



ASADHA POORNIMA

4th JULY 2020

Venue

Ashok Hall, Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi

Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, Sarnath

Organized by



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION
Collective Wisdom United Voice

Supported by



Ministry of Culture,
Govt. of India

In Association With



Mahabodhi Society
of India



Bodhgaya Temple
Management Committee



Significance of ASADHA POORNIMA & DHARMA CHAKRA DAY

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC-India) under the aegis of Ministry of Culture, Government of India is organizing the first **Dharma Chakra Day** to commemorate the auspicious day of **Asadha Poornima** (Esala Poya / Asanha Bucha) on 4th July 2020. The day marks **Dhamma Cakka-Pavattana Sutta (Pali)** or **Dharma chakra Pravartana Sutra (Sanskrit)** to pañcavargika, the first five ascetic disciples- on the full-moon day of the month of Asadha, of the Indian Sun calendar at 'Deer Park', R̥sipatana in the current day Sarnath, near Varanasi, India. It is also known as the **First Turning of Wheels of Dharma** by Buddha and consist of the teaching of the **Four Noble Truths**, which are: **dukkha** (suffering) is an innate characteristic of existence in the realm of samsara; **samudaya** (origin, arising) of this dukkha, which arises or "comes together" with taṇhā (craving, desire or attachment); **nirodha** (cessation, ending) of this dukkha can be attained by the renouncement or letting go of this taṇhā and **magga** (path, **Noble Eightfold Path**) is the path leading to renouncement of tanha and cessation of dukkha.

Buddha explained the **Eightfold Path** as consisting of eight practices: **right view, right resolve, right speech, right conduct, right livelihood, right effort, right mindfulness and right samadhi** (meditative absorption). As one of the principal teachings of Buddhism, the Eight Fold Path is also summarised as **sila**(morality), **samadhi**(meditation) and **prajna**(insight), that will lead to being Arhat or Bodhisatva path and to Buddhahood.

By following the paradigm of **Four Noble Truth and practicing of the Eightfold Noble Path**, the challenges and suffering of today's world can be reduced and sustainable development, harmony and world peace can be achieved.

The day also signifies the establishment of the **first Sangha**. Several other important events, associated with the life of Buddha, also falls on the day, such as; the conception of the Bodhisatta in the womb of Queen Maya, in the Sakya kingdom of Kapilvastu in present day Nepal, his Great Renunciation, the performance of the Twin Miracle (yamaka-patihariya) at Srawasti and his preaching the Abhidhamma for the first time in the Tavatimsa heaven.

For the Monks and Nuns, the Rainy Season retreat i.e. the **"Varsha Vassa"** also starts with this day lasting for three lunar months from July to October, during which they remain in a single place, generally in their temples dedicated to intensive meditation.

In Buddhist art symbolism, the Noble Eightfold Path is represented by **the dharma wheel (dharmachakra)**, in which its eight spokes represent the eight elements of the path.



EVENT PLAN

As the leading Buddhist world body the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), is once again leading the collective aspirations of Dhamma followers worldwide by putting together a grand celebration to commemorate this very auspicious day. Due to prevailing Covid-19 pandemic, we are putting up the event as both virtual and from the sacred grounds treaded by footsteps of Buddha. In addition ceremonies and Chanting of Dhamma Cakka Pavattana Sutta in both the Theravada and Mahayana traditions from several countries around the world will also be live streamed.

In keeping with the historical legacy of India being the land of Buddha's enlightenment awakening, his turning of the wheels of Dhamma, and Mahaparinirvana, **His Excellency the President of India, Shri Ram Nath Kovind** will inaugurate the **Dhamma Chakra Day** from the hollowed precincts of **Ashoka Hall of Rashtrapati Bhavan, New Delhi**. **The Hon'ble Prime Minister** will also deliver a special address on the occasion.

The Hon'ble Minister of Culture (Independent Charge) Shri Prahlad Singh Patel and Hon'ble Minister of State for Minority Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju will also address the opening ceremony. Rest of the day's events will be streamed from Mulagandha Kuti Vihara, Sarnath and Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya in association with Mahabodhi Society of India and Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee.

Online-live of ceremonies from the Mulagandhakuti Vihara temple Sarnath, the Maha Bodhi Temple, Bodhgaya (India), Gandan Tegchenling monastery(Mongolia) and also an exposition of Sacred Buddha Relics are part of the programme. Sacred chantings from Taiwan courtesy of Buddhist Association of Republic of China(Taiwan) and sacred ceremonies from Sri Lanka are also being organized to commemorate the day. Cultural programme from various countries will also be live streamed. The day's event will be in three parts: (a) Morning (b) Afternoon (c) Evening.





INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice



ABOUT IBC:

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is a Buddhist global umbrella body and was formed in 2013 in New Delhi, India. As per its motto “Collective Wisdom, United Voice” IBC provides a common platform to all followers of the Buddha Dharma worldwide to address issues that are of both Buddhist and global concerns. It currently has more than 300 organizations in 39 countries comprising both monastic and lay, bodies.

The Secretariat

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