

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies

(Deemed University)
Five Star Accredited



Sarnath, Varanasi
UP, INDIA
www.cihts.ac.in

Overview of CIHTS

The Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies is a university and research institute founded in 1967 as conceived by His Holiness the Dalai Lama and the first Prime Minister of India, Pdt. Jawahar Lal Nehru financed by Govt. of India. It offers degree programs in Buddhist Philosophy and classical languages; Tibetan medicine and astrology; and Tibetan fine arts. The Institute represents all of the major Tibetan traditions—Bön, Nyingma, Kagyu, Sakya and Geluk, and prepares students, with a sound education in traditional Buddhist subjects and classical languages as well as with the skills necessary for modern scholarship and professional life.

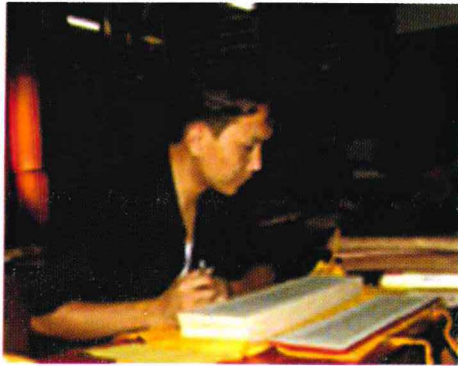


CIHTS is also a premier research institute, with a substantial staff of research scholars, and many visitors from other academic institutions in India and from around the world. It provides a platform for interaction between Buddhist and non-Buddhist Indian philosophical schools; between Buddhist and Western philosophers; and between Buddhist scholars and scientists. The Santarakshita library is among the world's best Buddhological and Tibetological libraries. The Institute publishes research monographs, collections and restored, translated and critically edited classical Buddhist texts.

Objectives

The Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies has the following four principal objectives:

1. The preservation of the Tibetan cultural heritage, including the language, literature, religion, philosophy and arts of Tibet;
2. The preservation of classical Indian texts lost in their original editions but preserved in Tibetan translation; the study of the classical learning and traditions transmitted by these texts; and the restoration of lost or incomplete Sanskrit texts from canonical Tibetan translations;



3. The provision of a traditional Tibetan education enriched by modern subjects and modern approaches to learning to students from the Himalayan regions of India, the Tibetan exile communities and students from neighboring countries who once regularly sought education in Tibet;
4. To provide the opportunity for the study of and pursuit of degrees in traditional Indo-Tibetan Buddhist subjects in the framework of a modern university and the pursuit of systematic research in Tibetan and Buddhist studies.

Programs of Study

CIHTS offers the Shastri (BA), Acharya (MA) and PhD degrees in Buddhist Studies and in Tibetan medicine and astrology. Students enter the institute at the secondary school level (grade 9 equivalent) and are provided four years of pre-college education in order to ensure proper preparation for the rigorous classical and modern university education the institute provides.

Students in the Buddhist Studies program study Tibetan and Sanskrit language, as well as Hindi or English; Indian Buddhist texts; and Tibetan commentaries and treatises in an integrated nine year program from secondary school through the Acharya level. The indigenous Tibetan Bön tradition is also studied in parallel with Buddhist studies. Students also study such subjects as history, economics and political science.



Students in the medical faculty study the theory and practice of traditional Tibetan medicine as well as modern Western pathology, anatomy and physiology, and receive complete clinical training qualifying them to practice Tibetan medicine. Students of Tibetan fine arts learn thangka painting and Tibetan woodcarving.

Santarakshita Library

The Santarakshita library is among the finest libraries in the world for research in Tibetan language materials and in Buddhist studies. The library includes an extensive Tibetan collection, including all major editions of the Kengyur and Tangyur, the Chinese and Pali Tripitaka and the complete works of many Tibetan scholars.



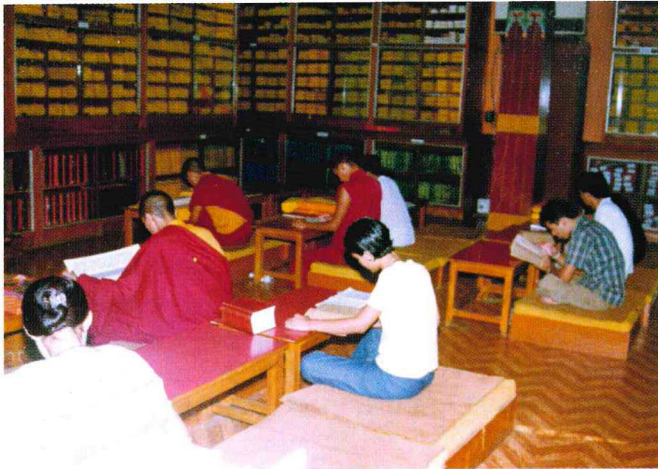
The library also has extensive holdings in Sanskrit, Hindi and English, with excellent coverage in all areas of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies and Tibetology. Many texts are available on microfilm and microfiche, and the library holds a large collection of audio and video tapes of lectures and teachings by important Tibetan teachers. The catalogue is completely computerized. The library subscribes to most important journals in Buddhist Studies.

The library can also host small conferences in its seminar room and can provide study space to visiting scholars.

Internet access is available, and we hope soon to have the library catalogue available on line.

Research Projects

CIHTS was initially established as primarily a research institute, and research, including the training of the next generation of research scholars in the Tibetan community remains central to its mission. The Research Department comprises five units: the restoration unit, devoted to the restoration of lost Buddhist Sanskrit texts; the translation unit, which produces Hindi, English, Tibetan and Sanskrit translations of significant texts on various topics related to Buddhist and Tibetan culture; the dictionary unit, currently involved in the preparation of the largest ever Tibetan-Sanskrit dictionary; the rare Buddhist text unit which produces critical editions of hitherto unpublished tantric texts and publishes the journal *Dhiih*; and the publication unit which publishes a distinguished series of critical editions and scholarly books.



CIHTS faculty includes a number of distinguished Indian and Tibetan research scholars and we welcome doctoral students, university faculty members or other research scholars to visit the institute to pursue research or to lecture.

Campus and Facilities

CIHTS sits on a beautifully landscaped, secure and peaceful 22 acre campus in the village of Sarnath. The campus includes hostels for students, administrative offices, classroom buildings, offices for research centers, the library, a large auditorium, and two guest houses, one with fully equipped conference facilities.

The institute regularly hosts groups of students and faculty members on exchange programs and conferences and can provide housing for up to fifty guests on campus with room for larger groups on a daily basis. Full audiovisual and logistical support is available.



CIHTS operates regular exchange programs with Indian and foreign universities and participates in the Fulbright program. We hope soon to be offering distance education as well.

Location and Contact

CIHTS is in Sarnath, approximately 10 km (6 miles) from the city of Varanasi (Benares) in the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Sarnath is one of the four principal Buddhist pilgrimage sites, as it is the location of the Buddha's first teaching after gaining enlightenment. It contains important sacred and archeological sites and an excellent archeological museum as well as Buddhist temples representing many Buddhist traditions. Transportation to and from Varanasi is readily available and inexpensive.

Varanasi can be easily reached by air or rail from any major city in India. For more information about CIHTS, visit our website www.cihts.ac.in, write to the Director at director@cihts.ac.in



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The office is open from 10:00 am to 1:00 pm and from 1:30 pm to 5:00 pm Indian Standard Time