According to Buddhist Philosophy,
“Youth are foundations of all human beings”
“One who has wisdom is considered an adult although he is young by age”
Philosophy in India is aimed mainly at spiritual liberation and has sociological goals. In his study of Mādhyamaka Buddhist philosophy in India, Peter Deller Santina writes. Attention must first of all be drawn to the fact that philosophical systems in India were seldom, if ever, purely speculative or descriptive. Virtually all the great philosophical systems of India: Sāṅkhya, Advaitavedānta, Mādhyamaka and so forth, were preeminently concerned with providing a means to liberation or salvation. It was a tacit assumption with these systems that if their philosophy were correctly understood and assimilated, an unconditioned state free of suffering and limitation could be achieved. If this fact is overlooked, as often happens as a result of the propensity engendered by formal Occidental philosophy to consider the philosophical enterprise as a purely descriptive one, the real significance of Indian and Buddhist philosophy will be missed.

For the Indian Buddhist philosophers, the teachings of the Buddha were not meant to be taken on faith alone, but to be confirmed by logical analysis (pramana) of the world. The early Buddhist texts mention that a person becomes a follower of the Buddha’s teachings after having pondered them over with wisdom and the gradual training also requires that a disciple "investigate" (upaparikkhati) and "scrutinize" (tuleti) the teachings. The Buddha also expected his disciples to approach him as a teacher in a critical fashion and scrutinize his actions and words, as shown in the Vimaṃsaka Sutta.

Values reflect our sense of right and wrong. They help us grow and develop. They help us create the future we want. The decisions we make every day are a reflection of our values.

Individual values reflect how we live our life and what we consider important for our own self-interests. Individual values include enthusiasm, creativity, humility and personal fulfilment. Relationship values reflect how we relate to other people in our life, such as friends, family, teachers, managers, etc. Relationship values include openness, trust, generosity and caring. Social values reflect how we relate to society. Social values include justice, freedom, respect, community, and responsibility. In today’s world, it may seem our society in general and youth in particular don’t practice many values. We have a rise in discrimination, abuse of power, greed, etc. What are we leaving behind for our future generations? Maybe it’s time younger society takes a hard look at its values.

There have been recent reports, including one in the Global Times newspaper, which suggest that Buddhism is growing in popularity among young people. Some reasons given were the exoticism of Buddhist culture, psychological comfort, a greater variety of practices, and the allure of reaching enlightenment faster.

Any interest in Buddhism on the part of young people is driven by concerns about its relevance to their lives. Yet this pragmatism doesn’t lack idealism: teenagers say they might turn to Buddhism if it could help them deal with stress or empower them to make a positive impact. Buddhism would also interest them if it could help them understand the meaning of life and make sense of a confusing and complex world, with meditation and a correlation with science being points of interest as well. Exploring how Buddhist practices can be adapted for young people can therefore be viewed as a global concern. One approach has been to remove or play down the liturgical aspect so that the chanting, the sutras and doctrines, and the dense textual material do not intimidate, and to promote “non-religious” aspects such as social justice and meditation.
Rationale for Organizing the International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy

Since Buddhism is appealing to younger generations who share certain commonalities across cultures (even if the contexts are dissimilar), the solutions might not differ too drastically. A multifaceted and imaginative approach emphasizing relevance of Buddhist philosophy is necessary [4]. In this background an International Conference on Buddhist Philosophy & Its Role in Inculcating Values among Youth proposes to organise by Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India.

Objectives

- To discuss the various dimensions of Buddhist Philosophy and its culture.
- To give an overview of Buddhist literature and architecture available across the countries.
- To highlight the relevance of Buddhist Philosophy for the youth across the society.
- To understand Buddhist Philosophy’s impact on youth across the society.
- To share the experiences of best practices of Buddhist Philosophy inculcating the values among the youth.

Broad Themes of the Conference

- Origin of Buddhist philosophy
- Dimensions of Buddhist philosophy and culture
- Essence of Buddhist philosophy and its best practices
- Role of Buddhist philosophy behind positive mental health
- Impact of Buddhist philosophy in society and in inculcating values among youth
- Strengthening Buddhist culture in India and other countries

Expected Outcomes

- Gaining better understanding about Buddhist philosophy and its’ culture from the deliberations of national and international scholars.
- Having clear idea about availability of Buddhist literature and its locations.
- Understanding and imbibing the values of Buddhist Philosophy among the youth.
- Sensitizing youth to engage in positive and constructive activities for creating a healthy and prosperous society.
Participants

Youth/scholars/academicians across the different nations.

Registration

Registration is free for everyone. Participants can get them registered through following registration link
http://www.rgniyd.gov.in/reg/node/452

Certificates

All the registered participants will be issued an e-certificate for attending at least 80% of the lectures.

Evaluation of the Conference

An effort will be made to get the feedback from the participants about the conference circulating a semi-structured questionnaire online to all the participants.

Sakyarupam pure santam maya sippam na sikkhatam
Kiccha vutti asippassa iti pacchanutappati.

Who does not learn any skill when he was young to do so, later he will lament to himself that ‘why did I not learn before?’ Because one without skill is difficult to live. (Jataka, 27/330)
# Conference Schedule

## Inaugural Session

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feb. 17, 2021 15:00 – 15:30 Hrs</th>
<th>Minute to Minute Program</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Welcome address and objectives of the conference by <strong>Prof. Sibnath Deb</strong>, Director, RGNIYD, MoYAS, GoI</td>
<td>15:00 hrs to 15:03 hrs (3 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech by <strong>Shri Asit Singh</strong>, IRS, Joint Secretary, MoYAS, GoI</td>
<td>15:04 hrs to 15:07 hrs (4 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech by <strong>Shri Dinesh K. Patnaik</strong>, IFS, Director General, Indian Council for Cultural Relations, MoEA, GoI</td>
<td>15:08 hrs to 15:12 hrs (5 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speech by <strong>Ms. Usha Sharma</strong>, IAS, Secretary, MoYAS, GoI</td>
<td>15:13 hrs to 15:18 hrs (6 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Presidential Address by <strong>Shri Kiren Rijiju</strong>, Hon’ble Minister, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (Independent Charge) &amp; Minority Affairs, GoI</td>
<td>15:19 hrs to 15:28 hrs (10 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Vote of Thanks by <strong>Prof. Vasanthi Rajendran</strong>, Head, CTO&amp;CB, RGNIYD</td>
<td>15:29 hrs to 15:30 hrs (2 Minutes)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

## Technical Session, Day 1

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feb. 17, 2021</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>15:30 hrs - 16:00 hrs</td>
<td>The message of Buddha to the youth.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Prof. C. Upender Rao | **Prof. C. Upender Rao**  
Special Centre for Sanskrit Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India |
| 16:00 hrs - 16:30 hrs | Buddhism – Beliefs and Practices among Sri Lankan youth. |
| 16:30 hrs - 17:00 hrs | Buddhist Philosophy: Its Relevance in Today’s Globalizing World. |
| Prof. K.T. S. Sarao | **Prof. K.T. S. Sarao**  
PhD (Delhi); PhD (Cantab); DLitt (HC), Professor and Head, Department of Buddhist Studies, University of Delhi, Delhi, India |
| 17:00 hrs - 17:30 hrs | Vision of Gautam Buddha and its Relevance Today. |
| Prof. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya | **Prof. Dr. Hridaya Ratna Bajracharya**  
Vice – Chancellor, Lumbini Buddhist University, Parsa, Lumbini, Nepal |
### Technical Sessions | Day 2

#### Feb. 18, 2021

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker/Details</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:30 hrs - 11:00 hrs | "Vietnam Buddhist Education - A Channel of Cultural Exchange between and among Vietnam, India and other countries". | Ven. Dr. (Venerable Doctor) Thich Nguyen Dat  
Senior Lecturer on Buddhist Philosophy & Buddhist Psychology, Vietnam Buddhist University, Vietnam |
| 11:00 hrs - 11:30 hrs | Buddhism: Why it matters to us?                                      | Dr. Nidup Dorji  
Department of Public Health  
Faculty of Nursing and Public Health, Khesar Gyalpo University of Medical Sciences of Bhutan, Thimphu, Bhutan |
| 11:30 hrs - 12:00 hrs | Rediscovering basic goodness: Boundless ways of being authentic in the global world | Dr. Sonam Chuki, PhD  
Curriculum developer (History education)  
Royal Education Council, Paro, Bhutan |
| 12:00 hrs - 12:30 hrs | Teachings of Buddha and its Relevance to the Youth of Cambodia | Prof. Bimalendra Kumar  
Department of Pali and Buddhist Studies, Banaras Hindu University (BHU), Varanasi, (UP), India |
| 12:30 hrs - 13:00 hrs | Teas of Religious Affairs. (MoCR), Cambodia                          | Mr. Say Amnann, Deputy Director General of Religious Affairs. (MoCR), Cambodia |
| 13:00 hrs - 14:00 hrs | Early Buddhist Theory of Cognitive Development and its influence on the Individual | Dr. Rajitha P. Kumara  
Senior Lecturer, Deptt. Of Pali & Buddhist Studies University of Kelaniya, Kelaniya, Sri Lanka |
| 14:00 hrs - 14:30 hrs | Buddha Shakyamuni’s Law of Karma - Ethical Development and Conflict Resolution | Ven. Baasanbat Bayanbold  
Mongolia |
| 14:30 hrs - 15:00 hrs | “How Buddhism is hidden in video games?” & Its influence on the Youth. | Ven Phra Anandapanyo  
Thailand |

Contd...
## Technical Sessions

### Feb. 18, 2021, Day 2 Continued

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 15:30 hrs - 16:00 hrs | Buddhism – Beliefs and Practices among Indian youth.                  | Dr. Amarjiva Lochan
Associate Professor
Ancient Indian History and Culture, Shivaji College, University of Delhi, India | India                                       |
| 16:00 hrs - 16:30 hrs | Significance of Values in Shaping the Personality of Youth – Role of Buddhist Philosophy. | Dr. Suresh Kumar
Assistant Professor, Department of Buddhist Studies, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, India | India                                       |
| 16:30 hrs - 17:00 hrs | Significance of Values in Shaping the Personality of Youth – Role of Buddhist Philosophy. | Dr. Arvind Kumar Singh
Head & Assistant Professor
School of Buddhist Studies and Civilization &
Director, International Affairs
Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida, UP, India | India                                       |

### Feb. 19, 2021, Day 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Topic</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Institution/Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 10:30 hrs - 11:00 hrs | Buddhism and Youth in Thailand: Past, Present and Future | Dr. Sombat Mangmeesukhsiri
Director- Sanskrit Studies Centre, Deptt. of Oriental Languages, Silpkorn University, Talingchan, Bangkok, Thailand | Thailand                                    |
| 11:00 hrs - 11:30 hrs | Inculcating ethical values in youth through Buddhist Philosophy. | Mr. Keo Khanteymethea, Director of International Cooperation. (MoCR), Cambodia | Cambodia                                    |
| 11:30 hrs - 12:00 hrs | Influence of Buddhist Philosophy among the Youth in Sri Lanka. | Ven. Pusselle Wineetha Thero, Sri Lanka | Sri Lanka                                  |
| 12:00 hrs - 12:30 hrs | The Compassionate Meditation and Its Values in Modern Time | Ven. Munkhbaatar. B | N/A                                         |
## Technical Sessions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Topic</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30 hrs -</td>
<td><strong>Prof. V.K. Singh</strong>&lt;br&gt;Professor of Tibetan and Buddhist Studies, Department of Chinese and Tibetan Languages, Punjab University, Chandigarh, <strong>India</strong></td>
<td>Core Values and Perspectives of Buddhism for Youth Development.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 hrs</td>
<td><strong>Break</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13:00 hrs -</td>
<td><strong>Dr. Fr. Soosai Lawrence S.J.</strong>, Jeevan Sangham, Dumuhan, Bodhgaya, Bihar, <strong>India</strong></td>
<td>Life and Philosophy of the Buddha: An Inspiration for Modern Youths!</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14:30 hrs -</td>
<td><strong>Dr. Mukesh Kumar Verma</strong>&lt;br&gt;Associate professor, Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda, Bihar, <strong>India</strong></td>
<td>Buddhism – Beliefs and Practices among Indian youth.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15:00 hrs -</td>
<td><strong>Valedictory</strong>&lt;br&gt;Vote of Thanks.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Chief Patrons

Ms. Usha Sharma, IAS
Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Youth Affairs
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

Shri Dinesh K Patnaik, IFS
Director General
Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)
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Patron

Shri. Asit Singh, IRS
Joint Secretary to the Government of India
Department of Youth Affairs
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India

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