

Three-day International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy and Its' Role in Inculcating Values among Youth

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2021

According to 'Buddhist Philosophy,
"Youth are foundations of all human beings"
"One who has wisdom is considered an adult although he is
young by age"

Jointly Organised by:



Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
(An Institution of National Importance by Act of Parliament No.35/2012)
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), Government of India (GOI)
Pennalur, Sriperumbudur, Tamil Nadu - 602 105, India



Indian Council for Cultural Relations
An autonomous organisation of the Ministry of External Affairs
(Government of India)

Background

Philosophy in India is aimed mainly at spiritual liberation and has sociological goals. In his study of Mādhyamaka Buddhist philosophy in India, Peter Deller Santina writes. Attention must first of all be drawn to the fact that philosophical systems in India were seldom, if ever, purely speculative or descriptive. Virtually all the great philosophical systems of India: Sāṅkhya, Advaitavedānta, Mādhyamaka and so forth, were preeminently concerned with providing a means to liberation or salvation. It was a tacit assumption with these systems that if their philosophy were correctly understood and assimilated, an unconditioned state free of suffering and limitation could be achieved. If this fact is overlooked, as often happens as a result of the propensity engendered by formal Occidental philosophy to consider the philosophical enterprise as a purely descriptive one, the real significance of Indian and Buddhist philosophy will be missed.'

For the Indian Buddhist philosophers, the teachings of the Buddha were not meant to be taken on faith alone, but to be confirmed by logical analysis (pramana) of the world. The early Buddhist texts mention that a person becomes a follower of the Buddha's teachings after having pondered them over with wisdom and the gradual training also requires that a disciple "investigate" (upaparikkhati) and "scrutinize" (tuleti) the teachings. The Buddha also expected his disciples to approach him as a teacher in a critical fashion and scrutinize his actions and words, as shown in the Vīmaṃsaka Sutta.

Values reflect our sense of right and wrong. They help us grow and develop. They help us create the future we want. The decisions we make every day are a reflection of our values.

Individual values reflect how we live our life and what we consider important for our own self-interests. Individual values include enthusiasm, creativity, humility and personal fulfilment. Relationship values reflect how we relate to other people in our life, such as friends, family, teachers, managers, etc. Relationship values include openness, trust, generosity and caring. Social values reflect how we relate to society. Social values include justice, freedom, respect, community, and responsibility. In today's world, it may seem our society in general and youth in particular don't practice many values. We have a rise in discrimination, abuse of power, greed, etc. What are we leaving behind for our future generations? Maybe it's time younger society takes a hard look at its values.

There have been recent reports, including one in the Global Times newspaper, which suggest that Buddhism is growing in popularity among young people. Some reasons given were the exoticism of Buddhist culture, psychological comfort, a greater variety of practices, and the allure of reaching enlightenment faster.

Any interest in Buddhism on the part of young people is driven by concerns about its relevance to their lives. Yet this pragmatism doesn't lack idealism: teenagers say they might turn to Buddhism if it could help them deal with stress or empower them to make a positive impact. Buddhism would also interest them if it could help them understand the meaning of life and make sense of a confusing and complex world, with meditation and a correlation with science being points of interest as well. Exploring how Buddhist practices can be adapted for young people can therefore be viewed as a global concern. One approach has been to remove or play down the liturgical aspect so that the chanting, the sutras and doctrines, and the dense textual material do not intimidate, and to promote "non-religious" aspects such as social justice and meditation.

Rationale for Organizing the International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy

Since Buddhism is appealing to younger generations who share certain commonalities across cultures (even if the contexts are dissimilar), the solutions might not differ too drastically. A multifaceted and imaginative approach emphasizing relevance of Buddhist philosophy is necessary [4]. In this background an International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy & Its Role in Inculcating Values among Youth proposes to organise by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Objectives

- To discuss the various dimensions of Buddhist Philosophy and its culture.
- To give an overview of Buddhist literature and architecture available across the countries.
- To highlight the relevance of Buddhist Philosophy for the youth across the society.
- To understand Buddhist Philosophy's impact on youth across the society.
- To share the experiences of best practices of Buddhist Philosophy inculcating the values among the youth.

Broad Themes of the Conference

- Origin of Buddhist philosophy
- Dimensions of Buddhist philosophy and culture
- Essence of Buddhist philosophy and its best practices
- Role of Buddhist philosophy behind positive mental health
- Impact of Buddhist philosophy in society and in inculcating values among youth
- Strengthening Buddhist culture in India and other countries

Expected Outcomes

- Gaining better understanding about Buddhist philosophy and its' culture from the deliberations of national and international scholars.
- Having clear idea about availability of Buddhist literature and its locations.
- Understanding and imbibing the values of Buddhist Philosophy among the youth.
- Sensitizing youth to engage in positive and constructive activities for creating a healthy and prosperous society.

Participants

Youth/scholars/academicians across the different nations.

Registration

Registration is free for everyone. Participants can get them registered through following registration link

<http://www.rgniyd.gov.in/reg/node/452>

Certificates

All the registered participants will be issued an e-certificate for attending at least 80% of the lectures.

Evaluation of the Conference

An effort will be made to get the feedback from the participants about the conference circulating a semi-structured questionnaire online to all the participants.

*Sakyarupam pure santam maya sippam na sikkhatam
Kiccha vutti asippassa iti pacchanutappati.*

Who does not learn any skill when he was young to do so, later he will lament to himself that 'why did I not learn before?' Because one without skill is difficult to live. (Jataka, 27/330)

Conference Schedule

Inaugural Session

Feb. 17, 2021	15:00 – 15:30 Hrs	Minute to Minute Program
Welcome address and objectives of the conference by Prof. Sibnath Deb , Director, RGNIYD, MoYAS, Gol		15:00 hrs to 15:03 hrs (3 Minutes)
Speech by Shri Asit Singh , IRS, Joint Secretary, MoYAS, Gol		15:04 hrs to 15:07 hrs (4 Minutes)
Speech by Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik , IFS, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, MoEA, Gol		15:08 hrs to 15:12 hrs (5 Minutes)
Speech by Ms. Usha Sharma , IAS, Secretary, MoYAS, Gol		15:13 hrs to 15:18 hrs (6 Minutes)
Presidential Address by Shri Kiren Rijju , Hon'ble Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) & Minority Affairs, Gol		15:19 hrs to 15:28 hrs (10 Minutes)
Vote of Thanks by Prof. Vasanthi Rajendran , Head, CTO&CB, RGNIYD		15:29 hrs to 15:30 hrs (2 Minutes)

Technical Session, Day 1

Feb. 17, 2021	Topic	
15:30 hrs - 16:00 hrs	Prof. C. Upender Rao Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India	The message of Buddha to the youth.
16:00 hrs - 16:30 hrs	Ven. Gathare Chandananda Thero, Sri Lanka	Buddhism - Beliefs and Practices among Sri Lankan youth.
16:30 hrs - 17:00 hrs	Prof. K.T. S. Sarao PhD (Delhi); PhD (Cantab); DLitt (HC), Professor and Head, Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi, India	Buddhist Philosophy: Its Relevance in Today's Globalizing World.
17:00 hrs - 17:30 hrs	Prof. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya Vice - Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Parsa, Lumbini, Nepal	Vision of Gautam Buddha and its Relevance Today.

Technical Sessions | Day 2

Feb. 18, 2021		Topic
10:30 hrs - 11:00 hrs	Ven. Dr. (Venerable Doctor) Thich Nguyen Dat Senior Lecturer on Buddhist Philosophy & Buddhist Psychology, Vietnam Buddhist University, Vietnam	"Vietnam Buddhist Education - A Channel of Cultural Exchange between and among Vietnam, India and other countries".
11:00 hrs - 11:30 hrs	Dr. Nidup Dorji Department of Public Health Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan	Buddhism: Why it matters to us?
11:30 hrs - 12:00 hrs	Dr. Sonam Chuki, PhD Curriculum developer (History education) Royal Education Council Paro, Bhutan	Rediscovering basic goodness: Boundless ways of being authentic in the global world
12:00 hrs - 12:30 hrs	Prof. Bimalendra Kumar Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, (UP), India	Concept Of Mindfulness (Smṛti) in Buddhism and its Relevance to Contemporary Youth
12:30 hrs - 13:00 hrs	Mr. Say Amnann , Deputy Director General of Religious Affairs. (MoCR), Cambodia	Teachings of Buddha and its Relevance to the Youth of Cambodia
13:00 hrs - 14:00 hrs	Break	
14:00 hrs - 14:30 hrs	Dr. Rajitha P. Kumara Senior Lecturer, Deptt. Of Pali & Buddhist Studies University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka	Early Buddhist Theory of Cognitive Development and its influence on the Individual
14:30 hrs - 15:00 hrs	Ven. Baasanbat Bayanbold Mongolia	Buddha Shakyamuni's Law of Karma - Ethical Development and Conflict Resolution
15:00 hrs - 15:30 hrs	Ven Phra Anandapanyo Thailand	"How Buddhism is hidden in video games?" & Its influence on the Youth.

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Technical Sessions

Feb. 18, 2021, Day 2 Continued		Topic
15:30 hrs - 16:00 hrs	Dr. Amarjiva Lochan Associate Professor Ancient Indian History and Culture, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, India	Buddhism - Beliefs and Practices among Indian youth.
16:00 hrs - 16:30 hrs	Dr. Suresh Kumar Assistant Professor, Department of Buddhist Studies, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, India	Significance of Values in Shaping the Personality of Youth - Role of Buddhist Philosophy.
16:30 hrs - 17:00 hrs	Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh Head & Assistant Professor School of Buddhist Studies and Civilization & Director, International Affairs Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, UP, India	Significance of Values in Shaping the Personality of Youth - Role of Buddhist Philosophy.

Feb. 19, 2021, Day 3		Topic
10:30 hrs - 11:00 hrs	Dr. Sombat Mangmeesuksiri Director- Sanskrit Studies Centre, Deptt. of Oriental Languages, Silpakorn University, Talingchan, Bangkok, Thailand	Buddhism and Youth in Thailand: Past, Present and Future
11:00 hrs - 11:30 hrs	Mr. Keo Khanteymethea , Director of International Cooperation. (MoCR), Cambodia	Inculcating ethical values in youth through Buddhist Philosophy.
11:30 hrs - 12:00 hrs	Ven. Pusselle Wineetha Thero , Sri Lanka	Influence of Buddhist Philosophy among the Youth in Sri Lanka.
12:00 hrs - 12:30 hrs	Ven. Munkhbaatar. B	The Compassionate Meditation and Its Values in Modern Time

Technical Sessions

Feb. 19, 2021, Day 3 Continued	Topic
12:30 hrs - 13:00 hrs	Core Values and Perspectives of Buddhism for Youth Development.
13:00 hrs - 14:00 hrs	Break
14:30 hrs - 15:00 hrs	Life and Philosophy of the Buddha: An Inspiration for Modern Youths!
15:00 hrs - 15:30 hrs	Buddhism - Beliefs and Practices among Indian youth.
15:30 hrs - 16:00 hrs	Valedictory Vote of Thanks.

Chief Patrons

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Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

Shri Dinesh K Patnaik, IFS
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