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Buddha's teachings empower the youth: President Murmu

The President delivered a video recorded message on 23 May, 2024 to commemorate the Vaisākha Buddha Pūrṇimā Divas at the National Museum, New Delhi. The celebration was organised by International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, and the National Museum (where the Holy Buddha Relic is enshrined).



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu

President Murmu stated that Lord Buddha, the embodiment of compassion, had delivered the message of truth, non-violence, harmony and love for humanity, and all sentient beings. The Shakyamuni had said, 'Appa Deepo Bhava' i.e., be a light unto yourself. "His teachings of tolerance, self-awareness and good conduct inspire us to serve humanity even today," President Murmu added.

The President further explained Buddha's Eightfold Path, that paves

the way for leading a meaningful life, "let us strengthen social harmony and take the pledge for nation-building by imbibing the ideals of Bhagwan Buddha in our daily life," she concluded.

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IBC mourns the passing of His Holiness Samdech Preah Agga Maha Sangharajadhipati General Tep Vong, Supreme Patriarch, Cambodia

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IBC pays final tribute to Late Ven Lama Lobzang



Chanting of prayers at Hyderabad upon receiving the sad news of Ven Lama Lobzang's passing. IBC was attending the Global Spiritual Mahotsav

The IBC Honours the memory of its Founder Secretary General Ven Lama Lobzang, who was the incumbent Executive President. We express our profound gratitude to the Venerable for all his tireless efforts in giving shape to IBC and steering the course of the international body during its most challenging phase.

Venerable Lobzang, better known as Lamaji passed away at the age of 93 in New Delhi on the morning of 16 March 2024. He was born in Leh, Ladakh.

Contd. on page 3...



President Murmu...Contd. from page 1

The Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs, Mrs Meenakshi Lekhi took part in the lighting of the lamp and offering of the flowers at the altar of the Buddha. Mr Govind Mohan, Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India also graced the event.

Acharya Lokesh Muni, the Founder of the Ahimsa Vishwa Bharti spoke on the teachings of the Buddha and the inter- relationship between Jainism and Buddhism.

Observing the Triple Blessed Day with reverence and piety, (Shākyamuni Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Mahāparinirvāṇa, all three are on the same day) prayers were offered to the Holy Buddha Relic in the chamber of the National Museum.

The dhamma chanting and prayers were led by His Eminence Kundeling Tatsak Rinpoche Tenzin Chokyi Gyaltsen in the presence of revered monks and other dignitaries, including the diplomats from Myanmar and Sri Lanka.

Presenting the Dhamma Talk, H E Kundeling Tatsak Rinpoche reflected on the life and teachings of the Buddha. He said, "we are reminded of the timeless relevance of his message. In a world often plagued by conflict, polarization, suffering, and misunderstanding, the

Buddha's teachings of compassion, non-violence, and wisdom serve as a beacon of hope and a path towards harmony."

Buddha's profound insights into the nature of suffering and the path to liberation provide us with the tools to cultivate inner peace and contribute to a more just and peaceful world, he added.

The Rinpoche explained, "Today, India holds a special place in the heart of every Buddhist. It is the land where the Buddha attained enlightenment and shared his profound teachings. It is from this sacred soil that the light of Buddha Dhamma spread far and wide, touching the lives of countless individuals," he added.

Director General of IBC, Mr Abhijit Halder in the vote of thanks specifically mentioned that the message delivered by the honourable President Murmu at IBC's Vesak day celebrations was beamed live to different countries around the world, especially the Buddhist nations.

Mr Halder appreciated the performance of the nuns who held a Nalanda debate session. He thanked H E Kundeling Tatsak Rinpoche for taking the time out to attend IBC's event. This year's celebrations presented a unique opportunity to witness a lively demonstration of the



Demonstration of the famous Nalanda debate

famous Nalanda debate by the nuns from the Jamyang Choling Institute of Leh, Ladakh. Though, the debating system of education originated from ancient India, it was one of the important components of the Nalanda monastic university in India. However, as Buddhist teachings and practices travelled to Tibet from India, so did the instructions on valid cognition, logic, and reasoning which form an important part of the scholastic curriculum.

Nalanda debate has been practiced and preserved as was in ancient Tibet, and is still practiced in Tibetan Buddhist monastic institutions today, in India. These nuns use debate as a primary part of their Buddhist philosophy education. Here, they demonstrated a debate focussing on investigation into the nature and characteristics of Bodhicitta (the mind of enlightenment) and Great compassion.

Vaiśākha Buddha Pūrṇimā celebrations in Lumbini, Nepal



Vaiśākha Buddha Pūrṇimā celebrations in Lumbini, Nepal

The IBC participated in the Vaiśākha Buddha Pūrṇimā celebrations in Lumbini at the invitation of the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT). The Indian team included 50 monks, academicians, a dance troupe, and prominent musicians of national repute. The event was attended by the then Nepali Prime Minister Pushpa Kamal Dahal alias Prachanda and the Indian Ambassador in Nepal. It is a matter of great honour for IBC that it is constructing a State-of-the-Art Buddhist Complex- the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini. □



Condolence meeting of Ven. Lama Lobzang at IGNC

At the memorial, held at the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), messages were received from the Home Minister, the BJP Party President, as well as the Minister of Culture and Tourism, among other stalwarts who recalled the Venerable's multifaceted contributions to civil society.

Messages were received from Home Minister, Culture Minister and BJP President

At the sombre memorial, the Home Minister, Mr Amit Shah in his condolence message described Lama Lobzang as a revered figure who selflessly contributed to the inner well-being of individuals and society. His life and works embody the highest principles of Dhamma, additionally, his leadership positions in national and international organisations exemplified his dedication to spreading Buddhist philosophy and fostering global harmony.

Earlier, Bharatiya Janata Party President, Mr J P Nadda also in a recorded message extended his deepest condolences on the passing of the late Lama Lobzang, saying that he was a "revered figure whose loss is

deeply felt by our society."

He further said that Ven Lobzang's remarkable contributions to the welfare of our society, his commitment to the preservation of living heritage, and his philanthropic endeavours have left an indelible mark on all who had the privilege of knowing him.

Ven Lama Lobzang- Lamaji, as he was affectionately called, held several constitutional, statutory, and non-profit positions at the national and international levels.

The Minister of Culture and Tourism, Mr G Kishan Reddy in his message called Lamaji a true Buddhist ambassador who dedicated his life to breaking religious and social barriers. "He undertook various initiatives and missions to bring the light of education and healthcare to the people of his beloved Ladakh and the entire Himalayan region," the condolence message stated. The message concluded with the mention that Lamaji's reputation and goodwill across the world is a true reflection of his inert keenness to help humanity.

Describing Lamaji as a true Karmyogi and Dhammaduta, Minister of Earth Sciences, Mr Kiren Rijiju said Lamaji devoted his whole life to breaking barriers and in the service of humanity.

Lamaji ably assisted H E 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche to co-found the pioneering Ladakh Institute, Ladakh Buddha Vihar and the Vishesh Kendriya Vidyalaya. As President of Ashoka Mission, New Delhi he helmed several great initiatives like Heritage of Nalanda, Global Buddhist

Congregation, and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), he added in the condolence statement.

In his message, H E the 7th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche said Lama Lobzang dedicated his life to the service of Buddha Dhamma, in particular he worked to bring many Buddhist nations together through the platform of the International Buddhist Confederation.

Lama Lobzang was a disciple of H E Ling Rinpoche's predecessor, therefore, he stated that there was a strong karmic connection between them.

Message from the Chief Abbot of Dashicholing Monastery, HE Dr Dambajav Khamba Lama conveyed that this was a very difficult moment for him and the Mongolian Buddhist Sangha as they were very saddened by the unexpected passing of Most Ven. Lama Lobzang and that he would always remain in their hearts.

The prayer meet was attended by around 200 people including dignitaries such as Tashi Gyalson (CEC, LAHDC-Leh), Dr. Mohd. Jaffer Akhoun (CEC, LAHDC-Kargil), Bhutan Ambassador, representatives from the Thai and US Embassies, family members of Lamaji, including the members of the Shakya clans, his close associates.

Condolence message was also received from H.H XXIV Pandito Khambo Lama Damba Ayusheev (Supreme Head of Russian Buddhists) among others.



Congregation observing silence in the memory of late Lama Lobzang at IGNC, New Delhi



Last Rites in Ladakh with full State Honours



Ladakh gives State Funeral with full honours to Ven Lama Lobzang

A special aircraft had earlier taken Lama Lobzang's mortal remains to Ladakh for the last rites. On March 25th he was accorded a State Funeral with full honours. A grand ceremony was held in the Monastery where monks in traditional attire held prayers and chanting for the Venerable's peaceful onward journey. All along the route of the cortege hundreds of citizens mourning the loss of their beloved Venerable lined up on both sides of the street to pay their last respects.

People from different parts of Ladakh gathered in large numbers to receive Ven Lobzang's mortal remains at the Kushok Bakula Airport. From here, it was taken to the Jokhang Vihara (temple) where people of Ladakh paid their homage by offering Khatag (white scarf) and flowers. In a procession the mortal remains were then taken to his residence at Skara for performing the last rites, as per the Buddhist tradition that lasts for 7 days.

The grand funeral ceremony was held on 24th March 2024 when leaders from various political backgrounds and representatives from different religions, namely: Tashi Gyalson (CEC, LHDC-Leh), Phuntsok Stanzin (BJP State President, Ladakh), Nawang Rigzin Jora (Territorial President, INC), Rigzin Spalbar

(Former CEC, LHDC-Leh), Padma Angmo (Commissioner Secretary, UT-Ladakh), Thupstan Tsewang (Former President, LBA), Tsering Dorjee Lakrook (Former VP-LBA), Ven. Tsering Wangdus (President, ALGA), Sheikh Nazir Ahmed (VP, Anjuman-e-Imamia), Sonam Parvez (President, Christian Community), Yangchan Dolma (President, LBA Women's Wing), Executive Councilors from both ruling and opposition parties participated in the funeral procession. Shri Tarun Vijaya (Former MP, Rajya Sabha) also joined representatives of IBC at the cremation ground.



As per the traditional custom, the DG, IBC offered Chiver Dana (offering of monks robes) to around 200 monks who were praying at Lamaji's residence for 7 consecutive days.

Around 200 monks from Spituk and

Hemis monastery who had gathered there since early morning and performed the necessary rituals and prayers prior to the last rites.

More than 5,000 lay citizens from all over Ladakh, walked the final journey with the funeral cortege of the Venerable who had provided medical facilities to many with life threatening illnesses.

A special Guard of honor by the J&K police was presented on the funeral grounds. Paying rich tribute to Ven Lamaji, author, journalist and former MP, Mr Tarun Vijay described him as a great force of National Integration, "he founded with us the grand Sindhu Darshan festival that integrated the rest of India with Ladakh."

Looking at the several thousands who had turned out to join Lamaji's funeral procession, Mr Tarun Vijay stated Lamaji ruled the hearts of Ladakhi people; like a mother-monk-he served every Ladakhi with love, compassion, and care; adding, "that there are thousands of his patients here, when there was hardly any medical facility in here and just two flights a week to Delhi, Lamaji started bringing topmost surgeons, specialists, physicians, and doctors from All India Institute of Medical Sciences to serve the residents of Ladakh."

Prayers at the Holy Buddha Relic, National Museum

As the Last Rites were being performed in Ladakh, IBC held special prayers at the chamber of the Holy Buddha Relic, National Museum for Ven Lama Lobzang. Venerable monks recited prayers to coincide with the funeral ceremonies being conducted in Leh, Ladakh.

A significant gathering of Buddhist devotees and lay persons was convened at the National Museum in New Delhi on 26 March for the prayer meet in honour of Late Lama Lobzang. The event was a heartfelt tribute to commemorate and celebrate the noble lifetime deeds of Ven. Lama Lobzang.

The Secretary General of IBC, Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche, initiated the prayers, accompanied by Deputy Secretary General Lama Zotpa. They fondly remembered Lama Lobzang's life and association with Buddhism and highlighted his remarkable achievements. Lama Lobzang's contributions were multifaceted, as he not only facilitated broad societal engagement in global Buddhist discourse but also prioritized essential services such as hospitalization, critical care, and basic amenities for marginalized Buddhist communities, particularly from Ladakh.



Secretary General IBC, initiated the special prayers at the Holy Buddha Relic, National Museum for Ven Lama Lobzang

Lama Lobzang's legacy extends far beyond geographical boundaries, playing a pivotal role in uplifting Buddhist communities worldwide. His dedication to humanitarian causes and the welfare of Buddhist practitioners resonates profoundly, inspiring unity and collective action within the Buddhist community.

Late Lama Lobzang's contribution to critical strategic issues covering various aspects of national security also remains a major contribution.

He was always a nationalist and carried strong sentiments which influenced people of Ladakh and other regions.

The prayer meeting at the National Museum, attended by Buddhist representatives from diverse backgrounds, symbolized a poignant acknowledgment of Lama Lobzang's enduring impact, and deep spirit of compassion and service. □

Lama Lobzang embarked on his religious studies at the age of 21 in 1952 by joining Drepung Gomang Monastery in Tibet. He played a crucial role as the first liaison office in facilitating the rehabilitation of Tibetan refugees upon their arrival in India. Furthermore, he played a central role in the establishment of the Ladakh Bodh Vihar in Delhi, contributing significantly to its founding.

Fluent in English, Tibetan, Hindi, and Ladakhi, he later served as a Member of the National Commission for Minorities (NCM), a prestigious commission established by the Ministry of Home Affairs of the Government of India. He held roles in numerous public offices and organizations, serving as a Member of the National Commission for Scheduled Tribes, Government of India, Vice President of the International Buddhist Confederation, and President of Ashoka Mission, Mehrauli. Ven. Lama Lobzang devoted his life to aiding the impoverished and needy in Ladakh and other Himalayan regions through extensive social welfare initiatives, including the provision of medical care and other forms of support.

Additionally, he played a pivotal role in organizing significant international conferences aimed at promoting religious harmony, peace, and environmental protection, including the Global Buddhist Congregation in 2011 and the International Buddhist Confederation in 2013.



The unveiling of a remarkable sculpture honoring the esteemed Late Lama Lobzang, took place at Lamaji's Delhi abode - the Ashoka Mission on 10 April 2024. The sculpture stands as a testament to the enduring legacy of Lama Lobzang. This extraordinary piece was commissioned by the LBA Youth and LAHDC Leh, embodying their deep reverence and admiration for the late luminary.

Ven Lama Lobzang leaves behind a remarkable legacy, inspiring IBC to persevere on the path set out by him. □



History of the Holy Buddha Relic

Buddha belonged to the Shakya clan, whose capital was located at Kapilavastu. During an excavation in 1898, William Claxton Peppe discovered five small vases containing bone fragments, ashes, and jewels in a long-forgotten stupa in Piprahwa, near Birdpur in the Basti district of Uttar Pradesh.

Later, a team of archaeologists led by K.M. Srivastava performed further excavations at the Piprahwa site between 1971 and 1977. The team discovered a casket containing fragments of charred bone and dated them to the 4th or 5th century BCE. Based upon the findings of these excavations, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) identified Piprahwa as Kapilavastu and the relics as those of Shakyamuni Buddha.

The relics of the two main disciples, Arahant Sariputta and Maha-Moggallana are housed in Chetiya Vihara, Sanchi.

Arahant Sariputta and Maha-Moggallana were the two principal disciples of Shakyamuni Buddha whose Holy demise happened before the Maha Parinirvana of the Buddha. Some bones of the two Arahants were preserved at that time in two sandstone caskets in a stupa at Satadhara, a village near Sanchi.

The caskets were discovered and identified by European archaeologists who carried them to London. They were preserved in the Victoria and Albert Museum for a period of about ninety years.

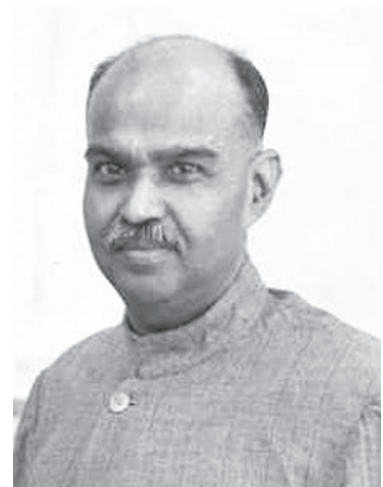
The devoted Secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, Shri Devapriya Valisinha, who received his training from the Founder of the Society, Ven Anagarika Dhammapala, was pained to find the sacred Relics in a British Museum, on a visit. He pressured the English ruler on



The Holy Buddha Relic and the relics of the two main disciples, Arahant Sariputta and Maha-Moggallana



Shri Devapriya Valisinha
Secretary, Maha Bodhi Society of India



Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee
President, Maha Bodhi Society

this issue from 1938 onwards, and ultimately managed to enlist the support of the Government of India, the then British Government, who supported his claim to restore the relics for enshrinement in India.

In 1947, Mr Daya Hewavitarne, a nephew of late Ven Anagarika Dhammapala, had the honour of carrying these Relics to Sri Lanka, Ceylon then, the seat of Theravada Buddhism. Upon arrival, the celebrations in Ceylon were unprecedented.

On 9th January, 1949 the sacred relics came home to India. The age-old links between mainland India and the emerald, green island of Lanka received renewed stimulus.

The home-coming of the Sacred Relics witnessed a State function, the Chief Minister of West Bengal, Dr B C Roy guided the reception and the President of the Maha Bodhi Society, Dr Shyama Prasad Mukherjee supervised the arrangements of travel.

It was in the fitness of things that the mortal remains of the earliest

disciples of the Apostle of Peace, were carried in a war vessel. The I.N.S. Tir was assigned the honour of ferrying the Sacred Relics from Colombo to Calcutta with a pious ceremony.

A grand ceremony was held at the wharf; guns boomed from the ramparts of Fort William, Tibetan trumpets, Nepali flutes, drums from Bhutan and Sikkim, dancers from Ceylon danced to old Sinhala music, all blended with the regimental Gurkha band and the Indian conch shells.

The official handing over of the Relics to the President of the Maha Bodhi Society for keeping in safe custody at the Society premises, until a new resting place was built for them in the historic city of Sanchi, took place at a grand ceremony at the Maidan.

Bhutan, Sikkim, Nepal, Tibet, Burma, Thailand, Ceylon, China, Japan, Cambodia, and Mongolia had sent their representatives to participate in the historic occasion, Prime Minister of India, Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru came to Calcutta specially for the occasion. Pt Nehru declared from the rostrum, "Many of you have come

from countries roundabout India, and even far away. It is also a home-coming of many from far-off lands. In the old days, when the message of the Buddha went out from our land, pilgrims from other nations came to our country and pilgrims from this land went to other countries. This bond has kept us together."

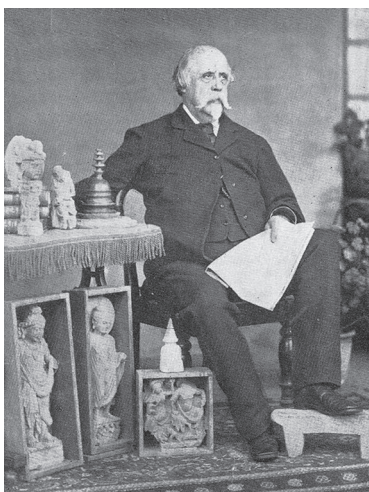
Chief Minister of Bengal, Dr B C Roy reiterated how, "the Buddha's teachings inspired Gandhiji who preached and practiced the eternal principle of Non-violence and Truth. Today, we need this mantra, more than ever."

His Excellency, the Governor of West Bengal, Dr K N Katju said, "that with the growth of our national consciousness has come to us in larger measure consciousness also of the excellence of the doctrine practiced in India 2,500 years ago, and along with that consciousness, we have also discovered, as if by miracle, many of our holy treasures."

From the time the Relics arrived in Calcutta, letters started pouring in at the Society office from different parts of the world seeking to invite the relics so that the people there too would have a chance to pay homage to the great Saints. The Society readily responded, and the Relics were taken to Bihar, the United Provinces, Assam, Burma, Ladakh, Sikkim, Tibet, Nepal, and Cambodia.

The Prime Minister of Burma, U Nu visited Maha Bodhi Society on several occasions. He and the people of Burma prevailed upon the Society and the Government of India to share the Relics with them.

In January 1951 two fragments of the Relics were handed over to the representatives of Burma and these were enshrined at a newly constructed Pagoda, near Rangoon. □



Sir Alexander Cunningham founded the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) in 1861 and excavated many sites in India, including Sārnāth and Sānchi



William Claxton Peppe discovered five small vases containing bone fragments, ashes, and jewels in a stupa in Piprahwa



An overwhelming experience for lakhs in Thailand



A staggering figure of 4,127,590 individuals paid homage to the Holy Relics during their journey in Thailand



The Supreme Patriarch Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana IX arrives at the exposition

To celebrate a shared historical and cultural linkage between India and Thailand, the most sacred Holy Piparahwa Relics of the Buddha and those of his two main disciples, Arahata Sariputta and Arahata Moggallana travelled with full State Honours to Thailand for public veneration and worship at expositions in four cities starting from 22 February to 19 March, 2024.

It was a staggering figure of 4,127,590 individuals who paid homage to the Holy Relics during their journey in

Thailand, highlighting the profound impact and resonance of Lord Buddha's teachings across borders.

Since the crack of dawn, the devout were seen queuing up patiently to worship at the Holy Relics altar, braving the hot humid weather, a blazing sun, or continuous rain. Within hours the serpentine queue stretched beyond visibility revealing the intensity of spirituality the Holy Relics pilgrimage had generated among devotees bearing offerings of flowers and prayers.

This was the scene in every city. The procession reflected the profound reverence and devotion towards Lord Buddha and his timeless teachings. The word had spread far and wide; pilgrims from neighbouring countries too had crossed the borders to seek the blessings of the Shakyamuni. Some devotees came from Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia.

During the 26-day exposition, the Holy Relics travelled to Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani and Krabi provinces. The exposition was



Sanam Luang Pavilion, Bangkok
22nd February 2024 – 3rd March 2024 (11 Days)
Visitors - 2,085,360



Ho Kum Luang, Royal Rujapruek, Chiang Mai
4th March 2024 – 8th March 2024 (5 Days)
Visitors - 511,189

organized with the support of the Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy in Thailand, IBC, National Museum, and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh.

The journey started on 22 February from New Delhi for Bangkok, Thailand with a 22-member delegation, headed by Governor of Bihar, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar accompanying the sacred relics. The delegation comprised of venerable monks from Kushinagar, Aurangabad, Ladakh, officials from Ministry of Culture, state government of Madhya Pradesh, curators from National Museum, artists, and scholars.

The Holy Relics were welcomed with auspicious chanting ceremony, warm hospitality, and performance at Military Airport by H.E Mr Sermsak Pongpanit, Minister of Culture, Royal Thai Government, Thai officials, and many Monks among other dignitaries. The delegations then escorted in a procession the Holy relics for safe keeping to the National Museum, Bangkok. Later they were enshrined in a grand mandapam at Sanam Luang Pavilion in Bangkok.

The Supreme Patriarch Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana IX graced the



His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at the venue of exposition of the Holy Relics.

exposition with his entourage. His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana prayed at the altar of the Holy Relic.

Dr Virendra Kumar and Mr Sermsak Pongpanit also held a press conference. Mr Kumar said that the arrival of the holy relics will further strengthen the bond of friendship and love between the two countries. The Thai Culture Minister expressed happiness and gratitude to the Government of India having accepted the request of Thai

Government to send Holy Relics to Thailand for exposition.

An Exposition Agreement for the Holy Relics was also signed on February 22, 2024 between the Department of Religious Affairs, Thailand, represented by Mr. Chaiyapon Suk-iam, Director-General of Department of Religion Affairs, Thailand and the National Museum, represented by Mr. Ashish Goyal, Additional Director General, National Museum, Ministry of Culture, at the National Museum of Thailand, in the esteemed presence of the Union Minister Dr Virendra Kumar, Thai Culture Minister Mr Sermsak Pongpanit, Ms Thitima Suphapuckac, Director of Moral and Ethical Promotion Bureau Acting for Deputy Director - General of Religion Affairs, Thailand and Ms Amita Prasad Sarbhai, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The signing of the Exposition Agreement also marked the 75 years of longstanding India-Thailand diplomatic relations.

The success of the exposition reaffirmed the centuries-old civilisational connection between India and the countries of the Mekong region. It also served as a poignant reminder of India's cultural heritage and its enduring influence on the spread of Buddhism across Asia. □



Wat Maha Wanaram, Ubon Ratchathani
9th March 2024 – 13th March 2024 (5 Days)
Visitors - 810,374



Wat Maha That, Aoluek, Krabi
14th March 2024 – 18th March 2024 (5 Days)
Visitors - 720,667



Vipassana Meditation for Wellbeing & Global Peace



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressed the inaugural session via a video message

The IBC along with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Embassy of India in Bangkok, and Silpakorn University jointly organised a one-day International Symposium on the “Significance of Vipassana Meditation for Wellbeing & Global Peace” on 27 February 2024 at the Main Auditorium of the Silpakorn University campus in Bangkok.

The inaugural session of the symposium commenced with Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s video address on Vipassana. While Vipassana has been an ancient form of meditation that originated in India, its relevance remains even today

The symposium had significant participation from monks, academicians, vipassana practitioners besides students and faculty members, who actively interacted during the question-answer session clarifying fundamental ideas like difference between yoga and vipassana, connecting with spirituality and understanding faith and so on. It became an immensely valuable experience all around.

Ashoka Pillar foundation stone laid in Sri Lanka



Secretary General, IBC participated in the Foundation Stone Ceremony of the First-ever Ashoka Pillar in Sri Lanka

The foundation stone for the first Ashoka Pillar in Sri Lanka was laid on January 28, 2024. The sacred ceremony took place at the Rajaguru Sri Subuthi Temple in Waskaduwa, Sri Lanka. The event marked a milestone in the cultural and spiritual ties between India and Sri Lanka. Distinguished dignitaries graced the occasion, including Shri Santhosh Jha, High Commissioner of India and Most Venerable Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche, Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Maha Nayaka Thero, the Chief Abbot of the temple, delivered an inspiring speech, setting the tone for the sacred event. The foundation stone was laid with the participation of the Indian High Commissioner, Most Venerable Jangchup Choeden, Dr. Damenda Porage, and Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Maha Nayaka Thero.

Following the stone-laying ceremony, the esteemed guests visited the shrine that houses the sacred Kapilavasthu relics, receiving blessings through traditional rituals. During the Anushasana, Most Venerable Waskaduwe Thero narrated the historical journey of the authentic

relics, emphasizing King Ashoka’s pivotal role in preserving Buddhist teachings.

In his address, the High Commissioner expressed sentiments of deep-rooted ties between India and Sri Lanka.

Secretary General, IBC, Most Venerable Jangchup Choeden blessed the occasion in Tibetan language, while Dr. Damenda Porage expressed gratitude to King Ashoka, pledging to establish nine pillars in each province as a tribute to his contributions to Buddha Dhamma.

This ceremony symbolizes a commitment to preserving and promoting Buddha Dhamma, with the rising pillars serving as a bridge that connect the two nations in shared heritage and spiritual devotion. □



Foundation Stone for the construction of King Ashoka’s Pillar of Dhamma

Prayers for Unity, Harmony and World Peace on Buddha Purnima

The IBC observed Buddha Purnima with prayers for Unity, Harmony, and World Peace at the Five Historical landmarks of Buddha Dhamma in Delhi.

These were the Shanti Stupa or the Peace Pagoda, in the Indraprastha Park along the outer Ring Road; the famed Ashokan Rock Edict on the hillside of East of Kailash which is among the edicts in the country on the teachings

of the Buddha created by Ashoka, the Mauryan Emperor; the Ashoka Pillar at the Firoz Shah Kotla grounds, which was first erected by King Ashoka between 273 and 236 BC in the then Topra Kalan, a Yamuna Nagar district in Haryana; the Buddha Jayanti Park along the ridge, which has a 8-feet copper statue of Lord Buddha, installed to mark the 2500th birth anniversary of the Shakyamuni and finally the fifth,

at the Asoka Mission, in Mehrauli, a Buddhist temple complex.

Around 50 monks from Subharti University, Meerut, Delhi University, and the Himalayan Buddhist Cultural Association with representation from Nalanda, Theravada, and Mahayana traditions prayed at these sites to gain merit for everyone and for harmony and peace in the strife torn world. □

Five Historical Landmarks of Buddha Dhamma in Delhi



Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda), Indraprastha Park is located in the serene surroundings with a peaceful, meditative atmosphere, outer Ring Road



Buddha Jayanti Park, located along the Ridge area, provides a tranquil setting for prayers and reflections on Buddha's teachings of compassion and unity among all beings



Ashoka Mission, Mehrauli situated in a forested belt symbolizes fostering global peace through collective prayers and meditations



Ashoka Pillar, Firoze Shah Kotla is a testament to Ashoka's commitment to Dhamma and Non-violence



Ashokan Rock Edict, emphasizing the historical context of Emperor Ashoka's edicts promoting peace and tolerance at East of Kailash



IBC at the Global Spiritual Mahotsav



The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and Minister of State for Culture, Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal with a galaxy of spiritual leaders and eminent personalities at the Global Spiritual Mahotsav, Kanha Shanti Vanam, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana

To celebrate India's unique role and contribution in leading the world towards social consciousness, harmony and awakening through spirituality, a one-of-a-kind international event the "Global Spiritual Mahotsav" was held in Kanha Shanti Vanam, Ranga Reddy District, Telangana from 14th-17th March, 2024 where IBC showcased interactive activities relating to Buddha Dhamma.

The Mahotsav organized by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India along with the Heartfelt Institute with IBC as a partner, under the theme "Inner Peace to World Peace" saw a galaxy of spiritual leaders and eminent personalities take part in the 4-day event.

There were around 1,00,000 people from across India, including 5,000 from around the world who participated. The event was inaugurated by the Hon. President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and the valedictory function was presided over by the Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar. Nearly all the leading religious patriarchs of India addressed the spiritual celebrations. Among the prominent names were Gaur Gopal Das, HH Pujya Swami Chidanand Saraswati ji, Sri Chinna Jeeya Swami ji, Shri Devkinandan Thakur ji, Dr Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Dr Tony Nadar, Ven Bhikku Sanghasena, Harjinder Singh Dhama, HH Acharaya Lokesh Muni, Father Anthony Poola, Acharya Balkrishna, and many others.

The focus of the meeting was on exploring the evolution of consciousness, its impact on social harmony and sustainable development, and reimagining a new trajectory for our global existence.

In harmony with the theme, the IBC displayed the teachings of Shakyamuni Buddha through a pictorial exhibition showing the life of the Buddha and the path to enlightenment. The IBC also held an exhibition on the history of the Holy Relics of Shakyamuni that are revered in India and around the world.

Buddha Dhamma in Andhra Pradesh

and Telangana is almost as old as the Dhamma itself. The ruins of dozens of monasteries dot the landscape, the oldest of them being 2300 years old. There are several sites associated with Buddha Dhamma, such as in Amaravati, along the Krishna River -the Undavalli Caves, Nagarjunakonda, Guntupalli, Nagarjuna Sagar complex, to name a few.

A variety of creative Buddhist Art forms were displayed. These were Thangka Paintings, Himalayan sculptures, Wood Carvings and the Mandala Sandart. Artists demonstrated these art forms and held interactive sessions with the visitors and school children. □



Visitors at the IBC Exhibition on the Life and Teachings of the Buddha, and His Sublime Wanderings

The Bodh Gaya Marathon

Soldiers & Monks Run for Peace



DG IBC, accompanying
H.H. 12th Kenting Tai Situpa Rinpoche
and Lt. General Minhas
to flag-off the Marathon

The IBC in collaboration with the Bodhgaya Marathon Committee (BMC), and with full support from the Korean Buddhist Sangha, organised a Global Run for Peace on 14 January 2024 in Bodh Gaya. The endeavour aimed to reinforce the need for unity and peaceful co-existence amidst all kinds of natural and man-made complexities that the world is facing today.

Soldiers and monks being two nodal instruments of perpetual pursuance of peace, participated in the marathon. There were 200 plus officers and cadets from the Indian Armed Forces.

The peace run, involving a total of almost 1500 participants, was held in four categories - 42 Kms, 21 Kms, 10 Kms and 5 Kms with participation of around 80 foreign athletes from more than 7 countries.

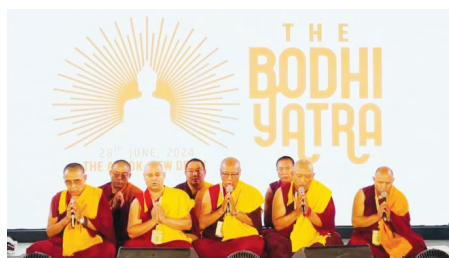
The marathon was flagged off jointly by His Holiness Tai Situpa Rinpoche representing the monks and Lt. Gen. P. S. Minhas AVSM, Commandant of the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya. Soldiers and monks being two nodal instruments of perpetual pursuance of peace, genuine efforts were made to involve monks and soldiers in the endeavour. There were 200 plus officers and cadets from the Indian Armed Forces.

'Bodhi Yatra Conclave'

To exchange knowledge and share experiences with all stakeholders to develop a Buddhist circuit in Uttar Pradesh, the UP Tourism in collaboration with the IBC organized 'Bodhi Yatra' conclave on 28 June 2024 in New Delhi.

The event included a cultural show portraying the life of Lord Buddha, celebrating Uttar Pradesh's historical and spiritual heritage and the importance of the Buddhist circuit in boosting tourism.

The conclave felicitated attendees who had consistently contributed towards Buddhist tourism in UP. Among those



who attended the conclave, were the Union Tourism Minister Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Uttar Pradesh Tourism and Culture Minister Shri Jaiveer Singh, Secretary of the Ministry of Tourism V. Vidyavati, Chief Secretary of Uttar Pradesh Shri Durga Shankar Mishra, Principal Secretary of Tourism and Culture Shri Mukesh Kumar Meshram, Special Secretary of Tourism Ms. Eesha Priya, Director General of IBC Shri Abhijit Halder, and Former Deputy Speaker of CTA Acharya Yeshe Phuntsok. Ambassadors from Singapore, Thailand, Myanmar, Bhutan, Japan, Indonesia, Argentina, Mongolia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam were present, along with members of the International Buddhist Council, academicians, representatives from national and international organisations, bureaucrats, travel writers, and bloggers.

IBC attends UN Day of Vesak



Goodwill Message delivered by
Secretary General, IBC at the 19th
United Nations Day of Vesak

A delegation from the IBC, led by Secretary General Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, participated in the 19th United Nations Day of Vesak (UNDV) held from 19th-20th May 2024, in Bangkok, Thailand.

Secretary General, IBC met the Chairman of UN Day of Vesak organising committee, Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapudit, of the International council for the Day of Vesak (ICDV) and Rector of Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) Bangkok, Thailand.

The IBC delegation consisted of Spiritual leaders and Academicians. This annual event organised by the International Council for Vesak Day (ICDV) and Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University (MCU) under the patronage of the Royal Thai Government, brought together Buddhist leaders, scholars, and organizations from around the world. The main theme of this year's UNDV was "The Buddhist Way of Building Trust and Solidarity," focusing on the teachings of Buddha to foster global harmony and understanding. □



Secretary General, IBC presenting
memento to Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra
Brahmapudit



Kashmir: A Gateway for spread of Buddha Dhamma to Central Asia and China

Kashmir, nestled in the Himalayan mountains is renowned for its natural beauty and cultural richness. Historically, it is central to the spread of Buddha Dhamma towards the north-west and north-east of the mountain ranges. In olden times, its intellectual vibrancy and strategic location, made it an essential conduit for the transmission of Buddha's teachings to Central Asia and China. Kashmir's pivotal role in the dissemination of Buddha Dhamma emanated mainly through four key routes: namely:

1. Its historical context
2. The Fourth Buddhist Council
3. The development of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma
4. The contributions of translators like Kumarajiva.

Here we look at how Kashmir became the religious capital of the Kushan Empire and its influence on the Silk Route, highlighting how Indian traditions disseminated through this route to Central Asia and China.



Enthroned Buddha Granting Boons, 6th Century AD, from Gilgit, Kashmir, Metropolitan Museum of Art, Open source

Historical Context of Kashmir

The significance of Kashmir in ancient India is highlighted in various Hindu scriptures. The Vishnu Purana, an ancient Hindu text, provides a description of the geographical extent of Bharat (India) and includes Kashmir within its bounds:

उत्तरं यत् समुद्रस्य हिमाद्रेश्चैव दक्षिणम् ।
वर्षं तद् भारतं नाम भारती यत्र संततिः ॥

(Translation: The land which lies north of the ocean and south of the snowy mountains are called Bharat, and there dwell the descendants of Bharata.)

In Rigveda also there are references to Kashmir as "Kashyapa-mira"; (the land of Kashyapa), linking it to the sage Kashyapa, who is believed to have played a role in the formation of the Kashmir Valley by draining the ancient lake Satisar.

Buddha Dhamma in Kashmir

Buddha Dhamma has a rich legacy in India, where it originated, and Kashmir holds a prominent place in its history. Buddha Dhamma began to influence Kashmir during the lifetime of the Buddha. The region saw significant growth under King Surenra, who was the first Himalayan ruler to adopt Buddha Dhamma, establishing key monasteries like Narendrabhavana and another in Saurasa near Anchar Lake. This early adoption laid the groundwork for Buddha dhamma to flourish in Kashmir.

During Ashoka's reign (268–232 BCE), Kashmir further emerged as a crucial centre for Buddha Dhamma. Ashoka's efforts to spread Buddha Dhamma included sending missionaries such as Majjantika to Kashmir, as noted in texts like the *Avadanakalpalata* and *Ashokavandana*. Ashoka also constructed stupas and monasteries, with inscriptions detailing his promotion of dhamma.

The Fourth Buddhist Council

The Fourth Buddhist Council, convened in Kundal vana, Kashmir, during the 1st century CE under the patronage of King Kanishka, was a

landmark event in Buddhist history. During the time of Kanishka, Kashmir became the religious capital of the Kushana Empire.

The council was presided over by Vasumitra and Asvaghosha with more than 500 Buddhist monks and scholars, which led to the compilation and approval of Sutras of Mahayana. This is explained in detail by the historian Taranatha, where he engaged with Kashmiri ruler Simha, who later became the monk, Sudarsana.

Importance of Fourth Buddhist Council

It was the first council led by a foreign ruler and was hosted in the Himalayan region. This council, guided by scholars like Vasumitra and Asvaghosha, resulted in the compilation of Mahayana sutras in Sanskrit and the Maha Vibhasha, a significant commentary on the *Sarvastivadin Abhidhamma*. The council's outcomes greatly influenced the development of Buddhist literature and doctrines.

This council led to the compilation and systematic arrangement of Buddhist texts, culminating in the establishment of the *Sarvastivadin Abhidhamma*. The discussions held during this council were pivotal in the development of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma. The council's emphasis on the Bodhisattva path and universal salvation marked a significant doctrinal shift, expanding the focus of Buddha Dhamma from individual enlightenment to the salvation of all sentient beings.

The Fourth Buddhist Council thus not only played a key role in the evolution and organization of Buddhist texts but also laid the foundation for the emergence and propagation of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma.

Development of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma

Kashmir's influence on the development of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma cannot be overstated. The region became a hub of Buddhist learning and practice, attracting scholars and practitioners from across Asia. This intellectual environment facilitated deep philosophical debates and scriptural analysis, which were instrumental in the development of Mahayana doctrines.

Key concepts such as emptiness (*Sūnyatā*) and the Bodhisattva's compassionate vows were refined in Kashmir. The Mahayana tradition, with its emphasis on altruism and the path of the Bodhisattva, expanded the scope of Buddhist teachings. This doctrinal evolution was marked by a profound shift towards the ideal of universal salvation and compassion, which became central to Mahayana Buddha Dhamma.

Kashmir's scholars contributed significantly to the formation of Mahayana doctrines, which later spread to various parts of Asia, influencing the practice, and understanding of Buddha Dhamma across the region.

Evolution of Mahayana Literature

The evolution of Mahayana literature is deeply intertwined with the scholarly activities in Kashmir. The region was a prolific centre for the production and dissemination of Mahayana texts, including seminal works such as the **Prajnaparamita Sutras and the Lotus Sutra**.

The **Prajnaparamita Sutras**, which emphasize the concept of emptiness, were among the most influential texts emerging from Kashmir. These texts played a crucial role in articulating the philosophical foundations of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma.

The **Lotus Sutra**, known for its message of universal salvation and the inherent potential for Buddhahood in all beings, also owes much to the scholarly activities in Kashmir.



Harwan: a famous Archaeological site in Kashmir, the site of the Fourth Buddhist Council (A.D. 78). The Buddhist monk Nagarjuna, contemporary of Kushan King Kanishka is believed to have lived here

These texts, with their profound insights and poetic expressions, were essential in spreading Mahayana teachings across Asia. They provided a framework for the practice and understanding of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma, influencing numerous Buddhist traditions and communities.

Famous Buddhist masters of Kashmir

One of most prominent Buddhist master was *Nāgārjuna*, born in present day, *Nagarjuna Konda*, he was contemporary of *Kushan King Kanishka*. He later moved to Kashmir in first century AD to participate in the Fourth Buddhist Council. He was founder of *Madhyamika* School, *Mūlamadhyamakakārikā* his most important work. *Kalhana* mentioned *Nagarjuna* in *Rajatarangini*:-

".....and a Bodhisattva was in this country the sole supreme ruler of the land; he was illustrious Nagarjuna who dwelt in Sadarhadvana."

(Verse 173 Taranga I
Rajatarangini)

"During this era, the power of the Buddhists whom the wise Bodhisattva Nagarjuna had protected predominated in the land."

(Verse 177 Taranga I
Rajatarangini)

Another famous Buddhist master of Kashmir was *Vasubandhu*, although he was not native of Kashmir, but his main philosophical doctrines are

the *Vaibhāṣikas* or *Sarvāstivādins* of Kashmir. The most famous was his commentary on the Treasury of the *Abhidhamma*.

Contributions of Kumarajiva

One of the most significant figures in the dissemination of Mahayana Buddha Dhamma to Central Asia and China was **Kumarajiva**, a renowned translator and scholar. **Kumarajiva**, a native of Kashmir, his father was a Kashmiri and mother was from Kingdom of *Kucha* (*Tarim* basin).

Kumarajiva's contributions were pivotal in bridging cultural and linguistic divides, making Mahayana texts accessible to a broader audience. **Kumarajiva's** translations were highly regarded for their clarity and accuracy. His work included translations of key texts such as the **Diamond Sutra** and the **Lotus Sutra**. His most famous work was translation of *Madhyamika* texts into Chinese known as "**Three Treaties**". Important translated works of **Kumarajiva** are as follows, **The Ten Divisions of Monastic Rules, The Treatise on the Great Perfection of Wisdom, The Treatise on the Middle Way, The One-Hundred-Verse Treatise, The Treatise on the Twelve Gates, and The Treatise on the Establishment of Truth**. These translations were instrumental in enriching Chinese Buddha Dhamma and ensuring that Mahayana teachings were effectively communicated across cultural and linguistic boundaries.



Kumarajiva's efforts played a crucial role in the dissemination of *Mahayana* Buddha Dhamma from India to China, where his translations had a lasting impact on the development of Chinese Buddhist thought and practice.

Kashmir as the Religious Capital of the Kushan Empire

Kashmir's strategic and intellectual contributions were further highlighted by its role as the religious capital of the *Kushan* Empire. The *Kushan* Empire, which flourished from the 1st to the 3rd century CE, was instrumental in facilitating the spread of Buddha Dhamma along the Silk Route. The Silk Route was a network of trade routes connecting India with Central Asia and China, through which not only goods but also cultural and religious ideas were transmitted.

As the religious capital of the *Kushan* Empire, Kashmir became a centre for the dissemination of *Dharma*

and *Dhamma*. The region's scholars and monks played a crucial role in the transmission of Indian Buddhist traditions to Central Asia and China. The *Kushan* Empire's support for Buddha Dhamma and its strategic location along the Silk Route facilitated the flow of Buddhist teachings and practices to distant regions.

Kashmir's influence on the Silk Route ensured that Indian Buddhist traditions reached Central Asia and China, where they were integrated into local cultures and practices. This transmission of *Dharma* or *Dhamma* had a profound impact on the spiritual and cultural landscape of these regions, shaping the development of Buddha Dhamma across Asia.

Kashmir's historical and spiritual significance in the spread of Buddha Dhamma to Central Asia and China is evident through its role in the Fourth Buddhist Council, the development

of *Mahayana* Buddha Dhamma, the evolution of *Mahayana* literature, and the contributions of translators like *Kumarajiva*. As the religious capital of the *Kushan* Empire and a key player in the Silk Route network, Kashmir served as a crucial gateway for the dissemination of Indian traditions and Buddhist teachings.

The legacy of Kashmir as a centre of Buddhist learning and transmission continues to inspire and influence contemporary Buddhist practice. Its contributions to the spiritual heritage of humanity underscore the enduring impact of this remarkable region on the broader Buddhist world.

By Dr. Chandan Kumar

Assistant Professor

University of Delhi &

Consultant (Academic)

*International Buddhist Confederation
India*

Kushok Bakula Rinpoche- the extraordinary story of an Extraordinary Monk



DG, IBC with the Director of the Film, Dr. Hindol Sengupta and Deputy Secretary General (ABCP), Mr. Sonam Wangchuk on 27th April, 2024 at Tibet House, New Delhi

A synopsis of the film directed by Dr Hindol Sengupta who is a multiple award-winning historian and author of 12 books.

This pioneering documentary film on the Buddhist monk

and diplomat Kushok Bakula Rinpoche who played a critical role in the development of modern Ladakh, and, in his role as India's ambassador to Mongolia for a decade had a seminal role in reviving Buddhism in Mongolia after the fall of Communism.

Kushok Bakula even built a monastery in the heart of Ulaan Baatar in line with his monastery in Ladakh and had numerous followers in the country including heads of states.

In his early life Kushok Bakula raised local troops from among young Ladakhis to fight invaders from Pakistan after independence, and in Mongolia, he uncovered many atrocities against Buddhist monks during the Communist era.

Loved in India by everyone from Jawaharlal Nehru to Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee, this seminal film details, and is a tribute to the incredible life of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche. □

Picturespeak

Celebration of Mahakaruna Diwas organised by Mahakaruna Foundation in Association with IBC

*7th January, 2024, Adhyatam Sadha
Kendra, New Delhi*



Special Prayer Meeting for the victims of Earthquake in Japan organised by IBC

*10th January, 2024,
National Museum*

IBC and IBC Nepal Chapter organised- the 46th Buddhist Philosophy Excursion Program to India

*13th to 18th January, 2024,
India*





IBC mourns the passing...Contd. from page 1

IBC mourns the passing of His Holiness Samdech Preah Agga Maha Sangharajadhipati General Tep Vong, Supreme Patriarch, Cambodia



IBC's Secretary General, Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche attended the Royal cremation of IBC's member of the Council of Patrons, His Holiness Samdech Preah Agga Maha Sangharajadhipati General Tep Vong, Supreme Patriarch, Mahanikaya Order, on 3rd June 2024

His Holiness Sangharajadhipati Tep Vong (1932 - 2024) was a Cambodian Buddhist monk and the Great Supreme Patriarch of Cambodia. He was a key figure in the revival of Buddhism in Cambodia after the Khmer Rouge attempted to eradicate organized religion during their rule from 1975–1979.

The royal body of His Holiness Buddhist Supreme Patriarch General Tep Vong, Buddhist Supreme Patriarch of Dhamma Mahanikaya of the Kingdom of Cambodia, was cremated at an official ceremony in front of Botum Vattey pagoda in Phnom Penh, after being laid in state at Ounalom pagoda for 100 days.

The royal cremation ceremony was held under the royal presidency of His Majesty Preah Bat Samdech Preah Boromneath Norodom Sihamoni, King of Cambodia. □

Picturespeak



IBC hosted the official Sangha delegation from Govt. of Bhutan under the programme “On the footsteps of the Buddha”

6th to 13th February, 2024



Director General IBC,
Shri Abhijit Halder
presenting memento to His
Eminence Somdet Phra
Mahathirachan, Supreme
Sangha Council

28th February, 2024

Abbot of Wat Pho Temple, Thailand



Picturespeak

Symposium on Buddha Dhamma and Global Peace

22nd May, 2024, Lumbini

Buddhist University (LBU), Nepal



IBC's Monks participated in chanting at Maya Devi Temple Premises

23rd May, 2024, Maya Devi
Complex, Lumbini, Nepal

Representatives of IBC attended the Oath-taking ceremony of the new Government of India

9th June, 2024,

Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi





Sandstone Sculpture of Scenes from Buddha's Life-Sarnath
(Gupta, 5th Century CE) Indian Museum, Kolkata

Here the Buddha's life has been presented through Five main events.



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION
Collective Wisdom United Voice

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is a global umbrella Buddhist organisation headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Established under the patronage of the supreme Buddhist religious hierarchy, it currently has a membership worldwide, both monastic and lay, that include world bodies, national and regional federations, orders, temple bodies and monasteries, etc.

The IBC was conceptualised during an international workshop in Delhi in 2011, where delegates from 11 countries unanimously agreed on the need to form a new International Buddhist organisation in India, the place of the origin, development and dissemination of Buddha Dhamma that would serve as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide.

As per its motto, **"Collective Wisdom, United Voice"**, the IBC provides a common platform to all followers of the Buddha Dhamma worldwide to address issues that are of both Buddhist and global concerns.

Mission

To gather the collective wisdom of Buddhists around the world to speak with a united Buddhist voice; to make Buddhist values part of global engagement while working to preserve and promote Buddhist heritage, traditions and practices.

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