

Vesak Religious program and Community Commemoration



Vesak full Moon Poya Day is the most sacred day for Buddhists worldwide. It commemorates three monumental events in the life of Gautama Buddha. His birth, enlightenment and passing away. It is a time dedicated to spiritual reflection practice and sharing kindness with all living beings.

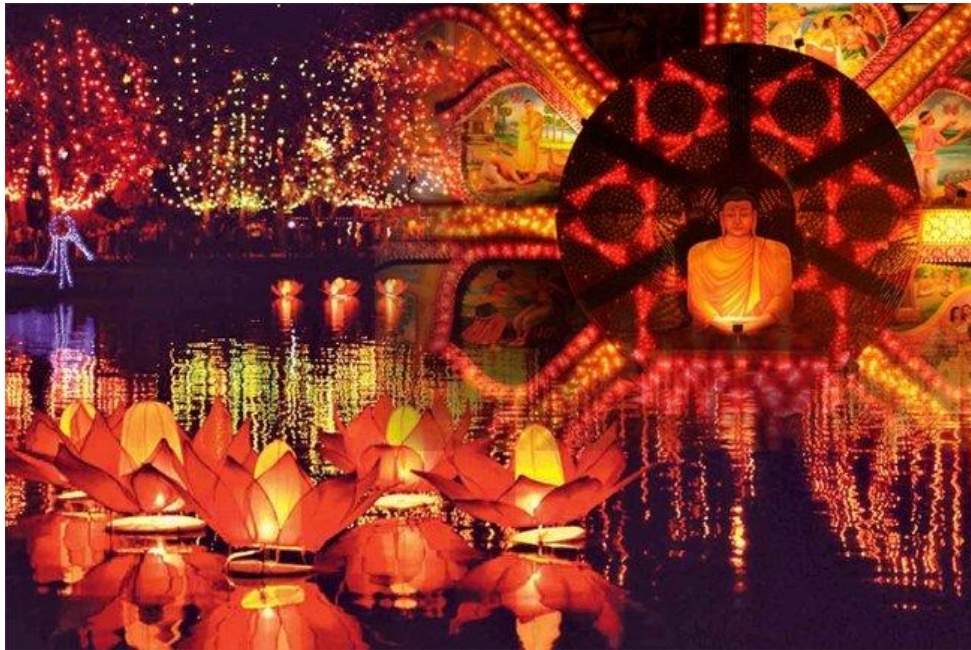
In Sri Lanka Vesak is celebrated through both Amisa puja (material offerings) and Prathipaththi Puja (Spiritual practice).

- Sil Programs – temples Island-wide host day-long observation of the eight precepts featuring meditations, dhamma sermons and discussions.
- Dansal (Alms-giving) – Communities set up free food stalls offering rice, noodles, ice cream and drinks to passersby embodying the spirit of generosity.
- Bhakthi Geetha – devotional songs are performed by various groups spreading peace and serenity through music.

This year, the National Vesak festival was officially hosted in the Matara District transforming the entire Matara city in to a vibrant hub of religious and cultural activities. The festival was held at the historic Midellawala Purana Viharaya in Thihagoda, Matara District.

All sectors including government institutions, private organizations, tri-forces, police and general public contributed immensely to make this event a success. Matara city was filled with exceptionally creative large scale Vesak lanterns and pandols displaying intricate craftsmanship.

A massive number of dansal were organized throughout the city catering to hundreds of thousands of devotees.



- Tesheema Chammi -