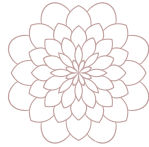




REPORT  
Consultative Workshop  
on  
Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues  
on Sustainable Development,  
Heritage and Enlightenment

15 SEPTEMBER, 2017  
1400-1700 HRS  
CONFERENCE ROOM  
IGNCA, NEW DELHI

ORGANIZED BY DESHKAL SOCIETY, DELHI  
IN ASSOCIATION WITH  
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS, NEW DELHI



## Context

A consultative workshop was organised by Deshkal Society in association with IGNCAs for discussing the multiple challenges in organising the proposed Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues on Sustainable Development, Heritage and Enlightenment to be held at the UNESCO World Heritage Site in Bodh Gaya from March 9-12, 2018. By focusing on interconnections between Buddhism and Hinduism, and its relevance to the local culture, the proposed dialogues have been conceived to foster processes for sustainable heritage development engaging diverse stakeholders.

While the overall basis for organising such global congregation has been well accepted, the prime objective of this well-attended consultation was to seek advice and inputs from potential supporters and stakeholders towards actual conduct of the first of a series of multi-country dialogues and exchanges to build a constituency that brings fresh dimensions in capturing 'enlightenment' as the new leitmotif for humane development. The consultation sought response to the following:

- How the broad framework of the Dialogue connects the philosophical underpinnings in the continuing quest for enlightenment? How will the Dialogue process unfold such moral linkages for the well being of the humanity?
- How the philosophy of abandoning luxury (which Buddha practiced) can be viewed in the context of sustainable development? How can life's ordinariness be re-explored through Dialogue as a guiding principle for moral action?
- Given the proposed quasi-academic nature of the Dialogue, what type of participants, and what nature of contributions will help achieve the overall goal of the Dialogue? How can it be made relevant to wide strata of society?
- How should the Dialogue be structured (and organised) to capture multiple voices and divergent views in creating a synergy of collective exuberance and celebration? How can discussions and deliberations lead to celebration (enlightenment by nature is celebratory)?
- What roles and responsibilities can be assigned to perspective partner agencies? What will be the organisational structure and sub-structure(s) to steer the process? What components will constitute the Dialogue, and how many committees will shoulder their respective tasks?

## Deliberations

The deliberations were rich and diverse. While a majority of speakers brought home the value of teachings of Buddha in the present times when peace and compassion has been in short supply, representatives of foreign embassies viz., Thailand, China, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and Myanmar lamented lack of infrastructure and inadequate participation of local communities in tourism promotion. There was a general consensus on the need to engage local youth for playing an important role in promoting tangible and intangible heritage for the benefit of local population.

While the philosophical underpinnings of the proposed dialogues were well understood, question on locating and defining 'sustainable development' to suit the context was highlighted. Should 'enlightenment' not be the precursor to peace and development? In a way, enlightenment in itself is a celebration of human existence and progress. The task is to define the same in the context of the topic of the dialogues. The scope of 'sustainable development' ought to be seen from the wider perspective, to bring on table aspect of spiritual culturalism such that the contours of human progress are redefined to serve the communities.

Some of the participants drew attention to define the structure of the dialogues in the evolving context, visualizing 'dialogue' as a tool to engage wider stakeholders to the path of enlightenment with care and concern for local communities. There was general consensus in support of the proposed Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues as a forum for building engagement for security, sustainable development through enlightenment with abundance of concern for the suffering of the fellow human beings. It is worth mentioning that the heritage site is in itself an epitome of peace and co-existence of diverse faith groups, and a perfect site for this initiative. A dialogue at such a place should foster justice for all since enlightenment in practical terms meant delivering justice for fellow human levels.

The enthusiastic support and cooperation from diverse participants representing academic institutions, foreign missions, government ministries, and civil society raised hope for the success of dialogues with multiple implications within India and rest of the world.

## Recommendations

The deliberations proposed following key recommendations to take the process forward:

1. A representative organising committee should be formed to include diverse stakeholders.
2. A coordination committee for preservation & conservation should be constituted at the site.
3. Sustainable Development should be redefined to capture the philosophical underpinnings..
4. The dialogues should promote people to people contact between nations.
5. Asian Unity Consciousness Centre should be created at Bodh Gaya.

## Way Forward

In light of the discussions and deliberations, the consultation was informed that the Deshkal Society will conduct similar consultation in Mumbai, Patna and Bodh Gaya to broad base participation, and for securing partnership for mobilising resources and technical expertise for smooth conduct of the event. In the weeks ahead, the participants will be apprised of progress on all fronts with specific partnership avenues to be explored with them bilaterally.



## Participants

**Shri Ram Bahadur Rai** *Chairman, IGNCA, New Delhi*

**Dr Sachidanand Joshi** *Member Secretary, IGNCA, New Delhi*

**Dr D.N.Mulay** *Secretary, Consular, Passport, Visa & Overseas Indian Affairs, MEA, GoI, New Delhi*

**Mr Enkhbold Liguu** *First Secretary, Embassy of Mongolia, New Delhi*

**Ms Vuthi Auh Phmong** *Consular of Vitenam, New Delhi*

**Mr Zhang Wei** *Second Secretary, Embassy of China in India, New Delhi*

**Ms Chetthida Kitchaiwat** *Second Secretary, Royal Thai Embassy, New Delhi*

**Ms Achini Prera** *Consular of Sri Lanka, New Delhi*

**Ms Vinita Srivastava** *Joint Director, IGNCA, New Delhi*

**Mr Vikas Singh** *Senior Advocate at SC & Ex Additional Solicitor General, GoI, New Delhi*

**Mr Ajneesh Kumar** *Additional Director General, Indian Council of World Affairs, New Delhi*

**Mr Sushant Kumar** *Treasurer, Bihar Bhikkhu Sangha, Bodh Gaya, Bihar*

**Phra Jandee Jindatham** *Bhogal Buddha Vihar, New Delhi*

**Phramaha Nipon Prasandee** *Royal Thai Monestry, Bodh Gaya*

**Bhikku Pragya Deep** *General Secretary, All India Bhikkhu Sangha, Bodh Gaya, Bihar and General Secretary, International Buddhist Council*

**Mr R K Singh** *Director, ONGC, New Delhi*

**Dr Sudhirendra Sharma** *Consultant, World Bank, New Delhi*

**Dr Shushmita Dutt** *Educationist and Consultant, UNICEF, New Delhi*

**Mr Manish Sinha** *DG, NICF, New Delhi*



**Capt. Jiveshwar Singh** *Chief Manager (Retd.), Punjab National Bank, Delhi*

**Mr Rajeshwar Singh** *National Coordinator, Bodh Gaya Global Dialogues, Gaya, Bihar*

**Mr Rai Madan Kishore** *Former Special Secretary Government of Bihar & Member, Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee, Bodh Gaya, Bihar*

**Dr Arvind Kumar Singh** *Member, Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee, Bodh Gaya, Bihar*

**Ms Moe Chuba** *Program Head, Culture and Heritage, UNESCO, New Delhi*

**Dr Lalit Kumar** *Hony. Sr. Vice President, Sulabh International Social Service Organisation and Former Advisor, Planning Commission, New Delhi*

**Ms Nirupama Modwel** *Director, Intangible Cultural Heritage, INTACH, New Delhi*

**Dr Ramakar Pant** *Assistant Professor, IGNC, New Delhi*

**Dr Manish Chaudhary** *Assistant Professor, University of Delhi, New Delhi*

**Mr Saibal Baroi** *Director Advocacy, CARE India, Noida, U.P.*

**Shri Arvind Mohan** *Author and Journalist, New Delhi*

**Dr Manindra Thakur** *Associate Professor, CPS, JNU, New Delhi*

**Mr P R Dwyer** *Gen. Convener, International Centre for Peace Studies, Gaya, Bihar*

**Mr S Vivekananthan** *Director, MEA, GoI, New Delhi*

**Mr Ayush Anand** *Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi*

**Mr Shubhendu Anand** *Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation, New Delhi*

**Dr Supam Ranaber Singh** *Research Officer, IGNC, New Delhi*

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