

Sewaroo,

The Kakphewa Tangnam (Maghey Sakranti), including the Youth Engagement Program, was organized by the Druk Kirat Chhoetshok Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag Committee in collaboration with the Druk Kirat Chhoetshok Central Committee, Thimphu, at Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag, Samdrupcholing (Bhangtaar) Drungkhag, Tashithang (Samrang) Gewog, and has successfully concluded on the 14th, 15th, and 16th of January 2026.

Primary Objective:

In line with this vision, the program was designed with three important objectives.

Firstly, to create a positive platform for youth engagement where young people can learn discipline, teamwork, leadership, and cultural values through meaningful activities.



Secondly, to revive, preserve, and promote Kirat spiritual traditions, rituals, and festivals, ensuring that our ancestral wisdom is not forgotten but passed down with pride.

Thirdly, to strengthen unity, harmony, and mutual understanding among communities, encouraging peaceful coexistence, respect for diversity, and national solidarity, and also

dedicated to Global peace, the continued wellbeing and long life of His Majesty the King, the prosperity of our nation, and the ultimate success of the Gelephu Mindfulness City (GMC) Project.

Kakphewa Tangnam:

Kokfekwa Tangnam is the traditional festival of the Kirat community, celebrated around the 14th or 15th of January, coinciding with Makar Sankranti. According to the Kirat scripture, the Samjik Mundhum, our ancestors once survived on wild roots and potatoes. The word *Kokfekwa* refers to the flowering of the white Magnolia flower, locally known as "Chaap," while *Tangnam* means festival.

Over time, as our ancestors discovered edible fruits, crops, and medicinal plants, this festival came to symbolize gratitude for survival, respect for nature, and appreciation of human resilience. Kokfekwa Tangnam also marks the beginning of a new year and a seasonal transition.

The white Magnolia flower is revered as a symbol of purity, simplicity, and virtue. As narrated in the Mundhum, Tagera Ningwabhumang (the Creator) used the fleeting beauty of this flower to teach humanity about the impermanence of life and the importance of living a moral and virtuous life.

Another important aspect of this festival is ancestral remembrance. During difficult times of famine and hardship, our forefathers survived on wild yams, tubers, and forest produce. Even today, people honor this legacy by consuming traditional foods on this sacred day.

Activities: Worship, Sports and Cultural Activities ;

Day One — 14th January, the opening day of the programme, was graced by the presence of the **Tashithang Gewog Gup** and respected **Gewog officials** by lighting of butter lamps,



whose encouragement and support greatly motivated the organizers, devotees, and youth participants.

The first day was especially significant because devotees gathered at the riverbank to perform the sacred ritual known as **Sakmura Wadema**, is a ritual

performed to ward off the "evil eye" and cleanse from unknown sins, the mind and soul of negative emotions such as greed and jealousy. The Sewa is conducted to purify ourselves from unknown sins passed down from previous generations, allowing us to be free from sin and to lead a holy life like the river and the sea.



In the afternoon of the first day, the programme became lively and energetic with various games and sports activities organized specially for the youth. These included traditional ethnic games such as **Paklung (Pongdo)** and other indigenous recreational activities. These activities not only entertained our youth but also strengthened friendship, teamwork, physical well-being, and cultural identity. It was truly heartwarming to witness young participants laughing together, competing in a healthy spirit, and building bonds beyond Dzongkhag boundaries.

In the evening, the spiritual atmosphere deepened with the recitation of devotional songs known as **Vazan**. This beautiful spiritual session was not only participated in by devotees from Tashithang Gewog, but was also joined by devotees from neighbouring Gewogs such as **Pemathang and Phuntshothang**. Their collective voices, prayers, and devotion created a powerful atmosphere of unity and spiritual harmony.

Moving on to **Day Two — 15th January**, which was yesterday, the programme was further blessed by the gracious presence of the **Honourable Samdrupjongkhar Dzongkhag Tshogdu Thrizin**, along with the Tashithang Gup and other respected officials. Their attendance reflected strong institutional support for cultural preservation and youth empowerment.



The day began with the sacred ritual known as **La Dhung, Nam Dhung Semi Sewa**(offering divine fire smoke) which seeks blessings for peace, protection, good fortune, and harmony among all living beings. Such rituals remind us that spirituality is not separate from daily life, but deeply connected to our responsibilities toward society, environment, and future generations.

In the afternoon, a vibrant **cultural competition programme** was organized among youth participants from various Dzongkhags including **Dagana, Chhukha, Samtse, Sarpang, Paro, Thimphu, and Tsirang**. Through traditional dances, songs, and performances, our youth beautifully showcased their talents, creativity, and love for their cultural roots. More importantly, this competition created a platform for learning, exchange, and mutual respect among diverse communities.



In the evening, once again, devotional song recitation filled the air with spiritual energy. This time, the programme was further enriched by the participation of the **Hindu Shiva Mandir Committee**, symbolizing unity, religious harmony, and mutual respect among different spiritual traditions in Bhutan. Thus, the first two days of this programme passed in a deeply meaningful, peaceful, and spiritually uplifting manner.

Lastly we have arrived at the **final and closing day** of this three-day journey. We are extremely fortunate and honoured to have **Dasho Drangpon** as our **Chief Guest** to grace this concluding ceremony and mark the successful completion of this historic programme.





Awardings:

The competition program included sports, cultural activities, music, poetry recitation, and greetings. The winners were presented with gifts as tokens of appreciation and were also awarded certificates of completion from the Kirat Mundhum online class.





The organizing committee and the Druk Kirat Choetshog central committee would like to express their gratitude to all Mundhum Online Class graduates for your hard work and successful completion of your course of study. May the Tagera Ningwabhung bless you all with the ability to recite the Samjik Mundhum and continue your studies further.

Welcome Speech and Vote of Thanks:

The organizing committee would like to express their gratitude to Zharna Hangma Lingden, Nuna Lakshom, and Sangeeta Yongyhang, who worked hard to deliver the

welcome speech and vote of thanks. May the Tagera Ningwabhumang bless them with the ability to speak confidently before society and the Nation.



Master of Ceremony and Congratulations:

The organizing committee would like to express their gratitude to Mr. Saha Bir Mangmu, Miss Khowa Hangma Thyebe, Miss Sangeeta Subba, Miss Bhumika Rai, and Mr. Moni Kumar Phago for their hard work in delivering the Master of Ceremony duties, taking responsibility for the continuity of the program from beginning to end. We also sincerely thank Miss Kritika Dukhun Rai for sharing the congratulatory speech. May Tagera Ningwabhumang bless you all with the ability to speak confidently in front of society and the nation.



Special Thanks :

The Organizing Committee and the Druk Kirat Choetsog Central Committee would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to the Samdrupdzongkhar Dzongkhag Administration, Samdrupcholing Drungkhag Administration, Tashithang Gup, Mangmi, Adam Sir, Gewog officials, Deesup, Gyalsung, Catrings, Sound Syestem, Kitchen & Water Management, Transportation Managements, Electrition, the volunteers, all participants, and well-wishers for their support and hospitality. Special thanks to Mr. Prem Bdr. Phenduwa Subba, Mr. Buddha Bir Loksom, and Mr. San Man Chilikcham Subba for arranging food and lodging for the entire Dagana team at Samdrupjongkhar. May Tagera Ningwabhumang bless you and your family with happiness, peace, prosperity, and long life.













Cinematography :

The Organizing Committee and the Druk Kirat Chhoetshog Central Committee would like to express their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Bale Man Sampang Rai for his volunteer support and for recording the entire program as it was. May the Tagera Ningwabhutang bring you and your family happiness, peace, prosperity, and long life.

Krishna Lingden