

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release: **India@75 Amrit Mahotsav celebrations – Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit in India streamed by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India**

As part of the ongoing India@75 *Amrit Mahotsav* celebrations, the Embassy of India, in collaboration with the Ministry of Tourism, will host a Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit in India highlighting **the eight iconic sites associated with the life of Lord Buddha**. The Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit is a celebration of the cultural and people-to-people linkages between India and Bhutan.

2. The Virtual Tour will be anchored by **Dharmacharya Shantum Seth** and also feature an intervention by **Professor Ravindra Panth on the linkage between Nalanda and Bhutan**. The event will comprise a presentation and interactive session interspersed with slides, short films of Bodhgaya, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Sravasti, Sankasya, Rajgir and Vaishali. The Tour would also cover Rewalsar in Himachal Pradesh, which is of particular interest to the people of Bhutan. A short meditation session during the Tour Programme will enable members of the audience to connect with their inner souls.

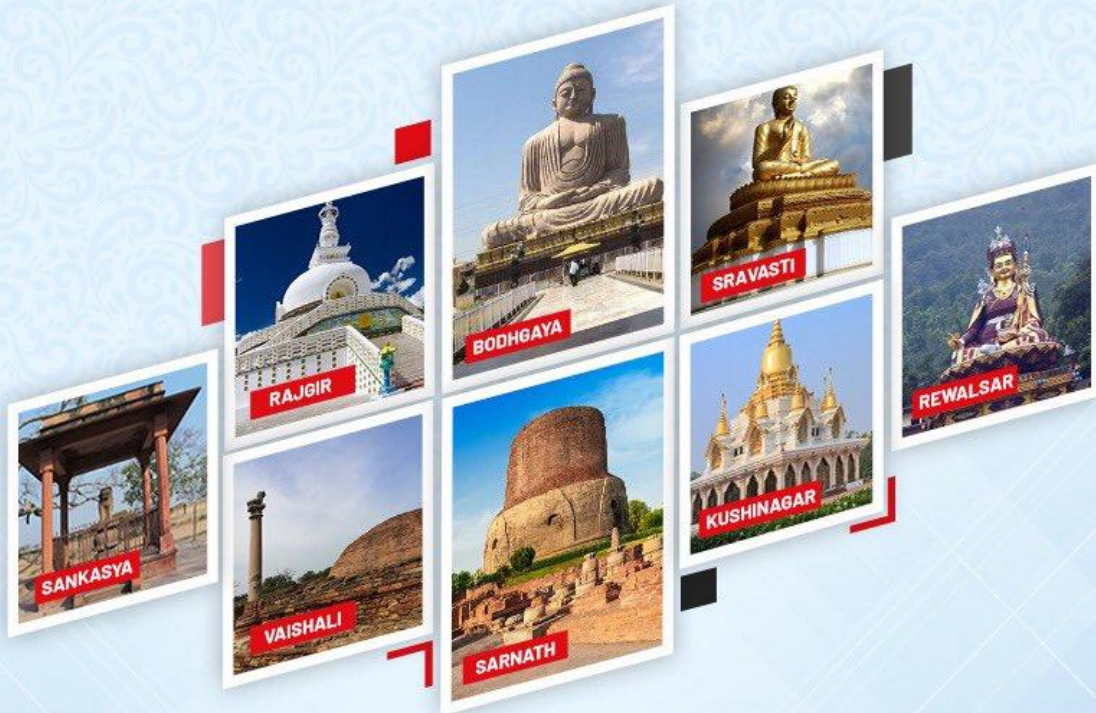
3. **Lyonpo Dr. Tandi Dorji, Foreign Minister of Bhutan will address the audience during the Virtual Tour programme**, comprising more than 2600 individuals across Bhutan and many more in India. The Virtual Buddhist Tour would be broadcast by the National Broadcaster, Bhutan Broadcasting Service during prime time on BBS Television.

4. The *Amrit Mahotsav* Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit will serve as a precursor to spark interest in the International Buddhist Conference 2021 and the first edition of the Global Buddhist Conference scheduled in India from 17-21 November 2021. To maintain the spirit of the Virtual Buddhist Tour, the Embassy will also organize an **Inter Dzongkhag Quiz on Buddhism amongst Bhutanese school students from 21 schools located in every Dzongkhag (district) of Bhutan**. The winning school team members will get to visit a Buddhist site of their choice (in India) sponsored by the Government of India. The other finalist teams will receive attractive prizes from the Embassy of India.

5. **Ambassador Ruchira Kamboj said, “The Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit in India being organized in partnership with the Ministry of Tourism is yet another opportunity for the peoples of both countries to celebrate the thread of Buddhism** and recall the teachings of the Shakyamuni and Guru Padmasambhava who are worshipped and revered in both India and Bhutan.”

Stay Tuned for

A Virtual Tour of the Buddhist Circuit in India



DATE & TIME

26 October 2021, 11 AM BST

ORGANISED BY:

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India
& Embassy of India in Bhutan

CONDUCTED BY

Dharmacharya Shantum Seth
Dr. Prof. Ravindra Panth

25 October 2021