

**DEPARTMENT OF TIBETAN MEDICINE
CENTRAL INSTITUTE OF BUDDHIST STUDIES (CIBS)**

Background:

Prior to 1959, scholars, novices and monks of Ladakh used to go to Tibet in pursuit of higher monastic Buddhist education and return back to practice in their regional centers in Ladakh. This practice abruptly came to an end because of the changed political scenario of present Tibet since 1959. Hence, the Central Institute of Buddhist Studies came into existence for imparting multi-disciplinary Buddhist education in this part of the country to preserve & promote its traditional learning systems. It was formally blessed & inaugurated by Ven. Ling Rinpoche, late senior tutor of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.

In its initial stage, the Institute had only ten scholars who hailed from different monasteries of Ladakh. The appointment of two teachers was made to instruct the students in Tibetan literature and Buddhist philosophy. From 1959 to 1961 for three years, the school was located at Leh after which, it was shifted to Spituk village about eight kilometers away from Leh in 1961. The Institute had its new set up in 1973 at Choglamsar, eight kilometers south-east of Leh. The Institute was registered in the year 1964 under the J&K registration Act 1998 (1941 AD) as an educational Institute. Following are the main subjects that are currently being taught at the Institute:

1. A comprehensive knowledge of Buddhist Philosophy, which includes the study of Ancient Treatises, History and Culture.
2. The study of languages, viz. Hindi, Sanskrit, English, Tibetan and Pali.
3. The study of modern subjects which includes History, Political science, Mathematics, Economics, comparative Philosophy, General science and Social studies.
4. The translation of Buddhist scriptures into Sanskrit, Hindi, English and other languages.
5. The collection, conservation and publication of rare manuscripts.
6. The organization of research works, furnishing research tools and necessary facilities.
7. The collection and conservation of objects de-arts of archaeological significances.
8. Study of "SOWA RIGPA" the traditional medical system that originated from Tibet.
9. Study of Sculpture, Thangka painting, Wood block Carving etc.

The separate department for the study of the Sowa Rigpa (Tibetan Medical System) was established in 1989. The department is also working in close collaboration with Men-Tsee-Khang, the Tibetan Medical & Astrological Institute in Dharamsala. The syllabus of the Sowa Rigpa is followed in line with that of Tibetan Medical College under Men-Tsee-Khang. After finishing 6 years of study, the medical students gets their Kachupa degree or the BTMS (Bachelor of Tibetan Medical System) from Tibetan Medical college after appearing for the final year Kachupa examination.

Strength & Resources:

Resource	No.
Current student	9
class room	1
Pharmaceutical unit	1
Storeroom for the storage of medicines	1
Consultation room	1
Doctor	1
Dispensary	1
Common library	1

Future Plan:

A multi-purpose plan to build a full-fledged institute on "Sowa Rigpa" The Tibetan system of medicine in the Himalayan region has been taken up to accommodate prime infrastructure such as the facility of dispensary, laboratory, preservation and cultivation center, research & development unit, manufacturing unit, library, publication etc. Strength of teachers & students will be increased, and students will be provided the opportunity to do research in the pursuit of Ph.D. degree including the degree of M.D. B.T.M.S. and higher degrees of Tibetan Medicine under the Central Council of Tibetan Medicine, Dharamsala, (H.P) India. The above-mentioned plans are under the process of submitting to the Deptt.of AYUSH, India or Deptt.of Culture, Govt. of India.

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