

A STATE LEVEL SEMINAR on “BUDDHISM AND WORLD PEACE”

Organized by

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Under the aegis of IQAC, SRI RAMKRISHNA SARADA VIDYA MAHAPITHA

Date: NOVEMBER 30, 2023

A Report

A One Day State Level Seminar on “Buddhism and World Peace” was organized by the Department of Philosophy, Sri Ramkrishna Sarada Vidya Mahapitha, Kamarpukur, Hooghly, West Bengal on 30th November, 2023 to commemorate the World Philosophy Day, 2023. The Inaugural Session was started with the Welcome Address by the Principal of the College, Dr. Mausumi Ghosh and was followed with the Lightening of Lamps and an inaugural song performed by the students of the college. Dr. Ghosh in her speech discussed the importance and relevancy of celebrating World Philosophy Day. Bhaswati Basu, Head of the Department of Philosophy and Convener of the seminar presented a brief introduction on the objectives of the seminar and relevance of choosing “Buddhism and World Peace” as the theme of it. She emphasized upon the necessity of peaceful coexistence of the nations in the context of unrest in some parts of the world and contribution of Buddha and his philosophy in the expansion of peace and harmony in the Indian subcontinent. The key speaker of the Technical Session was Dr. Sumanapal Bhikkhu, faculty in the Department of Pali, University of Calcutta, who delivered his speech on the topic ‘Love, Compassion and Fraternity in Buddhist Philosophy’. He explained the concept of ‘*Brahmavihara*’ in Buddhist ethics with a detailed interpretation of the four virtues of *Brahmavihara* namely *metta* (loving-kindness), *karuna* (compassion), *mudita* (sympathetic joy) and *upekkha* (equanimity) and also discussed how the practical applications of these principles can act as redeeming light to show people the way to establish peace and brotherhood in the world. Another speaker of this session was Prof. Subham Amin, faculty in the Department of English in the college, who spoke on ‘Democracy and Human Rights in the Organisational Principles of Buddhism’, briefly described the democratic nature of rules and principles maintained in the *Sangha* (Buddhist monastic order) of *bhikkhu* (monks) and *bhikkhuni* (nuns) highlighting his observation that the principle of equality adopted in the monastic communities was instrumental to protect the rights of women and eradication of gender inequality as well. The technical session was followed by an interactive session. The programme ended with a formal Vote of Thanks by Prof. Dhananjay Bhuinya, Assistant Professor in the Department of Philosophy. About eighty students and teachers participated in the seminar.

Poster Link: <http://www.srsvidyamahapitha.org/images/uploads/Philosophy%20seminar%2030%20Nov%20F.pdf>





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