

## Concept Note

### International Day of Vesak “Teachings of Gautama Buddha – a Path to Internal and Global Peace”

[Thursday 15 May 2025 – 10.00 am – 11.30 am – UNHQ]

We recall the UN General Assembly Resolution 54/115 which recognized the Day of the Full Moon in the month of May each year as International day of Vesak. The Day of the Full Moon in the month of May is the day most sacred to Buddhists, who commemorate the birth of the Buddha, his attainment of enlightenment and his passing away on that day.

The teachings of Lord Buddha offer profound wisdom that resonates with our current era of global uncertainty. In a world increasingly characterized by social division, environmental degradation, and geopolitical tensions, Buddha's emphasis on compassion, non-violence, mindfulness, and the interdependence of all beings offers transformative insights for addressing complex global challenges. The ‘golden mean’ or the middle path advocated by Buddha—avoiding extremes while pursuing moderation and balance—provides a valuable paradigm for navigating political polarization, economic disparities, and social conflicts that define our contemporary landscape.

The International Day of Vesak thus presents an opportune moment for global reflection on the universal values of peace, mutual respect, and harmonious co-existence. The essence of today's commemoration is to engage in a dialogue on how Lord Buddha's teachings and principles that can help find a path to peace. In an era where conflicts, crises, and humanitarian emergencies dominate headlines, the Buddha's teachings on peace—both internal and external—have never been more relevant. This day offers a platform for renewing our collective commitment to peace and the pursuit of sustainable development that benefits everyone, further underscoring India's millennia old philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam – World is one Family.

In this context, the Permanent Mission of India will be organizing a Panel Discussion on the theme “**Teachings of Gautama Buddha – a Path to Internal and Global Peace**” on **15 May 2025** at UN Head Quarters with the participation of Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Vietnam.

We cordially invite you to the Panel Discussion held in commemoration of the International Day of Vesak and to further the teachings of Lord Buddha.

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