

Embassy of India
Thimphu

India@75: *Asadha Poornima* Celebrations at the India House Estate

The Embassy of India, Thimphu hosted an ‘*In Conversation*’ Dialogue on the “**Relevance of the Teachings of Lord Buddha in the Age of Technology**” at 1000 hrs. on Saturday 24 July 2021 with prominent Bhutanese scholars who represent the Bhutan Chapter of the International Buddhist Confederation. **The Chief Guest at the function was HRH Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuck**, a member of the esteemed Royal Family of Bhutan. The Foreign Minister of Bhutan, Dr. Tandi Dorji attended the programme in the capacity of a Special Guest.

The Dialogue witnessed a discussion and exchange of views between **Dasho Karma Ura**, President, Centre for Bhutan Studies and Gross National Happiness Research and **Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye**, former Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Bhutan, moderated by **Dr. Tashi Zangmo**, Executive Director of the Bhutan Nuns Foundation. Ambassador of India Ruchira Kamboj delivered the Opening Address, where she highlighted the common spiritual heritage that joins India and Bhutan, as well as the salience of the teachings of Lord Buddha in present times. Members of the audience included accomplished RGoB senior officials, Buddhist scholars and representatives of the local media.

Under the aegis of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, the International Buddhist Confederation organized the *Asadha Poornima - Dharma Chakra* global celebrations on 24 July 2021 to commemorate the Dharma Chakra Parvattana, the first sermon by Lord Buddha to the five ascetics at the ‘Deer Park’, Sarnath. The flagship event of these celebrations took place at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the presence of the President of India and Union Minister of Culture, Government of India.

The Prime Minister of Bhutan Lyonchhen Dr. Lotay Tshering had recorded a special video message from Bhutan on this occasion, which was broadcast in the course of the global celebrations of *Asadha Poornima*.

The programme by the Indian Embassy also featured as a part of the global celebrations organized by the International Buddhist Confederation.

The celebration of *Asadha Poornima* is in keeping with the exceptionally close and friendly relations between India and Bhutan, reflective of the common thread of Buddhism that binds both countries.

India @ 75 Celebrations

ASADHA POORNIMA DHARMA CHAKRA DAY

Anniversary of First Sermon of Lord Buddha

In conversation Dialogue on
**"Relevance of the teachings of
Lord Buddha in the Age of Technology"**



Mr. Dasho Karma Ura
President, Centre for Bhutan
Studies & GNH Research

Discussion Between



Mr. Lyonpo Sonam Tobgye
Former Chief Justice,
Supreme Court of Bhutan



Dr. Tashi Zangmo (Moderator)
Executive Director,
Bhutan Nuns Foundation

In presence of



Ms. Ruchira Kamboj
Ambassador of India
to Bhutan

Date: Saturday, 24 July 2021

Time: 10:00 hrs (BST)

Venue: India House Estate

24 July 2021