

# A contribution about the Buddha statue project (1)

The installation of the statue of Lord Buddha in Buddha Jayanti Park in New Delhi is a historic event. This monument with its canopy is dedicated as a token of His Holiness the Dalai Lama's gratitude to the people and government of India for their continued efforts to promote world peace and understanding among peoples.

In 1983, His Holiness expressed his desire to erect a monument in Delhi with this dedication. Subsequently, Tibet House, His Holiness's cultural centre, approached the Indian government with a proposal to erect a statue of Buddha under a canopy in Buddha Jayanti Park. This would not only be an ornament to the park, but also a worthy memorial in honour of one of India's greatest sons, who over 2,500 years ago showed by his personal example the universal path to liberation from suffering.

Thanks to the benevolent consideration of the Ministry of Urban Development, the Delhi Urban Art Commission and other authorities, Tibet House was provided with a plot of land for the installation of the statue and canopy in Buddha Jayanti Park. In 1987, the then Prime Minister, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, approved a model of the proposed structure, the design and proportions of which were then finalized in 1988 in consultation with the relevant authorities. The design as a whole symbolizes a harmonious unity of multiplicity-ethnic, linguistic, communal, etc. - a unity that is at the core of the message of His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The structure in its entirety can be seen as a journey through various stages of development towards this goal, rising from the base to the top, the full realization of compassion and wisdom. It is a symbol of this process of manifestation and a representation of non-duality.

Its name, natural topography and diversity of vegetation make Buddha Jayanti Park a suitable place for the Buddha statue. Placed on an island in the park, this new monument faces east, just like the Kalachakra mandala and the direction in which Buddha sat under the Bodhi tree in Bodh Gaya when he attained enlightenment.