

Welcome, friends and supporters of the Rinchen Zangpo Society. Filled with Spiti news and views, this newsletter captures snapshots of an exciting 2017 for the Society. Read on!



### Opening the door for curious minds: A new library at Munsel-ling

Munsel-ling School now has a spacious and well-equipped library to engage its 500 students and 45 teachers as well as the general Spitian community with the wonder of words and ideas. Underpinned by financial support by TRAS (Trans-Himalayan Aid Society) and in particular Dr Yosef Wosk, the newly established library was inaugurated on 15 July 2017 by the Head Lama of Key Monastery, who visited the library and recited prayers for this site of private study, and acknowledged the range of benefits that reading and thinking bring to children. This newly extended Library has been renovated on the premises of the oldest building of the School, which has been converted into a main reading room and different library sections.



## A time to celebrate

Happy birthday, HH Dalai Lama!

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*“Time stops for no one, it’s always moving on. What’s past is past, we can’t change it. What we can do is learn from it. The future is dependent on the present. It rests in the hands of the younger generation.”*

- HH Dalai Lama on his 82<sup>nd</sup> birthday, 2017

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On July 6, 2017, students, teachers and administrators of Munsel-ling School felicitated HH Dalai Lama on the occasion of his 82nd birthday. Everyone assembled together to remember the inspiration that he is, and the words of compassion that he shares with the world.

**Fun and frolic as Munsel-ling and Kaza Public School hold their annual function**



Every year, Munsel-ling and Kaza Public School hold their annual function, creating a festive spirit enriched by cultural performances by students, right from the little ones in kindergarten to those in the secondary school. The Munsel-ling school function was honoured this year by the chief guest Khensur Dhagyap Togden Tulku Rimpoche.

### Spitian Losar celebrated in style at the Sidhbari hostel



The Sidhbari hostel in Dharamsala held a grand celebration of the Spitian Losar with a multi-cultural programme attended by those from Spiti in and around Dharamshala as well as the local community.

### Indian independence marked at Kaza by Munsel-ling students



70 years of India's independence was celebrated by a series of performances by talented students from Munsel-ling at Kaza, attended by the local community.

## Lasting partnerships in India and around the world

### 'Gerbusters!' A short film by Canadian medical students



Medical students from the University of British Columbia (UBC) this year continued the precedent of providing vital healthcare support at Munsel-ling for 15 days, including a comprehensive check-up of all the students. This year, Max Moor-Smith from the UBC team decided to make a hygiene and health awareness-raising film with Munsel-ling students. And 'Gerbusters' was born! Do check out the full film at

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0jj5ngHHtc4&t=12sEnglish>.

### Manzil: an Indian learning centre encouraging student performance



Manzil is a not-for-profit, youth-led learning centre providing a supportive community environment and resources for students to empower themselves through creativity, and encouraging each other to see the world in new ways. We were thrilled to have this talented group of young team leaders, who led the performance of a dramatised *Ramayana* by Munsel-ling students.

## Teach for India at Munsel-ling: sharing knowledge and experience



Teach for India is a not-for-profit organisation from where a group of young enthusiastic teachers from different parts of India visited Spiti to share their learning and experience. The team conducted workshops for teachers and undertook extracurricular activities with the students. They also documented their remarkable journey with students at Munsel-ling in the short film 'Magic in the Mountains'. Do check it out!

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DM84sPWgBHc&t=113s>. We also had the CEO of the charity Tibet Relief Fund, Philippa Carrick, and Fundraising Director Sam visit the Sidhbari hostel, as shown on the bottom left.

### Heide Meyer of GATE (German Aid for Tibetans) visits Sidhbari



We were delighted that Heide Meyer, Head of GATE, was able to visit the Sidhbari hostel this year. GATE has generously supported the solar water heating system at the Sidhbari hostel. Thank you!

## Building new facilities in Spiti and Dharamshala



**Beating the cold with the Sidhbari hostel solar heating system:** Winters will be less cold as the Sidhbari hostel in Dharamshala for Spiti children now has a new solar water heating system, made possible with the support of GATE and Dr Klaus Ruoff.



**New quiet spaces for after-class study:** With the generous support of Nick Grant, we have constructed a study hall for students of Munsel-ling so that they have a tranquil space after classes to work separately or in groups.



**Wet and dry toilets to suit the Spitian climate:** The construction of wet and dry toilets and bathrooms with solar panels have been completed with the help of the Tibet Relief Fund, U.K. These toilet alternatives ensure that water is used during the summer

months, and that the traditional Spitian method of dry toilets is a viable option during winter when the temperatures plummet and water supply is very limited. A good idea!



**Rewa Buddhist Model School gets a new high school:** The high school building for Rewa Buddhist Model School has begun, and will be completed by the end of this year at Rongtong, with support from Tibet Hilfe Niederoesterreich, Austria.

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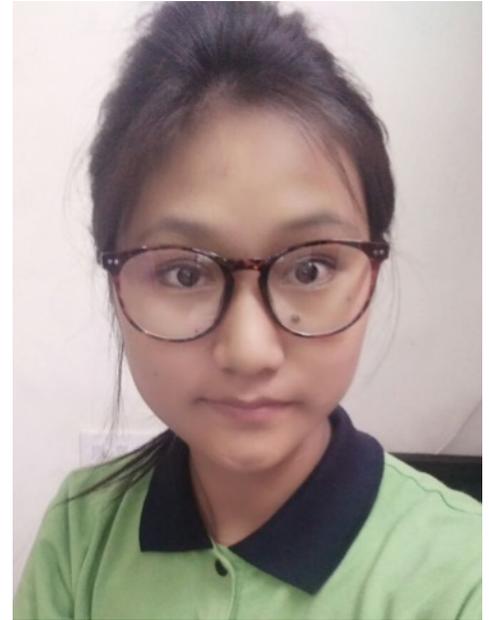
## Making strides in the field of higher education

Spitian girls forge ahead with academic success

*“Friends and benefactors from around the world – thank you for all your love and support!”*

- Ven. Tashi Namgyal

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We are delighted to announce that Chhering Palmo and Passang Dolma, two daughters from the same Spitian family, qualified for the NEET (Pre-Medical Examination) this year. Chhering Palmo has now joined Dr YS Parmar Medical College in Himachal Pradesh. Congratulations to both enterprising and hard-working girls!

### **The philosophy of ultimate reality and its practice: Ven. Tashi Namgyal speaks at a conference**

Ven. Tashi Namgyal, General Secretary of Rinchen Zangpo Society, was invited as a speaker at the International Conference on ‘Theravada & Mahayana: Philosophy of Ultimate Reality & its Practice’ at New Delhi, an international conference conducted by Tibet House in September 2017.

### **How you can help**

Thank you for reading this newsletter, and for your interest in the Rinchen Zangpo Society. Your support would be particularly welcome for completing the first floor of Kaza Public School; providing urgent medical care for our students; purchasing new bed sheets, pillows and quilt covers to ensure that students live in hygienic conditions, and buying sports equipment for students. For other ways to help, including sponsoring a Spitian child’s education, please visit <http://www.rinchenzangpo.org/> or contact us at [spitieducation1993@gmail.com](mailto:spitieducation1993@gmail.com).