

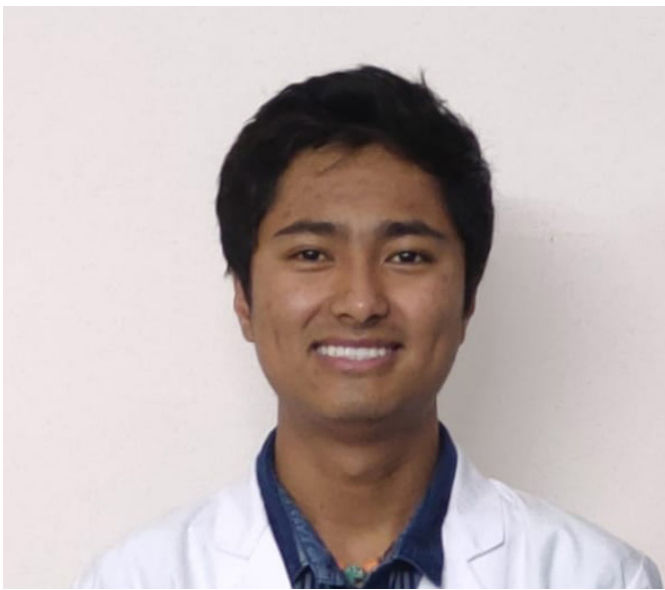


Rinchen Zangpo Society For Spiti Development

Educational Newsletter No. 31

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Eight Munsel-ling Graduates Enter Medical School This Year!



Our future physicians: Tanzin Namgial (left) and Tenpa Dhargyal (right)

Heartiest congratulations to the two young men and six young women who aimed so high and succeeded! Great credit to all those many others who lent their helping hand.



Ringzin Dolma (left) and Tenzin Zomkit (right)

Eight Munsel-ling Graduates (continued)



Sonam Chhukit (left) and Tanzin Lekcho (right)

These results really show that the Rinchen Zangpo Society is delivering optimal levels of education. The Society has approximately 970 students in its care, ages ranging all the way from kindergarten to senior secondary school. From that number, for eight to qualify to train as doctors this year, is that not a remarkable achievement? Seven of the eight spent their whole school career at Munsel-ling and six of the eight did their medical school entrance examination coaching year at Munsel-ling as well. One, Tenpa

Dhargyal, is a Tibetan, not a Spitian. Taking with them all our best wishes, I am sure, seven have gone to government medical colleges in their home state of Himachal Pradesh and one, Tenzin Lekcho, has travelled south to Telengana State. This year the medical exam coaching class at Munsel-ling has ever more students. The NEET challenge is seriously in fashion! NEET—National Entrance cum Eligibility Test, the all-India entrance exam for undergraduate medical programmes.



Tanzin Chhekit (left) and Tenzin Lhadon (right)

Annual School Function



Our honoured guest at this year's annual function was former Minister of Tribal Affairs, Phunchog Rai (centre, with white hat)

Veteran Spiti politician Phunchog (Phuntsok) Rai, Himachal Pradesh Minister of Tribal Affairs, 1993-98, presided as honoured chief guest at our annual function 2024. The young lady in the picture deservedly receiving her award is Sonam Chodon. She won 1st place in the whole district of Lahaul-Spiti in the final secondary school examinations this year. She added to that achievement with a more than respectable 550 plus score in the All-India medical college entrance examination. She decided to stay at Munsel-ling for another year and enter the coaching class for that exam, hoping to improve her score still further. ☺

Sonam Chodon receiving an award for her outstanding academic achievements



Visit by the State Minister for Tribal Affairs and Our MLA



Jagat Singh Negi and Anuradha Rana are warmly received at Munsel-ling

The Minister for Tribal Affairs for Himachal Pradesh, Jagat Singh Negi and our district's new member of the HP State Legislative Assembly (MLA) Anuradha Rana made a tour through Spiti and we welcomed them to Munsel-ling School. Even though our schools are run as an independent charity and are not part of the state

education system, still we receive significant financial support from the state government in appreciation of our contribution to tribal and young people's development, so these visits are important to us and we thank all concerned officials for their continued support. ༄།

More Amazing Kindness

Our government supply of electricity comes from hydro power. The supply is not always reliable and becomes much reduced in winter

in freezing conditions. For our students to study in the dark evenings and so forth a generator is necessary. Our old generator came to the end of its working life. Mrs Sally Ann Muir came to our rescue and donated the money for a new 'ecofriendly' generator for our school. We are very grateful for her help. We are also grateful to Diana Petrenko for donating books for our school and to a bikers' group from an Indian travel company, A.B. Company. They have visited us regularly on tour in the summer. This year they donated for two washing machines and gave some general donations too. Great thanks to these people and many more who have helped. We are looking after almost a thousand children's education now so our budget is indeed high! ༄།



Our new electrical generator in operation at Munsel-ling

First Historic Building Re-roofed



Once again, supporters of German Aid for Tibetans (GAT) have been very generous and with their help we have given our original, historic, building a metal sheet roof. It was in this building in 1996 that HH the XIVth Dalai Lama inaugurated Munsel-ling School, our first educational venture in Spiti itself. It was constructed with our traditional flat roof, made from mud laid over a wooden support. Climate change is challenging the traditional forms of Spitian and Tibetan architecture. Increasing rainfall in summer causes many problems, water leakage down the ground floor, de-stabilizing mud buildings even to the point of collapse. A metal roof will be much safer and eliminate the need to clear the snow off every time it falls. Note the new colour for the walls. This attractive creamy brown is replacing the old white throughout the school. It is more economical for one thing. Great thanks to GAT. GAT representatives Dr Gerd and Dr Elen Scheurer visited us in person last year. This year they are sending the money to sponsor two teachers' salaries. This is a wonderful help with our running costs. This summer we welcomed a small group of their colleagues who also made kind donations. 🌀



Solar Passive Study Hall at Rewa School



Our Rewa Buddhist Model School continues to be upgraded

The children of Rewa Buddhist Model School are now benefitting from an extension to their classroom block, a study space which admits as much sunlight as possible and thereby gives a warm place to work in the daytime. While higher altitude air can be thin and chill, lower latitude sunshine can be powerful in that thin air. Rewa is the school where most running costs and improvements are funded by Tibethilfe Niederösterreich (Austria). Our society is extremely grateful to them. ༄ེ

Now a passive solar roof keeps the children warm during the cold Himalaya winters



Digital Classroom Project

People gave generously to the appeal for our digital classroom project— wooden flooring and electronic necessities. We completed the flooring and purchased equipment, which has arrived at the school. However, damp in one wall, unexpected in

Spiti's dry climate and probably from a leaking water channel, hindered our plan of finishing the project in this year's fair weather. So, completion will be delayed till next year's building season. ༄ེ



A high quality wooden floor graces our new digital classroom

Cast Your Vote Cycling Campaign Rides High



Pumping the pedals to get people to vote: cycling campaigners make it to Tashi Gang

On 20th May, ahead of the Indian general election which took place in June, a SVEEP team, lead by HP cyclist voting ambassador Jaspreet Pal, visited Munsel-ling School. SVEEP— Systematic Voters' Education and Electoral Participation. The message: Get out and vote! Photo opportunity at the team's final destination, Tashi Gang, the world's highest polling station, 15,256 feet above sea level! (Yes, a little community of subsistence farming folk live up there, as do snow leopards.)



A circle of cyclists at Munsel-ling school

Glimpses of School Life



ELECTIONS AT MUNSEL-LING SCHOOL
Head boy, head girl and class representatives all elected by the pupils

Glimpses of School Life



TWO-WEEK WORKSHOP with Czech volunteers from the Himalayan Patrons group, led by Mr Jiri Sazel

RECYCLING WORKSHOP with Argentinian volunteers



A TEAM OF DOCTORS from the Indhira Gandhi Medical College, Simla, paid a summer visit to perform medical check-ups for staff and children

Glimpses of School Life



Clockwise from top left: 1) a wind gust makes a smokey stove; 2) prayer time; 3) torch light parade on *Losar*, Spiti New Year, 2nd December, 2024; 4) school dinner with rice and lentils. 🍴



School Student Statistics, 2024

Munsel-ling School, Rangrik	476	mixed boarders and day students
Kaza Public School, Kaza	273	day students
Rewa Primary School, Rongtong	134	boarders
New Nalanda Pre and Primary School, Chango	96	day students

Total 979 happy students!

Thanks to everyone who contributed to our education programme this year. Great apologies to anyone we have forgotten. Apart from those already mentioned above we extend special thanks to:

Zoe Maogany, France
Jackie Bushe, Ireland
The Reifenberg Trust, UK
Jaqueline & friends, France

Nantwich Buddhist Group
Upper Chapel, Sheffield, UK
Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield, UK
Michel & friends, France

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