



*His Holiness The Dalai Lama offering scarf to the image of Padmasambhava.*



*His Holiness The Dalai Lama flanked by H.E. the Governor of Sikkim/President SRITOB.S.  
Director, Dr. A.C. Banerjee and others*

# Function and Activities

OF

## SRIT OBS

### HIS HOLINESS THE XIV DALAI LAMA'S VISIT TO THE SIKKIM RESEARCH INSTITUTE OF TIBETOLOGY

It is after more than two decades of the foundation-laying ceremony of SRIT by H. H. the Dalai Lama on 10 February 1957, H. H. while visiting Sikkim paid a kind visit to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, Gangtok, on 21st October, 1981. We are all most grateful to H. H. for having consented to visit the Institute and to bless it inspite of His various engagements here. It is indeed an unique and memorial event in the history of the Institute

H. E. the Governor of Sikkim Shri Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan, President of the Institute received him. Sarbang (procecion of monks carrying banners, incense and musical instruments) greeted His Holiness with the melody of gyaling (monastic clarionet), ragdung (monastic brass trumpet). Hon'ble Minister, Venerable Lachen Gomchen Rinpoche, Ecclesiastical and Culture, Govt. of Sikkim, Dr. A. C. Banerjee, Director : SRIT, Yarpa T. S. Gyaltshen, and Lama scholars and other members of the staff welcomed H. H. with the offer of Khadas (scarves).

The Director conducted the Governor and H. H. to the General Library Hall tastefully decorated with flowers and ancient exquisite thankas (painted scrolls), when the audience stood up in the honour of His Holines.

His Holiness was then shown round the Institute by President : SRIT., the Director and Yarpa T. S. Gyaltshen.

His Holiness then offered Khada (scarf) to the Silver image of Bodhisattva Manjushri.

H. E. the Governor of Sikkim/Presidnet : SRIT..offered ku-sung-tuk-ten (representing body, speech and mind of Buddha).

Speaking on the occasion the President SRIT thanked H. H. for gracing the Institute with His presence and recalled His Holines's foundation-laying ceremony as also his contribution to this Institute. He appreciated the noble sentiments which guided the philosophy of H. H. in search of peace and harmony. His message of universal love and compassion is vital, the Governor said, in this twentieth century than ever before. He then requested H. H. to give his message.

His Holiness the Dalai Lama thanked H. E. for his welcome, Lamas and other respected guests for attending the function. He said that he was happy to come here and visit the Institute, for the first time since he laid the foundation stone of the Institute. The Institute had developed well. He further thanked the President for his presentation of the Institute's Publications.

He related that in ancient times Buddhist lore had been preserved at the monasteries like Nalanda Vikramashila etc., from where this ancient learning was widely propagated.

H. H. praised the over-all progress of the Institute within so short a period and emphahasised that this Institute should play a very important role for the propagation of wisdom and understanding. He then prayed that sentient beings might obtain vision of new wisdom through the Institute and develop compassion, loving kindness and most benevolent wish towards other beings.

His Holiness presented seven books on Buddhism and allied subjects to the Institute Library.

The ceremony was rounded up with light refreshments.

#### VISIT OF UNION MINISTER OF STATE FOR EDUCATION

Shrimati Sheila Kaul, Union Minister of State for Education, paid a visit to this Institute on 23rd October 1981 accompanied by

H. E. the Governor of Sikkim/President : SRIT. She was given warm reception on her arrival to the Institute by the Director, Dr. A. C. Banerjee and other members of the staff.

She was shown xylographs, manuscripts and other art objects of the Institute. The President presented her the complimentary copies of the Publications of the Institute. She had a talk with President and the Director about the possibility of further development of study and research in various fields of Buddhism and Tibetology. She expressed her satisfaction over the good work done by this Institute and wrote her commendatory comment in the VIP Book.

#### THE SAD PASSING OF HIS HOLINESS THE GYALWA KARMAPA RANGJUNG RIGPE DORJE, 16th INCARNATE

It is with the greatest sense of sorrow, grief and distress that we record the sad death of His Holiness Gyalwa Karmapa, the 16th incarnated Lama of Rumtek which occurred at Chicago on 6th November, 1981.

A dearly beloved figure as saintly as he was of good cheer, our Governor (President) had become deeply attached to His Holiness whom he had visited several times at Rumtek.

The Governor and Chief Minister immediately sent condolence messages. The Government of India, the State Government extended all possible assistance in transport of the body from Chicago in U.S.A. to Rumtek in Sikkim, India.

Recently His Holiness had come to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology to present 103 volumes of ancient Buddhist manuscript when a grand function was held to welcome him.

His passing is a great loss to Sikkim, the rest of India and to humanity at large as he preached and practised the precept of pristine purity of purpose in thought, word and deed. He was greatly respected by our President, Prime Minister and other leaders,

who all sent messages of deep condolence and heartfelt sympathy. The Prime Minister has donated three acres of land in Delhi for his shrine.

How beloved he was in the Heavens was manifested by a phenomenon at the time of his last Rites during his funeral on the 49th Day after his death on 20th December, at Rumtek.

In a clear blue sky a rainbow appeared just at the time the prayers were about to start and again when the funeral pyre was lit for the cremation. A rainbow never appears except in an overcast clouded sky heralding rain. This was thus an extraordinary occurrence.

Yet one more phenomenon was that while the body was being consumed by flames, the heart of His Holiness fell down unscathed by the flames. It is now being preserved in a casket at the Monastery.

Thousands of mourners had gathered at Rumtek for many days including many from foreign countries.

The XVI Gyalwa Karmapa Rang-Byung-Rig-Pai-rDor-rje was born in 1924 at Derge (sDe-dge) in Eastern Tibet. As with all the previous Karmapas, he was discovered through a letter left by his predecessor predicting the place and time of birth of his next incarnation. From his very boyhood he displayed immense natural insight and received the complete meditational training prescribed for Karma Kagyu. His Holiness was one of the first to see clearly the implication of the Chinese movements in Tibet. He escaped to India through Bhutan in 1958 bringing with him large number of followers along with many precious ritual objects and valuable texts.

In 1962 at the invitation of the Royal family of Sikkim he founded Dharma Chakra Vihara, at Rumtek near Gangtok, Sikkim, present seat of the late Holiness.

In Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim apart, His Holiness had established more than hundred religious centres in various parts of the world.

H.H. devoted his whole life and much of his thought and valuable time like a Kalyanāmitra Bodhisattva to propagate Lord Buddha's message of loving kindness to all sentient beings for achieving peace and happiness among mankind on this earth.

It may be recalled in this context, that H.H. had presented a complete set of Tibetan Canonical Literature Kanjur (bKah-hgyur, Derge Edition), consisting of 103 volumes as also 45 other valuable Tantric texts to Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology on 24th February, 1981. He also promised to present a complete set of Tanjur (bstan-hgyur, Derge Edition) to the Institute.

His Holiness used to take great interest in the affairs of this Institute.

H. H. had been suffering seriously for a long time and at the advice of his physician was taken abroad for proper treatment. But unfortunately, despite all possible medical treatment, he passed away in Chicago (U.S.A.) at 8 A.M. on 6th November, 1981. Immediately on receipt of this sad news the Institute sent a telegram expressing profound sense of grief at the passing away of His Holiness.

The President ; SRIT., Director and the staff of SRIT offered Khadas (scarves) as a mark of respect to His memory to the mortal remains of His Holiness when it arrived at Libing Helipad at 1.30 P.M. on 10th November, 1981.

#### **OBSERVANCE OF LHABAB THUCHEN FESTIVAL**

Lha-babs-dus-chen (Lord Buddha's descent from the heaven) is one of the great festivals of Buddhists all over the world of Buddhism. With great pomp and grandeur it is also observed here in all the monasteries where Lamas and devout Buddhist offer butter lamps, incenses and khadas (scarves) to the deities therein.

The Pali texts like the Atthasalini, Sammohavinodini and Manorathapurani, etc. recorded that Lord Buddha first preached the Abhidhamma to the Tavatimsa gods (heaven of thirty-three gods), while living among them on the Pandukambala rock at the foot of Paricchattaka tree in the Tavatimsa heaven during his visit to his mother Mahamaya Devi.

On 18th November 1981 the Lamas and other staff members also observed this Festival in our Tibetan Library hall on the first floor of the Institute by chanting prayers, offering khadas (scarves) and burning butter lamps etc. Several Buddhist devotees also attended the ceremonial function.

#### VAJRACARYA CHOJE TRUNGPA RINPOCHE'S VISIT TO SRIT

Venerable Surmang Choje Trungpa Rinpoche, the founder and Vajracarya (spiritual leader) of Naropa Institute in Colorado USA., paid a visit to Sikkim Research Institute, Gangtok along with his several disciples from USA on 7th December, 1981.

Venerable Rinpoche was received by Dr. A.C. Banerjee, Director : SRIT and Yarpa T.S. Gyaltsen and other members of the SRIT staff.

Thereafter, he was taken round the Institute by the Director : SRIT, Yarpa T.S. Gyaltsen and others. He took keen interest in the collections of antique objects and made a few suggestions for the improvement of this institute.

#### *SRIT MEMBERSHIP DRIVE :*

During this quarter (October-December 1981), our membership drive had produced good results. So far 36 persons have become members of the Institutes. Their names have been published in the Third quarterly of the Bulletin of the Institute. Below are given the names of new members in different categories.



<i>Name</i>	<i>Category</i>
1) Miss Premlata Puri, Director, Centre for Cultural Resources and Training, Room No. 22, Bahawalpur House, Bhagwandas Road, New Delhi-110 001.	Institutional
2) Shri A. N. Dhawan, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, Feroz Shah Road, New Delhi-110 001.	Institutional
3) Shri Budhiman Tamang, Asst. Engineer, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Gangtok.	Ordinary
4) Shri Kailash Prasad, Business Proprietor, M/S Ramdasram Ramphalram, M. G. Marg, Gangtok-737 101.	..
5) Mr. Jayk Longacare, Fund Raising Consultant, 424 Central Avenue, San Francisco, CA-94117. USA.	..

During the period under review the Institute was visited by—  
people including from various countries abroad like.

DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO THE SRIT  
( OCTOBER - DECEMBER 1981 )

During this period many distinguished persons visited the Institute of Tibetology. Here are given their names along with their observations :-

Shri A. P. Sharma, Minister of Tourism and Civil Aviation Govt. of India on 2.10.81 ; Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherji, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, University of Calcutta on 10.10.81 ; Shri S. C. Pratap, Judge, High Court, Bombay, 20.10.81 ; His Holiness the XIVth Dalai Lama on 21.10.81 ; Mr. Mohammad Amin, Transport Minister of West Bengal on 22.10.81 ; Shrimati Sheila Kaul, Union Minister of State for Education on 23.10.81 ; Shri Ram S. Tarneja, Managing Director 'The Times of India Publications', Bombay on 6.11.81 ; Shri Lalo Chibber, Shri Lama Lobzang, Shri L. R. Naik, members of the High Power Panel on Minorities, Scheduled Caste, Scheduled Tribes, Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India on 16.11.81 ; Shri A. N. Dhawan, Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi, Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi on 18.11.81 ; G.V.G. Krishnamurty, Additional Legal Adviser and Arbitrator, Govt. of India, New Delhi on 28.11.81 ; T.R. Sharma, PA/Speaker, Punjab accompanying the MLA's on 1.12.81 ; Vajracarya Choje Trungpa Rinpoche (Spiritual leader), Naropa Institute in Colorado, USA on 7.12.81 ; Shri P. N. Chopra, Editor, Indian Gazetteers, Chief Editor Who's who Indian Martyrs, New Delhi on 18.12.81 ; Shri S. P. Malhotra, GOC-in-Chief, Northern Command on 18.12.81 ; Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, MLA Chairman, Estimates Committee, Himachal Vidhan Sabha, Simla. Along with 7 MLA's on 19.12.81 ; Shri B. B. Lal, former Governor of Sikkim on 21.12.81.

## OPINIONS OF THE DISTINGUISHED VISITORS TO SRITOB'S

**UNION MINISTER SHRI A. P. SHARMA**

This is a few rare collections that I have seen. I am sure they will be very useful for understanding and knowing the Buddhist Culture.

Sd/- A. P. SHARMA  
Minister of Tourism & Civil Aviation,  
Govt. of India.  
2.10.81

**Dr. SUSHIL KUMAR MUKHERJI**

This is a fantastic collection and a paradise for research workers. The devotion of the authorities of the Institute is highly laudable.

Sd/- Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherji,  
Ex-Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta,  
Calcutta.  
10. 0.81

**Mr. JUSTICE S. C. PRATAP**

Visit here has been an interesting as also an exhilarating experience! This Institute has one of the world's best collection of distilled wisdom in the field of Buddhism, study, mastery and practise whereof may as well take one swiftly and certainly to the ultimate realisation ; Nirvana.

The aims and ideals governing this Institution transcend all materialism and embody the eternal values of life. May the great Buddha bless this Institution with great and outstanding success. And may His message spread far and wide through all those so sincerely and devotedly working here.

A visit here will never be forgotten. I personally will always remember it.

My pronams to all doing the great and ennobling work here.

Sd/- S. C. Pratap  
Judge, High Court, Bombay.  
20th October 1981.

His Holiness THE DALAI LAMA

I wish and pray that many sentient beings may obtain vision of new wisdom through this Institute and develop compassion, loving kindness and most benevolent wish towards other beings.

Shakya Bhikshu,  
Dalai Lama Tenzing Gyatso,  
21.10.1981.

Mr. Md. AMIN, Transport Minister, West Bengal.

I am very happy to visit the Institute of Tibetology which has very ancient things and very fine paintings. The Institution is well maintained and kept clean.

Sd/- Mohammed Amin,  
Transport Minister of West Bengal,  
22.10.1981.

Union Education Minister Mrs. SHEILA KAUL,

One must not leave Gangtok without visiting this Research Institute of Tibetology where ancient manuscripts are kept. It shows the nearness of Sanskrit and Tibetan & the influence of one on the other. I am happy I came here.

Sd/- Sheila Kaul,  
Union Minister of State for Education,  
Government of India  
23.10.1981.

Times Managing Director SHRI RAM TARNEJA

A well managed Institute depicting the rarest of material specially manuscripts on Tibet. A delight to meet a dedicated Director and staff who make the Institute lively and interesting.

An excellent place for learning and knowing about our ancestral traditions in this remote part of our country so close to the borders of China—one of the countries influenced by Buddhism born in India.

Sd/- Ram Tarneja,  
Times Managing Director,  
November 6, 1981.

SHRI LALOO CHIBBER

At the instance of H. E. the Governor of Sikkim Shri Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan we visited the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology and we were fortunate enough to enter into the realm of Tibetology and all its stand for. No doubt the founders of the Institute have rendered a yeoman service to humanity by creating an opportunity for scholars drawn from all over the world to know the ancient civilisation created, preserved and maintained by Lord Buddha.

No doubt the Institute has to carry on further research in this respect and help the world for its mobilisation more so at the present juncture when there is race between high powers to destroy the world and ancient civilisation like what we witness in this Research Institute. We are extremely grateful to Dr. Banerjee a renowned scholar for enhancing all that we ever grasp about Tibetology.

Sd/- Laloo Chibber,  
2. Lama Lobzang  
3. L. R. Naik

Leader and Members of the High Power Panel  
on Minorities, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled  
Tribes, Ministry of Home Affairs,  
Govt. of India, New Delhi.

SHRI A. N. DHAWAN

Quite a fruitful and educative visit through which I have learnt a good deal about the work done here. This is not my first visit. Everytime I come I see & learn more. Good wishes.

Sd/- A. N. Dhawan,  
Secretary, Sangeet Natak Akademi,  
Rabindra Bhavan, New Delhi,  
18.11.1981.

SHRI B. S. WALIA

We have enjoyed our visit to this Institute. It is a rare Institute which one should not miss. We have learnt a lot about Tibetan literature from here. We wish a nice future for this Institute.

Sd/- B. S. Walia,  
Punjab Vidhan Sabha, Chandigarh.  
27.11.81.

SHRI G. V. G. KRISHNAMURTY

I am extremely happy to visit this Institute which is preserving the richness of Tibetology and providing an opportunity for visitors to be enlightened. I consider this a real privilege to be here. The work undertaken here is of very great value to the scholars not only of India but other countries in the world who are interested and devoted to Buddhistic Studies. I wish all success for all the efforts here.

Sd/- G.V.G. Krishnamurty,  
Additional Legal Adviser &  
Arbitrator, Govt. of India  
New Delhi.  
28.11.1981.

SHRI T. R. SHARMA

We have visited the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology, Sikkim and have learnt much regarding the ancient Buddhist literature

and belief. The staff of the Institute has been very helpful in explaining various aspects of the Institute. We appreciated their behaviour and devotion to duty. We have learnt much about the Dalai Lama and His visit to Sikkim and finally the take over of Tibet by the Chinese. Our ancient heritage has been preserved in a fine way.

Sd/- T. R. Sharma  
For Speaker, Punjab Legislative Assembly  
Accompanying the MLA's.  
1.12.81.

**VAJRACARYA CHOJE TRUNGPA RINPOCHE**

Searching happiness begets misery,  
Truth (Dhamma) has no suffering,  
There may be an incarnation like shining sun  
(It) May destroy the obstacles of Barbarians,  
By deeds of Karmapa, we have no danger of evils/ignorance.

Vajracarya, Choje Trungpa Rinpochee  
Spiritual teacher Naropa Institutue  
in Colorado, USA.  
7.12.81.

**Dr. P. N. CHOPRA**

It was really a privilege and pleasure to visit the Tibetan Institute which is a treasure house of rare manuscripts and books. Dr. Banerjee is really a great asset and I am sure under his dynamic leadership the Institute will make progress and celebrate its Jubilee Celebration.

Sd/- P. N. Chopra,  
Editor, Indian Gazetteers,  
Chief Editor, Who's Who Indian Martyrs.  
New Delhi.  
18.12.81

**SHRI S. P. MALHOTRA**

I am so very glad to have been able to visit this prestigious

Institute. The time spent here has been most educative and enlightening.

Sd/- S. P. Malhotra,  
GOC-in-Chief, Northern Command,  
18 December '81.

**SHRI KAUL SINGH THAKUR**

The Committee on Estimates of Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha visited Tibetan Institute and was much impressed by the collection and the manner in which arranged. The Tibetan preaching and teaching are very rich. The Director and his staff deserve the appreciations of my Committee.

Sd/- Kaul Singh Thakur, MLA,  
Chairman Estimates Committee,  
Himachal Vidhan Sabha, Simla.  
(along with 7 M.L.A's.)  
19.12.81.

**SHRI B. B. LAL**

I was delighted to have the opportunity to visit the Sikkim Research Institute of Tibetology again today. The very valuable collection of books and ancient Buddhist literature which the Institute has, is being looked after very well and I was glad to see that is being put to good use. There are plans to expand the activities of the Institute for the success of which the Institute has my best wishes.

Sd/- B. B. Lal,  
Former Governor of Sikkim,  
21.12.81.