



इन्दिरा गांधी राष्ट्रीय कला केन्द्र
INDIRA GANDHI NATIONAL CENTRE FOR THE ARTS

 **DESHKAL SOCIETY**
Knowledge with Practice

ONLINE CERTIFICATE COURSE *on*

The Multifaceted Aspects of Bodhgaya and the Philosophy and Teachings of Buddhism

Course Syllabus

The course consists of four units and each of these units will consist of five subunits. In addition to this, there will be an introductory session and a concluding session as well.

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UNIT 1 | PHILOSOPHY AND TEACHINGS OF BUDDHISM

- 1. Buddhist Scriptures and Schools**
 - a. Dharma: Texts and Practice
 - b. Sutra and Abhidharma
 - c. New schools: Mahayana and Vajrayana

 - 2. Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path**
 - a. Suffering
 - b. Origin of Suffering
 - c. Cessation of Suffering
 - d. Way leading to the cessation of Suffering

 - 3. Anatman (No Self) and Pratityasamutpada (Dependent Arising)**
 - a. Buddhist critique of Atman
 - b. Ignorance and Attachment
 - c. Teaching of Dependent Arising

 - 4. Abhidharma (Higher Teaching) and Meditation**
 - a. Stories, Legends, and Texts
 - b. Abhidharma as a system of Buddhist Thought
 - c. Practice and Stages of Meditation

 - 5. Mahayana and Vajrayana: Emptiness**
 - a. The Vehicle of Bodhisattva
 - b. Transcendent Buddhas
 - c. Emptiness and Perfection of Wisdom
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UNIT 2 | MULTI RELIGION SITES OF BODHGAYA

1. **Introduction to Sanatan Dharma**
 - a. Shaivism: Forms of Shaivism, Bodhgaya
 - b. Vaishnavism: Ancestral offerings at Gaya and Bodhgaya, Death rituals
 2. **Bodhgaya and Buddhism as well as Jainism:
Placing Bodhgaya in the context of Buddhism and Jainism**
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UNIT 3 | ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

1. **Understanding Mahabodhi Temple Complex: Layers of the temple.
An attempt to connect Buddha's biography to the place and vice versa**
 2. **Specific Aspects:**
 - a. Images
 - b. Temple Architecture
 - c. Pillars
 - d. Site Museums: What it consists of and the relevance
 3. **Outside the temple and the museums: Stupas and other excavations**
 - a. Bakrol Stupa
 - b. Tharadi Monastery
 - c. Newer Monasteries including the Dashnami Shaivaite monastery
 4. **Sanatan Dharmic Sites (Gaya)**
 5. **Sculptures and Other sites**
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UNIT 4 | HERITAGE

1. **How people engage with Bodhgaya**
 2. **Prominent features in the area:**
 - a. A living heritages like Bodhgaya
 - b. Dead Heritage sites like Nalanda
 - c. Tensions between the dead and living heritage sites
 - d. Livelihood and people: Water
 3. **Specific developments held on an annual basis:**
 - a. The Tibetan connection
 - b. 19th century monasteries:
 - i. Mahabodhi Society
 - ii. The Burmese Vihara
 - iii. Shaivite Monastery
 - iv. Vishnupad
 4. **Explaining the heritagization of Buddhism - Historical Aspects**
 - a. Issues during 19th and 20th centuries
 - b. Contestations and claims
 5. **Current Activities at Bodhgaya**
 - a. Global Dialogues
 - b. The different Buddhist calendars and festivities
 - c. Buddha Dharma foundation: Heritage Walks
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