



**PRESENTATION ON
BODH GAYA
GLOBAL DIALOGUES
REFLECTIONS & INSIGHTS
2024**

16-17 March 2024
Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar

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BODH GAYA GLOBAL DIALOGUES

on

Landscape of Enlightenment

BODH GAYA | RAJGIR | NALANDA

REFLECTIONS & INSIGHTS

16-17 March 2024

Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar

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BODH GAYA GLOBAL DIALOGUES
LANDSCAPE OF ENLIGHTENMENT
BODH GAYA | RAJGIR | NALANDA
16–17 March 2024
Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar



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**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.**

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Co-Travelers



DEEPEST GRATITUDE TO

Chairpersons
Moderators
and
Panelists

INDEBTED TO

Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi

GRATITUDE TO

Shekhar Dutt, Author and Former Governor, Chhattisgarh
T.C.A. Raghavan, Director General, ICWA, New Delhi
Venerable Geshe Dorji Damdul, Director, Tibet House, New Delhi

GRATEFUL TO

Abhishek Amar, Associate Professor, Hamilton College, New York
Avinash Kumar, Director, Program and Policy, WaterAid India, New Delhi
Abhijit Dixit, Research Officer, Kalakosa Division, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
Amarendra Kumar, Director & Country Head, WINOA Abrasives India Pvt. Ltd., New Delhi
Ajay K. Mishra, Assistant Professor, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
Anirban Dasgupta, Assistant Manager, Corporate Communications, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, New Delhi
Brajesh Jha, Editor, Navotthan, Noida
Hira Paul Gangnegi, Former Professor, Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi
Jai Prakash, Programme Director, Deshkal Society, Delhi
Kali Krishna M., Executive Director, Corporate Communications, Indian Oil Corporation Limited, New Delhi
Lt. Col. R.A. Rangnekar, Retd., Director (Admin), Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
Manish Sinha, DG, National Institute of Communications Finance, New Delhi
Manish Kumar Chaudhary, Assistant Professor, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi
Raman V.R., Head of Policy, WaterAid India, New Delhi
Rajeshwar Singh, National Coordinator, Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, Bodh Gaya
Richa Sharma, Programme Officer, Deshkal Society, Delhi
Rahul Ghai, Associate Professor, The Indian Institute of Health Management Research, University, Jaipur
Rai Madan Kishor, Former Special Secretary, Government of Bihar, Patna
Savita Roy, Principal, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi
Sumita Chakravorty, Assistant Professor, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, Delhi
Sudhirendar Sharma, Lead Consultant, World Bank, New Delhi
Sushmita Dutt, Educationist and Research Consultant, New Delhi
Uday Sahay, Author, Chairman & Director, SAUV Communications, New Delhi
Vinay Aditya, National Vice President, Indian Council of Astrological Sciences, New Delhi

SPECIAL REGARDS TO

Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi
 Ashwini Kumar, Professor, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai
 Abhay Nath Das, Advocate, Delhi High Court, New Delhi
 Arvind Mohan, Author and Journalist, New Delhi
 Ajeet Kumar Dwivedi, Journalist, New Delhi
 Ashish Ranjan, Advocate and Educationist, Delhi
 D.M. Mulay, Member, National Human Rights Commission of India, New Delhi
 Capt. Jiveshwar Singh, Chief Manager (Retd.), Punjab National Bank, Delhi
 Mathura Prasad Yadav, Managing Director, Manak Publications, New Delhi
 Neeraj Kumar, Honorable Minister, Information and Public Relations Department, Government of Bihar
 Nikhil Raj, Director, Technical Assistance and Research for Indian Nutrition and Agriculture, New Delhi
 P.R. Dwyer, General Convener, International Centre for Peace Studies, Bodh Gaya
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 Ramakant Mishra, Assistant Professor, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
 Rajesh K. Mishra, Managing Director, Atulya Enterprises, New Delhi
 Sanjay Sudhir, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas
 Sadhna Shankar, Principal Commissioner Income Tax, New Delhi
 Saurabh Kumar, Strategy and Marketing, Consultant, Delhi
 Saklecha Sinha, Physician, Patna
 Vikas Singh, President, Supreme Court Bar Association, New Delhi

SPECIAL THANKS FOR

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 Aradhana Tiwari, Research Scholar, Jawahar Lal Nehru University, New Delhi
 Harish Kumar, Secretary, Kashiram Welfare Foundation, Delhi
 Harsh Singh, Young Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi
 Lalit Kumar, Organizing Secretary, Kashiram Welfare Foundation, Delhi
 Pranav Khullar, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, GOI, New Delhi
 Ravi Kant Chopra, IDES (Retd.), Former Director General Defense Estates
 and presently, CEO, Delhi & District Cricket Association, New Delhi
 Radha Banerjee Sarkar, Associate Professor and Head of East Asian Programme,
 Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, New Delhi
 Saurabh Kumar, Program Officer, Kanshiram Welfare Foundation, Delhi
 Shaibal Gupta, Member Secretary, Asian Development Research Institute, Patna
 Yashwant Parashar, Art and Culture Aficionado, Muzaffarpur

SPECIAL APPRECIATION FOR

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 Brijender S. Dua, Grafiniti, New Delhi
 Shailesh Mishra, School ERP, New Delhi
 Yashwant Rawat, Print Force, New Delhi

Editor's Note

Bodh Gaya is spelt in various ways, including Bodhgaya, Buddha Gaya, Buddh-Gaya, and Bodh Gya (Geary, 2018). For maintaining the standardization, Bodh Gaya has been used throughout this report while retaining Bodhgaya as and when that appears in the name of the institutions and the presentations.



Executive Summary

BACKGROUND

The 6th Edition of the Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues (BGDs) was organised by **Deshkal Society** in collaboration with **Nalanda University**, and in association with **Indian Council of World Affairs** and **Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts** with the goal of encouraging informed dialogues on multiple themes focusing on **Landscape of Enlightenment: Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda** which is scheduled on 16th and 17th March at Nālandā University, Rajgir, Bihar. Hon'ble Governor of Bihar, Shri Rajendra Arlekar, inaugurated the dialogues in the Landscape of enlightenment. The 6th edition of the Dialogues followed in continuation with the first and second, third, fourth and fifth editions held in the years of 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022 and 2023. The reports of these dialogues are available at <http://deshkalindia.com/images/Consultative-Workshop.pdf>

GOAL AND OBJECTIVES

The Goal of the Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues is to 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 Buddha's legacy on enlightenment and compassion.

In order to move forward to attain the desired goals, following specific objectives were articulated in the consultative process with the key representatives of the multiple stakeholders of the Dialogues:

- Broaden and enrich knowledge through scholarship and deliberations amidst academicians, researchers, travellers and policy makers.
- Enrich relationship between Magadh region and South East Asian nations to strengthen historical and cross-cultural exchanges.

THEMES AND PARTICIPANTS

The 6th edition of the Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, under the theme "**Landscape of Enlightenment: Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda,**" featured diverse range of topics that expanded through various aspects such as religion, art, archaeology, and heritage. The specific themes for this edition were:

1. **Archaeology, History, and Art of the Magadh Region.** This theme explored the rich cultural heritage and historical significance of the Magadh region, which played a crucial role in the development of Buddhism and Sanatan Dharma.
2. **Dharma, Democracy, and Indian Diplomacy.** This theme delved into the intersection of spirituality, governance, and diplomacy, discussing how these principles have shaped India's historical and contemporary engagements with the world.
3. **Special Session on India and South Korea.** This session focused on the growing relationship between India and South Korea, particularly in the context of Buddhism.
4. **Understanding Multiple Buddhism(s): Philosophy and Teachings.** This theme aimed to explore the diverse schools of Buddhist thought and their teachings, highlighting the richness of Buddhism.
5. **Envisioning Magadh Region: Locality, Heritage Making, and Sustainability.** This theme discussed the importance of preserving and promoting the cultural and historical heritage of the Magadh region while ensuring its sustainable development.

- 6. Destination Branding and Marketing: Buddhist Tourism.** This theme explored strategies for promoting and marketing Buddhist tourism in the region, focusing on the potential economic benefits and cultural exchange opportunities.

The dialogues were attended by scholars, monks, artists, development practitioners and policy-makers. In continuation to the previous editions of the dialogues, the 6th edition succeeded in bringing together multiple stakeholders, public and private, including international agencies and embassies. The format of the Dialogues adopted both offline and online modes and this hybrid format extended the visibility of the Dialogues to a larger audience within India and the abroad through Google Meet, YouTube and Facebook Live: <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLXcewNeg8N7oOIQkw4zV6xb5RXmFA21Bk>

BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE DELIBERATIONS

The main focus of the deliberations revolved around seeking deeper understanding and exchanges in order to build a constituency of practices that bring fresh dimensions in capturing enlightenment as the new leitmotif with special focus on Bodh Gaya, Rajgir and Nalanda. This was manifested in wide range of presentations on the diverse themes that provided a comprehensive understanding of the historical, cultural, and spiritual significance of Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda, and their connection to both Buddhism and Sanatan Dharma including deliberations on Spiritual Tourism and the Changing Economic Landscape of Bodh Gaya, Knowing, Deciphering, Communicating a Multilayered World: The Magadh Region, The Tibetans at Bodh Gaya, The revitalization of the sacred footsteps of the Buddha in Magadh, Sustainability and Well-being: Socio-psychological Perspective. Another important session on Destination Branding and Marketing: Buddhist Tourism highlighted the potential of Buddhist tourism, emphasizing the significance of branding and marketing strategies.

The special session **Strengthening Relationship between India and South Korea through Buddhism and Bodh Gaya** brought attention to the historical relationship between India and Korea, particularly in the context of Buddhism. This relationship dates back to centuries before the official diplomatic ties were established in 1973, highlighting the deep cultural and spiritual connections between the two countries.

Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi presented on the Vision of Indian Council of World Affairs: Exploring India-South Korea relations through Buddhism is part of India's religious diplomacy and a tool to promote soft power. It is to be noted that in spite of local opposition, South Korea adopted Buddhism as the state religion as early as the fourth century. To quote Ambassador P. Stobdan, Buddhism was India's geopolitical tool in the ancient times and can still be employed to meet the challenges of the new millennium.

Further, India has been connecting with the world through Buddhism, and Tathagat Buddha was a diplomat of peace himself. Buddhist monks spread the teachings of Buddha in various parts of Asia.

In 1952, India organized an International Buddhist Conference in Sanchi attended by over 3,000 delegates from around the world. In more recent times, in 2016, the 15th International Buddhist Conclave was organized in Varanasi by the Indian Tourism Ministry with participants from 39 countries. Buddhist diplomacy is very much aligned with the Panchamrit pillars of Indian foreign policy. Out of the five focus areas of Samman, Samvad, Samridhi, Suraksha and Sanskriti Ewam Sabhyata, approaching neighboring countries with the ideals of Buddhism resonates with the last one. Buddhism is at the heart of India's diplomacy and to that end PM Modi proclaimed in 2015 that India would like to develop Bodh Gaya so that it can become the spiritual capital and civilizational bond between India and the Buddhist world.

Academic Institutions, universities and think tanks play an important role in propagating ideals of the Indian foreign policy and being funded by the Ministry of External Affairs, ICWA envisions to promote the study of Indian and International Affairs so as to develop a body of informed opinion on international matters. It also arranges conferences and seminars to discuss and study Indian Policy towards international affairs. Established in 1943 by a group of eminent scholars led by Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru, ICWA conducts policy research through an in-house faculty as well as external experts. It has MoUs with national and international think tanks, research institutions, and universities to promote better understanding

of international issues and develop areas of mutual cooperation. As part of the outreach activities, ICWA provides grants for book projects as well as conference grants to support national/international seminars and conferences by recognized universities on themes of international relations and foreign policy.

She thanked Deshkal Society for organizing the 6th Edition of Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues 2024 and recognizing the significance of Buddhism in promoting India-South Korea relations as the two countries completed 50 years of diplomatic ties in 2023.

Prof. (Retd.) Vyjayanti Raghavan, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi presentation on India-Korea: Before and Beyond 1973: The 21st century has seen new dimensions in India-Korea relations. There has been a manifold increase not just in the economic interface between the two, but also in many other spheres. The official diplomatic relations between the two started in the early 1970s, and the economic relationship received its true impetus after the signing of the Comprehensive Economic Partnership Agreement (CEPA) in 2009, but their historical and cultural linkages date back to 2000 years ago. However, it has been this century that has seen a real boost in their relations, not only in commerce but also in areas like education, culture, maritime security, marine and space technology, and other non-traditional areas like skill-development, sports training etc. All of this has also resulted in a multifold increase in the people-to-people exchanges and tourism between the two countries.

In the current Asian geopolitical and geo-economic situation, the interests of the two extend beyond their own boundaries. They also converge in the Indo-Pacific region because of South Korea's 'New Southern Policy' initiative and India's 'Act East Policy'. South Korea, the country, which had been completely devastated in the aftermath of the Korean War (1950-53), is now the tenth largest economy. It is considered as a 'Middle Power' that is extending its role beyond the region and beyond its alliance with the United States. India too as the fifth largest economy is fast becoming an influential global power. With both countries seeking to play the role of a bridge between the developed and the developing countries the question now arises whether they can enhance their 'Special Strategic Partnership' further. In the current transient global order will they be able to jointly harness their potentials for a greater regional and global role and to contributing significantly to making this century the 'Asian Century'?

Prof. Santosh Kumar Ranjan, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi presented on Unveiling Interwoven Histories and Cross-Cultural exchange of *Unsung Cerebral: Exploring the Resilient Bond between British-India and Colonial Joseon*. India and Korea share a deep and enduring connection that defies geographical boundaries. This bond, forged through shared trauma, has its roots in the collective experiences of colonial subjugation, wartime suffering, and the aftermath of Partition. It is further strengthened by the spiritual and cultural heritages that both nations hold dear, with a special emphasis on their mutual reverence for Buddhism. The year 2023 marked the 50th anniversary of the flourishing diplomatic relations between India and the Republic of Korea, a testament to the resilience of this bond.

Beyond the well-known figures like Gandhi and Tagore, lesser-known Indian intellectuals and writers, such as Sadhu Sunder Singh, Guru Charan Singh, Rahul Sankrityan, Hari Singh Gour, and Ramnath Biswas, also played a significant role in this relationship. They traveled to Korea via Japan, documenting their firsthand experiences and observations of colonial Korea and directly engaging with the local milieu. Korean newspapers and magazines extensively covered their activities and narratives, highlighting the importance of their contributions to the cross-cultural exchange between British-India and Colonial Joseon.

His paper delved into the cross-cultural exchange between Colonial Joseon and British-India. To achieve this, the study focuses on British-Indian writings to dissect and elucidate the intricate interaction between these two colonial entities. It is important to note that the researcher has uncovered some British-Indian literatures that shed light on the profound interest Colonial Joseon held among Indian intellectuals and writers.

RECOMMENDATIONS

At the end of the two-day Dialogues, a set of recommendations were made responding to the objectives of the dialogues which is to facilitate knowledge and action frameworks for safeguarding heritage and securing sustainable development. The immediate next step is to bring out a report (print and digital) based on the deliberations and discussions in the dialogues. Session-wise short videos have been already uploaded on YouTube. The report and videos will serve as an effective public platform for disseminating the key messages and outcomes of the dialogue in the public and policy domains. There is an urgent need to set up the Digital Repository on Heritage, Art and Culture in Bodh Gaya and its region. The proposed repository will seek to survey, collate and digitally documentation (history, archaeology, culture etc.) of the site of Bodh Gaya and its region as well as all relevant material from individuals and institutions (including archival museums in India and abroad) and provide access to wider public for awareness generation and knowledge dissemination. There is a need to initiate a pilot project to build the capacity of the teachers in understanding the concept of heritage in all its forms and introduce diverse forms of heritage and history in both classrooms and outside-the-classroom contexts.

Most important task is to explore ways to institutionalize the dialogues by way of creating a strong support on its sustainability through receiving sustained support from the government. The delegates and participants arrived at the conclusion that the key strategy for implementing these recommendations is through a constructive and meaningful engagement with the state, market, and civil society within India and abroad. If this could be possible, this perspective will certainly connect to the realization of the four noble truths of disease, the cause, the cure, and the medicine at the ground level through its practice that emanates from Buddhist philosophical traditions and Buddhist economics. This will serve as an exemplar in true sense for the realization of enlightenment in Bodh Gaya particularly and the world too.





Inaugural Session

The 6th Bodhgaya Global Dialogue, held on **March 16-17, 2024**, was an intellectuals' confluence organized by **Deshkal Society in association with Nalanda University**, reflecting on the profound theme of **'Landscape of Enlightenment- Bodhgaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda'**.

Dr. Rajiv Ranjan Chaturvedi opened the dialogue with a warm welcome to all attendees, emphasizing the historical significance and the transformative power of knowledge inherent in the sites under discussion. He presented two perspectives on education. First is Holistic Education which emphasizes the importance of nurturing individuals into compassionate, empathetic, and morally upright citizens. It advocates for instilling values such as sincerity, integrity, and a sense of service to the nation, encouraging individuals not only to excel academically but also to contribute positively to society. Second is Reformative Education which advocates for stringent measures and reforms aimed at ensuring equality, relevance, and accountability within the educational system. It acknowledges the pressing challenges of excess, affordability, and equity in education while promoting an environment conducive to innovation, critical thinking, and lifelong learning.

He further reinforced the idea that education should not merely focus on academic brilliance; it should also cultivate a sense of social responsibility. He called for empowerment through education, enabling individuals to contribute meaningfully to the nation's progress and prosperity.

Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society and Founder of Bodhgaya Global Dialogues, elaborated on the geographical and cultural significance of the campus, noting its connection to the Chhota Nagpur plateau and its role as a historical and cultural zone of enlightenment. He acknowledged the support from the Deshkal Society and various partner organizations, emphasizing the dialogue's aim to enhance the well-being of people in India and globally.

The dialogue serves as a platform for sharing experiences, reflections, and insights from diverse perspectives, particularly focusing on the interconnectedness of heritage, education, and sustainability inspired by Buddha's teachings.

The dialogue aims to foster scholarship and deliberation among academicians, researchers, travelers, and policymakers, enriching knowledge on various topics related to enlightenment and education.

Another key objective is to strengthen relationships between the Magadh region and Southeast Asian nations, emphasizing historical and cross-cultural relations.

A significant aspect of the dialogue was the exploration of Buddha's teachings, particularly through the lens of the Four Noble Truths:

1. Nature of Suffering
2. Causes of Suffering
3. Cessation of Suffering:
4. Path to Cessation

This thematic exploration was designed to delve into various dimensions of archaeology, history, art, philosophy, and the teachings of Buddhism and Sanatana heritage, all while considering sustainability and enlightenment.

Sh. Arvind Mohan, Chairman, Deshkal Society began by emphasizing that compassion is a distinctive aspect of Indian culture, setting it apart from other societies worldwide. This compassion is rooted in various philosophical and spiritual traditions, including Buddhism.

Shri Mohan noted that, despite Buddha's significant role in shaping the culture, interest in Buddhism had waned over the past century. Buddhism's decline over the past 2,500 years, despite Buddha's prediction that it would last for 5,000 years. He highlighted that 100 years ago, discussions on Buddha and Buddhism were sparse, even though the Bhakti movement included various religious sects, Buddhism was notably absent. One main factor to this decline was fragmentation of Buddhism into various sects and a lack of dialogue with other religious traditions within India and globally, which hindered the evolution of Buddhist thought and practice.

He underscored the necessity of dialogue as a means to foster understanding and collaboration among different religious and philosophical traditions. He stressed that dialogue is crucial for the evolution and revitalization of Buddhism. He proposed that international dialogues should be organized to facilitate better understanding and cooperation among different religious sects.

Mohan ji pointed to the organization's long-standing association with the location where the meeting was held. He referred to reports from the past five years of dialogues organized by the group, which have attracted Buddhist scholars from around the world. These academic engagements have led to a productive exchange of ideas and a churning of thoughts that could guide the revival of Buddhism in India.

Lt Gen. PS Minhas, AVSM, Commandant, Officer Training Academy, Gaya emphasized the importance of the sixth edition of the dialogue, noting that the chosen topic—"the landscape for enlightenment in the land of Enlightenment"—was particularly relevant given the historical and cultural significance of the region.

Minhas highlighted the region is a "repository of a good, bad, perfect, and imperfect past," which necessitates an analysis of historical events to from present actions and future directions. He underscored that military personnel as stakeholders from society, must engage in such dialogues to contribute meaningfully to national discourse.

He acknowledged a moral dilemma in military training: while fostering leaders who value nonviolence, they must also be equipped to defend that very principle through decisive action when necessary.

He stressed the importance of enlightenment not just as a personal attainment but as a collective responsibility.

Minhas encouraged future leaders to engage in a holistic development approach, breaking away from isolated channels of learning to become well-rounded individuals capable of contributing to society.

Dr. Vinita Sahay, Director, IIM Bodhgaya emphasized the potential of the nation's youth. She pointed out that the responsibility for the current state of education lies with educators, rather than external factors like colonial history. She urged a focus on knowledge creation within educational frameworks.

Citing Nalanda's rich heritage, Sahay spoke of India's historical status as an economic superpower and the need to reclaim that legacy. She made connections between modern knowledge workers and the historical contributions of Indian scholars to the global economy.

Emphasizing the importance of education, Sahay articulated that it must encompass socialism with compassion, ensuring that management education evolves to meet contemporary challenges.

She shared insights about the evolution of her institution, highlighting how it shifted its identity to embody a spirit of enlightenment, noting the confidence developed over time that led to the revival of the #enlightening IIM initiative.

Dr. Sahay mentioned that Buddhism, often viewed as a spiritual path, serves as a practical guide for traders and business professionals. This perspective positions Buddhism as a source of wisdom on conducting trade with passion and managing businesses with compassion. The principles derived from Buddhism are seen as foundational to modern business practices, particularly in the context of sustainability and corporate social responsibility.

An open invitation was extended to participants to visit IIM Bodhgaya. The meeting included a request for partnership with Mr. Abhay, indicating a desire for collaboration with external stakeholders to enhance the educational framework and outreach of IIM Bodhgaya. Additionally, an appeal was made to the Governor of Bihar for continued support and encouragement for educators in the region. This underscores the significance of institutional backing in transforming Bihar into a hub of educational excellence.

IIM Bodhgaya plans to enhance its educational initiatives by integrating the principles of sustainability and ethical business practices into its curriculum. This will involve the development of new programs and courses that reflect these values.

The address delivered by **Dr. Gautami Bhattacharya, Superintendent Archaeologist ASI Patna Circle**, was centered around the profound historical and archaeological significance of Nalanda and its connections to Buddhism and Indian heritage. Dr. Bhattacharya emphasized the historical legacy of

Nalanda, Rajgir, and Bodhgaya, noting their connections to Buddha and his disciples. These sites are not merely historical landmarks; they represent a continuum of Buddhist heritage that has shaped the region's identity. Nalanda Mahavihara, in particular, is highlighted as a symbol of pride for the ASI and the nation, reflecting the rich tapestry of India's past.

She also shared the historical narrative of Nalanda Mahavihara, which faced destruction but has seen a resurgence through the establishment of Nalanda University in Rajgir. This university serves as a modern continuation of the ancient legacy, fostering knowledge and scholarship in a region that was once a beacon of learning in the ancient world.

She acknowledged that the archaeological significance of Magadh is vast, and even her own explorations represent just a small portion of its rich history. The landscape itself is steeped in history, and the ASI recognizes the vital role it plays in preserving and promoting this heritage.

As part of her address, Dr. Bhattacharya conveyed the pride and humility felt by the ASI team at the Patna Circle, emphasizing their responsibility as custodians of Nalanda Mahavihara and other important sites. The ASI oversees not only Nalanda Mahavihara but also 70 additional archaeological sites across Bihar, many of which are integral to the Buddhist narrative. Sites such as Vikramshila Mahavihara in Bhagalpur and Kolhua in Vaishali, along with various Ashokan pillars and stupas, form a network of historically significant locations that contribute to the understanding of Buddhism in India.

Dr. Bhattacharya underscored the ASI's commitment to the preservation of this centuries-old legacy, which is viewed as a sacred duty to ensure that future generations inherit a rich cultural heritage. The ASI operates through two primary verticals: the conservation of monuments and archaeological sites and the enhancement of academic credentials. This dual focus aims to foster a deeper understanding of historical contexts while ensuring the physical preservation of these invaluable sites.

Dr. Bhattacharya also mentioned about the Nalanda Museum, which is currently under renovation and is temporarily closed for public access. She encouraged participants to visit the museum once it reopens, highlighting its significance as a repository of artifacts and knowledge related to the region's history.

She expressed hope that the landscape of enlightenment, rooted in the rich history of Nalanda and its surroundings, would inspire attendees to continue pursuing knowledge and advancing their understanding of archaeology and heritage preservation.

Dr. D. M. Mulay, hon'ble Member NHRC began by sharing a personal anecdote from grade 7, where they posed a question to their teacher regarding Buddha's reactions to suffering. Buddha experienced deep emotions upon witnessing illness, aging, and death, which fueled his quest to alleviate suffering. This led to his renunciation of a life of privileges and pursuit of spiritual enlightenment.

Dr. Mulay expressed a realization that enlightenment is a personal journey that cannot be bestowed by others; it is an individual experience that requires introspection and self-discovery. They emphasized that while individual pursuit is vital, it must also be a collective endeavor. In this context, the notion of enlightenment should extend beyond personal growth to encompass the well-being of society as a whole.

He explained that focusing only on material progress without considering human welfare is disturbing. He also emphasized that past civilizations, especially in India, have always aimed to explore deeper truths beyond just material success.

Dr. Mulay mentioned that while Buddhism may seem lost, its core principles are echoed in the Indian Constitution, particularly through the ideals of *Swatantra* (freedom), *Samta* (equality), and *Nyay* (justice). The emblem of Sarnath, which symbolizes peace, tolerance, justice, and faith, is presented as a message of India to the world. This heritage is not merely a relic of the past but a guiding principle for future actions.

The conversation pivoted towards India's potential as a global leader or "*Vishwa Guru*." The speaker emphasized the need for India to guide the world in navigating economic, cultural, and social development, as well as health services. This holistic approach reflects the essence of Indian culture and highlights Buddhism as a significant current within this broader philosophical framework.

He pointed out that today society is at a very dangerous crossroads where social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn, and Twitter create an illusion of connection but actually driven by personal ambitions, greed and pursuit of power. He raised an important question: how can we close this gap and bring people together?

In addressing the divide, the need for organic unity was emphasized. He referred to the American motto "*E pluribus Unum*," which translates to "from many, one," contrasting it with the Indian philosophy of unity in diversity. The essence of this philosophy is that although we express ourselves differently, we are fundamentally united. This perspective positions India as a potential beacon of hope for the world.

It was pointed out that without open conversations, people only see things from one perspective. The importance of following Buddha's teachings was highlighted, which emphasize dialogue and understanding, as a way to promote learning and shared progress.

The discussion ended with a call to focus on the first four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ending poverty, ending hunger, ensuring good health, and providing education for everyone. These goals can be achieved by Buddha's teachings and lead to a better future for humanity.

Prof. Abhay Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University delivered the keynote address highlighting the importance of viewing India's rich past through a comprehensive lens that promotes inclusivity and connectedness.

Prof. Singh emphasized the need to move beyond fragmented historical narratives that often lead to a disjointed understanding of a nation's identity. He articulated that a broader view would enable a more inclusive understanding of the interconnected histories of various cultures and religions in India.

The analogy of blind men touching different parts of an elephant was used to illustrate how limited perspectives can obscure the true nature of a complex reality. He encouraged viewing Buddhism and Hinduism not as separate entities but as parts of a unified cultural and spiritual heritage.

The concept of "*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam*," or "the world is one family," was highlighted as a guiding principle for fostering unity across India's diverse cultural landscape. This philosophy encourages breaking down silos and creating a more expansive vision for understanding India's collective identity.

The interconnectedness of Bodhgaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda as a singular landscape of enlightenment was a central theme. Prof. Singh argued that these sites should not be viewed in isolation but as a collective entity that reflects the evolution of knowledge, spirituality, and culture in India.

Historical references were made to the significance of these locations in the development of religious and philosophical thought, particularly in Buddhism and Jainism.

The transitions between political and spiritual dominance in these areas were discussed, illustrating the dynamic interplay between power and knowledge throughout history.

The interconnectedness of various elements—political, spiritual, and educational—was presented as essential for the sustainability of the overall landscape. Prof. Singh argued that understanding these relationships can provide insights into how communities can thrive collectively.

Chief guest of the meeting **H.E. Sh. Rajendra Arlekar, the Hon'ble Governor of Bihar**, addressed critical themes regarding enlightenment, spirituality, and cultural unity, particularly through the lens of Buddhism and its relation to Hinduism. His insights were drawn from a deep understanding of historical and contemporary contexts, fostering a dialogue that aims to transcend divisions and promote a unified approach to spirituality.

Governor Arlekar emphasized the importance of Nalanda, Rajgir, and Bodhgaya as pivotal sites for enlightenment in India. However, he expressed concern that limiting discussions to these locations might overshadow the broader, universal teachings of Lord Buddha, which resonate throughout the entire country and beyond. He stated that Buddha's teachings are not confined to specific geographic areas and that enlightenment exists in every corner of India.

A central theme of the governor's address was the nature of suffering and the pursuit of salvation. He reflected on the teachings of ancient sages, including the essence of life beyond physical suffering, advocating for a deeper understanding of human experiences and empathy towards others. Arlekar said that true salvation comes from recognizing the suffering of others and striving to alleviate it, rather than pursuing a solely materialistic existence. He drew parallels between the teachings of Lord Buddha and the philosophical insights from the Bhagavad Gita, underscoring a shared journey towards enlightenment.

The governor articulated a vision of unity among Hinduism and Buddhism as both religions are branches of Sanatan Dharma and should not be viewed as separate or competitive. He shared his experiences in Thailand, where he witnessed a harmonious coexistence of various deities from Hindu and Buddhist traditions.

Arlekar reflected on India's historical legacy of non-violence and dialogue. He recounted the philosophical discussions held between Adi Shankaracharya and Mandan Mishra, emphasizing that India has traditionally resolved differences through conversation rather than conflict.

The governor mentioned his meeting with His Holiness the Dalai Lama, who praised India for introducing the concepts of "*karuna*" (compassion) and "*ahimsa*" (non-violence) to the world. These principles are essential for global peace and harmony and emphasized that true non-violence is not passive; it embodies strength and resilience without resorting to aggression.





Dharma, Democracy, and Indian Diplomacy

Prof. **Rajiv Ranjan** commenced the session by welcoming everyone and outlining the focus on the interconnected themes of dharma, democracy, and Indian diplomacy. He briefly explained the relevance of the topic, citing debates among Western think tanks on the decline of democracy and the increasing role of religion—referred to as dharma in India—in shaping societal and diplomatic narratives. He emphasized how these themes are interwoven, impacting each other significantly.

Prof. Ranjan highlighted that India, in the broader context of global geopolitics, is a vibrant mosaic of ancient wisdom, democratic values, and diplomatic finesse. He noted the remarkable transformation of India over the past decade, not just in economic terms but also in the reawakening of its cultural and philosophical heritage. This resurgence, according to him, has instilled confidence in a nation deeply rooted in its heritage, which was once obscured from public consciousness.

Prof. Ranjan elaborated on dharma as the foundational principle of moral order and righteousness, deeply ingrained in Indian civilization for millennia. He explained that dharma encompasses individual duties and collective responsibilities towards society and the environment. In the modern context, he pointed out, India's commitment to dharma is evident in Inclusive governance, Social welfare programs and Sustainable development initiatives.

He further emphasized how policies targeting poverty alleviation, healthcare access, and environmental conservation reflect the application of dharma in governance. He also addressed global concerns about the resurgence of religion, referencing Western perceptions of such trends as challenges to global security. However, he stressed the importance of recognizing the positive contributions of various civilizations to global ideas and institutions. He cited John M. Hobson's argument that Western development owes much to Eastern contributions, including democratic principles.

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Associate Professor, Nalanda University, described India's democracy as a beacon of pluralism and tolerance, with its democratic ethos fostering societal cohesion and political stability. With the world's largest democratic electorate, India exemplifies inclusive participation and governance. He noted that successive governments have

- Upheld the rule of law,
- Empowered marginalized communities,
- Advanced gender equity,
- Protected civil liberties.

He linked the concept of Bharat to resilience, inclusivity, and independence, highlighting India's role as a civilizational state with responsibilities for global stability and progress. India's portrayal as a first responder, development partner, and upholder of international norms underscores its contribution to a multipolar world.

Prof. Ranjan emphasized that India's diplomacy, characterized by pragmatism and a commitment to multilateralism, has seen successful initiatives such as the recent G20 summit, where India showcased its leadership. The shift from non-alignment to multi-alignment highlights India's efforts to navigate complex geopolitical dynamics while promoting its interests. Initiatives like the "Neighborhood First Policy" and the "India-Africa Forum Summit" underscore India's commitment to building stronger global partnerships. He also added that With a burgeoning tech industry and young demographic dividend, India has become a hub for innovation, entrepreneurship, and digital transformation.

He also spoke about India's sacred sites such as Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda, which symbolize spiritual enlightenment and intellectual pursuit. He noted that these landmarks embody the transformative power of wisdom and truth-seeking, shaping both religious and scholarly discourse for centuries.

Sharad Vivek Sagar, Founder and CEO of the Dexterity Global Group, commenced his address with humility. He emphasized the global focus shifting towards countries often referred to as the "Global South," with India playing a prominent role in this transition.

He highlighted the historical backdrop of a unipolar and bipolar world, now giving way to a more inclusive global narrative where emerging nations are recognized. Speaking at a location rich in history, Sharad expressed humility and pride in addressing the dialogue at Bodhgaya.

Sharad recounted the visit of a Greek philosopher to India in the 1st century CE. This philosopher praised India as a land where people were not possessed by material things and embraced a profound sense of spirituality.

He referenced the foundational values of Indian society, rooted in the Vedas, which fostered democratic principles even in ancient times. Democracy was portrayed as intrinsic to Indian culture, deeply embedded in societal values and decision-making processes.

Sharad linked democracy to the principle of dharma, emphasizing that righteousness, uprightness, and inclusivity are central to the Indian way of life. He underlined the importance of fostering free societies and collective progress while preserving fundamental human values.

Sharad highlighted the role of dharma in shaping Indian diplomacy, citing the example of the COVID-19 pandemic and India's "Vaccine Maitri" initiative. He explained that India's approach was not about benevolence but about mutual growth and collaboration, which is a core philosophy of Indian diplomacy.

He discussed India's achievements in various fields, such as Space exploration, inspired by visionary leaders like Vikram Sarabhai. The White Revolution, which transformed India into a milk-sufficient nation through innovative cooperatives. Infrastructure projects like metro development, led by figures like E. Sreedharan, emphasizing purpose-driven engineering. These efforts were framed as examples of karma yoga, the dedication to righteous action.

Sharad elaborated on India's vision of diplomacy, rooted in the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. He mentioned India's inclusive approach during its G20 presidency, where the African Union was incorporated into the process. He quoted Swami Vivekananda, emphasizing India's mission to guide humanity through servant leadership and the principle of dharma.

He emphasized that India's approach to global challenges—be it health crises, economic issues, or climate change—is not to dominate but to partner with the world in mutual progress.

Sharad concluded by emphasizing that India's vision is not about leveraging democracy or diplomacy for power but for fostering a sense of global family and interconnectedness.





**Strengthening
India-South
Korea relations
through
Buddhism
and Bodhgaya**

Dr. Lakshmi Priya represents the **Indian Council of World Affairs** at an international conference on India-South Korea relations, focusing on Buddhism and commemorating 50 years of diplomatic ties. She acknowledged Nalanda University's rich historical legacy, being established by Emperor Kumargupta and hosting scholars from various countries like China, Korea, Japan, Tibet, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Southeast Asia. The university fosters philosophical research, as envisioned by former President APJ Abdul Kalam.

The connection between India and South Korea through Buddhism was highlighted as a part of India's religious diplomacy and soft power. Historical significance of South Korea adopting Buddhism as its state religion in the 4th century was noted, with a reference to Ambassador P. Stobdan's perspective on Buddhism as a geopolitical tool.

Dr. Lakshmi explained that India uses Buddhism to promote soft power and international relations. Notable events include the 1952 international Buddhist conference in Sanchi with over 3,000 delegates and the 15th International Buddhist Conclave in Varanasi in 2016 with participants from 39 countries. Prime Minister Modi's vision to develop Bodhgaya as the spiritual capital of the Buddhist world was also emphasized.

She emphasized that academic institutions, universities, and think tanks play a vital role in advancing the ideals of Indian foreign policy. ICWA is promoting the study of India and international affairs through conferences, policy research, and collaboration with national and international institutions.

Prof. Vyjayanti Raghavan from **Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi** spoke on the topic **India-Korea: Before and Beyond 1973**. She observed the historical and cultural similarities between India and Korea, such as respect for elders, ancestor worship, and linguistic similarities. She shares personal anecdotes about her experiences in Korea and the cultural parallels.

She also narrated a legend about a princess Suriratna from Ayodhya marrying a Korean king in the 1st century AD, establishing an Indian bloodline in Korea. The princess is believed to have traveled with missionaries and slaves by sea to Korea, where she married King Suro who founded the Gaya kingdom in Korea. The princess, Suriratna, then became Queen Heo Hwang-ok.

Prof. Raghavan also noted the tomb of the princess in Gimhae and a memorial in Ayodhya, maintained jointly by the UP government and Korean funding.

Further, she discussed Gautam Buddha's influence through emissaries to Central Asia and China. She mentioned Ko Byoungk's account of an Indian monk's arrival in Korea in 372 AD and the subsequent exchange of Buddhist philosophies.

She also highlighted the preservation of Buddhist scriptures in Korean temples and their weatherproof storage methods.

The 8th-century traveler Hyecho's memoir, "Wang Ocheonchukguk Jeo," was emphasized as a primary source on Buddhist circuits and Indian society. Professor mentioned the discovery of parts of Hyecho's travelogue in Dunhuang caves, now housed in the National Library of France.

In her address Prof. Raghavan reflected on the societal changes influenced by Confucianism, focusing on social conduct and hierarchical relationships. She noted the erosion of spiritual philosophies in favor of societal structures over time.

She also highlighted the influence of Indian leaders like Gandhi, Nehru, and Tagore on Korea during its colonial struggles. She shared Tagore's poem encouraging Korea's resurgence and India's support during the Korean War, including the participation of peacekeeping units.

Prof. Raghavan identified complementary strengths: India's intellect and services versus Korea's technology and capital. She emphasized learning from Korea's collectivism and community-focused happiness.

Prof. Raghavan cautioned against losing core values due to globalization and individualism, drawing parallels with Korea's challenges. She encouraged mutual learning from each other's experiences to maintain cultural and philosophical roots.

Prof. Santosh Kumar Ranjan, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi delivered his address on the topic “Unveiling Interwoven Histories and Cross-Cultural exchange of Unsung Cerebral: Exploring the Resilient Bond between British-India and Colonial Joseon”.

In his deliberations he discussed the historical ties between the two nations, focusing on shared experiences like colonial trauma, partition, the Korean War, and Buddhism.

Prof. Kumar emphasized the travels of monk Hyecho, who documented his journey to five Indian kingdoms in Wang Ocheonchukguk Jeon. He noted the role of Indian monks like Maranatha in spreading Buddhism to Korea, establishing temples like Beobseongpo.

He highlighted how Rabindranath Tagore’s poem, *The Lamp of the East*, written in 1929 to inspired Korean youth during the March 1st Movement. Prof. Kumar also mentioned a letter exchange between Gandhi and Korean nationalist Kim Sung-soo, in which Gandhi offered encouragement. The letter, along with Gandhi’s photo, was published in Korea in 1927.

He shared the story of Mary L. Taylor, a British actress inspired by Dilkhusa Kothi in Lucknow. Taylor named her house Dilkhusa in Korea, which became historically significant during the March 1st Movement of 1919.

Prof. Kumar cited the contribution of Guru Charan Singh’s love for Korean ceramics during his stay in Korea. Singh created a jar with a blue dragon motif and expressed deep admiration for Joseon culture in letters to his mentor Yanagi.

He also highlighted the Sikh missionary Sadhu Sundar Singh, who adopted Christianity and spread the gospel in Asia. His writings were discovered in Yonsei University and depicted his unique spiritual vision.

Ram Nath Biswas wrote a travelogue in 1932 during his journey to Korea by bicycle in which he revealed Japanese perceptions of Indian figures like Tagore, Buddha, and Sundar Singh.

Prof. Kumar emphasized the deep respect between India and Korea, with opportunities to learn from shared values and experiences.

Last speaker of this session was **Dr. Praveen Kumar, Associate Professor, Central University of South Bihar**. The subject of his deliberation was “Spiritual Tourism and the Changing Economic Landscape of Bodh Gaya”

Dr. Praveen Kumar’s presentation provides an insider’s perspective on the changes in Bodhgaya’s infrastructure and economic landscape. He highlighted his empirical observations of Bodhgaya, focusing on the influx of tourists and its implications.

Dr. Kumar noted the significant transformation in Bodhgaya’s infrastructure, driven by a surge in tourism, particularly from Southeast Asian countries.

In the 1980s, Bodhgaya saw limited tourism, mainly from Japan and Sri Lanka, with only five monasteries. After the first Kalachakra Puja in 1985-86, officiated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama, this region attracts over 200,000 tourists annually. Many tourists come in Bodhgaya during the Kagyu Monlam prayer festival also.

Tourists are coming not only from South Asian countries, but from other countries as well. They would include academics and Buddhist pilgrims as well.

He noted the rapid increase in monasteries, with countries like Burma, Thailand, Vietnam, and Tibet establishing significant presences, likening it to a “mini consulate” hub.

Dr. Praveen Kumar noted the emergence of luxury accommodations, such as Hyatt and international convention centers, indicating a shift toward catering to high-class tourists. Despite commercialization, traditional businesses coexist with modern ventures.

He also highlighted the contributions of Anand Bhante, a prominent priest at the Mahabodhi Temple, in identifying and developing sites like Gurupada and Peacock-foot Gir as significant pilgrimage locations, increasing tourist stays to 2-3 days.

Dr. Kumar noted the coexistence of two distinct cultures in Bodhgaya: one oriented toward commercialization and the other preserving spiritual heritage. He emphasized the decline in local interest in spiritual philosophy, with many locals focusing primarily on monetizing tourism opportunities.

Dr. Kumar alarmed that most modern businesses in Bodhgaya are run by outsiders, while local residents continue with traditional businesses, often struggling to compete with better-resourced ventures.

He concluded his deliberations by saying that while Bodhgaya has commercialized significantly, the dual nature of its development—spiritual and commercial—continues to shape its identity

Dr. D.M. Mulay in his vote of thanks expressed his gratitude by emphasizing the importance of strengthening the relationship between India and South Korea through the shared cultural and spiritual heritage of Bodhgaya and Buddhism. He highlighted the suggestion made by Lakshmi Priya, which envisioned India as the spiritual capital of the world—a vision he described as outstanding. Dr. Mulay reflected on the challenges humanity faces at a crossroads, grappling with the

difference between development and destruction, particularly concerning climate degradation over the past two centuries. He posed the question of whether India, as a spiritual capital, could provide a guiding vision by propagating the core values of its civilization.

Dr. Mulay acknowledged the insights shared by Prof. Vyjayanthi Raghavan, who provided a historic perspective on India's cultural connections. He also highlighted the significance of India's exchanges with Greeks, Romans, and other ancient cultures, while acknowledging the diminishing influence due to Arab and Christian expansions. He praised India's historical role in offering ideas to the world, citing examples like Zen, Judo, Karate, and Yoga, which originated in India and evolved globally.

Reflecting on India's potential role in the world, Dr. Mulay suggested that India could excel as a teacher to the world, given its wealth of knowledge and ideas. However, he noted challenges like a lack of implementation of laws, the limitations of colonial education systems, and the substantial number of Indian students pursuing education abroad due to inadequate domestic centers of excellence.

He also referenced Santosh Kumar and Ranjan's points, drawing attention to figures like Gandhi, Nehru, and Tagore, who had significant global impact. He noted Tagore's extensive influence in Japan, with his works translated into Japanese, and stressed the need to consolidate and utilize such cultural wealth effectively.

Dr. Mulay urged for greater efforts in promoting India's historical and cultural narratives to the younger generation, leveraging social media to make Indian philosophy and literature accessible. He also mentioned the underperformance of India's tourism sector, citing its potential for growth by improving infrastructure, preservation efforts, and service quality.

Referring to Mr. Praveen Kumar's presentation, he underscored the interconnection between Bodhgaya and Buddhism and their potential to thrive together. Dr. Mulay shared an anecdote about his time in Japan in 1995, highlighting past promises to establish direct flights between Bodhgaya and Tokyo, and raised concerns about the current state of tourism infrastructure, including issues like insufficient facilities and poor urban planning.

Dr. Mulay concluded by recognizing tourism as a powerful avenue for fostering human connections and economic growth while promoting cultural exchange. He highlighted the importance of leveraging this opportunity as India seeks a prominent role on the global stage. Praising the Prime Minister's efforts in promoting tourism, he emphasized the sector's potential to create meaningful interactions and strengthen India's position in the world.





**Art, Landscape
and Magadh
Region**

Brijender S. Dua, Architect & Designer, Studio Earth presented his presentation during session 4 of this Dialogue. The topic of his presentation was “**Deciphering and Communicating a Multilayered World: The Magadh Region**”.

In his insightful presentation, Brijender Dua emphasized the importance of understanding and communicating the multilayered cultural and environmental aspects of the Magadh Region. Dua leverages his expertise in architecture and design to explore and present the unique identity of the ancient region.

Dua highlighted that the Magadh region is a cultural landscape that has evolved over centuries. This region’s rich history is deeply intertwined with nature and spirituality, that spans religions such as Sanatan, Buddhism, and Jainism.

He also noted that the region is home to two UNESCO World Heritage Sites, i.e. Nalanda Mahavihara, an ancient center of learning and the Mahabodhi Temple Complex in Bodhgaya, a significant Buddhist pilgrimage site.

Dua underscored Magadh’s role as the nucleus of several empires from the 6th century BC to the 8th century AD. During the classical age under the Gupta Dynasty, Magadh became a center for cultural development, trade, and communication, contributing significantly to Indian literature, art, and architecture. These historical milestones, he asserted, have established Magadh as a hub of cultural and social evolution.

Dua introduced a framework of three key layers to decipher and understand the Region, viz:

Nature: He emphasized the region's natural beauty, characterized by hills, streams, valleys, and fertile lands which has supported the settlements for centuries and continue to contribute to its prominence.

Historical and Architectural Layer: Dua highlighted the architectural marvels of the region, such as Nalanda Mahavihara, Aina Mahal, and ancient caves. He also pointed out the establishment of the new Nalanda University as a modern landmark that aligns with the historical essence of the region while shaping its future.

Cultural and Religious Layer: Dua noted the overlapping cultural and religious influences of Hinduism, Buddhism, and Jainism in Magadh. He highlighted its reference in the Mahabharata and Ramayana and presented Bodhgaya as a hub for monasteries and cultural tourism.

Dua stressed that these layers are interconnected and constantly evolving. He explained that the approach to deciphering and presenting these layers depends on the intended audience and the chosen communication medium.

Presenting a template to decipher Bodhgaya region, Dua shared the following two examples:

Bodh Gaya Mapping: The project involved creating a detailed layout of Bodhgaya town, using Google Maps and then adding artistic impression using appropriate colors, icons to represent maps, etc. This mapping was part of a book project.

Nature in the City Project: A self-funded initiative aimed at identifying and mapping lesser-known natural historic cities of India. Since 2017, this project has mapped seven cities, looking at various layers such as soil types, eco zone, river flows, hydrology, vegetation, etc.

Dua proposed applying this layered framework to Magadh. Suggesting to look at Magadh region through these lenses, he demonstrated how integrating natural processes (land, water, vegetation, and ecology) with cultural and historical elements could provide a comprehensive representation of the region. He said that the Plan of Nalanda University was conceptualized by integrating these layers to promote the spirit of Nalanda and its Mahavihara.

Dua dedicated his presentation to the late Mr. Balakrishna Doshi, the visionary Architect of Nalanda University's campus. He acknowledged Mr. Doshi's contribution to shaping the university and preserving the spirit of Nalanda.





Conclusion



The 6th Bodhgaya Global Dialogue represents a significant step forward in fostering a deeper understanding of the intersections between education, culture, and the pursuit of enlightenment. It aims to cultivate a community of scholars and leaders who are not only aware of the historical and cultural legacies of these important sites but also committed to leveraging this knowledge to address contemporary challenges in education and society.



Appendix

Glimpses







शिक्षण खबरें

पूर्व विधायक ने हीरी झड़ी दिखाकर गोमती नगर एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन को खाना किया

शिक्षण खबरें
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पूर्व विधायक ने हीरी झड़ी दिखाकर गोमती नगर एक्सप्रेस ट्रेन को खाना किया
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कार से ब्यापद की गई भारी मात्रा में शराब, हरियाणा के तस्कन गिरफ्तार

कार से ब्यापद की गई भारी मात्रा में शराब, हरियाणा के तस्कन गिरफ्तार
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वर्षों में पदोन्नति की प्रतीक्षा में आस लगाए बैठे

जोडीएस करियरों के संघर्ष के बाद मिली सफलता

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नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय में आयोजित होगा बोधगया ग्लोबल डायलॉग 2024

नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय में आयोजित होगा बोधगया ग्लोबल डायलॉग 2024
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बोधगया शंकाराचार्य मठ में एक दिवसीय संस्कृत संगोष्ठी का हुआ आयोजन

बोधगया शंकाराचार्य मठ में एक दिवसीय संस्कृत संगोष्ठी का हुआ आयोजन
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करुणा और अहिंसा में सन्निहित संदेश भारत में दुनिया को भेजा : राज्यपाल

राजनीति

राजनीति
अनाक्रमकता का राह है। आज फिर हमें फ़ैलीट विचार प्रक्रिया को आवश्यकता है। यह वह भूमि है जहाँ शास्त्री की तुलना में शास्त्री को प्राथमिकता दी गई और जहाँ से बोधगया, राजगीर और नालंदा ज्ञान और प्रज्ञा की भूमि रही है।



संघीयत करके राज्यपाल राजेश अलोक

कुमार सिंह ने कहा कि हमारी फ़ैलीट राष्ठीयता ही हमारी फ़ैलीट को व्यासक बनने के लिए प्रेरित करती है और वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् की अस्थागणा को खसकर हर सनने में समर्थ करती है। भाग्य क्षेत्र का यह एकलुकर परिरक्ष भी इसी समावेशी फ़ैलीटका को दर्शाता है। बोधगया, राजगीर और नालंदा ज्ञान और प्रज्ञा की भूमि रही है। भाग्य के वीरभरतल प्रेरित में स्थित नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय को कर्न प्रान्तीय भादवी ज्ञान प्रसिध्ति का, आज एक परिर अनेक देशों से आर अस्थागन टाउन के साथ एक परिर अपने नए अस्थागन उतर रह है। बोधगया ग्लोबल डायलॉग

2024 का छटा संस्कृतगया नालंदा विश्वविद्यालय और देशकलत सोसाइटी के बीच एक सहयोगात्मक शैलीक कार्यक्रम है, जो 16 और 17 मार्च 2024 को एनएच परिसर में हो रहा है। दो दिनों तक चलने वाला यह कार्यक्रम बोधगया, राजगीर यह नालंदा के ऐतिहासिक विरासत व ज्ञान परिसर में इन क्षेत्रों के गैरभटन के परिरक्ष पर केडित है। बोधगया ग्लोबल डायलॉग कार्यक्रम के उद्देश्यक सन में सामुनीय अर्थि के रूप में लोकर अरदिष्ट सोहन, अस्था, देशकलत सोसाइटी लोदिष्ट उतरल पी.एच. मिश्रा, कमानुट ऑफिसर ट्रेनिंग अकादमी, भाग्य प्रोकरन विनीत सहाय, निदेशक, भारतीय संस्कृत संस्थान, बोधगया इंडी. पी.एच. मुरी, संस्कृत, एनाय आरसी, डॉ. गोमरी भट्टनायक, परसअड, पटना उर्वरस्थ रह है।

निर्वाचन प्रक्रिया में आम आदमी का विश्वास कायम करें अधिकारी : राज्यपाल



राज्यपाल श्री आर.ए. आनंद ने शुक्रवार को पटना में एक प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में कहा कि आम आदमी पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं को विश्वास कायम रखना चाहिए...



श्री आनंद ने कहा कि आम आदमी पार्टी के कार्यकर्ताओं को विश्वास कायम रखना चाहिए...

भयानक मौसम इलाख पर शोध के लिए वैज्ञानिकों के ड्रा प्रॉजेंट को मिला एरुईशवर्क में मिला अमृत



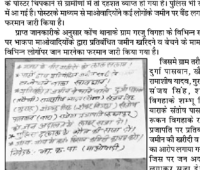
भयानक मौसम इलाख पर शोध के लिए वैज्ञानिकों के ड्रा प्रॉजेंट को मिला एरुईशवर्क में मिला अमृत...

नृत्य सुधार का अमला कदम ई वोटिंग: डा. दीपक



नृत्य सुधार का अमला कदम ई वोटिंग: डा. दीपक...

माओवादी पोस्टर से ग्रामीणों में दहशत



माओवादी पोस्टर से ग्रामीणों में दहशत...

स्वच्छता में ही स्वास्थ्य है निहित : डा. उमा शंकर



स्वच्छता में ही स्वास्थ्य है निहित : डा. उमा शंकर...

डक्टर को चोट में आने से युवकों की मौत



डक्टर को चोट में आने से युवकों की मौत...

10 लाख से ज्यादा पंचायत राजसे ताले का सम्बन्ध



10 लाख से ज्यादा पंचायत राजसे ताले का सम्बन्ध...

Table with 2 columns: Name, Amount. Includes entries like 01781 04069 09289 15246 27980.

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shbharat.com/h/state/governor-rajendra-vishwanath-arlekar-said-in-nalanda-we-will-slap-both-of-them-on-cheeks-brs24031604883

राज्य महकुंभ 2025

भारत वैश्विक मनोरंजन लाइवस्ट्रीमिंग सुदीर्घ: धर्म विकल्प चर्चा फोटो गैलरी अतिथि

ETV Bharat / State

'अहिंसा का मतलब ये नहीं कि एक गाल पर थप्पड़ मारोगे तो दूसरा बढ़ा देंगे, हम दोनों गाल पर मारेंगे', नालंदा में बोले राज्यपाल - Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar

Bodhgaya Global Dialogues In Nalanda: बिहार के नालंदा में राज्यपाल राजेंद्र अर्लेकर ने बोधगया स्पोर्ट्स इन्स्टीट्यूट 2024 का उद्घाटन किया. इस दौरान उन्होंने अहिंसा को लेकर बात की. उन्होंने कहा कि एक गाल पर थप्पड़ मारोगे तो दूसरा नहीं बढ़ाएंगे बल्कि दोनों गाल पर थप्पड़ मारेंगे. यह पूरे खबर.



नालंदा में बिहार के राज्यपाल राजेंद्र विश्वनाथ अर्लेकर

By ETV Bharat Bihar Team
Published : Mar 16, 2024, 6:10 PM IST | Updated : Mar 16, 2024, 6:19 PM IST

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- Jan 28, 2025, 12:18 PM IST - Sports
फिरफेर कोइली 2012 के बाद पहली बार दिल्ली टायली टीम से जुड़े, धुलू की ट्रेनिंग, इस तरीख को देखेंगे मैच
- Jan 28, 2025, 12:16 PM IST - Entertainment
इस फिल्म में खतरनाक स्टंट देख भाग खाइ हूआ वा इन्फेक्टर, अक्षय कुमार से बोला- नर जाराग
- Jan 28, 2025, 11:09 AM IST - Business
केंद्रीय बजट 2025 के पेश होने से पहले जाने चुन होने वाले टर्न
- Jan 28, 2025, 11:19 AM IST - Bharat
स्वास्थ्य विभागों ने डिजिटल स्वास्थ्य में निवेश पर ध्यान केंद्रित करने का आह्वान किया

bhaskar.com/local/bihar/nalanda/news/2-day-bodhgaya-global-dialogues-begins-at-nalanda-university-132729362.html


दैनिक भास्कर

होम वीडियो सर्च

Hindi News / Local / Bihar / Nalanda / 2 Day Bodhgaya Global Dialogues Begins At Nalanda University

नालंदा यूनिवर्सिटी में बोधगया ग्लोबल डायलॉग्स की शुरुआत: दो दिन चलेगा कार्यक्रम, राज्यपाल ने कहा- यहां शस्त्रों की तुलना में शास्त्रों को प्राथमिकता दी गई

काल्दा 10 महीने पहले



कार्यक्रम का शुभारंभ करते राज्यपाल राजेंद्र अर्लेकर

- टॉप न्यूज़
- राज्य-माह
- महाकुंभ
- भास्कर खास
- दिल्ली चुनाव
- क्रिकेट
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- जॉब - पर्यवेक्षण
- स्पोर्ट्स
- बॉलीवुड
- लाइवस्ट्रीमिंग
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shaktinews.com/nda-has-always-stood-by-two-words-first-is-non-violence-second-is-compassion-but-the-world-will-also-have-to-follow-this-guidance-for-peace/

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Madhya TV Mar 16, 2024



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बोधगया डायलॉग का छठा संस्करण नालंदा में हुआ आयोजित, राज्यपाल ने दीप प्रज्वलित कर किया शुभारंभ

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Programme Schedule

DAY-1 **SATURDAY**
16TH MARCH 2024

REGISTRATION | 9.00 am Onwards

INAUGURAL SESSION | 10.00 am – 11.30 am

VENUE | Sushma Swaraj Auditorium, Nalanda University

LAMP LIGHTING BY CHIEF GUEST AND GUESTS OF HONOUR

SHORT VIDEO PRESENTATION

Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues and Nalanda University

MODERATOR

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society and Founder, Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues

WELCOME

Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Associate Professor, Nalanda University

GUESTS OF HONOUR

- Shri Arvind Mohan, Chairman, Deshkal Society
- Lt. Gen. P. S. Minhas, AVSM, Commandant, Officers Training Academy, Gaya
- Prof. Vinita Sahay, Director, Indian Institute of Management, Bodh Gaya
- Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, NHRC, Gol

KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Prof. Abhay Kumar Singh, Vice Chancellor (I), Nalanda University

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY CHIEF GUEST

H.E. Shri Rajendra Arlekar, Hon'ble Governor of Bihar

BOOK RELEASE

Release and presentation of the book **Imaging Bodh Gaya: Shared Histories and Global Future** (by the Chief Guest and Guests of Honour)

VOTE OF THANKS

Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society and Founder, Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues

TEA BREAK | 11.30 am – 12.00 pm

Session 1 | 12.00 pm – 1.30 pm

THEME | **Archaeology, History, and Art of the Magadh Region**

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

CHAIR | Prof. (Retd.) O. P. Jaiswal, Patna University, Patna

- Dr. Elora Tribedy, Assistant Professor, Nalanda University
En Route Buddha-kṣetra: Pilgrimage and 'Fluid Spaces' in the Land of Enlightenment

- Dr. Shashank Shekhar Sinha, Independent Researcher and Author and Publishing Director, Routledge (South Asia)
The Mahavihara and its Wider Buddhist Connections: Of the lesser-known Structures, Artefacts, and Legacies of Nalanda
- Dr. Sujeet Nayan, Superintending Archaeologist, Patna and Anshuman Mathur, Research Scholar at the ongoing Rajgir Excavation
Demystifying Nalanda of yesterday to envision Nalanda of Tomorrow
- Shri Shanker Sharma, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist, Archaeological Museum Nalanda
Ancient Nalanda University (Mahavihara): Historical Glimpses from Archival Records
- Dr. Tosabanta Padhan, Faculty, School of Historical Studies, Nalanda University
Tracing Rajgir's Sacred Spaces and Early Habitation Pattern through Recent Archaeological Explorations

LUNCH | 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm

Session 2 | 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm

THEME | **Dharma, Democracy and Indian Diplomacy**

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

CHAIR | Dr. Rajeev Ranjan Chaturvedy, Associate Professor, Nalanda University

- Ms. Rashmi Samant, Author and Entrepreneur, Udipi
- Shri Sharad Vivek Sagar, Founder and CEO, The Dexterity Global Group, Patna

Session 3 | 3.30 pm – 5.00 pm

SPECIAL SESSION | **Strengthening Relationship between India and South Korea through Buddhism and Bodh Gaya**

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

This will be a valuable session since it marks the 50th anniversary of India-South Korea diplomatic ties. In addition, this session is held in partnership with Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

CHAIR | Dr. D. M. Mulay, Hon'ble Member, NHRC, GoI

- Dr. Lakshmi Priya, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi
Vision of Indian Council of World Affairs
- Prof. (Retd.) Vyjayanti Raghavan, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
India-Korea: Before and Beyond 1973
- Prof. Santosh Kumar Ranjan, Centre for Korean Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi
Unveiling Interwoven Histories and Cross-Cultural exchange of Unsung Cerebral: Exploring the Resilient Bond between British-India and Colonial Joseon
- Dr. Praveen Kumar, Associate Professor, Central University of South Bihar
Spiritual Tourism and the Changing Economic Landscape of Bodh Gaya

TEA BREAK | 5.00 pm – 5.30 pm

Session 4 | 5.30 pm – 7.00 pm

ONLINE SESSION

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

CHAIR | Dr. Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor, Chhattisgarh

- Dr. Shushmita Chatterji Dutt, Educationist and Research Consultant, New Delhi
Bhikshuni – The Free She
- Shri Brijender S. Dua, Architect and Designer, Studio Earth, New Delhi
Knowing, Deciphering, Communicating a Multilayered World: The Magadh Region

Cultural Evening | 7.00 pm – 8.00 pm

Sitar Vadan by Dr. Sumita Chakravorty, Assistant Professor, University of Delhi

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

Music can best be defined as the sound that is pleasing to the ear. Dr. Chakravorty's slender fingers bring out the best of notes from the strings of sitar and give a mesmerizing effect to the listeners.

DINNER | 8.00 pm – 9.00 pm

DAY-2 SUNDAY 17TH MARCH 2024

Session 5 | 9.30 am – 11.00 am

THEME | **Understanding Multiple Buddhism(s): Philosophy and Teachings**

VENUE | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University

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

- Dr. Anupama Kumari, Assistant Professor, Magadh University
Mode of Trial for Indisciplined monks in the Buddhist Order
- Dr. Pooja Dabral, Assistant Professor, Nalanda University
Mahākaruṇā and Pratītyasamutpāda: The Buddha's Legacy for Fostering Universal Peace
- Dr. Pranshu Samdarshi, Assistant Professor, Nalanda University
Tracing the Scholastic and Popular Strands of Magadhan Buddhist Culture in 11th Century Indonesian Archipelago: Some Insights from Recent Textual and Epigraphical Findings from Sumatra and Java

Session 6 | 11.00 am – 12.00 pm**THEME** | Envisioning Magadh Region: Locality, Heritage Making and Sustainability**VENUE** | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University**CHAIR** | Dr. Sudhirendra Sharma, Senior Consultant, World Bank, New Delhi

- Dr. Manish Sinha, Professor, Department of History, Magadh University
The Tibetans at Bodh Gaya
- Shri Deepak Anand, a Buddhist Pilgrimage Interpreter based in Bodh Gaya
The revitalisation of the sacred footsteps of the Buddha in Magadha
- Shri Azad Hind Gulshan Nanda, PhD Research Scholar, Nalanda University
Survey of Vaibharagiri Hills: From its Archaeology to Heritage
- Dr. Arvind K. Mishra, Associate Professor, J.N.U., New Delhi
Sustainability and Well-being: Socio-psychological Perspective

TEA BREAK | 12.00 pm – 12.30 pm**Session 7** | 12.30 pm – 1.30 pm**THEME** | Destination Branding and Marketing: Buddhist Tourism**VENUE** | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University**CHAIR** | Shri Uday Sahay, Author and Chairman, SAUV Communications

- Shri Saurabh Uboweja, Managing Partner, BOD Consulting
Destination Branding and Marketing of Buddhist Circuits in India
- Dr. Arjit Walia, Educationist and Consultant, Co-Scholastic Education
Enhancing the Tourism in Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, and Nalanda: Potentiality and Strategy

LUNCH | 1.30 pm – 2.30 pm**Recommendations and Way Forward** | 2.30 pm – 3.30 pm**VENUE** | Mini Auditorium, Nalanda University**CHAIR** | Prof. Abhay Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor (I), Nalanda University

- Shri Uday Sahay, Author and Chairman, SAUV Communications
- Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society and Founder, Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues
- Dr. Binodanand Jha, Educationist and Former Director, Department of Education, Government of Bihar

SIGHTSEEING OF RAJGIR

4.00 pm – 6.00 pm





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.



DESHKAL SOCIETY

Knowledge with Practice

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