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Sri Lanka Samajawadi Jananata Samithi  
President of Sri Lanka

**Message**

The Buddhists all over the world celebrate the Vesak Festival with much religious fervour and enthusiasm to commemorate the important events that took place in the life of Gotama Buddha on this day, namely the birth of Siddhartha Gotama, Siddhartha Gotama's supreme attainment of Buddhahood and the Mahaparinibbana. The Buddha's teaching which reflects a great vision of a superior religious age and a humanitarian philosophy have an eternal appeal to the human civilisation.


Siddhartha Gotama, the Buddha, was born in a complex era where the Indian society, embraced various beliefs and religions. The religious orthodoxy had a strong impact on that society, which also had various divisions within. Women were considered as weak beings and they enjoyed limited rights in a male dominated society.

The Buddhist teaching demolished that traditional immoral ideas and myths prevalent in that society, which was rooted in ignorance and blindness, and moved forward with scientific thoughts. The Buddha addressed the mindset of the people directly. The right of understanding the truth is our own mind after investigating the validity and truth was bestowed to ourselves by the Buddha.

Therefore, a spiritual human being emerged dispelling illusion and ignorance.


Buddha preached that human become a worthwhile person or a great person, not by his birth, but only through his actions. This noble concept became a strong healing force of the entire humanity.

Borrowing merits on minds of equality with immense kindness and pure joy, Gotama Buddha invited the wisdom of human to show the abolishment of violence and this blessed period of Vesak gives an ideal opportunity to recall the great teachings of the Noble One. I wish for a great Vesakthya Uththana for all the Buddhists around the world.




Maithripala Sirisena

April 25, 2018



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Sri Lanka Samajawadi Jananata Samithi  
Prime Minister of Sri Lanka


**HON PRIME MINISTER'S VESAK MESSAGE**

Dharma or the teachings of Buddha is a purifying factor for the human mind propelled by lust, hate and violence. The pious festival of Vesak reminds us the virtues of practicing four factors of mindfulness in order to dwell with Dharma as its other refuge.

It is a time for reflection and appreciation of our humanity, and to lead a life full of equality, fraternity, respect and understanding. The unity Government is determined to make the prospects of a harmonious society a reality through the protection of democratic rights of people.

May the full moon of Vesak take away the darkness of ignorance, bigotry and hatred towards others and it may herald an era of contentment, peace and exultation for the whole world.

On this auspicious Vesak day you may be blessed with the sublime goodness of Lord Buddha!



Ranil Wickremesinghe  
Prime Minister

April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2018