

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

Community Work Initiative: “Kritagya Diwas” – A Celebration of Gratitude and Social Responsibility

Date: 8 January 2025

Organised by: Centre for Teacher Education (CTE), CIHTS, Sarnath

The Centre for Teacher Education (CTE), Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath, organised a meaningful community engagement programme titled “Kritagya Diwas” on 8 January 2025. This initiative formed an essential part of the community work component for B.A. B.Ed. (4th Year) and B.Ed. (2nd Year) students. The programme was conducted under the supervision of Prof. Umesh Chandra Singh, Coordinator, CTE, with support from Dr. Jampa Thupten, Academic Coordinator, and mentorship of Dr. Bhavana Behal, along with the active involvement of CTE faculty members—Ven. Tashi Dhondup, Geshe Lobsang Gyatso, Dr. Krishna Pandey, Dr. Shusheel Kumar Singh, Dr. P. Shushmita Vatsyayan, Dr. Tenzin Namgang, Dr. Anil Kr. Gupta, and Dr. Shikha Sharma.

Kritagya Diwas was conceptualised as a day of expressing gratitude towards the fourth-class employees of the institute whose tireless contributions create a smooth and supportive environment for the functioning of CIHTS. These employees—including helpers, cleaners, support staff, and maintenance workers—play a vital role in maintaining the campus infrastructure and supporting daily operations.

Purpose and Vision of the Programme

The central objective of Kritagya Diwas was to instill in student-teachers a deep sense of humility, service, and gratitude—values indispensable for becoming compassionate educators. By engaging in community work, students learn to appreciate the dignity of labour, respect every individual’s contribution, and recognise the interconnectedness of institutional life.

Activities Conducted During the Programme

The programme began with the student-teachers welcoming the fourth-class staff with warm greetings and expressions of appreciation. Voluntary contributions were collected from both teaching and non-teaching staff members to organise a special meal for the honoured guests.

In a spirit of selfless service, students cooked the food themselves, arranged the dining area, and served the meal personally. This act symbolised respect, gratitude, and a reversal of traditional roles—placing students in a position of service and recognising the everyday efforts of those who support them silently.

As the event took place during winter, the students and faculty members also arranged the distribution of woollen mufflers as a token of warmth and appreciation. The gesture was received with heartfelt smiles and gratitude, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect and emotional connection.





Extended Community Support through Vice-Chancellor's Contribution

In continuation of this noble initiative, the Honourable Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Wangchuk Dorjee Negi, made a generous donation on behalf of the institute to further extend compassion beyond the campus. The contribution was utilized to distribute blankets to underprivileged children associated with DARE Society, a Varanasi-based NGO working for the rescue, care, and rehabilitation of vulnerable children.

This extension amplified the impact of Kritagya Diwas by reaching members of the larger community who require support, reinforcing CIHTS's commitment to social responsibility.

Impact and Reflections

Kritagya Diwas provided student-teachers with an invaluable experience of empathy, teamwork, and community engagement. Through hands-on participation, they understood that teaching extends beyond classrooms and into the realm of human values and relationships.

Participants reflected that the programme helped them:

- Develop sensitivity towards marginalized groups
- Understand the dignity of labour
- Practise compassion in action
- Strengthen community-building attitudes
- Experience joy in collective service

The event concluded with words of gratitude for all staff members and faculty who supported the programme, reaffirming CTE's dedication to nurturing emotionally intelligent, socially responsible, and value-driven educators.

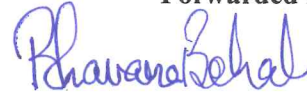
(This report is prepared by Dr Dipti Agrawal, Assistant professor of English, CTE, CIHTS)

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