

2,500th BUDDHA JAYANTI CELEBRATIONS

PROGRAMME IN DELHI

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May 23, 1956.

Laying of the foundation-stone of the monument at Kushak View, Upper Ridge Road, New Delhi.

6.25 p.m.

Chairman Working Committee for the 2,500th Buddha Jayanti arrives.

6.28 p.m.

Prime Minister arrives.

6.30 p.m.

Recitation of the Mangal Sutta and the Mitte Sutta.

6.40 p.m.

Chairman, Working Committee, requests the Prime Minister to lay the Foundation Stone of the Commemorative Monument.

6.55 p.m.

Prime Minister addresses the gathering.

7.20 p.m.

Prime Minister lays the Foundation Stone.

Jana Gana Mana.

May 24, 1956.

10.30 a.m.

Presentation of a copy of "2,500 Years of Buddhism" to the President by Dr. S. Radhakrishnan at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

6.30 p.m. to

Public meeting at Ramlila Grounds.

8.30 p.m.

Recitation of Tagore's Invocation to the Buddha.

Recitation of a Poem by Shri Maithili Sharan Gupta.

Speech by the Chairman of the Working Committee for the 2500th Buddha Jayanti.

The President addresses the gathering.

Messages to be read by the following:-

The Ambassador for Burma

The Minister for Cambodia

The High Commissioner for Ceylon

The Ambassador for China

The Charge d' affaires for Indonesia

The Ambassador for Japan

The Minister for Laos

The Ambassador for Thailand

Speech by the Prime Minister.

Vote of thanks by Shri Ajit Prasad Jain, Minister for Food & Agriculture.

Jana Gana Mana.

STAGE SET FOR INDIA-WIDE
2,500TH BUDDHA JAYANTI

File
Ref No.
CS
Mr. Nehru Lays Foundation Of
Rs. 10-Lakh Delhi Monument
BROADCAST BY PRESIDENT:
PREPARATIONS AT SARNATH

“The Times of India” News Service

A BROADCAST to the nation on Lord Buddha by the President, the laying of the foundation-stone of a commemorative structure in New Delhi by the Prime Minister, and Buddha Puja and “mangalacharan” at Sarnath, where the Buddha preached his first sermon, marked the eve of the 2,500th anniversary of the Buddha’s ‘parinirvana.’

As the country, from shore to shore, prepared itself for the historic day, the President in his broadcast on Wednesday night declared that the need of the Buddha’s message of love, tolerance and peace was never greater than it was today.

“Though India is a haloed land where the Buddha trod, lived and preached, as a matter of fact Gautama, like other prophets, belongs to the whole world and his message is truly universal,” Dr. Rajendra Prasad said.

Earlier, in the evening, the Prime Minister, Mr. Nehru, laid the foundation-stone of a monument which is being raised to commemorate the anniversary, in the presence of a large and distinguished gathering, adds a Staff Reporter.

The monument, which will be situated on Upper Ridge Road in New Delhi, overlooks the capital city. The site of the monument has been named Kushak View and is in a line with the Old Fort, India Gate and Rashtrapati Bhavan.

The memorial which will, in the words of Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, be “the 20th century’s tribute to the greatest son of India,” will cost the Government nearly Rs. 10 lakhs.

Overwhelmed by the occasion, Mr. Nehru spoke with great humility of Lord Buddha “whose message of peace and goodwill

A two-page Buddha Jayanti feature is being included in this edition of “The Times of India.”

still rings in our ears 2,500 years after he attained nirvana.”

In a five-minute speech, the Prime Minister said that it was good for mankind to remember Lord Buddha and his message at a time when nations distrusted one another and feverishly prepared for war. It was indeed a strange thing that the “gentle voice of Lord Buddha still beckons to us. It puts us to shame because we did not understand and follow him during these centuries.”

Mr. Nehru said that the design for the monument had not yet been selected. It had to be simple and austere so that the monument conformed to the ideals of Lord Buddha.

RSDAY,

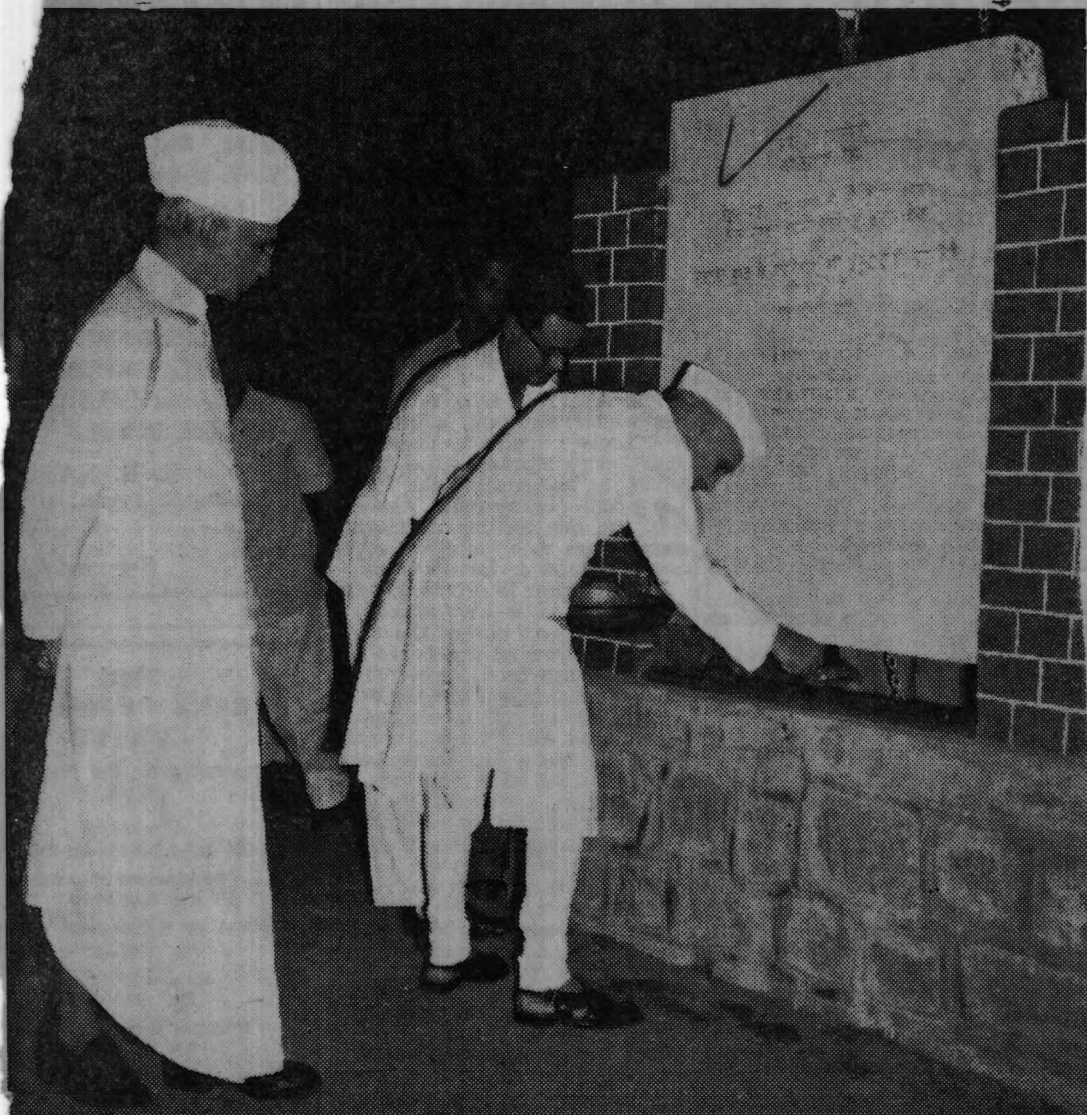


Photo No. 10