

REVIEWS OF THE BOOK

From the comments of Sh GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, Hon'ble Union Minister of Culture when releasing the book at India International Centre, New Delhi on July 16, 2026

".....What moves me most about this book is its balanced, discerning approach. Often, when discussing ancient traditions alongside modern breakthroughs, there is a temptation to retroactively claim that concepts like AI were fully anticipated by ancient texts or philosophers. I deeply appreciate that Professor Varma resisted this impulse. Rather than advancing nostalgic claims, he constructs a meaningful dialogue between modern technology and ancient philosophy, examining how both spheres can enrich one another. Our tradition thrives on accepting ideas in their fullness, synthesising diverse viewpoints, and embracing whatever is noble through open debate and deep reflection. This work embodies that very ethos, demonstrating that modernity and tradition—technology and culture—are not antithetical forces, but harmonious, complementary elements. I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Professor Chandra Bhushan Varma. I am confident that this work will prove profoundly timely, intellectually stimulating, and immensely valuable to the broader discourse on human progress."

SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT,
Union Minister of Culture,,Govt of India

"The material presented today—especially regarding 'Buddhist inputs for Artificial Intelligence'—is truly impressive. Science has advanced so much, and this subject holds great significance... This initiative encompasses literature, philosophy, and—as Dr Verma noted—even scientific concepts embedded within the language itself." Padma Shri Dr. R. S. Bisht — the legendary excavator of Dholavira and a doyen of the Indus Valley Civilisation

Padma Shri Dr. R. S. Bisht — the legendary excavator of Dholavira
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PADMASHRI, DR R S BISHT,
The legendary archaeologist, whose excavations at Dholavira
have changed the world-view on Indian Civilisation.

"The book before us—which I would describe as an absolute must-read—raises many important issues for all of us to reflect upon."

K N SHRIVASTAVA, IAS,
Director, India International Centre

"...I would like to congratulate Professor C. B. Varma for the excellent book he has written. I am sure this book can become a pioneering work in a new area where we shall be discussing how our traditional wisdom can be utilised in technological development.

The Buddhist Abhidhamma, as he has already pointed out, is basically a science of the mind. It offers insights that can help guide AI towards wisdom, compassion, and human flourishing. Technology can change the world, but wisdom steers technology for the good of humanity. It's food for thought for all of us, no matter what field our profession is in. And this is the central message of Professor Varma's book. "

DR V.N. OJHA,
An eminent Scientist and a pioneer of India's Metrology

"...I believe that the present book by Professor Chandra B Varma shall be welcomed by researchers working in the field of Artificial Intelligence. Also, I congratulate the author on his sincere endeavour to bridge the gap between the traditional scholars and the modern scientists. I hope the book shall give a sound base to the advancement of Artificial Intelligence studies using the Abhidhammic concepts."

DR ATUL NEGI,
Professor & Dean,
School of Computer & Information Sciences,
University of Hyderabad, INDIA

"How do we bridge the gap between ancient Indian tradition and cutting-edge modern AI? The answer can only come from a philosopher. Illustrated Abhidhamma. Buddhist Inputs for Artificial Intelligence effectively serves as a definitive guidebook, beautifully demonstrating how to strike a harmonious balance between human wisdom and machine intelligence."

DR ABHIJIT JOSHI,
Sr Faculty, Department of Philosophy
, University of Hyderabad

"The Illustrated Abhidhamma is a bold attempt to connect our consciousness with modern-day Artificial Intelligence. The Artificial Intelligence works based on language models and what's available literally in the world. But what's beyond that? Through this book, Prof. Chandra B. Varma has tried very succinctly and lucidly to represent how our mental consciousness model can be represented in the form of computer components to aid Artificial Intelligence in gathering, perceiving, and responding to various situations. As Abhidhammic models have been used by Japanese scientists to illustrate elementary particle phenomena in physics, they can definitely be useful in the real physical world for correlating with AI models. In my view, this work by Prof. Varma is a very sincere attempt to bring Artificial Intelligence closer to Natural Intelligence."

PAWAN KR FANGARIA,
Formerly Director, Physical Design Group, Cadence Design Systems

"...the book under consideration is a brilliant and unique work dealing with problems of consciousness and cognition and providing guidance to the ethical development of machine learning."

PROFESSOR ANANYA BARUA,
Department of Philosophy, Hindu College, University of Delhi

BOOK RELEASE BY SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT, THE UNION MINISTER OF CULTURE, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

Link: <https://youtu.be/s-oVRa4sLDg?si=mfrxwoMUbQKgUzz7>

FULL SPEECH/COMMENTS BY THE MINISTER ON THE BOOK: 17 MINUTES

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EXbkHubqlvI&t=3s>