

Embassy of India

Thimphu

Press Release: *Vesak – Buddha Poonima* celebrations by the International Buddhist Confederation and the Ministry of Culture, 26 May 2021, Bodh Gaya

The International Buddhist Confederation is collaborating with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India to organize the global online *Vesak – Buddha Poonima* celebrations on a digital platform on 26 May 2021. In the background of the current circumstances due to the 2<sup>nd</sup> wave of COVID-19, this year's celebration is a hybrid event with religious ceremonies being performed live at the Mahabodhi Temple, Bodh Gaya by the Chief Monk and representative Sangha of the monasteries and temples of different countries in Bodh Gaya.

A recorded video message from Hon'ble Foreign Minister of Bhutan Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji on the *Vesak* celebrations will also be broadcast on 26 May 2021. Dasho Karma Ura, President, Centre for Bhutan Studies & GNH Research and well-known Buddhist Scholar will be conferred the **Vaishakh Samman Prashastri Patra** (Vesak Citation of Honour) jointly by the Ministry of Culture and the International Buddhist Confederation jointly on the occasion of *Vesak*.

On 26 May at 8 AM (IST) onwards, the *Vesak – Buddha Poonima* celebrations may be viewed on the following social media platforms on this auspicious day.

- (i) **Join on IBC YouTube:** <https://youtu.be/Rr73J1Um6wY>
- (ii) **Join on IBC Facebook:** <https://fb.me/e/6BdbvHvbp>
- (iii) **Join on Zoom meeting:** <https://zoom.us/j/96882320967...>

Meeting ID: 968 8232 0967

Passcode: 260521

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24 May 2021

