



འཕགས་པོ་དྲི་ག་གནས་སློབ་གཉེར་ཁང་།

DEPARTMENT OF INDO-TIBETAN STUDIES
BHASHA-BHAVANA
VISVA-BHARATI, SANTINIKETAN

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Call for Papers:

National Seminar on “*Significance of Indo-Tibetan Studies: A Cultural Heritage of Nalanda Tradition*” (27th & 28th March, 2017)

The Department of Indo-Tibetan Studies cordially invite the academicians, researchers to submit their papers in PDF format on the theme and the sub-themes of the seminar either in Hindi, Tibetan or English to the organizing committee. The dates for the submission of abstract as announced in the concept note may be extended. The details of the sub-themes are given in the concept note of the seminar.

We welcome your valuable input for the seminar.

Looking forward to see you

With warm regards from Santiniketan

Coordinator of the seminar

Dr. Shedup Tenzin

(Teacher In-charge)

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འཕགས་བོད་རིག་གནས་སློབ་གཉེར་ཁང་།

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རྒྱལ་ཡོངས་བགོ་སྐྱེད་ཆོགས་འདུ།
འཕགས་བོད་རིག་གནས་སློབ་གཉེར་གྱི་གལ་གནད། རྒྱ་ཡུལ་རྒྱལ་རྒྱུ་ཆོས་བརྒྱུད་གྱི་ལེགས་སྤྱང་ལུ་ལོ་ན།

NATIONAL SEMINAR
SIGNIFICANCE OF INDO-TIBETAN STUDIES: A CULTURAL HERITAGE OF
NALANDA TRADITION (27th & 28th March, 2017)

The ancient Nalanda tradition of Buddhist practice and teaching has developed into the great centre of learning which was not only confined to the study of Mahayana and Hinayana philosophy but also offered the courses such as Brahmanical vedic texts, logic, grammar, astronomy, medicine etc. This great seat of learning attracted scholars and students from China, Korea, Tibet and Central Asia etc.

The Buddhist philosophical works of the great savants of ancient Nalanda Mahavihara has reached Tibet through the arduous and collective efforts of Indian Pandits and Tibetan Lotsava with the support of series of Dharma kings of Tibet. His Holiness the Dalai Lama always emphasizes that the form of Buddhism that spread in Tibet is the genuine and stainless teaching of Nalanda Mahavihara and hence Tibetan or the Himalayan Buddhism may be regarded as the living culture of Nalanda tradition that still extant to this day.

Buddhism penetrated Tibetan plateau through the then Himalayan kingdom of Nepal in the early 7th century AD. In fact, for centuries, Nepal hosted as the hub of sojourn for Tibetan Lotsava on their way to Indian plains in quest of truth that discovered by Buddha till 13th century AD. Indian Buddhist Pandits too used to sojourn in Nepal while crossing the lofty Himalayan mountain ranges to reach Tibetan plateau for the dissemination of Buddha's teaching of love and compassion such as Acarya Santarakshita, Acarya Kamalashila, Atisa Dipankar etc.

The 12th century AD witnessed the beginning of the downfall of Nalanda Mahavihara which coincides with the beginning of the “Later Spread of Buddhism in Tibet”. Tibetan translations represent the faithful and literal word for word translation. In case the Tibetan translation of any Sanskrit work is retranslated into Sanskrit, it leads to almost full restoration of the lost Sanskrit texts. The contemporary prominent Tibetologist Prof. Lokesh Chandra says that “the Sanskrit equivalent of a Tibetan term is a much more exact datum than a rendering in any other language. Therefore, the lost Indian cultural heritage and the picture of India's past could be revived through the translation of Tibetan canonical literature.

Keeping this in view, His Holiness the Dalai Lama quite often proclaimed that Tibetan language is one of the most valuable human treasures in the world. It contains not only the profound and vast philosophical contents on universal love and peace but also it show us the correct method for achieving the ultimate happiness. And of course this is but the legacy of ancient Indian culture especially that of lost treasures of ancient Nalanda University. His Holiness the Dalai Lama quite often emphasizes that Tibetan Buddhist tradition is the only stainless living tradition of ancient Nalanda Mahaviharar which is still survives in a full swing in the major Tibetan monastic colleges. Hence, His Holiness argued that identify Tibetan Buddhism as "Lamaism" specifically in the sense of its being a transformation of Buddhism is completely wrong.

As a result of long period of Indo-Tibetan cultural contact, the voluminous Tibetan Buddhist canonical literature known as *Kangyur* (lit. the translation of the word of Buddha from Sanskrit into Tibetan) and *Tangyur* (refer to the translation of treatises by Indian Pandits from Sanskrit into Tibetan) came into existence. These two collections of vast literature form the corpus of ancient Indian thoughts and culture.

Against this backdrop, the Department of Indo-Tibetan Studies, proposed to organize a two-day National Seminar scheduled to be held on 27th & 28th March, 2017 on the topic entitled "***Significance of Indo-Tibetan Studies: A Cultural Heritage of Nalanda Tradition***" especially aims to create an awareness among the Sanskritist about the importance of Indo-Tibetan Studies as the supplemental data for the pursuit of research in Buddhist Sanskrit as well as to give the students a great inspiration and awakened the dormant interest in the field of Indo-Tibetan Studies and its allied subjects.

The theme of the seminar is divided into the following sub-themes:

Sub-themes:

1. Nalanda: Ancient Buddhist Sanskrit Centre of Learning
2. Contributions of Nalanda Acaryas in Buddhist *Sutra* and *Tantra* literature
3. Nalanda: Ancient Buddhist Pilgrimage
4. Impact of Nalanda Culture in Chinese Buddhism
5. Impact of Nalanda Culture in Japanese Buddhism
6. Tibetan/Himalayan Buddhist Studies: A Legacy of Nalanda Education System
7. An Appraisal of the Course Curriculum of Nalanda Mahavihara
8. Nalanda and Contemporary Viharas' Education System in India
9. Impact of Nalanda Culture in Vietnamese Buddhism
10. Reflections of Buddhist Culture in Indian Literatures
11. Tibetan Language, Culture and Arts
12. Any topic related to the theme & sub-themes of the seminar

Dates:

- Submission of Abstract: 20th February, 2017
- Confirmation of Abstract selection: 26th February, 2017
- Submission of Full Paper: 18th March, 2017

Registration fee for the participants:

- Research Scholars of Visva-Bharati: Rs. 1500/-
- Research Scholars from other universities: Rs. 2000/-
- Faculty members: Rs. 2500/-

We cordially invite the academicians, freelance researchers, student research scholars to submit their papers on any aspect of the theme and sub-themes of the seminar either in Hindi, Tibetan or English.

Interested participants may submit either a hard or soft copy of the abstracts with at least three key words and full paper to the organizing committee before the deadline as given above.

We feel deeply regret to inform you that due to the lack of sufficient fund for the seminar, we will not be able to provide a transportation charge (TA) except the local hospitality and fooding for the outside participants for two days.

Please kindly let us know your tentative itinerary (arrival and departure) and the **topic** to be present in the seminar well in advance.

Coordinator

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(Teacher in charge)
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**Venue of the seminar: Conference Hall, Bhasha-Bhavana, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan
(Land mark: Near Nippon Bhavana)**

