



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION
Collective Wisdom United Voice

Vaisakha Buddha Purnima Divas 2023



NEW DELHI

LADAKH

USA

SRI LANKA



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) marked the Buddha Pournima Day celebration in New Delhi and Leh, continuing the trend of active engagement with the large Buddhist communities in India.

Seperately, IBC participated at the Vesak Day celebration at the Indian Embassy in Washington, where US based Buddhist organisations associated with IBC participated. IBC also facilitated in bringing together Buddhist organizations in the US and the Indian Embassy in Washington.

In Sri Lanka, The Indian High Commission held an exhibition of Buddhist art. The IBC contributed by sending a very special digital innovation of Ajanta painting exhibition to Colombo.

NEW DELHI



LADAKH, UT



USA



SRI LANKA



New Delhi

वैशाख बुद्ध पूर्णिमा दिवस त्रिविधपायनी वैशाख बुद्ध पूर्णिमा - शाक्यमुनि बुद्ध के जन्म, बोधि और महापरिनिर्वाण का दिन
To commemorate The Triple Blessed Day Of Shākyamuni Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Mahāparinirvāṇa

**Celebration of
Vaiśākha Buddha Pūrṇimā Divas**

On 5th May, 2023
At The Auditorium, National Museum, Janpath, New Delhi

Organised by:
International Buddhist Confederation
&
Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association

The IBC organised the Buddha Purnima Divas celebration on May 05, 2023 at National museum along with the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association.

The Chief Guest of this Event was Ms. Meenakashi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture, Govt. of India. The Guest of honour was His Eminence the Kundeling Taksak Choktrul Rinpoche, Drepung Gomang Monastery and the Special Guest was Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR.

The Buddha's message of peace, non-violence and the path of truth is as relevant today as it was 2550 years ago, said Ms. Meenakshi Lekhi, Minister of State for Culture, Govt. of India, emphasizing "we not only need to recall but also carry it forward, as it had been done for centuries in the past."

Speaking on the auspicious day of Vaisakha Buddha Purnima, at the National Museum where the Holy Buddha Relics are enshrined, Ms Lekhi called upon the congregations to move from ideas to action. Quoting from the ancient text, the words of Buddha, she said all our thought and ideas are like fragrance, this should reach all, and we need to translate them into action.

The Minister added that during the reign of Samrat Ashok, several monks spread out in many countries taking the Buddha's teaching. "in this respect, we are all connected through blood, thought and culture. The message remains common: be kind in thought and deed, and follow the right action in everyone's life, she added.

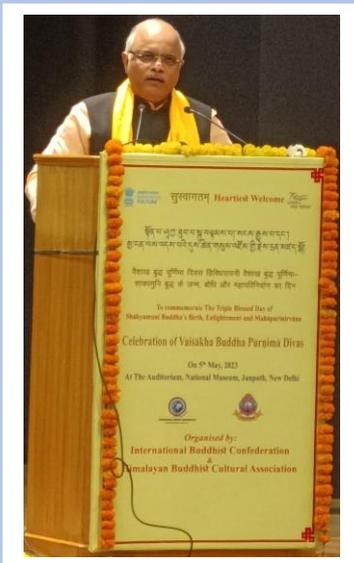


The celebrations to commemorate the Triple Blessed Day of Shakyamuni Buddha's birth, enlightenment and Mahāparinirvāṇa were organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association (HBCA). The event was marked by reverence and piety. Prayers for National Unity, Harmony and World Peace were held before the Holy Buddha Relics placed at the National Museum. A large number of monks, nuns and lay worshippers gathered to pray and recall Buddha's teachings.

The event started with the lighting of a Lamp and the offering of the Maglacharan prayers by Monks. The Dhamma Talk was presented by the Guest of Honour, His Eminence the Kundeling Taksak Choktrul Rinpoche, Drepung Gomang Monastery. He said, that the essence of Buddha's teachings remains as fresh and vital as the freshwater from the Himalayan glaciers. It is important to preserve, study and practice his teachings as they are necessary to heal the contemporary world, he added. He concluded that it is an obligation on everyone to serve others to their best ability.



The Special Guest for the occasion was Dr Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, President, ICCR. He said that Buddha is central to India's conceptualisation and Bharat and Buddha are intricately connected. Buddha's teachings and thoughts remain unique amongst all the Indian spiritual and philosophical traditions because of its interplay between individualism and collectivism, he added.





Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya in his address emphasised on the significance of the Vaisakha Buddha Purinma. He said that this holy day is observed by Buddhist Communities across the world by different names. Speaking on the occasion, he stressed on the teachings of love, compassion and humanity taught by the Buddha. While quoting various teachings of the Buddha he further stressed on the Buddha's teaching of mind training and mentioned about observing the holy day with outmost respect and responsibility by the Buddhist

community with an objective to benefit for the welfare of all sentient beings.

While addressing the gathering, H.E Drukpa Thuksey recalled the kindness and contribution of the past High Lamas and Kings of Ladakh. Rinpoche stressed on the religious harmony among different communities and appealed everyone to keep balance between the spiritual and materialistic development. Rinpoche also mentioned about imparting moral values and education among the children of Ladakh in order to keep them away from negative actions.



Appreciating the organizers for the grand event, the other dignitaries in their address wished all the participants on the holy occasion. This was followed by mask dance, cultural programs specially by the Tamang Community and skit by students from various schools depicting the life and the three major events occurred on the Vaisakha Purnima day during the lifetime of the Shakyamuni Buddha. This was followed by felicitation to various individuals and societies for their contribution in the society. The main attraction of the event was participation of people from all faith like Muslim (Shia & Sunni), Sikh, Hindu and Christians. In a strategic location like Ladakh, where often war and border issues are discussed, Buddha Purnima was celebrated in the most secular way. Buddha Dhamma is the most powerful cultural exports of India to the world, as some would say in international relations, if one were to perceive this idea from the lens of Joseph Nye's concept of soft power. This year's celebration in Leh was a manifold representation of what Indian constitution stands for.



The day long programme concluded with the Vote of thanks by Ven. Acharaya Stanzin Wangtak, President, ALGA. He appreciated and expressed his heartfelt gratitude towards the large gathering on this significant day.



-: Buddhist Philosophy Debate: -

United States of America



On May 5th, 2023, The Embassy of India in Washington D.C. celebrated Buddha Purnima in association with the International Buddhist Association of America (IBAA) and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC). The event was attended by venerable monks, scholars, and members of the Indian diaspora.

During the celebration, Indian ambassador to the United States H.E Mr. Taranjit Singh Sandhu gave a speech, in which he praised Buddhism as one of the "greatest gifts" from India to the world, stretching back over 2500 years. Mr. Sandhu highlighted the role of Buddhism as a "unifying factor" in various countries where it is practiced, citing his experience in Sri Lanka.



Ambassador Sandhu lighting a candle on the occasion of Buddha Purnima.

Mr. Sandhu also commended the Indian government's efforts to strengthen Buddhism and people-to-people linkages through initiatives such as the development of the Buddha circuit in India and Nepal, the rejuvenation of pilgrimage centers like Sarnath and Kushinagar and assistance to neighbouring countries in constructing and renovating Buddhist monasteries. The Indian envoy added that the first Global Buddhist Summit was successfully organized by IBC in India last month where members of the Sangha and scholars from across the world participated.



Ms. Erika Moritsugu, Deputy Assistant to President Biden and AA and NHPI Senior Liaison Office of the Chief of Staff

Other speakers at the event included scholars and office bearers from the IBAA, who also shared their insights on the significance of Buddha Purnima and the relevance of Buddhism in today's world. The event was part of ongoing efforts by the Indian government to promote and strengthen cultural ties between India and the United States. It also served as a reminder of the deep historical and cultural connections between India and the United States, which have been fostered by centuries of exchange and dialogue.



Ms. Wangmo Dixey, President, International Buddhist Association of America.

A message of peace from the Ven. Dr. Dhammpiya, Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), and Director General of the IBC, Mr. A. Halder, was read out on the occasion. "We are thankful to the delegation from the US represented by members of the Sangha as well as Academicians from various Universities and Institutions who participated and joined in making the Event a success. We want to thank the Indian Embassy for giving us the opportunity to participate in this sacred Day of Vesāk. We would like to reiterate that the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is committed to providing a unified

platform for all Buddhist traditions and organizations worldwide and to ensure that the path of Dhamma remains relevant in society's changing landscape."

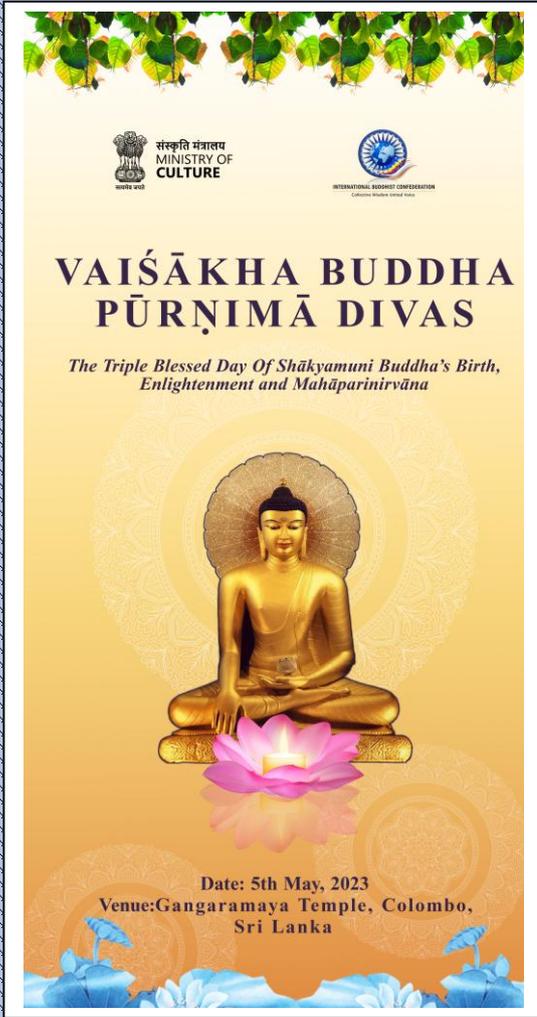


The celebration concluded with a Bharat Natyam dance performance depicting the life of Buddha.



Group Photo at Embassy of India, Washington DC

Sri Lanka

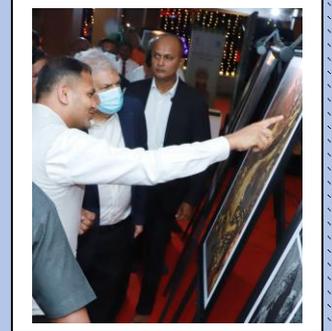


Exhibits from India, relating to the Digital Restoration of Ajanta Cave Paintings were showcased for the first time on the auspicious day of the Buddha Rashmi National Vesak Festival at Seemamalakaya, Gangaramaya Temple in Colombo.

Strengthening the civilization connect between India and Sri Lanka, these special exhibits that were a section in a larger exhibition at the Vesak Festival, displayed India's rich Buddhist Heritage. Curated by Prasad Pawar and presented by the President of the Prasad Pawar Foundation, Mr. Ankur Naik it attracted hundreds of visitors during the 3-day event. The visitors showed great interest in the recreated ancient Buddhist era cave paintings that captured significant episodes from Lord Buddha's life and the Jataka tales.

President Ranil Wickremesinghe, accompanied by the Indian High Commissioner Gopal Baglay, senior ministers and other dignitaries of Sri Lanka visited the Exhibition at the soft opening of the Vesak Festival which was jointly organized by the President's Secretariat, Prime Minister's Office and Gangaramaya Temple on May 03, 2023. Later, the exhibition was also visited by Mr. Mahinda Rajapaksa, ex-President of Sri Lanka.

The exhibition displayed a digital recreation of the fresco paintings from the world-famous UNESCO Heritage Site, the Ajanta caves of India are



Buddhist cave- monuments in Maharashtra, dating back to 2nd and 1st centuries B.C.



There was also an audio-visual presentation explaining the digital restoration process of the Ajanta Caves with the example of the restoration of the cave painting of Padmapani (Ajanta Ellora).

The Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka organized the exhibition with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) facilitating this segment in the exhibition. This exhibition was earlier a part of a larger show on display at the first Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, India from April 20-21, 2023. Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi had also viewed this exhibition at the Summit.

