

Samyak Sambodhi

संम्यक् संबोधि:



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

Newsletter

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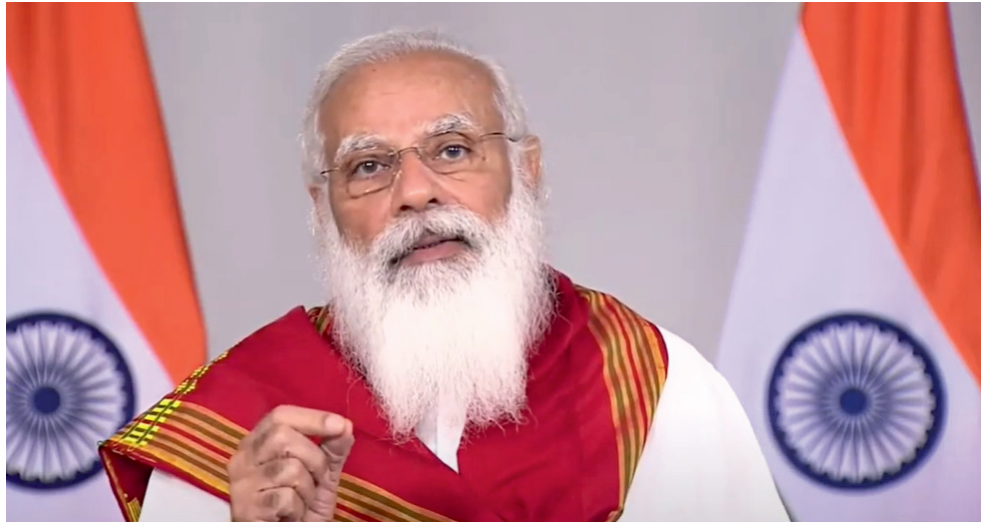
COUNCIL OF PATRONS

- ♦ His Holiness Thich Tri Quang
Deputy Patriarch, Vietnam Buddhist Sangha, Vietnam
- ♦ His Holiness Samdech Preah Agga Maha Sangharajadhipati Tep Vong
Supreme Patriarch, Mahanikaya Order, Cambodia
- ♦ His Holiness Dr. Bhaddanta Kumarabhivamsa
Sangharaja and Chairman, State Sangha Mahanayaka Committee, Myanmar
- ♦ His Holiness Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero
President, Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha, Bangladesh
- ♦ His Holiness Jinje-Beopwon
13th Supreme Patriarch, Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism, South Korea
- ♦ His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama Tenzin Gyatso (Exiled in India)
- ♦ His Eminence Rev. Khamba Lama Gabju Chojamts
Supreme Head of Mongolian Buddhists, Mongolia
- ♦ His Eminence 24th Pandito Khamba Lama Damba Ayusheev
Supreme Head of Russian Buddhists, Russia
- ♦ His Holiness Late Somdet Phra Nyanasamvara Suvaddhana Mahathera
Supreme Patriarch, Thailand
- ♦ His Holiness Late Phra Achan Maha Phong Samaleuk
Sangharaja, Laos
- ♦ His Holiness Late Aggamaha Pandita Davuldena Gnanissara Maha Nikaya Thero
Mahanayaka, Amarapura Nikaya, Sri Lanka

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Our planet will not be same after COVID-19: PM



Prime Minister Narendra Modi addressing National and International devotees and others on the day of Buddha Purnima through the virtual Vesak Global Celebrations in New Delhi, India on 26th May 2021

We observe Vesak day to celebrate the life of Lord Buddha and to reflect on the noble ideals and sacrifices he made for the betterment of our planet, said Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivering a virtual keynote address on the occasion of Buddha Purnima in New Delhi on 26th May 2021.

He said that he dedicated last year's Vesak

day programme to all the front-line workers leading humanity's fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. A year later, Covid-19 pandemic has still not left us and several nations, including India, have experienced a second wave.

Describing Covid-19, he said, "This once-in-a-lifetime pandemic has brought tragedy and suffering at the door-step of many and

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IBC Celebrates Vesak 2021

Buddha's teachings more relevant in the Pandemic

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) with the support of the Ministry of Culture and participation by IBC Chapters, the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (Mongolia), other organisations and Buddhist practitioners celebrated the Vesak Day, Buddha Purnima on 26th May 2021 with prayers and ceremonies that were watched

by devotees and others around the world.

Vesak Buddha Purnima is Triple Blessed as it is the Tathagata Gautam Buddha's Birth, Enlightenment and Maha Parnirvana Day, explained IBC's Secretary General, Ven. Dr Dhammapiya, the Convenor of the National Buddha Purnima celebrations, expressing that the IBC was once again compelled to hold a virtual Vesak Day celebration as the pandemic had not left us.

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Manglacharan Chanting for Global Peace and Relief from Global Covid-19 Pandemic at Sacred Tooth Relic Temple, Kandy, Sri Lanka

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Our planet will not be same after COVID-19: PM

has impacted every nation. The economic impact left by the pandemic is huge as well. Our planet will not be the same after Covid-19. In the times to come, we will certainly remember events as either pre-COVID or post-COVID. But over the last year there have been many noteworthy changes as well. We now have a better understanding of the pandemic which strengthens our strategy to fight it."

The Prime Minister lauded the efforts of the scientists for developing the COVID-19 vaccines within a year and said this shows the power of human determination and tenacity.

This year's Vesak Celebration organised by IBC with the support of the Ministry of Culture and participation from the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (Mongolia), a partner organisation saw participation by Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister of Bhutan and the Minister for Culture of Mongolia.

Prime Minister Modi said that the four sights

from the life of Lord Buddha ignited within him the desire to devote his life to removing human suffering. He said that in the last year, several individuals and organisations rose to the occasion and did everything possible to reduce human suffering. Generous contributions of equipment and materials were made by the Buddhist organisations and followers of Buddha Dharma from around the world. "These actions are in line with the teachings of Lord Buddha भवतु सर्व मंगलम् (Blessings, Compassion and Welfare of all)," he added.

The Prime Minister said that while fighting COVID-19, one must not lose sight of the other challenges faced by humanity like climate change. He stated that the reckless life-styles are threatening future generations and we should not let our planet remain wounded. Highlighting Lord Buddha's emphasis on a way of life where respect for Mother Nature is paramount, he underscored that India is among the few large economies to be on track to achieving their Paris targets.

The Prime Minister remarked that the life of Gautama Buddha was about peace, harmony and co-existence. But today, there are still forces whose existence depends on

spreading hate, terror and mindless violence. He said such forces do not believe in liberal democratic principles and thus gave a call for all those who believe in humanity to come together and defeat terror and radicalisation. He said Lord Buddha's teachings and the importance given to social justice can become a global unifying force.



"Lord Buddha was the reservoir of brilliance of the entire universe. From him we all draw light from time to time and take the path of compassion. Lord Buddha's teachings and the importance given to social justice can become a global unifying force."

- PM Narendra Modi



Video Messages by Dhamma Masters



His Holiness Samdech Preah Abhisiri
Suganda Mahasangharajah Dhipati Bour Kry,
Former President, IBC and Sangharaja,
Mahayuth Nikaya, Cambodia

His Holiness Thich Tri Quang,
The First Deputy Supreme Patriarch
of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha,
Vietnam



Most Ven. Dharma Master Hsin Tao,
Member, Supreme Dhamma Council,
IBC, Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain
Buddhist Society
and Museum of World Religions, Taiwan

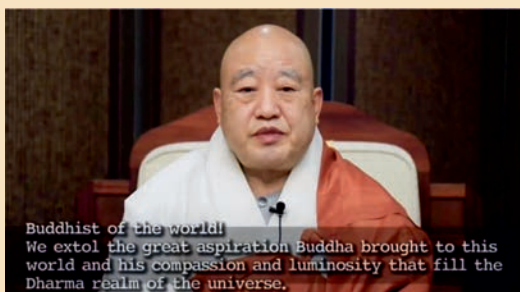
Most Ven. Wonhaeng, President,
Jogye Order of Korean Buddhism,
South Korea



His Holiness Je Khenpo Jigme
Choda Tulku Rinpoche,
Supreme Patriarch of Bhutan



Most Ven. Dharma Master Hsin Tao,
Member, Supreme Dhamma Council,
IBC, Founder of Ling Jiou Mountain
Buddhist Society
and Museum of World Religions, Taiwan



Most Ven Dr. Warakagoda
Gnanarathana Mahanayake Thero,
Asgiriya Chapter of Siyam Maha Nikaya,
Sri Lanka



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IBC Celebrates Vesak

In his welcome address he recalled Buddha's teachings, saying they were more relevant now when there is suffering and sadness all around.

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister of Bhutan and the Minister for Culture of Mongolia also participated in this year's Vesak celebrations.

Heads of Buddhist Sanghas from around the world, eminent scholars and practitioners prayed for relief from the pandemic and global well-being. A written message of His Holiness the Dalai Lama, a patron of the IBC was shared read out at the virtual event. Later in the day, monks from Malaysia, Mongolia and Thailand chanted sutras for relief from COVID-19.

The Virtual Prayer event began with live streaming of the ceremonies from Mayadevi Temple in Lumbini, Nepal and the Sacred Tooth Relic Temple in Kandy, Sri Lanka.

Minister of State for Culture and Tourism, and Chairman of the National Organising Committee for Buddha Poornima Celebration, Mr Prahlad Singh Patel wished everyone on the occasion of Buddha Poornima and expressed his gratitude towards Prime Minister Narendra Modi who had taken the initiative to observe Buddha Poornima as national celebration in 2015 and raised it to international stature. The Minister said that International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Ministry of culture had been organising the event in a grand manner every year and are working together to promote the teachings and philosophy of Bhagwan Buddha.

The Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Youth, Sports, and AYUSH, and Vice Chairman of the National Organising Committee for Buddha Poornima Celebration, Mr Kiren Rijiju said "We are dedicating this Vesak – Buddha Poornima to pray for the victims of the second wave of COVID-19 in India, Nepal, and other parts of the world, and seek alleviation from the pandemic. I would like you all to join in saluting the Corona Warriors for putting service before self and helping us all in combating the pandemic."



Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa drew attention to the shared Buddhist heritage of India and Sri Lanka which played an important role in the strong and friendly ties between the two countries.

The fear created by the pandemic gives us more reason to reflect upon Buddha's teachings. Buddha's message is significant during the pandemic when many lives are lost and children orphaned. It has forced us to evaluate the meaning of life and think about the way we live. It is a fitting time for us to use the Buddha's teachings to reconstruct the balance between creature and nature. I call upon the international community to give with generosity resources for the most vulnerable and marginalised people of the world to fight the pandemic. This will be the true hallmark of Buddha's teachings, the Sri Lankan Prime Minister said.

Bhutan's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Mr Tandi Dorji said this is the day to reaffirm our vows and integrate it in our daily lives. In the face of rising fear, greed and ignorance amidst the surge in Covid 19 cases, compassion and kindness are necessary antidotes to the excruciating pain caused by the pandemic. When global leaders embrace these values, it will inspire the global community to work towards greater common good.

He said during the pandemic we have witnessed India and its

Prime Minister of Sri Lanka, Foreign Minister of Bhutan and the Minister for Culture of Mongolia also participated in this year's Vesak celebrations.





His Holiness the Dalai Lama giving teachings from his residence in Dharamsala, HP, India on the occasion of Saka Dawa on May 26, 2021.
Photo/Ven Tenzin Jamphel/OHHDL

leadership exhibit true compassion and altruism at the global scale. "It is the rarest of the rare to see a country rise above its own needs and challenges to help other countries by supplying critical medical equipment and sharing its vaccine, this is truly a noble initiative."

While Bhutan can offer little material assistance, it will offer bountiful prayers for a quick recovery. Let us mark the Vesak Day by serving others with compassion and solidarity in whatever way possible, he said.

Mongolia's Minister for Culture, Mrs Nomin Chinbat said Mongolia and India consider each other as spiritual neighbours

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The Buddha's profoundly wise teaching remain enduringly relevant calling on every women and men to impact other's lives positively and to be awakened to reality. The global pandemic is our present reality. Therefore, it is a fitting time for us to use the Buddha's teaching to reconstruct the balance between creature and nature; not simply to survive but to thrive in a global village that respects diversity.

- PM Sri Lanka



THE DALAI LAMA

MESSAGE

Buddha Shakyamuni took birth as a prince of the Shakya clan in ancient India about 2600 years ago. The Pali and Sanskrit Traditions declare that the Buddha attained enlightenment at dawn of the full moon day that we call Buddha Purnima. He was not enlightened from the beginning, but through meeting the right conditions and striving for many aeons to accumulate the two stores of merit and wisdom, he became a Buddha. According to the Sanskrit Tradition, that entailed his manifesting the four bodies of a Buddha—the Natural Truth Body, the Wisdom Truth Body, the Complete Enjoyment Body and the Emanation Body.

A Buddha's complete absorption in meditation on emptiness is the Wisdom Truth Body, from which he manifests in different forms. The Complete Enjoyment Body appears to Arya Bodhisattvas, while the Emanation Body is visible to all. Buddha Shakyamuni was a Supreme Emanation Body, the source of a continuous flow of activities to benefit sentient beings.

On this auspicious occasion, when we commemorate the Buddha's birth, enlightenment and entering into Mahaparinirvana, I offer my greetings to everyone participating in the virtual celebration being organized by the International Buddhist Confederation.

The Buddha's teaching is essentially practical. It is not just for one group of people or one country, but for all sentient beings. People can follow this path according to their ability and inclination. I, for instance, started my Buddhist education as a child and although I am now nearly 86 years old, I am still learning. Therefore, whenever I can, I encourage Buddhists I meet to be 21st century Buddhists, to discover what the teaching really means and to put it into effect. This entails listening and reading, thinking about what you have heard and read and making yourself deeply familiar with it.

Although our world has changed substantially since the time of the Buddha, the essence of his teaching remains as relevant today as it was 2600 years ago. Both the Pali Tradition and Sanskrit Tradition possess methods for attaining liberation from ignorance and suffering. The Buddha's advice, stated simply, was to avoid harming others and to help them whenever we can and in whatever way possible.

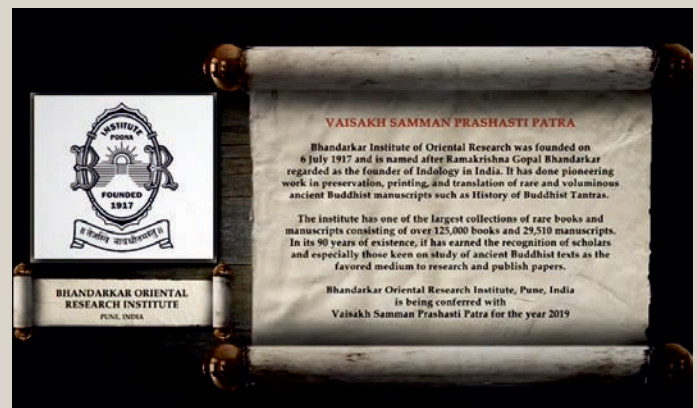
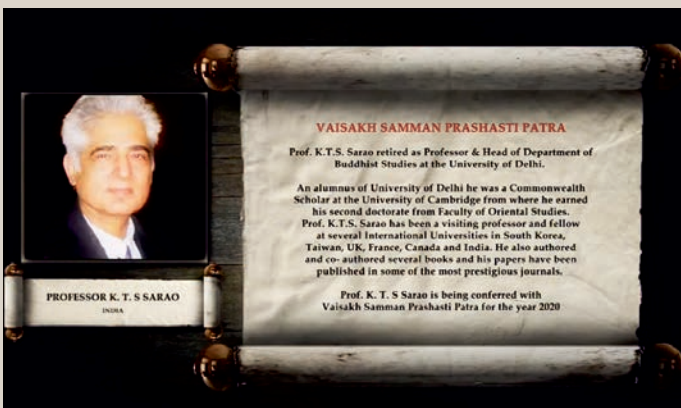
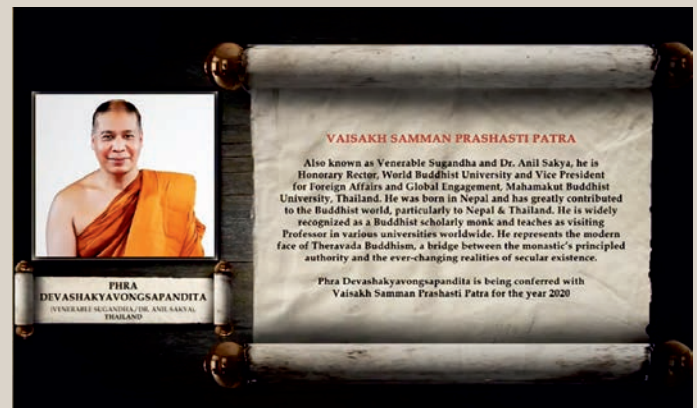
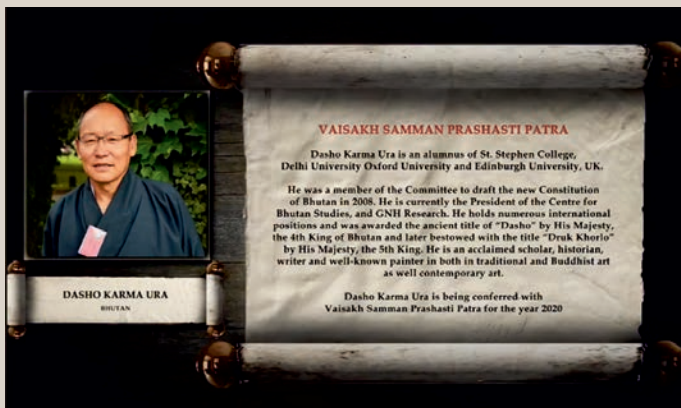
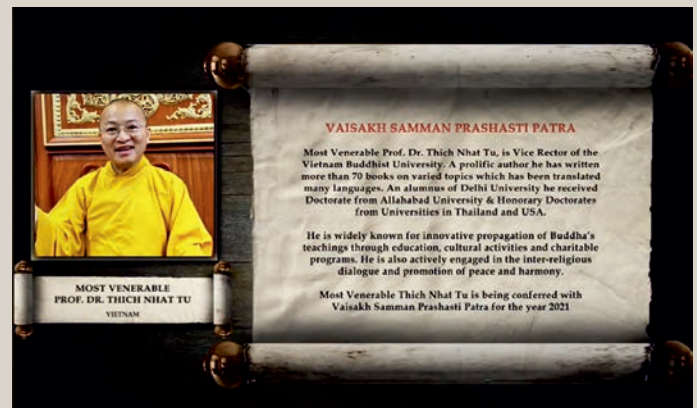
We can begin to do this by recognising that everyone else is just like us in that they want happiness and dislike suffering. Seeking joy and freedom from suffering is the birth-right of all beings. But personal happiness very much depends on how we relate to others. By developing a sense of respect for others and a concern for their welfare, we can reduce our own self centredness, which is the source of many of our own problems, and enhance our feelings of kindness, which are a natural source of joy.

On this auspicious day, Buddhists will be holding prayer services in holy places such as Bodhgaya, Lumbini and Kandy, as well as in other Buddhist lands. Let us all join together in doing whatever we can to overcome the global threats we face, including the Covid-19 pandemic that has brought such pain and hardship across the world.

21 May 2021

Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra 2019-2021

The Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra is awarded to Dhamma masters and outstanding scholars of Buddhist Philosophy for their contribution to humanitarian services, inter-religious harmony and disseminating the Buddha's teaching and the preservation of Buddhist cultural heritage.



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and have been enjoying age long cultural bonds despite the geographical distance. Today, we are consolidating our relationship on the principals of strategic partners and implementing joint projects in various sectors.

Mongolia got acquainted with India as early as when the teachings of Lord Buddha prevailed throughout the steppes. Historically Buddhism was introduced to Mongolia more than 2000 years ago. In Mongolia we have the highest respect for India as the sacred land of Lord Buddha and source of wisdom and knowledge. Mongolia and India are working together to organise the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace to Promote amity and tranquillity among the Asian Buddhists for the benefit and well- being of humanity, the Minister said.

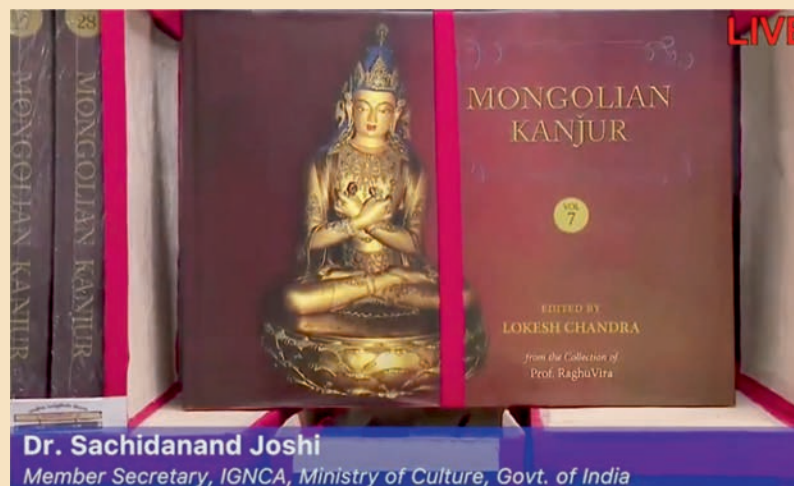
Concluding remarks and a vote of thanks was delivered by IBC's Deputy Secretary General Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden.

The IBC has been recognizing Dharma Masters with the Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra. These are awarded to Dharma masters for their outstanding role in the following areas- outstanding scholars of Buddhist philosophy for their contributions to humanitarian services, inter-religious understanding and peace and harmony, and for their contributions to disseminating the Buddha's teachings and the preservation of Buddhist cultural heritage.

In the third segment of the programme a Green Tara invocation was chanted for global peace by a President of IBC, Dr. Christie Chang from Taiwan, with video messages from eminent Buddhist masters and practitioners in Australia, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Brazil, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Norway, Russia, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Tibet, Vietnam, the UK, and the US. The day concluded with a multicultural event with participation from nine countries.



Giac Ngo temple's choir, Cultural program from Vietnam



At the Vesak event two presentations were announced for Mongolia, signifying the age-old spiritual ties between Indian and Mongolian scholars.

The first was on a digitized set of rare texts of the Mongolian Kanjur (the translated words of the Buddha) by Dr. Sachidanand Joshi, member-secretary of the Indira National Centre for Arts, Ministry of Culture. The Mongolian Kangyur will be presented to H. E. Rev. Khamba Lama Gabju Chojamts Demberal, Supreme Head of the Mongolian Buddhists and the Hon'ble President of Mongolia, at a later date.

The second was a catalogue of the Mongolian Tenjyur (translated commentaries on the teachings) compiled by the Mongolian Scholar Byambin Rinchen (1905-77) and edited by Prof. Shashibala.

Minutes of the 4th Governing Council Meeting held on 7th April 2021



Governing Council Meeting 2021 held at Hotel The Park, New Delhi

The Governing Council Meeting was held under a 'virtual streaming' format because of the Covid pandemic.

The Meeting was Chaired by IBC President Ven Lama Lobzang who spoke to the gathering virtually. After his virtual address the Secretary General Ven Dhammapiya conducted the meeting with the permission of the Chair.

The Deputy Secretary General Dr Damenda Porage opened the meeting with a brief introduction and explained the circumstances for convening a virtual Governing Council Meeting.

The Working President of IBC, founding member and the former Secretary General Ven Lama Lobzang who is recovering slowly but steadily after his life-threatening illness last year, in a virtual message thanked the gathering for their prayers and blessing that

saw him through an exceptionally difficult phase health wise. "My journey of almost a decade with IBC has been a fulfilling one leaving me with many well-wishers and supporters," he said.

The General Body has 92 members. At the meeting 11 members were physically present and 61 members registered their virtual presence. To complete the quorum of two-third members, a participation of 61 members was required at the meeting. As the total number of those participating was 71, this fulfilled the quorum requirement thus allowing the meeting to commence.

Homage to the Venerables.

At the outset a two minutes silence was observed to honour and respectfully pay homage to IBC's Venerables and other members who had left us during the past year.

Importance of the Meeting

The Secretary General flagged the importance of the meeting in view of the requirements for holding the General Assembly (GA) as soon as possible. The last GA was held in 2017 but due to Covid and other reasons it has been getting postponed, he informed. Though, smaller meetings have been held with some members for allowing continuation of IBC's programmes.

Secondly, certain amendments to the IBC's Constitution are required. Over the years some anomalies and other errors have been experienced by IBC while working under the present Constitution. This had been discussed with the Empowered Committee and also with the Governing Council earlier. These changes required to be discussed, members were asked to give their suggestions and also post them electronically later. A month's time was

provided for the response from the members.

Thirdly, IBC's proposed activities for the year-2021-2022 also had to be presented to the Governing Council members.

The Secretary General also urged all participants to be active members of IBC and hold events in their own region so that collectively "we make a positive impact addressing global issues with a Buddhist response".

Amendments to the Constitution

The proposed amendments to the Constitution were presented by Mr Ashok Wangdi, Sr. Executive Director and also Executive Members.

The aim of the amendments was to bring greater clarity, effectiveness and efficiency in the functioning of the IBC. The details of the proposed additions and the old provisions had been circulated to the members earlier. Needless to say, the document was extremely bulky.

The details were explained and read out briefly. Members queries and clarifications were also addressed by Mr Wangdi. Some members suggested they would provide template or models for explaining IBC's organizational charts to graphic explanation, and flow of roles and responsibilities with each post.

These amendments with members inputs and discussions will be approved by the Governing Council before they are placed at the General Assembly for ratification.

General Assembly:

The Secretary General concurred with the Venerable announcing that the GA would not be held in 2021 as earlier planned but now IBC was looking at January 2022 the possible date. The venue was yet to be confirmed, in case it was Australia IBC would support financially, he assured.

IBC Activities for 2021-

Briefing members on the proposed activities for the current financial year, the Director General of IBC, Mr Shakti Sinha announced the following:

- 1- The annual programme of Vesak Buddha Poornima celebration will be held on 26 May 2021 at Bodhgaya. Though the programme will be a virtual event it will involve top leadership of India and members of the Mahasanghas. He urged the Council members to hold similar programmes in their country to bring synergy in our organisation. On the occasion the presentation of the Mongolian Kangyur (the translated words of the Buddha) will be presented to H E Rev Khamba Lama Gabju Chojamts Demberal, Supreme Head of Mongolian Buddhists and the Hon'ble President of Mongolia.
- 2- Asadha Poornima- Dharmachakra Parvattana Day- flagship event of IBC that was launched in 2021 at the Presidential Premises will be observed again. An added feature is that the Cultural Wing of the Ministry of External Affairs- ICCR Indian Council of Cultural Relations will also hold similar events in

Indian Embassies/ Missions around the world. The Governing Council members were requested to coordinate with the Embassy/ High Commissions for jointly holding the event.

- 3- The launch of Asian Buddhist Media Network and live streaming of morning prayers from the Mahabodhi Temple in Bodhgaya will also be launched. This will be available on IBC's site, YouTube and Face Book. Members will also be able to link their sites to this network.
- 4- Government of India with partnership of IBC will hold exposition of the Holy Buddha Relics from the National Museum, New Delhi and from Sariputra, Modgalyana from Sanchi in the months of September and October in Mongolia, Russia, Bhutan and South Korea.
- 5- An International Conclave in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, the ICCR with the participation of a large number of Buddhist Monks and Scholar is planned for later this year to share issues pertaining to travel to the pilgrimage centres, climate and other topics.

The Secretary General moved the proposal to club the pending Global Buddhist Summit with the next General Assembly so far slated for January 2022. This was welcomed by the members.

A vote of thanks was presented by IBCs Deputy Secretary General Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden.

The meeting was closed.



IBC members attending the Governing Council Meeting 2021

Heartfelt Tribute to Respected Gurus Deep Condolences



Late His Holiness,
Phra Yotkeo Mahāgone
Damrongboun Mahāthera
(24 March, 2020)
President, Laos Buddhist
Fellowship Organization
Laos



Late Most Ven Dr. Bhikshu
Jnanapurnik Gyanapundrika
Mahathera (3 July, 2020)
President All Nepal Budhist
Sangha (Therevada), Nepal



Late His Holiness
Sanghanayaka Suddhananda
Mahathera (3 March, 2020)
Patron, IBC
President, Bangladesh
Bouddha Kristi Prachar
Sangha Monastery Bangladesh



Late His Holiness Khenchen
Ngawang Tenzin Doendrup
(9 April, 2020)
68th Je Khenpo of Bhutan
Bhutan



Late Danba Sodbo Lama
Rinčinov (4 August, 2020)
Lama of the Aginsky Datsan
"Dechen Lhundubling".
Russia



Late His Holiness
Dr. Dharmasen Mahathera
(21 March, 2020)
Sangharaja, Bangladesh
Lord Abbot, Unainepura
Lankaram Vihar, Bangladesh



Late Most Ven. Sogyal
Rinpoche
(28 August, 2019)
Member, Supreme Dhamma
Council, IBC
Founder & Director, Rigpa
Fellowship, France



Nepal's first Khenpo Revered
Guru Tansi Chhiring Lama
(17th June 2021)
Founder and President of
Palyul Ling, Nepal went to
Parinirvana



Late Most Venerable
Kotugoda Dhammawasa
Mahanayake Thero
Supreme Patriarch, Sri
Amarapura Maha Nikaya
Sri Lanka



Late Most Venerable Napana
Pemasiri Thera
(17 November, 2020)
Member, Supreme Dhamma
Council, IBC
Mahanayake of Ramanna
Nikaya, Sri Lanka



Late Most Ven.
Saddhammaditya Sadanandji
Mahathero (4 August, 2020)
Sanghanushasak,
All India Bhikkhu Sangha
India



Late Ven. Prof. Bellanwila
Wimalaratana Thero
(03 Feb, 2018)
President, IBC
Chancellor, University of Sri
Jawawardanapura, Sri Lanka



Late His Eminence Master
Karma Tanpai Gyaltsen
Rinpoche
(01 December, 2020)
Founder, Royal White
Monastery and Institute for
Religious Studies, Nepal



Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya
(11 August, 2020)
Dean, International
Theravada Buddhist
Missionary
University, Myanmar



Late H.E Khambo Lama
Jampel Loduo
(23 June, 2020)
8th Khambo Lama of Tuva
Republic Russian Federation



Late Ven. Prof. Bellanwila
Wimalaratana Thero
(03 Feb, 2018)
President, IBC
Chancellor, University of Sri
Jawawardanapura, Sri Lanka



Late Mr. Lodi Gyari Rinpoche
(29 October, 2018)
Global Envoy, IBC
Chairman, The Conservancy
for Tibetan Art and Culture
USA



Late Ven. Udugama Sri
Buddharakkhita Rathnapala
Mahanayaka Thera
Chief Prelate, Asgiriya
Chapter, Sri Lanka



Late Dr. Kapila Vatsyayan
(16 September, 2020)
Former Member of
Parliament and Former
Chairperson IIC-Asia Project
New Delhi



Late Mr. Pramatha Barua
(15 August, 2020)
Executive Member, IBC
Secretary General, Bangladesh
Bouddha Kristi Prachar
Sangha, Bangladesh

Care with Prayer

IBC members & partners unite to save lives!

The deadly surge in Covid-19 cases suddenly placed an enormous strain on the health and critical care facilities in India and Nepal. The second wave of the pandemic was larger, and spread more rapidly than the first, leaving a trail of despair.

In the true Buddhist spirit, the International Buddhist Confederation's (IBC) members and partners united together to urgently confront the Covid -19 challenge that besieged India and Nepal.

The unexpected second wave of the pandemic posed a daunting task before the

governments, medical infrastructure, the NGOs, Buddhist Monasteries, and Tibetan settlements and institutions. All medical provisions were in short supply and Covid care-givers were running around seeking help for their patients.

Immediately, IBC mobilized its members and partners in the Buddhist world to sponsor critical care aid to supplement the on-going efforts of the Government of India.

Under the programme called - "Care with Prayer" donors from Taiwan, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Indonesia and South

Korea responded immediately and overwhelmingly to IBC's call.

Urgently need Covid related medical supplies and equipment was shipped by IBC member organisations and individual. Oxygen Concentrators, Oxygen Cylinders, Ventilators, and N95 Masks, Gloves, PPE Kits, Oximeters, Glucometers, thermometers were supplied in thousands to IBC for distribution to the needy in India and Nepal.

Additionally, individual members and independent NGOs in Indonesia, Vietnam



IBC India receives a generous donation of 33 Ventilators from The Embassy of Vietnam as Covid Aid for India and Nepal.

Mr. Shakti Sinha, Director General, IBC (Left) received the donation from H.E Mr. Pham Sanh Chau, the Ambassador in a simple ceremony at Vietnam Embassy, in New Delhi. Ms Shipra Simon (Right) is from the Care with Prayer programme.

The lifesaving equipment was donated by Giac Ngo temple and Vietnam Buddhist University, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam courtesy Most Ven. Thich Nhat Tu, the Abbot and Vice-Rector.

and South Korea also donated Oxygen Cylinders, Ventilators in huge quantities to Indian missions in their respective countries.

Led by supreme religious figures, in main temples and monasteries special prayers were offered for India and Nepal to cope with the Covid crisis and the recovery of those afflicted with the deadly virus.

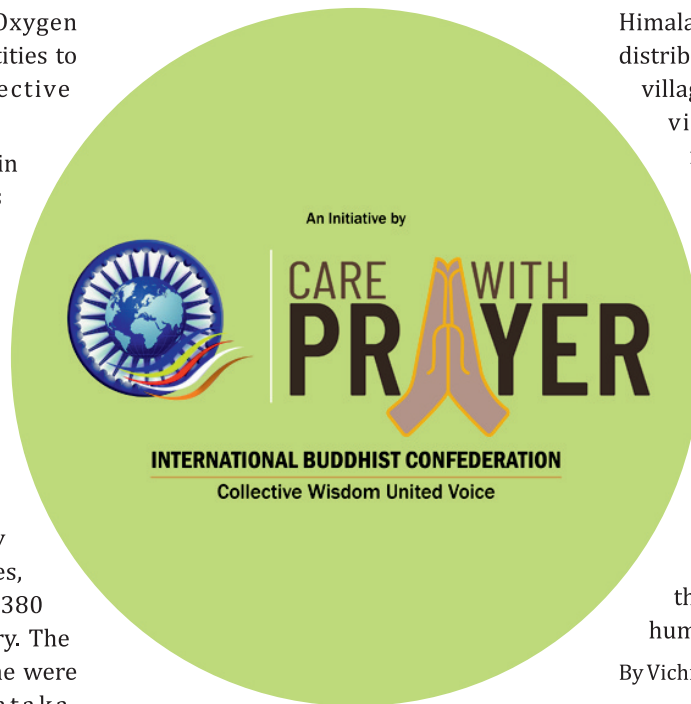
Since its launch in May 2021, the Care with Prayer campaign has delivered medical aid supplies to 257 Hospitals, including Community Health Centres, Primary Health Centres, Covid Care Centres, institutions and organizations in 380 locations spread all over the country. The states covered under the programme were Uttarakhand, UP, MP, Karnataka, Maharashtra, Himachal Pradesh, Arunachal Pradesh, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, Sikkim, Manipur, Nagaland Meghalaya, West Bengal, Bihar, Odisha, Chhattisgarh and the Union Territories of Delhi, Ladakh, and Jammu and Kashmir.

Medical supplies have also been sent to around 60 frontline villages situated along India- China border, at one end of the country and on the other, to the inaccessible riverine villages of Sundarbans. The entire Himalayan belt too has been covered under the programme.

Interestingly, those who protect the community were also aided. Under the programme, the Delhi Police, also frontline workers were supplied PPE kits and other sanitation materials.

Extremely appreciative of the timely medical help, the Principal of the College for Higher Tibetan Studies, Dharamsala, Mr Pasang Tsering said, "IBC's assistance was life-saving. We had 109 cases and six-students in critical condition, with timely aid, fortunately there was no loss of life. We got protective gear for the medical professionals and support staff, in addition to the oxygen concentrators and sanitisers for the students."

Mr Shailender David, a representative of the Project Tehri Gharwal, serving remote



Himalayan villages informed that he had distributed the medical relief in ten of his villages. There were 50 cases in these villages, mostly of the returning migrant workers from the urban areas. "Coronavirus is a social stigma here. No one openly admits to having fallen ill with it. So, we would send the oxygen cylinder quietly to these homes when we heard that someone was having a breathing problem," remarked Mr David.

In serving the victims of the pandemic, the IBC, its members and partners in keeping with Buddha's teachings are trying, though in a small way, to help reduce human sufferings.

By Vichitra Sharma



Oxygen concentrator provided to CHTS, Dharamsala, H.P

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*“Thus by the virtue collected
Through all that I have done,
May the pain of every living creature
Be completely cleared away.*

*May I be the doctor and the medicine
May I be the nurse
For all sick beings in the world
Until everyone is healed.”*

*- Stanza 7-8, Bodhicaryavatara
by Acharya Śāntideva*

Acharya Śāntideva

Biography: History and Legends

Śāntideva (Sanskrit: Śāntideva; Chinese: 寂天; Tibetan: ཞིག་ཇེ་བླ་མ་; Mongolian: Шантидэвагэгээн; Vietnamese: Tịch Thiên) was an 8th-century CE Indian philosopher, Buddhist monk, poet and scholar at the erstwhile Nalanda University. The Tibetan historians Butön and Taranātha tell us that Śāntideva was a Brahmin prince, the son of the King Kalyanavarman and Queen Vajrayogini from Saurāṣṭra; a western coastal region that now forms part of the Indian state of Gujarat. He went by the name Shantivarman. He renounced the princely life and became a monastic. He was an adherent of the Madhyamaka philosophy and is also considered to be one of the 84 mahasiddhas.

Legends say at the age of six, he met with a yogi from whom he received his first initiation and teachings on the practice of Manjushri. It is said that on the eve of his enthronement, Manjushri and Arya Tara appeared to him in his dreams. When he awoke, he saw his impending kingship as a poisonous tree and hastily fled the kingdom. He is believed to have received teachings directly from Arya Manjushri and also carried with a wooden sword which symbolized the wisdom sword of Manjushri. He travelled to the Kingdom of Pancamasimha and was appointed by the king as a minister. During his tenure, he introduced the skill of various crafts and urged the King to rule his kingdom always in accordance with the Dharma and suggested twenty Dharma Foundations be established. Then Śāntideva left for the great Nalanda University. At Nalanda, he



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This is the Sixth in a series on the Great Masters

received ordination of a monk from the Abbot Jayadeva and was given the name Śāntideva. Though there, he came to be known as a Bhu-Su-Ku, a kind of Sanskrit acronym derived from words meaning “eat”, “sleep”, and “defecate” as that was all anyone had seen him do. While none knew he was receiving teachings from Manjushri and realized all important points of both sutra and tantra. In an attempt to encourage their apparently lazy student to return to his proper path, some of the monks in authority at Nālandā decided to assign him to recite a text at an upcoming religious festival; and, just to humiliate him even more, built him an elaborate throne from which to speak.

On the day of the festival, Śāntideva ascended

the throne and asked the audience whether they would like to hear something old or something new; or in other words, whether he should recite something he had memorized, or an original composition of his own Bodhicaryāvatāra. During the recitation, while seated in meditation posture, the master began to levitate above the throne. At the recitation of verse 34 of Chapter 9, he levitated in the air and vanished. Later those who possessed clairaudience noted down the remaining chapters of which two versions came up; one had seven hundred stanzas (Pandits of Kashmir) while some had a thousand (Magadha, Central India) or more. Later Acharya Santideva confirmed that the correct version corresponded

to what the scholars of Magadha had produced.

Works of Śāntideva

Two major works are unanimously attributed to Śāntideva: Bodhicaryāvatāra (A Guide to a Bodhisattvas Way of Life) written c. 700 AD in Sanskrit, the most widely read philosophical poem, and Śikṣā-samuccaya a valuable and intellectually rich anthology of quotations from the Mahāyāna sūtras with commentary by Śāntideva.

Two major versions of Bodhicaryāvatāra exist, one comprising thousand verses that was regarded as canonical in Tibet (see Butön 2013: 259). The Bodhicaryāvatāra has been translated into several modern languages, including Chinese, Danish, Dutch, English, German, Hindi, Newari, and Spanish, for a total of at least twenty-seven contemporary translations (as surveyed by Gómez 1999: 4–5). It has ten chapters dedicated to the development of bodhicitta (the mind of enlightenment) through the practice of the six perfections (Skt. Pāramitās). Chapters 1-3 comprises of the practice of Perfection of Generosity; Chapters 4-5 is on Perfection of Ethical Discipline; Chapter 6 is on Perfection of Patience; Chapter 7 is on Perfection of Enthusiasm; Chapter 8 is on Perfection of Meditative Concentration; and Chapter 9 is on Perfection of Wisdom.

Śikṣā-samuccaya contains a number of passages of ethical and philosophical interest in Śāntideva’s own voice, as well as numerous beautiful and moving poems and a wide variety of scriptural materials drawn from over a hundred sūtras. Textual scholars have often relied on Śikṣā-samuccaya as a crucial source, as it preserves passages in Sanskrit from dozens of sūtras that have been lost in their original language. It also contains twenty-seven “root verses” that express important themes of the book.

Compiled by Dr. Nilza Wangmo



15th century, Tibet, Mahapandita Śāntideva, gilt copper and pigments
(Source: <https://himalayanbuddhistart.wordpress.com>)



Sarnath Stupa, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is a Buddhist umbrella body that serves as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide. It currently has a membership comprising more than 300 organisations, both monastic and lay, in 39 countries.

Headquartered in New Delhi, the IBC is the outcome of the historic Global Buddhist Congregation held in November 2011 in New Delhi, wherein 900 delegates from all over the world, representing the entire Buddhist world, resolved to form an umbrella Buddhist world body based in India, the land of Buddha's enlightened awakening and origins of Buddha dharma. The leadership of the IBC comprises the supreme religious Buddhist hierarchy of all traditions and countries as Patrons and members of our Supreme Dhamma Council.

As per its motto, "Collective Wisdom, United Voice", the IBC provides a common platform to all followers of the Buddha Dharma 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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