



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री Prime Minister

New Delhi

वैशाख 03, शक संवत् 1947

23 April, 2025

Namo Shakyamuni Buddha!

I extend my warmest greetings and best wishes on the auspicious occasion of the United Nations Day of Vesak. It is a matter of joy that this year's celebrations are being held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, reflecting the enduring Buddhist heritage of this region.

This sacred day commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and 'parinirvana' of Lord Buddha, and honours the profound contributions of Buddhism to the spiritual and moral advancement of humanity.

It is a matter of great pride that many of the sacred sites associated with Lord Buddha's enlightenment and his most important sermons are located in India. My birthplace, Vadnagar in Gujarat, and my parliamentary constituency, Kashi, near the revered site of Sarnath, are both deeply intertwined with the Buddhist heritage. *Sarnath is venerated as the site of Lord Buddha's first sermon following enlightenment.*

The Four Noble Truths and the Eightfold Path, enunciated by Lord Buddha, have left an enduring imprint on spiritual thought across India and beyond. His timeless teachings offer profound insights and solutions to some of the most pressing global challenges today—whether it is war and violence, societal unrest, or climate change. The path shown by Lord Buddha is one of compassion over conflict, unity over division, and mindful, sustainable living over reckless consumption.

India has long championed the universal values of Lord Buddha and endeavoured to share his message with the world. As part of this commitment, we are developing the Buddhist Circuit to rejuvenate pilgrimage centres linked with his life. The revival of Nalanda University, once among the greatest seats of learning in the ancient world and a renowned Buddhist monastery, reflects our deep respect for this legacy. Through Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for the Environment), we are



promoting awareness about the impact of individual choices on our shared planet—an idea deeply rooted in Buddhist philosophy. In October 2024, the Government of India conferred classical language status to Pali—the language in which Lord Buddha’s original teachings were preserved.

I warmly invite followers of Lord Buddha from across the globe to visit the sacred sites associated with his life and teachings in India, and to connect with the living heritage that continues to inspire millions.

May the light of the Dhamma continue to guide us on the path to peace, harmony, and shared prosperity.

Namo Buddhaya!

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be 'Narendra Modi', is written above the name.

(Narendra Modi)