

# 2<sup>nd</sup> Global Buddhist Summit 2026

## CONCEPT NOTE

### Collective Wisdom, United Voice, and Mutual Coexistence

The modern world is experiencing rapid changes, marked by social, political, and environmental challenges leading to conflict, alienation, and uncertainty. In such a context, the timeless wisdom of the Buddha Dhamma offers guidance through compassion, wisdom, and harmony. The principles of *collective wisdom*, *united voice*, and *mutual coexistence* are central to fostering peace, shared prosperity, and deeper human connection. The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), inspired by these values, seeks to reaffirm the relevance of Buddha Dhamma in addressing contemporary challenges through solidarity and cooperation. The 1<sup>st</sup> Global Buddhist Summit, held in 2023, brought together over 170 delegates from across the globe, including esteemed members of the Sangha and lay practitioners. Centered around the theme "*Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis*," the summit fostered meaningful dialogue on applying Buddhist principles to address modern societal issues. Building on these foundational insights, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) plans the **2<sup>nd</sup> Global Buddhist Summit (GBS)** to be held on **January 24–25, 2026, in New Delhi**, with the proposed theme "**Collective Wisdom, United Voice, and Mutual Coexistence**." This theme aims to further strengthen the role of Buddhist philosophy in nurturing societal harmony and promoting constructive international engagement.

#### Rationale

The theme highlights the Buddha's teaching that all phenomena are interdependent, condensed in the principle of *Paṭicca-samuppāda* (Dependent Origination). This concept is central to Buddhist philosophy. It describes how events and experiences arise and cease in a dependent manner, illustrating the interconnected web of conditions that shape existence and suffering. This view is foundational in the *Pāli Canon* and key *Mahayāna sutras*, and is crucial to understanding that individual actions resonate across the shared view of life. Buddhist texts and traditions focus on the fact that while wisdom (*prajñā*) is often cultivated personally, its fullest expression comes in the context of community. Though the Buddhist Sangha, brings in unique experiences and insights, yet it is through dialogue, ethical engagement, and mutual support that deeper collective wisdom emerges. This principle is echoed historically: as societies and groups collaborate, their shared knowledge becomes more than the sum of its parts. The doctrine of dependent origination, *Paṭicca-samuppāda*, illustrates the Buddha's insight into causality and interdependence. According to this teaching, nothing exists independently; every phenomenon arises conditioned by other phenomena, creating an unbroken chain of causality. The twelve-link chain, for example, from ignorance through craving and becoming, demonstrates that suffering isn't isolated but arises from shared causes, emphasizing human interconnectedness and responsibility. The Buddhist phrase "*many in body, one in mind*" captures the synergy created when diverse individuals unite in shared intent and ethical aspiration. Unity in diversity is not enforced sameness but an empowered acknowledgment and celebration of differences while sustaining a common purpose. Buddha Dhamma teaches that co-existence is not simply tolerance but an active realization that the

happiness, suffering, and destiny of all beings are inextricably linked. Compassion and ethical conduct (*sīla*) are not optional; they are necessary for the liberation of oneself and others. The Buddha's teachings on good friendship, intentional communities, and the settlement of disputes (such as those found in the *Dīgha Nikāya – Collection of Long Discourses* and *Majjhima Nikāya – Collection of Middle-Length Discourses*) demonstrate practical applications for creating harmonious societies grounded in collective well-being.

## **Objectives**

- To highlight the continuing relevance of Buddha Dhamma principles in social harmony, peace, and cooperation in the modern era.
- To strengthen the unity of voice among followers of the Buddha Dhamma across nations and traditions while celebrating diversity.
- To promote practical pathways for mutual coexistence in addressing global issues such as conflict, inequality, and ecological crises.
- Encourage dialogue and mutual respect among diverse Buddhist traditions to strengthen unity in shared values.
- Integrate timeless Buddhist wisdom with modern learning to guide future generations toward peace and coexistence and sustainable coexistence where human progress aligns with respect and care for nature.

## **Sub-Theme Ideas**

### **Collective Wisdom and United Voice for Social Harmony**

This theme delves into how the convergence of diverse perspectives within the Buddha Dhamma tradition nurtures a shared sense of compassion and empathy. It emphasizes the transformative power of collective understanding as a means of addressing contemporary social challenges. By engaging with the Buddhist ideals of interdependence and mutual respect, scholars can reflect on how collective wisdom forms the moral foundation for peaceful and inclusive societies.

### **Entrepreneurship and Right Livelihood in Buddha Dhamma**

Anchored in the Noble Eightfold Path's principle of Right Livelihood, this theme explores how Buddhist teachings can inspire value-based entrepreneurship and ethical models of economic activity. It discusses mindfulness in business, stress management, and community-oriented enterprise development. By merging economic creativity with ethical intention, scholars can reimagine modern entrepreneurship as a practice of generosity, balance, and mindful contribution to society and the environment.

### **Scientific Research, Healthcare, Medicine and Sustainable Living in Buddha Dhamma**

This theme bridges ancient wisdom and modern science by examining how Buddhist approaches can enhance physical and mental health, ecological awareness, and sustainability. Recent studies analyze how Abhidhamma's detailed classification of mental states correlates with modern cognitive science and neuropsychology. For a deeper understanding of mental

health, consciousness, and the mind-body relationship, advancing a holistic approach to health and sustainable well-being consistent with the Buddha's teachings on balance and mindful coexistence.

### **Learning in the Light of Buddha Dhamma**

This theme investigates the pedagogical dimensions of Buddha Dhamma how knowledge is preserved, transmitted, and adapted in a digital age. Importantly, the Buddha's teachings were experiential and practical, aimed not just at intellectual understanding but at transforming conduct and cultivating mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom. The theme therefore will focus on collective learning, Dhamma-centred education models, enabled global participation in practice and study. The theme celebrates education not merely as instruction but as transformation, guiding communities to understand, internalise, and propagate the timeless wisdom of the Buddha in new and accessible ways.

### **Sangha Dynamics through their Roles, Rituals, and Practice in Buddha Dhamma**

Exploring the living dimension of community, this theme reflects on the essence of the Sangha as a model for collective growth and spiritual friendship (*kalyāṇamitta*). Sangha members dedicate their lives to studying and practising the Buddha's teachings, ensuring they are passed down accurately through generations. It contemplates how traditional monastic values can be integrated with contemporary communal living, encouraging inclusivity, resilience, and shared purpose. The reinterpretation of Sangha dynamics for modern contexts emphasises unity in diversity, mutual guidance, and the collective pursuit of awakening.

**Conclusion** - As inheritors of a timeless tradition of wisdom and compassion, we stand at a moment of decision where it becomes rudimentary to bridge ancient insight meets modern aspiration. The teachings of the Buddha invite us not only to reflect but to act, to build communities ingrained in kindness, mindfulness, and shared understanding. IBC as a collective platform wishes to become a beacon of unity, where every voice contributes to a greater harmony and every act embodies compassion in motion. Together, through the light of the Dhamma, may we inspire transformation, nurture peace, and shape a better world for generations to come.

न हि वेरेन वेरानि, सम्मन्तीध कुदाचनं । *Na hi verena verāni, sammantīdha kudācanam;*

अवेरेन च सम्मान्ति, एस धम्मो सनन्तनो ॥ *Averena ca sammantī, esa dhammo sanantano.*

Hatred does not cease by hatred at any time.

Hatred ceases through non-hatred.

This is an eternal law.