



भारत के उपराष्ट्रपति
VICE-PRESIDENT OF INDIA

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE For UN Vesak Day 2019

I am happy that the 16th United Nations Day of Vesak celebration will be held at the Tam Chuc International Buddhist Convention Centre, Ha Nam Province, Vietnam, from 12 to 14 May, 2019.

I feel deeply honoured in accepting the invitation of the Organising Committee of the UN Day for Vesak, the esteemed National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and the Government of Vietnam to be a part of the United Nations Day of Vesak celebration - 2019. I look forward to take part in the programmes and deliver the keynote address on 'Buddhist Approach to Global Leadership and Shared Responsibilities for Sustainable Societies', the main theme of the UN Day for Vesak celebration this year.

The universality of Lord Buddha's message of peace and compassion is as relevant today as it was two and half millennium ago. The countries of South, Central, South East and East Asia are proud of their Buddhist heritage and their historical ties to the land of Buddha. These shared civilizational links are a great unifying force. The United Nations Day of Vesak celebrates our shared religious and cultural history and provides an opportunity to the world community to come together, reflect, and take inspiration from Lord Buddha's teaching of peace, harmony and welfare for all.

I congratulate the dynamic leadership of Most Ven. Dr. Thich Thien Nhon, President of National Vietnam Buddhist Sangha and President of United Nations Day of Vesak Celebration 2019, and, Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit, President of International Council for Day of Vesak, for organizing the United Nations Day of Vesak 2019. The three-day festival will bring leaders, monks and participants from many parts of the world and will undoubtedly

foster a greater understanding of Lord Buddha's message of tolerance, empathy and humanism for the contemporary world and show us the path ahead.

I wish the celebration of the United Nations Day of Vesak-2019 all success. May Lord Buddha bless us all!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Venkaiah Naidu', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Vice President of India, H.E. M. Venkaiah Naidu