

**Speech of the Hon'ble Governor for the Cultural event at
Manjushree Vidyapith, Tawang on 28th May 2018**

Respected Dignitaries on the dais and off the dais, Shri Lama Thupten Phuntsok ji, staff of Manjushree Vidyapith and my dear children, I wish you all a very good evening.

At the foremost, I would like to express my happiness for being able to be in the midst of such adorable children. I also congratulate all of you for performing so well in the cultural event. My sincere thanks go to Shri Lama Thupten Phuntsok ji for his relentless efforts for establishing this orphanage.

I am happy to learn that Tawang Manjushree Vidyapith Orphanage which is functioning under Manjushree Charitable Society is an organization set up with the view to help and provide basic necessities of life and better education to the Orphan, destitute and physically challenged children of the far flung and very remote areas of Tawang and neighbouring districts of Arunachal Pradesh irrespective of caste, creed, community, gender etc.

The orphanage which started with seventeen(17) orphans and three(3) staff on 30th October 1998 is now a home for 281 children of which 38 are physically challenged and 177 Orphan and 76 destitute. Besides, there are 76 poor day scholars hailing from nearby villages and hamlets.

I am told that this orphanage had faced many hardships at the early rise due to poor financial flow but then Manjushree Vidyapith withstood all its odds by the grace of almighty and with the help of Well wishers around the globe.

It gives me immense pleasure to learn that it is the only institution cum orphanage of its kind in the area which works for the

rehabilitation of orphan, destitute and physically challenged children of far-flung areas like Mago, Thingbu, Indo-tibetan (china) border and Lumla, Bongleng, Zemithang, Indo-bhutan border under Tawang district and neighbouring districts of Arunachal Pradesh from last twenty years.

This organization is working in the Himalayan region, dedicated for the promotion of Buddhist Cultural Studies, besides providing modern education to lay a foundation of their lives towards a brighter and better future. Along with the modern education the young mind of the children is exposed to spiritual knowledge. As such the children are doing regular prayer and meditation which is necessary as well as helpful to restore faith in them and their capability. The children are equipped with the peaceful weapons of love, compassion, tolerance and kindness to fight the evil emotions of the mind.

The World No-Tobacco Day is coming near and it also brings a sense of satisfaction to know that the District Tobacco Control Cell (DTCC), Tawang has declared Manjushree Vidyapith (School & Orphanage) as 'Tobacco Free Campus' to be the first tobacco-free school of Tawang district which is commendable indeed.

The Manjushree Vidyapith Orphanage, set up by Lama Thupten Phuntsok not only provided them shelter but also brought the smiles back to each of the 281 inmates. Born in a peasant family in Dharna Gang village in Tawang district, Lama Thupten Phuntsok always wanted to do something for poor orphaned children were taking to begging for want of shelter and support. His father Sonam Wangchu took him to Mysore for pursuing Buddhist studies. After obtaining a Ph.D. in Buddhist Philosophy in 1990, Lama Thupten was appointed to serve as a lecturer in Tibetan language in Tawang Public School from 1992 to 1998. While serving as a teacher, the Lama was constantly overwhelmed by his childhood thoughts of doing something for orphaned children. In 1998 he quit his job, purchased seven acres of land at Tashijong with his savings and opened the first orphanage of Arunachal Pradesh and named it Manjushree Vidyapith.

I am deeply moved and inspired by the incredible work being achieved by Lama Thupten Phuntsok with scant resources. I hail the efforts and the dedicated service that he has rendered for the upliftment of these needy children. I feel that we all should contribute in some way or the other for this orphanage to put a smile in every child. Let us all stand together to support this noble cause.

I sincerely pray to the almighty to shower his blessings on these children so that they may all excel in their lives and I hope that Manjushree Vidyapith will continue its good work in the coming years also.

Thank you.

Namaskar

JAI HIND