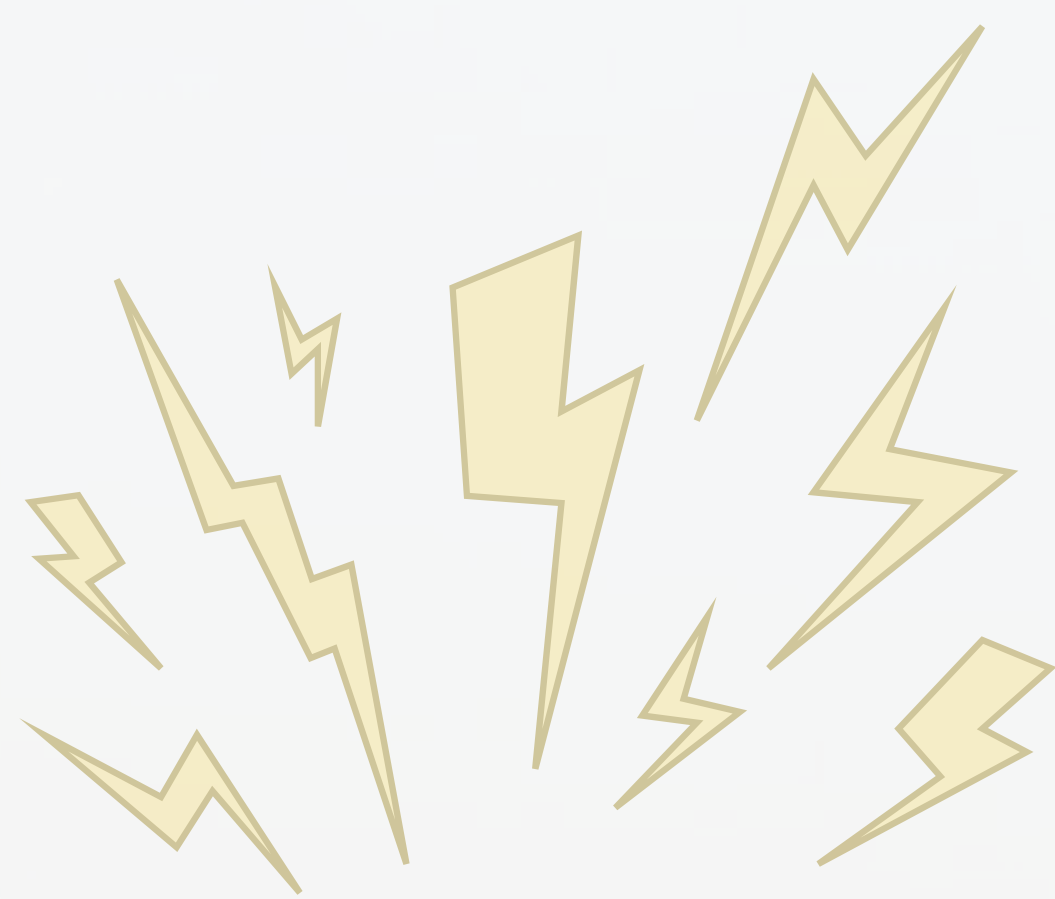


ENVIRONMENT &
CLIMATE CHANGE



NATIONAL CENTRE FOR HYDROLOGY AND METEOROLOGY

Providing accurate hydro-meteorological
data and early warnings for safety,
resilience and informed decision-making.



JULY 2025 - JUNE 2026

Commissioning of Phase I of Sephu Solar Project



Wangduephodrang | July 19, 2025

The Department of Energy, commissioned Phase I (17.38 MWp) of the Sephu Solar Project in Sephu Gewog, Wangdue Phodrang, marking Bhutan's first government implemented utility-scale solar photovoltaic power plant.

Funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) with support from the Royal Government of Bhutan, the project is expected to generate approximately 25 million kWh of clean electricity annually.

The solar plant will strengthen Bhutan’s energy security by supplementing hydropower generation during the lean winter months, while supporting the country's renewable energy diversification goals under the National Energy Policy 2025 and contributing to long-term sustainable development and green economic growth.

Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Fully Commissioned



Wangduephodrang | August 27, 2025

The Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project (1,020 MW) achieved full commissioning with the successful synchronization of its sixth and final 170 MW generating unit to Bhutan's national grid on 27 August 2025. The milestone was commemorated during a commissioning ceremony attended by senior dignitaries from the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India.

As a flagship Bhutan–India hydropower collaboration, the project significantly strengthened Bhutan's clean energy capacity, increasing the country's installed hydropower capacity to around 3,500 MW. The project also reinforced the longstanding partnership between the two countries while contributing to sustainable energy generation, climate resilience, and Bhutan's position as a global leader in renewable energy.

Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) Launched

Bhutan unveiled its Third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0) on 24 October 2025 during the Royal Highland Festival in Laya, reaffirming its commitment to remain carbon neutral while advancing climate resilience and sustainable development.

Covering the period up to 2035, the NDC outlined enhanced mitigation and adaptation targets across key sectors, including renewable energy, transport, agriculture, forestry, and waste management. It also emphasized climate resilience, biodiversity conservation, inclusive development, and international cooperation to address climate change. The updated NDC reinforced Bhutan's global leadership in environmental stewardship and aligned the country's climate ambitions with its long-term sustainable development goals and the Paris Agreement.



Laya | October 24, 2025

International Solar Alliance Mission

Thimphu | September 13 - 19, 2025

A high-level delegation from the International Solar Alliance (ISA) visited Bhutan from 13–19 September 2025, marking the first official country mission of ISA Director General H.E. Mr. Ashish Khanna since assuming office. During the visit, the delegation launched:

- Revised Country Partnership Strategy (CPS) 2025–2029.
- National Solar Energy Roadmap 2025–2040.

The Revised Country Partnership Strategy provided an action-oriented framework to support Bhutan’s ambition to expand solar energy capacity and strengthen energy security through enhanced solar deployment, policy support, institutional capacity building, and financing opportunities.

The National Solar Energy Roadmap outlined pathways for achieving national solar targets by identifying potential solar sites and promoting diverse applications, including utility-scale solar, rooftop systems, hybrid technologies, and energy storage solutions. Together, the initiatives strengthened Bhutan’s roadmap towards renewable energy diversification and sustainable energy development.

The mission also:

- Established the National Focal Point Support Unit to strengthen collaboration between ISA and the Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources.
- Signed operational agreement and inaugurated the Solar Technology Application Resource Centre (STAR-C) at the College of Science and Technology, Royal University of Bhutan.

The STAR-C, supported by ISA with USD 67,900 for FY 2025–2026 in collaboration between MoENR and the Royal University of Bhutan, it serves as a national hub for solar energy training, testing, and innovation, strengthening Bhutan's capacity in solar technologies and supporting the country's renewable energy transition.

The ISA visit further strengthened Bhutan's partnership in advancing renewable energy and achieving its clean energy goals.



Team from ISA



Country Partnership Strategy and National Solar Energy Roadmap Launched



Operational Agreement for Solar Technology Application Resource Centre Signed



Inauguration of Solar Technology Application Centre (STAR-C)

Observances & Celebrations



31st July 2025

Rangers Day

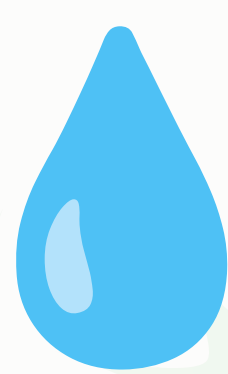
Rangers, Powering Transformative Conservation



16th September 2025

World Ozone Day

From Science to Global Action



22nd March 2026

World Water Day

Advancing sustainable water management for a water-secure future



21st March 2026

International Day of Forests

Celebrating the vital role of forests in sustaining life and livelihoods



23rd March 2026

World Meteorological Day

Observing Today, Protecting Tomorrow



2nd June 2026

Social Forestry Day

Plant Together, Restore Forever, Secure Our Future



4th June 2026

World Environment Day

Now for the Climate

39th India–Bhutan Joint Expert Team Meeting

The 39th Joint Expert Team (JET) Meeting between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India was held in Paro on 8–9 October 2025 to review progress and strengthen cooperation on hydro-meteorological services and flood forecasting.

The meeting discussed the implementation of the Comprehensive Scheme for Establishment of Hydro-meteorological and Flood Forecasting Network on Rivers Common to India and Bhutan, including progress of the Government of India-supported Flood Warning Programme under the National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM). The teams also discussed future initiatives, including the proposed establishment of a 24/7 Flood Monitoring Control Room for the Amochhu River Basin in Phuentsholing.

The meeting further reinforced the longstanding cooperation between Bhutan and India in enhancing flood preparedness, data sharing, and climate resilience.



Paro | October 10, 2025

Third Hindu Kush Himalaya Science–Policy–Finance Dialogue



Paro | November 26, 2025

The Ministry in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), hosted the Third Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH) Science–Policy–Finance Dialogue in Paro from 25–27 November 2025. The regional forum brought together policymakers, scientists, researchers, development partners, and financial institutions to advance Nature-based Solutions (NbS) for climate resilience and sustainable development across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

The dialogue strengthened regional cooperation by promoting evidence-based policies, innovative financing mechanisms, and knowledge sharing to scale up Nature-based Solutions. It also showcased Bhutan's leadership in environmental conservation and reinforced the country's commitment to building climate resilience through sustainable ecosystem management and regional collaboration.

Regional Climate Action and Transparency Hub Launched for the Hindu Kush Himalaya



Paro | December 3, 2025

The Hindu Kush Himalaya Regional Climate Action and Transparency Hub (HKHRCATH) was launched in Paro by UN Climate Change and ICIMOD, in collaboration with regional member countries. The hub aims to strengthen climate action through capacity building, data sharing, and enhanced climate reporting under the Paris Agreement’s Enhanced Transparency Framework. The initiative will support regional cooperation and evidence-based climate decision-making across the Hindu Kush Himalaya region.

Regional Climate Finance Report Highlighted Funding Gaps in the Hindu Kush Himalaya

The International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) launched the Climate Finance Synthesis Report: Needs, Flows, and Gaps in the Hindu Kush Himalaya Countries during a regional workshop in Paro on 3 December 2025. The report highlighted the significant climate finance gap across the region and called for increased investment to support climate adaptation and mitigation efforts.

The report emphasized the need to improve access to climate finance, strengthen innovative financing mechanisms, and increase investments in mountain ecosystems and environmentally sensitive areas. It also reinforced Bhutan's commitment to advancing climate resilience and promoting stronger regional and international collaboration to address the growing impacts of climate change in the Hindu Kush Himalaya.



PUBLICATION LAUNCH
Climate Finance Synthesis Report: Needs, Flows and Gaps in the HKH countries
Paro | December 3, 2025

Climate-Resilient Spring Water Source Revival Initiative Launched



Mongar | November 27, 2025

The Department of Water, with funding support from UNICEF Bhutan, launched a Climate-Resilient Spring Water Source Revival initiative to address water scarcity in Mongar Dzongkhag. Following consultations with Gewog Thrizins and local stakeholders, Jurmey Gewog was identified as the priority site for the intervention due to its persistent water shortages affecting 98 households.

Subsequent community consultations confirmed the urgency of the project and established a local implementation team to support its execution. The initiative laid the foundation for restoring spring water sources through scientific assessments and community-led action, contributing to improved water security and climate resilience in vulnerable rural communities.

BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Environment and Climate Change



Thimphu | January 17, 2026

The 4th Meeting of the BIMSTEC Joint Working Group on Environment and Climate Change (JWG-ECC) was held from 15th to 16th January 2026. The meeting finalized the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the JWG-ECC, reviewed activities under the Action Matrix of the BIMSTEC Plan of Action on Environment and Climate Change, discussed mobilization of climate finance, and explored initiatives to further advance the BIMSTEC Environment and Climate Change Sector.

The representatives from seven member states (Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, and Sri Lanka) participated in the two-day meeting. Environment and Climate Change is one of the seven sectors of BIMSTEC Cooperation and Bhutan is the leading the themathic cooperation.

*From Progress to Priorities
- MoENR’s 13 FYP Mid-Term Review*



Thimphu | April 20, 2026

The Ministry presented its 13th Five-Year Plan Mid-Term Review Report. The review exercise was chaired by Hon’ble Prime Minister and attended by the Finance Minister, Cabinet Secretary, Chairperson and Commissioners of RCSC and other high-level officials of the government. The review assessed the progress, issues and received guidance to set strategic priorities for the remaining plan period.

The Ministry presented key achievements across its six Departments, highlighting progress in renewable energy development, hydropower projects, water and forest resources management, mineral development and management, and environment and climate initiatives.

The Hon’ble Prime Minister commended the Ministry for the impressive outputs and advised it to continue with the same effort. Further he emphasized the importance of accelerating project delivery, strengthening inter-agency coordination, and ensuring sustainable resource management in line with national development goals, as well as putting in place an Energy Security Strategy.

The Ministry reaffirmed its commitment to advancing sustainable energy natural resource management to support the country’s 10X Economic Roadmap and Diamond Strategy.

*Second Bhutan–ICIMOD
Coordination Committee Meeting
Convened*

The Ministry in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), convened the Second Bhutan–ICIMOD Coordination Committee Meeting in Thimphu on 4 December 2025 to review the progress of ICIMOD-supported initiatives across multiple sectors.

The meeting assessed achievements in areas including renewable energy, air quality, springshed management, nature-based solutions, and climate resilience, and reaffirmed the alignment of joint programmes with Bhutan's 13th Five-Year Plan. Discussions also focused on strengthening partnerships, mobilizing climate finance, and identifying priority projects for ICIMOD's Medium-Term Action Plan VI.

The meeting further reinforced the longstanding collaboration between Bhutan and ICIMOD in advancing sustainable mountain development and environmental resilience.



Thimphu | December 4, 2025

*9th Bhutan–India Joint Technical Team Meeting on Flood
Management*

The 9th Joint Technical Team (JTT) Meeting between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of India was held in Phuentsholing from 15–17 June 2026. The meeting reviewed the implementation of previous decisions, discussed key strategies for transboundary flood management, and conducted joint field visits to strengthen technical cooperation. The meeting concluded with agreed follow-up actions to enhance flood mitigation and reinforce Bhutan–India collaboration in protecting communities along the shared river systems.



Thimphu | June 15, 2026

Public Consultation on Energy Bill 2026

The stakeholder consultation on the Energy Bill 2026 was held on 12th February 2026, chaired by Director General, Department of Energy. More than 60 participants representing the 25 stakeholder agencies from the Ministries, OAG, National Land Commission, GovTech, BSB, NSB, RMA, RUB, Thimphu Thromde, DSP-SI and the BCCI (ABI, Zimdra, BFAL, private sectors) participated in the day-long consultation.

The CEOs and representatives of all agencies under the energy sector participated in the consultation as well.



Thimphu | February 12, 2026

Public Consultation on Water Bill 2026



Thimphu | April 9, 2026

The Department of Water convened two rounds of a two-day consultation on the Water Bill, 2025. The first round was held with government agencies and academic institutions from April 9–10, 2026, followed by a second round with private sector representatives and CSOs/NGOs from April 16–17, 2026. Given that water governance spans across multiple sectors (health, agriculture, infrastructure, environment, disaster management, and economic development) and requires a multi-stakeholder approach, the primary objective of the consultation was to ensure that the Water Bill is comprehensive, coordinated, and responsive to cross-sectoral needs.

The consultation was built on a series of prior engagements, including internal deliberations within Departments/Agencies under the Ministry, followed by bilateral consultations with the Ministry of Infrastructure and Transport. These sequential consultations ensured that the Water Bill reflects both sector-specific priorities and integrated national interests, thereby contributing to the development of a robust and implementable Water Act.

Mines and Mineral Bill 2026



Thimphu | June 29, 2026

The Ministry made significant progress in finalising the Mines and Minerals Bill, an important legislative initiative aimed at strengthening the governance of mining and mineral sector. During the reporting period, the draft Bill was refined through extensive stakeholder consultations held on 27 and 28 May 2025. Following the incorporation of feedback, the final draft was endorsed by the Policy and Planning Coordination Committee Meeting (PPCCM) on 10 June 2026.

Subsequently, the Bill was reviewed by the Office of the Attorney General (OAG), and additional comments from the Ministry of Finance and the OAG were incorporated into the revised draft. The Department of Geology and Mines also completed the Dzongkha translation in preparation for submission to the Cabinet for further deliberation and onward submission to the Parliament.

GLOF Early Warning System Awareness Program

The National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology in collaboration with the Department of Local Government and Disaster Management and Dzongkhag Administration of Punakha and Wangduephodrang conducted a three-day Education and Awareness Program from 4th to 6th March 2026.

The initiative focused on Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and rainstorm flood risks, specifically targeting the Early Warning Systems (EWS) installed along the Puna–Wangdue valleys.

More than 200 participants, representing various institutions, hydropower projects, and vulnerable local communities attended the sessions. GLOFs remains a primary threat in Bhutan, particularly within the Punatsangchhu basin, where rapid glacial melting is exacerbated by climate change. As the formation of potentially dangerous glacial lakes increases, sustained community preparedness is vital.

The three-day program focused on:

- Risk Education: Raising awareness regarding the threats of GLOFs and extreme hydrometeorological events.
- Technical Updates: Disseminating information on ongoing mitigation efforts, including NCHM’s initiatives to reduce hazards at the source of the Pho Chu River.
- Actionable Preparedness: Conducting mock drill simulations by activating sirens to test community response times and familiarity with the systems.
- Response Mechanisms: Providing guidance on evacuation plans and disaster preparedness protocols.

While the EWS is a lifeline for public safety in the valley, NCHM noted that the EWS infrastructure faces challenges, including equipment aging and the logistical difficulties of remote maintenance. During the program, NCHM consulted with key stakeholders including hydropower plants to discuss collaborative strategies for the long-term sustainability and technical strengthening of the EWS. The program received high engagement from the community, signalling a strong local commitment to disaster resilience. NCHM remains dedicated to enhancing recovery capacities and ensuring that early warnings translate into effective, life-saving actions.

The program was supported by the World Bank through the Risk Information for Resilience project component implemented by NCHM.



Punakha | March 4, 2026

Quality Management System Workshop for Aviation Meteorological Services

The National Center for Hydrology and Meteorology (NCHM) conducted a Quality Management System (QMS) Internal Audit Workshop from 11–15 May 2026 with technical support from the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) and funding from the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF). The workshop strengthened internal audit capacity for aviation meteorological services, included practical ISO 9001:2015 audit exercises, and resulted in the development and endorsement of the Aviation Internal Audit Plan.



Thimphu | May 11, 2026

ICIMOD’s MTAP-VI (2027–2030) Consultation



Thimphu | March 9, 2026

The Ministry as the nodal agency for ICIMOD in Bhutan convened key stakeholders consultation to prepare ICIMOD’s MTAP-VI (2027-2030). The consultation brought together representatives from government agencies, partner institutions, and key stakeholders to discuss Bhutan’s priorities and strategic directions for future collaboration with ICIMOD. The meeting also reviewed the progress and key achievements of the ICIMOD–Bhutan partnership under the Fifth Medium-Term Action Plan (2023–2026).

Hon’ble Secretary, MoENR in his opening remarks, highlighted the importance of the upcoming MTAP-VI in advancing more impactful and scalable initiatives. He emphasized the need to move beyond small pilot projects toward investment-ready programs capable of delivering tangible economic and environmental benefits. In line with Bhutan’s 13th FYP and the nation’s 10X Vision, he stressed the importance of strengthening climate resilience, access to international climate finance, promoting sustainable natural resource management, and supporting Bhutan’s long-term economic transformation. The Deputy Director General, ICIMOD emphasized the importance of strengthening country engagement while focusing on fewer, critical priorities to ensure sustained delivery. She reiterated that a key priority under ICIMOD’s Strategy 2030 is deepening partnerships with governments so that ICIMOD’s work responds directly to national needs, and acknowledged the Royal Government of Bhutan for its leadership, valued partnership, and strong commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

She noted that collaboration has been supported through effective coordination mechanisms such as the Bhutan–ICIMOD Coordination Committee (BICC) and Technical Working Group. She also highlighted that the region faces growing challenges; including geopolitical instability,

volatile development and climate finance, and accelerating climate and environmental risks and that ICIMOD aims to respond with more focused, demand-driven and agile work that translates scientific evidence into policy, implementation, and investment across the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HKH).

Stakeholders synthesized Bhutan’s priorities for MTAP-VI into five thematic areas:

Climate, Cryosphere and Disaster Resilience; Ecosystem and Nature-Based Solutions (NbS); Green Economy and Sustainable Livelihoods; Circular Economy and Pollution Management; and Science–Policy Integration and Access to Global Finance.

The outcomes of the consultation will shape the ICIMOD’s MTAP VI, ensuring stronger alignment with Bhutan’s policy priorities while advancing sustainable mountain development across the HKH region.

During the consultation meeting, the Ministry and ICIMOD also launched two digital tools to support sustainable rangeland management and the livelihoods of highland communities.

Firstly, Tsamdro App has been redeveloped to improve field data collection, building on an earlier version that helped survey and map about 380,000 acres of tsamdro.

Secondly, the Tsamdro and Herder Mobility Dashboard, developed by ICIMOD in collaboration with the Department of Forests and Park Services, Department of Livestock, and the National Land Commission Secretariat, provides an integrated platform to visualize grazing areas, herder mobility patterns, and other spatial data to support planning and decision-making. Together, these tools will strengthen data-driven governance of Bhutan’s rangelands, with the NLCS serving as the central repository to ensure quality tandards, coordinated data management and access for relevant sector agencies.

Consultation with Promotors at Pasakha Industrial Estate

Phuentsholing | February 26, 2026

The Department of Environment and Climate Change convened a consultation with industrial stakeholders at Pasakha Industrial Estate in Phuentsholing, bringing together regulators, local authorities, and private sector representatives to deliberate on the critical link between industrial growth and ambient air quality. The consultations recognized Pasakha’s pivotal role in the country’s economy as the largest hub for exports and a key contributor to economic diversification. At the same time, discussions underscored the importance of managing environmental externalities and safeguarding public health as industrial activity intensifies.

Stakeholders engaged constructively on compliance, infrastructure gaps, cleaner technologies, and the need for strengthened monitoring systems. The Department emphasized a balanced policy approach that internalizes environmental costs while preserving competitiveness and employment generation. The delegation also visited Norbugang Industrial Park in Samtse to continue on the ground engagement. The consultations concluded with a shared commitment to collaborative action, evidence-based policymaking, and a pathway towards sustainable industrialization where economic dynamism and environmental stewardship advance together.

Judicial Workshop and Dialogue on Wildlife Poaching and Illegal Trade

Bhutan’s constitutional commitment to environmental and biodiversity conservation are at the center of governance and justice. Despite the country’s strong conservation achievements, wildlife offenses and illegal wildlife trade continue to evolve, influenced by regional and global factors such as cross-border trafficking, organized criminal networks, and the increasing use of digital platforms for trading wildlife products.

The Judiciary plays a critical role in addressing these challenges through the interpretation of wildlife laws, assessment of evidence, and delivery of consistent and proportional sentencing.

As wildlife offense becomes more complex, often involving cyber-enabled offences and transnational dimensions, there is growing importance in creating platforms for judicial dialogue and professional exchange to reflect on emerging legal and evidentiary issues.

To support this effort, the Judicial Workshop and Dialogue on Wildlife Crime was held in two batches from 11th to 13th March and 16th to 18th March 2026, jointly organized by the Bhutan National Legal Institute and Ministry with support from WWF Bhutan.

Around 50 Judges and Registrars from Dzongkhag and Drungkhag Courts across Bhutan has participated in discussion on current ildlife offense trends, adjudicatory challenges, legal interpretations, and policy considerations. The dialogue also examined practical issues related to investigation quality, evidentiary standards, and the use of forensic, digital, and morphological evidence in wildlife crime cases.

This initiative is envisioned to strengthen understanding of wildlife crime as a serious transnational offence and encourage continued collaboration to enhance Bhutan’s judicial and institutional response to wildlife poaching and illegal trade.



Paro | March 13, 2026

Implementation of the Country Partnership Strategy on Solar Energy



Thimphu | March 23, 2026

The High-Level Mission of International Solar Alliance (ISA), led by Mr. Ashish Khanna, Director General was in Bhutan from 23-27 March 2026, marking the first formal implementation milestone under the ISA-RGoB Country Partnership Strategy (CPS 2025-29).

The ISA–Bhutan CPS 2025–2029, endorsed during a high-level mission in September 2025, provides a strategic framework to advance solar deployment through interventions via policy frameworks, project implementations, capacity building, and strategic financing, aligned with the National Energy Policy 2025 where a target of 5,000 MW of solar capacity is to be achieved by 2040.

The five-day mission brought together high-level bilateral engagements, Steering Committee Meeting, a High-Level Policy and Finance Workshop, and a field visit to the country’s first utility solar PV facility, designed to align stakeholders on priorities, strengthen institutional coordination, and accelerate implementation across CPS priority areas.

The High-Level Stakeholder Workshop and Strategic Roundtable brought together more than 60 participants across government agencies, utilities, development partners, development finance institutions and private sector representatives.

The discussion focused on Policy and Regulatory aspects and a Catalytic Financing to improve project feasibility and mobilize investment at scale. The mission aimed to deliver a clear and time-bound action plan under the CPS, with defined milestones and accountability, align stakeholders on policy and implementation frameworks including knowledge on power purchase agreements (PPAs) and tariff analyses to strengthen project implementations.

It also builds consensus on financing approaches, including blended finance and risk-mitigation mechanisms to catalyse private investments, alongside identifying targeted technical support and follow-up actions to sustain implementation momentum.

Visit of the Minister, Power and Housing and Urban Affairs, GoI



Thimphu | April 9, 2026

At the invitation of Hon’ble Lyonpo, Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, the Minister for Power, Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of Republic of India, H.E. Minister Manohar Lal visited Bhutan from 9th to 12th April 2026.

His Excellency graced the first concrete pouring ceremony at the Punatsangchhu-I Hydroelectric Project dam on 10th April 2026. This marked a momentous occasion for the people of both the nations to witness the commencement of dam works at the 1200 MW Punatsangchhu-I

Hydroelectric Project. During the visit, the Protocol to the Agreement between the Royal Government of Bhutan and the Government of the Republic of India was signed for the Punatsangchhu-II Hydroelectric Project Export Tariff on 9th April 2026 in Thimphu.

Bhutan and India also signed the methodology for accounting of the reactive power exchange between the two countries that will be effective from 1st May 2026. This will contribute to enhancing grid bility, ensure fair and transparent

accounting of power flows, and further strengthen cross-border interconnections between the two countries.

The Bhutan-India partnership is built on long-standing energy cooperation, deep understanding and friendship across all economic and developmental areas of cooperation.

The visit will further strengthen multi-faceted energy collaboration between the two countries encompassing power generation, electricity trade, transmission connectivity, equipment, training and technical collaboration.

Tsamdro Management to Strengthen Bhutan’s Rangeland Governance



Thimphu | April 15, 2026

The Department of Forests and Park Services in collaboration with ICIMOD, Department of Livestock, National Land Commission Secretariat, and Local Government, successfully implemented a Training of Trainers programme on Tsamdro (traditional grazing lands)/Rangeland management planning, implementation, and monitoring from 13–15 April 2026 in Gaytala, Dagala Gewog, Thimphu.

The program brought together 29 officials from key agencies, including the Rangeland Technical Working Group, Heads of Departments, representatives from the Bhutan Yak Federation and Youth Development Fund (YDF), and local government leaders.

In addition, local yak herders from Gaytala actively participated in field demonstrations, embedding traditional knowledge and lived experiences into the training. With financial support from ICIMOD, over three days, participants engaged in:

- Field-based demonstrations on fireline creation and session on prescribed burning, shrub removal, and juniper debranching.
- Guided tours and interactive sessions with yak herders to identify challenges such as shrub encroachment and water scarcity.
- Finalization of templates and drafting of a Tsamdro Management Plan for Gaytala chiwog under Dagala gewog.

This initiative marks a milestone in Bhutan’s rangeland governance, strengthening institutional capacity and equipping technical staff with practical skills to implement nationwide Tsamdro management planning. It reinforces the role of highland communities as custodians of Bhutan’s ecological resilience, cultural continuity, and border security.

Environmental and Social Impact Assessment Training

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, in collaboration with the College of Natural Resources, Royal University of Bhutan, conducted a five-day Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA) Training Program in Thimphu from 27 April to 1 May 2026.

Around 45 Environment Officers and technical professionals participated in the programme, which strengthened their capacity to conduct quality environmental assessments and integrate climate considerations into development planning through practical field exercises and technical sessions.



Thimphu | May 1, 2026

Bhutan Launches Standards and Labelling Scheme for Energy Efficiency

The Department of Energy launched Bhutan's Standards and Labelling (S&L) Scheme to promote energy efficiency, sustainable energy consumption, and informed consumer choices.

The scheme introduced Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) and energy labels for LED lamps, storage water heaters, and refrigerators, marking a significant step toward reducing electricity consumption and strengthening the country's energy security. Developed with support from the Asian Development Bank and other partners, the initiative will be implemented in collaboration with key stakeholders to advance Bhutan's sustainable energy transition.



Thimphu | June 1, 2026

ADB Vice President Calls on Hon'ble Lyonpo

A high-level delegation from the Asian Development Bank (ADB), led by Vice President for Market Solutions Mr. Bhargav Das Gupta, called on the Hon'ble Lyonpo on 22 May 2026 to reaffirm ADB's partnership with Bhutan in advancing the country's energy transition and climate resilience.

Discussions focused on Bhutan's target of achieving 25,000 MW of power generation by 2040, accelerating energy projects, promoting private sector participation, and strengthening collaboration on renewable energy, energy storage, and climate financing.



Thimphu | May 22, 2026

54 MW Burgangchhu Hydropower Project Successfully Synchronised



Zhemgang | April 29, 2026

The first unit of the 54 MW Burgangchhu Hydropower Project (Buli, Zhemgang) was successfully synchronised to the national grid on April 29, 2026.

This marks the second project commissioned under Druk Hydro Energy Limited under Phase I of the Small Hydropower Project, following the 18 MW Suchhu Hydropower Plant in Sombaykha, Haa, commissioned in May 2025. The milestone further reinforces Bhutan’s expanding small hydropower portfolio and progress under Phase I.

Integrated Climate Adaptation Solution for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HI-CAS)



The Policy and Planning Division, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources supported ICIMOD and Tarayana Foundation in implementing the Integrated Climate Adaptation Solution for the Hindu Kush Himalaya (HI-CAS) project. The project is implemented by Tarayana Foundation in partnership with ICIMOD funded by Global Affairs Canada.

The project aims to improve climate resilient, nature positive livelihoods and leadership of rural women and local communities of Paro and Punakha Dzongkhag. A partner-managed fund of USD 700,000 has been allocated to promote gender responsive Integrated Adaptation Solution (IASP) focussing on three core priorities- renewable energy, springshed management and, agrobiodiversity interventions.

Prime Minister Meets HKH Futures Forum Delegation



Thimphu | November 26, 2025

The Prime Minister met with the delegation visiting Bhutan for the HKH Futures Forum, reflecting on Bhutan's identity as a clean, green, and sustainable nation shaped by the leadership of its enlightened monarchs, and discussed the importance of safeguarding Hindu Kush Himalaya glaciers that sustain millions downstream.

The delegation emphasized the need for strong regional cooperation on climate and socio-economic challenges and highlighted ICIMOD's role as a key platform for knowledge and sustainable solutions, with the Prime Minister noting that this collaborative work will have lasting significance for communities across the HKH region.

Development of National Clean Air Action Plan for Bhutan



Thimphu | September 15, 2025

The Department of Environment and Climate Change, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, in collaboration with ICIMOD, launched the development of Bhutan's National Clean Air Action Plan (NCAAP) through an inception workshop in Thimphu bringing together government agencies, the private sector, academia, civil society, and international experts to discuss air quality status, monitoring, sustainable transport, and inclusive clean air strategies, and to establish a roadmap focused on stakeholder collaboration, emissions data, and policy integration.

Chief Guest Dasho Tashi Wangmo, Secretary, Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Employment, stressed the need for integrated approaches, while Dasho Karma Tshering, Secretary, MoENR, reaffirmed the government's commitment to clean air management and cross-sectoral collaboration.

NCHM–ICIMOD Installs Bhutan’s First Black Carbon Monitoring Station on Shodug Glacier



Shodug Glacier, Thim Chhu Headwaters | June 8, 2026

NCHM, in partnership with ICIMOD established Bhutan's first high-altitude Black Carbon Monitoring Station near the benchmarked Shodug Glacier in the Thim Chhu headwaters at 5,168 metres.

Equipped with Starlink for real-time data transmission, addressing a critical gap in monitoring how black carbon- soot from diesel, coal, biomass, and cookstove combustion darkens glacier surfaces and accelerates melt and glacial lake expansion. The station, potentially among the highest of its kind in the world, will improve understanding of black carbon's role in glacier change and associated climate risks in Bhutan.

Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP)



A joint mission comprising representatives from the Himalayan Resilience Enabling Action Programme (HI-REAP) Management Team of ICIMOD and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Delhi Office, visited Bhutan from 14–18 June 2026 to review progress in spring shed management, rangeland restoration, bioeconomy development, and air quality strengthening collaboration with implementing partners of the Royal Government of Bhutan under key climate resilience initiatives.



JSW Law under HI-REAP program hosted a two-day National Consultation Workshop in Thimphu, graced by Hon’ble Lyonpo Gem Tshering, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, bringing together over 40 participants including government officials, UN agencies, local leaders from Haa and Lingzhi, and experts in clean energy, public health, and air qualityto address the intersection of air pollution, health equity, and clean energy, with a focus on gender equality and social inclusion, and to co-create evidence-based, inclusive clean energy solutions for rural Bhutan, particularly for women and children affected by indoor air pollution.

Thimphu | June 14-18, 2026

High-Level Dialogue on Advancing Renewable Energy-Powered Lift Irrigation Systems in Bhutan



Thimphu | July 3, 2025

The Department of Energy, Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, in collaboration with the International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD), convened a high-level dialogue on advancing renewable energy-powered lift irrigation systems in Bhutan, held under the IDRC-funded WERELIS–Bhutan project.

The event brought together senior government officials, development partners, civil society representatives, and private sector stakeholders to discuss strategies for promoting climate-smart, renewable energy-based irrigation systems across the country.

A highlight of the dialogue was the launch of two key publications:

- Landscape assessment of renewable energy-powered lift irrigation systems.
- Multi-criteria assessment framework alongside the introduction of the Productive Use of Renewable Energy (PURE) Platform, a satellite-based decision support tool for irrigation planning.

Discussions centered on strengthening policy coordination, financing mechanisms, institutional capacity, and gender-responsive approaches to scale up renewable energy-powered irrigation, with the overarching goal of improving agricultural productivity, enhancing climate resilience, and empowering women farmers throughout Bhutan.

MoENR Recognised at the Civil Service Innovation Day 2026



The Ministry received multiple recognitions at the Civil Service Innovation Day 2026.

- The National Centre for Hydrology and Meteorology and the Department of Geology and Mines were awarded Gold Awards for excellence in service delivery and digital transformation, respectively.
- NCHM also received the Project Excellence Award
- Ms. Dawa Chhoedron, Chief Engineer, Department of Energy, was honoured with the Learner Excellence Award.

These achievements reflect the Ministry's commitment to innovation, digital transformation, and excellence in public service.

Thimphu | June 16, 2026

Ministry Officials Recognized for Dedicated Service

Two officials from the Ministry were recognized for their dedicated service to the community. Mr. Kaka, Principal Forestry Officer, Department of Forest and Park Services, and Mr. Dorji Gyelsthen, Chief Program Officer, Department of Water, received certificates of recognition from Her Majesty Gyalyum Dorji Wangmo Wangchuck for their contributions to the establishment of the Payment for Environmental Services (PES) initiative in the Omchu Watershed. The recognition was conferred during the inaugural ceremony of the 20th Tarayana Fair at Changyul Park.

Thimphu | May 29, 2026



Staff Engagement Program Promotes Health and Workplace Wellbeing



Thimphu | May 22, 2026

The Ministry launched its first Staff Engagement Programm on 22 May 2026 with a Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament to promote staff wellbeing, teamwork, and a healthy workplace culture. Graced by the Hon'ble Lyonpo and Dasho Secretary, the programme encouraged physical activity and camaraderie among staff as part of the Ministry's ongoing efforts to foster a healthier and more engaging work environment.

Zumba/CrossFit Program Launched for Staff Wellbeing



Thimphu | May 26, 2026

The Ministry launched a Zumba/CrossFit Programme on 26 May 2026 to promote staff wellbeing, teamwork, and a healthy workplace culture. Conducted four times a week, the initiative encourages staff to engage in regular physical activity, reduce workplace stress, and strengthen interaction and collaboration among colleagues.

MoENR Staffs Honoured with Meritorious Promotion



Meritorious Promotion
by one year

Meritorious Promotion
by six months



Bal Krishna
Dy. Chief Forestry Officer
Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary,
Sarpang



Jangchu Wangdi
Dy. Chief Forestry Officer
DFO-Zhemgang



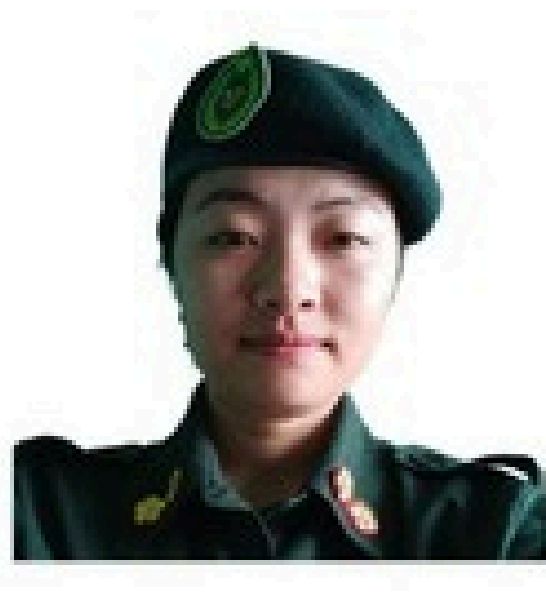
Wangdi
Sr. Forestry Officer
DFO-Sarpang



Tashi Phuntsho
Forest Ranger I
DFO-Wangdue



Kinley Jamtsho
Principal Engineer
Department of Energy



Khandu Tshomo
Sr. Forestry Officer
Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary, Sarpang

Six civil servants from the Ministry were awarded meritorious promotions in recognition of their sustained performance and unwavering commitment to public service.

Four officials were awarded meritorious promotion by one year, by the Royal Civil Service Commission.

- Mr. Bal Krishna of Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary and Mr. Jangchu Wangdi of Divisional Forest Office, Zhemgang were promoted to Deputy Chief Forestry Officer.
- Mr. Wangdi from DFO, Sarpang was promoted to Senior Forestry Officer and
- Mr. Tashi Phuntsho from DFO Wangdue was promoted to Forest Ranger I.

Two officials were awarded meritorious promotion by six months, by the Ministry.

- Mr. Kinley Jamtsho, Department of Energy was promoted to Principal Engineer.
- Mr. Khandu Tshomo, Phibsoo Wildlife Sanctuary was promoted to Senior Forestry Officer.

The Ministry congratulated all the recipients on their well-deserved recognition and thanked them for their continued dedication and service to the nation.

Designation of Go-To Persons for Sexual Harassment Prevention and Response

Go-To Person

Ms. Tshewang Choden
AHRO
17524760
tshewangc@moenr.gov.bt



Alternate Go-To Person

Mr. Tshering Dhendup
Dy.CPO
17690880
trdhendup@moenr.gov.bt



The Ministry designated Go-To Persons to support staff in the prevention of and response to sexual harassment matters.

- Ms. Tshewang Choden, Assistant HR Officer, was appointed as the Go-To Person.
- Mr. Tshering Dhendup, Deputy Chief Planning Officer, was designated as the Alternative Go-To Person.

Staff were encouraged to approach the designated officers in confidence to seek support, guidance, and assistance on matters related to sexual harassment.

Induction Program

The Ministry conducted an Induction Program for 13 new Professional and Management Category recruits appointed on January 1, 2026. The group comprised four Forestry Officers, four Environment Officers, three Geologists, and two Engineers. The event was graced by the Hon’ble Lyonpo, Dasho Secretary, and Heads of the Departments.

The Hon’ble Lyonpo extended his heartfelt congratulations and commended their achievement in securing a place in the prestigious civil service and for being entrusted with responsibilities in one of the largest ministries. Lyonpo encouraged them to serve with dedication, integrity and a strong sense of responsibility.

The Ministry extended its heartfelt congratulations and warm welcome to all the newly appointed officers.



MoENR Honoured Civil Servants at the Civil Service Award Ceremony 2025

The Ministry hosted the Civil Service Award Ceremony 2025 to recognise the long and dedicated service of its officials. A total of 146 civil servants from the Ministry's six departments received Lifetime Service, Gold, Silver, and Bronze Medals in accordance with the Bhutan Civil Service Rules and Regulations 2023.

The ceremony, graced by the Hon'ble Minister, celebrated the commitment and exemplary contributions of civil servants to the Tsa-Wa-Sum, reaffirming the Ministry's appreciation for professionalism, dedication, and public service excellence.



Thimphu | December 15, 2025

Civil Service Wellness Day 2026

The MoENR team actively participated in Civil Service Wellness Day, 2026, joining fellow civil servants in promoting health, well-being, and team spirit. A total of 8 teams from six Departments and Secretariat took part in the relay marathon, reflecting strong inter-departmental participation and teamwork.

The event became more special as the Hon'ble Secretary was recognized and awarded the Appreciation Certificate in the Eldest Male Runner Category. Leading by example, Dasho brought pride to the Ministry by guiding and inspiring the marathon teams.



Thimphu | April 25, 2026



GMC Volunteer

MoENR officials jointly cleared over 13 km of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) mindfulness trails, supporting His Majesty's visionary initiative through a coordinated volunteer effort.



Gelephu | December 24-25, 2025

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Ministry of Energy and Natural Resources, Bhutan



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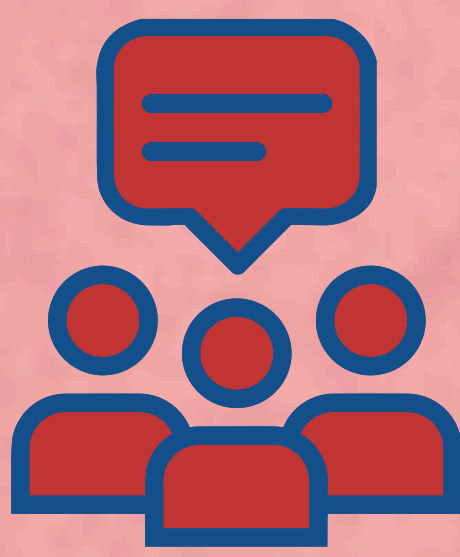
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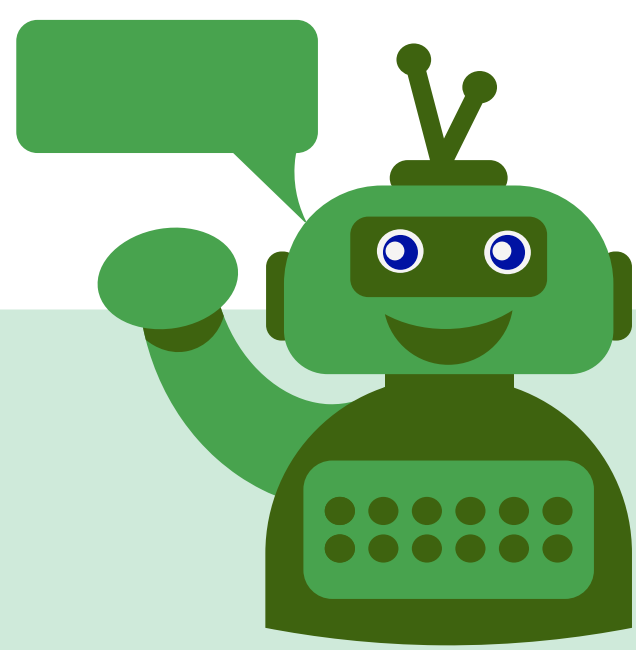


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