



# Rinchen Zangpo Society For Spiti Development

Educational Newsletter No. 25

Winter 2018 / 19

## A Year of Wonderful Achievements and Wonderful Support from Many Directions!



Kaza Public School, basking in the midday Himalaya sun

### Making Spaces for Learning to Thrive

Major building work has been going on at all three school locations inside Spiti as well as at the Sidhbari hostel outside Spiti. Long-term projects have been completed and new structures begun.



Kaza Public School's second storey is now complete. In use since 2016, at last the building looks properly finished with a bright coat of paint. Flush toilets for summer use and other additions are still being made.

## Rongtong

The main high school building at Rewa Model School, Rongtong has been completed this building season. The school can now expand and continue to educate children for another six years after the four of primary school. All financial initiative and input, including capital costs, running costs and children's school fees for the whole Rewa Model School project have been from Tibethilfe, Austria, a tremendous humanitarian contribution.



"Re-wa" is the motivating principle behind our school and means "hope" in the Tibetan language and Spiti dialect



The entrance to the main building at Rewa Model School, not far from our Munsel-ling School in nearby Rangrik

The high school inauguration took place on 10th December, World Human Rights Day. Much fundraising and work still need to be done to set up computer and science labs, library, toilets and hostel accommodation.

## Rangrik

At Munsel-ling School a new examination hall is under construction with funding from the local government.



Girls and boys laundry stations have been set up with help from the Trans-Himalayan Aid Society (TRAS) of Vancouver, Canada.

## Rangrik

At Munsel-ling there is a new set of girls bathrooms, built with the generous help of the Tibet Relief Fund, UK. Thanks to a better water supply, with storage tanks, the bathrooms feature showers, and summer and winter toilets. Thanks a lot also to the Nantwich Buddhist Group UK for paying for the solar water heating set-up here.



New girl's bathroom at Munsel-ling

Also at Munsel-ling, the Hart Trust UK sent money for extra insulation for the primary school block at this winter. This is of the 'plastic sheet over the southern face of the building' type, the dreaded greenhouse effect being put to good use.



A cutting-edge laboratory at Munsel-ling School

Munsel-ling School has a new state-of-the-art science laboratory given by the central government of India. Impressively Munsel-ling is amongst the first batch of schools to be included in this new initiative. Atal Tinkering Labs are dedicated work spaces where students (Class 6th to Class 12th) 'learn innovation skills and develop ideas that will go on to transform India'. They are equipped with 3D printers, cutting-

edge sensors, open source microcontroller boards and the like to enable students to engage with the internet of things, robotics, all that is included in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths).

## Sidhbari

As the students from the higher classes studying inside Spiti now regularly shift to the Sidhbari hostel during the long winter vacation, further infrastructure has been required to accommodate the annual increase in numbers there. This year a much-needed study hall and library have been built, with a stage as well. GATE, a German aid organization has been of great help here. Dr Klaus Rouff, also German, and his group of supporters helped us with a further solar hot water system for the hostel.



The new stage and assembly area at Sidhbari Hostel

## School Visits

Mrs Leela Nair, during her time as Secretary, All-India Ministry of Tribal Affairs, graciously visited our educational projects in Spiti while on tour to Himachal Pradesh's tribal areas.



At Sidhbari we welcomed the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. They complimented our organization for the educational strides achieved by a backward tribal community in challenging circumstances.

## Special Visitors

Definitely an A-lister, Bollywood star Akshay Kumar received an enthusiastic welcome from everyone when he paid a visit to Munsel-ling School while filming at a nearby location. With more than 108 films to his credit and rated Aug 2018 as the seventh highest paid film star in the world, he was humble enough to share the stage with some of our students and spontaneously address children and staff.



Akshay Kumar made a special visit to our Munsel-ling School



Dentist Bob Lavis in person and his team paid us their reliable annual visit to keep the children's smiles bright, Australian style, and this time we have a peek inside his clinic, all kitted out at the expense of himself and well-wishers.

A great team from the University of British Columbia (Canada)'s Global Health Initiative conducted their annual summer health camp for the students. This time they were focussing on nutrition. Catch the video here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=emtRNgnXQH8&t=24s>



## Academic Success

Munsel-ling School's exam high fliers, class 10, age 16 approx. (So now there is a Munsel-ling school tie is there? Very dignified.) Kee, Sagnam and Dhankar are the names of the girls' villages.



**MUNSEL-LING SCHOOL TOPPERS**  
**CLASS 10 BATCH OF 2017-18**

		
<b>1st: Sonam</b> Kinzom with 88.2% <b>KEE</b>	<b>2nd :Pasang</b> Dolker with 87.2% <b>SAGNAM</b>	<b>3rd: Tenzin</b> Saldon with 87.1 % <b>DHANKAR</b>



Congratulations and the best of luck to Tenzin Angrup, one of our 2017 graduates. He has gained admission to NIIT Hamirpur, top engineering college in this state, to study for a B.Tech. in Civil Engineering.

## Special Events



Swacchta Pakhwada, clean up fortnight. Organized all over Lahaul-Spiti District by JSS, Jan Shikshan Sansthan (an adult education initiative).



Tashi Namgyal as chief guest at St Stephen's College, New Delhi's 138th anniversary celebration. It is one of India's most venerable and prestigious university colleges. Previously a couple of Munsel-ling girls qualified to study there. Now a collaboration project between it and the Rinchen Zangpo Society Educational programme is at the pilot stage.

## Wish-list of Essentials for the Upcoming Year

1. Water toilet at Munsel-ling School.
2. Furniture for classroom, library and dining hall at Kaza Public School.
3. Construction of classroom and toilet at Sidhbari Hostel.
4. Play-way for nursery at Munsel-ling School.
5. Solar light at Munsel-ling School.
6. Solar water heating system at Munsel-ling School.
7. Roofing for building at Munsel-ling School. (Due to the heavy rainfall this year, students and staff suffered a lot from water leakage from the roof, hence we are proposing to add a layer of plastic in all the school buildings.)
8. Additional bedding at Munsel-ling School.
9. A basketball court at Munsel-ling School.
10. Smart-classroom at Munsel-ling School.
11. Wooden flooring for examination hall cum multi-purpose hall at Munsel-ling.

## More donors and helpers who deserve our greatest thanks

TRAS also for student sponsorship, Canada

Michel & friends, France

Jaqueline & friends, France

Diya & Shaun, UK

Benti & friends, Holland

Joe Amos & friends, UK

Alliance Turquoise, France

Upper Chapel, Sheffield, UK

Fulwood Old Chapel, Sheffield, UK

## School Student Statistics

Munsel-ling School, Rangrik 458 mixed boarders and day students  
Kaza Public School, Kaza 278 day students  
Rewa Model School, Rongtong 112 boarders  
Sidhbari Hostel, Sidhbari 49 boarders  
**Total 897**

*Thanks to everyone who contributed to our education programme this year. Great apologies to anyone forgotten.*

## RINCHEN ZANGPO SOCIETY FOR SPITI DEVELOPMENT

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