



CONFERENCE REPORT
24-03-2026, TUESDAY

ONE - DAY
INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

**CONTRIBUTION OF
NALANDA MAHĀVIHĀRA
IN DISSEMINATION OF
BUDDHA DHAMMA**



**CONTRIBUTION OF
NĀLANDĀ MAHĀVIHĀRA
IN THE DISSEMINATION
OF BUDDHA DHAMMA**



Dr. Ambedkar International Centre
Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment
Government of India
15 Janpath, New Delhi (India) 110001

TUESDAY 24 MARCH, 2026

BHIM HALL
DR. AMBEDKAR INTERNATIONAL CENTRE (DAIC),
NEW DELHI

The one-day International Conference on “Contribution of Nālandā Mahāvihāra in the Dissemination of Buddha Dhamma,” held on 24 March 2026 at the Bhim Hall of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), New Delhi, was a significant academic event jointly organised by the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) and Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC). The conference brought together eminent scholars, monastic leaders, academicians, and international participants to deliberate on the historical, philosophical, and global contributions of Nālandā Mahāvihāra, one of the earliest and most renowned centers of higher learning in the world. Nālandā Mahāvihāra, flourishing between the 5th and 12th centuries CE, represented a unique synthesis of intellectual inquiry, spiritual discipline, and intercultural dialogue, attracting students and scholars.

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ONE - DAY INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON

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The programme commenced with the formal welcome of dignitaries, delegates, and participants, where Shree Akash Patil, Director (DAIC), and Col. Yash Saxena, Director (IBC), extended a warm and courteous welcome at the reception area. The arrival of guests was managed in a well-organised and systematic manner, ensuring smooth coordination and guidance throughout.



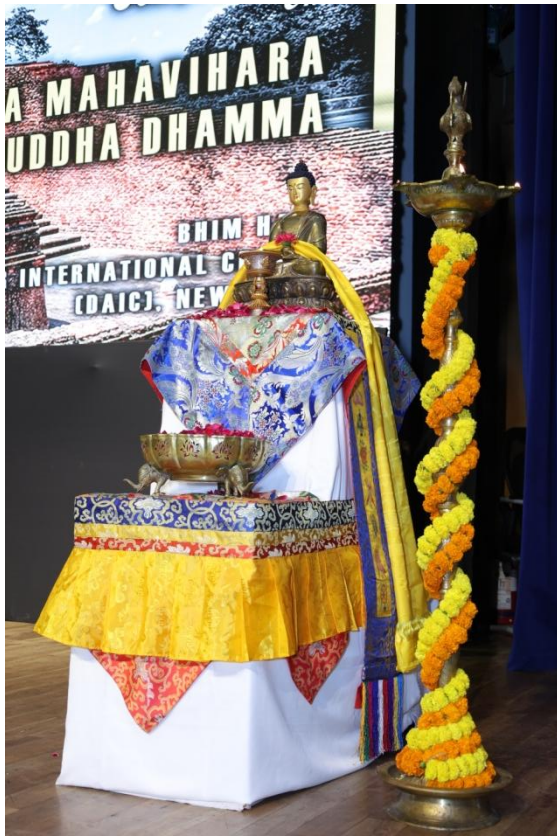
Following the reception, all delegates and participants were provided with their conference kits from the souvenir shop of the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre (DAIC), which included the programme schedule, essential documents, and other relevant materials. This initial arrangement set a professional and well-coordinated tone for the conference, ensuring a seamless and engaging experience for all attendees from the outset.



The Conference began with a guided walkthrough of the exhibition titled “*Guru Padmasambhava–Sacred Pilgrimage Sites in India*,” organized at the venue for all delegates and participants after the distribution of conference kits. The exhibition presented a rich visual display of important pilgrimage sites associated with *Guru Padmasambhava*, highlighting their historical, cultural, and spiritual significance. As participants moved through the exhibition, it offered them an opportunity to engage with the profound legacy of Buddhist traditions in an informative and meaningful way. This thoughtful beginning created a calm and reflective atmosphere, helping participants connect with the theme of the conference and setting a positive, engaging, and intellectually enriching tone for the sessions that followed.



Following this, all delegates and participants proceeded to the Bhim Hall, where the inaugural session of the conference formally commenced. The hall provided an appropriate and well-equipped setting for the opening proceedings, bringing together distinguished dignitaries, scholars, and attendees in a unified academic environment. The transition from the exhibition to the main hall was smooth and well-coordinated, allowing the programme to continue seamlessly. The beginning of the inaugural session marked the start of the conference’s formal deliberations, setting a structured and engaging tone for the discussions and activities scheduled for the day. The inaugural session commenced with Mangalapath by venerable monks, lighting of the ceremonial lamp, and felicitation of dignitaries, symbolizing the illumination of knowledge and wisdom.



A welcome address was delivered by Prof. Ravindra Panth, Director, IBC, followed by the screening of the film “Nālandā: A Journey through Time,” which visually traced the rise and legacy of the Mahāvihāra. The session was further enriched by a special address by Shartse Khensur Jangchup Choeden Rinpoche, Secretary General, IBC, a keynote address by H.E. Gyeltrul Jigme Rinpoche, and remarks by Shri Abhijit Halder, Director General, IBC. This was followed by a brief transition featuring a film on the exposition of Holy Buddha Relics in Kalmykia, Russia.



The academic deliberations were structured into four thematic conversations: the first session on Historical Evolution, Philosophical Contribution, and Institutional Framework was moderated by H.E. Gyeltrul Jigme Rinpoche and featured distinguished speakers including the 14th Dharpo Tulku Rinpoche, H.E. the 18th Choekyong Palga Rinpoche, and Mr. Indra Prasad Kafle, who highlighted Nālandā's institutional excellence, interdisciplinary curriculum, and intellectual rigor. The second session, focusing on the Life and Work of Distinguished Acharyas, was moderated by Lopen Lungtaen Gyatso and included insights from Prof. Bimendra Kumar, Ven. Prof. Kaveri Gill, and Dr. Sharda Poudel, who elaborated on the philosophical contributions of Acharyas such as Nagarjuna, Asanga, Vasubandhu, Dignaga, and Dharmakirti.



Following a lunch break, the third session on the Rise and Fall of Nalanda, moderated by Prof. Basanta Kumar Bidari, included presentations by Prof. Hira Paul Gangnegi, Lama Aria Drolma, and Dr. Susmita Vyas, who critically examined Nālandā Mahāvihāra's historical trajectory, including its decline due to reduced patronage and the devastating 12th-century invasion. The fourth session, on Global Dissemination and Contemporary Relevance, was moderated by Ven. Prof. (Dr.) Wangchuk Dorjee Negi and featured speakers such as Ven. Shingkar Rinpoche Ngodup Dorji, Dr. Chintala Venkata Sivasai, and Dr. Fanindra Kumar Neupane, who discussed the transmission of Buddhist traditions across Asia and the continuing relevance of Nālandā's values in promoting peace, intercultural dialogue, and ethical scholarship. The programme also included additional film screenings on the exposition of Holy Buddha Relics in Bhutan, further enriching the cultural dimension of the conference.

The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Shree Akash Patil, Director, DAIC, followed by a high tea session that facilitated informal academic exchange and networking among participants.



Overall, the conference successfully reaffirmed Nālandā Mahāvihāra's status as a beacon of global education and intercultural exchange, highlighting its continued relevance in promoting ethical values, critical inquiry, and universal brotherhood in the contemporary world.