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## 'Buddha's message of tolerance-all important'

The Buddha's message of tolerance and understanding is of great relevance today, as we see the tragic results of enmity and hatred towards other faiths leading to violence and destruction, and great loss to societies.



President Mahinda Rajapaksa participated in the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the 'Sanchi University of Buddhist and Indic Studies', at Madhya Pradesh, India, on Friday.  
Picture courtesy : President's Media unit

It is of equal importance in the East and West alike, said President Mahinda Rajapaksa at the ceremony to lay the foundation stone for the 'Sanchi University of Buddhist and Indic Studies', at Madhya Pradesh, India, Friday. He said "in practising this message, the great Emperor Asoka, honoured and supported all religions in his empire. "He declared that one should not honour only one's own religion and condemn the religions of others, but one should honour the faiths of others, as well." "The federal structure and the emergence of states has not erased our vision of India as a single land of friendship with the great bonds of history. **CONT ON P4**

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**COLOMBO COLUMN**  
By Reggie Fernando -  
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