

### 7.3.1

CIHTS emerged from the critical struggle of the Tibetan diaspora like the proverbial phoenix from the ashes. We took an onerous task of to preserve, translate, disseminate and revive Nalanda's rich tradition of various religious, philosophical and intellectual discourses and disciplines, which had for over a millennium been preserved in the Buddhist monastic institutions of Tibet. Besides its striving for excellence and constant academic rigour, student life at CIHTS is a vibrant mix of the colours and the cultural heritage of Tibet and India.

Historically, students from the Himalayan region would travel to Tibet for monastic education and with changes in the political landscape of Tibet; the traditional opportunity for learning was lost. To provide a viable alternative and preserve and propagate the Nalanda Tradition, conserve the Tibetan knowledge system, while incorporating contemporary research, teaching and learning practices, the academic programs at CIHTS were designed.

With a keen eye on the glorious wisdom of the Indian philosophical thought embodied by the Nalanda, Vikramshila, Odantapuri Mahaviharas and, a visionary understanding of the contemporary knowledge trends of Western philosophy and modern sciences, five Teaching Faculties of were established at CIHTS.

The Departments of Mool Shastra and the Sampradaya Shastra focus on the treatises of Indian and Tibetan masters of different traditions covering a wide range of areas: philosophy, metaphysics, epistemology, logic, ethics, dialectics, psychology, cognitive sciences, and mind training. Moreover, the Departments of Tibetan Fine Arts, Tibetan medicine and Astrology have rich cultural content on aesthetics and social ethics. The Departments of Social Sciences, Classical and Modern Languages cover topics like universal responsibility, social equality, non-violence, altruism, linguistics, literary theory and criticism, society and liberal arts.

The Teacher training syllabi have incorporated contents on compassion, ethics, reason, mind training, and regulation of emotions which are highly appreciated by the NCTE for making the course uniquely transformative and innovative in India. The Sowa-Rigpa Department with its distinct tradition of healing and ayurvedic legacy has units for diagnosis and treatment, practice and training, with dedicated hospital, pharmacy and research facilities. The Department attracts patients from neighbouring states and foreign countries for consultancy and treatment.

The Five Research Departments dedicated to the work of restoring and rejuvenating Nalanda tradition are engaged in work related to the preservation of ancient Tibetan and Sanskrit manuscripts and the dissemination of Tibetan scholarship. Its primary activities are centred around (1) Restoration, (2) Translation, (3) Rare Buddhist Texts Research, 4) Dictionary compilation, and 5) Tibetan Literature Studies.