



HIMALAYA HILFE e.V.

Bank für Sozialwirtschaft Konto: 3394500 BLZ 10020500
BIC: BFSWDE33BER IBAN: DE85100205000003394500

Himalaya Hilfe e.V. c/o Sabine Wollmann u. Ulli Göbel
Wisentweg 20, 13503 Berlin

c/o Sabine Wollmann und Ulli Göbel
Wisentweg 20
13503 Berlin
Telefon: +49 30 4 36 34 23
Fax und AB: +49 (0) 3212 101 92 34
E-Mail: himalaya.hilfe@gmx.net

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Dear sponsors and friends,

We hope you all had a good 2021 despite the still difficult circumstances worldwide. For Himalaya Hilfe it was now the second year in which we could only work digitally. Once again we were not able to travel to India and Nepal to the supported projects and people and to meet your sponsored children/adults in person. Hopefully this will be possible again this year.

From **Nepal** we have good news for you:

The reconstruction of the **Raj Maha Vihar Monastery in Swayambu/Nepal** was completed and the handover ceremony took place at the end of April. However, the interior work and especially the paintings in the temple will still take some time, but now it is within reach for the monks to move back into the monastery.

And we were able to find another way to transfer the sponsorship money to Nepal, so that the funds can be paid out again in a timely manner.

Less encouraging is the news that the second Covid wave, with its violent spread in India and Nepal in the spring of 2021, has also increasingly hit the monasteries and monastic schools in Nepal and India.

In the **Sharminub Institute in Raniban/Nepal** some monks got sick and an elderly monk from the retreat center died. In the meantime, everyone is healthy again and the school continues. The monastic students took their exams in the summer and before the winter holidays and some went home for the holidays.

In **India** it was similar:

Nedo Rinpoche's **Kayathang Monastery School** and the **Dharma Chakra Center in Zimchung/Sikkim** were declared restricted zones in May, and many of the monks had to be hospitalized. There was one death in each of the two monasteries. Also the young assistant of Nedo Rinpoche, who always accompanied him to Europe, died after a short stay in the hospital.

The **Dharma Chakra Center** sent the young monks home for 2 months during this time. The monks from Bhutan also went to their families. Then in September they were all able to come back to Zimchung.



There were no cases of illness among the nuns from the **Chokar Dechan Nunnery in Rumtek/Sikkim**. In July they all did a special fasting meditation for one month. Classes continued as usual and at the beginning of December there were the final exams. After that, everyone looked forward to the Wishing Prayer Festival (Kagyu Monlam). As in the year before, it did not take place as a big event in Bodhgaya in 2021, but it was simultaneously held in all monasteries in Nepal and India from December 8-15.

So also by the monks in the **Mindu Tempen Monastery in Rey/Sikkim**. They used the lockdown period to repaint the roof of the monastery and renovate the small Mani temple.

Like everywhere in the country, there was again a strict lockdown with school closures, (in some cases the **children and students** had no in-class teachings since March 2020) and exams were cancelled or postponed. Therefore, you have not received the latest report cards from some of your sponsored children.

The **Ka-Ten Namgyalling Elementary School in Rey/Sikkim** also had to close again, just one month of in-class teachings could take place in spring and early summer. Online classes were not easy, because the internet connection is often very bad and not all children have a smartphone. But they mastered everything quite well and now are having winter holidays.

Just like in the **Rigjung School in Ladakh**. The director Lama Chonet had just proudly informed us that the recognition to teach up to grade 12 had come from the Indian authorities. New students could have enrolled from June 2021. Then it was lockdown again with online classes, which made it difficult to organize everything. Being able to teach up to grade 12, more teachers are needed as well as more materials. If you would like to support the school financially, you can do so under the purpose "Purpose Donation RIG".

In the **Karma Dupgyud Choeling Monastery in Ladakh** there was as well a long strict lockdown, no visits from outsiders were allowed in order to keep the risk of infection low for the mainly young monks. Only at the end of October people from the surrounding area were allowed to come for the big annual monastery festival with mask dances. The lockdown period was used to construct a new building on the monastery grounds. It is to become a café and restaurant when it is again possible to welcome tourists and local visitors. In addition to the monastery's guesthouse, this will then become another way for the monastery to earn money.

The nuns of **Karma Chagchen Jampaling Nunnery in Ladakh** all stayed healthy. They have a full day. It starts at four o'clock in the morning with meditation practice and ends with the last meditation at 4 p.m. In between, there are English, Hindi and math classes, more meditations and accompanying Buddhist studies. In May they planted monastery garden vegetable beds, and in the summer everyone went on a two-day trip to Ya Ya Tso Lake, one of the great lakes in Ladakh, and had a lot of fun. Meanwhile it is very cold again in Ladakh and the nuns are happy about the two new stoves that could be bought from a special donation.

The monastic students of the **New Nalanda Tilopa Institut in Tilokpur/Himachal Pradesh** have stayed in the monastery all year round. The annual picnic outing for the monastic students was cancelled due to Corona, but Gyalwa Karmapa Thaye Dorje's birthday in May was celebrated lavishly with a giant cake. The institute has a large piece of land where wheat is grown and also has four cows. So the supply of grain, milk, yogurt and cheese is guaranteed. On the photo you can see



the cowherd, Mr. Jhesi Ram, who takes care of the animals. He and the two little daughters of a local family now also have godparents. They are very grateful for this.

In the **Diwakar Buddhist School in Takdah/Darjeeling** the birthday of Gyalwa Karmapa was also celebrated in a big way. The little monks obviously had a lot of fun, as you can see. They also enjoyed a huge cake with lots of pink icing. Some new monastic students were accepted in the institute. Others who graduated are now studying in the...

Diwakar Buddhist Academy (Shedra) in Kalimpong/Darjeeling. There, the students unfortunately also have been hit with infections. Many had to go to the hospital, others to quarantine, so that classes were stopped for three months from mid-May. Some of the students then went home. From mid-August, studies could be resumed and the final exams took place at the end of November. The Shedra students were also happy to be able to visit their families again during the winter vacations. This was not possible last year.

That was the news from India and Nepal for you.

We would like to thank all of you for the very generous support of the projects and the people in Nepal and India last year, who have been supported by you via 1071 project- or individual-bound regular sponsorships. In 2021 you have donated 321.417 Euro for sponsorships, projects and the emergency aid.

Also thanks to all who are supporting Himalaya Hilfe with the general donations which we are using to cover the costs and which make it possible to pass on 100% of the sponsorship money and special purpose donations. Not to forget the thanks to all who support us with their energy, be it through graphic design, editing of texts, IT help and of course by telling about Himalaya Hilfe and recommending the trust.

Last but not least again the request to inform us in time about new addresses, names or other important changes we need to know. Please continue to send mail to your sponsored children digitally, preferably as pdf, doc or photo. If you do this **till 15th of February**, then we can forward them in spring right along with the new sponsor lists to the responsible persons of the individual projects, who then pass them on to your protégés.

We wish you all a happy, healthy and joyful new year.

Your Himalaya Hilfe Team