

# Deshkal Presents

## Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues

9-12 March, World Heritage Site, Bodh Gaya

### Day-I: Friday, 9 March 2018

**Registration:** 3:00 pm to 4:00 pm

**Inaugural Session:** 4:30 pm 7:00 pm

**Venue:** Amrapali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Buddhist Chanting:** Ven. Bhikku Chalinda, Chief Monk, Mahabodhi Mahavihara, Bodhgaya

**Chair:** Shri Rambahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi

**Moderator:** Dr. Sushmita Dutt, Educationist and Research Consultant, New Delhi

**Welcome and Opening Remark:** Mr. Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society, Delhi

**Key Note Speaker :** Dr. Frederick M Asher, Professor, University of Minnesota, USA

### The Mahabodhi Temple in Historical Context

**Guest of Honour:** Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon. Minister of communication (independent charge) and minister of state for railways, Government of India

**Inaugural Address:** The Chief Guest, Shri Nitish Kumar, Hon. Chief Minister, Govt of Bihar

### Remarks by the Chair

**Vote of Thanks:** Mr. Rajeshwar Singh, National Coordinator, Bodhgaya Global Dialogues

## Day-II : Saturday, 10 March 2018

**Plenary Session** : 9:30 am -11:30 am

**Venue:** Front Lawns, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Chair:** Dr. Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor, Chhattisgarh

### Distinguished Speakers

1. **Dr. DM Mulay**, Secretary, Consular, Passport, Visa & Overseas Indian Affairs, MEA, GoI, New Delhi - **Buddha's Enlightenment and Sustainable Development**
2. **Dr. Shaibal Gupta**, Member Secretary, Asian Development Research Institute, Patna – **The Exclusionary Development: Analysis of Relationship between Heritage and Development**
3. **Dr. Bijoy Kumar Choudhary**, Executive Director, Bihar Heritage Development Society, Patna- **Bodhgaya: Glory of the Past and Challenges of the Present**
4. **Dr. Ashwini Kumar**, Professor, School of Development Studies, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai, India - **Buddha's Fire Sermon; Monuments, Metaphors and Memories**
5. **Dr. Monica Gupta**, Associate Professor, Department of Elementary Education, Gargi College, Delhi University, Delhi- **Academics and the Spiritual Ethos**
6. **Dr. Janice Leoshko**, Associate Professor, University of Texas, USA- **The Important Place of Bodhgaya and Buddhist Ideals in the Construction of the Modern World**

**Tea Break 11. 30 am – 12:00 pm**

## Session-1 (A) : 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Venue: Front Lawns, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** Understanding Multiple Buddhism: Experience and Practices-I

**Moderator:** Dr. Fredrick Asher, Professor, University of Minnesota, USA

### Panellist:

- 1 **Dr. Max Deeg**, Professor, School of History, Archaeology and Religion, Cardiff University, United Kindom - **Mediating the Spiritual Empire: Revisiting the Chinese Inscriptions from Bodhgaya**
- 2 **Mr. Neeraj Kumar**, Author and Deputy Secretary, Government of India - **Kalacakra Tantra & Coming Post-Work Age of Man- Machine Integration**
- 3 **Ms. Sunita Dwevedi**, Silk Road Traveller and Author, New Delhi- **Connectivity of Buddhist Sites on Uttarapath**

## Session-1(B) : 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Talk by: **Mr. Neeraj Akhoury**, MD & CEO, ACC Cement Ltd.  
“On Sustainability”

Moderation by: **Mr. Pravin Sinha**, Member, World Economic Forum, New Delhi

## Lunch Break 1:30 pm – 2:30 pm

## Session-2 (A) : 2:30 am – 4:00 pm

Venue: Vaishali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** Understanding Multiple Buddhism: Experience and Practices-II

**Moderator:** Dr. Abhishek Amar, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Hamilton College, New York, USA

### Panellist:

1. **Ms. Sudha Mahalingam**, Journalist and Author, Bengaluru- **Pan-Asian Buddhist Manifestations - Glimpsing the Woods Through**

2. **Ms. Sonia Gomes**, Marketing and Communication Graduate, CEO & Owner of Spaso Zen, Porto, Portugal- **Female in Tantric Buddhism**
3. **Dr. Anil Kumar**, Associate Professor and Head, Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Visva Bharati University Santiniketan, West Bengal - **Exploring Forgotten Buddhist Art Objects of Early Magadh**
4. **Dr. Priyanka Jha**, Assistant Professor, School of Undergraduate Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi- **Buddhism and the Idea of India**

## Session-2 (B): 2:30 am – 4:30 pm

Venue: Front Lawns, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** Water, Culture and Sustainability

**Moderator:** Dr. Sudhirendar Sharma, Leading Consultant, World Bank, New Delhi

### **Panellist:**

1. **Dr. Gopal Krishna**, Author, Environmentalist, Activist, Patna - **Buddhist Meditation Practice, the Water Cycle and the Anthropocene: An Inquiry into their Relationship**
2. **Dr. Avinash Kumar**, Director, Program and Policy, WaterAid, New Delhi - **Universal Access to Safe Drinking Water: Deliberations on the Best Practices**
3. **Dr. Aviram Sharma**, Assistant Professor, School of Ecology and Environment, Nalanda University, Nalanda - Governance of Traditional Irrigation Systems in South Bihar: **Changing Contours and Emerging Challenges**
4. **Dr. Venkatesh Dutta**, Associate Professor, Environmental Sciences, Baba Bhimrao Ambedkar Central University, Lucknow - Smaller Rivers of Ganga Plain – **Integrating River-Culture-Ecosystems through Ecological Flow Restoration**
5. **Dr. Arun Kumar**, Environmental Toxicologist and Biologist, Mahavir Cancer Institute & Research Centre, Patna – **Arsenic Problem in Bihar: Preventive strategy through Traditional Cultural Medicines**

Tea Break 4:30 pm – 5:00 pm

## Cultural Evening: 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

Venue: Front Lawns, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

Compered by: Harsh Singh, Young Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi



## Chaar Yaar

The group Chaar Yaar came into existence in 2004. As the name suggests, it comprises four musicians – composer, vocalist and poet Madan Gopal Singh; guitarist and banjo player Deepak Castelino; sarod player Pritam Ghosal and multiple percussionist Gurmeet Singh.

Initially, Chaar Yaar traversed the path of Sufi texts dating back to the 12-13th century, beginning with Baba Farid and Rumi and ending with Khwaja Ghulam Farid of the late 19th century. The group then started looking at the cultural bridges across continents. This involved experimenting with songs and poetry spread across various cultures globally and different timelines. This led to the incorporation of music and poetry as diverse as that of Brecht, Lorca, Tagore, Puran Singh, Hikmet, Hamzatov, Faiz, Nagarjun as well as the creation of musical bridges; to give one example, between Rumi, John Lennon, Kabir and Bulle Shah in the same song.

(Information Credits <http://www.sounds-of-the-world.com>)

## Day-III : Sunday, 11 March 2018

### Session-1 (A) : 9:30 am- 11:30 pm

Venue: Amrapali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** Dialogues on Archaeology History of Bodhgaya and Buddhism

**Moderator:** Dr. Bijoy Kumar Choudhary, Executive Director, Bihar Heritage Development Society, Patna

### **Panellist:**

- 1 **Dr. Sraman Mukherjee**, Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Visual Arts, Ashoka University, Sonapat, Haryana- **Between Religion and History: Rebuilding the Maha Bodhi Temple in the late nineteenth century**
- 2 **Dr. Abhishek Amar**, Assistant Professor, Department of Religious Studies, Hamilton College, New York, USA- **Contextualizing Bodhgaya: Sangha, Settlements, and Others**
- 3 **Dr. Shita Bakker**, University of Leiden, Den Haag En Omgeving, Netherland- **Visual elements of temples at Bodhgaya as a reflection of transnational Buddhist culture**
- 4 **Dr. Vandana Sinha**, Director, Centre for Art & Archaeology, American Institute of Indian Studies, Gurugram, Haryana- **Bodhgaya Archives**

### **Session-1(B) : 9:30 am- 11:30 pm**

**Venue:** Vaishali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** History, 'Heritage', and School Education

**Moderator:** Dr. Peggy Mohan, Linguist, Educationist and Teacher at Vasant Valley School, New Delhi, India

### **Panellist:**

- 1 **Dr. Savyasaachi**, Professor, Department of Sociology, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi- **"Conservation Habits?" What we can do for the coming generations!**
- 2 **Dr. Binodanand Jha**, Director, Department of Education, Bihar- **School, Children and Heritage in Bihar: Policies and Practices**
- 3 **Mr. Seshagiri K M Rao**, Education Specialist, UNICEF, Chhattisgarh- **Child Friendly Home Spaces: A case study of Phulwari Programme in Chhattisgarh**
- 4 **Dr. Anil Sethi**, Professor, School of Education, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru- **Why are Schools Blind to the Invention of Heritage!**

**Tea Break 11:30 pm -12:00 pm**

## Session- 2 (A) : 12:00 pm -1:30 pm

Venue: Amrapali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** State, Civil Society and the Heritage City Plan of Bodhgaya-I

**Moderator:** Dr. Janice Leoshko, Associate Professor, University of Texas, USA

### Panellist:

1. **Mr. Udaya Sahay**, Former IPS officer, Chairman & Director, SAUV Communications, Delhi- **A Blueprint of Bodhgaya's Integrated Sustainable Development; A Comparative Study of Buddhist Heritage Site In Lumbini, Nepal.**
2. **Dr. Anurag Verma**, Professor, School of Architecture and Planning, Apeeje Institute of Technology, Greater Noida, UP and Practicing Architect - **Sustainable Development and Safeguarding Heritage through Urban Planning, Case-Study: Vrindavan, Braj**
3. **Mr. Manish Sinha**, DG, National Institute of Communications Finance, Department of Telecom, New Delhi – **Growing Up in Bodhgaya: Narratives of a Native**
4. **Dr. David Geary**, Assistant Professor, Anthropology, Community Culture and Global Studies, University of British Columbia, Okanagan, Canada & **Mr. Manish Kumar**, Independent Researcher, Bodhgaya- **Making Dialogue Work: Revisiting the Bodh Gaya Temple Act**

## Session- 2 (B) : 12:00 pm -1:30 pm

Venue: Vaishali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** Shared Histories and Common Destiny Connecting Bodh Gaya to South Asia, South-East Asia and East Asia

**Chair:** Mr. Ajaneesh Kumar, Deputy Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi

### Panellist:

1. **Dr. O P Jaiswal**, Former Professor, Patna University, Bihar- **Case Study of Thai Buddhism-A Religion of Social Harmony and Peace**
2. **Dr. Temjenmeren Ao**, Research Fellow, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi- **Cultural Linkages in Building India-Southeast Asia Relations**



## Session-2 (C): Movie Screening 12:00 pm - 1:30 pm

Venue: Takshila School, Bodhgaya

**Movie:** The Legend of Buddha

**About the Movie:** The Legend of Buddha is an Indian animated film directed by Shambhu Falke, produced by Stalin Saravanan and written by Caarthick Raju and Ramesh Karthikeyan. It traces the journey of Siddhartha from being a prince to becoming Buddha. In a very fascinating way it shows how after discovering the sufferings of man, Prince Siddhartha Gautama renounces his family and worldly possessions to be an ascetic and attains enlightenment through years of penance.

## Lunch Break 1:30 pm -2:30 pm

## Session- 3 (A) : 2:30 pm -4:00 pm

Venue: Amrapali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Theme:** State, Civil Society and the Heritage City Plan of Bodhgaya-II

**Moderator:** Dr. Pravin Sinha, Member, World Economic Association, New Delhi

### Panellist:

1. **Mr. Nangze Dorjee**, Member Secretary, Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee, Bodhgaya, Bihar- **Looking Beyond Mahabodhi Temple: Seeing Bodhgaya as Larger Buddhist Site**
2. **Mr. Neeraj Kumar**, Member of Legislative Council, Bihar- **The Ever Expanding Potentials of Bodh Gaya in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century**
3. **Mr. Kiran Lama**, Secretary, Daijokyo Buddhist (Japanese) Temple, Buddhagaya- **Pilgrimage and Tourism at Bodhgaya: Possibilities for a Better Future**



### **Session 3 (B): 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm**

**Venue:** Takshila School, Bodhgaya

**Symphony with Dr. Peggy Mohan**

### **Session 3 (C): 3:30 pm - 4:00 pm**

**Venue:** Takshila School, Bodhgaya

**Award Distribution for the Winners of Painting Competition**

**Chief Guest: Mr. Shekhar Dutt, Former Governor, Chhattisgarh**

### **Tea Break 4:00 pm -4:30 pm**

### **Session 4: 4:30 pm -5:30 pm**

**Venue:** Amrapali, The Royal Residency, Bodhgaya

**Recommendation and Way Forward:** Mr. Rahul Ghai, Associate Professor, Institute of Health Management Research, Jaipur

**Moderator:** Dr. Sushmita Dutt, Educationist and Research Consultant, New Delhi

**Vote of Thanks:** Ms. Richa Sharma, Programme Officer, Deshkal Society, Delhi

## **EXHIBITION:**

### **“Avalokitesvara/Guanyin: Feminine symbolism in Buddhist Art”**

a photography show by Indira Gandhi National Centre for Arts, New Delhi

**9-12 March, 2018**

All Day Long

**Venue: Kagyupa Monlam International Trust, Bodhgaya**

Avalokitesvara is the most popular Mahayana Bodhisattva and his cult has played an important role in the growth of Mahayana Buddhism and art. The images of Avalokitesvara in India are not feminine, although the body has a sensual form. The well-known painting of Padmapani in Cave No.1 of Ajanta no doubt has a sensuous body, but taken as a whole, looks a male Bodhisattva. The paintings of the famous artist Ravi Varma, do not show Hindu Gods as strongly masculine. Essential features of manliness like muscles, broad shoulders are present but there is a touch of conspicuous feminine quality in the images.

It is not known exactly when the Guan-yin came to be regarded as female deity for the first time. Majority of the scholars are of the opinion that the transformation of Guan-yin into female deity took place about the 11th century A. D. But this seems to have been the product of a long process and this might have been influenced by many factors combined to bring the sexual transformation.

**Day-IV: Monday, 12 March 2018**

**Heritage Tour**

#### **Rapporteurs:**

Dr. Gopal Krishna, Author, Environmentalist, Activist, Patna, Bihar

Ms. Aradhana Tiwari, Research Scholar, Department of Philosophy, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

Mr. Harsh Singh, Young Scholar, Ambedkar University, Delhi

Ms. Gyana Singh, Young Scholar, The Mother's International School, New Delhi

#### **Photographer:**

Mr. Vikas Chaudhary, ITI, Delhi