

Interfaith Conference Held at MIMC to Promote Peace, Harmony and Human Flourishing

Leh, May 8, 2026: A meaningful gathering of spiritual leaders, scholars and delegates was held at the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC), Choglamsar, during the Interfaith Conference organised under the theme “Sacred Wisdom for a Compassionate World: Interfaith Paths to Peace, Harmony and Human Flourishing.”

The conference was organised as part of the Sacred Grand Exposition of the Holy Relics of the Tathagata Buddha, and reflected the shared message of peace, compassion and harmony across faith traditions. The programme served as a reminder that true peace begins within oneself, and harmony among communities grows through mutual respect, understanding and compassion.

The event commenced with a traditional welcome and offering of khataks, followed by the ceremonial lighting of the holy lamp and a multi-faith invocation. In his welcome address, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena, Founder President and Spiritual Director of MIMC, expressed gratitude to all religious leaders, dignitaries and participants for attending the conference. He highlighted the importance of interfaith unity and said that such dialogues are essential to promote compassion, harmony and peaceful coexistence in society.

Shri Ashish Kundra, IAS, Chief Secretary, UT Ladakh, in his special address, stated that the interfaith dialogue held in connection with the Holy Relics Exposition was deeply meaningful as more than 65,000 devotees had already received blessings. He said that people visiting the relics carried the spirit of peace and compassion, and Ladakh remains a unique example where followers of different religions live together with mutual respect. He added that despite being located in a border region, Ladakh has always remained peaceful and stands as an inspiration for the world. The Chief Secretary underlined that all religions promote equality, harmony and inner peace, and such messages must continue to guide society even as development progresses.

The Chief Guest, His Eminence Kyabje Thuksey Rinpoche, while addressing the gathering, emphasised that in the 21st century many people feel confused, lost and are engaged in conflict. He said it is the responsibility of spiritual leaders to guide society, and that this is a time not only for teachings but also for action. He highlighted that though religions have different philosophies and teachings, all ultimately lead to harmony, compassion and peace. He further stated that India’s diversity is a strong example of unity, and Ladakh is a living model of interfaith coexistence for the entire world. He recalled Ladakh’s long history of strong relationships and mutual respect among different communities, particularly between Buddhists and Muslims, and stressed that youth must learn and understand these values through schools and colleges. He appealed to religious heads to continue guiding the people and to work together for a harmonious society. He also appreciated Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena for his contribution towards Ladakh and expressed hope for continued efforts in the future.

Shri Tsering Dorjay, President, Ladakh Buddhist Association (LBA), Leh, also spoke on the occasion and expressed gratitude to the UT Administration, Ministry of Culture and Government of India for organising the sacred exposition and interfaith programme. He stated that Ladakh has always upheld the values of harmony and compassion. He also mentioned that the construction of a Gonpa in Kargil is a significant achievement and a strong example of communal harmony. He cautioned that certain forces attempt to divide communities, and welcomed religious leaders from across the country to Ladakh to strengthen unity and mutual understanding.

The conference further featured technical sessions on themes such as Spiritual Foundations of Compassion and Peace and Interfaith Harmony, Social Justice and Global Responsibility, with presentations by prominent speakers including H.H. Acharya Dr. Lokesh Muni, H.H. Goswami Sushil Ji Maharaj, Imam Umer Ahmed Ilyasi, Ms. Sulekha Kumbhare, Sardar Paramjeet Singh Chandok, Dr. Sheikh Hasnain Ladakhi, Rev. Dechen Chagma, Shri Anil Kumar Jain, Dr. Gopi Krishna Pitadala, Dr. A.K. Merchant, and Rajyogini Dr. Binny Sareen. The sessions concluded with reflections, open discussions and a chair’s summary.

The concluding session included a rapporteur’s summary, reflections from delegates, and closing remarks, followed by a vote of thanks and multi-faith dedication. The programme ended with cultural programme, performances by the students of MIMC.

