



Remembering Professor Thurman

Eminent Buddhist Scholar, Padma Shri Awardee, and Friend of Nalanda University

25 June 2026, 05 pm India Time

Professor Robert A.F. Thurman was among the most influential interpreters of Buddhist thought and the Nalanda intellectual tradition in the modern era. Through his pioneering scholarship, public engagement, and commitment to fostering dialogue across cultures and civilizations, he played a vital role in introducing generations of students and practitioners around the world to the philosophical, ethical, and contemplative richness of Buddhism. A friend and well-wisher of Nalanda University, Professor Thurman strongly supported efforts to revitalize the Nalanda tradition as a living source of wisdom for addressing contemporary global challenges. This condolence meeting (in hybrid mode) seeks to honour his extraordinary life and legacy by bringing together distinguished scholars and practitioners from India and the United States to reflect on his enduring contributions to Buddhist studies, human flourishing, and intercultural understanding.

Zoom Meeting Information:

<https://nalandauniv-edu-in.zoom.us/j/84932111599?pwd=pyLx6FuEncvuBPtuo3P09gtxPBaaxc.1>
Meeting ID: 849 3211 1599
Passcode: 750871

Indicative Agenda

05:00- 05:15 pm *Welcome and Opening Remarks*

- **Professor Sachin Chaturvedi**
Vice Chancellor, Nalanda University
- **Ambassador Binaya S. Pradhan**
Consul General of India, New York

05:15- 06:15 pm *Panel Discussion: Remembering Professor Thurman*

Panelists

- **Ven. Geshe Ngawang Samten**
Former Vice Chancellor, Central Institute of Higher Tibetan Studies (CIHTS), Sarnath
- **Mr. Daniel Aitken**
Board of Trustees, Tibet House-US & CEO, Wisdom Publications, New York

- **Professor Dominique Townsend**
Professor of Indo-Tibetan Buddhism, Columbia University, New York
- **Professor Jay Garfield**
Professor of Philosophy and Buddhist Studies at Smith College, Emeritus
Visiting Professor of Buddhist Philosophy, Harvard Divinity School
Professor of Philosophy, University of Melbourne
- **Professor David Kittay**
Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Religion, Columbia University &
Member, Board of Trustees, Tibet House, US
- **Professor John Dunne**
Distinguished Professor of Contemplative Humanities, Department of Asian
Languages and Cultures, University of Wisconsin, Madison
- **Ven. Geshe Dorji Damdul**
Director, Tibet House, New Delhi

06:15- 06:25 pm Open Reflections and Tributes

Remarks by invited scholars, faculty members, students, colleagues, and well-wishers.

06:25- 06:30 pm Closing Remarks