

INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR

Trans-Himalayan Buddhism: Exploring the Cultural Space

March 10-11, 2016

PROGRAMME

DAY I:

Thursday, March 10, 2016

Registration and Tea: 10:00 am - 10:30 am

INAUGURAL SESSION

10:30 am - 11:15 am

Welcome Address: **Dr. Sreeradha Datta**, Director MAKAIAS

Book Launch: *Water Resources Cooperation between India and Nepal*,
Edited by Monika Mandal

Keynote Address: **Prof. Phunchok Stobdan**, Former Ambassador and Senior Fellow, IDSA

SESSION I

Exploring the Constituent Elements –

Cultures, Traits, Beliefs, Practices and Myths Associated with Trans-Himalayan Buddhism

11:30 am - 01:15 pm

Chair: Ven. Luntaen Gyatso

Speakers:

- **Dr. Milan Ratna Shakya**, *Nepal: the Buddhist Seat of Trans-Himalayan Traits in Mythical Culture as a Sacred Practice*
- **Prof. K.T.S. Sarao**, *Pilgrimage to Gang Rimpoche (Kailash) and its Indian Connections*
- **Dr. Ajay Parmar**, *Buddhism in Uttarakhand – Through the Ages*

- **Dr. Shangmu Thendup**, *Buddhism and Religious Environmentalism in Sikkim: Through Myths, Legends and Tradition*
- **Ms. Anuradha Bhutia and Dr. Manish Srivastava**, *Cultural Manifestation of Buddhism: Sacred Caves of Sikkim*

Lunch: 01:15 pm - 02:00 pm

SESSION II

Trans-Localisation of Buddhist Culture and Specific Manifestations in the Localised Context

02:00 pm - 03:45 pm

Chair: Dr. Sreeradha Datta

Speakers:

- **Dr. O. C. Handa**, *Buddhism in Western Himalayan Region as Revealed from the Literary and Archaeological Sources*
- **Dr. Padam Nepal**, *Religion's Social and Politico-Legal Agenda: Bhutanese Buddhism as Determinant of 'Ways of Life' and 'Life-world Practices' in Contemporary Bhutanese Society*
- **Dr. Karma Rigzin**, *Bhutan – Through the Lens of Buddhism*
- **Dr. Sohel Firdos**, *Spaces of Religious Transformations: Tibetan Buddhist Settlements in India*
- **Dr. Uttam Lal**, *Geography of Buddhism in the Himalayas*

Tea: 03:45 pm – 4:00 pm

SESSION- III

Buddhism and Modern Thoughts – Interpretative and Explanatory Approaches to Buddhism and Its Applications

04:00 pm - 05:15 pm

Chair: Dr. Milan Ratna Shakya

Speakers:

- **Ven. Lungtaen Gyatso**, *Desire, Thought and Expectation: Understanding Human Being*

- **Dr. P. M. Khangamcha**, *Theoria and Praxis of Nirvāna: A Dynamically Normative Trans-National Socio-Cultural Continuum*
- **Dr. V. Krishna Ananth**, *The Meta-Physics of the Buddha's Thoughts and Its Impact on the Hindu Religious Thoughts, with Reference to the Adhvaita Philosophy of Sankara*
- **Dr. Uddhab P. Pyakurel**, *Practiced Caste System in Nepal and the Role of Lamaist Buddhism*

CULTURAL PROGRAMME

6:30 pm

BASANTA UTSAB

By
Sangeeti

At

Maulana Azad Museum
5, Ashraf Mistry Lane
Kolkata-700019

DAY II:
Friday, March 11, 2016

Tea: 10:00 am - 10:30 am

PANEL DISCUSSION

India's Connectivity through Buddhism

10:30 am - 12:30 pm

Chair: Prof. Phunchok Stobdan

Panelists:

- **Prof. Nirmal Man Tuladhar**, Executive Director, Centre for International Affairs, Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal
- **Ven. Lungtaen Gyatso**, Director, Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan
- **Prof. K.T.S. Sarao**, Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, New Delhi
- **Dr. P. M. Khangamcha**, Head I/C, Department of Philosophy Manipur University, Imphal
- **Dr. O. C. Handa**, Director of Indus-Infinity Foundation and Senior Editor of the History of Indian Science & Technology Series (HIST)
- **Dr. Padam Nepal**, Reader and Head of the Department of Political Science, St. Joseph's College, North Point, Darjeeling
- **Dr. Milan Ratna Shakya**, Head and Chairman, Central Department of Buddhist Studies Associate Professor of Central Department of Nepalese History, Culture and Archaeology, Tribhuvan University, Nepal
- **Dr. Ajay Parmar**, Head of the Department of History, and Director, Buddhist Studies Centre M.P.G College, Mussoorie
- **Dr. Karma Rigzin**, Lecturer, Institute of Language and Culture Studies, Royal University of Bhutan, Bhutan
- **Dr. Shangmu Thendup**, Assistant Professor, Department of History, Sikkim University, Gangtok

- **Dr. Sohel Firdos**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Sikkim University, Gangtok
- **Dr. Uttam Lal**, Associate Professor, Department of Geography, Sikkim University, Gangtok
- **Dr. Uddhab P. Pyakurel**, School of Arts, Kathmandu University, Nepal
- **Ms. Anuradha Bhutia**, Ph. D. Scholar, Sikkim University, Gangtok

Concluding Remarks and Vote of Thanks: Dr. Sreeradha Datta