



University of Mumbai

THE DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

The Centre for Buddhist Studies

Organizes

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ON

CONCEPT OF MAITRI (METTA) IN BUDDHISM

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY HIS HOLINESS THE XIVTH DALAI LAMA

Presided by Prof. Suhas Pednekar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai

*Special Talk by Guest of Honour by Prof. Geshe Ngawang Samten, Vice
Chancellor,*

Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies

Inaugural Session

Venue: Green Technology Auditorium, University of Mumbai, Kalina Campus

Date: 12th December, 2018 (09.30 a.m. to 11.00 a.m.)

All are Cordially Invited

Dr. Geeta Ramana

Head

Dept of Philosophy

University of Mumbai

Dr. Archana Malik-Goure

Convener, the Centre for Buddhist Studies

Dept of Philosophy

University of Mumbai

Conference Venue and Date/Time:-

12th Dec 2018: Green Technology Auditorium, University of Mumbai, Kalina Campus (9.30 a.m.–6.00 p.m.)

13th & 14th Dec 2018: Pherozshah Mehta Bhavan Auditorium, Dept of Civics and Politics, University of Mumbai, Kalina Campus (10.00 a.m.–7.00 p.m.)

More details are available in Mumbai University website: mu.ac.in/philosophy portal

About the Department of Philosophy:

The post-graduate Department of Philosophy is one of the youngest departments on campus and was started in March 1986 by the University of Mumbai. Dr. S.S Antarkar was the founder Head of the department, who laid great stress on the importance of learning all traditions of philosophy with equal openness. The syllabus thus reflected not only Indian philosophy of both, the Vedic and Śramana traditions, but also the Continental and Analytic traditions of the world. Since then, it has expanded its activities to provide foundation and diploma courses in disciplines like Yoga, Jainology, Vallabha Vedanta, Buddhist Studies, Indian Aesthetics and Communal Harmony, thus disseminating interest in the cultural and philosophical foundations of the epistemic, linguistic, metaphysical and creative heritage of humanity. The discipline of Philosophy, which is both ancient and contemporary, is indispensable in current academia. Nevertheless, its practical import is apparent in all walks of life, such as national policy decisions, corporate management, media, law, ecology, gender, science, technology; in cultures and traditions that we inherit and also in those that influence us. None of these can function without sound and critical philosophical foundations. The Department offers a variety of Certificate/Diploma Courses in Indian Philosophy initiated primarily due to the efforts of Dr. Shubhada Joshi. Donations from private funders such as the Jaina Academy U.K. and the Bhagirathi Trust in India have helped the Department to set up Chairs under the Jaina Academy Educational and Research Center (JAERC) and the Vallabha Vedanta Academy (VVA) dedicated to the Philosophy of Jainism and Vaishnavism, respectively. Since 2014, the Center for Buddhist Studies in the Department of Philosophy, conducts International Conferences, Courses and Workshops in Buddhism. The certificate and diploma courses run by the department thus are partly sustained by donations and partly function as self-supporting courses. Many of our post-graduate students avail of these courses and many of the students from these courses also avail of our post-graduate programme as continuation of their interest in Philosophy, thus creating an interactive and inter disciplinary framework within the discipline of Philosophy itself.

About the Centre for Buddhist Studies:

Centre for Buddhist Studies is a new interdisciplinary initiative of the University of Mumbai at the Department of Philosophy that commenced during the academic year 2014-15. It attempts to generate interest (through courses) and pursue rigorous research (through Workshops, Seminars and Publications) in Buddhism. The participants in this initiative include both academicians with expertise in Buddhism and research students (who are interested in pursuing Buddhism either from the point of view of its practicality or its theoretical foundations). This initiative is committed to the inextricable link between theory and practice in the pursuit of academic research programmes. The Buddhist Studies programme has so far pursued its aims through National and International workshops, seminars and short courses in Classical and Contemporary Buddhism, Buddhist Ethics and Vipassana meditation. Mrs. Baljit Lamba, (Vipassana Meditation Centre Mumbai), among several others have conducted Workshops that have been well-received by the academic

community. This initiative aims at taking forward the Department's Diploma and Advance Diploma Course in Buddhist Studies and *Vipassana* course (being conducted for almost two decades), towards specialization in Buddhism in the post graduate programmes like M.A, M.Phil and PhD. The Center for Buddhist Studies also welcomes and encourages interdisciplinary research in the classical texts and practices of Buddhism.

Theme of the Conference:

The psychological attitude that fosters peace in society is analyzed by Buddhist philosophers into four cardinal states of thought and feeling called the Four Sublime Moods (*Brahma-vihara*). These four appear identically the same in all schools of Buddhism. In Pali they are listed as *metta*, *karuna*, *mudita* and *upekkha*, while the Buddhist Sanskrit sources give the equivalent forms as *maitri*, *karuna*, *mudita* and *upeksa*. Etymologically and conceptually they are the same and signify friendly feeling, sympathy, congratulatory benevolence and equanimity respectively. All social relationships, according to the Buddha are based on these four moods or attitudes and thus they are regarded as representing the highest (*Brahma*) conditions for social well-being. The story goes that when a group of monks, frightened by sprites in the forest, approached the Buddha for help, the Buddha's response took the shape of what would later be recorded as the *Karaṇīyamettā Sutta*. It extols the virtue of friendliness and loving kindness or goodwill for all. Reciting the *sutta* helped in allaying the monks' fears and insecurities as well as in placating the sprites.

The world that we live in today has its own share of sprites and a host of even more unfriendly shadows hanging upon various facets of our lives: psychological, familial, social, political, economic, religious, artistic, technological, etc. Can the idea of *metta* or *maitri* (often translated as 'friendliness') still act as an antidote to our insecurities? To what extent is it practicable? This is a question that does not allow for an uncomplicated answer. The concept of *Maitri* has gone on to acquire a central in the Buddhist doctrine alongside the other three '*Brahma-viharas*' namely *Mudita* (Joy), *Karuna* (Compassion) and *Upeksha* (Equanimity). But even before we investigate whether the idea of *Maitri* offers any feasible and practicable solution to our conflicts, a more fundamental question to ask is how do we interpret what *Maitri* means for our times? Over the two millennia of its rich and complex history, Buddhism has travelled the world to lands far away from the one where the Buddha lived. As a set of philosophical schools and a set of religious sects, Buddhism has multifaceted and nuanced solutions to the problems of existence and strife today. Thus the implications of "*Sukhinovākheminohontu, sabbesattābhavantsukhitattā!*" [Loosely translatable as: May all beings be happy and secure, may all beings in their hearts be happy!] in our onward march towards peace are manifold.

The conference wishes to engage with the idea of *maitri* drawing from the wisdom of diverse but interconnected platforms such as philosophy, art, religious practice, engaged Buddhism, wellness, literary analysis, psychology, management and others. What implications can we draw from such an engagement in the context of the unique problems we face in the 21st century? This is the line of enquiry that the conference proposes to facilitate. We invite

papers on the following themes and are confident that scholars working from their respective areas of expertise will significantly contribute to the continuing debate and discussions on Buddhism and Philosophy.

- How does this path of ethics (*dhamma*) that involves a deep transformation of all aspects of one's mental life give rise to wisdom (*pañña*)?
- What do the varieties of Buddhism, spread all over the world, have to offer in terms of models for social change and individual transformation?
- How significant and useful are Buddhist concepts of insight (*panna*), suffering (*dukkha*) and temporality (*anityatā*) for our philosophical inquiries?
- How is the self to live in a meaningful way amidst the fact of constant change?
- To what extent are we really in control of our present and future lives?
- The impact of phenomenological and existential awareness of our surroundings on our moral world views.
- Engaged Buddhism and the impact of Buddhist philosophy in transforming our social world in terms of egalitarianism and social justice.
- The impact of Buddhist culture on other religious and cultural traditions around the world.
- The significance of the various kinds of literature available on the myths and stories depicting Buddhist philosophy seen for example in the dialogues of Milinda Praśna.
- The importance and varieties of meditative practices in Buddhism.
- The enrichment of Art, Architecture and Aesthetics from a Buddhist Perspective

This conference aims at throwing some light on these and many related issues. We are confident that scholars will work in their respective areas of expertise that will significantly contribute to the continuing debate and discussions on Buddhism and Philosophy.

Important Note:

Teachers & Research scholars and students working in the field of Buddhism are welcome to send their abstracts on the above theme and related areas, in a soft copy on or before due date. Abstracts (maximum word length 500) can be sent in MS word format to buddhiststudiesudp@gmail.com. Decisions on abstracts that are accepted for paper presentation after a due process of referring will be communicated by 10th November 2018. Full papers (maximum word length of 3000, Times New Roman, 12 Font) of abstracts that are accepted will have to be sent to the above mentioned email ID by Nov. 5th, 2018. All those who wish to attend conference are required to register for the Conference.

Teachers, scholars and students who wish to attend the Seminar without presentation are also welcome. However, they too will have to register

Registration fees can be paid through Cash / D.D. of any Nationalized Bank in ***Favor of The Bombay Philosophical Society, Payable at Mumbai.*** The DD can be sent to the following address along with registration form duly filled to The Centre for Buddhist Studies, Department of Philosophy, 1st Flr. Jnaneshwar Bhavan, Kalina Campus, Vidyanagari, Santacruz (E), Mumbai University, Mumbai – 400098.

Mode of D.D. payment is available only for Outstation Participants.

Local participants may kindly make Cash payment.

Cash amount can be paid (between 11.00 a.m. to 3.00 p.m.) along with registration form dully filled.

Kindly Register as early as possible as seats are limited.

Dates of submission:

- Last Date of Abstract submission: : 5th November 2018
- Last Date of Full Paper submission: : 25th November 2018
- Last Date of Registration: : 30th November 2018

Registration Fees:

- Indian Delegates from Academic Institution/
Employed Students /Research Students : Rs. 1500.00
- Outstation Participants Registration Amount
(Without accommodation) : Rs. 1500.00
- Outstation Participants Registration Amount
(With accommodation facility) : Rs. 3500.00
- Unemployed Students (B.A, M.A,) : Rs. 750.00

How to Reach to Mumbai University, Kalina Campus:

One of the advantages of being a major metropolis is that Mumbai is well connected to the rest of the state and country.

By Air-University of Mumbai is closest to Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport at Andheri (East), or at Chhatrapati Shivaji Domestic Airport, Vileparle (East), Mumbai. From airport, one can take a cab, auto or taxi to University of Mumbai Vidyanagari campus, Kalina, Santacruz (East) Mumbai.

By Train-For those choosing to travel by train, Mumbai's two railway terminals-Mumbai Central & Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus (CST) connect it to rest of the country. Alight at Dadar station and one can take a local train to Kurla (Central railway) or Santacruz (Western railway). After arriving at this station, one can take a cab or an Auto or Bus no 313, 318 to Vidyanagari Campus, University of Mumbai.

By Road- Mumbai is well connected city by road. Private and state transport long distance buses depart from Mumbai Central state transport bus depot to several towns and cities. Alight at Kurla /Sion/Dadar or Santacruz. From here, one can take a cab, auto or taxi to Vidyanagari Campus, University of Mumbai.

For Further Information Contact:

Dr. Archana Malik-Goure, (Convener, the centre for Buddhist Studies) or

Mr.Sudhir Donagre, (Research Assistant) : 9819244875

Email: buddhiststudiesudp@gmail.com

Contact No. Dept of Philosophy: Phone No: 022-2652733

Advisory Committee for Inaugural Session

Prof. Suhas Pednekar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai

Prof. Ravindra Kulkarni, Hon'ble Pro Vice-Chancellor, University of Mumbai

Prof. S.G. Bhirud, Registrar, University of Mumbai

Organizing and Executive Committee for Inaugural Session

Dr. Geeta Ramana, Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Dr. Archana Malik-Goure, *Convener*, Dept of Philosophy University of Mumbai

Dr. Sandesh Wagh, Head Dept of History, University of Mumbai

Mrs. Suchita Pagare, Deputy Registrar GAD, University of Mumbai

Mr. Vinod Patil, Engineer, University of Mumbai

Mr. N.D. Bukane, Security Officer

Department Executive Committee for the Conference

Dr. Geeta Ramana, Head, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Dr. Archana Malik-Goure, *Convener*, Dept of Philosophy University of Mumbai

Dr. Meenal Katarnikar, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Dr. Namita Nimbalkar, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Dr. Priya Vaidya, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

Dr. Narayan Gadade, Department of Philosophy, University of Mumbai

*International Conference On
Concept of Maitri (Metta) in Buddhism*

Date: 12th to 14th, 2018

Registration form

Full Name:

Designation:.....

Institute Address

.....

Mobile No.

Email address

Registration Category (Student/Research Student/Academia)

Title of the Paper

.....

.....

Payment details of registration:

Cash (Local Participants) / D.D. (Outstation Participants)

Amount:..... Name of Bank

D.D. No. Date.....

Note: Accommodation facility will be provided to outstation participants only those who have already confirmed their registration and send registration amount for the conference.

Kindly Register as early as possible as seats are limited.

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