

Deep insight into the philosophy  
of Buddha's teachings.

ON THE FOOTSTEPS OF THE BUDDHA  
Sri Lankan Buddhist Delegation

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World

## India, Sri Lanka are bonded together by Buddhism

ANI | 31 December, 2022 06:13 pm IST



Delegation of high-ranking Sri Lankan Buddhist monks on pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya.

New Delhi [India], December 31 (ANI): A delegation of high-ranking Sri Lankan Buddhist monks, who were on a pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya to attend discourses of the holy city, have recalled the historical Buddhist connections between the two maritime neighbours.

Their five-day spiritual visit included discourses and Dharma talks.

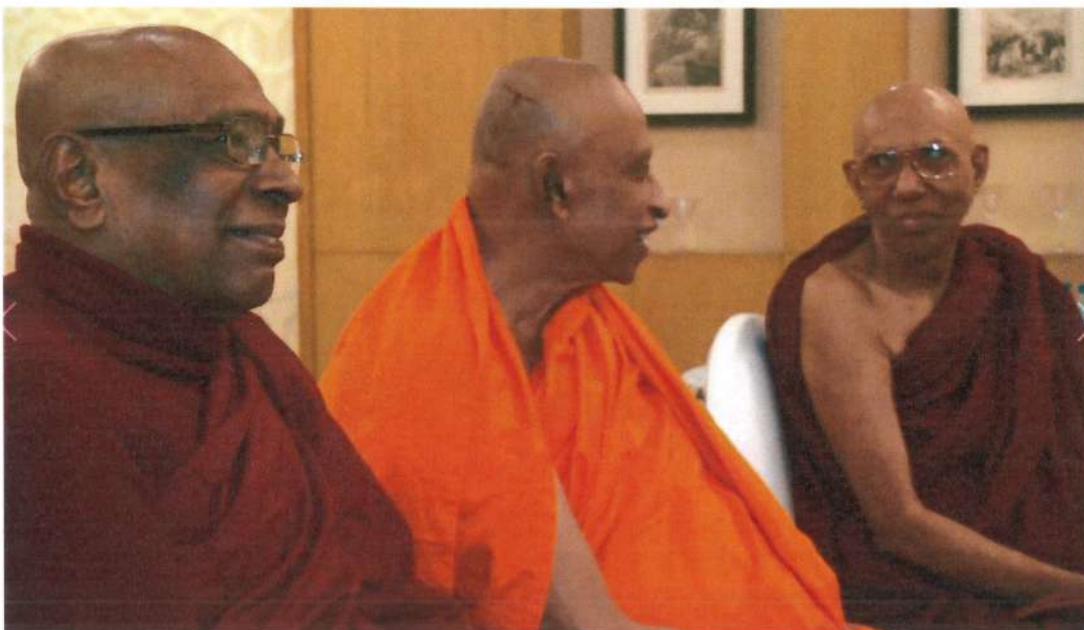


Venerable Muruddeniya Dhammarathana, Thero of the Asgiri Chapter said, "We know that emperor Ashoka's son Arahat Mahinda introduced Buddhism to Sri Lanka. From that day up to now, Buddhism is the main religion in Sri Lanka."

"Not only Buddhism we got a lot of things through him, especially our religion and also our education and other techniques. We got a lot from Buddhism so we greatly appreciate the situation, and we always respect India as a Buddhist motherland and also as our Elder brother of Sri Lanka because India always helped us even at present we have economic troubles going on," he added.

The members of the Buddhist Sangha representing eminent monasteries in Sri Lanka attended the three-day holy teachings of His Holiness Dalai Lama in Bodh Gaya.

The Most Venerable Makulewe Wimala Mahanayake Thero, Chief Prelate of Sri Lanka Ramanna Maha Nikaya remembers how Lord Buddha visited Sri Lanka and the spread of Buddhism during the reign of Emperor Ashoka.



"The Buddhist philosophy was born in India and Buddha lived in India. So, according to history, the Buddha visited the only foreign land and that is Sri Lanka. He visited Sri Lanka three times. During emperor Ashoka's time, he sent Buddhist missionaries like his own son and daughter to Sri Lanka and they established Buddhist rule and culture. Since then we have been sharing the same culture and tradition. Now, we have become a Buddhist country because of that," he said.

Theravada Buddhism is the largest and official religion of Sri Lanka, practised by roughly 70 per cent of the population.

Most Ven Niyangoda Vijithasiri Anunayake Thero, Deputy Chief Prelate (Anunayake) of Malwatte Chapter Siyam Maha Nikaya, said that India and Sri Lanka share almost the same culture that brings the two countries closer.

"In our chronicles, we have Mahavamsa chronicles. We protect Buddhism in its pristine purity which means sasna, dhamma, rituals and everything. That is our heritage. I think it is from India. Our ancestors and otherwise, our Sinhala Language i.e., Pali is also very close to the Sanskrit language. Actually, we respect the two languages. Our teachers told us that our mother tongue is both Pali and Sanskrit," he said.

Ven. Muruddeniya Dhammarathana said the young generation in Sri Lanka knows the historical significance through their textbooks.

"In our school textbooks, Buddhist places introduced for the children. Not only that, we have Sunday school, a Dhamma school, where we also teach kids the background of Buddhism, where was the Buddha born, and the source and situation at that time, and where are the holy places," he said.

A large number of monks from Sri Lanka and other countries visit India to learn about Buddhism and its teachings.

Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Mahanayake Thero, Mahanayake Thero, Sri Sambuddha Sasanodaya Sangha Sabha said, "Now, at the moment, 18 Buddhist young monks from Sri Lanka are in India. They will be here for a month, travelling all across India".

"Not only from Sri Lanka, a group of Buddhist monks from Thailand and a group of Tibetan Buddhist monks and a group from Myanmar are in India right now," he said.

"India is the birthplace of Buddhism. So, these young monks are travelling across India which will create many connections in the future", he added.

Such visits prove to be a turning point in Buddhist relations, not only with Sri Lanka and India but with other neighbouring countries. (ANI)

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- हिंदी खबर (/hindi/khabar/)



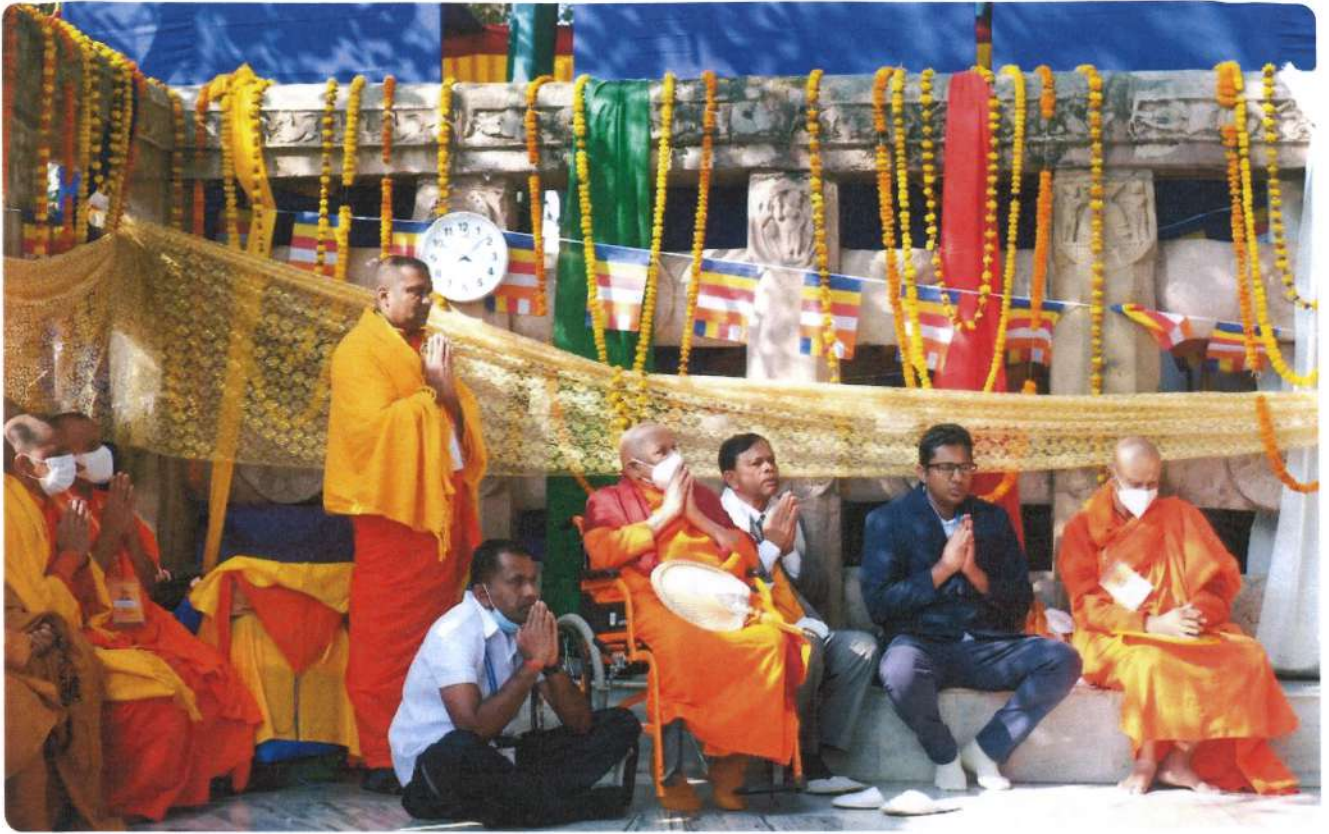
*Delegation of high-ranking Sri Lankan Buddhist monks on pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya.*

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ANI | Updated: Dec 31, 2022 17:58 IST

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दिल्ली-एनसीआर

## भारत, श्रीलंका बौद्ध धर्म द्वारा एक साथ बंधे हुए

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Gulabi Jagat

31 Dec 2022 6:00 PM



**नई दिल्ली:** उच्च श्रेणी के श्रीलंकाई बौद्ध भिक्षुओं का एक प्रतिनिधिमंडल, जो पवित्र शहर के प्रवचनों में भाग लेने के लिए बोधगया की तीर्थ यात्रा पर थे, ने दो समुद्री पड़ोसियों के बीच ऐतिहासिक बौद्ध संबंधों को याद किया है।

उनकी पांच दिवसीय आध्यात्मिक यात्रा में प्रवचन और धर्म वार्ता शामिल थी।

आदरणीय मुरुददेनिया धम्मरथाना, असगिरि अध्याय के थेरो ने कहा, "हम जानते हैं कि सम्राट अशोक के पुत्र अरहत महिंदा ने श्रीलंका में बौद्ध धर्म की शुरुआत की थी। उस दिन से लेकर अब तक, बौद्ध धर्म श्रीलंका में मुख्य धर्म है।"

"न केवल बौद्ध धर्म से हमें बहुत कुछ मिला, विशेष रूप से हमारा धर्म और हमारी शिक्षा और अन्य तकनीकें भी। हमें बौद्ध धर्म से बहुत कुछ मिला है इसलिए हम स्थिति की बहुत सराहना करते हैं, और हम हमेशा भारत को एक बौद्ध मातृभूमि के रूप में और अपने रूप में भी सम्मान देते हैं। श्रीलंका के बड़े भाई क्योंकि भारत ने हमेशा हमारी मदद की यहां तक कि वर्तमान में भी हमारे सामने आर्थिक परेशानियां चल रही हैं।"

श्रीलंका में प्रतिष्ठित मठों का प्रतिनिधित्व करने वाले बौद्ध संघ के सदस्यों ने बोधगया में परम पावन दलाई लामा के तीन दिवसीय पवित्र प्रवचनों में भाग लिया।

परम आदरणीय मकुलेवे विमला महानायके थेरो, श्रीलंका के मुख्य धर्माध्यक्ष रमत्रा महा निकाय याद करते हैं कि कैसे भगवान बुद्ध ने श्रीलंका का दौरा किया और सम्राट अशोक के शासनकाल के दौरान बौद्ध धर्म का प्रसार हुआ।

"बौद्ध दर्शन भारत में पैदा हुआ था और बुद्ध भारत में रहते थे। इसलिए, इतिहास के अनुसार, बुद्ध ने एकमात्र विदेशी भूमि का दौरा किया और वह श्रीलंका है। उन्होंने तीन बार श्रीलंका का दौरा किया। सम्राट अशोक के समय में, उन्होंने बौद्ध मिशनरियों जैसे बौद्ध मिशनरियों को भेजा। उनके अपने बेटे और बेटी श्रीलंका गए और उन्होंने बौद्ध शासन और संस्कृति की स्थापना की। तब से हम उसी संस्कृति और परंपरा को साझा कर रहे हैं। अब, हम उसी के कारण बौद्ध देश बन गए हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

थेरवाद बौद्ध धर्म श्रीलंका का सबसे बड़ा और आधिकारिक धर्म है, जिसका पालन लगभग 70 प्रतिशत आबादी करती है।

मालवाटे चैटर सियाम महानिकया के उप प्रमुख प्रीलेट (अनुनायके) मोस्ट वेन नियांगोडा विजितसिरी अनुनायके थेरो ने कहा कि भारत और श्रीलंका लगभग एक ही संस्कृति को साझा करते हैं जो दोनों देशों को करीब लाती है।

"हमारे कालक्रम में, हमारे पास महावंसा इतिहास है। हम बौद्ध धर्म की प्राचीन शुद्धता में रक्षा करते हैं जिसका अर्थ है सासना, धम्म, अनुष्ठान और सब कुछ। यह हमारी विरासत है। मुझे लगता है कि यह भारतीय पूर्वजों से है और अन्यथा, हमारी सिंहल भाषा यानी पल्ली भी है संस्कृत भाषा के बहुत करीब। वास्तव में, हम दोनों भाषाओं का सम्मान करते हैं। हमारे शिक्षकों ने हमें बताया कि हमारी मातृभाषा पल्ली और संस्कृत दोनों है," उन्होंने कहा।

वेन। मुरुददेनिया धम्मरथाना ने कहा कि श्रीलंका में युवा पीढ़ी अपनी पाठ्यपुस्तकों के माध्यम से ऐतिहासिक महत्व को जानती है।

"हमारे स्कूल की पाठ्यपुस्तकों में, बौद्ध स्थानों को बच्चों के लिए पेश किया गया है। इतना ही नहीं, हमारे पास संडे स्कूल, एक धम्म स्कूल है, जहाँ हम बच्चों को बौद्ध धर्म की पृष्ठभूमि, बुद्ध का जन्म कहाँ हुआ था, और उस समय के स्रोत और स्थिति के बारे में भी पढ़ाते हैं। , और पवित्र स्थान कहाँ हैं," उन्होंने कहा।

बौद्ध धर्म और इसकी शिक्षाओं के बारे में जानने के लिए श्रीलंका और अन्य देशों से बड़ी संख्या में भिक्षु भारत आते हैं।

परम आदरणीय वास्काडुवे महिंदवांसा महानायके थेरो, महानायके थेरो, श्री सम्बुद्ध सासनोदय संघ सभा ने कहा, "फिलहाल, श्रीलंका के 18 बौद्ध युवा भिक्षु भारत में हैं। वे पूरे भारत की यात्रा करते हुए एक महीने के लिए यहां रहेंगे।"

उन्होंने कहा, "न केवल श्रीलंका से, थाईलैंड से बौद्ध भिक्षुओं का एक समूह और तिब्बती बौद्ध भिक्षुओं का एक समूह और म्यांमार से एक समूह अभी भारत में है।"

उन्होंने कहा, "भारत बौद्ध धर्म का जन्मस्थान है। इसलिए, ये युवा भिक्षु भारत भर में यात्रा कर रहे हैं जो भविष्य में कई संबंध बनाएंगे।"

इस तरह की यात्राएँ न केवल श्रीलंका और भारत के साथ बल्कि अन्य पड़ोसी देशों के साथ भी बौद्ध संबंधों में एक महत्वपूर्ण मोड़ साबित होती हैं। (एएनआई)

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Last Updated: 1st January, 2023 12:16 IST

## 'China Won't Succeed In Destroying Buddhism': Dalai Lama's Strong Message To Xi Jinping

The spiritual leader Dalai Lama's comments came while he is on an annual visit to Bihar's Bodh Gaya after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic

Written By **Mahima Joshi**



Image: AP

Criticising the Chinese government, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama on Saturday stated that China won't succeed in its attempt to target and destroy Buddhism. The Tibetan spiritual leader also accused China of considering Buddhism poisonous and of carrying out a campaign to destroy the culture of China, by destroying its institutions.

**“** *Speaking on the third and the last day of teaching program at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya, Dalai Lama said, “We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, local people are very devoted towards it, even in Mongolia and China. It is, therefore, the Chinese government through its system*

***sees the dharma as poison and is trying to destroy it, but they will never succeed.”*** ”

“Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government. Buddhism could not be destroyed from China. Even today, there are many people who believe in Buddhism in China,” he said, adding, “Though the Chinese government had destroyed many Buddhist Viharas, but the number of followers of Buddhism has not decreased in the country.”

‘China trying to destroy Buddhism...’ Dalai Lama



The spiritual leader’s comments came while he is on an annual visit to Bihar’s Bodh Gaya after a gap of two years due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Notably, more than 80,000 Buddhist devotees, including Arunachal Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu, attended the teaching programme led by Dalai Lama.

### **Nitish meets Dalai Lama at Bodh Gaya**

In view of Dalai Lama’s Bihar visit, Chief Minister Nitish Kumar also on Friday met the spiritual leader at Bodh Gaya. Following his visit, the Bihar Chief Minister recounted the “old and deep relationship” he shared with the Dalai Lama, who has visited Patna in the past as well.

***“Every year, during this time, a large number of people visit Bodh Gaya where they offer prayers and listen to the preachings. The age-old tradition could not be followed for the last two years because of the pandemic. Thankfully, it has resumed, although we are alert because of the fresh spike in COVID cases reported from other parts of the world,” said Nitish Kumar.*** ”

### **Chinese woman spying Dalai Lama**

Amid Dalai Lama's Bihar visit, the security agencies have launched a search for a Chinese woman in Bodh Gaya after she was suspected of spying on the Tibetan spiritual leader. Following the inputs received from the security agencies, the state police have also released the sketch of the suspect, identified as Song Xiaolan.

"An input has come that a Chinese woman is living in Gaya. We were getting inputs for the last 2 years. Searches are underway. At present, the Chinese woman is not located, due to which many suspicious points are being raised. However, the suspicion of being a Chinese spy can't be ruled out," the Superintendent of Gaya Police was quoted as saying.

First Published: 1st January, 2023 12:17 IST

## COMMENT

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## Dalai Lama flags resurgence of Buddhism in China after 'suppression and oppression'

Updated: Jan 1 2023 3:22PM



Bodh Gaya, Jan 1 (PTI) The Dalai Lama on Sunday flagged the "growing interest in Buddhism" in China after years of "suppression and oppression" of the faith and its followers.

His Holiness was addressing devotees in Bodh Gaya, the site where the Buddha had attained Enlightenment two millennia ago, after a "long life offering" ceremony, a traditional prayer made for the longevity of the 87-year-old Buddhist leader.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner said, "the Buddhist tradition of Tibet has gained lots of attention from people in the West. In the past, Buddhism was known to be an Asian religion. But today its philosophy and concepts, particularly with regard to psychology have spread throughout the world. Many scientists are taking interest in this tradition". "So, this is not only for Tibet.....but even China. It has a direct bearing on China as well because China has been a Buddhist country but there was so much suppression and oppression of Buddhism and Buddhists in China", said the Tibetan leader, who had to flee his homeland in 1959, a decade after Mao Zedong's communist revolution.

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## Dalai Lama claims China for destroying Buddhism

1 January, 2023 | Pravina Srivastava



WORLD

The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has scathingly criticised China's efforts to eradicate Buddhism, claiming that China is seeking to target and kill Buddhism but it will fail.

The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has scathingly criticised China's efforts to eradicate Buddhism, claiming that China is seeking to target and kill Buddhism but it will fail.

Speaking on Saturday during the third and final day of the teaching programme at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya, the Tibetan spiritual leader accused China of viewing Buddhism as poisonous and of waging a systematic war against it by destroying its institutions, but that this effort had been completely ineffective.

The Dalai Lama said at the Bodh Gaya event, "We have a strong belief in the Buddha's teachings. When I travel to trans-Himalayan regions, I often encounter locals who are deeply committed to the dharma. I also notice this in Mongolia and China, even though the Chinese government views the dharma as poison and has attempted to eradicate it without success. By promoting Buddhism, the Chinese government damaged it. From China, Buddhism could not be eradicated. In China, there are still a lot of individuals who practise Buddhism."

He further claimed that the number of Buddhist Viharas demolished by the Chinese government has not affected the country's population of Buddhists.

He said that China still has a significant number of Buddhist monasteries and that its residents have strong ties to the religion.

"The Bodhicitta (spiritual enlightenment) I am transmitting must be accepted by those who are demonstrating faith in both me and Buddhism. There are a lot of Buddhist monasteries in China, whether they be Tibetan, Mongolian, or Chinese. I've travelled to China a lot. There are still several Buddha Viharas there now. Buddhism and Buddha are on people's thoughts. Buddhism is a subject that people are really attached to. Buddhism and China have a long-standing relationship" he continued.

He requested to engage in Bodhicitta practise for oneself or others.

"If we also consider Tibetan tradition, Shakyas practise Bodhicitta in Nigama, which promotes longevity and keeps the mind and body young. This also promotes restful sleep. Nothing could be better when considering everyone's well-being than this. The internal sins and sorrows may be eliminated via Bodhicitta practise" declared Dalai Lama.

Pema Khandu, the chief minister of Arunachal Pradesh, also attended the Dalai Lama's teaching session on Saturday at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya.

The Dalai Lama's speech was heard by more than 80,000 Buddhist enthusiasts.

While recently on a trip to Bodh Gaya, a group of high-ranking Sri Lankan Buddhist monks requested that His Holiness the Dalai Lama pay a visit to their country, which is now experiencing a dire economic crisis.

Earlier on December 27, they had a meeting with the Dalai Lama, the head of the Buddhist faith, and were overwhelmed by seeing a sizable crowd in the sacred city of Bodh Gaya.

The high-ranking monk desired that the Dalai Lama would go to Sri Lanka and assist in resolving the economic problems that nation has been experiencing lately.

## China's efforts to destroy Buddhism won't succeed: Dalai Lama in India

By [Oneindia Staffer](#) | Updated: Sunday, January 1, 2023, 14:09 [IST]



**Spiritual leader Dalai Lama said that China will not succeed in destroying Buddhism.**

**New Delhi, Jan 01:** Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama has come down heavily on China, saying that it is trying to destroy Buddhism, but it will not succeed in it.



**China's efforts to destroy Buddhism won't succeed: Dalai Lama in India**

Dalai Lama said that China considers Buddhism as poisonous and trying to systematically weed it out from China, but it has failed in doing so, he said, according to a [report](#) in ANI.

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"We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, when I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people very devoted to dharma and it is the case in Mongolia and in China too though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison and tried to destroy it, but they are not successful. Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government. Buddhism could not be destroyed from China. Even today, there are many people who believe in Buddhism in China," the Tibetan spiritual leader said last day teaching program at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya on Saturday.

According to him, there are many monasteries in China and people have a deep connection with Buddhism. "Those who are showing faith in me as well as faith in Buddhism, must accept the Bodhicitta (spiritual awakening) that I am imparting. Be it Tibetan or Mongolian or China, there are many Buddhist monasteries in China. I have been to China many times. Many Buddha Viharas exist there even today. People have Buddhism and Buddha in their minds. There is a lot of attachment towards Buddhism. The Chinese have an ancient relationship with Buddhism," he said.

The Dalai Lama has been living in India ever since he fled Tibet in 1959. The Tibetan government-in-exile operates from India and over 1,60,000 Tibetans live in the country.

Days ago, the Tibetan spiritual leader had appealed to people across the globe to "collectively" take a stand against weapons of mass destruction.

Recalling the massive destruction wrought by atom bombs during the Second World War in Japan, the Dalai Lama said during his public discourse here that he had the opportunity to visit Hiroshima and see for himself the level of massive devastation there.

The Dalai Lama also expressed his concern about the COVID pandemic, recalling that it originated in "China but spread to India and other parts of the world".

"The pandemic is quite serious. It gives anxiety to people. We offer our prayers so that it subsides", said the Buddhist leader.

With inputs from PTI

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## China trying to destroy Buddhism: Dalai Lama

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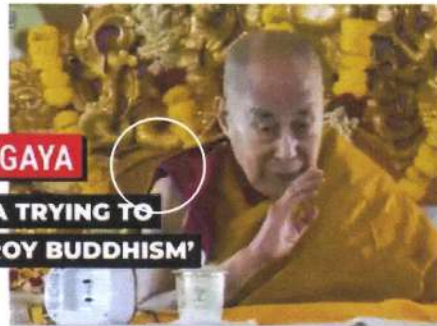


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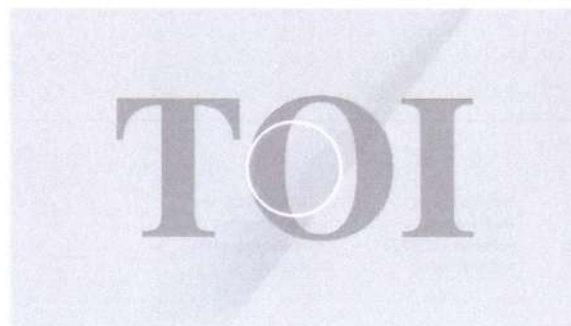
BODHGAYA

'CHINA TRYING TO DESTROY BUDDHISM'



China is systematically trying to destroy Buddhism. But can't crush people's faith in the Buddha, the Dalai Lama said Saturday, referencing the communist government's demolition of the statue of Padmasambhava in early March, the third such destruction since December 2021 and the second in Drago county of Tibet since January 2022.

"In a bid to destroy Buddhism, the monastery built in China was demolished. Our people were poisoned. China did everything possible to harm Buddhism," he said this on the concluding day of his three-day teaching programme in Bodh Gaya.



**Dalai Lama in Bodh Gaya: Bihar: Search on for 'Chinese spy' in Bodh Gaya amid Lama's visit**

**'Buddhism stands at its place'**

"Despite this, Buddhism stands at its place. There are a large number of people who believe in Buddhism in China as well. Harming someone does not put anyone's religion in danger. Even today, the followers of Buddhism in China are engaged in praying before Lord Buddha," he said.

Earlier in the morning, the Dalai Lama offered prayers at the Kalachakra ground to free the world of coronavirus and nuclear weapons.

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was donated by the Dalai Lama to the PM Relief Fund and Rs 20 lakh to the Bihar CM Relief Fund during the programme.

On Sunday morning, he would be attending a prayer offered to him in the Geluk Tibetan Buddhist tradition.

**▶ WATCH** [People are devoted to Buddha's Dharma even in countries where system tries to destroy it: Dalai Lama hits out at China](#)

#### Top Comment

**B** **Bala Srinivasan**  
1 day ago

**BUDHISM is a reformation of HINDUISM just like Lutheran PROTESTANT was to Catholicism of CHRISTIANITY. These ancient faiths believe in humanity & righteousness while the ISLAM is destructive & dogmatic.**

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## China tried to destroy Buddhism but...: Dalai Lama's strong remarks on Beijing

World News

Updated on Jan 01, 2023 01:48 PM IST

Dalai Lama On China: Dalai Lama said that the Chinese government destroyed many Buddhist Viharas.



Dalai Lama: Tibetan spiritual leader the Dalai Lama is seen. (PTI)

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By Mallika Soni

China is attempting to target and destroy Buddhism but it won't succeed, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said during the third and last day teaching program at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya.

Read more: [Blast outside Kabul's military airport, casualties feared: What we know so far](#)

Accusing China of considering Buddhism as poisonous and of carrying out a systematic campaign to destroy the religion and weed it out from China by destroying its institutions, Dalai Lama asserted that China has totally failed in doing so.

"We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, when I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people very devoted to dharma and it is the case in Mongolia and in China too though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma





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Dalai Lama also said that the Chinese government destroyed many Buddhist Viharas, but the number of followers of Buddhism has not decreased in China.

"Those who are showing faith in me as well as faith in Buddhism, must accept the Bodhicitta (spiritual awakening) that I am imparting. Be it Tibetan or Mongolian or China, there are many Buddhist monasteries in China. I have been to China many times. Many Buddha Viharas exist there even today. People have Buddhism and Buddha in their minds. There is a lot of attachment towards Buddhism. The Chinese have an ancient relationship with Buddhism," Dalai Lama said.

Dalai Lama also asked to practice Bodhicitta for the benefit of self or others.

"If we look at Tibetan tradition also, Shakyas practice Bodhicitta in Nigama, Bodhicitta keeps the mind and body long and gives longevity. This also gives good sleep. Looking at the welfare of all, nothing can be better than this. Through the practice of Bodhicitta, the evils and sorrows within can be removed," Dalai Lama told more than 80,000 Buddhist devotees during the discourse.

[Home](#) / [India](#) / Dalai Lama accuses Chinese government of trying to decimate Buddhism

## Dalai Lama accuses Chinese government of trying to decimate Buddhism

Over 60,000 devotees attended the discourse in Bodh Gaya with Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu also among the attendees



The Dalai Lama blesses Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu in Bodh Gaya in Bihar on Saturday.  
Sanjay Choudhary

Dev Raj | Patna | Published 01.01.23, 03:53 AM

The Dalai Lama said on Saturday that the Chinese government had destroyed Buddhist temples, poisoned the people of Tibet and tried to decimate Buddhism.

“The Chinese government tried its utmost to destroy Buddhism. It razed Buddhist viharas. It poisoned our people. Our faith in the religion and Lord Buddha did not lessen despite all this,” the Dalai Lama said at the conclusion of his three-day discourse at the Kalchakra Teaching Ground in Bodh Gaya in Bihar.

Over 60,000 devotees attended the discourse in Bodh Gaya. Arunachal Pradesh chief minister Pema Khandu was present.

The Dalai Lama's comments come at a time the Modi government has stepped up its engagement with the spiritual and temporal leader of Tibetan Buddhists in what is being seen as an attempt to irritate the Chinese after bilateral relations nosedived following the Galwan clashes in 2020.

Since the clashes, Prime Minister Narendra Modi has publicly greeted the Dalai Lama on his birthday in two consecutive years. This drew a sharp response from Beijing, which saw in the Prime Minister's greetings an attempt to interfere in China's internal affairs.

The Dalai Lama periodically criticises China, and more often than not provokes Beijing — which sees him as a separatist — to respond.

On Saturday in Bodh Gaya, the Dalai Lama, who received the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, said: "Buddhism stands tall in China despite all the efforts to decimate it there. No religion becomes endangered if anybody tries to harm it. China still has followers of Buddhism and the people there still worship Lord Buddha. I have been to China and the people there have a deep connection with Buddhism."

He termed the Covid-19 pandemic as worse than a nuclear bomb and underscored the need for "a world free of nuclear weapons and pandemics".



Bodh Gaya: Nitish meets Dalai Lama

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## China following Mao's policy of decimating Buddhism: Dalai Lama

2 min read · Updated: 01 Jan 2023, 06:09 PM IST

Livemint



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama gives blessings to devotees in Bodh Gaya (PTI)

### SYNOPSIS

*The spiritual leader said that the current Chinese government is continuing the idea of Mao Zedong, which terms Buddhism as poison*

The three-day program on the teachings of Buddha and meditation at Kalachakra Grotto [OPEN IN APP](#) Bihar's Bodh Gaya came to an end, as the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama greeted Buddhists across the world with a Happy New Year. The program was attended by thousands of devotees who offered special prayers to the Tibetan spiritual leader and wished for his long life.

The Tibetan artists also presented dance and music and devotees from across the world participated in the joyful event.

"Today's program was to offer prayers for his holiness Dalai Lama. In the beginning, his holiness gave the best wishes on the occasion of the new year. Then he said that this is a very precious day today at Bodh Gaya. Today is the new year and all Buddhists are offering prayers for long

Sonbodh also added that the prayers offered today were also for the larger “world peace”.

“These prayers are also for world peace. He did not say anything about [China](#) today. He gave best wishes to the people, be they from China or elsewhere. He said that change is taking place and things are changing, and the situation will get better,” Sonbodh said.

On Saturday, Dalai Lama accused the Chinese government of decimating Buddhism. The spiritual leader added that the current Chinese government is continuing the idea of Mao Zedong, which terms Buddhism as poison.

“He (Dalai Lama) had said yesterday that in China, the government does not believe in any religion and terms Buddhism as poison. It was an idea of Mao Zedong which they (the Chinese government) are still continuing. But the public of China has a devotion to him. He himself said that the people of China have devotion to him. He gave best wishes to all of them,” Sonbodh added.

The spiritual leader accused China of carrying out a systematic campaign to destroy Buddhism and weed it out from China. He added that the government of the country has totally failed in its strategy so far.

“We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, when I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people very devoted to dharma and it is the case in Mongolia and in China too though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison and tried to destroy it, they are not successful. Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government. Buddhism could not be destroyed by China. Even today, there are many people [who](#) believe in Buddhism in China,” Dalai Lama said.

*(With inputs from ANI)*

News / India / China's efforts to destroy Buddhism won't succeed, says Dalai Lama

## China's efforts to destroy Buddhism won't succeed, says Dalai Lama

The Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said China is trying to destroy Buddhism but will not be successful.



India Today Web Desk

New Delhi, UPDATED: Jan 1, 2023 15:11 IST



Tibetan Spiritual Leader Dalai Lama accused China of destroying Buddhism. (File photo)

**By India Today Web Desk:** The Tibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama, while imparting his preaching in Bodh Gaya, accused China of trying to destroy Buddhism and said that it has failed in doing so as there are many people in China who believe in Buddhism.

"When I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people devoted to Buddha dharma. It's the same in Mongolia and in China too, though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison and trying to destroy it but they're not successful," said Dalai Lama. "Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government but could not be destroyed from China. Even today, there are many people who believe in Buddhism in China," he added.

#WATCH | When I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people devoted to Buddha dharma. It's the same in Mongolia & in China too though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison & trying to destroy it but they're not successful: Dalai Lama, in Gaya (31.12) pic.twitter.com/zcutOFnu6t – ANI (@ANI) January 1, 2023

The Dalai Lama was addressing devotees in Bodh Gaya, the site where the Buddha had attained enlightenment two millennia ago, after a "long life offering" ceremony, a traditional prayer made for the longevity of the 87-year-old Buddhist leader.

**READ: [Chinese woman suspected of spying on Dalai Lama detained by Bihar Police](#)**

He said that the Buddhist tradition of Tibet has gained lots of attention from people in the West. "In the past, Buddhism was known to be an Asian religion. But today its philosophy and concepts, particularly with regard to psychology have spread throughout the world. Many scientists are taking interest in this tradition".

At the ceremony, the Dalai Lama flagged the "growing interest in Buddhism" in China after years of "suppression and oppression" of the faith and its followers.

"This is not only for Tibet but even China. It has a direct bearing on China as well because China has been a Buddhist country but there was so much suppression and oppression of Buddhism and Buddhists in China", said the Tibetan leader, who fled his homeland in 1959, a decade after Mao Zedong's communist revolution.

**READ: [As Dalai Lama visits Bodh Gaya, cops hunt for Chinese woman, release sketch](#)**

He added that there could be much change happening in China and the world as he has always remained "optimistic about the possibility of a better world".

"Tibet, which is also called the land of snows, has undergone many tragedies. But it has come as a blessing in disguise. People around the world have now become aware of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition", the Dalai Lama pointed out.

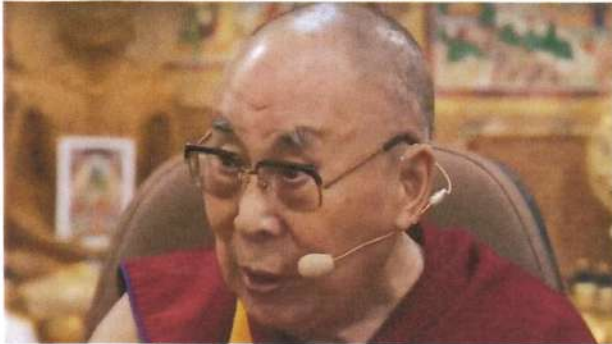
The Dalai Lama visited the Bodh Gaya in Bihar after a gap of two years. He sought asylum in India and settled at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh which has come to be known as "mini Tibet" because of a large number of Tibetan refugees staying there.

*(With agencies inputs)*

--- ENDS ---

# 'China Tried to Destroy Buddhism But...': Dalai Lama on Beijing's 'Failed' Efforts to Eliminate Religion

By: [News Desk](#) Edited By: [Abhro Banerjee](#) [News18.com](#) Last Updated: JANUARY 01, 2023, 15:06 IST Gaya, India



Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama. (File image Posted by Dalai Lama on Facebook)

Dalai Lama accused China of considering Buddhism poisonous and of carrying out a systematic campaign to destroy and weed it out from China, by destroying its institutions

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**T**ibetan Spiritual leader Dalai Lama said on Saturday that China's moves to eliminate Buddhism "won't succeed", adding that the country is attempting to target and destroy the religion.

Speaking on the third and last day teaching program at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya on Saturday, Dalai Lama accused China of considering Buddhism poisonous and of carrying out a systematic campaign to destroy and weed it out from China, by destroying its institutions. Dalai Lama added that China, however, has "totally failed" in doing so.

"We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, when I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people very devoted to dharma and it is the case in Mongolia and in China too though the system [Chinese government] sees dharma as poison and tried to destroy it, but they are not successful. Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government. Buddhism could not be destroyed from China. Even today, there are many people who believe in Buddhism in China," news agency ANI quoted Dalai Lama as saying at the event.

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#WATCH | When I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people devoted to Buddha dharma. It's the same in Mongolia & in China too though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison & trying to destroy it but they're not successful: Dalai Lama, in Gaya (31.12)

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## <https://www.theweek.in/videos.html> MORE Dalai Lama flags resurgence of Buddhism in China after 'suppression and oppression'

PTI

Updated: January 01, 2023 17:17 IST

Bodh Gaya, Jan 1 (PTI) The Dalai Lama on Sunday flagged the "growing interest in Buddhism" in China after years of "suppression and oppression" of the faith and its followers.

His Holiness was addressing devotees in Bodh Gaya, the site where the Buddha had attained Enlightenment two millennia ago, after a "long life offering" ceremony, a traditional prayer made for the longevity of the 87-year-old Buddhist leader.

The Nobel Peace Prize winner said, "the Buddhist tradition of Tibet has gained lots of attention from people in the West. In the past, Buddhism was known to be an Asian religion. But today its philosophy and concepts, particularly with regard to psychology have spread throughout the world. Many scientists are taking interest in this tradition". "So, this is not only for Tibet....but even China. It has a direct bearing on China as well because China has been a Buddhist country but there was so much suppression and oppression of Buddhism and Buddhists in China", said the Tibetan leader, who had to flee his homeland in 1959, a decade after Mao Zedong's communist revolution.

"So, there could be much change happening in China and the world. I have always remained optimistic about the possibility of a better world", he added.

"Tibet, which is also called the land of snows, has undergone many tragedies. But it has come as a blessing in disguise. People around the world have now become aware of the Tibetan Buddhist tradition", said the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama, who has since sought asylum in India and settled at Dharamshala in Himachal Pradesh, which has come to be known as "mini Tibet" because of a large number of Tibetan refugees staying there, has come to this international Buddhist pilgrim town in Bihar, which he calls the 'Vajrasthan' (the pure land) after a gap of two years.

"It is a coincidence that this ceremony, where prayers are made for my long life, is taking place on the first day of the Gregorian calendar. So, this is in a way an indication that we may be looking at good times ahead", added the renowned leader.

*(This story has not been edited by THE WEEK and is auto-generated from PTI)*

## China attempting to 'destroy' Buddhism but it won't succeed, says Dalai Lama

Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama said that the Chinese government destroyed many Buddhist Viharas, but the number of followers of Buddhism has not decreased in China.

Edited By: [Zee Media Bureau](#) | Last Updated: Jan 01, 2023, 02:23 PM IST | Source: ANI



**Bodh Gaya (Bihar):** In a sharp attack on China's moves to eliminate Buddhism, the Tibetan spiritual leader Dalai Lama has said China is attempting to target and destroy Buddhism but it won't succeed. Speaking on the third and last day teaching program at Kalachakra Maidan in Bodh Gaya on Saturday, the Tibetan spiritual leader accused China of considering Buddhism poisonous and of carrying out a systematic campaign to destroy and weed it out from China, by destroying its institutions, but it has totally failed in doing so.

At the Bodh Gaya event Dalai Lama said, "We have strong faith in Buddha dharma, when I visit trans-Himalayan regions, I find local people very devoted to dharma and it is the case in Mongolia and in China too, though the system (Chinese government) sees dharma as poison and tried to destroy it but they are not successful. Buddhism was harmed by the Chinese government. Buddhism could not be destroyed from China. Even today, there are many people who believe in Buddhism in China."

Dalai Lama said that the Chinese government destroyed many Buddhist Viharas, but the number of followers of Buddhism has not decreased in China.

He said that many Buddhist monasteries still exist in China and people there have a deep connection with Buddhism.

"Those who are showing faith in me as well as faith in Buddhism must accept the Bodhicitta (spiritual awakening) that I am imparting. Be it Tibetan or Mongolian or China, there are many Buddhist monasteries in China. I have been to China many times. Many Buddha Viharas exist there even today. People have Buddhism and Buddha in their minds. There is a lot of attachment towards Buddhism. The Chinese have an ancient relationship with Buddhism," he said.

He asked to practice Bodhicitta for the benefit of self or others.

If we look at Tibetan tradition also, Shakyas practice Bodhicitta in Nigama, Bodhicitta keeps the mind and

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[DAILY DALAI LAMA AT RANDENKHA MANDIR IN BODH GAYA ON SATURDAY](#)

More than 80,000 Buddhist devotees heard the discourse by the Dalai Lama.

A group of high-ranking Sri Lankan Buddhist Monks, who were on a pilgrimage to Bodh Gaya recently, sought his Holiness Dalai Lama's visit to Sri Lanka, which is reeling under a severe economic crisis.

They met the Buddhist spiritual leader the Dalai Lama in Bodh Gaya on December 27 and were overwhelmed by witnessing a large gathering at the holy city.

The high-ranking monk wished the Dalai Lama to visit Sri Lanka and help to overcome the economic hardships his country has been facing currently.

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