

Functions and Activities of SRITOBS

Visit of Union Minister for Health

Shri B. Shankaranand, Union Minister for Health paid a visit to this Institute on 27th May, 1982 accompanied by H. E. the Governor of Sikkim/President : SRITOBS. He was warmly received on his arrival to the Institute by the Director, Dr. A. C. Banerjee and other members of the staff.

He was shown xylographs, manuscripts and other art objects of the Institute. He evinced keen interest in the various research activities of Tibetology. He expressed his desire to the President to extend all possible help for restoration and function of microfilm unit installed in SRITOBS. He further expressed that the rare and invaluable treasures of our ancient heritage should be preserved at all cost. The President presented him the complimentary copies of the publications of the Institute.

Visit of Union Minister of State for Home and Parliamentary Affairs and Union Deputy Minister for Defence

Shri Venkata Subbeihya, Union Minister of State for Home & Parliamentary Affairs and Maj. K. P. Singh Deo, Union Deputy Minister for Defence visited the Institute on 19th May, 82 and 5th June, 1982 respectively accompanied by H. E. the Governor/President : SRITOBS. They were warmly received on their arrival to the Institute by the Director, Dr. A. C. Banerjee and other members of the staff.

They were shown round the Institute's rare and unique collection of Mahayana Buddhist art and other antique objects. They evinced keen interest in the development of the Institute. The President, thereafter, presented them books on Tibetan art, post card reproduction of Tibetan Thankas and latest issues of Bulletin of Tibetology.

Observance of Saga Dawa

Sa-ga-Ida-wa (Vaishakhi Purnima) is also observed by the adherents of Mahayana Buddhism like those of Theravada, but a month later. The monasteries or Lhakhang (temples) in Sikkim, Ladakh, H. P. etc. celebrated Buddha Purnima this year on 6th June corresponding to 15th of the 4th Tibetan month.

Saga Dawa is a Buddhist festival meaning Triple Blessed Festival of Lord Buddha. On this auspicious day the Buddhists all over the world celebrate the memorable occasion of Lord Buddha's divine birth, Dharmacakrapravartana (Turning of wheel of law) and Mahaparnirvana (Entering into final bliss) with great pomp and grandeur. It is also observed in all Sikkim monasteries and Lhakhang, where Lamas and devout Buddhists offer butter lamps, incenses and Khadas (scarves) to the deities therein.

The Lamas and other staff members of SRITOBS also observed this festival in a very simple and solemn manner in the Central Hall (1st floor) of the Institute by chanting prayers, offering Khadas and burning butter lamps etc. Many Buddhist devotees also attended the festival and offered butter lamps, incenses to the shrine in the Central Hall.

Publications :

1. In view of the high demand from various Tibetan Institute, the Tibetan xylographs containing Tibetan grammar, ritual texts etc. are being reproduced from the wooden block preserved in the Tibetan Library, SRITOBS. They will shortly be available for sale at a minimum cost.
2. The material for the first issue of *Bulletin of Tibetology* (Jan-March, 82) entitled Karmapa Commemoration Volume, has been approved by the President, SRITOBS and this has been sent to the Press for printing.

Kadam Phacho Translation Committee set up :

We announce with great pleasure for the information of those interested in Buddhism or Tibetology that H. E. the Governor/President, SRITOBS has been pleased to constitute the following Committee to consider the proposal for translation of Tibetan Text *Kadam Phacho*, (450 folios) containing the life and teachings of the great Indian Savant, Atisa-Dipankara Srijnana, who was invited to Tibet in 1057 A. D.

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| 1. Shri Justice A. M. Bhattacharjee | Chairman |
| 2. Dr. A. C Banerjee, Director, SRITOBS | Member |
| 3. Shri J. K. Rechung, Dy. Director, SRITOBS | " |
| 4. Shri B. Ghosh, Librarian, SRITOBS | " |

The President, SRITOBS further desires that the Chairman should submit the report to him within three weeks, subject to the convenience of the Chairman.

Mural Paintings :

As directed by the President : SRITOBS, three more paintings were completed on the wall of the stair-case leading to the first floor. These symbolic pictures depict : (a) four harmoniously affectionate brothers ; bird, hare, monkey and elephant (Thun pa pun shi) ; (b) five different articles of ritual offerings (five sacred articles of offering), Dod-you-nam-nga, Panca Kamaguna and (c) Mantra of Kalacakra (Namchu Wungden).

Electrification :

As per decision of the Executive Board, SRITOBS and through the keen initiative of H. E. the Governor/President, the entire road right from the main gate at Deorali to the Institute premises has been provided with street light by the Sikkim Public Works Department, Government of Sikkim, free of cost.

SRITOB'S MEMBERSHIP DRIVE
(APRIL-JUNE, 1982)

During this period (April-June, 1982), our Membership drive had produced fair results. Efforts were being made to increase the number. Out of fortyone member of different categories, thirtynine had been accepted by the President, SRITOB'S. Names of the members are regularly published in Functions and Activities section of the quarterly journal. Below are given the names of the members who have applied for the membership during the quarter according to categories :

<i>Name</i>	<i>Category</i>
1. Shri Tashi Paljor, Additional Principal, School of Buddhist Philosophy, Leh-Ladakh.	Institutional
2. Shri T. R. Poudyal, I. F. S., Divisional Forest Officer, Forest Department, Baluwakhani, Gangtok.	Ordinary

Total number — Life	4
" — Institutional	9
" — Ordinary	28
Total	41

Total amount of Membership Fee received and deposited by cheque and cash Rs. 19,400/- (Rupees Nineteen Thousand Four Hundred) only.

The Executive Board, Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology and Other Buddhist Studies, has decided to publish the opinions, suggestions, etc., of the complimentary copy receivers and subscribers of the Bulletin in the shape of letters in the Quarterly Bulletin of Tibetology henceforth.

We would, therefore, request you to kindly send your observations to the Director for publication in the Journal.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO SRITOB'S
(APRIL—JUNE, 1982)

During the period many distinguished persons visited the Institute of Tibetology. Here are given their names as also a few selected observations (April-June, 1982).

Shri K. Rajaram, Speaker, Tamil Nadu on 24. 4. 82 ; Shri P. H. Pandian, Dy, Speaker, Tamil Nadu on 24. 4. 82 ; Air Marshal, M.S.D. Wollen, AOC-in-C, Eastern Air Command, Shillong ; and Wg. Cdr. BGPS Bhalla on 2. 5. 82 ; Shri I. P. Gupta, Joint Secretary, Home Department, on 3. 5. 82 ; Dr. Satyendra Nath Sen, Former Vice-Chancellor, Calcutta University and present President, Local Board, State Bank of India on 3. 5. 82 ; Colonel S. K. Ravikant, HQ Central Command, Lucknow on 4. 5. 82 ; Shri R. M. Bhalla 1, Deep Prakash, 82/11, Linking Board, Santa Cruz (West), Bombay-400054 ; Shri A. S. Sehgal, Maj. General, C-227, Defence Colony, New Delhi, 110024 on 12. 5. 82 ; Mr. S. A. Wills on 12. 5. 82 ; Shri Achyut Ghosh, Participant IRC 105th Council Meeting, 1982, May 13 and 14 at Gangtok, from West Bengal on 13. 5. 82 ; Shri D. V. Sahni, Chief Engineer, Government of Punjab, Participant at the 105th Council Meeting of Indian Road Congress on 14. 5. 82 ; Shri Venkat Srinivas Desh Pande, Chief Justice of Bombay on 16. 5. 82 ; Shri S. Nanda on 18. 5. 82 ; Shri P. Venkata Subbeihya, Minister of State for Home and Parliamentary Affairs, Government of India on 19. 5. 82 ; Brig. R. K. Singh, Ramgarh Cantt. on 19. 5. 82 ; Muni Gulab Chandra "Nirmohi" Disciple of Acarya Shri Tulshi-Jaina Muni on 20. 5. 82 ; Shri Th. Krishna Singh, Minister, Medical, Manipur on 25. 5. 82 ; Mr. G. N. Upton, Australian High Commissioner on 26. 5. 82 ; Shri Bibekananda Bhewerneti, Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Tripura on 27. 5. 82 ; Shri B. Shankaranand, Union Health Minister, Government of India on 27. 5. 82 ; Miss H. K. Singh, Dy. Education Adviser, Ministry of Education and Culture and Director, Directorate of Adult Education, New Delhi on 30. 5. 82 ; Shri L. K. Balasubramanian, Commissioner of Income Tax, Calcutta and Mrs. Balasubramanian,

on 31.5.82; Prof. Dilip. K. Roy, Head of the Department of Museology, Calcutta University on 2.6.82; Maj. K. P. Singh Deo, Deputy Minister Defence, Government of India on 5.6.82; Shri Chandra Shekhar Singh. M. P. on 8.6.82; and Justice A. Varadarajan, Judge, Supreme Court of India, New Delhi on 22.6.82.

During the period (April-June, 1982) 950 tourists including 60 foreigners visited the Institute.

OPINIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO SRITOBS

SHRI K. RAJARAM

Today I had the occasion to pay visit to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology along with Mr. P. H. Pandian, Deputy Speaker. I am very much impressed by the research work going on here. Number of historical documents have been saved by the efforts of Mr. Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. This place is one of the worth visiting place in Sikkim. My congratulations for the Director and others for doing an excellent job in this Institute.

Sd/ K. Rajaram,
Speaker, Tamil Nadu,
24. 4. 82

SHRI P. H. PANDIAN

I am very happy to visit this Sikkim Institute of Tibeto-logy and it gave a sense of religious teachings. This Institute has broadly delevate the teachings of Buddha extensively in Tibetan.

Sd/ P. H. Pandian
Dy. Speaker, Tamil Nadu
24. 4. 82

AIR MARSHAL M. S. D. WOLLEN

The Director and Officers of the Institute took great pain to explain the functioning of the Institute and the many exhibits. It has been most enlightening experience. We are most grateful to them. We wish the Institute great success in the future.

Sd/

1. Air Marshall M. S. D. Wollen
AOC-in-C, Eastern Air Commander,
Shillong.
2. Wg. Cdr, BGPS, Bhalla.
2. 5. 82

SHRI I. P. GUPTA

Glad to visit and to meet Dr. Banerjee and faculty members who have profound knowledge on the subject. Highly educative has been the visit.

Sd/ I. P. Gupta,
Joint Secretary,
Home Department,
3. 5. 82

DR. SATYENDRA NATH SEN

Prof. A. C. Banerjee is an old friend of mine. We have worked together for long years in the service of Calcutta University. He is a real scholar and has profound knowledge of Pali literature and Buddhist culture and tradition. I am really glad to find him now engaged in this Institute, and I am sure that this Institute will grow into a dominant position in the academic world as the best organisation for the study and analysis of Buddhist culture and literature. My wife and myself regard ourselves as fortunate that we got the opportunity

of coming to Gangtok and of visiting this Institute. We are extremely grateful to Prof. Banerjee.

Sd/ S. N. Sen,
Former Vice-Chancellor,
Calcutta University and
at present, President, Local Board
State Bank of India.
3. 5. 82

COLONEL S. K. RAVIKANT

Most fascinating experience. We shall always cherish this visit.

Sd/ Col. S. K. Ravikant,
HQ Central Command, Lucknow
4. 5. 82

SHRI R. M. BHALLA

Wonderful, spirit should be maintained to preserve the treasure.

Sd/ R. M. Bhalla,
1, Deep Prakash,
82/11, Linking Road,
Santa Cruz (West)
Bombay-400 054

MAJ. GENERAL A. S. SEHGAL

Came as an ignorant one and went back with sense of acquiring knowledge of Buddhist and Tibetan philosophy. A most enjoyable educative trip. The Institute is in the hands of people who have made commendable efforts to keep the art and philosophy going. Mr. J.K.Rechung and

Mr. Ghosh's contribution is significant for today and future learning.

Sd/ A. S. Sehgal, Maj. General,
C-227 Defence Colony,
New Delhi-110 024
12. 5. 82

MR. S. A. WILLS

We, my wife and I, were kindly invited to accompany Maj. General Sehgal's party and we found Mr. Ghosh's dissertations on Tantricism and Buddhism most enlightening, especially as we were most ignorant of these systems and have now had enkindled a desire to look into these matters more clearly. We would like to thank Mr. Ghosh for his patience.

Sd/ S. A. Wills,
12. 5. 82

SHRI ACHYUT GHOSH

We have seen here a wonderful effort of preserving and also finding new meaning for our cultural heritage. We are thankful for the untiring effort being spent by your dedicated staff.

Sd/ Achyut Ghosh,
Participant IRC 105th Council Meeting,
1982, May 13 and 14 at Gangtok,
from West Bengal.
13. 5. 82

SHRI D. V. SAHNI

A visit to such a holy place bring peace and tranquility.

It shows how great a culture the eastern civilization of Tibet possessed.

Sd/ D. V. Sahni,
Chief Engineer, PWD,
Punjab, participant at the
105th Council Meeting of Indian
Road Congress.
14. 5. 82

SHRI VENKAT SHRINIWAS DESH PANDE

Shri J. K. Rechung, Deputy Director took me through the collections of the ancient manuscripts and explained how the Tibetan pandits came to Nalanda and other centres of Buddhist literature and translated the same in Tibetan language. It was inspiring account of the scholar indeed who devoted their life in pursuit of knowledge. I was happy to know that a quarterly bulletin is being published under the leadership of its scholars who are working in this Institute on this literature. I wish success in this enterprises.

Sd/ V. S. Desh Pande
Chief Justice of Bombay
16. 5. 82

S. NANDA

Myself and the family found the Institute visit very rewarding. There is no dearth of knowledge which can be gathered here.

Sd/ S. Nanda
18. 5. 82

SHRI P. VENKATA SUBBEIHA

This Institute of Tibetology is remarkable in character. Ancient manuscripts and rare idols depicting the preaching of Lord Buddha is a source of inspiration. This Institute is doing yeoman service in fostering friendship between various sections of not only Indians but also Tibetans and Chinese.

Sd/ P. Venkata Subbeih
Minister of State for Home
and Parliamentary Affairs,
Government of India.
19. 5. 82

BRIG. R. K. SINGH

During my visit to Gangtok, I was advised to pay a visit to the Institute of Tibetology, having a good collection of Tibetan literature, art of ancient times wherever Buddhism has been extended to. The Institute is well laid, which makes the rich literature available to scholars and research workers to broaden their knowledge. One really gets enchanted to see the richness of Buddhist teachings and Tibetan literature on all subjects—medicine, tantric, religion and so on.

I convey my compliments to Shri J. K. Rechung, Deputy Director of the Institute of Tibetology, who has so kind to take us around to acquaint with the rich collections. The general cleanliness and maintenance of references are commendable. May the Institute of great benefit to the readers and scholars to further add to their profound knowledge.

Sd/ Brig. R. K. Singh,
Ramgarh Cantt.
19. 5. 82

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MUNI GULAB CHANDRA

I am happy to visit Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology and Other Buddhist Studies, Gangtok, which is established to promote study on Tibetology. As a part of the religious observance of Jainas, I came over to Gangtok on foot and visited many educational Institutions. The arrangements and collection of the Institute are indeed unique and not found elsewhere. Although most of the Tibetan books are on Buddhism, they are also most important to the Jainas. If the Tibetan books can be translated into Hindi, English and other languages, these may be useful to the learners.

I was much overwhelmed with the behaviour of the managing authorities and the staff.

There is immense scope here for the study of Buddhism which is a legacy of Shramana heritage. This Institute can set up an unique ideal if facilities for collection and scope for study of Jain scripture, another Shramana cultural heritage of Jaina tradition are provided herein. I offer my heartfelt thanks to the Librarian and other staff of the Institute.

Sd/- Muni Gulab Chandra,
"Nirmohi"
(Disciple of Acarya Shri Tulsi
Jaina Muni) .
20. 5. 82

SHRI TH. KRISHNA SINGH

I have visited the Institute of Tibetology today the 25th May, 82 when I came to attend the Eastern Health Ministers Conference to be held at Gangtok on the 26th May, 82. On my way to Buddhist Monastery I happen to visit this Institute. I am so much impressed by the

different books collected and kept in this Institute. The most pleasing and interesting point to be everlasting memory is that here one can see the remains of Buddhism along with images of Lord Buddha. Under the guidance of Mr. J. K. Rechung, Dy. Director of the Institute of Tibetology, I can understand and collect ample knowledge of the backgrounds of Tibetan civilization. Thanks to the Deputy Director for his sincere service.

I hope many people from within and outside India who happen to visit the Institute will get some benefit as I am yelling today, and this Institute will serve the people for all the time to come. God will blessed.

Thank to all.

Sd/ Th. Krishna Singh,
Minister, Medical
Manipur.
25. 5. 82

MR. G. N. UPTON

The Institute of Tibetology comprises a most impressive collection of natural and all well protected and cared for. I wish that I could have spent more time studying this fine collection. Some day I will return and do better justice to what it has to offer.

I sincerely hope that this collection will be preserved and enlarged.

Sd/ G. N. Upton,
Australian High Commissioner,
26. 5. 82

SHRI BIBEKANANDA BHEWRNETI

I am grateful to those who are preserving these valuable documents of the past for us and for the future genera-

tion to come. I am glad to visit the Institute.

Sd/ Bibekananda Bhewrneti,
Minister for Health and Family
Welfare, Tripura.
27. 5. 82

SHRI B. SHANKARANAND

The treasure of our ancient knowledge enshrined in our heritage should be preserved at all cost.

Sd/ B. Shankaranand,
Union Health Minister.
27. 5. 82

MISS H. K. SINGH

I and my colleagues from the Directorate of Adult Education and Ministry of Education, New Delhi had a very fruitful visit to the Institute and gained much knowledge.

Sd/ Miss H. K. Singh,
Dy. Education Adviser,
Ministry of Education &
Culture, Director, Directorate
of Adult Education, Delhi.
30. 5. 82

MR. L. K. BALASUBRAMANIAN

Going round the collection of arts and manuscripts has been an educative and emotional experience. I feel greatly indebted to the private patrons who have so

generously made available to the public their priceless possessions. Such dedication serves as a symbol of how man enables himself of sharing with other what he has.

Sd/ L. K. Balasubramanian,
Commissioner of Income Tax,
Calcutta.

2) Mrs. M. Balasubramanian
Calcutta.

31. 5. 82

PROF. DILIP K. ROY

Excellent and most interesting.

Sd/ Prof. Dilip K. Roy,
Head of the Department of
Museology,
Calcutta University.

2. 6. 82

MAJ. K. P. SINGH DEO

Most fascinating and interesting. Wish students of Tibetology could have the benefit of obtaining Research Degrees.

Sd/ Maj. K. P. Singh Deo,
Deputy Minister, Defence.

5. 6. 82

CHANDRA SHEKHAR SINGH

A highly illuminating glimpse of India's Buddhist heritage.

Sd/ Chandra Shekhar Singh,
M. P.

8. 6. 82

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SHRI A. VARADARAJAN

I had the pleasure of going round the SRIT. Shri B. Ghosh explained very well and ably the various things in this Institute. It was a very interesting and instructive thing for me to visit this Institute. I wish that knowledge about the Buddha and Buddhism spread in our country.

Sd/ A. Varadarajan,
Judge, Supreme Court,
Delhi.
22. 6. 82