

## Leaves of Pangchen

(By Shri Sang Khandu, APCS, Circle Officer, Bomdila)

In the interest of public service I was posted in Zemithang Circle under Tawang District, Arunachal Pradesh and was there for almost seven years. By coming close to the people of the area and seeing the Geographical features of the area I became interested about their culture and mystical hearsay of their legend. So, I felt that I should share with all the hidden culture and nature's amazing treasures of Zemithang.

**Zemithang** is the last administrative centre of India near China Border, located 96 KM from Tawang via Lumla. Entire circle's population is 3000 approx as per 2001 census. The local name of "Zemithang" is "Pangchen". Zemithang was named when administrative center was set up. "Zemithang" means "sand valley" and some says "Pangchen" means the "locality who gave up the sin". The inhabitants of the area are known as Pangchenpa which means the people who gave up the sin.

They speak Monpa dialect. Their main occupation is grazing and partly Millet cultivation. Their staple food is millet. Their domestic animals are yak, zso, cow, goat and sheep. They do not use bulls for ploughing. They depend on barter and exchange products of milk like Churpi(local cheese), Ghee etc for grain. Now a days they also depend on labour wages. They follow Buddhism (Nyingma sect, Old Buddhist). The people of the area are religious and don't kill. They believe that wild animals are treasures, killing of which may bring ill luck to all living beings.

One can visit Zemithang and enjoy stunning rock mountain, rock walls, beautiful river valleys, attractive picnic spots and wonderful natural formation of river shingles and pebbles in Nyamjangchu River bed. In winter people of Tawang and Lumla come for picnic and enjoy the natural beauty of the valley.



**Pebbles and Shingles found in Nyamjangchu River**

