



Kinnaur



Spiti Valley



Shimla

NEWSLETTER

Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc

September 2021

Greetings to all NJP sponsors and friends from Geshe Sonam Thargye and the NJP committee

We begin this newsletter with a huge **THANK YOU**

To sponsors of students and nuns in Tibet who have recommitted to the NJP program, thank you for continuing your sponsorships of nuns, monks and/or students from the Tibetan exile communities in India.

But also ...

TO all the sponsors, who for one reason or another have chosen to end their sponsorship, a huge thank you for your contribution to the 19 years of NJP in Tibet. You have made an enormous difference to the lives of many children and families in the Ganzi region.

And to any sponsors who have not yet indicated their intentions, **please** contact NJP asap and join in this wonderful work.

Nying-Jey Projects sponsorship of nuns and students in India is **UP** and **RUNNING**

STATISTICS	September 2021		
	Sponsored	Seeking	Total
Nuns	68	15	
Monks	148	133	281
Students	*142		
			Girls-65 Boys-77

NJP STUDENT SPONSORSHIPS

Over 200 NJP sponsors have answered the call to transfer their sponsorships to students in India with 142 children now connected to Australian sponsors. The children come from various Tibetan refugee settlements in India and Nepal. Their education is seen as vitally important to the Tibetan Government in Exile, who oversee their care.



The Tibetans in Exile

After the occupation of Tibet, thousands of Tibetans fled Tibet and embarked on the arduous and perilous journey into exile. Subsequently, they took refuge in India, Nepal, and Bhutan. Inherently, the life of refugees is that of struggle, plagued by impoverishment, disease and uncertain future. Over the years, the primary source of income and economic backbone of the settlement has been handcrafts and carpet sales, yaks and dzo rearing, transportation by dzo and farming. Only few families are engaged in small-scale businesses.

Under the guidance and aegis of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama, it was decided that "Education" held the key to preserving and sustaining Tibetan culture. Therefore, separate schools for the Tibetan children were established under the administration of the Department of Education, CTA. The DoE is the apex body which has the mandate to give guidance and oversee the education of the entire Tibetan community in exile.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DOE) CENTRAL TIBETAN ADMINISTRATION, DHARAMSALA

The Department of Education is one of the seven main departments of the Central Tibetan Administration (CTA) based in Dharamshala, India. It was established in 1960 to look after the educational affairs of the Tibetan administration and community in exile.

It is the vision of DoE to ensure all Tibetan children in exile receive both traditional and modern education, and thereby enable them to become self-reliant, progressive and contributing members of the community and the world at large, while preserving their distinct language, culture and heritage. The Department of Education in Dharamsala oversees 63 Tibetan schools in India and Nepal, providing education for over 15,000 students.

These schools are administered by several separate bodies under the control of the Department of Education.

CST AND STS SCHOOLS

Nying-Jey Projects is currently connecting sponsors with students in schools run by Central Tibetan Schools Administration (CST) and Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society (STS).

The 142 students already sponsored by NJP are currently studying at ...

CST schools: Shimla & Sonada, and

STS schools: Paonta, Shillong, Mundgod, Miao, Chauntra, Chandragiri, Ravangla, Gothangaon, Tenzingang, Lobersingh and Mahendragarh

The schools are located in several Indian states

North India - in Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim, Meghalaya

South India - in Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Maharashtra



A MESSAGE FROM THE DEPT OF EDUCATION, DHARAMSALA

To Geshe Sonam Thargye, NJP committee and sponsors

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind consideration in thinking about the education of the exile students. It was so wonderful to hear that you are able to find support for all our needy children. That's truly very good news for all of us. Your kind support towards these students will make their life a meaningful one and lead them to be good human beings.

*Thank you again and sincere best wishes, Sonam Sangmo (Mrs)
Head, Scholarship & Sponsorship, Department of Education, CTA*

INTRODUCING 3 SCHOOLS ATTENDED BY NJP SPONSORED STUDENTS

CTS Sonada West Bengal *(data source: CST Sonada Facebook page)*



Central School for Tibetans, Sonada is located near Siliguri in West Bengal. It is a co-educational school providing classes to level 10 standard with English as its medium of instruction. It is exclusively for the education of Tibetan children to preserve and promote rich Tibetan Culture.

Facilities include a Library, Computer Lab, and Resource Centre, where children can access the latest information.

After passing out of Class 10 students join other CST schools eg Science, Commerce and Arts Streams schools, according to their opted careers.

Students: 230; Teaching/support staff: 23



STS Paonta, Himachal Pradesh *(data source: CST Sonada home page)*

STS Paonta is in Paonta Sahib, Himachal Pradesh, North India, a small town close to the Uttarakhand border. The school was initially set up with 50 children in 1968 to provide education to the children of Tibetan Refugees settled at Bhuppur, Paonta Sahib, H.P. Management of the school passed over to Sambhota in 1999.

STS Paonta is a boarding school enrolling students from many Tibetan settlements across India. Of approx. 300 students in 2018, over 200 were boarders. The school is one of the bigger schools under Sambhota and offers classes to Year 12. The school has been producing 100 percent result in class/grade 12 CBSE examinations for the last few years.



STS Ravangla, Sikkim *(data source – STS website)*

Sambhota Tibetan School, Ravangla is located at the Kunphenling Tibetan Settlement in Ravangla, a beautiful hill station in south Sikkim, on 2-acres of land with the great Kanchenjunga Mountains in the background.

STS Ravangla was established in 1972 with assistance from the Sikkim State Government. In 1984 it was merged into the CTSA and in July 2016, the administration of the school passed to the Sambhota Tibetan Schools Society.



In addition to imparting learning in modern subjects, the school is very conscious about preservation of Tibetan cultural heritage and provides many opportunities for the students to take part in various types of cultural programs.

Students: 37. Teaching staff: 5. Support staff: 3



JANGCHUB CHOELING NUNNERY

Many sponsors of nuns in Tibet were keen to continue sponsoring Tibetan nuns in India. The connection to Jangchub Choeling nunnery in South India has made this possible. Over JCN 80 nuns are already registered with NJP and almost 70 allocated to sponsors. The nuns aged between 12 and 80 come from many different backgrounds – some born in Tibet, some in India. Many are engaged in studies in the Geshema courses or have already the status of Geshema.

A MESSAGE FROM JCN NUNNERY

Respected secretary NJP

Tashi Delek

We thank you for your kind effort and support from your side to our nunnery

Much gratitude and regards

Ringzen (Secretary) Jangchub Choeling Nunnery

Meet 3 JCN nuns who have already been sponsored



Lobsang Wangmo

Birthplace: Ladakh India. Age: 17. Joined nunnery 2020.

Lobsang Wangmo arrived in Jangchub Choeling nunnery on January 6, 2020. She admired the life of a nun and wanted to become a nun. She is happy to be a nun right now. She is from Zanskar Ladakh. She has three siblings, and they are studying in school in Zanskar. Her parents are farmers, and their livelihood depends on farming. She is so grateful that someone would support her.

Tsewang Dolma

Birthplace: Tibet. Age: 79. Joined nunnery: 1992

Tsewang Dolma is from Kham province of Tibet.

She joined Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in 1992.



Lobsang Dekyi

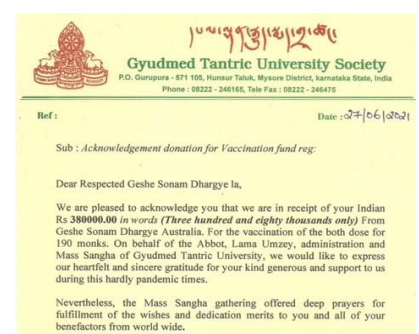
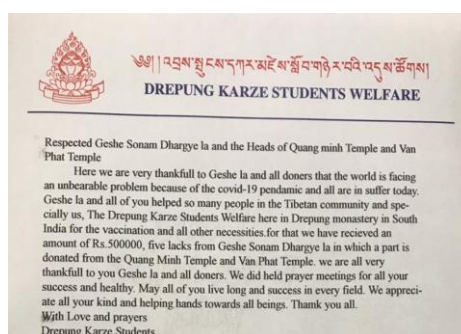
Birthplace: Chamdo, Tibet. Age 56. Joined nunnery: 1990

Geshema Lobsang Dekyi comes from the town of Chamdo in the province of Kham Tibet. She joined Jangchub Choeling Nunnery in 1990. Since then, she has studied three years of logic, six years of prajna paramita, three years of madhyamika class, three years of Abhi Dharma, one year of Vinaya. She has completed all the eighteen years of studying Buddha's canonical text. She is currently, in her Tantric studies.

MONKS IN INDIA

Due to the extraordinary generosity of donors, coronavirus vaccinations were offered and accepted by several monasteries in the state of Karnataka South India. The monks received 2 doses over three weeks of a vaccine developed in India.

Vaccinations were completed in July for monks from Sera Jey, Sera Mey, Drepung Loseling, Drepung Gomang, Gyumed, Gaden and Tashi Lhunpo monasteries. Messages of thanks were received from all the monasteries.



While the Sera and Drepung monks are relatively safe from covid now they are vaccinated, their movements are still restricted to lockdown within the monastery due to continuing issues in the wider community in Bylakuppe, Mundgod and beyond.