



IBC Newsletter

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INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

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## Buddhist values binding force for Asian Nations

Asian culture, tradition and values have endured the onslaught of history, yet stood steadfast, which reflects the deeply entrenched Buddha Dhamma ethics in civil society, was the common refrain at the First Asian Buddhist Summit (Nov 5, 2024, New Delhi). Each speaker endorsed the Buddha's teachings as the binding force not only in philosophical terms but also in practice. They have helped to sustain Asian nations and cultures in times of crisis.

The Chief Guest *Honourable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu*, said that when the world is facing existential crisis on many fronts, Buddha Dhamma has a lot to offer to humankind. "Dhamma teaches us how to live in peace, happiness and harmony with compassion, love and equanimity," she reiterated.

Referring to the recognition of Pali as a classical language by the Indian

Contd. on page 2...



*Honourable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, Chief Guest at the First Asian Buddhist Summit on 5th November 2024, in New Delhi.*

## Greetings from IBC to His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama on his 90th Birthday celebration

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## Preservation and development of Pali: PM

*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi* announced at the International Abhidhamma Divas that the government will take many initiatives for the preservation and development of the Pali language and the sacred

*Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressing the International Abhidhamma Divas celebrations and recognition of Pali as classical language on 17 October, 2024 New Delhi, Vigyan Bhawan*

texts, as the Buddha's teachings were written in it.

Today, is a historic occasion, the Abhidhamma Day, the Prime Minister noted, saying that Pali was the language in which Buddha Dhamma is preserved till this day, and now the language has been given a classical language status. Pali is crucial to understanding the Dhamma and reiterated that "a

Contd. on page 4...



President Murmu...Contd. from page 1

government, the Honourable President mentioned that Buddha's teachings were preserved in Pali and with the recognition of the language it will significantly revitalize Buddha's teachings and the literature.

Questioning the narrow sectarian outlook, greed and hatred all around, the Honourable President said "one word stands out, 'Karuna-Compassion' which is what the world needs today! Buddha Dhamma is needed to strengthen Asia. We need strong associations based on Buddha's teaching for a safe and secure world. It can show the way to usher in real peace in the world".

However, collective action is needed for promoting sustainable peace worldwide. This alone can ensure enduring relevance of Dhamma for future generations. "May this Summit contribute to global peace and harmony," she said in conclusion.

**The Honourable President Smt. Droupadi Murmu, launched the new logo for the Asian Buddhist Summit on this occasion.**

The First Asian Buddhist Summit, organized by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation commenced on 5 November, 2024, in New Delhi. The Summit saw participation from 32 countries with over 160 international participants. Members of the Mahasangha, patriarchs of various monastic traditions, monks, nuns, members of the diplomatic community, professors of Buddhist studies, experts, and scholars, around 700 participants in all, engaged enthusiastically with the topic.

Leaders of the Mahasangha, His Holiness the Dalai Lama and heads of the monastic traditions from several countries sent blessings and good wishes to the Conclave mentioning that they were supporting the initiative.



*Honourable President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu with the Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and the Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation, Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche*

A Special Address on "Recognition of Pali as a Classical Indian Language" was delivered by Most Venerable Sitagu Sayadaw from Myanmar.

Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, **Shri Kiren Rijju** in the opening address noted that the Conclave was a reflection of the close bonds that exist between the Buddhist countries.

Looking at the large overseas participation at the Conclave, an interesting historical twist he noted, saying that in olden days Buddhism spread from India through Dhamma Duta of Ashoka. "Today, we are glad to see you all as Dhamma Duta return to India".

He said that Asian Buddhism is deeply interwoven with fundamentals

of Asian values that have shaped societies for millennia. "We are living in very interesting and challenging moments of history," he added.

Quoting the Prime Minister's first address he said, "It is a proud moment for us that the 2600 years old message of Buddha is being spread by India today". During Buddha Jayanti celebrations in 2024, he said, the PM had said that "any nation that aspires to become a global power must follow the path of Buddha".

Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat** noted that India reaffirmed its deep-rooted connections to the Asian Nation by strengthening the Dhamma-Setu through this Conclave,

which reinforces a common Buddhist heritage between all Asian nations.

"We are all gathered on this sacred land of Bharat where Tathagata attained enlightenment. Today we stand as inheritors of the Buddha's legacy, strengthening diplomatic ties and promoting the common heritage amongst us" he concluded.

Calling it a historic Summit and a landmark event, **Most Ven. Thich Thien Tam**, Vice President, National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha from Vietnam said it had reaffirmed India's commitment to the Buddhist legacy that was rooted here for millennia and one that continues to shape cultural diplomacy and spiritual understanding across Asia.

The Summit has demonstrated the



“enduring relevance of Buddha Dhamma in addressing today’s global challenges, underscoring the power of the Dhamma as both a spiritual guide and a cultural bridge, capable of fostering peace, compassion and understanding across borders,” the Most Venerable said.

He added that over the past two days, the diversity and depth of the discussions have reinforced Buddha Dhamma’s vital role in uniting nations and strengthening our shared commitment to non-violence, ethical integrity, and collective well-being.

**Most Ven Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero**, Mahanayake of Amarapura Maha Nikaya from Sri Lanka said the very fact that great Masters from various traditions are gathered here discussing non-violence and peace while the world outside is destroying itself with guns and rockets, as well as the planet, shows that we have great responsibility. “We have to generate that energy in our heart, keep spreading it; one day

surely our goal we will achieve,” were his encouraging words.

**Ven. Khenpo Chimed**, Vice Chairman, Lumbini Development Trust from Nepal suggested that the gathering showed there were many learned and knowledgeable Sangha members, this was the time to transfer all this great wisdom and historic knowledge to the younger generation. “This can be done by setting up an academic institution in the Himalayas for monastic education to transfer the knowledge,” he said.

In his Special address, **His Eminence Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche**, Drepung Loseling monastery from Dharamshala, India, noted that though the Tibetans were compelled to leave their lands, the spin off was that they spread all over the world and hundreds of monasteries came up worldwide. “Now many know about Buddhism, we must preserve the Tibetan culture and values, and as HH the Dalai Lama advocates revive the ancient Indian Nalanda Tradition. With our knowledge and expertise build

stronger connections, collaborate spiritually, and move towards our goal. Let us go forward propelled by the dedication shown by all present here,” were his encouraging words.

In his concluding remarks **Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche**, Secretary General, of the International Buddhist Confederation, while blessing the gathering gave a call from the birth place of Buddha Dhamma for the world to promote Buddhist values that were critical for both regional and global harmony.

Reading out The Delhi Declaration at the conclusion of the Asian Buddhist Summit **Shri Abhijit Halder**, Director General, IBC, said the sum total of the insightful discussions and shared aspirations that emerged aimed at fostering a compassionate, harmonious and an inclusive Asia.

He further said that the areas that need to be worked upon in future are strengthening bonds between Asian nations based on the principles



*Members of the Mahasangha, patriarchs of various monastic traditions, monks, nuns, members of the diplomatic community, professors of Buddhist studies, experts, and scholars at the Summit.*





of Buddha Dhamma, work upon Buddhist Literature, especially Pali that contains the original work of the Buddha, Philosophy, and its practice for the Spiritual continuity of the Buddhist Community and for bonding. He emphasized that the Exposition of the Holy Buddha Relics should be further encouraged to cultivate a renewed value- based society, involving all segments of society, especially the youth and work towards engaging youth more proactively; to foster and share the historical journey of Buddhist Art and Heritage (Architecture included). Buddha's teachings are to unite and bind us all together, reinforcing its contemporary relevance, said Shri Abhijit Halder.

According to him, the Summit reaffirmed the role of Buddha Dhamma as a guiding framework for ethical governance, compassionate action, and sustainable development with mindfulness. The Collective Commitment of the Buddhist nations and the IBC will ensure that the enduring message of the Buddha Dhamma continues to inspire and support Asia's journey towards a harmonious and prosperous future. ▢



*Ven. Khenpo Chimed, Most Ven. Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero, Secretary General Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche, Ven. Thich Thien Tam, HE Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche and Director General Shri Abhijit Halder (From left to right)*

*PM...Contd. from page 1*

language is simply not just a mode of communication, it is the soul of a civilization, its culture, its heritage. It is our responsibility to keep Pali alive and through it the Buddha's message."

Speaking at the inauguration of the International Abhidhamma Divas at Vigyan Bhawan and the celebration for the recognition of Pali as a classical language, on 17 October, 2024 the Prime Minister emphasized that though Pali was not in usage currently, a language, literature, art and spiritual traditions express the heritage of a nation, which is its identity. The government of India will preserve and promote Pali.

The Prime Minister was delivering the keynote address at the event organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and the Ministry of Culture. He, however, added that before independence, during centuries of colonial rule, the invaders tried to wipe out India's identity, and those

with a 'slave mindset' did so after our independence. The eco system then had taken India away from its heritage, and India was left far behind. "The government of India is making all efforts to revive India's Buddhist heritage. In the last few years, we have brought back over 600 artefacts to India, most of which were Buddhist objects," he noted.

The Prime Minister further said that "we are trying to promote Pali through apps, digitisation, and archival research. Both academic and spiritual efforts are needed to understand Pali. Scholars and academics should guide the people in understanding Buddha Dhamma," In the revival of Buddha's legacy, India is reinventing its identity and it is engaged in fulfilling both rapid development and reviving its rich heritage, he stressed.

He had a word for the youth of the country too, saying that the youth in India should not only lead the world in science and technology but also



*The Prime Minister reviewing the exhibition with Director General IBC Mr Abhijit Halder explaining the panels*





*Secretary General Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche honouring Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with a memento which is the replica of Holy Buddha Relic Casket.*

be proud of their culture, values, and roots.

The Prime Minister presented the Chivar Dana and interacted with senior most monks of the Sangha.

In his welcome address **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, Union Minister of Culture and Tourism, described **Abhidhamma Divas** not only as an extremely significant day for the followers of Buddha Dhamma, but for all of humanity. “Today marks a call for living a life filled with peace, prosperity, and harmony,” he stated.

Expressing gratitude to the Prime Minister, he said that under his leadership the government had recognized the ancient language ‘Pali,’ the language spoken during the time of Buddha in the 6th century BCE, as a Classical Language; this, he emphasized will not only promote Indian culture but also encourage in-depth research based on Buddhist teachings, especially in the ancient Pali literature.

The Minister explained that the

Abhidhamma Pitaka presents scientific and clear explanations of mental and ethical disciplines. Over time, the meanings and essence of Buddha’s teachings have also evolved. Knowledge of the Pali language will enhance the capability for comparative studies of Buddhist teachings and texts, he said.

Reiterating the importance of the Buddha’s message, he mentioned that the present time is fraught with struggles, economic hardships, climate-related disasters, and numerous challenges that we all face in our daily lives. In such times, he said it had become extremely essential for the world to understand the significance of Buddha Dhamma more profoundly.

**Shri Kiren Rijiju**, Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs was also present. He expressed gratitude to PM for recognizing Pali as classical languages along with Prakrit, Marathi, Bengali and Assamese.

An Invocation and greetings were said by the Secretary General of

International Buddhist Confederation **Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden**.

In discussions on ‘the significance of Abhidhamma in 21st Century’, participants expressed that a long standing demand of the Theravada Buddhists had been fulfilled. **Dr Bhadant Rahul Bodhi Mahathero**, President Bhikkhu Sangha’s United Buddhist Mission, Mumbai said that Abhidhamma teachings describe the Human mind and body in its deepest subtleties.

Abhidhamma in a subtle way discusses the Human life in suffering and how one can come out of it with the help of four Paramartha Dhamma, that is, *Citta* (Consciousness), *Cetasika* (Mental Factors), *Rupa* (Body) and *Nibbana* (Final Emancipation, end of Suffering). It investigates the mind and matter deeply. As Pali was the language of the common people, The Buddha started giving the Dhamma teachings in Pali. He wanted all to know the essence and relevance of Dhamma.



*Diplomats based in Delhi at the programme*

He called for more work towards fostering greater dialogue and understanding between different sects of Buddhism, and finally work towards the spread of the Dhamma.

The impact of studying Abhidhamma on women's health and well-being was presented by Bhikkhuni Shakya Dhammadina, an Abhidhamma teacher who explained that Abhidhamma had enabled her to understand her mind minutely. "We need to study the mind and its evolutionary path in an individual, to understand them at a deeper level. This enables us to bring about a change in an individual's approach to various situations".

In the second session delving on the Relevance of Pali language and its Role in Contemporary Times, **Prof Mahesh Deokar**, HOD, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Savitribai Phule, Pune University, pointed out that Pali continued to live and rejuvenate.

Prof Deokar mentioned that initially Pali had its role to preserve and disseminate the Buddha Vachanas, when Tipitaka was taken to Sri Lanka. Thereafter the Mahavihara tradition in Sri Lanka felt it necessary to further develop the Pali Tradition, that is how the great chronicles like Dipavamsa were written and preserved in Pali.

This was also the time when the Pali grammar developed, making the language more systematic, said Prof Deokar.

In 1956, Dr. Ambedkar took inspiration from this literature for the social revival of Indian society. He tried to unearth the social message of the Buddha, which was otherwise forgotten in the spiritual understanding of Buddhism.

**Dr Anirban Dash**, Director, National Manuscript Mission, IGNCA, New Delhi highlighted the spread of the

language in the South Asian Region. The Buddha used the language of masses to propagate the Dhamma. Buddhist texts have been handed down to us in four Indic languages, Pali, Prakrit, Buddhist Hybrid Sanskrit and Panini Sanskrit. Among all, Pali emerged as the popular medium in conveying Buddha Dhamma.

Explaining the Global influence of Pali, Dr Dash said that King Ashoka's son Ven. Mahinda introduced Buddha Dhamma in Sri Lanka leading to Pali's adoption as the official language. From Sri Lanka, Pali spread all the way to Cambodia influencing religious and socio-cultural practices across the region. Pali influenced Sinhalese, Burmese, Thai, Khmer, Lan Na.

**Dr Pranshu Samadarshi**, Assistant Professor, School of Buddhist Studies, Nalanda University, Bihar spoke about Pali having nurtured Buddhism. Pali is the linguistic bridge that connects Asia. The journey of Pali has undergone three phases.

Firstly, over the centuries, Pali became limited to a few nations. By the 12<sup>th</sup> Century, Burmese monks developed a precise grammar for Pali. In the second phase, Pali flourished in the Gupta period in universities like the Vikramshila University. However, it then declined.

At present, we are in the third wave which once again witnesses the revival of Pali. The government of India is reviving the Nalanda university, and moreover, Pali has finally got the recognition as a classical language.

**The Director General of IBC, Mr Abhijit Halder** referring to the Prime Minister's address, said language is the soul of any nation. India is going through a cultural renaissance.



Pali has been in existence for a long time, but the root source from which the language has evolved has been ignored for many years. It is a great occasion that the language has been declared as a classical language.

The direct access that one would get to the language would be of tremendous benefit to all in the long run, he said, adding that any gaps in transmission of messages from one language to the other would also be covered now. Today the meaning of Buddha Dhamma translated into other languages may not be the same and the recognition of Pali will help us go back to the source.

The International Abhidhamma Divas drew participation of around 2000 delegates. Additionally, Ambassadors and High Commissioners from more than 10 countries were present. Large number of youth from different universities eagerly attended the event with the intention of learning more about the recognition of Pali as a classical language.

A Special Talk on the Significance of Pali as India's Classical language was presented by **Prof Bimlendra Kumar**, Professor, Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University, and Indian Council for Cultural Relations, (ICCR) Chair Professor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Nepal.

There were two exhibitions set up. One, displayed scrolls depicting various scripts from Southeast Asian countries and a map of the region showing the spread of the Pali language. The second exhibition was on 'The Life and Teachings of the Buddha'. ▢

*HHDL...Contd. from page 1*

## Greetings from IBC to His Holiness



*His Holiness graciously reading the entire letter keenly*

On the auspicious occasion of His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's 90th Birthday, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) presented a special congratulatory letter on 2nd July, 2025, to His Holiness at his residence, conveying heartfelt warm wishes for his long life, good health, and continued guidance to humanity. His Holiness graciously read the entire letter keenly and separately gave his blessings for the IBC's forthcoming event on 13th July 2025. This event is for celebrating glorious 90 years of His Holiness' spiritual wisdom and global relevance.

The letter reads "IBC stands in reverence of your extraordinary journey—from the spiritual leader of Tibet to a universal symbol of peace and moral strength. Your life is a living testament to the boundless possibilities of human compassion and the transformative power of the Buddha's teachings."



*As we celebrate this momentous milestone, we pray with utmost sincerity for your continued good health, long life, and enduring well-being. May you continue to illuminate our world with your profound wisdom and compassionate presence for many more years to come. Your life is a blessing for all sentient beings, and we remain forever grateful for your guidance". ▢*





## India Reaffirms Commitment to Buddha's Timeless Teachings

The ceremonial inauguration of **Vaishakha Buddha Purnima, 2025**, by IBC was held on 15 (Thursday) May, 2025 at the Dr B.R. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, with a spiritually resonant and culturally rich tribute to Shakyamuni Buddha. The event was organised by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) to mark the Triple Blessed Day commemorating the Birth, Enlightenment, and Mahāparinirvāna of the Buddha.

Emphasizing the inclusive relevance of Buddha Dhamma, the Guest of Honour, **Shri Kiren Rijju**, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, said “one need not be Buddhist to follow the Buddha. His wisdom is a guiding light for all, especially in times of turmoil and uncertainty. Buddhism is a philosophy and not a religion,” he noted.



*Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju lighting the lamps*

The Minister was addressing a packed hall of over 600 that included the Sangha, Monks and Nuns, students of Buddhism, lay practitioners and others. Present were also members of the diplomatic community. The

Ambassadors of Bhutan, Mongolia, Nepal, and Sri Lanka were felicitated as also the representatives from Laos, Japan, Russia, Taiwan, and Cambodia. Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, **Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat**, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, highlighting India's pivotal role as the custodian of sacred Buddhist heritage. “India is not just the land of Buddha's birth—it is the steward of his universal message of non-violence, mindfulness, and the Middle Path,” he said, echoing Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's global vision.

Highlighting the rich Buddhist heritage, the Minister said, “India continues to actively share and preserve its sacred heritage. In recent years, the Government of India has undertaken initiatives to strengthen global Buddhist ties. One of the most significant efforts has been the exposition of Holy Buddha Relics. These relics—treasures of faith and reverence—



*Union Minister for Culture and Tourism, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Union Minister of Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, and the IBC Director General, Shri Abhijit Halder at the exhibition on the life and teachings of the Buddha and a display of the eight great pilgrimage sites*





*Buddhist scholars-Prof. Bimlendra Kumar, Prof. Hira Paul Gang Negi, Geshe Dorji Damdul, and Dr Ravindra Panth, Director, IBC.*

have been sent on special tours to countries like Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam, strengthening spiritual and cultural bonds with our Buddhist brethren abroad.” He mentioned that these expositions are more than ceremonial—they are acts of cultural diplomacy and spiritual unity. Wherever the relics travel, they evoke devotion, deepen connections, and reaffirm India’s role as the spiritual fountainhead of Buddhism, he added.

In his welcome address the Secretary General of IBC, **Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche**, speaking on Dhamma mentioned 47 qualities of the Buddha in Sanskrit, saying that these praises and a description of his attributes exist in the Sanskrit literature making it a valuable text. These verses are inspirational and are recited during the Vesak Purnima month.

The Director General of IBC, **Shri Abhijit Halder** highlighted the efforts of the Ministry of Culture to push aggressively for preventing the auction of the jewels associated with the sacred Piprawah relics of the Buddha that were stopped just two days before coming under the hammer. “It was the blessings of the Buddha that prevented the auction,” he added.

Buddhist scholars, including Geshe Dorji Damdul, Prof. Hira Paul Gang Negi, and Prof. Bimlendra Kumar, engaged in a profound panel discussion on ‘Application of Buddha Dhamma in Conflict Resolution’.

A stirring special address was delivered by **Ven. Gyaltsen Samten**, urging reflection on the moral courage and peace advocated by the Buddha, especially in troubled times. Ms. Subhadra Desai offered a devotional rendering of the

Ratana Sutta, invoking the spirit of the teachings.

The celebrations featured two major exhibitions—Comparative Buddhist Art History of India and Life and Teachings of the Buddha. Screenings included documentaries on the dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma across Asia and the exposition of sacred relics from Sarnath. The commemorative event concluded with a vibrant cultural performance by Guru Alpana Nayak and her troupe, encapsulating the timeless artistic and spiritual legacy of Lord Buddha.

### Buddha Purnima in Nepal

IBC facilitated Indian Monks visit to Nepal for Chanting at Vaishakha Buddha Purnima Divas celebrations organised by the Embassy of India in Kathmandu (12<sup>th</sup> May 2025, Lumbini, Nepal) □



His Excellency Mr. Naveen Srivastava, Ambassador of India to Nepal



*Chanting in Lumbini on the auspicious day of Buddha Purnima*





## Ashadha Purnima celebrated at Sarnath The AI BOT – NORBU launched



*The Chief Guest of the event, Shri. Anil Rajbhar, Minister of Labour and Employment*

The Asadha Purnima celebrations held on 21st July 2024 was a significant event organized by the International Buddhist Confederation in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), and Ministry of Tourism, Uttar Pradesh.

on the Buddha's life and how it could aid in harnessing the rich heritage of our culture to propel societal development and global well-being.

The celebrations marked the day when Gautama Buddha delivered his first sermon, known as the Dhamma Cakka



*The dignitaries and guests at the Atisha Hall of Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath.*

The Chief Guest, **Shri. Anil Rajbhar**, Minister of Labour and Employment, suggested that our ancient Sanskriti (culture), with its profound wisdom and knowledge, ought to be widely disseminated for the collective advancement of humanity. He reflected

Pavattana Sutta, at Sarnath. This event is also referred as the "Turning the Wheel of Dhamma."

The event saw over 400 participants from various temples and monasteries in Sarnath as well as senior Sangha

members who were invited for the programme from different parts of the country. In addition, a galaxy of scholars and academicians from various universities based in Varanasi such as Banaras Hindu University, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University and Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies also attended the event. Representatives from 10 countries also participated. They were from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Japan, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Russia, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.

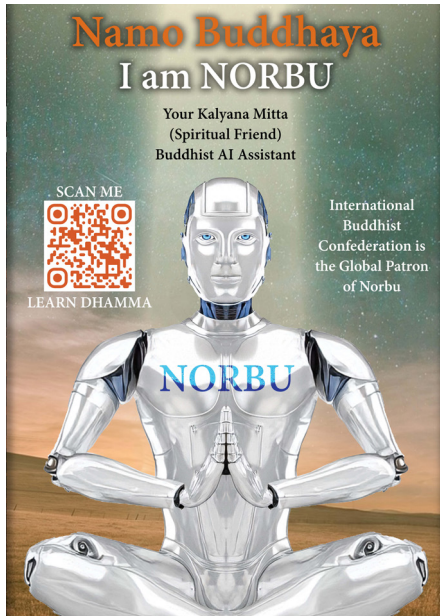
The Secretary General of IBC **Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jhanchup Choeden**, stressed the importance of Buddhist teachings in the contemporary world and the importance of preserving and propagating Buddhist philosophy. **Ven. Wanchuk Dorjee Negi**, Vice-Chancellor of CIHTS and **Ven. Ananda Bhikkhu**, General Secretary, Mahabodhi Society Bengaluru delivered the Dhamma talks, focusing on the relevance of Buddhist principles in modern life for attaining inner peace.



*Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jhanchup Choeden  
with Ven. Khemmanand*

The Highlight of the event was the presentation on NORBU, the AI Kalyan Mitra (spiritual friend) of IBC - Neural Operator for Responsible Buddhist Understanding. This initiative has been taken by **Mr. Lim Kooi Fong** from Malaysia who was online and Ven. Khemmanando, a Russian monk involved in its technical Training was also present at the event.





The AI Bot, aims to empower Dhamma seekers globally through accessible mobile platforms. This AI bot serves as a conduit to propagate Dhamma teachings, presenting pragmatic solutions grounded in Buddhist philosophy for everyday adversities. It affords users a convenient platform to assimilate Buddhist principles and profound wisdom directly via their mobile devices. There were exchange of certificates between TeamNORBU and IBC acknowledging IBC as the official Global Patron of NORBU.

The evening event was held at the Dhamek Stupa in Sarnath where around 300 Sangha members and lay devotees recited the Dhamma Cakka Pavattana sutta. □



*Dhamma Cakka Pavattana sutta chanting at the Dhamek Stupa*

Ashadha Purnima or Dhamma Cakka Pavattana Divas one of the most sacred days for the Buddhists in India and worldwide was celebrated at the Embassy of India in many countries in the presence of the Ambassador or the Deputy Chief of the Mission as part of the initiative taken by IBC



**Bhutan**



**Thailand**



**Myanmar**



**Nepal**







## International conference on Guru Padmasambhava at Nava Nalanda Mahavihara

The two-day international conference titled “Exploring the Life and Living Legacy of Guru Padmasambhava” was held at Nava Nalanda Mahavihara in Nalanda, Bihar, on August 28-29, 2024. The event explored the life, teachings, and enduring influence of Guru Padmasambhava, revered as the second Buddha.

Guru Padmasambhava, also known as Guru Rinpoche, a legendary figure in the Himalayan region, is credited with spreading Buddha Dhamma across Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Himalayan states of India. The conference provided a platform for experts from Sri Lanka, Bhutan, Nepal, and India to present papers and discuss various aspects of Guru Rinpoche’s life and contributions.

The event was inaugurated by the **Governor of Bihar, Rajendra Arlekar**, who was the Chief Guest. Distinguished guests of honour included **Most Ven Khenpo Ugen Namgyel**, Secretary/Chief Monk of the Royal Bhutan Temple, Central Monastic Body, Bhutan, and **Most Ven Khenpo Chimed**, Vice Chairman of the Lumbini Development Trust, Lumbini, Nepal.

Participants discussed a vast range of themes, including Guru Padmasambhava’s teachings of Vajrayana Buddhism, and his cultural and artistic contributions. The conference also examined his extensive

travels across Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, Pakistan, and India, as a result there are numerous significant monuments and relics along these routes.

core tenets of Buddha Dhamma to local cultures and sensibilities, using local symbols and rituals to make the teachings of Lord Buddha accessible to diverse communities.

The event was more than successful with experts from different countries admitting that they had gained immensely in terms of knowledge enhancement and learning certain rare facts about Guru Padmasambhava which they were unaware of.

Organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi, in collaboration with Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, participants got profound insights into the life and legacy of Guru Padmasambhava, whose teachings continue to resonate across the Himalayan region and beyond.

**Guru Padmasambhava’s Calligraphy:**

**Jamyang Dorjee Chakrishar**, master Calligrapher has made a Calligraphy of Guru

Padmasambhava in Kyug’ style. The miniature scripts contain the ‘Seven-line Prayers’ offered to the Guru.

Chakrishar is a founding member of IBC and Chairman of the Buddha Dhamma and Heritage (including Heritage sites), Art & Architecture Preservation and Development Committee of IBC. He is based in Sikkim, India. ▢



Guru Padmasambhava’s legacy encompasses Yogic and Tantric practices, meditation, art, music, dance, magic, folklore, and religious teachings. The conference marked his contributions through an exhibition of manuscripts, relics, paintings, and monuments.

Presentations highlighted Guru Padmasambhava’s ability to adapt the



## Namsai rich in Buddhist Heritage: ideal centre for a Buddhist Circuit in North- East

Rooted in centuries old Buddhist culture and traditions, Namsai, a district in the extreme end of Arunachal Pradesh is a unique example of how an ancient way of life is still being practised here even today, explained **Mr Chowna Mein**, the Deputy Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh at the international Conclave on “Buddha Dhamma and the Culture of North- East India,” organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Ministry of Culture and supported by the government of Arunachal Pradesh, the Pariyatti Sasana Buddha Vihar and the Mahabodhi Society of Namsai on 21-22 April, 2025.

Making a strong case for initiating a Buddhist tourism circuit in the state, he said “our culture is deeply rooted in socio-religious festivals, we recently concluded the Songpa Water Festival, a Buddhist festival celebrated by the Khamti community in Arunachal Pradesh, more specifically in Namsai and other areas like Changlang, and Itanagar, where visitors from overseas were invited to participate. It was a grand success.” He added that there were also several important ancient pilgrimage sites associated with Buddhism in the state.

In fact, his tribe the Tai Khamtis were the first, according to him, to wage the first war of independence against the British in 1839. He mentioned that “We defeated the British in the Anglo- Khamti war, and as a result of this subsequently, the British burnt down our villages and scattered our tribe in several areas of Northeast.”

According to Mr Mein, they have preserved the Pali language through



*Deputy CM cum Cabinet Minister, Shri Chowna Mein graced the occasion at Namsai, Arunachal Pradesh*

their Khamti script. In fact, there are just two ancient scripts in the State: theirs (the Lic Tai) and the Bhoti. Even the Ramayan and Mahabharat are written in the Khamti script (Lic Tai).

The Deputy Chief Minister also explained the enormous “good work” the Mahabodhi Society was undertaking in the region and he was hoping the region would get a skill development centre for empowerment of the youth of the region.

There were over 300 participants including heads of Sanghas, Bhikkus and Bhikkhunis, eminent members of the society, political representatives, professors, academicians from the Northeast and other regions attending the event. Representatives from Bhutan, Myanmar, Cambodia participated in the seminar sessions, while the Consul General of Bhutan in Guwahati Mr Jigme Thinly Namgyal, addressed the congregation in the inaugural session.

Emphasizing “our Dhamma is our culture, which is our way of life,” Mr Zingnu Namchoom, MLA

Namsai explained that even in our weddings the Buddha’s teachings are used on how to lead our married life in society. Buddhism is in our blood stream, he noted.

The Dhamma address was presented by **Most Ven. Aggadhamma Bhaddanta**, Chief Abbot of the Pariyatti Sasana Buddha Vihara, Namsai.

The Secretary General of IBC **Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche** welcomed the guest and the Director General of IBC Mr Abhijit Halder, explained the details of the event, and presented the concluding remarks.

The sessions included discussions on the Historical relevance of Buddha Dhamma in the North-East of India; Art, Culture & Heritage of Buddhist Communities and a special Session on the Cultural Impact on Buddhists in the region.

Special prayers and chanting were held the next day at the Golden Pagoda for the victims of the recent earthquake in Myanmar and Thailand. This was followed by a session on Vipassana.





The majestic Golden Pagoda complex was the venue where the delegates to the International Conclave converged on the second day to offer prayers for victims of the recent earthquake in Myanmar & Thailand. The event was organized by the IBC.

At the large Vipassana Hall amidst a sprawling rose garden near the Golden Pagoda, **Khenpo Ugen Namgyal** from Bhutan, and Vice President of the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) drawing attention to the catastrophic recent earthquake that hit Myanmar and Thailand expressed IBC's deepest condolences to the people of the two nations. "The loss of sacred sites- pagodas, monasteries and mosques- strike at the heart of our shared spiritual heritage, yet it is the resilience of these communities that inspires us all," he said.

Referring to the chanting session by the venerable that followed, he stated "that this sacred act of solidarity, a moment to honour the departed, offers strength to survivors, and pray for the swift recovery of the injured will invoke peace and healing."

A special session on Vipassana, the mindful meditation technique to develop wisdom, compassion, and equanimity was held thereafter, led



*Prayers at the Chongkham Raj Vihara, an old monastery situated amidst the community's villages*



*Village Community came out in large numbers to greet us and offer home cooked food*



*Traditional welcome music and dance by the youth of Tai Khamtis at their Chongkham Raj Vihara, monastery*

by **Venerable Anand Bhante** and **Venerable Gyalten Samten**.

in the beautiful monastery in the company of the village community.



*Prayers for earthquake victims of Myanmar & Thailand near Golden Pagoda, Namsai*

The delegations of national and international visitors were given a grand traditional welcome with colourful dances and music by members of the Tai Khamtis at their **Chongkham Raj Vihara**, an old monastery situated amidst the community's villages. Elders and leaders, including the women, came out in large numbers to greet the delegation. Chanting and prayers were held

Later, the delegation also visited the major religious project that is under construction of a 280-ft Lord Buddha's statue at Lalpahar, (largest statue of the Buddha) the Noi Dhamm. The magnificent statue standing tall with the blue sky in the backdrop was a soothing sight for the delegates brought together by IBC from across India and abroad. The most significant part of the visit by the IBC delegation to the Golden pagoda and the Vihara was to bring together the different communities on a common platform. ▢



# A Historic Pilgrimage Across Vietnam (May 2 - June 2, 2025)

## Over 17 million Devotees Pay Homage to the Buddha's Holy Relics

The revered Holy Relics of Lord Buddha saw an overwhelming spiritual response during the month-long exposition tour across Vietnam. The Holy Relics exposition that coincided with the UN day of Vesak celebrations at Ho Chi Minh City from May 3 to 6, was also held in eight other cities of Vietnam until 2 June, 2025.

An extraordinary spiritual movement swept across the nation as millions of devotees participated in a historic veneration pilgrimage of the sacred relics from India. The sacred journey, spanning multiple revered locations from the south to the north of the country, drew more than 17 million devotees in total, uniting Buddhists, and spiritual seekers in a profound display of reverence and cultural solidarity.

### Arrival at Ho Chi Minh City



*The Holy Relics of the Buddha arrived in Ho Chi Minh City, in a special Air Force aircraft accompanied by Union Minister Kiren Rijju, Andhra Pradesh Minister Kandula Durgesh, venerable monks, officials from IBC and National Museum.*

Originally, scheduled to conclude on 21<sup>st</sup> May, the exposition was extended until 2<sup>nd</sup> June upon special request by the Government of Vietnam due to the spiritually charged atmosphere and

growing public reverence. Including the extended tour, the sacred relics visited nine cities, drawing over 17 million devotees who gathered to seek the blessings of the Buddha.

The sacred relics were given the status of the Head of State provided with full security enroute, carried with reverence, and transported to the



*A procession of the Holy Relics was taken to the Vietnam Buddhist University (VBS) where a special chanting ceremony was held in the presence of thousands of senior monks, high officials and devotees.*

airport in a Presidential cavalcade, and then the onwards journey to Vietnam aboard in a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force.

In a symbolic gesture of peace and friendship, a **Sacred Bodhi Tree sapling** from India was also planted at the Vietnam Buddhist University. A joint press conference was held by the Indian delegation and leaders of the Vietnamese Sangha, where Minister **Shri Kiren Rijju** conveyed a heartfelt message from Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** and the people of India. The Government of Vietnam expressed its sincere gratitude for this sacred gesture, which stands as a symbol of the enduring civilizational and spiritual ties between the two countries.



*Sacred Bodhi Tree sapling from India was planted by Union Minister for Parliamentary Affairs and Minority Affairs **Shri Kiren Rijju** at the Vietnam Buddhist University.*

The relics were warmly received by the Government of Vietnam and the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, reflecting the profound and shared spiritual values that unite both nations. Following ceremonial prayers, the Holy Relics were reverently enshrined at **Thanh Tam Monastery**, in Ho Chi Minh City.



*1. In a significant cultural and spiritual milestone, the Holy Relics of the Buddha were enshrined at Thanh Tam Monastery Ho Chi Minh City (May 2- 8, 2025) following ceremonial chanting and prayers. Around 1,877,000 devotees offered prayers.*





*“Sacred Moments of Devotion”*  
Worshipping Holy Buddha relics brings profound joy and pride—not just for Buddhists, but to all who revere the enlightened one. Now, even those unable to travel to India can honour him at home. At **Thanh Tam Monestry** in Ho Chi Minh City, pilgrims—young and old, near and far—gathered in quiet reverence for this rare blessings. Over 5 Lakhs cumulative footfall and a 3 km long devotees queue was witnessed on Day 3 of the exposition.



2. Ba Den Mountain, Tay Ninh Province (May 8–12): 127,000 devotees. The Holy Relics of Buddha were enshrined at the Buddhist exhibition centre. Over 2000 domestic and international delegates gathered on May 8 to conduct a sacred ceremony to enshrine the Holy Relic and pray for world peace with lighting of lamps as part of the UN Day of Vesak celebrations.



On the evening of 14 May, H.E. Mr Tran Hong Ha, Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam visited the **Quang Su Temple** to pay his respect to the Holy Buddha Relics.



During the Exposition of the Holy Sarnath Relics of the Buddha in Vietnam, a remarkable phenomenon graced the skies over **Hanoi**. As devotees gathered in reverence and prayer, a radiant halo appeared overhead—a luminous ring encircling the sun, casting an ethereal glow upon the sacred event. To many, it was more than a natural spectacle; it was perceived as a solemn blessing, a celestial sign affirming the sanctity of the occasion and the enduring presence of the Buddha’s compassion.



3. After a two-hour long procession through the central streets of Hanoi, the Holy Relics of Buddha were enshrined at **Quan Su Pagoda**, Hanoi (May 13–16, 2025) at the headquarters of the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha. Over 7 million devotees, including 2 million present at the central relic procession, received Buddha’s blessings.



4. After the procession on the street of Ha Nam province, the holy Buddha Relics were enshrined at the majestic **Tam Chuc Pagoda**, Ha Nam Province (May 17–20, 2025) said to be the biggest pagoda in South-East Asia.



**Tam Chuc Pagoda**, Ha Nam Province (May 17–20): Over 2 million devotees received Buddha’s blessings.





**5. After completing traditional rites and ceremonial steps, the holy Buddha relics were enshrined at **Bai Dinh Pagoda**, Ninh Binh Province (May 21-22, 2025) where monks, followers, and the public respectfully offered prayers.**

The Holy Sarnath Relics of the Buddha arriving at **Bai Dinh Pagoda**, Vietnam, from Tam Chuc Pagoda for exposition. Safeguarded by the Government of Vietnam, the sacred relics were preceded by processions and welcomed by a large gathering of devoted followers lining on either side of the streets. From the elderly to young children, everyone eagerly gathered to pay their respects and witnessed the sacred relics of the Buddha, a once in a life time chance. Equally moving was the presence of dedicated volunteers, service teams, security personnel, and food providers—always ready to assist, ensuring a smooth and respectful experience for all devotees.



**Bai Dinh Pagoda**, Ninh Binh Province (May 21–22): About 350,000 devotees received Buddha's blessings.



**6. Phuc Son Pagoda, Bac Giang Province (May 23–25):** The Holy relics of Buddha were enshrined at Phuc Son Pagoda, Bac Giang Province (May 23-24, 2025) built in 1680 under the Le Dynasty. **Approx. 1.6 million devotees** received Buddha's blessings.



**7. Truc Lam Yen Tu Monastery, Quang Ninh:** After a ceremonial service attended by thousands of devotees, the holy Buddha relics were enshrined at Truc Lam Yen Tu Monastery, Uong Bi City, Quang Ninh Province (May 25-27, 2025). Around 1.05 million devotees received Buddha's blessings.



**8. Chuong Pagoda, Hung Yen (May 28–30):** After a long procession, the Holy Relics of Buddha were enshrined at Chuong Pagoda, Hung Yen City, Hung Yen Province (May 28-30, 2025), also known as Bell Pagoda located within the Pho Hien historical and cultural relic complex established during the 15th century under the Le Dynasty. **Approx. 2.5 million devotees** received Buddha's blessings.



**9. Quan Am Ngu Hanh Son Pagoda, Da Nang City:** Approx. 1.3 million devotees received Buddha's blessings.



At Da Nang devotees kneeling on the street as the convoy passes

The Holy Relics of Buddha were enshrined at Quan Am Ngu Hanh Son Pagoda, Ngu Hanh Som district, Da Nang City (30 May-2 June, 2025), the final destination of the sacred Relics of Buddha month-long holy exposition journey across Vietnam, held from May 2 to June 2, 2025.



**A grand ceremony was held at Quan Am Ngu Hanh Son Pagoda, Da Nang City on 2 June, 2025 to bid respectful farewell to the sacred relics of Buddha before their return to India.**





## Homecoming of the Holy Relics marking the end of a historic spiritual journey



*Sacred Relics return to India*

The revered Holy Relics of Lord Buddha returned to India on Monday, 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2025, by Indian Air Force aircraft, after an overwhelming spiritual response during their month-long exposition tour across Vietnam.

The relics escorted by the Government of India Delegation led by **Dr Hari Babu Kambhampati**, Governor of Odisha, was ceremoniously received at the Palam Air Force Station by the officials of International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) along with senior Indian monks.

Following their arrival in Delhi, the Holy Relics were placed on public exposition at the National Museum

for a day. A formal prayer meeting was held in the afternoon by senior monks, the Secretary General of the International Buddhist Confederation, and representatives of the diplomatic corps.

On Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> June, the Holy Relics left Delhi escorted by a Presidential cavalcade with full protocol reserved for Heads of State. They were once again escorted to Sarnath via Varanasi, where they were ceremonially enshrined at Mulagandha Kuti Vihar, concluding a historic international pilgrimage that reaffirmed the timeless message of peace and compassion embodied by the Buddha. ▢

## Exhibition and signing of MoU

Earlier, in Ho Chi Minh City, a cultural program, including a specially curated exhibition and a dance-drama on the life of Lord Buddha, accompanied the celebrations, underscoring the deep-rooted India-Vietnam Buddhist heritage.



*Shri Kiren Rijiju visits IBC's Exhibitions at the UNDV 2025. The first segment was on "Glorious Ajanta" as displayed by our partner Prasadpawar Foundation followed by a segment on "Sculptures Depicting Key Events of the Buddha's Life" which was curated by IBC.*

The IBC and the VBS have been traditional partners since the inception of IBC. Senior members of the VBS are members in the governing Body of IBC. This agreement will further strengthen bonds between the Buddhist bodies of the two countries.



*In the presence of the Head of Indian Delegation, Union Minister of Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, an MOU was signed by the Secretary General of International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) Ven. Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden and the President of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS), and Dhamma Council member of IBC, Most Ven. Dr Thich Thien Nhon.*





## MOU for deepening cooperation & peace as enshrined in the teachings of the Buddha

This Memorandum of Understanding was in pursuance to the agreement signed on 29 May 2022 between the two bodies in the spirit of deepening cooperation and advancing the shared ideals of compassion, wisdom, and peace as enshrined in the teachings of the Buddha.

This declaration also marked the official launch of the Vietnam Chapter of the International Buddhist Confederation. The signing was witnessed by the Vice President of the Sangha, **Most Ven. Thich Thien Phap** and from India by the Director General of IBC, **Shri Abhijit Halder**, in the presence of the Indian Ambassador to Vietnam, **Shri Sandeep Arya**. It was attended by several senior Sangha members from the Vietnamese side.



*The President of the National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha (VBS), and Dhamma Council member of IBC, Most Ven. Dr Thich Thien Nhon.*

## Buddha Dhamma and Scientific Research and Mental Health



*2nd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars (7th August 2024, Delhi)*

Buddha Dhamma, encompassing the teachings of the Buddha, offers profound insights into the nature of human existence, suffering, and the path to liberation. Rooted in principles such as mindfulness, compassion, and ethical conduct, Buddha Dhamma provides a comprehensive framework that transcends religious boundaries and offers practical applications in various domains of modern life. This conference explored the integration and impact of Buddha Dhamma in education, scientific research, healthcare, and overall well-being.

The integration of Buddha Dhamma into education, scientific research, healthcare, and well-being offers a transformative potential for individuals and society. By fostering mindfulness, ethical conduct, compassion, and holistic health, these teachings can address contemporary challenges and enhance the quality of life.

Implementing these principles requires a collaborative effort, interdisciplinary research, and a commitment to cultural sensitivity and sustainability. Through such efforts, the timeless wisdom of Buddha Dhamma can contribute significantly to the development of a more compassionate, healthy, and harmonious world.

The main sub themes under discussion were:

1. Buddha Dhamma and its Application in Education.
2. Buddha Dhamma and its Application in Scientific Research.
3. Buddha Dhamma and its Application in Healthcare.
4. Buddha Dhamma and its Application in Well-being.





The Chief Guest was Dr Sachchidanand Joshi, Member Secretary, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts, he addressed the inauguration of 2nd International Conference for Young Buddhist Scholars with the 8th Chokyang Palga Rinpoche and Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, Secretary General along with representatives from Embassies.

Each session featured presentations from scholars and practitioners from various countries, offering a diverse array of perspectives on the application of Buddhist teachings in different contexts.

The first session focused on the relationship between Buddha Dharma and well-being. The speakers discussed how the teachings of the Buddha can be applied to enhance mental, social, and spiritual well-being.

The second session focused on the

integration of Buddha Dharma into educational systems across different cultures. The speakers explored how Buddhist teachings are incorporated into educational practices and the impact they have on learners.

The third session explored the intersection of Buddha Dharma with scientific research and mental health. The session highlighted the growing interest in how Buddhist practices can inform and enhance contemporary scientific approaches to mental well-being.

The final session, moderated by focused on the practical applications of Buddha Dharma in various aspects of life. The speakers discussed how Buddhist teachings can be applied to achieve success, maintain health, and foster well-being in daily life.

The 2nd International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars was a significant event that brought together

diverse perspectives on the relevance and application of Buddhist teachings in contemporary contexts. The discussions across all four sessions highlighted several key outcomes:

- 1.Reaffirmation of the Relevance of Buddha Dharma
- 2.Integration of Buddhist Teachings in Education and Mental Health
- 3.Contribution of Buddhist Philosophy to Scientific Discourse
- 4.Practical Application of Buddha Dharma in Daily Life
5. Interdisciplinary and Cross-Cultural Dialogue

Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars was a successful and impactful event that provided valuable insights into the relevance and application of Buddhist teachings in contemporary contexts. The outcomes of the conference underscore the importance of integrating Buddha Dharma into various aspects of life. ▢



## Thailand delegation visits Gujarat

A high level delegation of Buddhist Hierarchy from Thailand led by *HE Somdej*, Supreme Patriarch of Thai Buddhist Sangha alongwith five delegates visited India from 16 to 22 June, 2025. The delegates were accompanied by twelve devotees who were all facilitated by International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).

In Delhi, the delegation met *Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat*, Hon'ble Minister for Culture as well as *Shri Kiren Rijju*, Hon'ble Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs on June 16. During meeting with *Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat*, the latter emphasised the importance of Thailand India relations and how it had evolved over the ages, especially in the context of Buddhism as well as Hinduism. He highlighted the immense response which the Holy relics of the Buddha received during their exposition in Thailand in early 2024.

During meeting with *Shri Kiren Rijju* at the latter's residence, *Shri Rijju* mentioned that Prime Minister *Shri Narendra*



*The delegation at the Holy Buddha Relic at National Museum*



*A meeting with Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, Hon'ble Minister for Culture*



*At the residence of Shri Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Minister for Minority Affairs and Parliamentary Affairs*

Modi has accorded topmost priority to Thailand - India relations. He mentioned about how the emissaries of Ashoka had travelled to Thailand and had reported about a land called 'Swarnabhumi' or 'land of gold'. *Sh Rijju* mentioned about his personal experience as a Buddhist and how people in Thailand were committed to the teachings of the Buddha.

The Thai Supreme Patriarch thanked India for hosting the delegation and highlighted the importance of King Ashoka in spreading Buddhism across the world. He said that they were fortunate to come to India where Lord Buddha lived. On the occasion, the Thai ambassador hosted a lunch for the delegation at the Thai embassy which was attended by the SG and DG, IBC apart from important Thai personalities in Delhi.





*The delegation with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel*

During their tour of Gujarat from June 17 to 21, the delegation met with Hon'ble Chief Minister of Gujarat, Shri Bhupendra Patel along with a number of ministers of the state government. Hon'ble Chief Minister spoke of Gujarat's rich cultural Buddhist lineage of Vadnagar, Devni Mori, Rocket Caves and Girnar Mountains. The Supreme Patriarch of

Thailand offered condolences for the Ahmedabad aviation tragedy and loss of innocent lives. He requested for the Holy Relic of Devni Mori to be sent for exposition to Thailand and also expressed their willingness to create a Thai-Buddhist centre in Devni Mori.

The Delegation later visited MS University Vadodara and offered

prayers to the Devni Mori Holy Relics housed there. They also toured the Statue of Unity and visited Sankalp Bhoomi. On June 20, the delegation arrived in Dwarka and visited the Dwarkadhish mandir where they were introduced to the *Shankracharya* and the Temple seers. They held healthy discussions on Hinduism, Lord Krishna's life and Buddhism. ▢



*The delegation offering prayers to the Holy Buddha Relics of Devni Mori*



## Good Cinema a channel for Mass Education

Drawing a comparison of art and paintings commissioned by the Buddha- 2,500 years ago with the medium of cinema, **Ven Geshe Dorji Damdul**, Director of Tibet House said on the opening of the **BODHIPATH Film Festival on 10-11, March, 2025** that visual art had always been a channel for education and information to the masses.

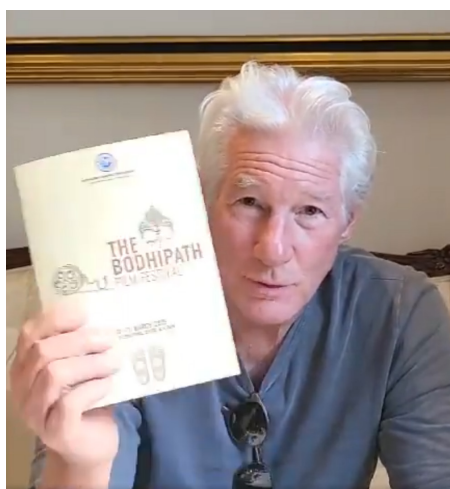
Speaking at the inauguration of a two-day festival, organised by the International Buddhist confederation, the Venerable, a Special Guest, explained that cinema was an extremely powerful tool to influence the public. “However, cinema also depicts the level of thinking of the public. Films will be made in accordance with the current thinking in society”, he added.

**Ven Geshe Damdul** mentioned that during the Buddha’s times, paintings were commissioned by Sakyamuni that showed his teachings and educated the public. The five senses in a person play an important role in absorbing the message. He further said that if the visuals are of ‘low level’, the society will be absorbing these, and therefore, we see a lot of crime, including cyber-crime prevalent these days. Similarly, conflicts, wars, climate disaster and mistrust will be the order of the day, he noted.

**Professor Robert A.F. Thurman**, an American Buddhist author and academician who is a Padma Shri awardee and has written, edited, and translated several books on Tibetan Buddhism, on a brief visit to Delhi, took time off to speak at the festival. He shared insights into his latest book on Manjushri, a work in progress. In Mahayana Buddhism, Manjushri is a bodhisattva who represents great wisdom and enlightenment, the Professor mentioned. He enthralled the audience through interesting anecdotes and some personal experiences.



Cinema Titles



*The world-renowned film personality from Hollywood and a practicing Buddhist, Richard Gere, who was also just passing through Delhi, recorded a message for the festival. He expressed that the Buddhist Film Festival was the best way to spread the teachings of the Buddha. He said that the festival provided “An exciting moment. It is a great opportunity to follow the path to Buddhism.” He conveyed his best wishes for the festival.*





The Guest of Honour, **Mr Chittaranjan Tripathy**, Director, National School of Drama informed that in India the tradition of Natya Shastra went back more than 3,000 years. Buddhism had deep connections with Natya Shastra and the story telling format.

Providing examples from various elements of theatre, Mr Tripathy explained that the entire world was a theatre, a roleplay was going on with costumes, and moods, with the backdrop of a huge montage. "The theatre too tells a story in their own way, in front of an audience, the difference is that in cinema it is played out on the screen," he explained. With so much strife being played out on the world stage, Buddhist thoughts can lead us to a better world, he added.

In his Special Address, **Mr Mohit Chauhan**, the eminent playback singer explained how he practised compassion and Ahimsa in his personal life. Hailing from Himachal Pradesh, Buddhism held a special influence in his life, he said. He runs a home for stray animals and has over 400 of them under his care. He brought out his contribution as Mongolia's cultural Ambassador towards enabling a deep cultural and spiritual connect between India and Mongolia.

**Shri Gagan Malik**, a prominent TV actor, who played the lead role in the Sri Lankan film, Sri Siddhartha Gautam enthralled the audience with his personal experiences in shooting for the epic. He is also well known for his roles as Lord Ram and Lord Shiv and has a great fan following in several Buddhist nations, including Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam.

Another famous star, **Shri Adil Hussain**, of national and

international fame for his films *Life of Pi* and *The Reluctant Fundamentalists* spoke passionately about cinema and how it had the power not only to shape the views of the audience, but the roles that he played as an actor had even impacted his own life, changing his perspective about the world.

Earlier, in his welcome address, **Shri Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche**, Secretary General of IBC while blessing the festival with invocation, reflected that films were a powerful medium for diffusing information, ideology and widening horizons.

The Director General of IBC, **Shri Abhijit Halder** explained the concept of the festival and the range



of films that were screened. These included a collection of classical films for the younger generation to catch up on and some from modern directors of India. To name a few *The Cup*, *Geshe Ma is Born*, *the Kung Fu Nuns*, *Path of Compassion*, *Guru Padmasambhava*. He mentioned that the legendary film on His Holiness the Dalai Lama, *'Until Space Remains'* was also screened as this year commemorates the landmark birthday of His Holiness.

The International Buddhist Confederation's first edition of 'The Bodhipath Film Festival' on 10-11 March 2025 also included four panel discussions involving personalities from varying backgrounds – from academicians to film producers and Directors to social media influencers and actors. The discussions revolved around various aspects of film making, including challenges faced in producing Buddhist films and mindful communication.

The festival received overwhelming response from the young and old with large number of Monks and nuns from different Buddhist institutions as well as students from the Indian Institute of Mass Communication and the Gautam Buddha University attending the event. □

## Special Guest



**VEN GESHE DORJI DAMDUL**  
DIRECTOR, TIBET HOUSE



**DR. ROBERT A. F. THURMAN**  
PADMA SHRI AWARDÉE

## Guests of Honour Day - 1



**MR. CHITTARANJAN TRIPATHY**  
DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SCHOOL OF DRAMA



**MR. MOHIT CHAUHAN**  
EMINENT INDIAN PLAYBACK SINGER

## Guests of Honour Day - 2



**MR. GAGAN MALIK**  
EMINENT INDIAN & INTERNATIONAL ACTOR



**MR. ADIL HUSSAIN**  
EMINENT INDIAN & INTERNATIONAL ACTOR  
THE BODHIPATH FILM FESTIVAL | 9



## Second Edition of Bodhgaya Marathon

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) in collaboration with the Bodhgaya Marathon Committee (BMC), Mahabodhi Society of India and International Centre for Cultural Studies (ICCS) and with support from Government of Bihar and Athletics Federation of India (AFI) organised its Second Edition of Bodhgaya Marathon (Run for Global Peace) on Sunday, 16 February 2025 in Bodhgaya, Bihar. The event was held from the 15 to 19 February 2025.

There was significant representation from the Buddhist community across the world with participation from international runners, as also the Armed Forces of India. Around 3000 registrations, including more than 300 foreigners, took place from 19 countries across the globe.

*His Eminence the 13th Kundeling Tatsak Rinpoche* flagged off the marathon as the **Chief Guest**. This year, there were 300 cadets and officers from Officers Training Academy (OTA), Gaya taking part with their commandant **Lt. Gen. Sukriti Singh Dahiya, SM VSM** in the lead as the **Guest of Honour**. In addition to this, the Mongolian Ambassador to India, **Mr. Ganbold Dambajav** participated as a **Special**



**Guest** runner to commemorate 70 years of diplomatic ties between India and Mongolia.

On the eve of the marathon, Rinpoche and the Ambassador visited the Kalachakra ground along with Mr Abhijit Halder, Director General of IBC, to inaugurate an exhibition on “**Buddha Dhamma on Body and Mind**”.

The exhibition curated by IBC delved into – 1) “What are we made of?” explaining the composition of the sentient beings; 2) the connection between the mind and body which is the “interconnected self”; 3) the meditational effects that explains the “transformation of mind and body”; 4) The practical applications of mindfulness, which is “living mindfully”; and 5) the scientific aspects of mind and body which will elaborate on “science meeting Dhamma”. In addition to this the **Department of Tourism, Government of Bihar** organised 20 stalls to engage

**marathon participants**, particularly the foreigners showcasing culture, textile, handicraft, and food of the state.

Following the inauguration of the exhibition, all the dignitaries proceeded to the **Mahabodhi Temple** to pray for the success of the event and for global peace. This coordination was done with full support from the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC).

Marathon Brand Ambassador Dr. Sunita Godhara, Olympian and Asian gold medallist for India in 1992 took lead in pumping up the runners, followed by special chanting and blessings by His Eminence the 13th Kundeling Tatsak Rinpoche. The flag off for all the four categories – 42 kms, 21 kms, 10 kms and 5 kms was done between the Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Special Guest, Brand Ambassador and Director General, IBC.

The marathon was successfully organised with enthusiastic participation. The winners of each category, declared after professional time keeping methods of international standards, are mentioned below. ▢







## VISUAL STORY



### High Level Delegation from Bhutan Visited IBC and sought blessings from the Holy Relics of the Buddha, National Museum 19th September, 2024, New Delhi

*A distinguished delegation led by His Eminence Khenchen Sangay Khandu Tshogi Lopen Rinpoche, representing the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan and accompanied by esteemed senior monks, visited the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).*

*HE Lopen Sangay, conveyed his deep appreciation to IBC for their tireless efforts in organizing, coordinating, and facilitating the delegation's journey to sacred places in Ladakh.*



### Condolence Prayer Organized by IBC for the People of Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam 25th September, 2024, New Delhi

*The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) held a solemn and heartfelt condolence prayer ceremony on 25/09/2024 to express solidarity and extend condolences to the people of Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, and Vietnam, following the devastating floods that have caused immense loss of life and widespread destruction across these countries.*



*The condolence prayer took place in front of the Holy Buddha Relics at the National Museum in New Delhi, where monks, devotees, and community members gathered to offer their respects. The ceremony was led by SG, IBC, who delivered a poignant sermon, highlighting the themes of compassion, resilience, and the collective responsibility of humanity to support one another during times of crisis.*



## VISUAL STORY

### 10-day Pali and Sanskrit International Bhikkhu Exchange 07-17, January 2025, Mungod, Karnataka



*The event was held at the Ganden Shartse Monastery and was opened by a gathering of prominent monks and Sangha heads, including the Chief Guest - Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Maha Nayaka Thero, Dean of the Pali and Sanskrit Cultural Exchange Centre in Sri Lanka, President of the International Buddhist Confederation in New Delhi, and Maha Nayaka of the Sambuddha Sasanodaya Sangha Sabha.*

*The Secretary General IBC, Ven. Shartse Khensur Janchup Choeden Rinpoche and the Director General IBC, Mr. Abhijit Halder participated in the event interacting with the participating Bhikkus and understanding their approach towards this invigorating exchange between Pali and Sanskrit traditions. The subject has drawn special attention*

### IBC at Mahakumbh 2025 (Over 2 lakhs devotees visited in 40 days) 13 January to 26 February 2025, Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh



*Through a captivating display of artistic representations of mandalas; the exhibition brought to life the teachings of Lord Buddha, on His journey to enlightenment and the timeless wisdom that continues to inspire millions worldwide. This unique exhibition of Buddhist culture and tradition offered visitors a rare opportunity to immerse themselves in the stories, teachings, and cultural heritage that have shaped Buddhism over the centuries.*

*An informative aspect of this exhibition is its focus on the fusion of Hindu and Buddhist traditions, particularly in the context of Japan. The Buddhist pantheons in Japan are not only enriched by figures like Bodhisattvas and Buddhas but also incorporate deities from Hinduism, who have been revered in Buddhist contexts; often as protectors of wisdom, prosperity, and compassion.*







## Samvad IV (14th - 17th February 2025) -Thailand



*The 4th edition of Samvad, a Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative for Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Consciousness, was convened from 14th to 17th February 2025 at the United Nations Conference Center in Bangkok and in Ayutthaya, Thailand. The conference, themed “The Asian Century of Dharma-Dhamma,” was a collaborative effort by the Vivekananda International Foundation (VIF), The BodhiGayā Vijiālaya 980 Institute, Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University, International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), and the India & Japan Foundation. The Embassy of India, Bangkok also actively contributed towards the event.*

*In a video message, Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi emphasized that the “Asian century” should encompass not only economic growth but also social values. He highlighted the relevance of Bhagwan Buddha’s teachings in fostering a peaceful and progressive era, advocating for a human-centric future. Prime Minister Modi also addressed the theme of conflict avoidance, noting that recognizing multiple perspectives can help prevent disputes. He cited the Rig Veda’s verse, “Ekam Sat Vipraha Bahudha Vadanti,” to illustrate the importance of acknowledging diverse truths.*

## IBC hosted 31 diplomats from Myanmar as part of their Special Course Training in India 26th March 2025, IGNCA, New Delhi



**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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