

ORGANISED BY



WITH



DR. AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



Indian
Council of
World Affairs

Deshkal Society

with **Dr. Ambedkar International Centre**

in association with **Indian Council of World Affairs**

presents



7th Edition Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues 2025

DATES

**29th & 30th
March 2025**

VENUE

**Dr. Ambedkar
International
Centre,
New Delhi**



ASSOCIATE PARTNERS



इन्दिरा गान्धी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
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MEDIA PARTNER





The Dialogues that
create a platform
for expression of
experiences, reflections
and insights from
plural perspectives
connecting heritage,
education and
sustainability for
building a future on
the foundations of
the Buddha's legacy
on enlightenment and
compassion.

A MOSAIC OF PARALLEL EVENTS

Plenary Sessions, Panel Discussions,
Talks, Film Show and Cultural Evening

PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

SATURDAY 29TH MARCH 2025

REGISTRATION | 9:00 AM–10:00 AM

INAUGURAL SESSION | 10:00 AM–12:00 PM

VENUE | NALANDA AUDITORIUM, DR. AMBEDKAR
INTERNATIONAL CENTRE DAIC, NEW DELHI

SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION

Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues

CHAIR | Dr. Sekhar Dutt, Former Governor and Author, Chhattisgarh

MODERATOR | Dr. Shruti, Author, Translator & Research Scholar,
University of Delhi

WELCOME SPEECH | Shri Akash Patil, Director, Dr. Ambedkar
International Centre, New Delhi

CONTEXT | Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society, Noida

GUESTS OF HONOUR |

H.E. Major General Vetsop Namgyel, Ambassador, Royal Bhutanese
Embassy, New Delhi

Dr. D. M. Mulay, Author, Diplomat and Former Secretary,
Government of India

Ambassador Sanjay Kumar Verma, Chairperson, Research and
Information System for Developing Countries RIS, New Delhi

Shri Arvind Mohan, Author, Journalist and President,
Deshkal Society, Noida

REMARKS BY THE CHAIR

VOTE OF THANKS |

Dr. Arjit Walia, Educationist and Founder of Co-Scholastic

TEA BREAK | 12:00 PM–12:30 PM

SESSION 1

12:30 PM–01:30 PM

THEME |

Buddhist Philosophy and the Teaching of Buddhism

CHAIR | Dr. Kusum Kumari, Retired Pro VC, Munger University

Dr. Ashwini Kumar, Professor, School of Development Studies,
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

Buddha's Fire Sermon; Monuments, Metaphors and Memories

Dr. Snigdha Singh, Professor, Department of History, Miranda House,
University of Delhi, Delhi

***Empowerment, Ambivalence, and Resistance: Renegotiating Gender
Dynamics in Buddhist Jataka Narratives***

Dr. Rituparna Ghosh, Assistant Professor in the Pali and Buddhist
Studies Department at Dhamma Dipa International Buddhist
University, Tripura

LUNCH | 01:30 PM–02:30 PM

SESSION 2

02.30 PM–03.30 PM

THEME |

Envisioning the Buddhist Circuits: Locality, Heritage Making and Sustainability

CHAIR | Dr. Pravin Sinha, Development Economist and Member,
World Economic Association, New Delhi

Dr. Arvind K. Mishra, Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New
Delhi

LEAD DISCUSSANT | Dr. Nikhil Raj, Senior Consultant, World Bank,
New Delhi

DISCUSSANT | Dr. Binodanand Jha, Educationist and Former
Director, Department of Education, Government of Bihar

TEA BREAK | 03:30 PM–03:45 PM



SESSION - 3

03:45 PM–05:15 PM

THEME |

Buddhist Monuments, Heritage and Beyond

Dr. Shikha Jain, Conservation Architect and Heritage Expert, and
Founder Director, DRONAH

Conservation and Interpretation of Buddhist Sites: From Monuments to Museums

Dr. Elora Tribedy, Assistant Professor at the School of Historical
Studies, Nalanda University, specializing in Buddhist art, iconography,
and archaeology

***Beyond Monuments: Sustaining Heritage through Community in India
and Indonesia***

Dr. Abhishek Amar, Associate Professor, Hamilton College, New York
Archiving the Heritage of Gaya: A Digital Database of a Sacred City

MODERATOR | Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha, Independent
Researcher and Author and Publishing Director, Routledge
(South Asia)

CULTURAL EVENING

05:30 PM–06:30 PM

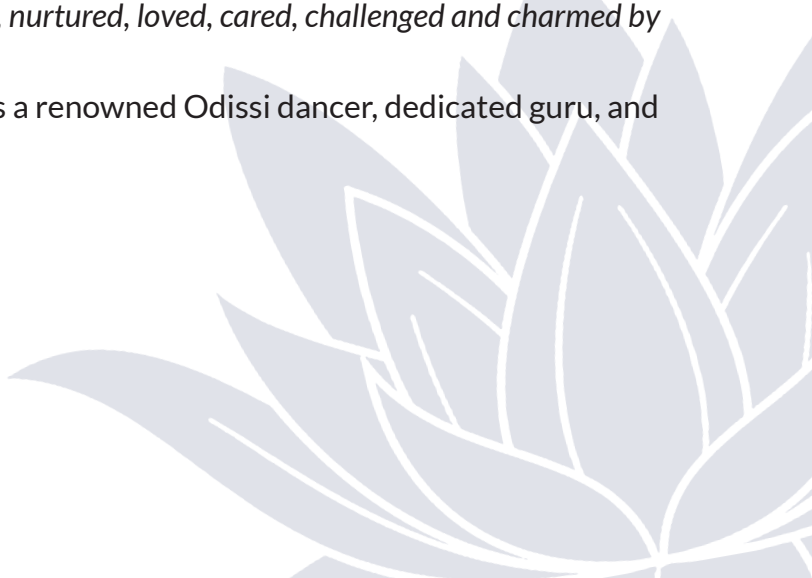
Buddha's Life Journey

A performance by Kavita Dwibedi

WELCOME | Shri Akash Patil, Director, Dr. Ambedkar International
Centre, New Delhi

The performance 'Shweta Mukti' will showcase the life of the Buddha. Shweta Mukti is an intense search, a gripping journey in to the compassionate world of womanhood. This is a story of women, who were dazzled with the aura of illumination and self-realization. Buddha, the supreme soul of enlightenment and greatest torch bearer of liberation for humanity is conceived, nurtured, loved, cared, challenged and charmed by these women.

Ms. Kavita Dwibedi is a renowned Odissi dancer, dedicated guru, and cultural ambassador.





SUNDAY 30TH MARCH 2025

SPECIAL SESSION

10:00 AM–12:00 PM

THEME |

India-Vietnam Relations: Exploring and Building on the Buddhism Connect and Emerging Area of Cooperation

CHAIR | Shri Ranjit Rae, Author and Former Indian Ambassador to Hungary, Vietnam, and Nepal

MODERATOR | Shri Sanjeev Kumar, Professor of Political Science at Zakir Husain Delhi College, University of Delhi

CHIEF GUEST | H.E. Shri Nguyen Thanh Hai Ambassador, Embassy of Vietnam, New Delhi

SPEAKERS |

Dr. Baladas Ghoshal, Former Professor of Southeast Asia and South-West Pacific Studies and Chairman of the Centre for South and Southeast Asian Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University
Vietnam's place in India's Civilizational interactions, People-to-People relations, strategic and Geo-political Outlook

Dr. Thich Hanh Chanh, Independent Scholar specializing in Buddhism
Cultural Diplomacy and Soft Power: The Role of Buddhist Heritage in Strengthening India-Vietnam Relations

Dr. Dhruvajyoti Bhattacharjee, Research Fellow at the Indian Council of World Affairs ICWA
Bringing Buddhism Back as a Pillar of India's Diplomatic Culture: Forging New Avenues of Cooperation

Dr. Sonu Trivedi
Associate Professor, Zakir Husain College, University of Delhi
India-Vietnam: Intersections of History, Culture, and Buddhist Traditions

FILM SCREENING

12:00 PM–12:30 PM

Sacred Buddhist Dance

Director: Benoy K. Behl

Film Duration: 24 minutes

The film delves into Buddhist spiritual dance traditions, revealing their symbolism, meditative essence, and historical significance, showcasing rare footage and narration that highlights devotion, mindfulness, and cultural continuity across monastic traditions.

Shri Benoy K. Behl is an acclaimed film-maker, art-historian and photographer.

LUNCH | 12:30 PM–01:30 PM



SESSION 2

01.30 PM–02.30 PM

BOOK DISCUSSION |

The Kalacakra Tantra: Translation, Annotation and Commentary

Shri Neeraj Kumar, Author, Translator and Joint Secretary, DoNER,
Government of India

with

Prof. Madhu Khanna, Founder, Tantra Foundation, New Delhi,
Adele Tomlin, Writer, Buddhist Scholar-Translator, Poet and Teacher,
and Dr. Abira Bhattacharya, Assistant Curator, Department of
Anthropology, National Museum, Delhi

CONVERSATION |

02:30 PM–03:30 PM

Traveling in the Footsteps of Buddha

Ms. Sunita Dwivedi, Silk Road Traveller and Author, New Delhi

with

Shri Uday Sahay, Author and Chairman SAUV Communications,
New Delhi

TEA BREAK | 03:30 PM–03:45 PM

VALEDICTORY SESSION

03:45 PM Onwards

THEME |

**Buddha and Dr. Ambedkar: Questions of
Human Liberation**

INTRODUCTION OF THEME | Dr. Manindra Nath Thakur,
Associate Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

VALEDICTORY ADDRESS | Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President,
Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts IGNCA, New Delhi

GUEST OF HONOUR | Shri Sasmit Patra, Hon'ble Member,
Rajya Sabha

WAY FORWARD AND RECOMMENDATIONS | Shri Sanjay Kumar,
Secretary, Deshkal Society, Noida

VOTE OF THANKS | Dr. Shruti, Author, Translator & Research
Scholar, University of Delhi

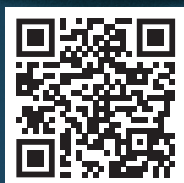


Deshkal Society aims to provide dignity, equity, and justice through improving access to quality elementary education, entitlements for habitats and heritage, secure livelihoods and dignified existence. Since 1995 it has been working towards this aim by bringing together knowledge and practice in Bodh Gaya region in particular and at national level in general.

DESHKAL SOCIETY Knowledge with Practice

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