

## Diploma in Buddhism

### Topic for lectures

1. **Embracing the Three Characteristics (*Tilakkhaṇa*) in Daily Life** ( Explore how the understanding of the Three Characteristics-impermanence (*Anicca*), suffering (*Dukkha*), and non-self (*Anatta*)-can be practically applied to everyday experiences, helping to cultivate mindfulness, acceptance, and inner peace in the face of life's challenges).
2. ***Kamma* and Rebirth by Way of Ethical Dimensions in Early Buddhist Thought** (Examine how early Buddhist texts conceptualize *kamma* and rebirth and their impact on ethical behaviour).
3. **The Four Noble Truths: Is Life Truly Suffering?** (Delve into the Four Noble Truths in early Buddhism, questioning whether life is inherently suffering or if this teaching serves as a lens to understand and transcend the inevitable challenges and discomforts of human existence).
4. **The Eightfold Noble Path as a Blueprint for Ethical and Mental Development in day-to-day life** (Discuss the Eightfold Noble Path not just as a guide for ethical living, but as a comprehensive system for mental and spiritual growth).
5. ***Saṃsāra* and *Nibbāna*: Understanding the Cycle of Existence and the Path to Liberation** (Investigate the concepts of *saṃsāra* and *nibbāna*, their interrelationship, and the path to liberation as taught in early Buddhism).
6. **Dependent Origination and the Interplay of Mind and Matter** (Investigate the concept of dependent origination (*paṭicca-samuppāda*) and its relevance to the relationship between mind, matter, and consciousness).
7. **The Universality of the Five Precepts and their Timeless Ethical Compass for Humanity** (Examine the Five Precepts (*pañcasīla*) of Buddhism as a universal ethical framework, transcending cultural and religious boundaries, and offering a timeless guide for fostering moral integrity, non-harm, and compassionate living in a diverse and interconnected world).
8. **The Evolution of the *Saṅgha* from Early Monasticism to Community Organization** (Trace the development of the monastic community from the Buddha's time to the early centuries after his passing).

9. **Early Buddhist Theravada Councils that Shaped the Tradition** (Look into the early Buddhist councils, their agendas, key debates, and the decisions that influenced the development of Buddhist doctrine).
10. **The Origin and Evolution of Society as Depicted in Early Buddhism** (Explore how early Buddhist teachings perceive the origin of society, the role of interdependence in social evolution, and how reflects these principles, promoting ethical harmony and collective well-being).
11. **Buddhist Teachings on Social Relationships** (Examine how early Buddhist teachings guide the cultivation of healthy social relationships through principles like compassion, right speech, and non-attachment, fostering harmony, empathy, and mutual respect in personal and community interactions).
12. **The Spread of Buddhism Beyond India During King Ashoka's Reign** (Explore how King Ashoka's support and missionary efforts led to the spread of Buddhism across Asia, examining his role in promoting the Dharma through edicts, envoys, and the establishment of Buddhist communities outside India).