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## Buddhism places Orissa on world tourism map

Pioneer News Service / Bhubaneswar

A five-day international seminar on Buddhism, held in Bangkok noted that Buddhism spread to the entire South East Asia from Kalinga, the ancient name of Orissa.

The numerous Buddhist shrines in Orissa have identified the State in the world map, said speakers at the seminar.

More than 500 dignitaries, including Buddhist monks, participated in the seminar, which was organised by the Nirvan Pilgrim Society, West Bengal Chapter, in collaboration with the Tourism and Culture Department of Orissa.

Orissa's Minister for culture Damodar Rout said the recent archaeological excavations at Lalitgiri and Kayama in Jajpur district have further highlighted how Buddhism thrived in the State.


Tourism Minister Surya Narayan Patro invited pilgrims and tourists from Buddhist countries to visit Buddhist shrines in Orissa. Buddhist monks, however, pointed out that the problems relating to air service links to reach Orissa.

The Secretary (Culture) in the Indian Embassy in Thailand Rajiv Kumar assured that he would take up this matter with the Government of India.

Orissa's tourism and culture department secretary Ashok Tripathy, tourism director SK Sarangi, Nirvan Society president Niraj Padhi and advisor PC Tripathy also attended the seminar, which featured Odissi dance and an exhibition of Orissan handicrafts and food.

For any comments, queries or feedback, kindly mail us at [feedback@dailypioneer.com](mailto:feedback@dailypioneer.com) or [pioneerletters@yahoo.co.in](mailto:pioneerletters@yahoo.co.in)

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