



Press Release

The Embassy of Nepal, in coordination with the Embassies and High Commissions of Thailand, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, and Vietnam, and in collaboration with the government of Punjab, Pakistan, organized a program on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti yesterday. The program consisted of events at the Dharmarajika Stupa and the Taxila Museum in Pakistan.

In the Taxila Museum, Ambassador Rita Dhital delivered welcome remarks during a session on 'Leveraging Shared Buddhist Heritage for Sustainable Tourism'. She stated that Buddhist heritage sites are premier pilgrimage destinations for over 500 million people globally, offering significant potential for spiritual, cultural, and educational tourism. She stressed on the development of infrastructure to connect South Asian Buddhist sites, which would foster socio-economic development for local communities while allowing visitors to practice mindfulness and researchers to study Buddhist philosophy. Furthermore, she mentioned that the joint celebration by the High Commission of Sri Lanka and the Embassies of Thailand, Myanmar, Vietnam, and Nepal underscores Buddhism as a unifying cultural and spiritual link across Asia, promoting universal values of peace, compassion, and the pursuit of wisdom.

A video on Lumbini from the Lumbini Development Trust was also displayed during the session, which featured information on the Lumbini master plan and highlighted the Mayadevi temple, monastic zones and flame of peace.

The session was preceded by the ringing of the peace bell, tree planting, and the ceremonial release of white pigeons to symbolize universal peace and harmony in the garden of the Museum.

Earlier, spiritual activities were organized at the Dharmarajika Stupa including circumambulation and sermons by venerable monks from Sri Lanka and Thailand.

H.E. Mr. Aurangzeb Khan Khichi, Federal Minister of National Heritage and Culture was the Chief Guest of the program. H.E. Sardar Ramesh Singh Arora, Minister for Minorities Affairs, Punjab, Pakistan, participated in the program as the Guest of Honor. A number of high-level officials from the federal and provincial government of Pakistan, Ambassadors and members of diplomatic corps as well as other prominent personalities attended the event.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared Full Moon of May each year as the Vesak Day, acknowledging its significance as the day that commemorates the birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana of Gautam Buddha.

02 May 2026

Islamabad