



# TAKSINDU MONASTERY

**Hello Tashi Delek and warm greetings,**

**My name is Phulhamu Lama from the peaceful hills of Taksindu, Solukhumbu Nepal. I'm so excited to be writing to you for the first time. I'm new to newsletter writing, so thank you for joining me.**



**This newsletter is my small effort to share the history, stories, and current life of our Taksindu Monastery with you. Each month, I'll bring you updates, reflections, upcoming events, and insights into our spiritual journey.**

# TAKSINDU VILLAGE



Taksindu is a scenic and culturally small village located in the Solukhumbu District, Koshi Province, northeastern Nepal. The area is famous as part of the trekking route to Mount Everest and offers stunning views of the Himalayas. Taksindu is also known for its Buddhist Monastery. It is located at an altitude of 2,900 meters above sea level.

Taksindu Monastery is an important place for pilgrims and climbers. The village offers a rich cultural experience with the hospitality of the local Sherpa people, who are mostly Buddhist. In addition, visitors can enjoy the natural beauty of dense pine forests and vast grasslands, as well as various species of flora and fauna unique to the area. Taksindu is an attractive destination for those seeking peace and natural beauty amidst the Himalayan mountains.



The economy of Taksindu Village is primarily based on Subsistence farming , with local families cultivating crop such as potato, and varieties of vegetables suited to the high -altitude environment. In addition to agriculture, yak herding and animal husbandry play significant role in daily life, providing milk, meat, wood and transport. Some household opened doors to visitors offering accommodation and warm sherpa hospitality in lodges to especially for trekkers passing through.

The Sherpa community of Taksindu is integral part of the village's identity, culture and spiritual life. Taksindu's Sherpa culture centers around Takgon Shad-Drub Tharling Monastery, where local people, children also receive monastic education.





# TAKGON SHAD-DRUP THARLING

## MONASTERY

Takgon Shad-Drup Tharling monastery, also known as **Taksindu Gompa**, follows the Mahayana tradition of Tibetan Buddhism, emphasizing compassion, wisdom, and the pursuit of enlightenment for the benefit of all beings. It is a revered Buddhist monastery located in the Solu region of northeastern Nepal. It serves as a spiritual haven for the local Sherpa community and other Buddhist practitioners. Nestled at an altitude of approximately 2,970 meters, the monastery offers breathtaking views of the surrounding Himalayas, including the iconic mountains. The site is not only a place of worship but also a center for cultural and educational activities, where traditional Buddhist teachings and practices are preserved and passed down through generations.



On a scenic ridge along the trekking route between Phaplu and Junbeshi, the monastery is known for its peaceful environment, traditional architecture and panoramic Himalayan view.

It is a home to a resident community of monks who engage in daily prayers, rituals and Buddhist teachings rooted. The monastery also hosts annual religious festivals and ceremonies, which draw practitioners and pilgrims from the surrounding region. In addition to its spiritual activities, Taksindu monastery is also a symbol of resilience.

The central philosophy of the monastery is rooted in the Bodhisattva ideal where one seeks not only personal liberation but also works to free others from sufferings . The monastery also serves as a center for learning, spiritual guidance and cultural preservation helping to maintain the rich Sherpa Buddhist traditions through rituals, teachings and community service.



## About the regular activities

From 5:00 to 6:00 a.m., students engage in self-revision and reflection. From 6:00 to 7:00 a.m., they participate in morning prayer. Between 7:00 and 8:00 a.m., they have breakfast and refresh themselves. Regular classes are held from 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., followed by a lunch and sports break from 11:00 a.m. to 1 p.m. classes continue from 1:00 to 3:00 p.m., with tea break from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. another class session takes place from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m., followed by a short break until 5:00 p.m. Evening prayer is held from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m., dinner and rest from 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., and self-study from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. Instruction of Buddhist philosophy is offered at the public level. Additionally, during community events, teachings on Buddhism, religious principles and aspects of human nature are periodically provided to the locals.



## Religious Ceremonies and Rituals

- **Losar**

The year begins with Losar (Tibetan New Year) in February, marked by sacred rituals, prayer offerings, and traditional Cham dances to purify negativity and welcome the new year with blessings. It is a time of unity, generosity and reflection to both monk and peoples to start the year with positive aspirations.



- **Buddha Jayanti**

Buddha Jayanti is known as Buddha Purnima, one of the most sacred days in the Buddhist calendar. It is observed with deep devotion and reverence. The day begins with early morning prayers, sutra recitations and lamp offerings.



- **Saga Dawa**

Saga Dawa is the holiest month in the Tibetan Buddhist calendar, celebrated with deep devotion by Buddhists around the world. It falls on the fourth lunar month of May or June. The name Saga Dawa comes from the prominent star Saga (Mula) that appears during this month. In Taksindu monastery, Saga Dawa is observed with special pujas, group prayers and offerings drawing monks and villagers together.

- **Dupa Chache**

Dupa Chache is a traditional incense and smoke offering ritual commonly practiced in Tibetan Buddhist and Himalayan cultures. In Taksindu monastery, Dupa Chache is performed with chanting, prayer flags and conch shell blowing offering peace to the community and all sentient beings.



- **Lhabab Duchen**

Lhabab Duchen is one of the four great Buddhist festivals celebrated on the 22<sup>nd</sup> day of the 9<sup>th</sup> Tibetan lunar month in October. This sacred day is the occasion when Lord Buddha descended from the Tushita Heaven to Earth after teaching the Dharma to his mother and celestial beings.



- **Community Engagement**

Support to local villages the monastery host ceremonies on request funerals, house blessings, for welfare of goods and shelters.



- **Blessing and empowerment**

Visiting lamas occasionally offers spiritual empowerments to the local people and trekkers.



## Overview of Taksindu Monastery and It's History

Taksindu Monastery, was officially founded in 1946 A.D., began as a humble bamboo cottage for spiritual center between a school and college. Due to harsh snowfall, the area became uninhabitable and local migrated to Chulamu village. With no reside the lamas, villagers invited (Lama Ngawang Chuldim) from Tengboche Monastery to guide the community who dedicated himself to teaching despite limited support just 25 rupees annually from a local donor. This effort inspired locals to build a permanent monastery, led by Lama Phelka and by Lama Lakshya, a local businessman and farmer.

In the 1980s, team of Japanese researchers, inspired by the monastery's traditional architecture, supported cultural preservation by building a museum in Japan and installing a donation system this support reopened the school as Shosen Buddhist teachings with formal academic education. In 1999, it became part of Nepal's public education system and continues to serve the region.

Later Mr. Jens Erik Otto from Germany began supporting long-term development projects including a hostel for students, sanitation and housing for teachers, continued construction of a five- block living facility three blocks completed so far. His initiative shifted from personal sponsored to a foundation model, ensuring broader monk support.

The 2015 Nepal earthquake caused damage to the monastery and surrounding school buildings. Despite structural losses, the community remained united. With the help from supporters and villagers, reconstruction efforts began promptly, focusing on rebuilding stronger, safer structures.

Ongoing improvement restoring earthquake damaged structures, developing a new football field, funded by Ms. Amelie and Ms. Johanna, who pledged support after visiting the monastery. With the guided by local leadership and supported by international donors, it stands as a living symbol of faith, learning and resilience in the Himalayas.



**TEACHER BUILDING**



**HOSTEL BUILDING**



**MONKS BUILDING**



**PLAYGROUND UNDER THE  
CONSTRUCTION**

## **Future Plans of Taksindu Monastery**

- Complete the construction of the hostel to accommodate resident students and visitors.
- Build a ground for traditional activities like cham dance, public gatherings and religious festival
- update the washroom and shower facilities for better hygiene.
- Establish a library and providing computer access to enhance the school's educational resources.
- Construct a guest house and a meditation hall to welcome visitor and retreat practitioners.
- Continue delivering and improving the quality of education for student with a focus on securing a more reliable network connection.
- Upgrade road access to the monastery to facilitate safer and more efficient transportation.
- Develop a greenhouse to grow fresh vegetables and cultivate local agricultural product.

**Thank you for reading this edition of our newsletter I'm honored to support this work and look forward to continuing in future edition.**

**Newsletter is initiated and co-sponsored by Jens-Erik Otto help to help Germany. For any question and donation requests regarding our Taksindu project "helping by sharing" please contract "office@jens-erik-otto.de or WhatsApp 00491709237637".**

**With warm regards**

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**Taksindu Monastery**