

## NAAC Peer Team Visit 2022

Having cleared the SSR successfully, CIHTS qualified for the NAAC Peer Team Visit for its second cycle. The Institute had already bagged five star rating during the first cycle. The IQAC of CIHTS played the host for the NAAC peer team which visited the campus on a three day visit from 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> Oct. 2022. The assessor's team consisted of the renowned scholars in the field of Sanskrit, Tibetology, Buddhism, Education, and Ayurveda. The Chairperson of the team was Prof. Vijaykumar C G, Vice Chancellor, Professor of Sanskrit, Maharishi Panini Sanskrit Evam Vaidic Vishwavidyalaya Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh. The Member Coordinator was Prof. Projit Kumar Palit, Professor, Buddhism Studies, Department of History Assam University, Silchair. The other renowned members were Prof. Melukote K Sridhar, Professor, SVYASA Yoga University, Prof. Neerja Dhankar, Former Professor Education, Central University of Haryana, and Prof. P Hemantha Kumar, HOD & Professor Ayurveda, National Institute of Ayurveda, Jaipur, Rajasthan.





The team reached the institute on the campus early morning and were greeted in the traditional Tibetan manner, where a colourful pageant of students, faculty members, administrative and non-teaching staff gracefully received the delegates from the main gate. The traditional dancers accompanied by the student band led the assessors guided by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ngawang Samten, to the Kalachakra mandap for the Tibetan mandala puja and offering.



The ceremonies were followed by a 60 minute extensive presentation by the H'ble Vice Chancellor of the Institute, Prof. Samten. He not only gave the historical background of the Institute, but also presented his future vision and elaborated plan of action for the future growth of the campus. All the deans and the IQAC members were present during the event.



The team reached the IQAC office for the verification and the presentation of IQAC team of CIHTS. The assessment was based on the seven criteria designed by NAAC which were presented in front of the team in a very systematic manner. The team left the IQAC office with a sense of contentment and exhilaration. The NACC peer team then proceeded towards IQAC committee room for the departmental presentations made by all the Deans and HODs to showcase the academic rigour, diversity of the syllabi, and employability and innovative design inculcated in the curriculum structure. The thirteen departments made extensive presentations in front of the team, which was followed by a question answer interactive session.



The team then proceeded for the lunch where they got a chance to interact with the members of Board of Governors, Society, Academic Council, along with the renowned dignitaries and beneficiaries of the Institute. The peer team, with the sense of excitement, was then taken to the five unique research departments of the Institute. The Dept. of Translation, Restoration, Dictionary, RBTRD, and The Centre for Tibetan Literature exhibited their outstanding achievement and seminal work done during the assessment year. The team was mesmerised by the profound output of the research departments and congratulated the heads of the respective sections. They were taken to the publication unit thereafter where they checked the University publications, distribution, and the internal mechanism of the University's renowned journal, *Dhiih*.





The team then visited the unique library of the Institute. To the amazement of the peer team, the library showcased its rich heritage and legacy housed in the form of digital as well as physical manuscripts of the ancient traditional Tibetan corpus. They were amazed looking at the variety of the texts available in the library. They praised the robust mechanism and the research facilities provided in the library for the international and national researchers. The library also possesses an extensive microfilm archive along with a very profound multimedia and a state of the art computer lab section. The multimedia section of the Institute also exhibited its rich legacy of the preservation and digitalization of the rare manuscripts available in the area of Tibetology.



In the evening, the team witnessed the traditional dialectic debate of ancient Nalanda tradition, which is still alive at CIHTS. The team got emotionally attached with the students who were clapping their palms in a rhythmic manner to argue the philosophical doctrines of Buddhism. After a hectic day, the team enjoyed an entertaining evening where the cultural programme along with a talent show was organized for them in the Atisha Hall of the Institute. The cultural programme had a Sanskrit poetic play narrating the confluence of Indian and Tibetan traditions of mutual learning. Various traditional dance programmes along with the most entertaining snow lion and yak dance.





The dawn of the second day commence with the visit to the Sowa Rigpa department as well as R&D Unit. The department of Sowa Rigpa boasts of being one of the finest innovative departments in the area of Indian Ayurveda and Tibetan medicine. The team met various outdoor patients and praised the facilities available at various labs, experienced the healing therapy sessions and visited the Manufacturing Unit of Tibetan medical science. The pharmacy and the teaching and research facilities were beautifully showcased by the department in an interactive session with the students as well.





Again, in the open lawn of the campus, the team were taken by surprise by a live showcase of Tibetan culture in the form of various stalls designed, coordinated, and presented solely by the students of CIHTS. Various stalls like History of CIHTS, Buddhism and the Mind, Bhot Jyotish, Students' Publications, Thanks and Woodcraft, Student Social Services, Tibetan and Himalayan Clothing and Musical Instruments, etc. received special praise and attention from the team. The team was literally awestruck, looking at the vibrant academic and student culture on the campus. They interacted with the students and enjoyed the traditional Tibetan cuisine. Various games were also organized by the students for the entertainment of the peer team. Feeling refreshed, the team then proceeded to the Interaction sessions with Alumni, Students, Non-teaching and Teaching staff of the Institute.



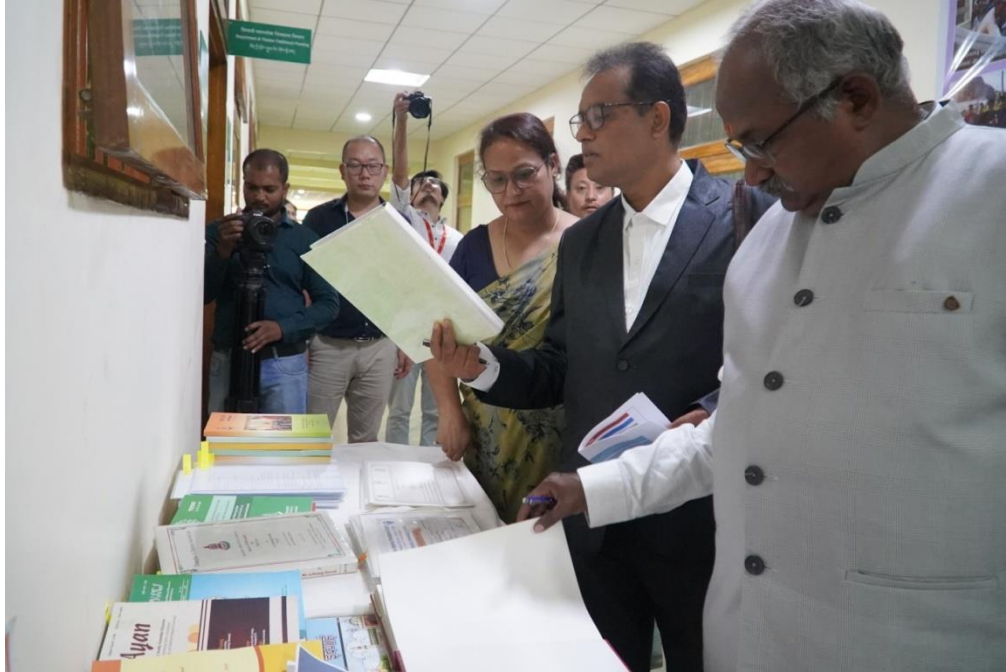


Before the lunch of the second day, the team got divided into two groups and visited various administrative offices as well as the facilities on the campus, like Registrar Office, Accounts Wing, and Examination Wing along with different hostels, canteen, solar panel, STP, Medical garden, and the Water Recycling plant. The team was amazed to see the traditional techniques being used with the modern appliances on the campus. They spent considerable amount of time interacting with different student bodies like Student Welfare Association, Student Association of Performative Arts, Mess Management Committee, Student Publication Unit, *Riglab*, and Student Community services and visited their offices in hostels.



The special point of attraction for the peer team was the visitation of the Yoga and Vipassana Center of the Institute, after which the team proceeded for lunch where they interacted with the local community leaders, the Pradhans and Sarpanch of the two villages adopted by CIHTS and various other beneficiaries of the Institute. Post lunch, the team made a visit to the gym facility situated in both the hostels along with the sports facilities located at the sports corner of the

Institute. They also visited all the different departments where the academic achievements of the faculty members were showcased in a systematic manner. The eclectic arrangement and a vast array of publication and the supporting documents really pleased the peer team.



The third and final day commenced with the visitation to the campus minutely observing the best practices and institutional distinctiveness. The team visited all the facilities available for the

residential faculty members as well as the students and research scholars. With a sense of satisfaction and generous praise, they shared their points and concerns with the honourable Vice Chancellor. Thereafter, they finalised the peer team report and handed it over to the Vice Chancellor of the Institute in an Exit meeting in Atisha Hall.



The three day NAAC Peer Team visit brought the best out of the institute and made the CIHTS fraternity aware of its rich legacy, outstanding contribution to the community, excellent academic as well as research contribution and the vibrant student social life. Acknowledging the outstanding contribution made by CIHTS, in the field of Tibetology and Buddhism, NAAC awarded the prestigious A Grade to the Institute for the second cycle.



### 31<sup>st</sup> Oct. – 6<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2022: Vigilance Awareness Week:

In accordance with the order of the Central Vigilance Commission, Government of India, and as instructed by the Vigilance officer of the CIHTS, the Institute organized a pledge taking ceremony with great enthusiasm and active participation. In this regard several activities were organized in order to spread this year's theme – with the theme "Corruption free India for a developed Nation". A campus wide circulation of posters spreading the theme was carried out in order to raise awareness and eradicate corruption.



The Institute saw a wide and encouraging participation of all its stakeholders, from the teaching/non-teaching staffs, faculty members, other employees and students. On this occasion, the CIHTS fraternity participated in the Integrity Pledge taking ceremony.



The week began with the administering of the Integrity Pledge to all officers and staff, followed by circulation and sharing of significant slogans and posters carrying the all important vision of a corruption free India, encouraging staff members, whistleblowers to lodge complaints without any apprehension.

The Vigilance Unit of the Institute motivated all stakeholders and employees to come together and observe the event not only with common public interest but a genuine feeling of integrity and self-reliance.



Among other activities, students participated in a poster-making competition, to project the theme of the event in a creative manner and spread the all-important message of the programme.



4<sup>th</sup> November 2022: The Alumni Association, CIHTS organized a gathering to observe the ceremony for the longevity of His Eminence, Ven. Prof. Samdogh Rinpoche in Atisha Hall on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2022. Addressing the gathering, His Eminence shared his views on the great Buddhist religious leader, Atisha.



Various faculty members, staff and students attended the teaching in which His Eminence deliberated extensively on Atisha's teachings specifically referring to the scholar's most celebrated text, 'The Lamp for the Path to Enlightenment'.

6<sup>th</sup> November, 2022: International Seminar by Alumni Association, CIHTS

The 2<sup>nd</sup> International Seminar, organized by Alumni Association, CIHTS on 'Himalayan Buddhist Studies' was conducted at Atisha Hall. During the inauguration ceremony, the chief guest Ven. Prof. Samdhong Rinpoche released the seminar book (collected articles of the Alumni of CIHTS).



After lunch, various sessions for the conference were held at three different venues; Shatarakshita Library Hall (Buddhist Philosophy), Samdhot Bhavan Hall I (Translation and History) & Samdhot Bhavan Hall II (General Tibetan Literature) from 11.30 am to 1.00 pm and from 2.00 pm to 5.45 pm. There were approximately one hundred and sixty participants. At the end of the session, presenters were awarded with the certificates.



29<sup>th</sup> Dec. 2022 – 20<sup>th</sup> Jan. 2023: Academic Exchange Program

Fifteen visiting students from Five Colleges, Mass., USA (Smith College; Amherst College; Amherst College; Mount Holyoke College; Uni of Massachusetts), attended and participated in the Exchange program at CIHTS from 29th December 2022 to 20th January 2023.

Various professors from the Institute taught the visiting students. The students studied two important Buddhist texts under Buddhist Hermeneutics: Entry into the Middle Way (*Madhyamakavatara*) and Bodhisattva's way of life (*Bodhisattvacharyavatara*).



Moreover, lectures on special topics in Buddhism were delivered on topics such as Buddhist Tenets, Different Buddhist Schools, Buddhist History, Tibetan Art & Craft, Tibetan Medicine etc.

The visiting group was led by two professors. Prof. J L Garfield, Professor of Philosophy, Smith College gave lectures on Research Methodology to the research students of CIHTS. He also delivered a lecture to the entire faculty and students on 'Between Abhinavagupta and Daya Krishna' under the lecture series on IKS, organized by IQAC, CIHTS.



Dr. Leslie Jaffe, Doctor of Smith College delivered gave a series of lectures on Women's Health to the Sowa Rigpa Students.



Prof. Jampa Samten taught History of Tibet and Dalai Lama. He also led the group to pilgrimage sites in Sarnath as well as Bodh Gaya and Nalanda.



28<sup>th</sup> March, 2023: On the occasion of International Women's Day (08 March) in the Atisha Auditorium of the Institute, a lecture on the topic “Contribution of Women in the Development of Technology and Digital Education” was organized.



To celebrate and commemorate the notable contributions in the field of women empowerment, Chief guest, Shrimati Renu Sharma, and special guest, Prof. Subarna Sarkar, shared their views on the significant role played by various women and their contribution in the field of Digital Education as well as their representation in the development of technology.

