



संस्कृति मंत्रालय
MINISTRY OF
CULTURE

Sanku
7/3/25



बुद्धो भवेयं जगतो हिताय

Three-Day National Conference on

“The Legacy of Rahul Sankrityayan in the Era of
Digital Humanities: Restoring Buddhist Manuscripts
and Revitalizing *Gyan Bharatam Mission*”



National Mission for Manuscripts

Date: 24-26 March 2025

Venue: Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, Varanasi

Organized by: IQAC, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath

Collaborating Partner: National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM), New Delhi

With the launch of the *Gyan Bharatam Mission* of the Government of India, the topic of cultural and heritage inheritance in India has got a new critical fervour. Keeping in view the importance of such an initiative, IQAC, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi, is going to organise a three-day national conference on **The Legacy of Rahul Sankrityayan in the Era of Digital Humanities: Restoring Buddhist Manuscripts and Revitalising *Gyan Bharatam Mission*** from 24-26 March 2025 in collaboration with the National Mission on Manuscripts (NMM), New Delhi at its campus in Sarnath, Varanasi. The conference not only highlights the contribution of CIHTS in the field but also aims to bring forth a timely investigation in the field of Digital Humanities in India in a special context to the legacy of Rahul Sankrityayan. The conference puts together the galaxy of great scholars on Rahul Sankrityayan, who will deliberate on the present and future of Digital Buddhist Humanities, and explores his contribution to the different literatures of Pali, Sanskrit, Hindi, and English.

Concept Note

Rahul Sankrityayan was a great visionary whose mammoth output spans over multiple areas and disciplines like literature, philosophy, history, linguistics and Buddhism. His continuous travels not only enabled him to understand the different religious, cultural, social, and political milieu in various geographies but also provided a transnational and multilingual perspective to his work. A polyglot, his command of Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan, and Hindi, left an indelible mark on Buddhist scholars globally. His pragmatic outlook on Buddhist philosophy enabled him to contribute to the field as an iconoclastic figure. He not only highlighted the importance of extensive travels but practically applied in his life by travelling far and wide to the areas like Sri Lanka, Tibet, Russia, and other parts of Asia. During his four explorative journeys to Tibet, he brought back various Rare Buddhist Manuscripts from there. The manuscripts encompass the enriched heritage and legacy of ancient Nalanda Tradition. Different departments of CIHTS embarked upon an adventure to restore, translate and

digitalize the manuscripts by signing an MoU with Art, Culture and Youth Department, Government of Bihar.

It is of the utmost importance that in the era of electronic literature and digital humanities, we reassess and explore further the possibilities in the field so that his contribution and hard work is given its due value and the hidden knowledge in the manuscripts can be translated and restored back adding to the *Gyan Bharatam Mission*. This is the common ground where both CIHTS and NMM have joined hands to organize a conference of such nature by virtue of which the modern technologies, AI empowered analytic linguistic tools, the digital media can serve to relocate the legacy of a great scholar like Rahul Sankrityayan. CIHTS had organized such conferences in the past also with special emphasis on “Translation of *Kagyur*, *Tengyur* and *Sungbum* into Hindi from the collection of Mahapandit Rahul Sankrityayan, brought from Tibet.”

The aim of this three-day national conference is to acknowledge the legacy of the forgotten hero *Mahapandit* Rahul Sankrityayan, whose extensive contribution to the field of Sanskrit, Hindi, Buddhist and Pali Literature has influenced the global Buddhist discourse. By bringing together manuscript experts, translators, biographers of Rahul Sankrityayan, and experts of digitalisation, the conference significantly contributes to welding the age-old IKS knowledge of India with modern technology. The three-day conference is going to be inclusive in the form of plenary lectures, round table discussions, hands-on training workshops on the Translation and Restoration of Manuscripts, etc.

Abstracts can be submitted in either Hindi or English. Please submit an abstract of no more than 300 words, accompanied by 5-6 keywords. Abstracts should be sent to maheshsharma@cihts.ac.in on or before **March 22**. The abstract should contain the title, name of the author(s), affiliation, e-mail address, and keywords. Lodging and meals will be provided by the Institute for registered participants only. The selected papers will be published by the conference committee. Kindly note that there is **no registration fee** for the conference.

Important Dates-

Last date for abstract submission: 22 March 2025

Selection of abstracts: 23 March 2025

Last date of Registration: 23 March 2025

Registration Fee: None

Please send your queries and correspondence to the convenor at the email:

maheshsharma@cihts.ac.in

Contact: 8107174341

NOTE: All registered participants will receive a certificate upon successfully attending the entire conference.



Organizing Committee

Chief Patron
Professor W.D. Negi
Vice-Chancellor, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath

Patron

Dr. Sunita Chandra
Registrar, CIHTS

Prof. Anirban Dash
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Dr. Tenzin Nyima
Dr. Nyima Tsering

Coordinator and Convenor

Dr. Mahesh Sharma, IQAC, Coordinator, CIHTS

maheshsharma@cihts.ac.in

8107174341



सत्यमेव जयते

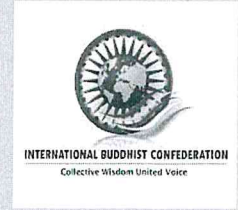
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National Mission for Manuscripts



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION
Collective Wisdom United Voice

Sunita