



Vesak and the United Nations Day celebrations

Vesak, this year, is celebrated on May 12 to 14 in Sri Lanka and in other countries across the world that observe Buddhism as their main religion. It commemorates the birth, attaining of Enlightenment or Buddhahood and the passing away (Parinirvana) of Gautama Buddha on the full moon month of Vesak usually in the month of May.

Apart from religious observances, Vesak day is also a great day for joy and happiness for the people as they decorate and illuminate temples, and put up pandals, depicting jataka stories relating to the life of Buddha. The devout Buddhists also organise and provide food and refreshments to those who visit temples, and go around watching the pandals and other decorations. and to the aged, the infirm and the poor. Buddha had stressed that to pay homage to him was not merely offering flowers, incense and lights but, by truly and sincerely, following his teachings to lead noble lives, to develop their minds, to practise loving kindness (metta) and to bring peace and harmony to humanity. This Vesak will be more significant to the people of Sri Lanka as Sri Lanka has been given the opportunity to host

this festival for the first time. The theme of the United Nations' Vesak Day celebrations this year is "Buddhist teachings for social justice and sustainable world peace," and leaders from the region are expected to attend the celebrations.



Dr. Mathu H. Liyanage

The other significant factor is that the Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi will inaugurate the UN Vesak Day in Colombo on May 12, enhancing and strengthening the ages-old cordial relationship between the two countries. The UN Day of Vesak celebrations is an international cultural and humanistic festival of the United Nations International Organizing Committee, which was started in 2000. The first celebrations were held at the UN Headquarters in New York, USA, with Buddhist representatives from 34 countries.

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මස තුනී මස 10-11
සවස 06.30 සිට රාත්‍රී 10.00 දක්වා

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විමසීම් - විහාරස්ථානය 9747 1902