

Dated: Monday, 21 April 2025



7TH EDITION BODH GAYA GLOBAL DIALOGUES 2025: ORGANIZED BY DESHKAL SOCIETY WITH DR. AMBEDKER INTERNATIONAL CENTRE IN ASSOCIATION WITH INDIAN COUNCIL OF WORLD AFFAIRS: MR. NIRAJ KUMAR'S BOOK LAUNCH

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



A very highly qualified intellectuals and learned people participated in different panel discussions on subjects like Buddhist Philosophy and the Teachings of Buddhism, Envisioning the Buddhist Circuits : Locality, Heritage Making and Sustainability and Buddhist, Buddhist Monuments, Heritage and Beyond was a part of the first day session.

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The second day session was on the India - Vietnam Relations and the panel discussed on the Exploring and Building on the Buddhism Connect and Emerging Area of Cooperation. The highlight of the day was on the Book Launch on the 2nd Volume of Kalachakra Tantra Translation, Annotation and Commentary by Shri. Niraj Kumar, a very highly acclaimed Author and Translator on Buddhism and specializes on detailed research on the Kalachakra Tantra in India.



Shri Niraj Kumar is a well known scholar on geopolitics and Indian culture. He is a commentator on Shakta and Buddhist Tantras. Many of his works have been published since 2002 and widely acclaimed. Niraj Kumar succinctly puts the text as the capsule of the famed Nalanda Tradition. Presently Shri Niraj Kumar is the Joint Secretary in the Ministry of the Development of North Eastern Region, Government of India.

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His first work, on Asian Integration, "*Arise, Asia!*" was published in October, 2002. The sequel "*Asia in Post-Western Age*" was published in 2014. His edited work on Himalayan Studies, "*Himalayan Bridge*" (KW Publisher: 2016, Routledge: London & New York, 2020, 2021) has been widely acclaimed. His ongoing work is on five volume translation and commentary on the Kalachakra Tantra.



Kalachakra tantra is known as the king of Tantras and it belongs to the highest *anuttara* yoga tantra. The text composed in the toughest Sragdhra meter of Sanskrit poetry weaves empirical knowledge of over 20 subjects like metallurgy, astronomy, alchemy, architecture, linguistics, embryology and transcendental knowledge for liberation of all sentient beings. This Tantra describes sequential stereological stairway for the age of Kaliyuga when *Karaṇ* (algorithmic or pattern-recognition) method of knowing would dominate the *sutra* (fundamental treatise) mode of learning.

The first volume of Sh. Kumar running into 685 pages was published in 2022. The second volume is set to be released in May 2024. Remaining three volumes are ready in typescript and will be published by the end of 2025. This complete work runs into 2700 pages and apart from translation of 1047 verses of the Sanskrit text, Sh. Kumar has contributed a new commentary. The last verse by verse commentary, *Vimalprabha*, was written by Kalki Pundarika in the middle of the 11th century.



Sh. Kumar has been addressing international audience on this subject and is one of the panellist on Session of Kalacakra Tantra during XXth IABS Conference to be held in Leipzig University, Germany in 2025. The Book Launch was carried out by the Chief Guest, Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi Centre for Arts IGNCA, New Delhi, the Guest of Honour Shri Sasmit Patra, Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Rajya Sabha, Shri Sanjay Kumar, Secretary, Deshkal Society, Ms. Zena Chung, Founder President, Indo-Korea Business Culture Centre. Dr. Manindra Nath Thakur, also Prof. Madhu Khanna, Tantra Foundation, Dr. Abira Bhattacharya, Assistant Curator, Department of Anthropology, National Museum, Delhi and few others.



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Indo-Korea Business Culture Centre was represented by Ms. Zena Chung, Founder President who is on a noble mission to revive the 2000 years old historical connections between India and Korea and further improve the Indo-Korea Relations through the teachings of Lord Buddha and the moral value of Lord Ram. A 15 acres land is donated to Government of India for the construction of the Ram Temple replica in Seoul, 10 acres is donated for the construction of a Gurdwara adjacent to a Buddhist Temple. The blessings of the Hon'ble Prime Minister is awaited to confirm the inauguration of the Buddhist Temple and on the same day to lay the Foundation Stone of the Ram Temple replica and the Gurdwara in honour and tribute to

Guru Govind Singh Ji and Mata Sundri who symbolizes women empowerment (Nari Shakti) and education for all women to be of top priority.

This will not only promote Religious Tourism but this initiative taken by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Modi to make the Buddhist Heritage as India's Foreign Policy, the Buddhist teachings are the need of the hour for the world to be treated as "Vasudeva Kutumbakam" or "One Family" and this message from India is to be widespread all over the world in the present geopolitical scenario for world peace.