



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

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The Bhutanese delegation of high-ranking Monks on a spiritual and academic tour of India have been invited to set up a Monastery in Nalgonda, at **Buddhavanam**, the Buddhist Heritage Park, Nagarjunasagar in Telangana.



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the Buddhavanam



Venerable Ugen Namgyal, Secretary of the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan and the leader of the delegation accepted the offer, acknowledging that the **Buddhavanam** was an

impressive Heritage Park. Mongolia, Thailand and Sri Lanka are also building monasteries in the sprawling, scenic complex.



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The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in coordination with the Central Monastic Body in Thimpu (Bhutan) organized the 8-day spiritual and educational tour and the delegation mainly comprises prominent monks from the Central Monastic Body in Thimpu and some senior monks from varied monasteries in Bhutan.



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the Airport



The delegation of 24 monks representing Buddhist Sangha's from all districts of the Himalayan Kingdom, arrived in Delhi on 26th November. During the 9-day visit that ends on November 30th, the Venerables visited various religious and Buddhist heritage sites and interacted with Buddhist groups.

In Andhra Pradesh the pilgrimage included offering prayers at the Holy Buddha Relic at Nagarjuna Konda and at the **Amravati stupa**. The highlight in Telangana was Buddhavanam, the heritage park with a tour of the Infosys complex.



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the Amravati Stupa



In Uttar Pradesh, at **Sankissa** the delegation offered prayers at the stupa and visited the Youth Buddhist Society of India (YBS) to interact with the local



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the Sankisa stupa

Buddhist groups and youth, followed by a tour of the unique Ashokan Pillar (world's tallest elephant pillar).



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the YBS Center

- Onwards, in their journey to New Delhi, midway, they spent a day admiring the **Taj Mahal**.



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the Taj Mahal



In New Delhi the Venerables prayed to the sacred Holy Budha Relic at the **National Museum** and saw the ancient traditional style of the Nagara temple architecture at the Akshardham Temple. They were also in Hyderabad and Kolkata.



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at National Museum



Delegation of Monks from Bhutan at the IBC office

Speaking at IBC office after watching a documentary on IBC, the leader of the delegation Venerable Ugen Namgyal, noted that IBC was playing a very important role internationally by preserving Buddhist culture, tradition and heritage. Bhutan will share this responsibility with India internationally to spread peace, happiness and the culture of India and Bhutan.



BACKGROUND OF THE VISIT AND THE ROLE OF BUDDHISM IN BHUTAN

- The visit holds great significance for the Venerables as it is from India that Guru Padmasambhava travelled to teach Buddhism in Bhutan. Guru Tilopa is also believed to have traveled to Bhutan from Bengal to teach Vajrayana Buddhism. In Bhutan, for every member of the Sangha (Buddhist Monastic order) a pilgrimage following the footsteps of the Buddha brings great merit.
- The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in coordination with the Central Monastic Body in Thimpu (Bhutan) organized the 8-day spiritual and educational tour and the delegation comprises mainly of prominent monks from Central Monastic Body in Thimpu and some senior monks from varied monasteries in Bhutan.
- In Bhutan, Buddhism is not only the state religion but also a way of life. It is reflected in art, architecture and its religious traditions. The Central Monastic Body of Bhutan or the “Zhung Dratshang” was established in 1620. The unification of the country, codification of the laws, and organizational development of the dual system of governance took place only after the establishment of this significant institution. According to the Constitution of Bhutan, the Zhung Dratshang is an autonomous institution, financed by an annual grant from the Royal Government.
- The IBC has had firm relations with Buddhist communities in Bhutan and the visit of this delegation will only further ties between the two sides. The Buddhist Sangha of Bhutan and IBC are collaborating to strengthen the spiritual and cultural bonds as well as further enrich people-to-people relations between India and Bhutan. **About International Buddhist Confederation- Collective Wisdom, United Voice**
- **The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)**, on the basis of a Resolution adopted at the Global Buddhist Congregation in New Delhi, in 2011, the IBC was formed in 2012 as a global umbrella Buddhist body with headquarters in New Delhi, India.

- Established under the patronage of the supreme Buddhist religious hierarchy, it currently has a membership drawn from 39 countries, of over 320 organizations, both monastic and lay, that include world bodies, national and regional federations, orders, temple bodies and monasteries and international organizations, institutions etc.

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- United by the motto, “Collective Wisdom, United Voice”, IBC aims to make Buddhist values and principles a part of the global discourse by presenting a united Buddhist voice on issues that concern all humankind.
- IBC stands for transparency, inclusiveness and a balanced representation of various traditions, gender, bodies both monastic and lay, and emerging Buddhist communities in Africa, the Caribbean and South America. Praised by followers of Buddha Dhamma from around the world for including both Sangha and laity in its governing structure, IBC has been hailed by the international media as a forward looking, inclusive, credible and actions-oriented World Buddhist Umbrella Body.
- The IBC also stands for the preservation, development and promotion of Buddhist heritage, both tangible and intangible worldwide, especially the holy sites like Bodhi Gaya in India, where Buddha attained Enlightenment.

ON THE FOOT STEP OF BUDDHA

HYDERABAD | ANDHRA PRADESH | UTTAR PRADESH | DELHI

