

**CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF HIGHER TIBETAN STUDIES**  
**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**

**Report on the Visit of International Delegates under ITEC Programme to**  
**CIHTS, Sarnath**

**20 December 2025**

The **Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath**, had the honour of hosting a delegation of international educators under the **Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) Programme**, Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, on **20 December 2025**. The visit was organized as part of the **Educational-cum-Cultural Study Tour** of the specialised training programme titled “*The Digital Pedagogy: Educators for Tomorrow*”, being conducted by the **Inter University Centre for Teacher Education (IUCTE), Banaras Hindu University**.

The delegation comprised **around 40 foreign teachers and educators from 24 different countries**, namely *Sri Lanka, Belarus, Cambodia, Ecuador, Ghana, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Russia, Rwanda, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Zambia, Zimbabwe, Côte d’Ivoire, and Trinidad and Tobago*. These participants are visiting India under the ITEC programme to engage in academic training and cross-cultural learning initiatives.

The visit to CIHTS was aimed at providing the participants with first-hand exposure to India’s rich educational heritage, classical knowledge systems, and unique pedagogical traditions rooted in Tibetan and Buddhist studies. Upon arrival, the delegates were formally received by faculty members and officials of the Institute and were introduced to the historical background, academic vision, and national significance of CIHTS as a premier deemed university dedicated to the preservation, teaching, and dissemination of Tibetan studies, Buddhist philosophy, and Indian knowledge traditions.

A major highlight of the visit was the tour of the **Shantarakshita Library**, one of the most distinguished academic resources of the Institute. The delegates were apprised of the library’s vast collection of rare Tibetan, Sanskrit, Pali, and Buddhist texts. Special attention was given to the **manuscript section**, where participants were introduced to ancient manuscripts, traditional methods of manuscript preservation, cataloguing processes, and contemporary efforts towards documentation and digitisation. The session generated considerable academic interest, particularly regarding the transmission of indigenous knowledge across generations.





The delegation further visited the **Fine Arts Section at Nalanda Bhawan**, where they were exposed to traditional Tibetan art forms, including **thangka painting**, iconography, and symbolic visual traditions associated with Buddhist philosophy. The participants appreciated the integration of fine arts with spiritual and philosophical education, recognising it as a holistic pedagogical model that complements modern educational practices.





The international delegates also visited the **Yuthok Sowa Rigpa Medical College and Hospital**, where they were introduced to the principles and practices of **traditional Tibetan medicine**. The visit provided insights into diagnostic methods, herbal formulations, and holistic healing practices rooted in centuries-old Tibetan medical knowledge. The delegates showed keen interest in understanding how Sowa Rigpa integrates physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, and appreciated its relevance in contemporary healthcare discourse and alternative medicine systems.





An interactive academic session was organised with faculty members of CIHTS, focusing on **traditional versus modern pedagogical approaches**. The dialogue highlighted the relevance of ancient Indian and Tibetan knowledge systems in contemporary teacher education, value-based learning, and ethical instruction. The exchange proved intellectually enriching and fostered meaningful cross-cultural academic engagement.

The international delegates were also accorded a courtesy interaction with the **Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Wangchuk Dorjee Negi ji**, and the **Registrar, Dr. Sunita Chandra**. Prof. Negi ji warmly welcomed the delegates and shared insights into the vision, academic mandate, and global relevance of CIHTS. Dr. Sunita Chandra highlighted the Institute's initiatives in strengthening international cooperation and promoting intercultural academic exchange. The delegates expressed their appreciation for the warm hospitality and commended CIHTS for its role in preserving and promoting India's intellectual and cultural heritage.



The visit was successfully coordinated by the CIHTS faculty and administrative team, under the guidance and active support of Prof. Jampa Sampten ji, Dr Dorjay Domdol ji, Dr. Lhakpa Tsering, Dr. Tenzin Nyima Negi, Dr. Jampa Thupten, Dr. Bhavana Behal, Dr. Dipti Agrawal, Mr. Kunga Nyingpo and Mr. Kishan Shukla, whose efforts ensured the smooth organisation and meaningful academic engagement of the international delegation.

The visit concluded on a note of mutual appreciation and reaffirmed the importance of international academic collaboration and cultural exchange. The delegation described the experience as insightful and inspiring, particularly in understanding India's traditional educational philosophy within a global framework. The visit successfully fulfilled the objectives of the ITEC Educational-cum-Cultural Study Tour and showcased CIHTS as a vibrant centre of learning that harmoniously blends tradition with contemporary educational practices.


(This report is prepared by Dr Dipti Agrawal, Assistant professor of English, CTE, CIHTS)

**Submitted By:**



Dr. Dipti Agrawal  
Assistant Professor of English  
Centre for Teacher Education (CTE)  
CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi

**Forwarded By:**



Dr. Bhavana Behal  
Administrative Coordinator  
Centre for Teacher Education (CTE)  
CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi

**Approved By:**



Prof Umesh Chandra Singh  
Chief Coordinator  
Centre for Teacher Education (CTE)  
CIHTS, Sarnath, Varanasi

**Organized by:**

Centre for Teacher Education  
Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies, Sarnath, Varanasi