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# PM Narendra Modi To Address Inaugural Session Of 2-Day Global Buddhist Summit Today In Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday address the inaugural session of the two-day Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi.

By: ABP News Bureau | Updated at : 20 Apr 2023 07:32 AM (IST)

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PM Modi to address Global Buddhist Summit today. ( Image Source : PTI )

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi will on Thursday address the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi, his office said. The two-day summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) on April 20 and 21. The theme of the summit is "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis", it said. The Summit will be attended by eminent Buddhist monks, scholars and delegates from different parts of the world. Representatives of 171 countries will be participating during the inauguration of the Global Buddhist Summit.

PM Modi will address the inaugural session of the Summit at around 10 am at Hotel Ashoka, Delhi.

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As per ANI, the keynote speakers at the event will be Professor Robert Thurman, a leading American expert on Tibetan Buddhism, and His Holiness Thich Tri Quang, the Deputy Patriarch of, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. Professor Thurman was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 2020 for his work on recovering India's ancient Buddhist heritage, the report mentioned.

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"The summit is an effort towards engaging the global "Buddhist Dhamma" leadership and scholars on the matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively. The discussion at the summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings, it added. The summit will witness the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma that is based on universal values," the IO said.

The discussions will be held under four themes: Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability; Preservation of Indian Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia," it added.

Published at : 20 Apr 2023 07:23 AM (IST)

**Tags: PM Narendra Modi | PM Modi | Global Buddhist Summit | PM Modi Global Buddhist Summit**

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# ANI

- हिंदी खबर (/hindi/khabar/)



*Tibetan teacher Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche (Photo/ANI)*

## **Global Buddhist Summit can help spread Buddhism's essence to the world: Tibetan teacher**

ANI | Updated: Apr 22, 2023 04:41 IST

New Delhi [India], April 22 (ANI): Tibetan teacher (/topic/tibetan-teacher) and meditation master of Tibetan Buddhism (/topic/tibetan-buddhism) Yongey Mingyur Rinpoche (/topic/yongey-mingyur-rinpoche) on Friday

said the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit) can help spread Buddhism's essence to the world.

"Through this event, we can really help spread the essence of Buddha Dharma (/topic/buddha-dharma) to the world," Rinpoche said on the second day of the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit) being held in New Delhi.

"I'm very happy to join this meeting because we are meeting with a different tradition, different lineage. So, we are learning a lot," Rinpoche said.

He said: "The Buddha Dharma (/topic/buddha-dharma) is born from India. The main message is about awareness, love, compassion and wisdom."

"India and Nepal have a very close relationship as far as Buddhism is concerned because they are neighbours. But Buddhism unites both countries. I think Buddha Dharma (/topic/buddha-dharma) came to Tibet and what we call India is like father, Nepal is like mother," the Tibetan teacher (/topic/tibetan-teacher) said.

"We receive a lot of teachings from India, from Nepal. Buddha was born in Nepal, but Buddha taught Buddhism around India, many, many places," he said.

The Ministry of Culture, in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), hosted the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit) in New Delhi. The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit) was 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.'

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit) on Thursday.

He underlined that 'Atithi Devo Bhava' is a tradition of the land of Buddha and the presence of so many personalities who have lived through Buddha's ideals "makes us feel the experience of Buddha being present himself around us".

"Buddha is beyond the individual, it is a perception," the Prime Minister said.

Participating in the Global Buddhist Summit (/topic/global-buddhist-summit), Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Friday called for a focus on wisdom and compassion as he highlighted the situation in Tibet by giving his example and stressed looking at the current situation from a broader perspective. (ANI)

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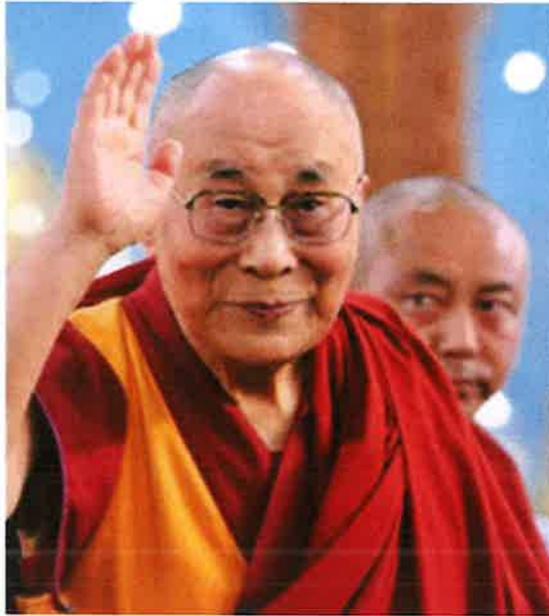
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# Daily Excelsior

## Dalai Lama attends Global Buddhist Summit, speaks of compassion, wisdom

By Daily Excelsior - 22/04/2023



NEW DELHI, Apr 21:

Tibetan Spiritual Leader the Dalai Lama on Friday participated in the Global Buddhist Summit and addressed a group of monks and other delegates who have gathered here for the two-day event, sources said.

He spoke for about half an hour and emphasised on Buddhist philosophy and values.

The first-of-its-kind summit began on Thursday with Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing the inaugural session. Modi in his address said the world is passing through challenges such as war, economic instability, terrorism, religious extremism and climate change and asserted that Lord Buddha's ideas offer a solution to these problems.

The summit is divided into two segments, academic and Sangha sessions.

Media was allowed only for the inaugural session, the rest of the sessions are not open to the press, an official source said.

The source, however, confirmed that the Dalai Lama attended the summit on Friday morning and addressed gathered monks and other delegates.

"In his nearly half-an-hour address, the Tibetan spiritual leader spoke of compassion, wisdom and meditation," he told PTI.

The three values are integral to the teachings of Lord Buddha and the philosophy he espoused.

On Monday, at a press conference here, organisers had said that invite was sent to the Dalai Lama, but till that time it wasn't confirmed whether he would attend the event.

An official source in the Dharamshala-based Central Tibetan Administration or CTA (government in exile) had early on Friday morning told PTI that "His Holiness will attend the event".

The conference is being hosted at The Ashok Hotel from April 20 to 21 by the Union Ministry of Culture along with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

The 87-year-old Tibetan spiritual leader has been in the news recently over a viral video linked with him and a boy.

The Dalai Lama on April 10 apologised to the boy, his family and friends for the "hurt his words may have caused" after the video clip purportedly showing the Tibetan spiritual head asking him to "suck" his tongue sparked a row. (PTI)

## Buddha's teachings could solve global issues: PM at Buddhist summit

The path of Buddha is the path of future and sustainability, Modi said



 [DHNS, New Delhi](#), APR 21 2023, 01:23 IST | UPDATED: APR 21 2023, 01:23 IST



Narendra Modi. Credit: PTI Photo

Speaking at the inaugural Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi on Thursday, [Prime Minister Modi](#) said that the teaching of Buddha could help resolve global suffering from war and strife.

He said that due to war, climate and economic crisis, people around the globe are suffering, and the teachings of Buddha could pave the way for solutions.

"India has not given 'Yuddha' to the world but 'Buddha.' The path of Buddha is the path of future and sustainability," Modi said, addressing delegates of the summit as he inaugurated it.

He said that, in his preachings, Buddha spoke of embracing peace.

Several countries are facing a shortage of resources, and if countries abide by Buddhist principles, stability will prevail. "It is the need of the hour that the priority of every person and nation should be the interest of the world along with the interest of the country," Modi said.

The two-day event is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation. The summit has in attendance delegates from over 30 countries. During the event, the PM offered robes to 19 prominent monks from across the world.

Buddha's teaching can also be the guiding principle to combating climate change, Modi said. "If people become aware and change their lifestyle, then the problem of climate change can also be tackled," he said.

Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy said, "This Global Buddhist Summit will also help in strengthening cultural and diplomatic ties with other countries."

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National

## PM Modi to address Global Buddhist Summit on April 20

The Global Buddhist Summit is an effort towards engaging the global “Buddhist Dhamma” leadership and scholars on the matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively

by **Press Trust of India**  
April 19, 2023

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Prime Minister Narendra Modi

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will address the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit here on Thursday, his office said.

The two-day summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation on April 20 and 21. The theme of the summit is “Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis”, it said.

The summit is an effort towards engaging the global “Buddhist Dhamma” leadership and scholars on the matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively. The discussion at the summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma’s fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings, it added.

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The summit will witness the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma that is based on universal values, the PMO said.

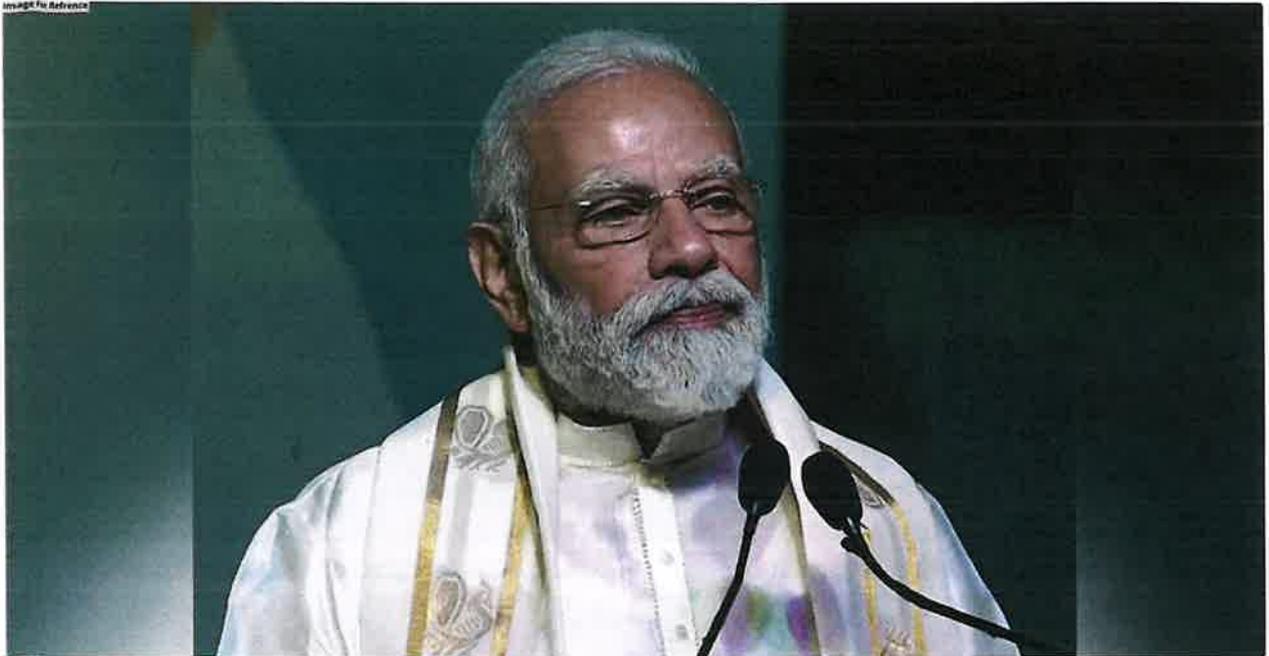
"The discussions will be held under four themes: Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability; Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia," it added.

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## PM to address inaugural session of Global Buddhist Summit on April 20

Image for Reference



18 Apr-2023 14:42 PM

By: [FirstIndia](#)

**New Delhi:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit on April 20, Friday, here in the national capital, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) informed through a release on Tuesday.

The PM's address is scheduled at 10 am at Hotel Ashok in Delhi. The two-day summit is being hosted by the Union Ministry of Culture in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation on April 20-21. The theme for the summit is 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis'.

"The summit is an effort towards engaging the global Buddhist Dhamma leadership and scholars on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively. The discussion at the summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings," read the release. Officials at the PMO said the summit will witness the participation of eminent scholars, sangha leaders and dharma practitioners from all over the world. They will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma that are based on universal values.

"The discussions will be held under four themes – Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and

Sustainability; Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia," the release stated further. (ANI)

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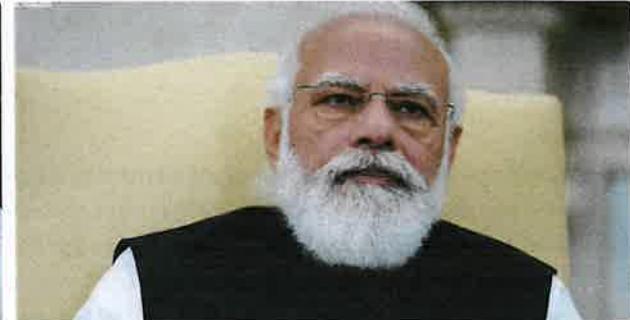
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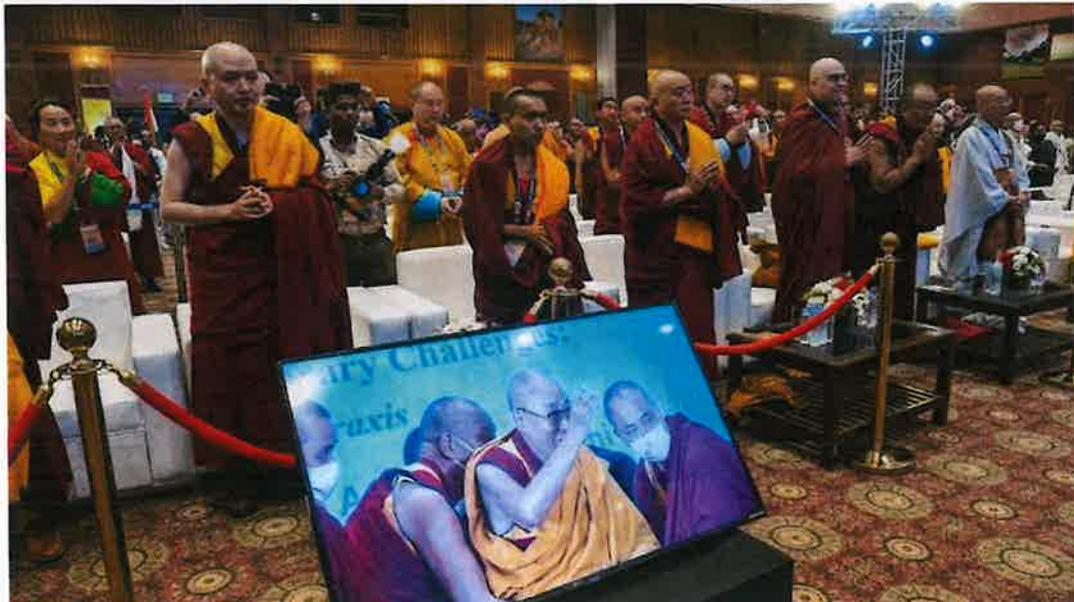
News

## Global Buddhist Summit 2023

April 21, 2023

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New Delhi, India - When His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrived at the Ashok Hotel, venue of the Global Buddhist Summit 2023, this morning, he was welcomed by Dr Abhijit Halder, Director General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Ven Dr Dhammapiya, Secretary General IBC. The Summit organizers had provided a golf-cart to carry His Holiness to the auditorium. The congregation rose to their feet when he entered the room.



Delegates to the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 on their feet as His Holiness the Dalai Lama arrives at the meeting hall at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

His Holiness walked onto the dais and bowed before a statue of the Buddha set up there. Next, he greeted the various Buddhist dignitaries he was joining on the stage as he made his way to his seat, but before he sat down, he saluted members of the congregation gathered in the hall.

To His Holiness's left on the dais sat His Eminence Rev Khamba Lama Gabju Chojamts Demberel (Mongolia), Chamgon Kenting Tai Situpa (Tibet), Ven Bhikshu Dhamma Shobhan Mahathero (Nepal), and Most Ven Thich Thien Tan (Vietnam). To his right sat Most Ven Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero (Sri Lanka), Most Venerable Abhidhajaharahthaaguru Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara (Burma), His Holiness 43rd Sakya Trizin, Khöndung Gyana Vajra Rinpoché (Tibet), His Eminence Padma Acharya Karma Rangdol (Bhutan), His Eminence Kyabjé Yongzin Ling Rinpoché Tenzin Lungtok Thinley Chöphak (Tibet) and Ven Dr Dhammapiya (India).

Ven Dr Dhammapiya opened the morning's proceedings by welcoming His Holiness, the venerable guests and members of the audience. He noted that yesterday, the summit had heard about the different Buddhist traditions that have evolved in different parts of the world. Each of these is like a different coloured flower growing from the

same stalk, which is the teaching of Buddha Shakyamuni. The Buddha gave different teachings to different people of different capacity in different places so, he said, it is good to remind ourselves of what is said in verse 194 of the Dhammapada:

*Happy is the arising of a Buddha;  
happy is the exposition of the Ariya Dhamma;  
happy is the harmony amongst the Sangha;  
happy is the practice of those in harmony.*

He suggested that all communities of the Buddhist Sangha need to step forward to address the challenges before us in the world today. We are all human beings, he observed. We are not that different from one another. We share the same air and the same water. Therefore, we have to adopt a global point of view to promote world peace, protect Mother Earth and practise compassion. We need to implement the universal values implicit in all religious traditions to help us all.



Ven Dr Dhammapiya, Secretary General IBC, opening the proceedings at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

"Let's join hands," he said, "to work in harmonious unity to promote the Buddha's teachings for the welfare and happiness of all sentient beings."

Colonel Rajesh Jindal, the moderator, introduced a group of Theravadin monks who chanted auspicious verses in Pali. They were followed by monks from the Sanskrit tradition chanting in Tibetan.

Jindal explained that Most Venerable Abhidhajahamaharathaguru Sayadaw Dr Ashin Nyanissara (Burma) had been invited to speak, but had been unable to attend. His message was read on his behalf. In it he emphasized the importance of cultivating a good heart and its implicit qualities of love, compassion and forgiveness.

He observed that if there is no peace in individuals' hearts, there will be no peace in the world. And the only way to achieve that peace is to practise insight meditation. Such meditation can help us achieve a balanced mind; just as cultivating compassion enables us to change a negative mind into one that is positive. The Most Venerable's message concluded with the wish may peace and harmony prevail throughout the world.

Col Jindal introduced Prof Robert Thurman, a very old student of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, to represent the academic study of Buddhism at the summit. Thurman began with a plea that he felt a little intimidated to be speaking in front of His Holiness, but made up for it by reciting a prayer to Avalokiteshvara. He noted that His Holiness also declares that world peace comes from inner peace and that people need to be educated in the ways to achieve such tranquillity.



Prof Robert Thurman, representing the academic study of Buddhism, speaking at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Thurman recalled that in his address to the summit yesterday Prime Minister Modi announced that India has historically been dedicated to 'ahimsa', non-violence or doing no harm. This is important when it comes to people being willing to die rather than take life. Thurman noted that the Buddha was born into a warrior family, but abandoned that kind of life in order to overcome the obscurations in his mind.

Great Indian universities such as Nalanda developed an approach to education that enabled participants to come to understand the nature of reality and, in terms of psychology, how to transform the mind. The core curriculum of Nalanda has been preserved in the great monasteries of Ganden, Drepung and Sera, which are currently re-established in South India.

Thurman mentioned the importance of Buddhists engaging in discussion with scientists. He suggested that a common scientific and materialistic view of life such that we become nothing when we die is an error with ethical implications. If, at death, we become nothing, it's easy to believe that we will not need to face the consequences of our actions. Instead, he concluded, we have to find ways to take care of everyone.

Next, Col Jindal invited His Holiness to address the Global Buddhist Summit 2023. His Holiness spoke in Tibetan, which was translated into English by Dr Thupten Jinpa, and began by reciting a verse of salutation to Buddha Shakyamuni.

"One thing that defines the Buddha's teaching," His Holiness declared, "is his explanation of dependent arising. Of the two syllables of the Tibetan term for this, 'ten-jung', the first means dependent and the second, arising. This gives us an insight into reality. Everything is dependent. Nothing is independent. Things arise in dependence on other factors. Since nothing is independent, everything comes about through dependent relationships.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressing the congregation at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

"Why is understanding dependent arising important? Because when we don't have this insight, we grasp at self as something substantial and real. This in turn can lead to our drawing distinctions between 'us' and 'them' that feed conflict. We develop attachment to those like us and aversion to others who we see as different.

"Compassion too is at the heart of the Buddha's teaching. Chandrakirti indicates this when he pays homage to compassion at the opening of his 'Entering into the Middle Way'. He compares compassion to a seed, to the moisture that allows the seed to grow and to the eventual fruit.

"The heart of the Buddha's teaching is a combination of compassion and wisdom and as Buddhists our task is cultivate these two qualities.

"Many of the problems we face are to do with how we view reality. We tend to accept that things exist in the way they appear. We project a sense of reality onto what appears before us. The Buddha's teaching of emptiness helps us see that what we perceive does not reflect reality. Then we can overcome our feelings of attachment and craving. And when we do that, the mind becomes pure.

"As Buddhists we need to pay attention to the process by which we grasp at the reality of things. If no solution to our problems was presented, to focus only on suffering would be demoralizing. When we achieve insight into reality, we can also see that it is possible for us to attain enlightenment. So, as a result of deep reflection we gain a sense of freedom.



Members of the audience listening to His Holiness the Dalai Lama's address at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

"I struggle with this, but feel I am making progress. Chandrakirti says when you are able to gain deep insight into reality, compassion for suffering beings arises naturally. He states that on the two wings of insight and compassion we will soar to the further shore of enlightened liberation. I'm now in my late 80s, but I continue to practise and aspire to reach the path of preparation."

His Holiness mentioned that the Tibetan tradition also includes tantra and meditation on deities, but he feels that what really has an impact on the mind is the cultivation of wisdom, insight into reality, and compassion for all beings. These are the practices that have most enabled him to transform his mind.

He revealed that because this was a gathering of followers of the Buddha, he had shared his own experience to show that if we take our Buddhist practice seriously, pursuing deep inquiry into reality and nurturing compassion, while also refining the practices of resting and analytical meditation, it will make a difference to our day-to-day lives. He advised that we can all aspire to higher levels of realization. Therefore, he urged his listeners to make the appropriate effort.

"Rituals are not important," he continued. "What we need is the cultivation of resting and analytical meditation, an understanding of reality and the practice of compassion. These are the sort of teachings that come alive within you, therefore they're worth the effort."

"I can also assure you that paying attention to the courage of compassion enables you to transform adversity into opportunity."

"I was born in north-east Tibet and came to Lhasa where I studied the works of Buddhist masters who presented ways to develop wisdom and compassion. Their advice had a deep impact on me. Another factor that distinguishes Buddhism is the wide collection of means to effect inner transformation. It's very rich in meditation practices that have an impact on our day-to-day conduct. Incorporating the Buddhadharma into our lives is a way of expressing gratitude to our teachers."



A view of the meeting hall at the Ashok Hotel during the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023.  
Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Shartsé Khensur Jangchub Chöden offered a vote of thanks. He thanked His Holiness for his eloquent and uplifting address. "You are an inspiration to many people on this planet, something that will continue into future generations. We need your advice and guidance—please live long." He went on to thank Prof Robert Thurman and Sitagu Sayadaw for their contributions. He thanked the other guests on the dais, as well as the other participants in the hall, for coming.

In a meeting with the Heads of International Buddhist Delegations that continued into lunch His Holiness mentioned the growing interest in Buddhism across the world. Part of its attraction at this time, he said, is its use of reason.

Dr Dhammapiya asked His Holiness to come back again and again in the future for the benefit of sentient beings. His Holiness replied that this accords with prayers he makes every day, especially one of the verses from Shantideva's 'Entering into the Way of the Bodhisattva':

*As long as space endures,  
And as long as sentient beings remain,  
Until then, may I too remain  
To help dispel the misery of the world. 10/55*

His Holiness made a point of emphasising the importance of study and investigation. He revealed that the Buddha encouraged his followers not to accept what he taught on the basis of blind faith but to examine and investigate it well.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama joining the Heads of International Buddhist Delegations to the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 for lunch at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

He recalled that in 8th century Tibet King Trisong Detsen convened a debate between Chinese Hwashang meditators and the Indian master Kamalashila. When the king declared Kamalashila the winner and requested the Chinese monks to leave Tibet, he ensured that the Indian tradition became the mainstream presentation of Buddhism in the Land of Snow.

His Holiness declared that Tibetan Buddhists are grateful to Shantarakshita, the great philosopher and logician from Nalanda, and his disciple Kamalashila for the weight they gave to logic and debate.

Reaching back to his own experience once more His Holiness explained that when he was studying in Tibet, he received valuable help not only from his tutors but also from a team of diligent assistants. When he thinks back now, he feels really indebted to them all.

Before the meeting dispersed, and His Holiness left the Summit, he presented each of the Heads of Buddhist Delegations with a statue of the Buddha.

# Hindustan Times



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Home / Opinion / India's re-emergence as a leader of global Buddhism

## India's re-emergence as a leader of global Buddhism

By [Sreeram Chaulia](#)

Apr 20, 2023 06:50 PM IST

India's keenness to propagate Buddhism is in keeping with its legacy as the fountainhead from which the teachings of the Buddha spread worldwide.

The first Global Buddhist Summit hosted by India on April 20-21 brings together over 170 prominent monks, scholars, and practitioners from 30 countries to deliberate upon how the infinite wisdom of Buddhism can be harnessed to solve contemporary international problems. By convening such a diverse gathering of Buddhist thinkers, India is sending across a message that it has the vision to take on the core leadership role in the sustenance of the timeless spiritual heritage which originated in India and influenced large parts of Asia over the past two millennia.



PREMIUM



## 'Can lose hope if...': Dalai Lama on Tibet at Global Buddhist Summit

ANI |

Apr 21, 2023 07:45 PM IST

**Dalai Lama:** Dalai Lama spoke about his teachings on dependent origination and how everything is dependent upon each other.

Tibetan religious leader Dalai Lama on Friday called for a focus on wisdom and compassion as he highlighted the situation in Tibet by giving his own example and stressed upon looking at the current situation from a broader perspective.



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Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. (AFP)

Addressing the gathering on day two at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama also stressed looking at the current situation from the broader perspective of courage to have a resilient mind.



courage that cultivation and compassion give you, then you can have a much more resilient mind. So, even in your daily life, there might be problems which may seem enormous and unbearable. Still, if you have the courage, you will be in a much stronger position to turn adversities into opportunities," he added.

Highlighting the teachings of Buddha, the Tibetan leader also spoke about his teachings on dependent origination and how everything is dependent upon each other.

"Among all the great spiritual teachers of the world, one thing that really defines the Buddha as a unique teacher from the Buddhist point of view is his teaching on dependent origination and it really captures the essence of Buddhist insight and Buddha's teaching. When we look at the term itself, Dependent origination is composed of two syllables, one is dependent and the second is origination. These two capture a powerful insight into the understanding of the nature of reality," said the Dalai Lama.

"The first Word dependent really indicates the basic truth of how everything is dependent upon each other. Nothing is independent and it is through this dependence, which is the actual fundamental reality of everything the second element 'origination' points out how things come into being through this dependence. Understanding dependent origination as the heart of the Buddhist Teaching and the characteristic of Buddha is really important," he added.

The leader, while sharing his personal experience, said further that if each one of us takes his teachings seriously, we will be able to see the real difference in our daily lives.

"Many of us are gathered here, followers of Buddha, we see ourselves as practitioners of Dharma, the reason why I shared some of my personal experience and practice is to really bring home the point that all of us, each one of us takes Buddhist Practice seriously through cultivation, meditation and OPEN APP meditation needs to combine both resting and analytic meditation is really the way to go and you will see the real difference in your day to day life once you are able to cultivate a little bit of wisdom," he said.

While giving an example of monastery tradition, the Dalai Lama highlighted that more attention should be given to inner development and cultivation.

"As part of our own tradition in the monasteries, there are also rituals that are part of the tradition, a ritual involves beating drums and all these kinds of musical instruments and of course, they are part of the tradition but it is important for us to remember that the performance of these rituals is not the most important one, because if you focus too much on ritual, the only thing you get is 'noise', that these instruments have, where we should pay more attention is the 'inner development and inner cultivation,'" he said.



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On Day one of the first Global Buddhist Summit here, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Lord Buddha preached abandoning war, defeat and victory for eternal peace while inaugurating the summit.

During his address, PM Modi also said that the world was facing the most challenging times of the century due to war, economic crisis, terrorism and climate change, and all these contemporary global challenges can be addressed through the teachings of Lord Buddha.

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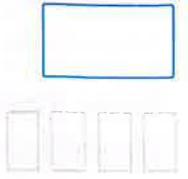
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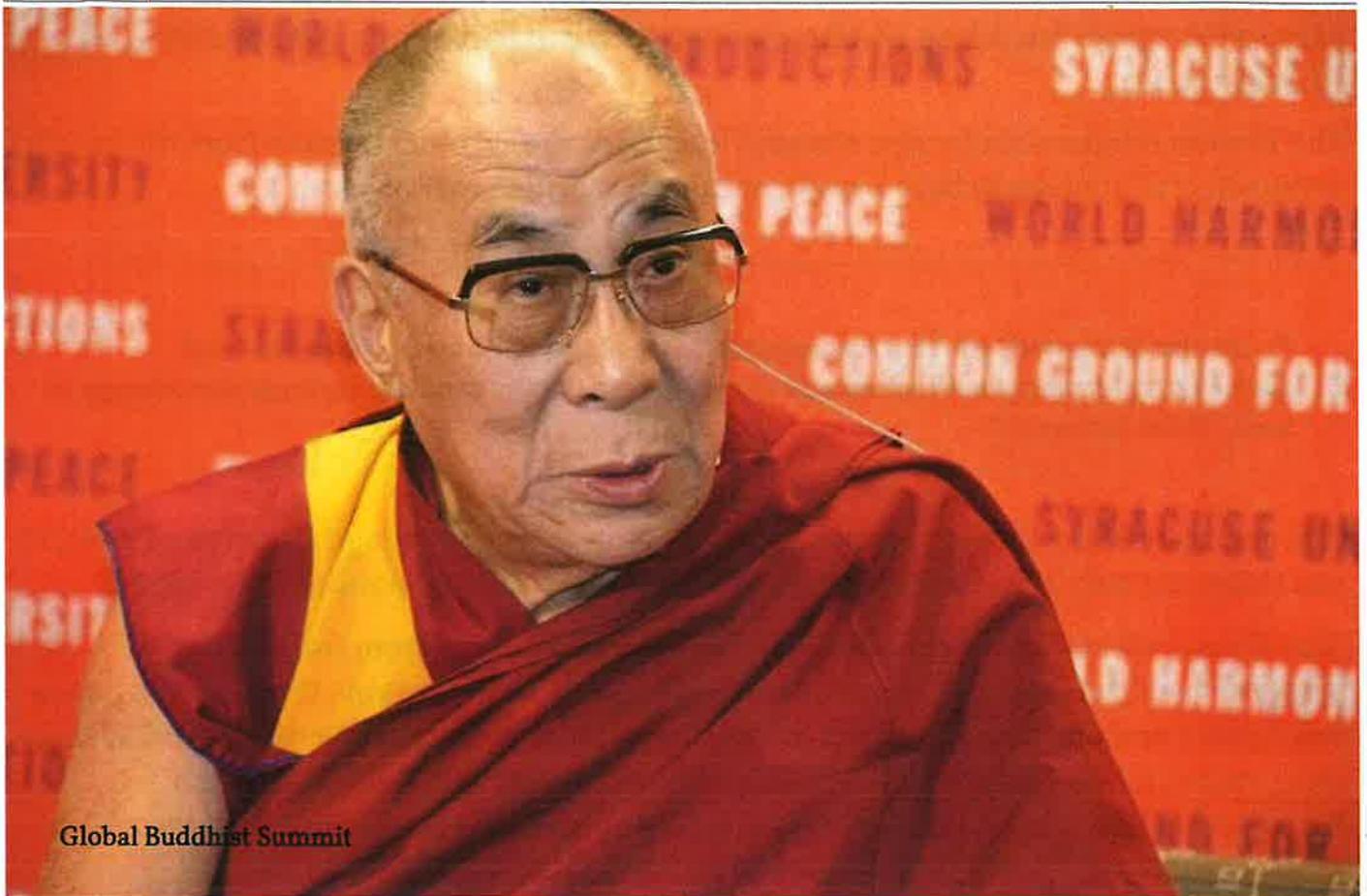
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**Global Buddhist Summit: Dalai Lama highlights situation in Tibet, calls for focus on wisdom, compassion**

India Blooms News Service | @indiablooms (<https://twitter.com/indiablooms>) | 23 Apr 2023, 12:05 am

#DalaiLama (<https://www.indiablooms.com/tag/N/dalailama>), #GlobalBuddhistSummit (<https://www.indiablooms.com/tag/N/globalbuddhistsummit>), #Tibet (<https://www.indiablooms.com/tag/N/tibet>), #NarendraModi (<https://www.indiablooms.com/tag/N/narendramodi>)

**New Delhi: Addressing the gathering on day two at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Friday called for a focus on wisdom and compassion as he highlighted the situation in Tibet by giving his own example and stressed upon looking at the current situation from a broader perspective.**

The Tibetan religious leader also stressed looking at the current situation from the broader perspective of courage to have a resilient mind, according to reports.

“

**“I can also share with you that by engaging in this kind of inner development and particularly focusing on Wisdom and compassion. It really can help increase our courage as well,” Dalai Lama said.**

“For example, in the case of my dealing with the current struggle and situation of Tibet, if you think just only about it from a narrow-angle, you can lose your hope,” he added.

“But if you look at this crisis and look at this current situation from the broader perspective of the courage that cultivation and compassion give you, then you can have a much more resilient mind. So, even in your daily life, there might be problems which may seem enormous and unbearable. Still, if you have the courage, you will be in a much stronger position to turn adversities into opportunities,” the Tibetan spiritual leader commented.

‘

**Highlighting the teachings of Buddha, Dalai Lama also spoke about his teachings on dependent origination and how everything is dependent upon each other.**

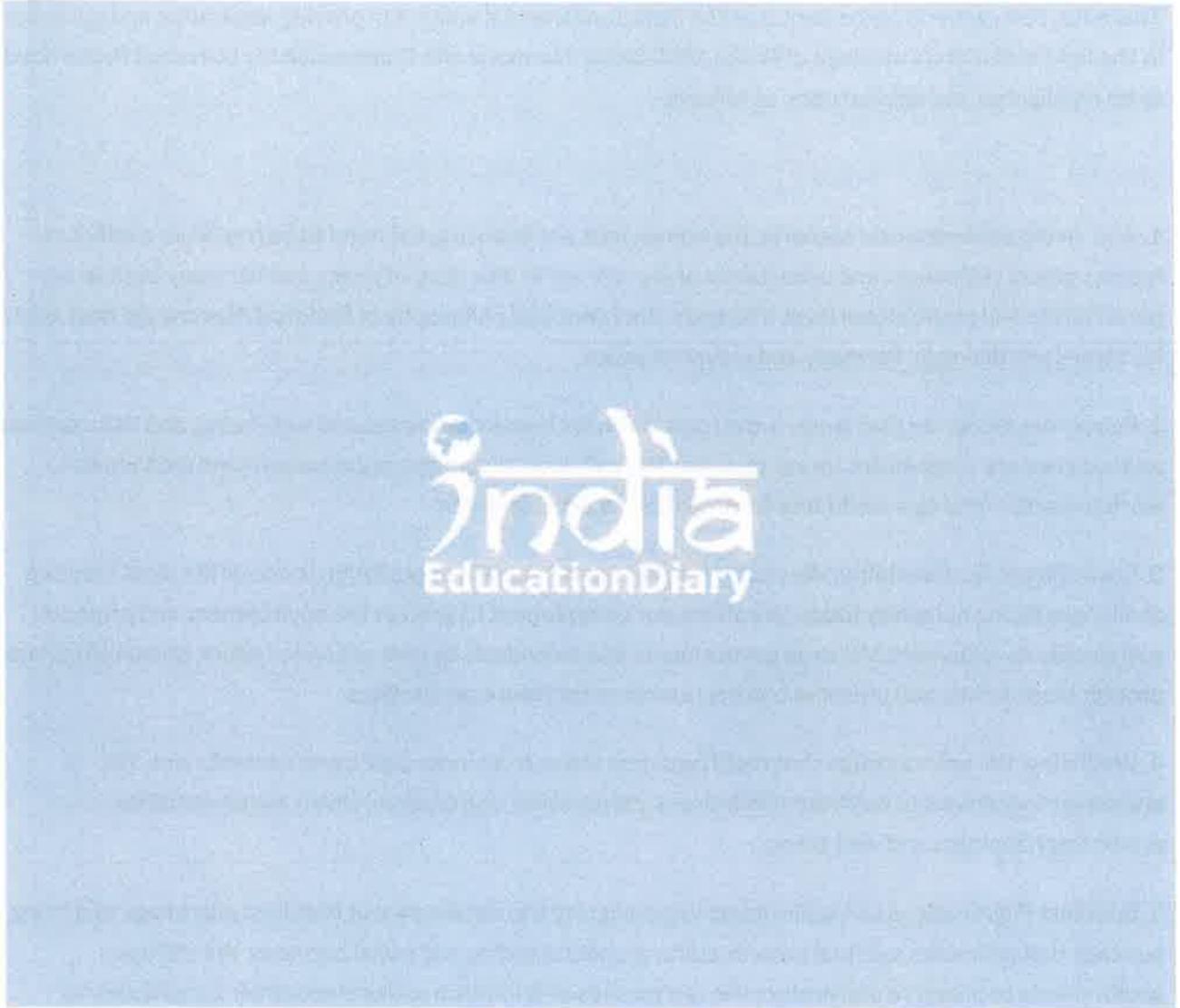
“Among all the great spiritual teachers of the world, one thing that really defines the Buddha as a unique teacher from the Buddhist point of view is his teaching on dependent origination and it really captures the essence of Buddhist insight and Buddha’s teaching. When we look at the term itself, Dependent origination is composed of two syllables, one is dependent and the second is origination. These two capture a powerful insight into the understanding of the nature of reality,” Dalai Lama said at the Global Buddhist Summit, which was organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation.

While sharing his personal experience, the Dalai Lama said further that if each one of us takes his teachings seriously, we will be able to see the real difference in our daily lives.

“**The Tibetan religious leader, while giving an example of monastery tradition, highlighted that more attention should be given to inner development and cultivation.**

On day one of the first Global Buddhist Summit, which aimed to bring together leading Buddhist figures and experts from around the world to discuss Buddhist and universal issues and generate policy recommendations to address them together, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that the Lord Buddha preached abandoning war, defeat and victory for eternal peace while inaugurating the summit.

“**PM Modi, during his address, also said that the world was facing the most challenging times of the century due to war, economic crisis, terrorism and climate change, and all these contemporary global challenges can be addressed through the teachings of Lord Buddha.**



NATIONAL NEWS

## The Two Day Global Buddhist Summit 2023 Concludes With New Delhi Declaration



By India Education Diary ...

On Apr 21, 2023

The two day Global Buddhist Summit 2023 concluded successfully in New Delhi today with the New Delhi Declaration. Earlier on 20th April 2023, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the summit . The Declaration reinforces the points highlighted by the Prime Minister in his opening address.

The focus of the Global Buddhist Summit was on modes of disseminating and internalizing universal values and to find ways to work together, to address the burning challenges both within and globally and offer a sustainable model for future of the world.

There has been general agreement that the basic fundamental which can provide inspiration and guidance in the light of Buddha's message of Peace, Well-being, Harmony and Compassion for Universal Peace need to be highlighted and worked upon as follows:

1. Aim: In the present world scenario, the human race has been in great need to be free from conflict, ill-feeling, greed, selfishness and uncertainty of life. We are in dire need of peace and harmony both, in our personal life and at the global level. The texts, doctrines and philosophy of Buddha Dhamma are best guide for inter-faith dialogue, harmony and universal peace.
2. Peace: We recognize that peace is the foundation for human happiness and well-being, and that conflicts and violence are a significant threat to peace. We call upon all nations, organizations and individuals to work towards creating a world free from conflict, violence and war.
3. Environment Sustainability: We recognize that environmental degradation is one of the most pressing challenges facing humanity today. We affirm our commitment to protect the environment and promote sustainable development. We urge governments and individuals to take action to reduce carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, and preserve natural resources for future generations.
4. Wellbeing: We acknowledge that true happiness arises from inner peace and contentment. We encourage individuals to cultivate mindfulness, compassion, and wisdom, which are essential for promoting happiness and well-being.
5. Buddhist Pilgrimage as Living Heritage: We recognize the significance of Buddhist pilgrimage as a living heritage that promotes spiritual growth, cultural understanding and social harmony. We call upon governments to preserve and protect the sacred sites of Buddhism and promote their accessibility to people of all backgrounds.
6. Recommendations: There is a crucial need for a paradigm shift in human attitude towards nature. Drawing upon the Teachings of the Buddha for the welfare of all sentient beings, Members of the Sangha, Buddhist leaders, Scholars, followers and institutions can play a significant and effective role in addressing this multi-faceted crisis. Continuation of annual Global Buddhist Summit is one such important step in this direction.

7. Nalanda, one of the greatest seats of Dhamma education for nearly 700 years between the 5th and 12th centuries AD, precedes the modern system of university education. It was famous for value education and character building. These values need to be inculcated among youths to rejuvenate the society towards "Vasudeva Kutumbakam".



**India Education Diary**

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News / India / China to skip Global Buddhist Summit in India amid border tensions

## China to skip Global Buddhist Summit in India amid border tensions

Amid border tensions with India, China will not attend the upcoming Global Buddhist slated to be held on April 20 and 21 at the Ashok hotel in New Delhi.



Rahul Gautam



Milan Sharma

New Delhi, UPDATED: Apr 19, 2023 10:29 IST



*Ties between India and China have soured following border skirmishes in the eastern Ladakh region since 2020.*

**By Rahul Gautam, Milan Sharma:** China will skip the upcoming Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, scheduled to be held on April 20 and 21, amid tensions with India over border issues.

Speaking to mediapersons, International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) Director-General Abhijit Halder said, "The Chinese are not coming. Invitations were sent... From Taiwan, they (two delegates) are coming."

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Halder was talking to journalists jointly with Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy. IBC is the host of the summit in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture.

According to sources, the Chinese have not confirmed their presence so far and they are likely not to attend the event.

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Apart from this, Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama is expected to attend the summit on Day 2 of the event. Sources added that Dalai Lama would be travelling to Delhi via Jammu on early Thursday morning and could grace his presence at the event.

"His Holiness the Dalai Lama will be coming to meet the Sangha leaders. He is a patron who has achieved a very high level of significance in the realm of Buddhism. Other patrons from other countries like Vietnam, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Myanmar, etc. will also attend," sources said.

Reddy said that Prime Minister Narendra Modi is slated to inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit on April 20 at the Ashok hotel in the national capital. The PM is expected to address the gathering at 10:30 am.

informed that delegates from almost 30 countries are expected to participate in the event and around 171 delegates from foreign countries and 150 delegates from Indian Buddhist organisations are slated to attend the summit.

The discussions will be held under four themes: Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability; Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia.

The border row between India and China sparked in eastern Ladakh on May 5, 2020, following a violent clash in the Pangong lake area.

Ties between the two countries nosedived significantly following the [fierce clash in Galwan Valley in June 2020](#), which marked the most serious military conflict between both sides in the last few decades.

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*Edited By: Prateek Chakraborty*

*Published On: Apr 19, 2023*

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Global Buddhist Summit 2023: India is taking new initiatives for global welfare, said PM Modi

# Global Buddhist Summit 2023: India is taking new initiatives for global welfare, said PM Modi

Global Buddhist Summit 2023: The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.'



Edited By: Sheenu Sharma

New Delhi

Updated on: April 20, 2023 12:12 IST



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*Global Buddhist Summit 2023:  
India is taking new initiatives for  
global welfare, said PM Modi.*

### **Global Buddhist Summit**

**2023:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit in the national capital today (April 20). The event began at around 10:00 am at Hotel Ashok in Delhi.

PM Modi said on Thursday that the world is passing through challenges such as war, economic instability, terrorism, religious extremism and climate change and asserted that Lord



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Buddha's ideas offer a solution to these problems.

"The noble teachings of Gautam Buddha have impacted countless people over centuries. Inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha, India is taking new initiatives for global welfare," said PM Modi at Global Buddhist Summit.

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"The world is suffering from war and unrest today, centuries ago Buddha had given a solution for this. India has not given 'Yuddha' to the world but 'Buddha.' The path of Buddha is the path of future and sustainability," PM Modi said today.

**Narendra Modi** 

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The noble teachings of Gautama E  
countless people over centuries.

He also visited Buddha  
exhibition in the national  
capital.

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(Source: DD News)

### **2-day Summit:**

The two-day Summit is being  
hosted by the Ministry of  
Culture in collaboration with  
International Buddhist  
Confederation (IBC). The  
keynote speakers at the event  
will be Professor Robert  
Thurman, a leading American

expert on Tibetan Buddhism, and His Holiness Thich Tri Quang, the Deputy Patriarch of, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. Professor Thurman was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 2020 for his work on recovering India's ancient Buddhist heritage.

**Theme of Global Buddhist Summit:**

The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.' "The Summit is an effort towards engaging the global Buddhist Dhamma leadership and scholars on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively. The discussion in the Summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings," the PMO stated in a release.

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The [@MinOfCultureGol](#) in collabo will be hosting the Global Buddhist Summit 2023.

Hon'ble PM Shri [@NarendraModi](#) will inaugurate the Summit.

UGC has developed 3MOOCs for the National Centre of Buddhist Culture and Tourism.

8:04 PM · Apr 19, 2023



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**Who will participate:**

The Summit will witness the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dharma that are based on universal values, the release said.

**Narendra Modi**   
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Buddhist Summit in Delhi. This Sum  
various people who have worked t  
ideals of Lord Buddha.

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"The discussions will be held  
under four themes: Buddha

Dhamma and Peace; Buddha  
Dharma: Environmental Crisis,  
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Preservation of Nalanda  
Buddhist Tradition; Buddha  
Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living  
Heritage and Buddha Relics: a  
resilient foundation to India's  
centuries-old cultural links to  
countries in South, South-East  
and East Asia," it added.

*(With agencies inputs)*

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## Global Buddhist Summit

April 19, 2023 in Foreign Affairs Reading Time: 2 mins read

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**In news-** The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to inaugurate first Global Buddhist Summit on 20th April 2023.

### **About the summit-**

- **The Ministry of Culture in collaboration with its grantee body International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)** will be hosting the Global Buddhist Summit (GBS).
- **The theme of summit** is “Responses to Contemporary Challenges : Philosophy to Praxis”.
- Delegates from almost 30 countries participated in this summit and around 171 delegates from foreign countries and 150 delegates Indian Buddhist organizations.
- **The discussions will fall under the following four themes:**
  - Buddha Dhamma and Peace.
  - Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability.
  - Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition.
  - Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India’s centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, Southeast and East Asia.
- The prime **vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha** that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma.
- The aim is to set up a forum for the lay Buddhist scholars and Dharma Masters.
- It will also delve into Buddha’s message for Peace, Compassion and Harmony with the objective of working towards Universal Peace and Harmony, in accordance with the core values of Dharma and produce a document for further academic research, to study its viability for use as a tool for the conduct of international relations on the global stage.

### **Note:**

The Ministry of Culture alongwith the International Buddhist Confederation(IBC), a global Buddhist umbrella body, headquartered in New Delhi, recently held a successful international meet of experts from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations on Shared Buddhist Heritage in order to re-establish trans-cultural links, seek out commonalities, between Buddhist art of Central Asia, art styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museums’ collections of the SCO countries.

**International Buddhist Confederation(IBC)-**

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## PM Modi to address Global Buddhist Summit today; all you need to know

1 min read . Updated: 20 Apr 2023, 09:41 AM IST

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*The discussion at the summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings.*

### SYNOPSIS

*The two-day Global Buddhist Summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation on April 20 and 21.*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit today i.e. on 20 April. The two-day Global Buddhist Summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation [OPEN IN APP](#)

Praxis".

This summit is an effort towards engaging the global "Buddhist Dhamma" leadership and scholars on the matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively.

As per the PMO statement, the discussion at the summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings.

The summit will also witness the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma that is based on universal values.

"The discussions will be held under four themes: Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability; Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia," it added.

*(With inputs from ANI)*

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# PM Modi to address Global Buddhist Summit on April 20

The two-day summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation on April 20 and 21. The theme of the summit is "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis", it said.

PTI | APRIL 18, 2023 / 02:19 PM IST



PM Modi to address Global Buddhist Summit on April 20

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit here on Thursday, his office said.

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The summit is an effort towards engaging the global "Buddhist Dhamma" leadership and scholars on the matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them ~~001.html)~~ collectively.

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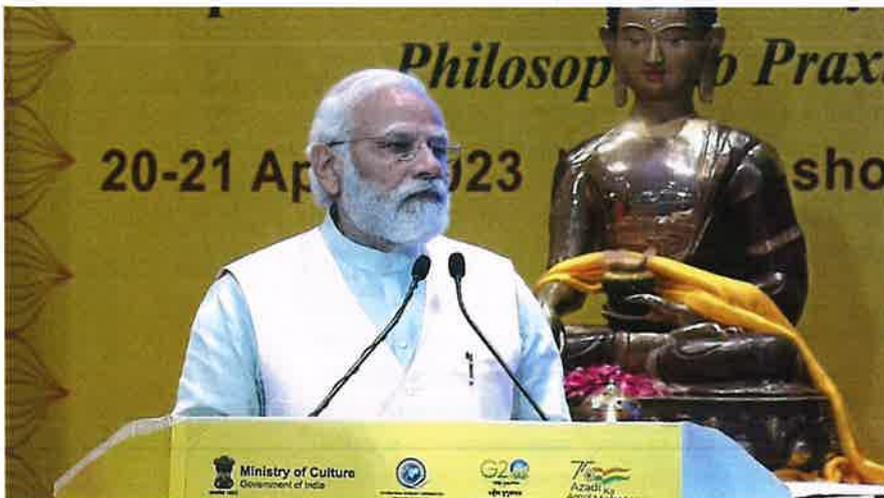
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## PM addresses inaugural session of Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi



By **NE India Broadcast**

Apr 20, 2023 [Narendra Modi, New Delhi](#)



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The Prime Minister, Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi today. The Prime Minister walked through the photo exhibition and offered flowers to the Buddha statue. He also offered monk robes (Chivar Dana) to nineteen eminent monks.

Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed everyone from different corners of the world to the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit. He underlined that 'Atithi Devo Bhava' i.e. guests are equivalent to God, is a tradition of this land of Buddha and the presence of so many personalities who have lived through Buddha's ideals makes us feel the experience of Buddha being present himself around us. "Buddha is beyond the individual, it is a perception", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said that Buddha is a sensation that transcends the individual, he is a thought that transcends form and Buddha is a consciousness beyond manifestation. "This Buddha consciousness is eternal", he said. He said the presence of so many people from diverse areas represents the expansion of Buddha that binds humanity in a single thread. He also underlined the strength of the collective will and resolution of crores of followers of Lord Buddha globally to make for the welfare of the world. Noting the occasion, the Prime Minister expressed

confidence that the inaugural Global Buddhist Summit will create an effective platform for the efforts of all nations and thanked the Ministry of Culture and International Buddhist Confederation for this momentous event.

The Prime Minister highlighted his personal connection with Buddhism as Vadnagar from where he hails has been a major Buddhist center, Hiuen Tsang had visited Vadnagar. Shri Modi also mentioned Kashi in the context of Sarnath, deepening the connection with Buddhist heritage.

Noting that the Global Buddhist Summit is taking place during India's 75th year of Independence when the nation is celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrit Kaal, the Prime Minister underlined that India has a major goal for its future and new resolutions for the global good. He emphasized that the inspiration behind India achieving the recent global landmarks in various sectors is Lord Buddha himself.

Remembering the Buddhist path of theory, practice and realization, the Prime Minister elaborated on India's adoption of all three points in its journey in the last 9 years. Shri Modi said that India has worked with dedication for the propagation of Lord Buddha's teaching with a sense of dedication. He talked about the development of Buddhist circuits in India and Nepal, the renovation of Sarnath and Kushinagar, Kushinagar International Airport, and India International Center of Buddhist Heritage and Culture at Lumbini in collaboration with the IBC.

The Prime Minister credited the teachings of Lord Buddha for an inherent empathy in India for the issues of humanity. He mentioned peace missions and India's whole-hearted efforts in rescue work for disasters like the earthquake in Turkiye. "This emotion of 140 crore Indians is being seen, understood and accepted by the world", he said. Platforms like IBC, he continued, are giving the opportunity to like-minded and like-hearted countries to spread Buddha Dhamma and peace.

The Prime Minister said, "The journey from the problem to arriving at the solution is the actual journey of Buddha." Throwing light on Lord Buddha's journey, the Prime Minister reiterated that he left his life of castles and kingdoms because he realized the pain in the lives of others. He emphasized the only way to achieve the goal of a prosperous world is when one gives away the idea of self and narrow-mindedness and realizes the totality of the Buddha Mantra of adopting the idea of the world. He stressed that a better and stable world can be achieved only if we consider the nations dealing with a scarcity of resources. "It is the need of the hour that the priority of every person and nation should be the interest of the world along with the interest of the country", the Prime Minister remarked.

The Prime Minister said that the current time is the most challenging time of this century as there is war, economic instability, terrorism and religious fanaticism, and the challenge of climate change with species disappearing and glaciers melting. He said amidst all this there are people who believe in Buddha and the welfare of all creatures. "This hope, this faith is the biggest strength of this earth. When this hope gets united, the Buddha's Dhamma will become the world's belief and Buddha's realization will become the belief of humanity.

Modi underscored the relevance of Buddha's teaching by saying that all the problems of modern times lend themselves to solutions through the ancient teachings of the Lord. Lord Buddha, the Prime Minister said, preached abandoning war, defeat and victory for eternal peace. He said enmity can never be countered with enmity and happiness lies in unity. Similarly, Lord Buddha's teaching that one should first look at the conduct of the self before preaching to others can address the menace of imposing one's own views on others so prevalent in today's world. The

Prime Minister came back to his favourite Buddha teaching अणु दीपो भवः, be your own light to elaborate the eternal relevance of the Lord's teachings. He remembered telling the United Nations a few years ago that 'we are the country that has given the world Buddh, not Yudh (war)'.

The Prime Minister said "The path of Buddha is the path of the future and the path of sustainability. Had the world followed Buddha's teachings, it would not have faced the problem of climate change." This problem arose, the Prime Minister explained, as nations stopped thinking about others and coming generations. This mistake accumulated to catastrophic proportions. Buddha preached good conduct without any consideration of personal gain as such behavior leads to overall good.

The Prime Minister highlighted how each person is affecting the earth in one way or the other, be it with lifestyle, eating or traveling habits and pointed out that everyone can contribute towards fighting climate change. Throwing light on Lifestyle For Environment or Mission LiFE, an initiative by India influenced by the inspirations of Buddha the Prime Minister said that if people become aware and change their lifestyle, then this huge problem of climate change can also be tackled. "Mission LiFE is influenced by the inspirations of Buddha and it furthers Buddha's thoughts", Shri Modi remarked.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stressed the need to come out of the definitions of materialism and selfishness and imbibe the feeling of 'Bhavatu Sab Mangalan' i.e. Buddha should not only be made a symbol but also a reflection. He remarked that this resolution will be fulfilled only when we remember the words of the Buddha of not turning back and always moving forward. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that resolutions will become successful with everyone coming together.

Union Minister for Culture, G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Law and Justice, Kiren Rijju, Union Ministers of State for Culture, Arjun Ram Meghwal and Meenakshi Lekhi, and Secretary General of International Buddhist Confederation, Dr Dhammapiya were present on occasion.

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## Global Buddhism Summit in New Delhi advocates world peace

The summit advocated abandoning war and achieving eternal peace. According to Dalai Lama world peace comes from inner peace and that people need to be educated in the ways to achieve such tranquillity.

MADHU BALAJI

April 23, 2023 . 6:00 PM — 2 min read



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Global Buddhist Summit (Image: PMO office)

The two-day Global Buddhist Summit 2023 concluded in New Delhi on April 21, 2023 with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration. The summit featured deliberations on modes of disseminating and internalizing universal values and to find ways to work together, address the burning challenges both within and globally and offer a sustainable model for the future of the world.

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Inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on April 20, 2023, the Summit brought together Buddhist figures and personalities from over 30 countries. Tibetan religious leader Dalai Lama, Dr Abhijit Halder, Director General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Ven Dr Dhammapiya, Secretary General IBC, monks, scholars and heads of Buddhist institutions attended the event.



The Dalai Lama addressing the congregation at the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Speaking at the inauguration, Modi said, "There is no problem in the modern world whose solution we could not find in the teachings of the Buddha hundreds of years ago. The war and unrest that the world is suffering today, the Buddha had given solutions centuries ago." He emphasized that Buddha preached abandoning war, and advocated for eternal peace.

Addressing the congregation, Dalai Lama said, "The heart of the Buddha's teaching is a combination of compassion and wisdom and as Buddhists our task is cultivate these two qualities." He emphasized on the aspect of "dependent rising" and stressed that "Things arise in dependence on other factors. Since nothing is independent, everything comes about through dependent relationships."



The Dalai Lama joining the Heads of International Buddhist Delegations to the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 for lunch at the Ashok Hotel in New Delhi, India on April 21, 2023. Photo by Tenzin Choejor

Apart from the promotion of peace, the summit recognized the importance of Buddhist pilgrimage as a living heritage that promotes spiritual growth, cultural understanding and social harmony. It called on governments and individuals to take action to reduce carbon emissions, protect biodiversity, and preserve natural resources for future generations.

The summit acknowledged that the teachings of Buddha could play a significant role in addressing the multi-faceted crisis. It noted that Nalanda of Dhamma education precedes the modern system of university education, and professes values through Vasudeva Kutumbakam.

## **Comments**

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# 'India Taking New Initiatives Based on Buddha's Teachings': PM Modi at Global Buddhist Summit

Curated By: [Abhiro Banerjee](#)

Last Updated: APRIL 20, 2023, 12:21 IST

[New Delhi, India](#)



During the event, PM Modi said that the noble teachings of Gautama Buddha have impacted countless people over centuries.

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PM Modi attended the summit on Thursday. (Pic:ANI)

Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#) on Thursday attended the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi.

During the event, PM Modi said that the noble teachings of Gautama Buddha have impacted countless people over centuries. "Inspired by the teachings of Lord Buddha, India is taking new initiatives for global welfare," added the PM at Global Buddhist Summit, Delhi.

According to a report by newsagency ANI, the PM added: "Buddha is an understanding beyond the person, Buddha is a thought beyond the form, Buddha is a consciousness beyond the image, and this consciousness of the Buddha is eternal and constant..."

"This thought is eternal, this understanding is unforgettable," said PM Modi, reported ANI. PM Modi further said that India is moving ahead in 'Amrit Kaal' towards becoming a developed country, and the biggest inspiration behind the same is Lord Buddha.

[#WATCH](#) | Prime Minister Narendra Modi attends the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi. [pic.twitter.com/XoQa3nNAK1](https://pic.twitter.com/XoQa3nNAK1) — ANI (@ANI) April 20, 2023

The event will begin at 10 am. The two-day Summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

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The keynote speakers at the event were Professor Robert Thurman, a leading American expert on Tibetan Buddhism, and His Holiness Thich Tri Quang, the Deputy Patriarch of, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.

Professor Thurman was awarded the prestigious Padma Shri Award in 2020 for his work on recovering India's ancient Buddhist heritage.

The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis.'

"The Summit is an effort towards engaging the global Buddhist Dhamma leadership and scholars on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively. The discussion in the Summit will explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings," the PMO stated in a release.

The Summit will witness the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma that are based on universal values, the release said.

(With inputs from ANI)

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**ABHRO BANERJEE** Covering day-to-day national and international news without the noise around it for the last nine years. Associated with News18.com as a Chief Sub Edi...[Read More](#)

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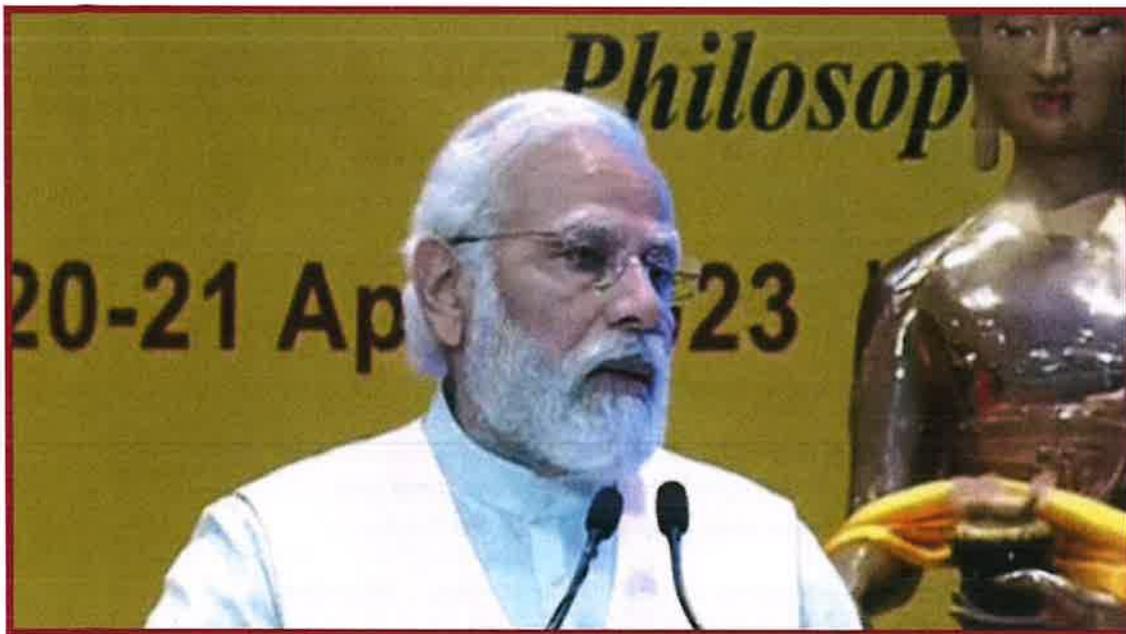
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INDIA

# India is progressing by following Buddha’s teachings, says PM Modi

The Global Buddhist Summit is being held at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of her independence when India is celebrating Mahotsav’.

ANI Published on 2023-04-20 01:27 pm  
By ANI



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New Delhi: India, in the last nine years, has been making big strides following Buddha teachings, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday.

Speaking at Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, Modi said that India has followed Buddha’s teachings including the path of Theory, Practice and Realisation. India has progressed rapidly on all these three points. The Global Buddhist Summit is being held at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of her independence when India is celebrating the ‘Amrit Mahotsav’.

“India is moving ahead in the ‘Amrit Kaal’ towards becoming a developed country. India has resolved for the welfare of not only India but also for the whole wide world,” PM Modi said.

“We can embrace happiness only if we renunciate realisations of Victory, Defeats, Fights, Wars. Lord Buddha has taught the path to overcome these. Enmity cannot vanish with enmity but with Love. Actual happiness lies in peace,

in living together with peace,” he said.



If we want to make the world happy, then this Buddha's mantra of inclusiveness is the only way by leaving the self, the world, and narrow thinking, he said.

Prime Minister also mentioned the Russia-Ukraine war in his spGlobal Buddhist Summitteech.

“The path of Buddha is the path of the future, the path of sustainability. If the world had followed the teachings of Buddha, then even a crisis like a climate change would not have come in front of us. This crisis came about because, in the last century, some countries did not think about others, about future generations,” he said.

Be it peace missions in different countries of the world or a calamity like an earthquake in Turkey... India stands with humanity in times of every crisis, with 'Mum Bhav', by putting its full potential, he said.

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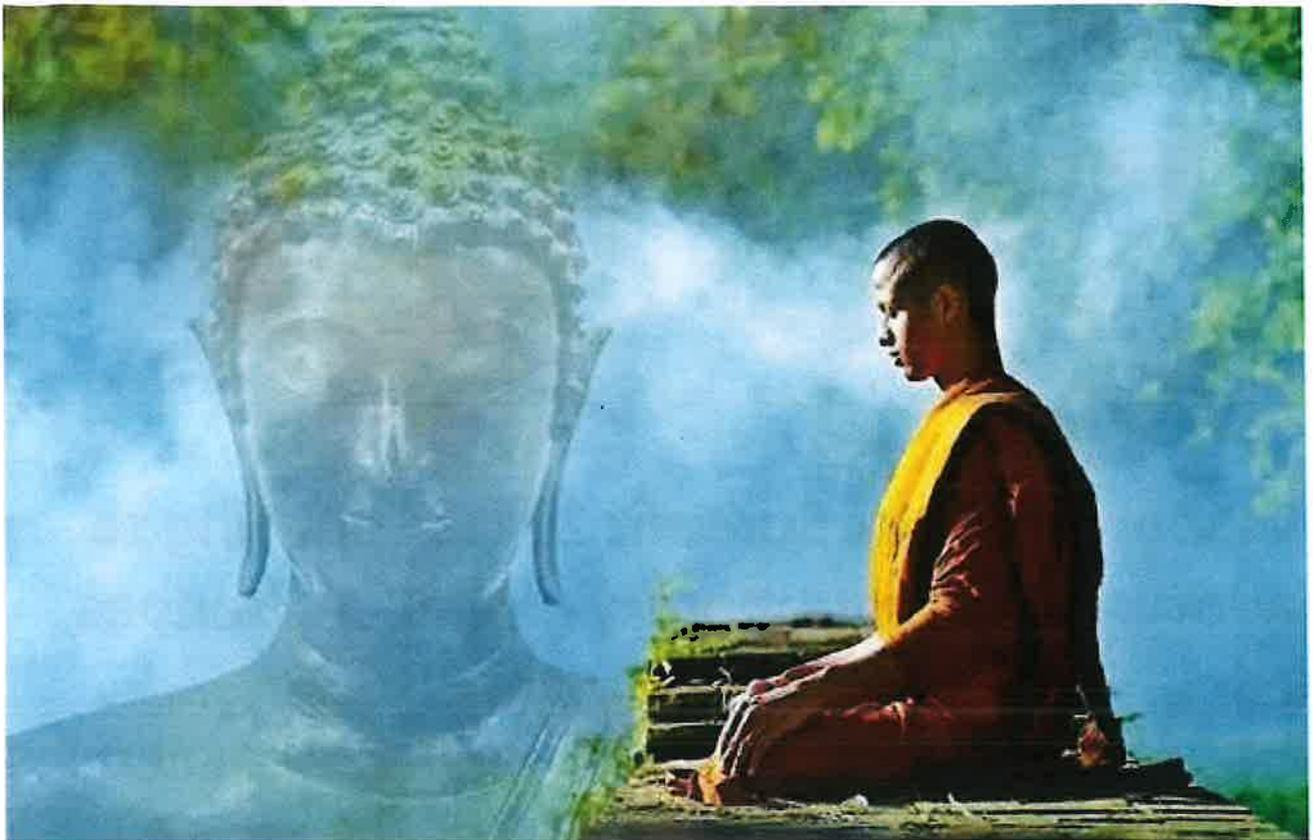
# Global Buddhist Summit 2023: Churning to address the contemporary global challenges

A two-day Global Buddhist Summit titled 'Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis', to be held from April 20 to 21 in New Delhi, will explore how Buddha Dharma can provide guidance to the world



Organiser Bureau · Apr 20, 2023, 07:00 am IST in Special Report





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To focus on a Buddhist response to dealing with the most pressing challenges the world is facing, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), which is part of the Ministry of Culture, will be hosting the first Global Buddhist Summit (GBS) on April 20-21 at the Ashok Hotel.

The IBC, a global Buddhist umbrella body, headquartered in New Delhi along with the Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs, recently held a successful international meet of experts from the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations on shared Buddhist heritage in order to re-establish trans-cultural links, seek out commonalities between Buddhist art of Central Asia, art styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museums' collections of the SCO countries.

**“The motto of the International Buddhist Confederation is to address the global challenges and the issues the world is facing today. The upcoming Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi will be based on Bhagwan Buddha’s teaching of balance way of life. In this Summit Buddhist scholars, Sangh members from across the world will participate”**

**-Ven Dr Dhammapiya,  
Secretary General, IBC**

The GBC-2023 is a similar effort towards engaging the global Buddhist hierarchy on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns and to come up with policy inputs to address them collectively.

The theme of the two- day Global Buddhist Summit is “Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis”.



**“The motto of the International Buddhist Confederation is to address the global challenges and the issues the**

**world is facing today. The upcoming Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi will be based on Bhagwan Buddha's teaching of balance way of life. In this Summit Buddhist scholars, Sangh members from across the world will participate"**

**-Ven Dr Dhammapiya,  
Secretary General, IBC**

Eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world will discuss today's pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dharma that is based on universal values.

The discussions will fall under the following four themes:

#### **Buddha Dharma and Peace**

**Buddha Dharma:** It will cover theme of Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability Preservation of Nalanda **Buddhist Tradition:** It is here that knowledge and culture flourished of diverse spiritual and philosophical traditions

**Buddha Dharma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics:** A resilient foundation to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, Southeast and East Asia

Religious Traditions that have originated in India are part and parcel of the 'Ancient Dharma, the eternal way of life', and the addition of 'ism' in Buddhism, coined by Victorian indologists, takes it towards a doctrine and less as a philosophical tradition based on teachings of the Buddha. Hence, it is preferable to use 'Buddha Dharma' instead of Buddhism. Buddha Dhamma/Dharma in ancient India made significant contributions towards the development of human civilisation. Its spread worldwide led to a great churning of knowledge and cultures and the flowering of diverse spiritual and philosophical traditions the world over.



**“As a main stakeholder, when something happens to the world, we cannot remain out of it. For that reason, we have to do something. We cannot treat things like this as happening to someone else, so it cannot affect us. In this regard, our Government is taking very proactive steps, and we are very grateful for that. Inspired by the Government’s approach, we are organising this event”**  
**–Ven Jangchup Choeden, Deputy Secretary General, IBC**

It is expected that the deliberations will explore as to how the Buddha Dharma’s fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings which drives technological advancements and consumerism yet grapples with a devastated planet and rapid disenchantment of societies.

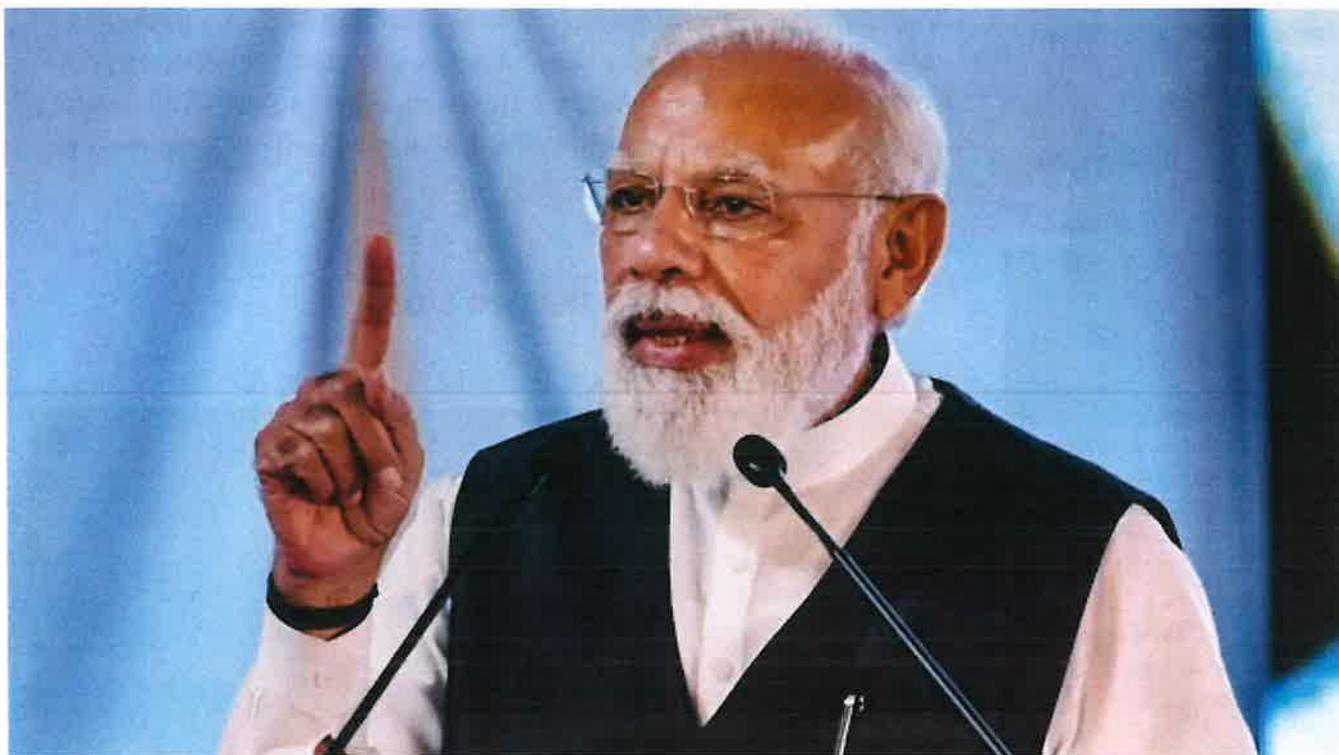
**Also Read: [PM Modi to address inaugural session of Global Buddhist Summit on April 20](#)**

The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Buddha that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dharma. The aim is to set up a forum for the lay Buddhist scholars and Dharma Masters. It will also delve into Buddha’s message for peace, compassion and harmony with the objective of working towards universal peace and harmony, in accordance with the core values of Dharma and produce a document for further academic research, to

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## Buddha's Teachings Offer Solution To Global Problems: PM Modi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the Global Buddhist Summit, highlighting Lord Buddha's ideas as solutions to contemporary challenges like war, terrorism, and climate change. He emphasized India's efforts in propagating Buddhism and prioritizing global interests, with the summit focusing on the theme "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis".



Prime Minister Narendra Modi PTI



PTI

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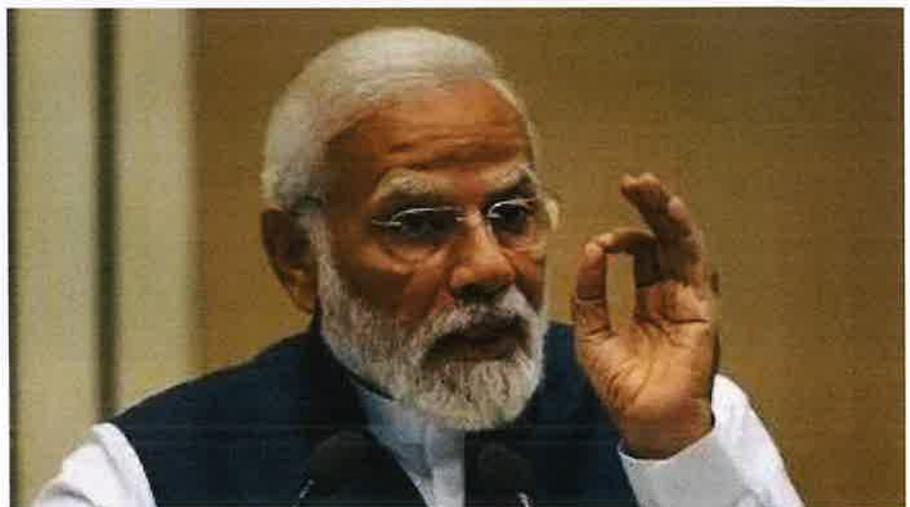
Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on Thursday the world is passing through challenges such as war, economic instability, terrorism, religious extremism and climate change and asserted that Lord Buddha's ideas offer a solution to these problems. Addressing the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit here, he said it is the need of the hour that people and nations prioritise global interests along with their interest.

The world will have to think about the poor and countries lacking resources, he said. Modi asserted that India has been following the path shown by the Buddha and cited the country extending help to others, including Turkiye after it was hit by an earthquake, to say that it has treated every human being's pain as its own.

The prime minister noted that his government has constantly endeavoured to propagate the Buddha's ideas and highlight the deep links Buddhism has with his birthplace in Gujarat and his Lok Sabha constituency Varanasi. The summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation on April 20 and 21. The theme of the two-day summit is "Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis".

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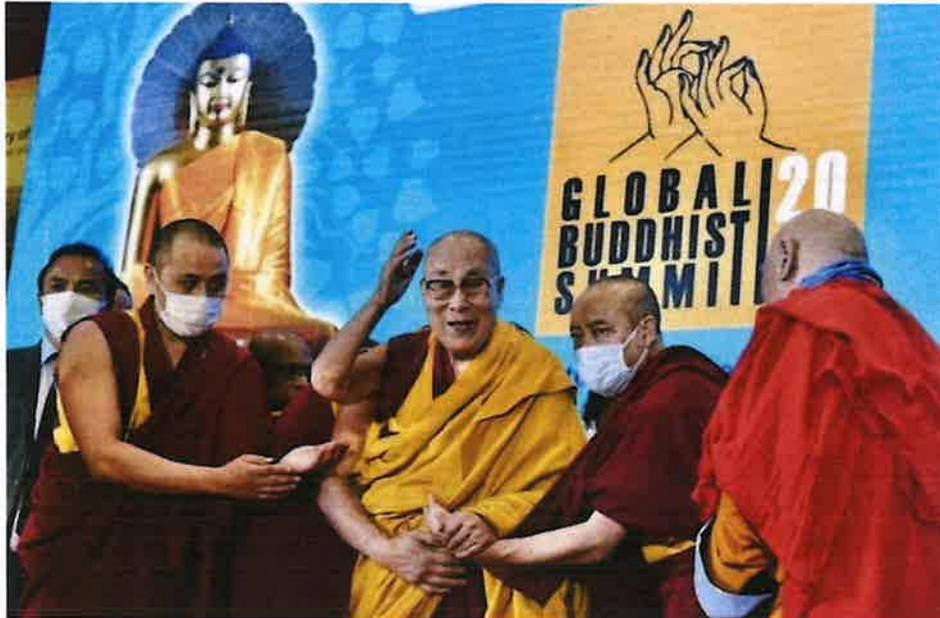
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## Dalai Lama delivers key note speech at second day of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi

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*H.H. the Dalai Lama on the second day of Global Buddhist Summit at Ashoka Hotel in Delhi on April 21, 2023  
(Photo/Tenzin Jigme Taydeh)*

By Tenzin Nyidon

**DHARAMSHALA, April 22:** The Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama delivered the key note speech at the second day of the first Global Buddhist Summit on "Contribution of the Buddha Dharma and the Sangha Towards World Peace" in New Delhi organised by International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) on Friday. The international summit was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday and attended by over 170 delegates from 30 countries including revered Lamas, Tulkus, political leaders and other dignitaries.

The exiled spiritual leader emphasised on the importance of studying Buddhist teachings and said, "Having studied the Buddhist treatises on wisdom and compassion written by great Indian masters, I have personally found them impactful while in Tibet and especially, ever since coming into exile. I have found these teachings to be powerful particularly, focusing on wisdom and compassion."

The octogenarian leader also spoke about how studying Buddhist philosophies and imbibing the values have given him the courage to face Tibet's struggle and its current situation. "For example, in the case of my dealing with the current struggle and situation of Tibet, if you just think only about it from a narrow-angle, you can lose hope. But if you look at this crisis, this current situation, from the broader perspective of the courage that the cultivation of Bodhicitta (mind of awakening) and compassion give you, then you can have a much more resilient mind," the spiritual head of Tibetan Buddhism added.

In 2011, the Dalai Lama addressed a similar conference in New Delhi and it was reported that the Chinese authorities had demanded that the Dalai Lama be prevented from giving the keynote speech at the gatherings attended by more than 9,000 delegates which the Indian officials refused. Following the refusal to comply with their demand, Beijing cancelled its talks on the scheduled border issues.

Indian media reported that not a single Buddhist delegate from China have attended the meet despite having the largest population of Buddhists in the world of close to 250 million followers.

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**Dalai Lama delivers key note speech at second day of the Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi**  
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April 22, 2023





## PM addresses inaugural session of Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi

“Buddha consciousness is eternal”

“Inspired by teachings of Lord Buddha, India is taking new initiatives for global welfare”

“We have continuously spread the values and message of Lord Buddha”

“India considers the sorrow of every human being as its own sorrow”

“Platforms like IBC are giving the opportunity to like-minded and like-hearted countries to spread Buddha Dhamma and peace”

“It is the need of the hour that the priority of every person and nation should be the interest of the world along with the interest of the country”

“The journey of solution for problems is the journey of Buddha”

“Buddha offered solutions for all the problems afflicting the world today”

“The path of Buddha is the path of the future and the path of sustainability”



## Mission LiFE is influenced by the inspirations of Buddha and it furthers Buddha's thoughts”



Posted On: 20 APR 2023 12:10PM by PIB Delhi



The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit at Hotel Ashok in New Delhi today. The Prime Minister walked through the photo exhibition and offered flowers to the Buddha statue. He also offered monk robes (Chivar Dana) to nineteen eminent monks.



Addressing the gathering, the Prime Minister welcomed everyone from different corners of the world to the inaugural session of the Global Buddhist Summit. He underlined that 'Atithi Devo Bhava' i.e. guests are equivalent to God, is a tradition of this land of Buddha and the presence of so many personalities who have lived through Buddha's ideals makes us feel the experience of Buddha being present himself around us. "Buddha is beyond the individual, it is a perception", the Prime Minister said. The Prime Minister said that Buddha is a sensation that transcends the individual, he is a thought that transcends form and Buddha is a consciousness beyond manifestation. "This Buddha consciousness is eternal", he said. He said the presence of so many people from diverse areas represents the expansion of Buddha that binds humanity in a single thread. He also underlined the strength of the collective will and resolution of crores of followers of Lord Buddha globally to make for the welfare of the world. Noting the occasion, the Prime Minister expressed confidence that the inaugural Global Buddhist Summit will create an effective platform for the efforts of all nations and thanked the Ministry of Culture and International Buddhist Confederation for this momentous event.



The Prime Minister highlighted his personal connection with Buddhism as Vadnagar from where he hails has been a major Buddhist center, Hiuen Tsang had visited Vadnagar. Shri Modi also mentioned Kashi in the context of Sarnath, deepening the connection with Buddhist heritage.

Noting that the Global Buddhist Summit is taking place during India's 75th year of Independence when the nation is celebrating Azaadi Ka Amrit Kaal, the Prime Minister underlined that India has a major goal for its future and new resolutions for the global good. He emphasized that the inspiration behind India achieving the recent global landmarks in various sectors is Lord Buddha himself.

Remembering the Buddhist path of theory, practice and realization, the Prime Minister elaborated on India's adoption of all three points in its journey in the last 9 years. Shri Modi said that India has worked with dedication for the propagation of Lord Buddha's teaching with a sense of dedication. He talked about the development of Buddhist circuits in India and Nepal, the renovation of Sarnath and Kushinagar, Kushinagar International Airport, and India International Center of Buddhist Heritage and Culture at Lumbini in collaboration with the IBC.

The Prime Minister credited the teachings of Lord Buddha for an inherent empathy in India for the issues of humanity. He mentioned peace missions and India's whole-hearted efforts in rescue work for disasters like the earthquake in Turkiye. "This emotion of 140 crore Indians is being seen, understood and accepted by the world", he said. Platforms like IBC, he continued, are giving the opportunity to like-minded and like-hearted countries to spread Buddha Dhamma and peace.

The Prime Minister said, “The journey from the problem to arriving at the solution is the actual journey Buddha.” Throwing light on Lord Buddha’s journey, the Prime Minister reiterated that he left his life castles and kingdoms because he realized the pain in the lives of others. He emphasized the only way to achieve the goal of a prosperous world is when one gives away the idea of self and narrow-mindedness and realizes the totality of the Buddha Mantra of adopting the idea of the world. He stressed that a better and stable world can be achieved only if we consider the nations dealing with a scarcity of resources. “It is the need of the hour that the priority of every person and nation should be the interest of the world along with the interest of the country”, the Prime Minister remarked.

The Prime Minister said that the current time is the most challenging time of this century as there is war, economic instability, terrorism and religious fanaticism, and the challenge of climate change with species disappearing and glaciers melting. He said amidst all this there are people who believe in Buddha and the welfare of all creatures. “This hope, this faith is the biggest strength of this earth. When this hope gets united, the Buddha's Dhamma will become the world's belief and Buddha's realization will become the belief of humanity.

Shri Modi underscored the relevance of Buddha’s teaching by saying that all the problems of modern times lend themselves to solutions through the ancient teachings of the Lord. Lord Buddha, the Prime Minister said, preached abandoning war, defeat and victory for eternal peace. He said enmity can never be countered with enmity and happiness lies in unity. Similarly, Lord Buddha’s teaching that one should first look at the conduct of the self before preaching to others can address the menace of imposing one’s own views on others so prevalent in today’s world. The Prime Minister came back to his favourite Buddha teaching अणु दीपो भवः, be your own light to elaborate the eternal relevance of the Lord’s teachings. He remembered telling the United Nations a few years ago that ‘we are the country that has given the world Buddha, not Yudh (war)’.

The Prime Minister said “The path of Buddha is the path of the future and the path of sustainability. Had the world followed Buddha’s teachings, it would not have faced the problem of climate change.” This problem arose, the Prime Minister explained, as nations stopped thinking about others and coming generations. This mistake accumulated to catastrophic proportions. Buddha preached good conduct without any consideration of personal gain as such behavior leads to overall good.

The Prime Minister highlighted how each person is affecting the earth in one way or the other, be it with lifestyle, eating or traveling habits and pointed out that everyone can contribute towards fighting climate change. Throwing light on Lifestyle For Environment or Mission LiFE, an initiative by India influenced by the inspirations of Buddha the Prime Minister said that if people become aware and change their lifestyle, then this huge problem of climate change can also be tackled. “Mission LiFE is influenced by the inspirations of Buddha and it furthers Buddha’s thoughts”, Shri Modi remarked.

Concluding the address, the Prime Minister stressed the need to come out of the definitions of materialism and selfishness and imbibe the feeling of 'Bhavatu Sab Mangalan' i.e. Buddha should not only be made a symbol but also a reflection. He remarked that this resolution will be fulfilled only when we remember the words of the Buddha of not turning back and always moving forward. The Prime Minister expressed confidence that resolutions will become successful with everyone coming together.

Union Minister for Culture, Shri G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Law and Justice, Shri Kiren Rijju, Union Ministers of State for Culture, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal and Smt Meenakshi Lekhi, and Secretary General of International Buddhist Confederation, Dr Dhammapiya were present on occasion.



#### Background



The two-day Summit is being hosted by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with International Buddhist Confederation on 20-21 April. The theme of the Global Buddhist Summit is “Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis”.



The Summit is an effort towards engaging the global Buddhist Dhamma leadership and scholars on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and to come up with policy inputs to address them



collectively. The discussion at the Summit explored how the Buddha Dhamma’s fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings.

The Summit witnessed the participation of eminent scholars, Sangha leaders and Dharma practitioners from all over the world, who will discuss pressing global issues and look for answers in the Buddha Dhamma based on universal values. The discussions were held under four themes: Buddha Dhamma and Peace; Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability; Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition; Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient foundation to India’s centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, South-East and East Asia.

# Radio Free Asia

## Dalai Lama stresses Buddhism basics and the power of compassion at religious summit

The gathering was the Tibetan spiritual leader's first public appearance since a controversial video.

By Pasang Tsering for RFA Tibetan

2023.04.21

New Delhi, India



*Tibetan Buddhism's spiritual leader-in-exile, the Dalai Lama, speaks at the Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi, India, April 21, 2023.*

In a speech Friday at the Global Buddhist Summit, the Dalai Lama spoke about the importance of compassion and wisdom, and stressed the importance of Buddhist philosophy and values.

“I can also share with you that by engaging in this kind of inner development and particularly focusing on wisdom and compassion, it can really help increase our courage as well,” the 87-year-old Tibetan Buddhism spiritual leader said through an

courage as well," the 87-year-old Tibetan Buddhism spiritual leader said through an interpreter.

Dozens of monks in yellow, orange and saffron robes turned out for the two-day conference in New Delhi, India, which drew 500 participants from nearly 30 countries and regions, including Tibet, Mongolia, Nepal, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, India and Myanmar. It was hosted by India's Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation

It was the Dalai Lama's first public appearance since a video of him kissing a boy on the mouth and asking him to "suck" his tongue at a student event in northern India on Feb. 28 went viral on social media.

The incident disgusted many viewers. However, sticking out one's tongue is a greeting or a sign of respect or agreement in Tibetan culture, and supporters of the Dalai Lama held demonstrations this week protesting the media's coverage of the event.

Nevertheless, the Dalai Lama later apologized to the boy and his family for any misunderstanding.

Dalai Lama delivers sermons in India amid "suck ...



The summit was a "good example for the world of people coming from different traditions, cultural backgrounds all meeting together in harmony," said Jetsun Tenzin Palmo, president of International Buddhist Confederation.

And though the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in Dharamsala, India, did not discuss the recent controversy surrounding the video, he did broach the topic of Tibet's struggle with China.

“For example: In the case of my dealing with the current struggle and situation of Tibet, if you think just only about it from a narrow angle, you can lose your hope,” he said. “But if you look at this crisis and look at this current situation from the broader perspective of the courage that cultivation and compassion give you, then you can have a much more resilient mind.”

“So, even in your daily life, there might be problems which may seem enormous and unbearable,” the Dalai Lama said. “Still, if you have the courage, you will be in a much stronger position to turn adversities into opportunities.”

The Dalai Lama has long advocated a Middle Way approach to peacefully resolve the issue of Tibet and to bring about stability and co-existence based on equality and mutual cooperation with China and without discrimination based on one nationality being superior or better than the other.

Beijing views any sign of Tibetan disobedience, including peaceful protests and self-immolations, as acts of separatism, threatening China's national security.

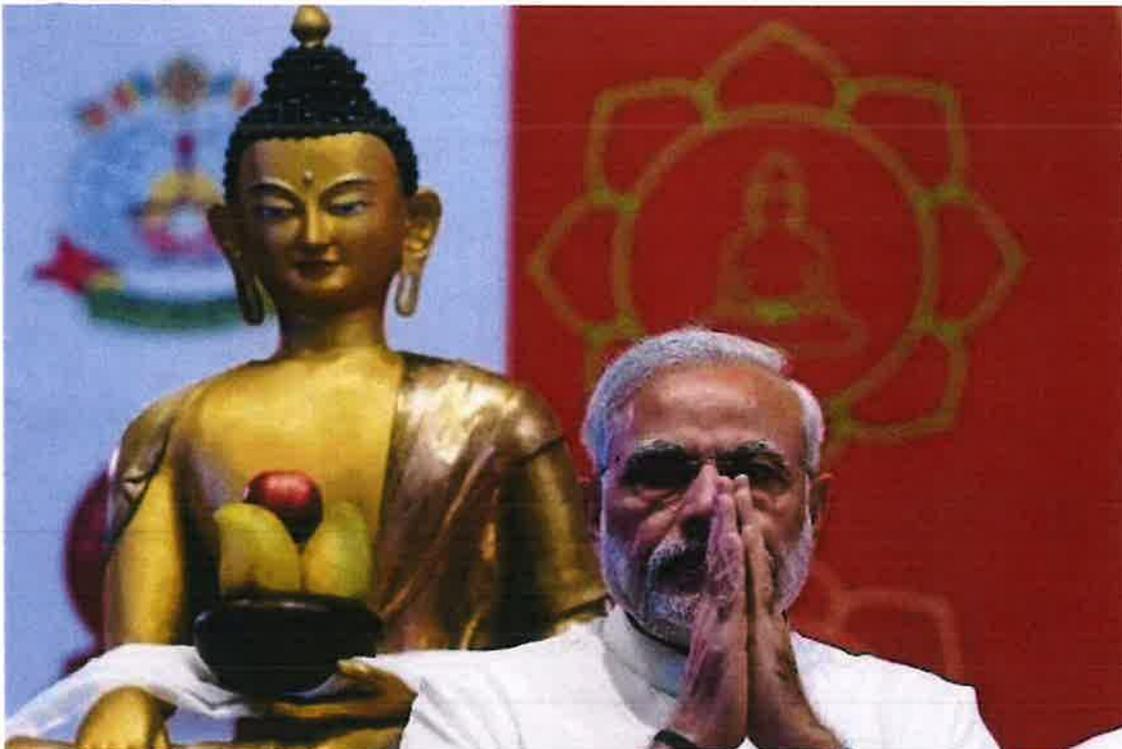
There have been no formal talks between the Dalai Lama and Beijing since 2010, and Chinese officials have made unreasonable demands of the Dalai Lama as a condition for further dialogue.

***Translated by Tenzin Dickyi for RFA Tibetan. Edited by Roseanne Gerin and Malcolm Foster.***

**NEWS BRIEF**

## Prime Minister Modi To Inaugurate First Global Buddhist Summit On 20 April In Delhi

by *Arun Kumar Das* - Apr 18, 2023 10:58 AM +05:30 IST



Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the conference with delegates, eminent scholars and Dharma practitioners. (Representative image via DD).

### Snapshot

- *It is expected that the summit will explore as to how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide inspiration and guidance in contemporary settings.*

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the first Global Buddhist Summit with participation of 171 delegates from foreign countries and 150 delegates from Indian Buddhist organisations, on 20 April.

Informing the media about the mega event, Union Culture Minister G K Reddy said that the first International Global Buddhist Summit will be organised in India under *Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*.

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*Arun Kumar Das is a senior journalist covering railways. He can be contacted at [akdas2005@gmail.com](mailto:akdas2005@gmail.com).*

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**Tags:** Azadi ka amrit mahotsav, Union Ministry Of Culture, global buddhist conference, Buddhism in India, International Buddhist Confederation,



**An Appeal...**

## 'I told the UN, India hasn't given Yuddha but Buddha to the world': PM Modi at Global Buddhist Summit

Times Now | 20 Apr 2023, 12:46 PM IST

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India, in the last nine years, has been making big strides following Buddha teachings, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Thursday. Speaking at Global Buddhist Summit 2023 in New Delhi, Modi said that India has followed Buddha's teachings including the path of Theory, Practice and Realisation. India has progressed rapidly on all these three points.

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# Monks from 30 nations to attend Buddhist summit: govt

No confirmation from Dalai Lama, hope he attends, says minister

By: [Express News Service](#)

New Delhi | Updated: April 18, 2023 02:34 IST



According to a statement from the Culture Ministry, the summit would include prominent Buddhism

followers from across the world. (Twitter/@kishenreddybjp)

### Listen to this article

00:00 1x 1



Days before a two-day Global Buddhist Summit is set to be inaugurated by P Minister Narendra Modi here on Thursday, Union Culture Minister G Kishan Reddy on Monday said there is “still hope” that the Dalai Lama would attend the event, although it was not confirmed.

Addressing the media, Reddy said the event will bring together Buddhist monks and scholars from 30 countries. He said 150 delegates from across the country and 171 from abroad are expected to attend the two-day summit, being organised by the Culture Ministry and the NGO ‘International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

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Reddy said the summit’s theme would be a “Buddhist response to the most pressing challenges in the world today”, and it will highlight the cultural and diplomatic significance. “As the birthplace of Buddhism, it is our responsibility to invite them,” he said.

Asked whether monks from China and Tibet will attend, IBC director-general Abhijit Halder said although invites had gone out to Buddhist institutions in China and Tibet, no replies had been received. Asked whether the absence of Chinese monks and scholars would be felt during the discussions, Reddy said, “Openly, we can’t speak on these issues.”

He said the summit is being organised for the first time and delegates from 30 countries, including Sri Lanka, Vietnam, the US, Laos and Brazil, will participate.

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On the Dalai Lama's attendance, Halder said no confirmation had been received due to his "health" but did not rule out the presence of the spiritual leader, either in person or virtually.

When asked, the minister said, "There is still hope."

Last week, a video of the Dalai Lama's interaction with a child had sparked a controversy, with many finding his remark asking the child to suck his tongue inappropriate. His office subsequently issued a statement saying that the spiritual leader apologised to the child and his family, and that he often "teases" people in an "innocent" way.

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According to a statement from the Culture Ministry, the summit would include prominent Buddhism followers from across the world. The keynote speakers would be Prof Robert Thurman, an American Buddhist scholar who was awarded the Padma Shri in 2020, and Thich Tri Quang, the deputy patriarch of Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.

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First published on: 17-04-2023 at 21:06 IST



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**LIVE BLOG**

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## Magnificence, Magnanimity and Morality in action: The maiden Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi

ANI | 21 April, 2023 09:15 am IST



Representative Image (Photo/ANI)

New Delhi [India], April 21 (ANI): Buddhism and India have shared a long-standing relationship since its very beginning starting 5th century BCE. With a long and complex history in India, religion has had a significant impact on Indian culture and society.

During the early years of Buddhism, it was mainly practised in India, and many of the religion's key teachings were developed and refined in this region.

Many Indian rulers, such as Ashoka, were proponents of Buddhism and helped to spread the religion throughout the country. Buddhist temples and monasteries were established throughout India, and religion played an important role in shaping Indian art, literature, and philosophy.

Today, Buddhism continues to be an important part of India's cultural heritage, and many Buddhist pilgrimage sites are located throughout the country.

Over the centuries, Buddhism spread across Asia and beyond, but it has remained an important part of India's cultural heritage.

In an attempt to reconnect with the cultural aspects and better integrate Buddhist ideas, the maiden Global Buddhist Summit will be held on April 20-21 in New Delhi in a collaborative setup between the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

As part of the commemorations under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, the maiden edition of the International Global Buddhist Summit is being organised in India with prominent Buddhist monks from different countries taking part in the summit.

In fact, multiple roundtable conferences are being organised to discuss how best society can deal with contemporary challenges, with the help of Buddhist philosophy and thought.

In better ideating how contemporary challenges can be dealt with Buddhism, the summit shall serve as a medium to enhance the cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries as well with 171 delegates from 30 countries participating in the same.

Most discussions aim to understand today's pressing global issues and find answers in the Buddha Dhamma based on universal values.

A major reason for the same is that Buddhism as a culture and religious system has been firmly rooted in the ideas of peace and non-violence.

Its teachings emphasize the importance of compassion, kindness, and respect for all living beings. In today's era of war and conflict, Buddhism's message of peace and non-violence is more relevant than ever.

Religion offers a unique perspective on dealing with violence and conflict, emphasizing the importance of dialogue and understanding rather than aggression and force.

The principles of Buddhism also denote that violence and suffering inflicted on others ultimately come back to harm the oppressor as well.

Buddhism encourages society to take a broader view of their actions and to consider the impact their actions might have on others, rather than just focusing on one's own desires and interests.

Therefore, the four carefully curated themes for the summit are 'Buddha Dhamma and Peace', 'Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability', 'Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition and Pilgrimage', and 'Living Heritage and Buddha Relics: a resilient four to India's centuries-old cultural links to countries in South, Southeast and East

Through these, the vision of the summit is to better understand the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha that have been continuously enriched over the centuries with the practice of Buddha Dhamma.

This summit comes close on the heels of a recently-held successful international meet of experts from the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) nations, aimed at re-establishing transcultural links, seeking out commonalities, between Buddhist art of Central Asia, art styles, archaeological sites and antiquity in various museums' collections of the SCO countries as well.

This summit is a similar effort towards engaging the global Buddhist dhamma leadership and scholars on matters of Buddhist and universal concerns, and coming up with policy inputs to address them collectively.

With the powerful message of hope in the face of conflict that Buddhism philosophy propounds advertently and inadvertently, its teachings have constantly focused on the importance of compassion and forgiveness, even in the face of the greatest adversity.

By embracing these values, Buddhism advocates for a break in the cycle of violence resulting in a more peaceful and just world. It is expected that the deliberations at the summit will successfully explore how the Buddha Dhamma's fundamental values can provide the necessary inspiration and guidance to individuals, leaders and society in general in today's day and age to grapple with technological advancements, consumerism and the constant aggrandisement that societies and nations continue to profess and practice.

The maiden edition of the Global Buddhist Summit that is held in New Delhi marks a significant moment in the history of Buddhism, highlighting its relevance and potential in contemporary times. With its focus on the philosophy of compassion, sympathy and mutual understanding.

The summit offers a unique perspective on how to deal with the pressing global challenges we face today. Through its carefully curated themes and roundtable conferences, the summit aims to create a platform for Buddhist leaders, Monks, and interfaith dialogue scholars to engage in meaningful discourse and explore ways to address common concerns.

The summit also serves as a medium to enhance cultural and diplomatic relationships with several countries, promoting peaceful coexistence and global peace, serenity and harmony.

With its message of hope and the importance of magnificence, magnanimity and morality, Buddhism offers a golden path towards a more peaceful and just world.

The Global Buddhist Summit provides an opportunity to learn from this ancient philosophy and apply it in our lives and society, ensuring a more sustainable future for all of us.

The author of this opinion piece is Dr Maheep, an expert on India's Foreign affairs. He is the Principal Investigator of a National Project on India's Soft Power Diplomacy. (ANI)



## 'Soft power' flex? What 'first-of-a-kind' Global Buddhist Summit means for India

PIA KRISHNANKUTTY 21 April, 2023 05:28 pm IST

*PM Narendra Modi interacts with monks at the Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi Thursday | Praveen Jain | ThePrint*

**New Delhi:** The Global Buddhist Summit — a two-day congregation in New Delhi that concludes Friday — is a first-of-its-kind event.

Hosted by the International Buddhist Confederation in collaboration with the Indian Ministry of Culture, it saw the participation of delegates from nearly 30 countries, including Taiwan, Myanmar, Thailand, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, and Mongolia.

Monks, scholars and heads of Buddhist organisations from these countries attended the event in Delhi, but none from China — home to the world’s largest Buddhist population — was present. Sources told ThePrint that Chinese Buddhist representatives were extended invitations.

Contrary to speculation, the 14th Dalai Lama — who courted controversy over the past few days following a controversial video — attended the event Friday and gave an address emphasising the importance of Buddhist philosophy and values.

At a time when the Russia-Ukraine war continues to rage, the summit sought to find solutions to “contemporary global problems” through a Buddhist lens.

Through Buddhism, which originated in India, New Delhi shares deep cultural and historical roots with many of the countries in Asia. The government has pitched the event as a bid to “mark the significance and importance of India in Buddhism”, and a “medium to enhance cultural and diplomatic relationships with other countries”.

The Global Buddhist Summit comes at a time when India holds the presidencies of the G20 and Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), and is keen to be a [voice for the Global South](#).

Last month, India also [held](#) a first-of-its-kind conference of SCO on “Shared Buddhist Heritage”.

In his [speech](#) Thursday, PM Narendra Modi called the summit an opportunity for “like-minded and like-hearted countries” to spread Buddhism.

Speakers at the summit said it could be seen as an attempt by India to flex its soft power in the region. While it’s definitely not the first time a country has used Buddhism to this end, they added, events like the Global Buddhist Summit do offer India “political mileage”.

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## ‘Faith in Buddha’

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the Global Buddhist Summit Thursday, where he said India had imbibed the teachings of Buddha. This, he added, was evident in its peace missions across the world, as well as its assistance in light of the February earthquake in Turkey.

He also briefly alluded to the Ukraine war.

“Two countries are at war for months, while on the other hand, the world is also going through economic instability,” he said, adding that such instability and threats of terrorism can be tackled by having faith in Buddha and the welfare of all living beings.

Speaking to ThePrint, American Buddhist author and academic Robert Thurman, who delivered the keynote address at the event, said: “You can say this event is an attempt by India to hone its soft power among its neighbours. There are many ways to analyse it.”

“But I think [on the international stage,] Modi has been sincerely saying that the main principle of India is peace and *ahimsa*,” he added, while also praising PM Modi’s remark to Russian President Vladimir Putin last year that “today’s is not an era of war”.

Other experts said the Global Buddhist Summit could give India “political mileage” on the world stage.

Dr Ratna Jyothi Kakumanu, a US-based doctor and a panel speaker at the summit, told ThePrint: “These kinds of forums help deepen the cultural ties between India and its neighbours. It’s also good political mileage for India. It shows our commitment to preserving the region’s Buddhist heritage.”

Professor Chandima Wijebandara, who teaches at the University of Sri Jayewardenepura in Sri Lanka — an institution born out of a Buddhist educational centre — said China and Japan had also used Buddhism as part of their diplomacy in the past.

“PM Modi was astute in his speech. He quoted directly from Buddha, specifically ‘*Pariyatti*’, ‘*Patipatti*’ and ‘*Pativedha*’ (Theory, Practice and Realisation),” he added. “This is sure to bode well with monks and scholars across the world.”

“But this is not new,” he said. “China and even Japan have held Buddhist conferences which can be viewed as soft power tactics.”

(Edited by Sunanda Ranjan)

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**Also Read:** *‘Ignorance of Tibet customs, China ploy’: Monpas of Arunachal march for Dalai Lama, say he was ‘misunderstood’*

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🏠 Siasat.com / News / World

## SL envoy gifts to India 2 paintings depicting arrival of Ashoka's son, daughter

Ashoka, also referred to as Ashoka the Great, was an emperor of the Mauryan Empire whose capital was located in ancient Pataliputra (current day Patna).

 Press Trust of India  | Posted by Marziya Sharif | Published: 23rd April 2023 8:25 am IST



 Representative Image

**New Delhi:** Sri Lankan envoy Milinda Moragoda gifted to India two paintings depicting the arrival of Emperor Ashoka's son and daughter in the country, officials here said on Saturday.

The paintings, replicas of the original paintings at a temple located close to the Sri Lankan capital Colombo, will be housed at the National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA), they said.

Union Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Meenakshi Lekhi received the paintings at the NGMA, a senior official said.

Sri Lankan High Commissioner Milinda Moragoda accompanied a group of senior monks from the country, led by Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero, to hand over the two paintings depicting the arrival of Ashoka's son Mahendra and his daughter Sangamitra in Sri Lanka, she said.

The NGMA, located in Jaipur House near India Gate, comes under the purview of the Union Ministry of Culture.

The handover ceremony took place on the sidelines of the two-day Global Buddhist Summit that ended on Friday.

The Sri Lankan delegation to the Global Buddhist Summit was present, along with Mahabodhi Society representatives.

The minister later hosted them over lunch and 'Theravada meal' was served to the delegates at her office, the officials said.

Lekhi mentioned the close historical, cultural and traditional relationship between Sri Lanka and India, especially in the context of Buddhism.

While highlighting the ancient linkage between the two countries, Lekhi emphasised that this relationship should be "further strengthened by future

generations over centuries”.

She described the pictures in detail, explaining how the king in Sri Lanka received Ashoka’s son and daughter. Lekhi thanked the Sri Lankan delegation and the high commissioner for their contribution to the NGMA. Some of the monks gifted books on Buddhism to Lekhi, said the officials.

The delegation was “elated” over the minister’s decision to do “something more concrete” on the Buddhist network between Sri Lanka and India in the coming months and years, the official said.

Lekhi also tweeted about the paintings being gifted and also shared some pictures.

“Happy to unveil the beautiful murals painted by Solias Mendis and presented by @SLinIndia on the sidelines of the Global Buddhist Summit,” she tweeted.

“The murals showcase historical events marking the advent of Buddhism in Sri Lanka and reflects the strong civilisational bonds between our two countries,” she added.

“The paintings as part of the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka depicts the arrival of King Ashoka’s son, Mahendra, and his daughter, Sangamitra, to Sri Lanka,” she added in her tweet.

Ashoka, also referred to as Ashoka the Great, was an emperor of the Mauryan Empire whose capital was located in ancient Pataliputra (current day Patna). He had sent his son Mahendra and daughter Sangamitra to Sri Lanka to spread Buddhism.

Tags

Ashoka

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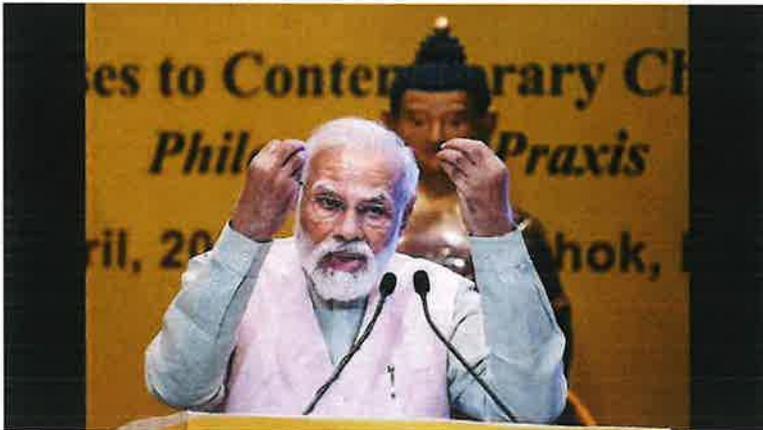
Painting

Sri Lanka

[Home](#) / [India](#) / Dalai Lama skips event attended by Modi

## Dalai Lama skips event attended by Modi

A statement on the website of the Tibetan spiritual leader on Wednesday had said: 'His Holiness the Dalai Lama left Dharamsala for Delhi this morning to attend the Global Buddhist Summit 2023'



Modi at the inauguration of the Global Buddhist Summit on Thursday.  
PTI

[Pheroze L. Vincent](#) | New Delhi | Published 21.04.23, 05:15 AM

The Dalai Lama did not attend Prime Minister Narendra Modi's inauguration of the Global Buddhist Summit, organised by a central government-funded NGO, here on Thursday.

A statement on the website of the Tibetan spiritual leader on Wednesday had said: "His Holiness the Dalai Lama left Dharamsala for Delhi this morning to attend the Global Buddhist Summit 2023."

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Modi has not had a publicly acknowledged meeting with the Dalai Lama since assuming office as Prime Minister in 2014. His predecessor Manmohan Singh had in 2013 met the monk, who is anathema to the Chinese.

The Dalai Lama's website, [dalailama.com](http://dalailama.com), mentions a meeting with Prime Minister Modi in Delhi on August 20, 2014, but the Press Information Bureau — the central government's publicity arm — makes no mention of it.

Modi has greeted the Dalai Lama over the phone on his birthday for the last two years.

A source involved with the two-day event told **The Telegraph** that the Dalai Lama was expected to be present on Friday.

The schedule booklet does not mention the name of the chief guest for Friday. Only delegates are allowed during Friday morning's welcome session. In the afternoon, there is a scheduled discussion by Buddhist monks on "HH The Dalai Lama, His Contribution Towards Global Peace & Continuity".

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Gelug school, the most dominant among the four schools of Tibetan Buddhism. He had also been the political leader of the Tibetan government-in-exile after he fled to India in 1959, but he handed over the responsibility in 2011 to an elected leader.

[Dalai Lama](#)

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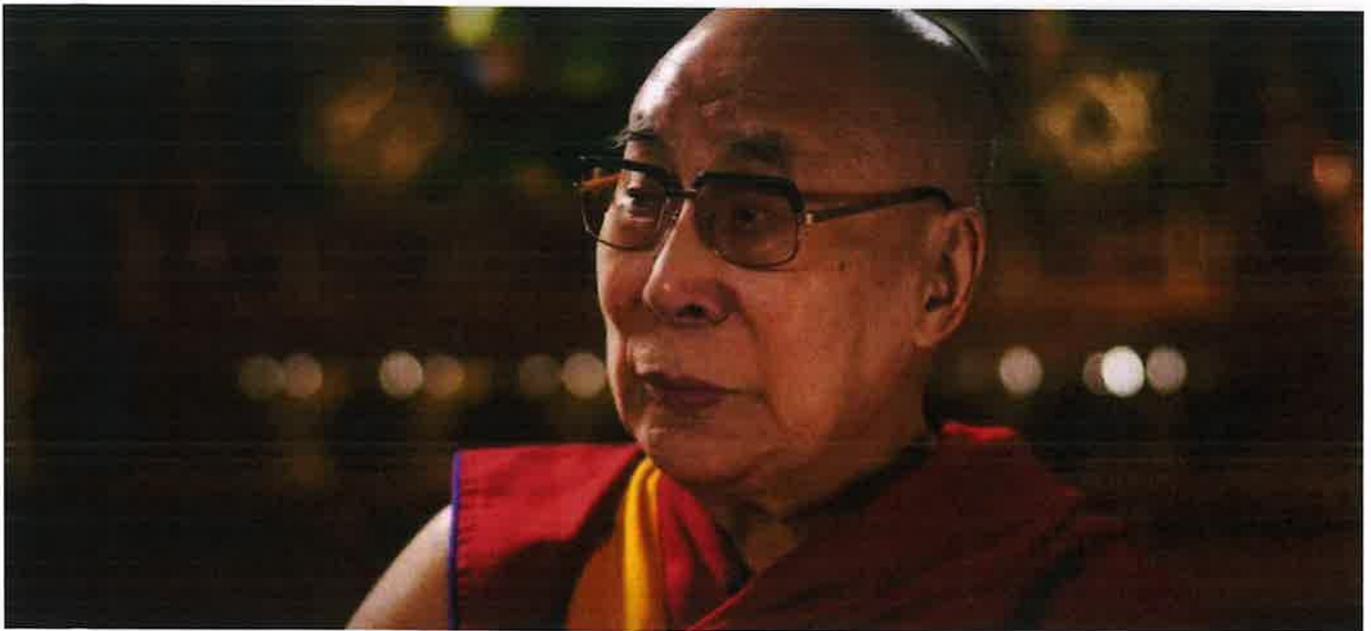
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RELIGION

# China, Dalai Lama to Keep Away from Global Summit on Buddhism in India

The Global Buddhist Summit is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi-based International Buddhist Confederation on April 20-21.



The Dalai Lama. Photo: Video screengrab/BBC



The Wire Staff



DIPLOMACY RELIGION SOUTH ASIA WORLD 18/APR/2023

**New Delhi:** Chinese monks, as well as the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama, will not participate at the International Buddhist Conference that will be attended by delegations from nearly 30 countries later this week.

The Global Buddhist Summit (GBS) is being organised by the Union Ministry of Culture and the New Delhi-based **International Buddhist Confederation** (IBC) on April 20-21.

At a press conference on Monday, the director general of IBC, Abhijit Halder told reporters, “**Chinese are not coming.** Invitations were sent...From Taiwan, they (two delegates) are coming”, as quoted by *The Telegraph*.

He added that the invitations were sent to various Buddhist institutions and not governments, as per *The Hindu*.

Halder also stated that the Dalai Lama, who is at the centre of a controversy **over his public behaviour with a young boy**, might not attend the event due to “health issues”. “An invitation has been sent (to the Dalai Lama) but because of his health I don’t know if he can attend,” Halder said.

In total, around 320 delegations would participate in the summit, which includes 170 foreign participants from Mexico, Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Japan. The largest delegation of 30 members is from Vietnam, followed by 20 from Sri Lanka.

The delegates include prominent scholars, monks, diplomats and members of Buddhist organisations across the globe.

The conference will be inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi under the theme of “Responses to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis”.

Addressing the interaction, Union culture minister G. Kishan Reddy said that the summit, highlighting India’s role as the birthplace of Buddhism, “aims to find solutions to problems such as climate change, poverty, and conflict, among others, by exploring the Buddhist teachings and practices”.

The IBC, which is supported by the Indian government, **traces its origin to the 2011 International Buddhist Congregation in New Delhi**. China had kept away from the 2011 conference due to Dalai Lama’s speaking role. When New Delhi declined China’s request to exclude the Dalai Lama from the conference, **Beijing cancelled** the 15th round of border talks between the Special Representatives scheduled for December 2011.

The IBC had also co-organised the international conference on Shared Buddhist heritage of SCO countries last month, which had been **attended by Chinese delegates**.

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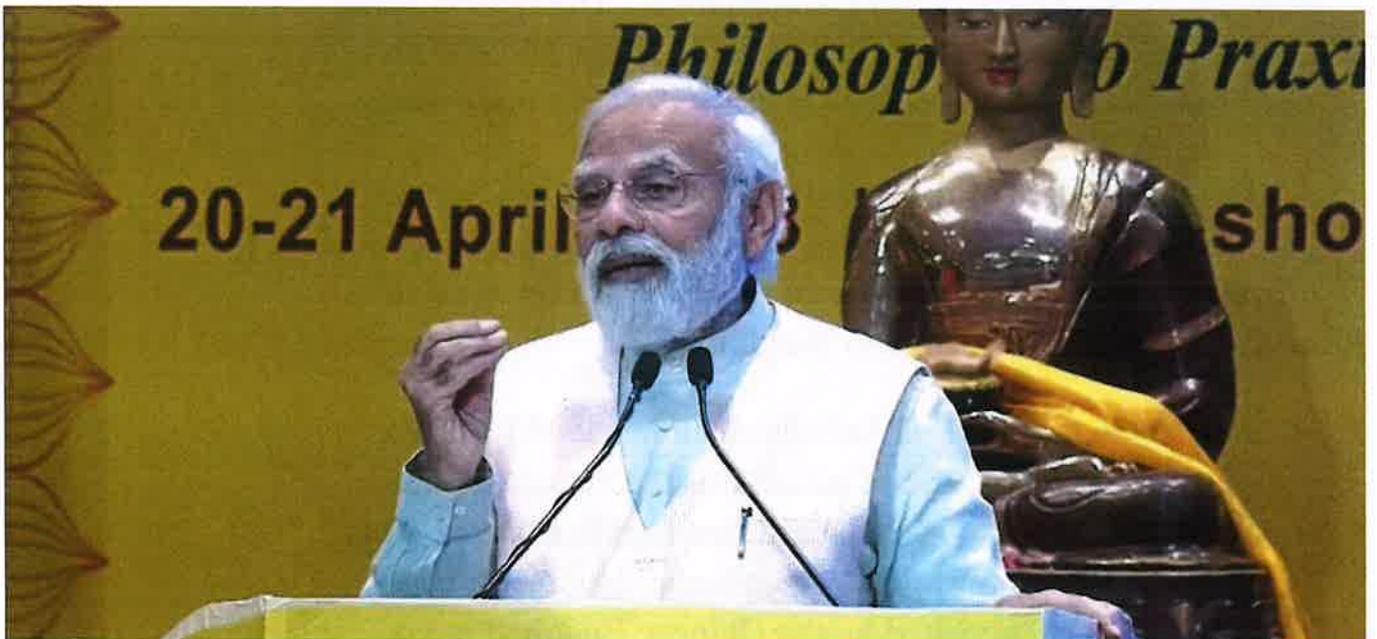
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## GOVERNMENT

## At Global Buddhist Summit, Modi Under Spotlight

The two-day summit is regarded as a move by the Indian government to reinforce the country's position as a key player in Buddhism. This is particularly significant as China has been sponsoring similar summits on Buddhism.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi at the Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi on April 21, 2023. Photo: Twitter/@narendramodi



The Wire Staff



GOVERNMENT 21/APR/2023

**New Delhi:** The Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi was not only about showcasing India's links to the religion but largely highlighted the Indian Prime Minister's claim of being a promoter of the faith.

A digital compilation released by Press Information Bureau on the occasion included excerpts of 20 speeches made by Modi that were "important in understanding the rich connection between Prime Minister and Lord Buddha". The **e-book** listed over 100 photographs, out of which only about 15-20 were of Lord Buddha, while the rest were of Modi at various events.

At the inauguration of the two-day Global Buddhist Summit in Delhi, the Prime Minister gave a speech in which he claimed two personal connections – that he has repeated in nearly every speech related to Buddhism.

He underlined that his Lok Sabha constituency of Varanasi, with its proximity to Sarnath which was the venue of Lord Buddha's first sermon, has a significant Buddhist cache. Then, Modi noted that his birthplace of Vadnagar in Gujarat was known to have been visited by the Chinese Buddhist monk

Hsüen Tsang, who was known for his chronicles of travel to India to acquire Buddhist scriptures.

During a speech on Thursday, Prime Minister Narendra Modi remarked that the world is currently facing multiple challenges, including the Russia-Ukraine conflict, economic instability, and climate change. Nevertheless, he expressed confidence that the faith of millions of Buddhists will prove to be a powerful source of strength during these trying times.

“It is universally accepted that today’s era is the most challenging time of this century. Today...two countries are at war for months [and] the world is going through economic instability. Threats such as terrorism and religious fanaticism are attacking the soul of humanity. A challenge like climate change is looming large over the existence of humanity,” Modi said in his Hindi speech.

Addressing the congregation of participants from 30 countries, Modi said that while the world was plagued with climate change and environmental disasters, “there are crores of people like you, who believe in the Buddha”. “This hope, this faith is the biggest strength of this earth. When this hope gets united, the Buddha’s Dhamma will become the world’s belief and Buddha’s realisation will become the belief of humanity,” he said.

The two-day summit, which came to an end on Friday, was organised by the ministry of culture in collaboration with the Delhi-based International Buddhist Confederation. The theme of the summit is “Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis”.

Delegates from around 170 foreign nations, including Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, Japan, South Korea, and Mexico, are participating in the summit, with Vietnam and Sri Lanka sending significant delegations.

While emphasising the significance of peaceful coexistence in Buddhism, Modi's message was taking place against the backdrop of the absence of China and the Dalai Lama at the summit. Although invitations were sent to Buddhist institutions in China, there was no response. The Dalai Lama, who has been embroiled in controversy over his public behaviour with a young boy, cited "health" reasons for his non-participation, according to the organisers.

The two-day summit is regarded as a move by the Indian government to reinforce the country's position as a key player in Buddhism. This is particularly significant as China has been sponsoring similar summits on Buddhism.

Quoting the Buddha's teachings, Modi said that living in harmony with all people brings happiness. "Friends, today we see that the thinking of imposing one's own thoughts and beliefs onto others is becoming a big problem for the world." He emphasised that the Buddha's teachings emphasised the importance of examining one's own behaviour before attempting to preach to others.

Modi also visited a photo exhibition and offered monk's robes to 19 eminent monks from Australia, Mexico, Nepal, Myanmar, South Korea, Mongolia, Bhutan and Bangladesh.

The summit concluded with the release of a **New Delhi declaration** on Friday. The official press release noted, "The Declaration reinforces the points highlighted by the Prime Minister in his opening address."

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# His Holiness the Dalai Lama Leaves for Delhi to Attend Global Buddhist Summit

Editor

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April 19, 2023

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His Holiness the Dalai Lama leaves for Delhi.

Dharamshala: Tibetan spiritual leader His Holiness the Dalai Lama left for Delhi early this morning to attend the two-day meeting of the Global Buddhist Summit from 20 – 21 April

in Delhi.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the summit along with keynote speakers including Prof Robert Thurman, a renowned scholar of Buddhism, and Thich Tri Quang, Deputy Patriarch, of Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. His Holiness the Dalai Lama will address the summit on Friday, 21 April.

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), an umbrella group that serves as a platform for Buddhists worldwide, is organising the event.

The conference will bring together prominent scholars, Sangha leaders, and Dharma practitioners from across the globe to discuss pressing global issues, including peace, environmental sustainability, health, preservation of Nalanda Buddhist tradition, and the significance of Buddha Dharma pilgrimage and Buddha relics as a foundation for India's cultural ties to countries in South, Southeast, and East.



His Holiness the Dalai Lama leaves for Delhi.

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### **His Holiness the Dalai Lama Addresses Global Buddhist Summit 2023**

April 21, 2023

## Dalai Lama likely to attend global Buddhist summit in New Delhi next week

April 16, 2023 👁 2175 🗨 0

(TibetanReview.net, Apr16'23) – The Dalai Lama is expected to attend a first-of-its-kind global summit of Buddhist scholars to be hosted by India in New Delhi over Apr 20-21. It will focus on Buddhism's response to the world's most pressing challenges. Prime Minister Narendra Modi will address the summit on the first day and the Dalai Lama is expected to attend it on the second day, although this is yet to be publicly confirmed, reported the *wionews.com* Apr 14.

The event is being organized by the International Buddhist Confederation, an umbrella group that serves as a platform for Buddhists worldwide, under the theme of 'Response to Contemporary Challenges from Philosophy to Praxis'.

Keynote speakers will include Prof Robert Thurman, a renowned scholar of Buddhism, and His Holiness Thich Tri Quang, Deputy Patriarch, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. Over 170 overseas Buddhist dharma masters from more than 30 countries are expected to participate in the discussions, the report said.

Prof Thurman, a scholar of Indo-Tibetan Buddhist Studies, was ordained by the Dalai Lama in 1965, becoming the first American Buddhist monk of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition. India awarded him the Padma Shri in 2020 for his work on discovering India's ancient Buddhist heritage, noted the *newindianexpress.com* Apr 15.

The conference will cover subjects such as Buddhism and peace; environmental crisis, health and sustainability; and the preservation of the Nalanda Buddhist tradition; as well as Buddhist pilgrimage, living heritage and Buddha relics.

The summit follows a two-day international conference on Buddhist heritage hosted by India as the chair of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on 'shared Buddhist heritage', a first of its kind gathering that brought together participants from Central Asia, East Asia, South Asia and Arab nations, noted the *swarajyamag.com* Apr 15. The SCO countries, all of which took part in the conference, includes China, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The *wionews.com* report said that while there has been no public confirmation of the Dalai Lama's participation, his presence would be significant, noting that China has been trying to interfere in the process of the discovery, recognition, and enthronement of his reincarnation.

The *newindianexpress.com* report cited sources as saying the Dalai Lama's participation will be subject to his health condition. "Since he is senior in age, his mobility is restricted and he needs assistance. There is a lot of security around him. It is for these reasons that confirmation on his attendance hasn't been received yet," the sources were quoted as saying.

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### Global Buddhist Summit will give message of India's love for peace, says Rinchen Lhamo

43

Apr 22, 2023, 05:07PM IST | Source: ANI

Buddhist member of the National Commission for Minorities, Rinchen Lhamo participated in the Global Buddhist Summit 2023 on April 21. While talking to ANI, Rinchen Lhamo said that the summit will give the message to the world that India is a peace-loving country. This is a very important platform to give the

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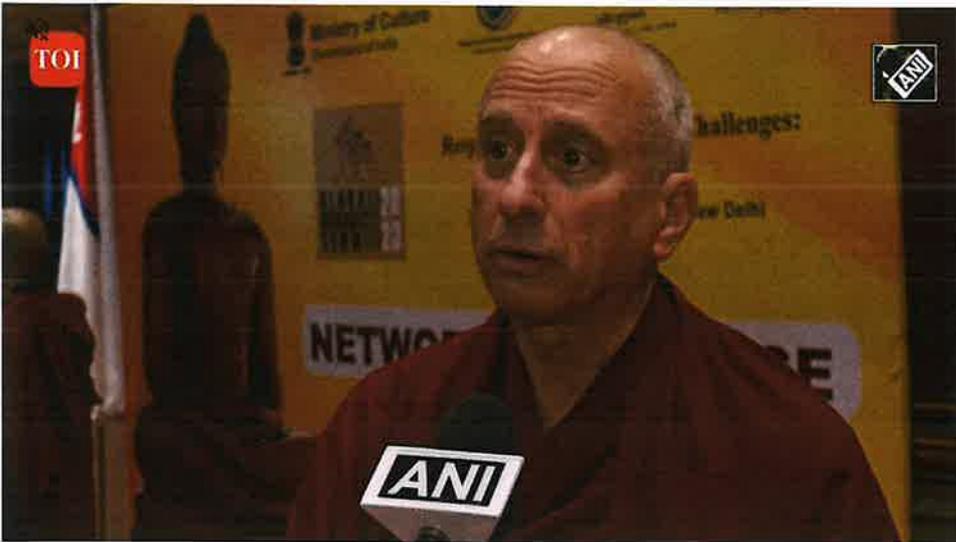
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### All religion brings message of peace to world, says Khen Rinpoche at Global Buddhist Conference

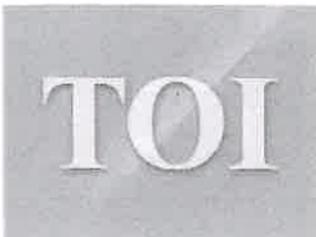
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Apr 22, 2023, 04:59PM IST | Source: ANI

Speaking to ANI on Global Buddha Summit 2023, Khen Rinpoche Nicholas Vreeland, Former Abbot, Rato Dratsang Monastery said that all religion brings the message of peace to the world. Adding further he said that if we practice any religion properly we will be contributing to peace, love and compassion.

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### Global Buddha Summit 2023 is to bring people together to discuss global issues, says Ven Dr Dammapiya

42

Apr 22, 2023, 05:02PM IST | Source: ANI

Speaking to ANI on Global Buddha Summit 2023, Secretary General of International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) Ven Dr Dammapiya said that the main moto of the event is to bring people together from different parts of the world to discuss global issues and crisis. "The main moto of an event like this

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# Dalai Lama attends Global Buddhist Summit hosted by India, speaks of compassion, wisdom and meditation

New Delhi, India Edited By: Heena Sharma Updated: Apr 21, 2023, 01:06 PM IST



Dalai Lama at Global Buddhist Summit Photograph:(Twitter)

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## STORY HIGHLIGHTS

**Dalai Lama on day 2 of Global Buddhist Summit:** In his nearly half-an-hour address, the Tibetan spiritual leader spoke of compassion, wisdom and meditation.

Tibetan spiritual guru Dalai Lama on Friday attended the Global Buddhist Summit, a two-day event hosted by India in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBS) on 20 and 21 April. Dalai Lama spoke for a little over about thirty minutes to a group of monks and other delegates who had assembled here on day 2 of the gathering, according to PTI news agency citing sources.

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In his address, the spiritual guru highlighted the ideals and philosophy of Buddhism. "In his nearly half-an-hour address, the Tibetan spiritual leader spoke of compassion, wisdom and meditation," a source told PTI.

Dalai Lama said that these are three ideals which are central to the philosophy and teachings of Lord Buddha. There was no confirmation of the Dalai Lama's visit. He was issued an invitation to the event, organisers said on Monday during a news conference. However, it had not been determined if he would attend.

On Thursday, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi spoke at the opening session of the groundbreaking summit.

PM Modi during his address mentioned the challenges posed by the present times. His address figured concerns including war, climate change, economic instability, terrorism and religious extremism.

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The prime minister said that these challenges can be overcome with the help of Lord Buddha's teachings.

There are two parts to the summit. One is academic session and the other one is Sangha session. The inaugural session was open for the media to attend however, the second session was not.

Early on Friday morning, a government-in-exile official from the Central Tibetan Administration, also known as the CTA, informed PTI that "His Holiness will attend the event." The conference is being hosted at The Ashok Hotel in New Delhi.

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It is a first-of-its-kind summit hosted by India. India is the birthplace of Buddha and has a unique advantage in  ing the culture of Buddhism across the world. Events such as Buddha Purnima, which commemorates Buddha's birth,

x

Through events like these, India can showcase its rich Buddhist heritage and encourage people from all over the world to visit the country and explore its Buddhist sites. By leveraging its Buddhist legacy, the country can also play a major role in promoting peace, compassion, and mindfulness globally.

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# Gravitas | India to host maiden Global Buddhist Summit

WION Video Team | Updated: Apr 20, 2023, 08:33 AM IST

India is going to host the world's first Global Buddhist Summit on April 20. Eminent Buddhist delegates from all around the world will be gathering in New Delhi. Dalai lama has already arrived in the national capital. What does this event entail? Molly Gambhir reports.

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# India, Sri Lanka strengthen cultural ties with gift of historic paintings depicting Buddhist heritage

New Delhi, India Written By: Sidhant Sibal Updated: Apr 22, 2023, 03:27 PM IST



The presence of the Sri Lankan Buddhist monks was significant, given the deep historical and cultural connections between Buddhism and both India and Sri Lanka. Photograph:(WION Web Team)

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During the event, Minister Lekhi highlighted the close historical, cultural, and traditional relationship between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in the context of the Buddhist connection

To commemorate the 75th anniversary of diplomatic relations between India and Sri Lanka, a series of historic paintings were unveiled by the Union Minister of State for External Affairs and Culture, Meenakshi Lekhi. The paintings were presented by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner, Milinda Moragoda, and depicted the arrival of King Ashoka's son,



Mahendra, and his daughter, Sangamitra, to Sri Lanka. The High Commissioner was accompanied by a group of senior monks from Sri Lanka, led by the Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero. Abhijit Halder, Director General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) was also present on the occasion.

During the event, Minister Lekhi highlighted the close historical, cultural, and traditional relationship between India and Sri Lanka, particularly in the context of the Buddhist connection. She emphasised the importance of strengthening this relationship further for future generations over centuries. Minister Lekhi said that the "paintings have been presented by monks who have travelled all the way from Sri Lanka. They brought two paintings which are replicas of two original paintings available in a temple near Sri Lanka's capital, Colombo."

The Sri Lankan delegation was in Delhi to take part in the global Buddhist Summit 2023, organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Ministry of Culture. The delegation expressed elation over the Minister's decision to do something more concrete on the Buddhist network between Sri Lanka and India in the coming months and years.

The presence of the Sri Lankan Buddhist monks was significant, given the deep historical and cultural connections between Buddhism and both India and Sri Lanka. The paintings presented by the Sri Lankan High Commissioner served as a poignant reminder of the longstanding ties between the two nations, cemented over the years through shared culture and history.

The two murals, which were painted by the eminent Sri Lankan painter Solias Mendis in the Kelaniya Rajamaha Vihara, depict the commencement of Buddhism in Sri Lanka in the 3rd century BCE. The murals depict the arrival of Arahat Bhikkhu Mahinda, son of Emperor Ashoka, delivering the message of the Buddha to King Devanampiyatissa of Sri Lanka upon arriving on the island. The second mural depicts the arrival of Theri Bhikkhuni Sanghamitta, the daughter of the emperor, bearing the sapling of the Sri Maha Bodhi tree under which Siddhartha Gautama attained enlightenment.

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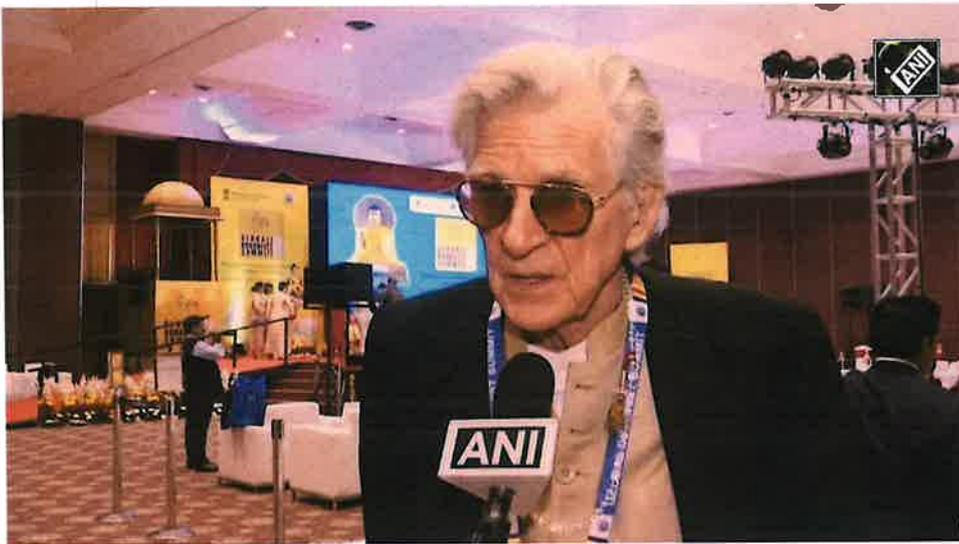
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## Global Buddhist Summit: Robert Thurman raises concerns over 'dictatorship' regimes

84

Apr 21, 2023, 07:21PM IST | Source: ANI

Padma awardee Professor Robert Thurman, the President of Tibet House in the US on April 21 spoke on the role of Buddhism in spreading peace and how democracy plays a role in that. He said, "It's dangerous to have power in one hand; dictatorship is dangerous. He made these comments while speaking on the

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