BUDDHA PURNIMA

Thursday, May 23, 2024

Near Sikanderpur Metro Station, Gurgaon

Buddha Purnima is the biggest day for Buddhists because on this day, it is believed three important events of the Buddha's life took place: his birth, his attaining enlightenment, and his death, Parinirvana. This day is known as Thrice Blessed Festival.

Following Buddha's teaching of compassion, many Buddhists do charitable activities on this day which includes donating to the needy, organising free meals for the poor and setting free birds, fishes and other vulnerable animals.

On this auspicious Buddha Purnima Day, the Managing Trustee along with his colleagues and volunteers set out to organise a camp braving the hottest month of the year. May is a month of severe heatwave alerts; temperature goes above 40 degrees.

A tent was put up and before we could finish laying the table and mixing roohafza bottles with milk and ice in a huge drum and jars, heat beaten commuters and passersby throng in to grab a glass of cold drink.

Hurriedly we started serving, people gulp cold drinks, glass after glass, some came to fill bottle to carry with them. Drenched with sweat and faces red with heat, people quenched their thirst and smiled as the cold drink went down their throat. As we serve, we wished them happy Buddha Purnima Day.

Almost four hours on the road side, braving the heat was physically difficult yet it gave us peace and great sense of satisfaction.

***