



Maha Bodhi Society

Bengaluru

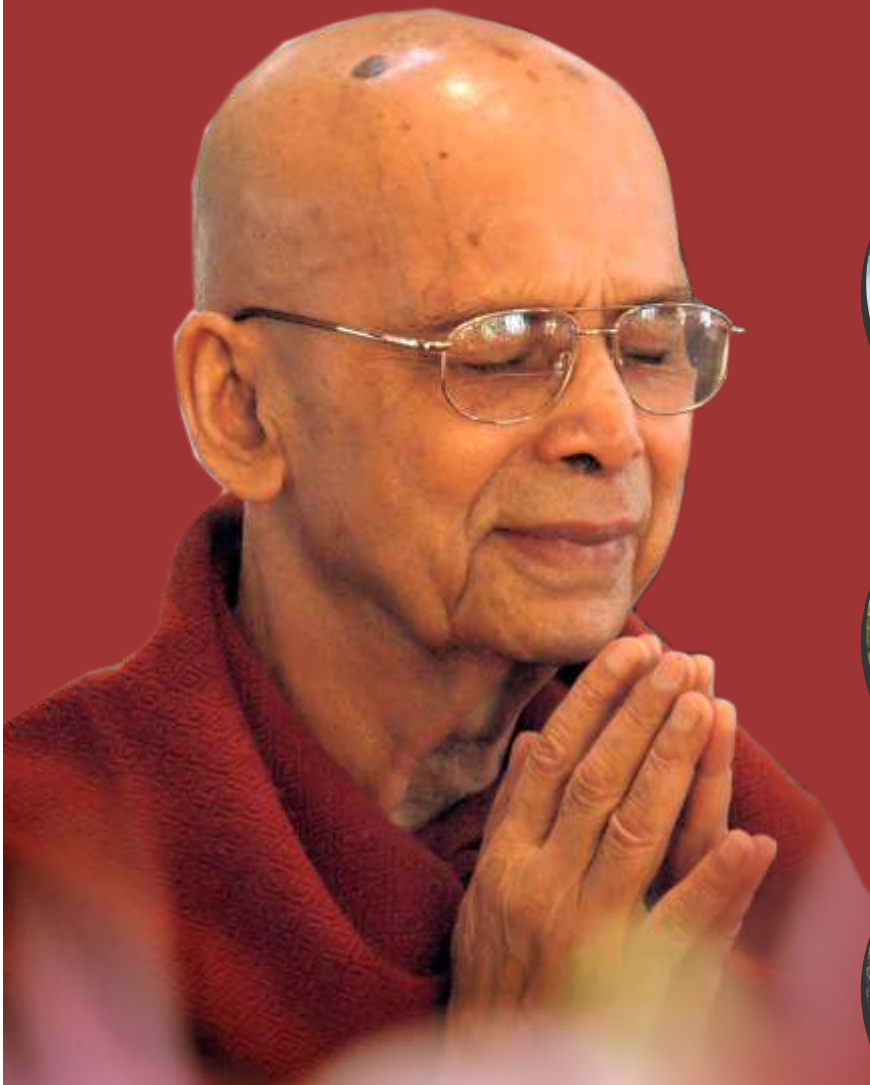


Sabbe Sattā Bhavantu Sukhitattā

May All Beings Be Happy!



Annual Report 2015-2016





BODHI RASMI PAGODA



Built in memory of
Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita
Abhidhaja Aggamaha Saddhammajotika
Founder of Mahabodhi Organisations
Narasipura, Bengaluru North



Namo tassa Bhagavato Arahato Sammasambuddhassa

MAHA BODHI SOCIETY

BENGALURU

Annual Report

1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016

Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, was founded in 1956 by the Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita. The aim of the Maha Bodhi Society is to put into practice and teach the most sacred teachings of the Buddha through spiritual, educational, medical and other humanitarian services. Venerable Acharya passed away on September 23, 2013. Though the Venerable Acharya is no more physically with us, however, his great ideals and legacy of Dhamma will continue to inspire and guide us to propagate the noble teachings of Lord Buddha. The Maha Bodhi Society has been growing with humanitarian services year by year. This year it is celebrating its 60th anniversary.



Most Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita

The following is the report of the activities of the Maha Bodhi Society (MBS) during the year 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2016.

MAHABODHI BANGALORE ACTIVITIES

MAHABODHI MONASTIC INSTITUTE

MMI is a training centre for monks where they learn Buddha's teaching through theory and practice. Practical part of the Dhamma is one of the most important parts of the training. MMI was started in the year 2001 by Most Respected Bada Bhanteji, Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita with the aim of providing facilities for self realization through a monastic living and for reviving the Dhamma in its birth place India.



MMI completed its session 2015-16 successfully. Following are the subjects taught in MMI:

1. Pali, language of Buddhist literature
2. Vinaya, Disciplinary rule and regulation
3. Sutta: Philosophy
4. Abhidhamma: Deeper study of the Dhamma
5. English
6. Hindi
7. Basic General Knowledge

The daily schedule constituted intensive study, work and practice programs as it can be seen from the below time table. Apart from other activities there were two periods in the morning session and four periods in the afternoon session. There were 13 monk teachers during the year. We had visiting teachers from Myanmar and Thailand. Many volunteers too gave their service and we are very grateful about it. Ven. Pamokkha, who is pursuing his Phd in Buddhism through



Mahabodhi Research Centre is one of the guest teachers from Myanmar. Also, Ven. Dhammaratana, an old student of MMI, presently pursuing his MA in Buddhism from International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University also took classes for some time.

Meditation is the heart of a monk's life. Each class was sent to our Dhammaduta Center for one to two week for meditation practice and pindapata. Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhadatta was running the program for monks there. In order to encourage and train in intensive meditation, 20 MMI monks participated in 10 days Vipassana Meditation at the Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara. Every participant expressed positive response after the course. We will conduct such courses every now and then.

- 1) **COURSES:** The courses offered were **PSLC:** Pali School Leaving Certificate at Nalanda Pali Vijjayatana – Primary and secondary school education from class one to class tenth. **Pariyatti Pathama:** Diploma course in Pali and Buddhist Studies along with teaching techniques for duration of two years.
- 2) **FOOD:** The monks were provided with wholesome, simple vegetarian food. Keeping in view the food habits of different parts of India, south Indian, north Indian and North-east Indian food items are prepared. As the Buddha taught, food is to maintain the body good health so that one's spiritual pursuit is not disturbed. Many times there were donations by lay people who normally gave money to offer lunch or breakfast.
- 3) **HEALTH CARE:** Regular medical checkup and health care were maintained. Whenever necessary, monks were taken to Mahabodhi Mallige Hospital for diagnosis and specialized treatment. During the year no major health problem took place.
- 4) **WARDENS:** There are four dormitories for the monks named as Gotamo, Sambuddho, Sugato and Buddho dormitories. There are four warden monks with one assistant each to take care of the programs and discipline of the monks. There is also a chief warden. In each dormitory normally there are 25 monks. They are also provided with a shelf to keep their robes, books, etc.



- 5) **EXPENSES:** The average expense per month per monk is Rs. 3500/- for food and essential facilities. Education, Clothing, medicine, books and stationery expenses are extra. The contribution is made from the **Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita Foundation to provide Monastic Requisites** and the rents from the Sevakshetra building are the main source of income. Lay people also offer dana in cash and on some days they offer food. It was the wish of Bada Bhanteji that everyday there should be offering by lay people which is considered as ideal situation for a monastery.
- 6) **TIME TABLE:** A suitable time table has been formulated for the integrated development of the monks as follows:

04:30 am	Wake up and Wash
05:00 to 06:50 am	Puja and Meditation
07:00 to 07:30 am	Breakfast
07:30 to 08:15 am	Morning Assembly
08:15 to 09:00 am	Cleaning Vihara and Gardening
09:00 am to 09:15 am	Morning prayer before class
09:15 am to 10:45 am	Morning Classes
11:00 to 12:00 pm	Lunch
12:15 to 01:30 pm	Rest
01:45 to 04:15 pm	Afternoon Classes
04:15 to 04:30 pm	Tea
04:30 to 05:15 pm	Cleaning Vihara & Gardening
05:15 to 05:50 pm	Bathing and Washing
06:00 to 07:20 pm	Puja and Meditation
07:20 to 07:40 pm	Gilanapaccaya
07:40 to 09:00 pm	Home Work
09:00 to 09:20 pm	Evening Assembly
09:30 pm	Lights put off

Saturday afternoon it is cleaning time in the monastery and dormitories and monks shave and wash clothes. Sunday afternoon is free time.

- 7) **EXAMINATIONS AND TESTS:** During the year one annual examination and tests were conducted.
- 8) **EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:** Gardening, decorations, management of water, cleaning, drawing, arts, robe making, creative writing, debates, indoor sports, quiz programs, painting etc formed the extracurricular activities. They are also trained in getting vegetables, flowers and fruits from the market for daily use and for hospital Dâna services.
- 9) **TEACHING STAFF:** During the academic session, 13 monks and 3 lay people were teaching the monks.



10) TEXT BOOKS: The following text books were used for different classes

1. Pali Patha-1,2,3,4
2. Comprehensive Pali Course-1 & 2
3. Life of the Buddha
4. Vinaya Pitaka
5. Buddhist Monastic Discipline
6. Manual of Buddhist Devotional Chanting
7. Suttas (Selected) from Sutta Pitaka
8. Sutta Sangaho
9. Dhammapada Stories
10. Jataka Stories.
11. English Language
12. Hindi Language
13. Buddha and His Dhamma – 1
14. History of Pali Language and Literature
15. Abhidhamma in daily life
16. Fundamentals of Abhidhamma-1,
17. Comprehensive Manuals of Abhidhamma

11) ORAL TRADITION TRAINING PROGRAM: In keeping with the oral tradition of training and preserving the Buddha Dhamma the monks are trained in memorization of the Suttas, Vinaya rules and Gathas.

12) MORNING ASSEMBLY: Every day in the morning from 7.30 to 08:30 AM all the monks assemble for discussing daily issues and work and studies. It is also time to train monks to give Dhamma talk to a gathering. This program is in keeping with the Buddha's advice to get together often and discuss issues concerning monastic life and Sangha.

13) ADMISSION OF THE NEW STUDENTS: During the year 30 new students were admitted and 8 students left afterwards.

Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita Foundation to Provide Monastic Requisites

The monks need four basic requisites, namely food, robes, vihara and medicine. To provide these requisites to the monks of Mahabodhi Monastic Institute, Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita created this foundation on the occasion of 2550th Buddha Jayanti in 2006, which is a registered trust. A corpus is developed and the interest accrued on this corpus is donated to the Maha Bodhi Society for maintaining the monks. To make the monastery fully self reliant the corpus needs to be increased to Rs.3 crores. At present the corpus stands at 90 lakhs. We appeal one and all to contribute generously to this fund so that the monastic requisites for the monks can be procured without any difficulty and monks can practice spiritual life with ease.



SMARANALOKA

Remembrance of the Founder President

Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita founded the Maha Bodhi Society in Bangalore in 1956. He passed away peacefully on September 23, 2013 at 3.48 AM. Out of gratitude, love and respect and to feel his presence and to show the untiring works of Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita SMARANALOKA – Museum dedicated to Venerable Acharya has been established and it was inaugurated on his birthday. The museum is located below the Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara in the lower ground floor. The portrait of Bada Bhanteji, his belongings, books and rare pictures have been on display.



Smarnaloka



Interior of Smarnaloka



Some old photos of Bada bhanteji in Smarnaloka

Sima Sammuti: Establishment of Sima

Designating the Sima boundary was first introduced by the Lord Buddha as a means to encourage the unity and harmony of the Sangha. Sima is one the most important places in Buddha Sasana where all bhikkhus have their birth as the ordination can happen only in the Sima and purification and other Sangha procedures are conducted there. The procedure of establishing Sima involves two aspects – removal of old sima if any existed and establishment of the new sima.

When Bada Bhanteji Ven.Acharya Buddharakkhita came to Bengaluru and established the Maha Bodhi Society, one of the earliest establishment was the sima, so that more bhikkhus can be ordained there. Due to constructions of several buildings the sima needed to be done anew. Therefore most qualified monks were invited from Myanmar to establish four Simas.

2015 - 2016



The monks who came were as follows:

Ven. Sayadaw Gunikabhivamsa	(Aggamahâpandita)
Ven. Sayadaw Nandhobhasalankara	(Ubhatovibhangadhara)
Shwe Nant Thar Ven. Sayadaw Sithila	(Dvipitakadhara)
Ven. Sayadaw Vasetthalankara	(Tipitakadhara)
Ven. Sayadaw Obhasabhivamsa	(Pathamakyaw, Tha-Sa-A Dhammâcariya)
Ven. Sayadaw Vepullalankara	(Dvipitakadhara, Pâliparagu)
Ven. Sayadaw Nyanikalankara	(Pâliparagu)
Ven. Sayadaw Maghinda	(Vinayadhara)
Ven. Sayadaw Nyanadhaja	(Dhammacariya)
Ven. Bhante Pamokkha	M.A. in Buddhist Studies

We were fortunate to have such eminent monks including Tipitakadhara, two pitaka dharas, Vinaya pitaka dhara and Pali Paragu monks to lead the establishment ceremony. Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, President of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, lead all the functions and all the bhikkhus of Maha Bodhi Society participated.

The following four simas were established by the Bhikkhu Sangha and they were named by the senior most monk Ven. Sayadaw Gunikabhivamsa:

Sila Vaddhani Sîma – at MahabodhiLoka Shanti Buddha Vihara, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru – This Sima was established on 21st May 2016 with the presence of 28 bhikkhus at 2 AM

DhammaVaddhani Sîma – at Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura, Bengaluru – This Sima was established on 21st May 2016 with the presence of 27 bhikkhus at 6 PM

SasanaVaddhani Sîma – at Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara, Mahendra Hills, Hyderabad – This Sima was established on 24th May 2016 at 12 AM with the presence of 22 bhikkhus. Soon after the Sima Sammuti the first Bhikkhu ordination of Ven. Silavanta was conducted in the early hours.

Sasanavipulakari Sîma - On the request of Venerable Buddhapriya bhanteji, the delegation of bhikkhus went to Hubli and established sima there at Dhammavinaya Buddha Vihara. This Sima was named as **Sasanavipulakari Sîma established at Dhammavinaya Buddha Vihara, Anand Nagar, Hubli**, with the presence of 16 bhikkhus on 26th May 2016 at 10 PM.



Venerable monks during establishment of SIMA



Venerable Sayadaws from Myanmar at Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore

We deeply thank for the Venerable Monks for fulfilling such a historical auspicious events with great love and compassion with the sole intention of promoting the tradition of Monastic Order in India, the birth place of Lord Buddha, for coming all the way from Myanmar and working day and night in a tight schedule. Our devotees had the rare opportunity to take their blessings and listen.

Since the establishment of the sima, the Maha Sangha of Mahabodhi Loka Santi Buddha Vihara recites **Patimokkha** on every New Moon Day and Full Moon Day without fail and other Sangha procedures are conducted here. It is a great opportunity for lay people to serve the Sangha who are regularly following the discipline according to the proper procedures.

Pagoda on Sila Vaddhani Sima

On October 11, 2015 a new pagoda has been inaugurated at Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara. This pagoda was constructed on top of Sila Vaddhani Sima in Maha Bodhi Society premises. This was built by artichets and workers from Myanmar. The sacred relics of the Buddha and Arahants were enshrined in this Pagoda ceremoniously on this day. Many monks and lay people witnessed and took blessings.

Two more small pagodas – Sati pagoda and Mati pagoda were also built in the garden of Maha Bodhi Vihara.



Relics being carried by
Kassapa Bhanteji



Relics being carried by monks for
enshrinement in the pagoda

2015 - 2016



Ven monks during enshrinement of relics

Mahabodhi Center For Theravada Buddhist Studies

Due to sudden changes in the government regulations, the programs with Karnataka State open University had to be cancelled and we regret the same. We will be looking forward towards building new relationship with other reputed educational institutions in future.

Memorandum of Understanding

A Memorandum of Understanding was been signed between MBS and International Theravada Buddhist Missionary University, Yangon, to conduct the Buddhist studies program at Bengaluru. The MoU helps to get the best of faculty from Myanmar and other places to teach at the MBCTBS to train students in Diploma and degree programs. The classes for monks are likely to start from the next year.

Classes on Pali and Abhidhamma

Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita has started classes on Pali and Abhidhamma which are continued by his disciples. Every week classes for Pali, Abhidhamma and Sutta were conducted by the monks and on Saturdays and Sundays special classes are conducted by lay people also.

Tipitaka Translation

Kannada Tipitaka Project: A separate section has been established in the university building as translation department. The translation work of the Tipitaka books into Kannada language is going on which was started by Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita. It is the wish of the founder and one of the main objectives of the Maha Bodhi Society to translate the Tipitaka into major Indian and foreign languages. The following books were brought out during the year:

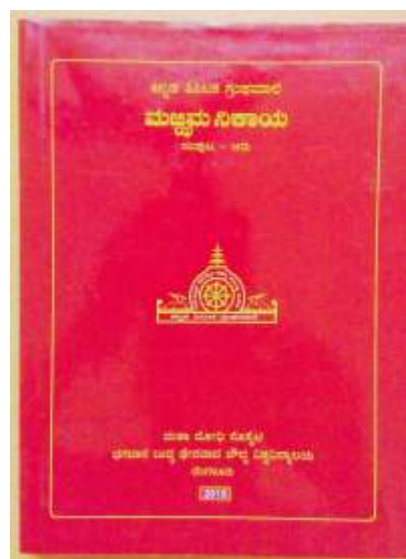
Telugu Tipitaka Project: Already Visuddhi Magga has been translated in Telugu and the same has also been published by us. We are very grateful to the Government of Andhra Pradesh, Shri C. Anjaneya Reddy (Retd. DGP of Andhra Pradesh) and the translators for making this project successful. During 2015, three volumes of Telugu Tipitaka were published.

Mahabodhi Research Center

Maha Bodhi Society with its research center tied up with Tumkur University in Karnataka is offering PhD in Buddhism where nine students from Mahabodhi Society are pursuing the same. There were 6 new admissions this year. Presently, there are 15 students pursuing Phd at Mahabodhi Research Centre under Tumkur University.



Monks performing puja at the SIMA pagoda





Social Activities

As per Lord Buddha's method there should be harmonious relationship between monastic and lay people. Therefore he taught that the lay people should take care of the material needs like food, clothing, medicine and dwelling of monks, the monks in turn help the lay people with Dhamma teaching giving them proper guidance for right living. To create this occasion lay people come to vihara or invite monks to their homes for different ceremonies.

During the year several Sanghadana were organized at the Vihara, where the lay people came and offered lunch to the monks and at the end of the lunch got benediction from the monks along with dhamma discourse. Sometimes monks were invited to their homes where normally three monks attended and sometimes more than three. Normally monks are invited for reciting paritta chantings on the occasion of the inauguration of the new house, birthdays, anniversaries, death ceremonies, etc. The Mahabodhi monks have conducted these programs very effectively to the satisfaction of the devotees. Therefore there is a very harmonious relationship between lay people and monks at Mahabodhi.

Mahabodhi Book Center

Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, has been publishing books on Buddhism, mainly written by Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita since inception. Apart from our own publications we have been receiving many books from Taiwan and other places. A new showroom has been opened called BUDDHIST SHOP beside the main gate of Mahabodhi. A well decorated and furnished shop now displays and distributes free books as well as books for sale along with other objects like Buddha statues, robes, flags, etc.

Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara – A Center for Moral and Spiritual Education

This center was started by Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita and he laid foundation on the occasion of 2550th Buddha Jayanti Celebrations. The purpose of this center is to run residential courses in meditation and intensive Dhamma studies. Venerable Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita had been the in charge of this center. During the year the main program was to train our monks in meditation and pindapata, alms round practice. There were Buddha Dhamma Bhavana courses, one 10-day Vipassana course and Pabbajja courses.



Dhammaduta Vihara



Dhamma Vinaya building

Apart from that, the highlight of the year was a five day meditation retreat by Venerable Ajhan Dtun Thiracitto from Thailand. He is one the famous living meditation masters belonging to forest monastery tradition of Most Venerable Ajhan Chah. He is one of the direct disciples of Venerable Ajhan Chah and has been conducting meditation courses all over the world. Under his guidance, this five day retreat was conducted successfully and nearly fifty persons participated in this retreat. The participants were very happy after the retreat. Venerable Ajhan Dtun Thiracitto has promised to return to Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara next year again to conduct another five day meditation retreat.



Ven. Ajahn Dtun Thirachitto at Dhammaduta vihara



Monks and lay people during meditation retreat



Venerable Ajahn Dtun with monks of Maha Bodhi Society Bengaluru.

There were a lot of construction activities too going on during the year. To honor our founder Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita, the Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda construction has been going on in full swing. One Burmese engineer and his assistants came to Bangalore to construct the Pagoda, especially the architectural part of it. They did work for nearly six months continuously and the pagoda has taken a very good shape. This Pagoda has 58 individual meditation cells where meditators can meditate. It is unique in the sense that this is for the first time in South India any Burmese style pagoda has been built. This will be developed as a great place for meditation.

Enshrinement of the holy relics in the Pagoda

The holy relics of the Buddha and the Arahats as well as the Buddha images and sacred Tipitak were enshrined in the pagoda on 20th March 2016 during the Dhammapada festival. Venerable monks from Sri Lanka and India came for this event and it was conducted in a most solemn atmosphere. This has been a historical moment in the history of modern Buddhism in South India.



**Bodhi Rashmi Pagoda at
Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura**



Bodhi Prakara – Platform around the Sacred Bodhi Tree

Three years ago a sacred Bodhi Tree sapling from Buddhagaya was planted in the Dhammaduta Vihara garden and it has been growing fast. A beautiful Bodhi Prakara – platform around the Bodhi tree has been planned by a Sri Lankan architect Ishara under the guidance of Venerable Subodhi bhikkhu of Mahamewnava monastery. Accordingly the construction started and getting completed in June 2016. The platform is being constructed with granite stone with railings and dhammacakkas, etc.

During the year under the guidance of experts on horticulture with the hard work of Buddhadatta bhante, they planted many plants big and small which have started yielding fruits and flowers apart from creating shade.

To save water a Sewage Treatment Plant is being constructed. As per our estimation it will purify the used water and we will get nearly 98% recycled water which will be used for gardening.

Our deep gratitude goes to Ms.Monica Thaddey of Switzerland who has magnanimously donated for the center to be developed into this beautiful place.

Sunday Dhamma Discourses:

One of the important activities of the Maha Bodhi Society has been the Sunday Dhamma Discourses. The Sunday program starts with chanting of the Buddha Vandana and Suttas followed by administering Tisarana and Pancasila. Then one monks guides through meditation for 30 minutes and another monk gives a discourse, normally based on some Sutta needed for the daily life of the people. About 100-150 people attended the program every Sunday. Bada bhanteji started Dhammadana program, giving gift of Dhamma without any expectation in return way back in 1956-57. Since then without any break every Sunday Dhamma discourse is given. It can be said that it one of the longest Dhamma programs going on regularly in whole of India.



Sunday Dhamma Program:

2015 - 2016



Daily Program

Everyday puja and meditation were conducted regularly. Morning it is from 05:30 to 06:30 AM and evening it is from 06:00 to 07:30 PM. On full moon days there was special puja at 10 AM. Blessing ceremonies and merit sharing ceremonies were conducted whenever devotees requested. Everyday new people visit the society and a monk or devotee normally guides them explaining the activities, teaching meditation or counseling.

Library

It houses good collection of books on Buddhism, other religions and also on non-religious subjects. The Sacred Pali Tipitaka in several scripts and translations are the most valuable treasure of the Library. Many books have been added during the year. A new premises has been renovated and furnished and the library has been shifted there. This new library premises is named as Sangayana, so that this name becomes familiar to people and they will understand the importance of Sangayanas which preserved the holy Pali scriptures. It has spacious reading rooms and makes a convenient place for people coming from outside to study about Buddhism in peaceful environment.



Sangayana- New library



Some books at the Sangayana (new library)

Monks' Dhammaduta Tours

Ven. Kassapa Mahathera travelled extensively in the North East, North India and South India and everywhere he gave Dhamma talks. Ven. Ananda travelled to Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, various parts of Karnataka, Telengana and Maharsashtra in relation to Dhammaduta activities.

Ven. Nyanapala visited Arunachal Pradesh as Dhammaduta and still working there. He is assisted by Ven. Panyasara. Venerable Nyanarakkhita is presently in Tripura in connection with establishment of a new monastic centre. It has been 2 years that he has been working there. He went around Tripura teaching Dhamma. Ven. Khemapala and Ven Nyanarakkho are working as Dhammaduta monks in Arunachal Pradesh.

Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, organized A Buddha Bhumi Vandana Yatra – Pilgrimage to offer salutations to the Sacred Places related to life of the Buddha, from 14 to 28 November 2015. Merits accrued from this pilgrimage were dedicated to the founder of Maha Bodhi Society, Most Venerable Acharya Buddhharakkhita. It was a rare pilgrimage in the sense that 304 persons participated from all the branches of Mahabodhi and supporters of Mahabodhi from India and abroad.



Total number of pilgrims from different countries

131 Monks MBS027 Sayale MBS093 Kappiyas MBS (49 ladies, 44 gents)	INDIA
019 Swiss (2 monk, 17 kappiya- 13 lady, 04 gents)	SWITZERLAND
025 Srilankan (23 Monks, 04 kappiya)	SRI LANKA
006 Burmese (03 monk, 02 lady, 01 men kappiya)	BURMA
001 Monk	AUSTRALIA
001 Monk	THAILAND
Total	304



We are extremely grateful to all the people who helped to organize the pilgrimage and specially Vajira who managed the pilgrimage under the guidance of Venerable Ananda. And deep gratitude to Ms. Monica Thaddey who sponsored the whole pilgrimage for 304 people from all Mahabodhi branches. The monks, boys and girls who worked hard to make it successful also deserve the highest appreciation.



In addition to this program, our monks also participated in Tipitaka chanting under the sacred Bodhi tree in Buddhagaya, organized by International Tipitak Chanting Council

In this way systematic Dhammaduta programs are going on. This was one of the wishes of Bada Bhante, i.e. to give the dhamma freely to as many people as possible and thereby remove suffering in their hearts and give solace.

Pabbajja Programs

Pabbajja meditation programs were conducted for character building education and for meditation. Temporary ordination is important part of Buddhist spiritual practice to develop on the path of enlightenment. The temporary ordination programs go on throughout the year in Mahabodhi Bangalore as well as in other Mahabodhi branches. During the year 5 pabbajja courses were conducted in Mysore, 3 in Bengaluru, 2 in Diyun and Chichingchera.



Monks of MBS, Bangalore participating in the International Tipitaka Chanting



Extention of Monks' Residence

Since the Mahabodhi Monastic Institute is growing it was felt that we invite qualified teachers from other places including abroad. To make more rooms for the teacher monks construction of 7 rooms started and will be completed in June 2016. The rooms are being constructed above the Buddho dormitory. The Buddho dormitory meanwhile is also being renovated fully by strengthening the structure.

People have offered donations to run the activities of the Maha Bodhi Society. Special mention should be made of Ms. Monica Thaddey from Switzerland who has offered huge magnanimous donations to build new structures. We are very grateful to her and others for the same. May the blessings of the Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha surround their lives and that of their families with well-being and wisdom! May they all be happy and well! All the donations were duly acknowledged with official receipts.

Hostel photo



Mahabodhi Karuna Medical Center

The construction of the Mahabodhi Karuna Hospital behind Lalbagh in the heart of Bangalore city that was started previous year has been completed. The upper floor will be used as a meditation hall and lower floor will be used for free medical services to the poor and needy, thus, making this centre a perfect environment for both bodily and mental happiness. Some free medical camps have already been organized in collaboration with Arogyaseva, an NGO offering free medical health care.

The hospital Dâna service was started by Bada Bhanteji way back in 1956-57 when he saw the suffering of people in Victoria Hospital. During this year too hospital Dâna service was conducted on several full moon days and other days whenever donors offered Dâna. We go normally to Mahabodhi Burns Center built by Bada Bhanteji and now run by the State Government. Some people have donated for this dana program apart from the endowment donations, interest of which is used for the Dâna services. May all the donors get the merits, punya, from this noble act!

The regular Hospital Dana was conducted at the Kidwai Cancer Hospital on every Tuesday and Saturday. Throughout the year without missing even a single Tuesday or Saturday lunch was prepared at Mahabodhi and was carried to the hospital and was served to 350-400 patients. Normally five monks go and do puja before the lunch and then giving some consoling words, offer the lunch with prayer for their speedy recovery. We are very grateful to Ms. Raffaella and Mr. Michael of Switzerland who have been offering donations to conduct this service on Saturdays and Ms. Monica Thaddey for offering dana on Tuesdays.



Monks during Hospital dana



Hospital dana

Endowments

The following are the endowments for conducting humanitarian activities, which were established many years back. We are grateful to all these donors and wish them happiness.

- Smt.Shakuntala Venkatakrishnappa Endowment
- Smt.C.S.Savithamma Endowment
- Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita Endowment
- Dr.Nanjamma V.Setty Endowment
- Smt.Sheshamma Endowment
- Lt.Gen.B.M.Rao Endowment
- Dr.A.S.Venkatachalam Animal Welfare Trust
- Shri N.A.Raju Endowment
- Smt.Shela Srinivas Endowment
- Shri R.Narayanaswamy Endowment
- Smt.Swerty Devi Endowment
- Shri Channappa Subbamma Endowment
- Shri. Madhava Mallya Endowment
- Shri. U.Nagendra Nayak Endowment
- Smt.Shambhavi Gongolli Endowment
- Smt.A.Bhagyalakshmi Endowment
- Smt.U.Prema Nayak Endowment
- Smt.Chinnamma and Sri B.V.Krishnamurthy Endowment
- Dodda Mane Maggada Dr.M.R.Narendrakumar and Family Endowment
- Sarayu, Sandhya, Rajaram Endowment
- Shri.P.N.Raju Endowment
- Shri. Y.B.Nandana and Family Endowment
- Prof.S.S.Arakeri, S.Nagaratna Arakeri and Family Endowment
- Shri L.Shivalingaiah, Thejovathi, Chandrakala and family Endowment
- Smt. Jayalakshamma & Shri. Narasimha Murthy Memorial Endowment



DHAMMA and BUDDHA DHAMMA Magazines

The English monthly magazine DHAMMA, which was started in the year 1972 and has been published continually and during the year of report too it was published about eight times due to the busy schedule of editor. Ven. Sugatananda as editor and other monks worked hard to bring out the magazine. BUDDHA DHAMMA in Kannada is a bi-monthly magazine and it is also coming out regularly. Upasaka Anish Bodh is helping with proof reading and editing. The articles in these two magazines contain mainly on the life of the Buddha, suttas, jataka, meditation, Buddhism in daily practice, Pali language, Mahabodhi Society News and reports etc. We are trying to take Dhamma magazine to a higher level and this would require substantial financial assistance from our supporters. We request one and all to subscribe and contribute generously in this regard.

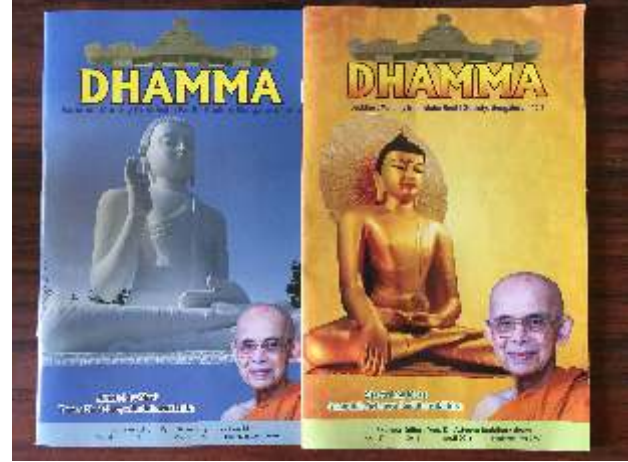


Photo- 210. DHAMMA- The English monthly magazine

Publications

Bada Bhanteji was a prolific writer, writing books of immense value till his last days. The mastery he had on Pali literature in presenting the original teachings as contained in the Tipitaka is very rare to get. During the year many books were published by the Maha Bodhi Society as follows:

1. 1.MajjhimaNikaya- vol (Kannada)
2. Buddha Samskruti (Kannada)
3. VisuddhiMagga – vol 1 (Kannada)
4. Manual of Buddhist Devotional Practice (English)
5. Milinda panha Kannada Tipitaka series
6. Hattharatana – Buddhist Handbook –
7. Dhammapada
8. Invisible Protection Satipatthana
9. Buddhattva, Santoshakkonde Dari
10. Vipassana Dhyana
11. Buddhara amulya nudigalu
12. From Ignorance to Light of Right View
13. Meditations for beginners
14. Dhamma – The Path to Freedom
15. Invisible Protection
16. Sutta Nipata translation in Telegu
17. Visuddhi Magga translation in Telegu, volume 1 and 2



MAHA BODHI SOCIETY BRANCHES

Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore, has established branches in Mysore, Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Hyderabad.

Mahabodhi Mysuru Branch



This center was established in the year 1972-73 and since then it has been an active educational center providing character building moral education along with academic education.

Ven. Ajahn Dtun visiting Mysore branch

There are three main activities in Mysore –

Mahabodhi School – The school functioned well with dedicated staff and hard working children. There were 450 children during the year with 22 teaching staff and 10 non-teaching staff. Once again our 10th standard children made us proud by securing 100% pass results. The performance of the school was reflected when the parents in the meeting expressed more than satisfaction about the progress of their wards in all the classes.



The academic activities included apart from regular teaching, lot of lab activities, library activities, project works and seminars. Many other programs were conducted like World Environment Day, Student Council Election, Investiture Ceremony, Green Day, Independence Day, Teacher's Day, Cartoon's Day, Blue day, Kannada Rajyotsava and Exhibition, Library day, "Chiguru Habba" Annual Day Celebration, Republic Day, Farewell program for X std. Cocurricular activities like Fancy dress competition, hand writing competition, career explore @ 2015, drawing competition, Rangoli and Floral decoration competition, collage making competition, poster making competition, collage making competition, cooking without fire competition were conducted. Meditation and yoga were regular part of the curriculum. The children also fared well in sport activities.

2. Mahabodhi Carla Students Home

The institution is engaged in running hostel and school for the children from different parts of India. During the year 2015-16 there were 181 students residing in Carla Home. It is administered by two venerable monks, a manager, 8 wardens and other 8 staff (cleaner, cooks, security) and volunteers who are temporarily based in Carla Home from time to time for the smooth functioning of the hostel.



Dhamma discourse during Pabajja



Prayer and meditation in the Dhamma hall

Structure of Carla Home

Number of floors	: 4 (including base floor)
Number of dorms	: 8
Number of washrooms	: 8
Number of children	: 181
Number of cooks	: 2
Number of security	: 1
Vacancy for guest/parents	: 1 room
Number of other staff	: 6

Organisation of Carla Home

Director	: Ven. bikkhu Dhammaloka
Asst. monk in charge	: Ven. Buddhaloko
Manger	: Mr. Vittho
Wardens	: (Mr Yati, Mr Vangisa, Mr Attho, Mr Tenzin) (Mr Mangal, Mr Amudo. Mr Yogi, Mr Pamudo)
Volunteers	: Ms. Jasmin Rota (three months) : Ms. Rigzen Angmo (three months) : boys of Mahabodhi Mettaloka Youth Center
Tutor	: Ms. Poornima Ramakrishnan

3. Mahabodhi Mettaloka Youth Center

Mahabodhi Mettaloka Youth Center in Mysore is a branch of Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala, where the college going students are accommodated. During the year 2015-16 there were 24 boys and 1 warden. The students follow a strict time table as laid down by the institution; it functions under the care of Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala, Mysore.



Mahabodhi Diyun Branch

The Diyun branch was started in 2003 with a small school and girl's hostel in a temporary shed. Today Mahabodhi campus has developed into an active center in about 20 acres of land and has constructed school, hostel for both boys and girls and other, monastery, Bodhi Mandapa, Stupa, Buddha Statue, Sima, Sujata Diary, staff quarters and other utility buildings.

The following activities are going on in the campus:

1. Mahabodhi School.
2. Mahabodhi Rita Girls Home.
3. Mahabodhi Boys home.
4. Mahabodhi Monastery.
5. Mahabodhi Moral training centre.
6. Mahabodhi Medical centre.
7. Mahabodhi Sunday school program for Children.
8. Mahabodhi Sujata Dairy project.
9. Mahabodhi Agricultural program.
10. Mahabodhi Malaria prevention program.
11. Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Dhamma stupa.
12. Mahabodhi Sacred Bodhi tree.
14. Mahabodhi Dhammavijaya Meditation centre.



Mahabodhi Dhammavijaya Meditation centre

Mahabodhi School: With each passing year, the strength of our school is also increasing. The total strength this year at school was 495. And the total numbers of girls were 281 and the total numbers of boys were 214.

There were 23 teaching and 10 non-teaching staff at school. During the year 61 children appeared for the 10th standard Board exam and 43 students passed with first division and 18 in second division. And the topper of the school was Mr. Susaru Chakma with 83.6%.

2. Mahabodhi Rita Girls Home: During the year there were 175 children at Mahabodhi Rita Girls Home with 6 care-takers and 7 staffs and 1 watchman. The children were well taken care of providing good facilities. Nutritious food was provided. Monthly health check up were conducted by our doctor and nurses. The wardens took extra classes to the children every evening. English was introduced as medium for daily communication at Rita home. Apart from their normal studies dhamma teaching and meditation were also taught to them every morning and evening and on every Sunday.

3. Mahabodhi Boys Home: During the year there were 41 children with 1 care-taker and 3 staffs and a watchman. The boys were also looked after very well by our hostel care-taker. They were very healthy during the year. Like girls, apart from learning general subjects, they also learn dhamma and meditation which help them in their study. A new cook has been appointed at the boy's hostel. Besides their warden two teachers give them special tuition in the morning and in the evening. Daily puja and meditation at the boy's hostel is part of their curriculum.

4. Mahabodhi Monastery: With each passing year the strength of our Mahabodhi Monastery is also increasing. There were 25 monk students at Mahabodhi Monastic institute with 3 senior Dhamma teachers to teach Dhamma. Apart from attending normal classes, the monks are taught Dhamma, Meditation, Puja and Vinaya everyday. Two lay teachers are also appointed to teach secular subjects to the monks. English, Maths, Science, Hindi and computer are some of the subjects that are taught to the monks.



Monks during Dhamma class

Now Venerable Panyarakkhita Bhanteji is the Chairman of Arunachal Branches and under him there are Ven. Dhammachitta and 2 samanera, who were working to develop this branch.

Mahabodhi Tawang Branch

Bada Bhanteji wished to extend branches of Mahabodhi in the North-eastern part of India for the benefit of poor and needy people. And with the blessing of Bada Bhanteji and guidance from Bhante Kassapa and Bhante Ananda we established Mahabodhi center in Tawang under the leadership of Bhante Panyarakkhita.

We have established an old age home and home for children. Every year we extend our help to more and more poor and needy aged people and deserving children. We are very thankful to all the European and Indian donors, who are helping us in extending our help to them.

Old age home:

This year, we lost two of our most beloved elderly people, Aye Khobhu and Aye Lankha. At present we have 15 elders. We have two ladies who are taking care of them day and night. As they are weak they need attention all the time everyday. The two ladies make sure that they are eating, their clothes are washed, their rooms are clean, their surrounding is clean, etc. And we are very thankful to them for their selfless service. We also have two cooks. Old age home is well equipped with Medical room, tables, racks and other necessary items.



We are running the old age home at free of cost. All the expenses are met from the donation and we are planning to extend our help to 50 more elders. But due to lack of sponsor we are not able to take more elders. We kindly request you to sponsor one as there are many aged people in Tawang who have nobody to take care of them.

We are grateful to the Indian Army for providing breakfast every Sunday and ration every month to the Old age home. We also thank other donors and villagers who bring vegetable for our center.

Children home

The Maitri Children's Home is functioning well with presently 65 children looked after by 2 caretakers. We have admitted 10 new girls at the Children's home. In the first batch Ms. Mudita has completed her higher education and moved to Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai to pursue her higher studies. The exam results of the children have been very good this year as children scored good marks with good grades in their respective classes. The children are given well nourished food and apart from every day school we give dhamma teachings and tuition morning and evening.

They are provided with all the facilities free of cost and all the expenses are met from the donation. We are also planning to extend our help to 100 children at children home. But the current situation is that we have sponsors only for 18 children. We request you to help a child by sponsoring her.

Boy's Home

The Siddhartha Boy's Hostel is ready to accommodate 40 children for this year. The building was built with the grants received from the Ministry of Culture for the construction of the boy's hostel. Out of forty new admissions, we are giving free hostel and school facilities for ten underprivileged children. The rest will be admitted on affordable payment basis. We are also looking for other sources so that we can take more needy children in the hostel in the near future.

Other Ongoing Projects

Another project undertaken last year is the Dhammakhetta vihara which is built in a remote village called khet near Bhutan boarder. It is still under construction. It was started with the aim to give Dhamma counseling to the villagers and tuition to the village children studying in govt. schools in these remote areas.

Construction of 108 stupa is in progress with 12 stupas already completed and four are under construction, which are being dedicated in the name of four dearest persons who died last year who were part of the Mahabodhi family. Ven.Thanasabho, Ven.Kaccayana, Upasaka Dadu and Upasada Gowda. We share the merits gained from this noble projects with all for your good health, peace of mind and long life! All these developmental works were possible due to the hard work and dedications of Ven.Nyanapala, Ven.Panyasara and Upasaka Subho and Punya.



**Tawang children with monks
in front of stupa**



Bhumi puja for vihara at Khet Village



Mahabodhi Deomali Branch

In the year 2010, a monastery and a piece of land were donated by the devotees and well-wishers of the Deomali. Maha Bodhi Society, Benagaluru and Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala Deomali Branch are grateful to the people of Deomali for this noble act.

The Mahabodhi Deomali Branch has established its activities in Dhamma and humanitarian fields. They are-

1. Mahabodhi Maitri Boys hostel.
2. Mahabodhi Dhammavijaya Buddha Vihara.
3. Special Sunday Dhamma discourse.
4. Every morning and evening Dhamma classes for the youths.
5. Every morning and evening Buddha puja, meditation and Dhamma talks.

Mahabodhi Maitri Boys hostel: Mahabodhi Maitri Boys hostel was started in the year 2014 with 27 children in the first batch. And at present we have 35 children. The children go to nearby government school. The children are talented both in academics and also in co-curricular activities. Some of our children have topped in the school in their respective classes.

Apart from the formal education at school, every morning and evening they learn and discuss Dhamma. Our main aim of starting the boy's hostel is that the younger generation should not only grow with formal education but they also have a strong base of character building moral education so that they grow up to be good persons and benefit the society.

Mahabodhi Dhammavijaya Buddha Vihara: Regular Sunday Dhamma discourse, every morning and evening Buddha puja, meditation, Dhamma discourse and discussion are conducted at the vihara. We also conduct temporary Pabbajja ordination programs for 10 students once in every 2 months. On every full moon and new moon days, candle puja are regularly held at Mahabodhi Dhammavijaya Buddha Vihara.

Apart from this Buddha Jayanthi, Dhammacakkha pavatana day, kathina Dhamma program and other Buddhist festivals are also being observed.

Mahabodhi Chiching Chera Tripura Branch

The Chiching Charra branch has been active with monastery and school. Venerable Bhikkhu Visuddhananda had been actively managing the center along with assistant monks Ven.Dhammankur and Ven.Khemananda and social contacts and Dhamma services. The following activities were conducted during the year.



Deomali Branch



Deomali Children photo



A program at the vihara



Development Activities in the year of April 2015 to March 2016 are as follows:

1. Mahabodhi Dhamma Vijaya Buddha Vihara was constructed
2. A pathway between monastery and school building and drain was constructed
3. A 50ft X 30ft well was dug for water
4. A bathroom cum toilet was constructed behind the kitchen
5. A urinal and toilet was also constructed between school and office building
6. A 500ft deep bore-well was dug for water supply for all seasons

Apart from this Buddha Jayanti, Dhammacakkha pavatana day, kathina program, hospital dana service, pabbajja programs and other Buddhist festivals are also being observed.



Constructed Bathroom cum toilet behind the Kitchen



Constructed urinal and toilet between School and Office



Constructed Maha Bodhi Dhammavijaya Buddha Vihara



Pavement of foot path and side drain in between the Monastic hostel and School



Digging of 50 ft x 30 ft ring well being dug





Mahabodhi Suknachari Tripura Branch

Mahabodhi Suknachari branch was established on 17th December, 2013 on a full moon day. This is a new centre, which is developing slowly and already has shown a lot of potential to grow into a big centre. Presently, there is a hostel and 30 monks are living there. During the year there were over 100 children in the school. Venerable Bhikkhu Nyanarakkhita is in charge of this branch under the chairmanship of Venerable Rajinda Bhante. He is assisted by two more bhikkhus.



Ven Kassapa bhanteji with Suknachari monastery



Bhumi puja for monastery construction at Suknachari



Some of the important programs that were organized during the year of report are as follows:

1. There was a program on distributing note book, pen, pencil etc. to 1000 students on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti. On this occasion, Ven. Rajinda was invited as the chief guest and he taught meditation and moral education.

Photo no.74. Ven Nyanarakkhita during hospital dana service

2.A hospital Dana service to patients at Silachari hospital was organized.

3.Meditation course for elderly people is organized on every full moon day. Many elderly persons take part in this program.

4.In the month of December, there was a temporary ordination program and 79 people took temporary ordination. They were taught about moral education and meditation and importance of a monk's life.

5.Apart from that discourses were organized on every new moon day and half moon and full moon days.

Monks at Suknachari also goes for alms-round four times a week.



Ven.Kassapa bhanteji giving Dhamma at Suknachari

Mahabodhi Namsai Branch, Arunachal Pradesh

The Mahabodhi Namsai centre was established in the year 2012 under the blessings of Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita, founder president of Mahabodhi Organisations, Bengaluru. The main objective of Mahabodhi Organisation is to put into practice the Buddha's teachings through various humanitarian services. Since then, there has been remarkable development in activities of the Mahabodhi Society Bangalore and other places.



Initial work of Mahabodhi Namsai Center was started in a rented room at Namsai. In the beginning Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai, has started functioning from the academic year 2013 in an old school building. In January 2015 we have shifted the college in our own campus near Namsai, donated by the public leaders, youth organizations and local people of the area. The building is constructed by the Public Work Department of Government of Arunachal Pradesh with the financial assistance of the AP government. At present various humanitarian activities are being conducted in this centre, namely:



1. Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College.
2. Mahabodhi Maitri Girls Home.
3. Mahabodhi Monastic Institute.
4. Mahabodhi Gotami Vihara, (a Buddhist Nunnery for Nuns).

MAHABODHI MAITRI GIRLS HOME:

Mahabodhi Maitri Girls Home, Namsai was started in the year 2013 to help and support in education to those students who are coming from poor family background. Mahabodhi Maitri Girls Home is a home for girls where they are provided with the facilities to grow healthy with the support of Dhamma.

It was started in a rent house near Namsai police station with 8 girls. In the year 2014 we shifted to another bigger rented house because the number of girls has increased. In this Year 2015, there were 32 girls residing in the hostel. Out of them 17 are studying in 11th standard, 11 are studying in 12th standard, 3 are studying in B.A 1st semester and 1 is studying in B.A 2nd semester. There is one warden to guide and look after the girls. The 11th and 12th standard girls are studying in Government Higher Secondary School, Namsai and the B.A students are studying in Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai.

The hostel is running quite well in the rented house with essential facilities. There are two inverters for uninterrupted power supply in study hours. The girls themselves cook their food by taking turns. Apart from their study every morning and evening regular puja and meditation sessions were conducted.

They planted flowers, plants and vegetables in the hostel campus. In the vacation they are learning computers in our Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai.

This year we have constructed a beautiful puja hall to conduct regular morning & evening puja and meditation. A dining hall and a kitchen are also constructed at our girls hostel campus. We are planning to have a well equipped girls hostel in our own Mahabodhi Campus.



Namsai Monks



MAHABODHI MONASTIC INSTITUTE, NAMSAI

With the blessing of *Bada Bhanteji* Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita, *Aggamaha Saddhamajotika, Ph.D., D.Lit.*, in the year of 2013, the Mahabodhi Monastic Institute was started with 18 young monks. At present there are altogether 62 monks residing in this institute.

Since the number of monks is growing day by day, the monastic residence was donated by *Maha Upasaka Chow Pinthika Namchoom* and his family members. We are ever grateful to him for helping the monks in practicing, preserving and propagating the Bhagawan Buddha's teaching. We are planning to increase number of monks in the institute. So to accommodate more monks, we have constructed two monk's residences with bamboo and wooden structure, wash basin and a kitchen for cooking with firewood. Now they are very happy with their new residence. Frequent power cut is common in this part of Arunachal Pradesh. So, we are planning to purchase an inverter for uninterrupted power supply in their study hours.

The resident young monks are getting both monastic and secular education. They go to nearby government school in the morning session for their secular study and afternoon they are getting monastic education in the monastery. Morning and evening Sutta chanting and meditation session are going on regularly. Apart from that regular Sunday Dhamma program is organized in the monastery prayer hall. The young monks are happy with their daily routine and their day to day activities.

GARDENING: Apart from monastic duties they grow flowers and vegetables in the garden. We have purchased a Tractor ON subsidy basis to grow vegetable, fruits gardening, campus cleaning and to carry goods wood, bamboo, rice etc. from market, FOR ENTIRE MAHABODHI NAMSAI Center. We are getting sufficient green vegetables for our needs. This year we HAVE planted 200 banana plants in the campus for our consumption.

NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTION

WE HAVE constructed a Kuti-vihara (Monks residence) of RCC & wooden structure with attached bathroom-toilet, one small kitchen for our most *Venerable Gyanatissa Bhanteji*. Two monks stay with him TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.

Along with these activities the institute celebrates all Buddhists events with great zeal and enthusiasm, like Buddha Purnima, AsalhaPurnima (Dhammacakka Day), Rains Retreat, Pavarana etc.



Namsai College



BUDDHA JAYANTI CELEBRATION

On 04th May, 2015, the 2559th Sacred Buddha Jayanti was celebrated on the fullmoon day of Vesakha with various programs in our Mahabodhi campus. Monks from different Monasteies, devotees from many places, parents and children's were present to celebrate the Buddha Jayanti. The program started with the hosting of world Buddhist flag followed by Puja and Vandana. On this auspicious occasion the flag was hosted by *Venerable Rajinda Mahathera* of Lathao Buddha Vihara. After Puja, Bhanteji explained about the Buddhist flag. And after the PROGRAM we had procession for the peace and welfare of the people of the whole world. The main attraction of the peace procession was that the Lord Buddha statue was carried on the Tata Xenon from Mahabodhi college campus to Namsai town and during the procession many people joined us. And after that the Kham-Sin-Thomtra (Puja) PROGRAM started followed by the Venerable monks Offering offlowers, candles and incense sticks to the Buddha. And it was followed by puja, meditation, taking panca sila by devotees and Nun Ordination of 25 girls as Theravada Buddhist nuns in the presence of holy Sangha presided by Most *Venerable U. Gunavantha Mahathero (Aggamaha Sadhammajotika)* popularly known as Munglang Bhanteji and dhamma talk by Venerable Monks present.

We have also celebrated all local Buddhist festival like Sangken (water festival), Miko-Sum-Phai(a Fire festival).

Sangken festival: On 14th & 15th April, 2015, Ven. Panyajota Bhikkhu & Ven. Sunanda Bhikkhu lead our monk students and visited the nearby monasteries, villages and met Bhantes, Upasaka and Upasika and did Puja and pouring water on Buddha statue, Bodhi tree and stupa on Sanken festival.

MONKS ORDINATION PROGRAMME:

ON 01st Oct, 2015, we organized a Monk's ordination program and we invited venerable bhantes from different monasteries. Their parents, relatives and devotees came from different places to celebrate and acquire merits (Punya). On this auspicious occasion we ordained 20 new novices as Theravada Buddhist monks in the presence of holy Sangha.

ON 23rd September, 2015, we invited the nearby Bhantes on the death anniversary of our *Bada Bhanteji* and conducted puja, meditation, Dhamma discourses by Venerable Bhantes and Sangaha Dana Program in the name of our great teacher *Bada Bhanteji*.

ON 25th September, 2015, we celebrated the Birthday of Venerable Ananda Bhanteji by doing puja, leaving fishes in rivers, Sangha Dana etc. After that, we distributED many gifts to our monks, nuns, girl students and working staff.

They were very happy to receive such kind of gifts and we all wished him a very- very happy Birthday. At last we prayED to almighty Buddha for his good health, prosperity, peace of mind and long life.



ON 15th January, 2016, a picnic PROGRAM was jointly organized by some upasaka & upasikas of nearby village for our monks, staff and hostel students at Kamlang River nearby Wakro. After that, we visited a nearby hilly town Wakro in Lohit District of Arunachal Pradesh and they were very happy.

Our monks are frequently invited by the nearby villagers for their various religious ceremonies, for sutta chanting, Dhamma discourses and Dhamma advices.

During the year our monks got good result and marks in their final examination.

So, we wish, one day this Institute will become a foremost Monastic Training Institute in whole of india.



MAHABODHI GOTAMI VIHARA

One of the significant contributions to the Buddha Sasana of Mahabodhi organization is the establishment of Mahabodhi Gotami Vihara, Buddhist Monastery of Nuns. In the month of February, 2015, 22 girls from Tripura state joined in the Mahabodhi Gotami Vihara to become nuns in the Theravada monastic tradition. Since there was no constructed structure in our campus we rented a house at Namsai and accommodated these girls with food and all other needs to practice Dhamma. They were living peacefully by observing eight precepts even as lay girls. They were not able to speak English language as they could understand only Bengali. There was a lady teacher cum warden to look after and helped in marketing, cooking, etc. She taught them English and Hindi languages.



On the auspicious occasion of sacred Buddha Jayanti Celebration, on 4th May 2015, we ordained these girls as Theravada Buddhist nuns in the presence of holy Sangha presided by Most Venerable U. Gunavantha Mahathero (Aggamaha Sadhammajotika) popularly known as Munglang Bhante at Mahabodhi Vihara, Namsai. After their ordination the Mahabodhi Gotami Nunnery had been temporarily shifted at Goju village near Bordumsa in Changlang District of Arunachal Pradesh. They have simple accommodation and

meditation room. Beside their monastery is a big Buddha Temple where they go for puja and Dhamma teaching. But this arrangement is not a permanent one. We are looking for a suitable land to put up proper monasteries for monks and nuns. They are undertaking the training from Ven. Sayale Yasanandi from Myanmar who is an Abhidhamma teacher and has experience to manage nunnery. She is now leading the Mahabodhi Nunnery with her two assistant nuns. This year two girls from Uttar Pradesh came to our Nunnery to become nuns. At present there are 25 nuns and 02 Anagarika Nuns in Mahabodhi Gotami Nunnery, Goju.

This year we have done lot of ground works, apart of these we constructed a beautiful dining hall at our Nunnery for the accommodation of 50 nuns and a big water filter tank for the filtering and stocking of water. We have also purchased a water filter for their safe drinking water. We purchased 2 nos. of inverters and a special Honda generator for uninterrupted power supply in their study hours. For their security, we also constructed a security tower house in the front side of Nunnery and appointed a security guard as well as a driver. They were happy with their daily routine and their day to day activities. Apart from their duties they grow flowers and vegetables in the garden.

We all the monks and members of Mahabodhi organizations would like to thank Maha Upasika Monica Amma for her relentless support to our activities. May all the merit she has gained conduce to her further progress on the path of Nibbana! Also we are ever thankful to all the Upasakas and Upasikas who are supporting and helping us in practicing, preserving and promoting the Dhamma for the good, welfare and benefits of mankind.





Mahabodhi Hyderabad Branch

Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara was started on 28th January 2015. During the year it functioned with many meaningful activities.

This place is located in Secunderabad. The monastery is built on a high hill called Mahindra Hills in the heart of the city. Actually it was a fully rocky hill; most of the building is made up from the same rocks excavated from the site itself. In this 3 acres land, the main temple has three floors: The top floor is the main temple hall for chanting, meditation and Dhamma talks for nearly 400 people. The middle hall currently is being used by 28 novices as living room, and also as class rooms. The lowest floor is for office, library, dining hall, stores, and and rooms for teacher monks.



Maha Bodhi Buddha Vihara, Secunderabad



Bodhi tree

We have Bodhi tree, a sapling from Sri Lanka, from the original ancient tree at Anuradhapura. It has sitting place around with a Buddha statue which was donated by a sculpture named Mr. Harsha. We are very thankful for his generous gift.

Monastic Training Program: During the year 28 monks were pursuing monastic training under 4 teachers. They had a very busy schedule from morning 4: 30 till evening 9:30 where they learn Pali, Vinaya, Sutta, Dhammapada, Life of the Buddha, Jataka and Abhidhammaand. They also studied other subjects like English, Hindi, basic Mathematics and Computers. Chanting and meditation are practised daily both morning and evening as an important part of the monastic training. Food, lodging and other expenses were taken care by the society. We have a project of building dormitories for 108 monastic students with class rooms.



Monks on pindapata



Monks on excursion



Dhamma Book Distribution is also an important program, there are 30 titles on Buddhism in English and Telugu. Many books were distributed to the interested people who shared their valuable feedback and benefit.

Consultation: Providing advice to the devotees and visitors was an important activity as people have many questions with regard to their lives, work, health, stress and about the meaning of life. Our monks attended to all of them, even though it may take hours together. It was observed that people are really looking forward for Buddhist teaching and culture for a healthy and happy life and of course the highest goal of life.



Sunday Dhamma program

Sunday Evening Dhamma Discourse Program:

Since the inception of the vihara, we have been continuously running Sunday evening Dhamma discourse program. The program starts at 6: 00 pm with chanting, guided meditation and Dhamma speech and ends with questions and answer session. On an average 25 people attend every Sunday. This is a program where many new people are connected with monks and Dhamma.

Weekend Meditation Workshop: Almost every weekend between 3 pm to 6 pm the workshop on Buddhist Meditation for the development of Right Thinking was conducted. On an average 15 people attended every weekend. There were lots of positive responses from the public where they had achieved good health and happiness. Venerable Dhammapala conducted all these workshops as per the meditation technique he learnt from Pa auk meditation centre Myanmar. Workshops were conducted in different parts of coastal Andhra Pradesh and Bangalore.

Some of the programs that were conducted last year are as follows:

Buddha Jayanthi was celebrated on 3rd May 2015 with chanting, meditation and Dhamma talks. Our monks attended the program held at Buddha vanam in Nagarjuna Sagar where the honourable Chief Minister of Telangana attended.



Bodhi puja by venerable monks



Sîma Sammuti- Consecration of the Sîma was held on 24th May 2015. In fulfilling the wish of the founder of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru Most Ven. Dr.Acharya Buddharakkhita (Abhidhaja Aggamahâ Saddhammajotika) The SÎMA SAMMUTI - Consecration of the Sîma was conducted by the following Venerable Monks in the presence of Ven.Kassapa Mahathera, President, MBS and other bhikkhus.

Ven. SayadawGunikabhivamsa

(Aggamahâpandita)

Ven. SayadawNandhobhasalankara

(Ubhatovibhangadhara)

Shwe Nant TharVenSayadawSithila

(Dvipitakadhara)

Ven. SayadawVasetthalankara

(Tipitakadhara)

Ven. SayadawObhasabhivamsa

(Pathamakyaw, Tha-Sa-A Dhammâcariya)

Ven. SayadawVepullalankara

(Dvipitakadhara, Pâliparagu)

Ven. SayadawNyanikalankara

(Pâliparagu)

Ven. SayadawMaghinda

(Vinayadhara)

Ven. SayadawNyanadhaja

(Dhammacariya)

Ven.BhantePamokkha

M.A. in Buddhist Studies



Dhammacakka Day was celebrated on 31st July 2015 with similar programs. Many devotees observed Attha Sila on uposatha days in all the three months of the rainy retreat at both Mahendra hills and LalagudaVihar. Four monks had taken vassa at the Vihara.



2015 - 2016



Anussarana - Remembrance Day - Second Death Anniversary of Most Ven. Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita Maha Thera, Founder of Mahabodhi Organizations, Bengaluru was observed on 26th September 2015. The important events of the day were the Chanting of Patthana Paritta and blessings by Most Venerable Munglang Sayadaw U Gunawantha Mahathera. Many Venerable Monks blessed the occasion and we are grateful and thankful to all the bhantejis for sparing their precious time and blessing the Vihara. The following Venerable monks were also present:

Venerable Balipathar Sayadaw U Vicitta Mahathera

President, All Assam Bhikkhu Sangha

Venerable Kassapa Mahathera,

President, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru

Venerable Bhikkhu Ananda,

Gen. Secretary, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru

Venerable Bhikkhu Panyarakkhita,

Chairman, Mahabodhi Arunachal Pradesh

Venerable Bhikkhu Panyaloka,

Director, Mahabodhi Lord Buddha College, Namsai

Venerable Bhikkhu Visuddhananda,

In Charge of Mahabodhi Chichingchera, Tripura

Venerable Bhikkhu Nyanarakkhita,

In Charge of Mahabodhi Suknachari, Tripura

Venerable Bhikkhu Assaji,

Kathina Civara Dana Ceremony was celebrated on 1st November 2015. Devotees offered robes to the monks who observed three months of rainy retreat. Foundation stone for the monument of Venerable Ananda Mitra Maha Thera was laid by Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, President, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. Shri B. Dattatreya, Honorable Minister for Labor and Employment, Govt. of India was Chief Guest of the occasion who delivered his speech. Bhante Kassapa spoke on the life of Most Venerable Ananda Mitra Mahathera.





Guru Cetiya: Inauguration of the Memorial of Late Vipassanacariya and Sanghanayaka, Most Venerable Ananda Mitra Maha Thera was held on His 108th Birthday Celebration on 1st February 2016. We are thankful to Bhante Ananda, General Secretary of Maha Bodhi Society Bengaluru for attending and leading the program. Shri Motilal Barua and other devotees contributed for the construction of the monument, may all of them enjoy good health and peace of mind.



Upcoming Projects:

Mahabodhi Vidyalayam is a school for value based education run by the Mahabodhi Foundation, Hyderabad. A similar school is run at Mahabodhi, Bangalore with excellent results. The students (both *Samaneras* and *Anagarikas*) are given English medium education to prepare for the 10th class Open School Examination. The children are given sustained instruction in human and ethical values, in addition to normal subjects. After they complete their 10th class examination, they have the choice to join professional training programs or take to religious life. While those wanting to join professional courses are encouraged to go out, those who would like to continue in religious life are helped to prepare for graduate & post graduate studies in Buddhism in distance education mode. At any given point of time, the School would have 108 students in all classes put together. They are given free food, accommodation and trained to manage their own affairs. Their education in addition to normal syllabus includes training in the use of computers and other modern tools and introduction to fine arts. Experience has shown, these children, grounded as they are in ethical training, turn out to be responsible and compassionate citizens. Presently there are only 28 children in the Hyderabad *Vihara* for want of accommodation. Even these children are housed in temporary accommodation.

Sangharamam is the residential block meant for a) 6 resident monks b) 8 teacher monks and c) 4 visiting monks. In all there would be 18 rooms, a Yoga hall and a common dining room. This would be connected to the Mahabodhi Vidyalayam so that the monks can keep in touch with the *Samaneras* (trainee monks) and the *anagarikas*





(boys not yet initiated). Once this is built, the hall in which the monks presently live would be converted into a Community hall for which it was originally intended.

Mahabodhi Seva Sadanam is the main building from which all Service activities are conceptualized and initiated. The Sadanam provides for educational and health-care activities, halls for *Dhamma* talks, accommodation to the visiting *Upasakas* and *Upasikas*, facilities for *Sanghadana*, *Dhamma* Book Shop, an all-tradition Buddhist Library, outlets for Buddhist artifacts etc. This will be the nerve center for all activities of 'engaged' Buddhism. All the facilities would be run on not-for-profit basis. Govt. of India have already released Rs. 50 lakhs for the facility and another grant of Rs.50 lakhs is under consideration.

Dhatu Stupa Historically, *Stupas* have been places of worship in Buddhist tradition. *Dhatu-stupas* are those where the corporeal relics of the Buddha are secured for worship. It is proposed to build a *dhatu-stupa* set in the entrance court yard in the semi-circular enclosure with a waterfall behind it. The *Stupa* which would be 35' in diameter and 17' high with a *Harmika* and *Chatram*. It would be built in dressed stone and embellished with the life of the *Bhagavan* illustrated in relief sculpture. Around that would be a *pradakshinapatha* enclosed by a railing crafted in stone. Secured in the *stupa* would be the *dhatu* of *Bhagavan* and *Dhamma* literature. A *Sanchi* type of gateway would provide access to the worshippers going in for *pradakshina*. Visitors to the Vihara would get a good idea of the Buddhist architecture and sculpture. Architects and sculptors experienced in Buddhist art would be coming together to create this work of art!

Sima is the place where higher ordination (*upasampada*) of monks takes place on the premises of a *Vihara*. This is a sacred place designated by the *Bhikkhu Sangha* in an elaborate ceremony. For Mahabodhi Vihara, the *Sima* was demarcated and sanctified by the monks of Myanmar in a ceremony that lasted two days involving sutta chanting for several hours. The *Sima* hall would also be used for advanced meditation programs and courses.



Project Dhatu Stupa



Project SIMA



OBITUARY

We regret to inform the sad demise of two of very old and dedicated members of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru namely Wg.Cdr.S.Rangaswamy and Shri.Thimmarayappa Gowda.



Mr.Rangaswamy popularly known in Mahabodhi as Dhammacari Bodhidhamma, studied dhamma and practiced meditation for many years under Most Ven.Acharya Buddharakkhita and helped in all the activities of Maha Bodhi Society, specially in conducting pabbajja and abhidhamma courses. He also taught meditation to many people. He passed away on 24-2-2016 at the age of 101



Mr.Thimmarayappa Gowda joined Mahabodhi in late sixties and learnt printing technology under Bada Bhante's guidance and became manager of printing press of Mahabodhi. Till his last breath on 19-2-2016 he worked tirelessly printing all the books, magazines, Tipitaka series, etc. He was 70.

May Both of them gain all our merits and keep progressing on the path of Nibbana!

FESTIVALS

Maha Bodhi Society has been celebrating all major Buddhist festivals in a meaningful way. So also every full moon day is celebrated with special chanting and meditation. Following are the reports of festivals and events celebrated during the year.

2559th Sacred Buddha Jayanti Celebration 2015

28 – 04 – 2015 to 04 – 05-2015

Inauguration of Bodhi Saptaha was done at Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru on 28 – 04 – 2015 at 9.30 AM by Venerable Kassapa Bhanteji, President of Maha Bodhi Society. On that day, a dana Service for Burns Patients at Mahabodhi Burns Centre in Victoria Hospital, Bengaluru at 3:00PM was organized. The Guest of Honor of this program was Dr.Pooranesan Raju, Chairman, Purnima Hospital, Bengaluru. This service was led by Sri. N. Narsimhiah and presided by Dr. P. K. Devadas, Dean and Director, Bangalore Medical College. Ven.



2015 - 2016



Kassapa Thera blessed this occasion. This dana service was donated by BHEL employees.

On the Second Day, i.e., on 29 – 04 – 2015 the inauguration of Mahabodhi Karuna ArogyaSeva Kendra took place at Siddapura, Jayanagar, Bengaluru. The program started at 10:00 AM. It was inaugurated by Venerable Kassapa Mahathera.



The Third Day of Bodhi Saptaha i.e., 30 – 04 – 2015 was observed as Meditation Day at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara in Narasipur Village, Bangalore North. The program started at 9:00 AM with Buddha Puja, Bodhi Puja and then, for the rest of the day, the participants did meditation. A Sangha Dana was arranged at 11:00 AM.

The Fourth Day i.e., 01 – 05 – 2015 was observed at Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara, Bengaluru by puja and meditation.

The Fifth Day, i.e., 02 – 05 – 2015 was observed as Cancer Patients Service Day at Kidwai Institute of Oncology, Hosur Road, Bengaluru. The program started at 12:00 Noon

and was inaugurated by the Director of Kidwai Institute of Oncology. The service was led by Shri Subhash Chandra Agrawal and blessing was by Ven. Kassapa Mahathera and monks of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru.

The sixth day i.e., 03 – 05 – 2015 there was puja, meditation and discourse by venerable Ananda Bhante at Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. The program started at 9:00 AM. Late in the afternoon, there was another program at Spooridhama Madadi Road, Bengaluru where a new building was inaugurated by Venerable Kassapa Mahathera along with Venerable Bhikkhu Vinayarakkhita Bhanteji. On that evening, there was a program at Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru organized as Kavi Goshthi at 4:00 PM. This was inaugurated by Dr. Mudnakudu Chinnaswamy, thinker and author. The important dignitaries who participated in this program were Smt. Dr. H. L. Pushpa, poet, Sri. L. N. Mukundraj, poet Smt. Arati H. N, poet Sri. Subbu Holiyar, poet Sri. Nagatihalli Ramesh, poet Prof. T. Yellappa, poet Sri. Hulikunte Murthy, poet Sri Satyamangala Mahadeva, poet Sri Manjuth, poet Sri. Nagaraj Hettur. The program was presided by – Dr. Malati Pattanashetty, President, Karnataka Sahitya Academy. Venerable Bhikkhu Ananda, General Secretary, Maha Bodhi Society gave blessings on this occasion.

The seventh day i.e., 04-05-2015 was the sacred Vesak Buddha Purnima Day. On this day the venerable monks performed Buddha puja early in the morning at 5:30am at Lokashanti Buddha Vihara, Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. At 10:00am, Sanghadana or alms-meal offering was organised by the lay devotees.

All the venerable monks then performed Siri Maha Bodhi puja, Siripada Chetiya Puja and Vishwa Shanti Maitri Stupa puja. All the monks and lay devotees then gathered at the main temple. After lighting the lamps the venerable monks performed Buddha puja and worshipped the triple gem. This was followed by undertaking of Trisarana and Pancasila by the laity. Some of them took five precepts and some took Uposatha Atthasilai, i.e., eight precepts. Blessings were by





Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, President of Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. Thereafter, Dhamma discourse was given by Venerable Ananda Bhanteji.

The discourse was followed by release of publications where the following books were released.

1. Majjhima Nikaya- vol (Kannada) 2. Buddha Samskruti (Kannada)
3. Visuddhi Magga – vol 1 (Kannada) 4. Manual of Buddhist Devotional Practice (English)

The devotees then took their meals. Lunch for them was donated by Shri Manjunath in the name of his parents and Shri Puttamadaiah and family. Donors of the day were upasaka Prof. Venkateshappa and family, upasaka Subanna and family and upasaka Prasad. P. Dhamma Deeksha, Meditation and Dhamma discourse programs were conducted by the monks from 2:00pm to 4:30 pm.

In the evening there was a symposium on The Relevance of the Buddha's Teachings Today attended by eminent personalities. Later puja at the Bodhi tree was performed by the venerable monks and the lay devotees with the lighting of hundreds of lamps.

In addition to the Bodhi Saptaha programs, Pabbajja and Meditation Course for men and women were also conducted at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara from April 28 – 2015 to May 05 – 2015 and 40 persons participated in this program.

2604th Dhammacakka Pavattana Day Celebration- 2015

Dhammacakka Pavattana festival was celebrated on July 31, 2015 at the premises of Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara. Dhammacakka Pavattana is a very important festival for the Buddhists all over the world. This is celebrated on the full moon of July every year. On this full moon day, 2604 years ago, Lord Buddha gave His first teaching, known as Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta or Discourse on Setting in Motion of the Wheel of Dhamma to His first five disciples, known as Pancavaggiya Bhikkhu- group of five monks. This discourse mentions about avoiding the two extremes of indulgence in sense pleasures and self-mortification and advises us to practise the Middle Path, which is otherwise known as Noble Eightfold Path, consisting of eight factors, namely, Right View, Right Intention, Right Speech, Right Action, Right Livelihood, Right Effort, Right Mindfulness and Right Meditative Concentration. From this day, till the full moon day of October, the monks observe the rain's retreat or Vassa Vasa and during this period the monks stay in one monastery and spend their time in various spiritual practices such as meditation and Dhamma study.



**Dhammachakka Pavattana Day at
Mahabodhi Society Bengaluru**



Monks doing puja

2015 - 2016



In the morning, the puja was held headed by Venerable Kassapa Maha Thera, the president Mahabodhi Society Bangalore along with the other Venerable monks, Upasakas and Upasikas at morning 9.00 am which began under the Bodhi tree and Vishwa Maitri Stupa and then proceed to the Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara.

Then the chanting of the first sermon of Bhagavan Buddha Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta was conducted by Venerable Monks and the discourse and blessings were given by Venerable Kassapa Maha Thera.



Monks and laity listening to discourse on Dhammachakka Pavattana day



Venerable Bhikkus during Dhamma Discourse

Subsequently, Kannada translation of Milind Panha, part 1 was released by Venerable Kassapa Maha Thera. This book is part of Kannada Tripitaka Granthamale series and has been translated into Kannada by Upasaka Shri Anish Bodh. Also, translation of Sutta Nipata in Telugu was also released by Mr Anjaneyya Reddy, former DGP of Andhra Pradesh. This book has been translated into Telugu by one of the Mahabodhi monks, named Venerable Dhammarakkhita. Afterwards, sanghadana was offered by upasakas and upasikas and then the lay devotees took their meals.

There was Dhammadeeksha and other programs in the afternoon. At 4 pm, many translators, who are involved in Kannada Tripitaka Granthamale Project shared their various interesting experiences in the process of translating Pali Tripitaka into Kannada language. Also Sri Jayaramaraje Urs, senior IAS officer spoke on this occasion. Thereafter, the guests and translators were honoured by Venerable Kassapa Maha Thera and then blessings were given by Venerable Ananda Bhante, General Secretary.



At 7 pm, the monks again chanted the Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta and then the monks undertook Vassa Vasa which is 3 months rainy retreat for the Venerable monks. The Dhammacakka program was concluded with Deepa Puja.



SMARANÂÑJALI

Remembrance Day: 2nd Death Anniversary of Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita:

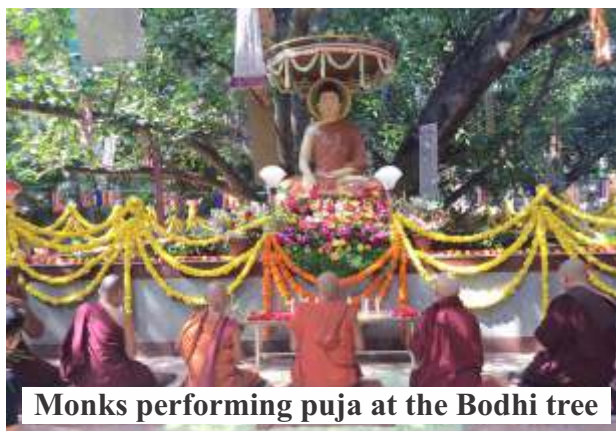
23rd September 2015 marked the second death anniversary of Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita. On this occasion all the monks and devotees of the Venerable Acharya decided to observe it as SMARANANJALI days for four days at different places. Accordingly programs were arranged in Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara, Bengaluru, Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura, Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala, Mysuru, Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara, Hyderabad. Most Venerable U Gunawantha Munglang Sayadaw from Ledo, Assam, Venerable Sayadaw U Nanda from Kalioni in Assam and Venerable U Vicitta Sayadaw from Balipathar, Assam, were the main guests who came all the way. Ven.Munglang Sayadaw had wished to do special puja for three years on the occasion of the passing of Ven.Acharya. As per his determination and on our request he came and performed special puja and meditation.

23rd September 2015 at Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara, Bengaluru

The day's program started with all the monks offering homage to the Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita at his Kutu where his bronze statue is installed. After paying homage all the monks proceeded to the Sacred Bodhi Tree and did sutta chanting followed by going around Maitri Stupa. All the monks and lay people received Ven.Munglang Sayadaw and puja was offered first to the Triple Gem at the Vihara. After the puja Ven.Munglang Sayadaw chanted the Patthana and blessed the gathering. Lay people undertook tisarana and pancasila and then Venerable Ananda welcomed the gathering and requested the Munglang Sayadaw to give Dhamma desana.



Venerable monks offering homage to Ven.Acharya Buddharakkhita at his kutu on his 2nd death anniversary



Monks performing puja at the Bodhi tree



Monks with Ven.Munglang Sayadaw at MBS, Bangalore

2015 - 2016



Ven.Munglang Sayadaw gave Dhamma talk. In his Dhamma talk he said that mind and body are inter related and so it is utmost important to purify the mind.

It was followed by Dhamma talk by Ven.U Vicitta Sayadaw where he highlighted importance of sila and value of Buddha sasana.

Then Ven.Kassapa Mahathera, President of MBS, gave Dhamma talk and told about Bada Bhanteji and his life and asked people to focus on the practice of Dhamma, mainly the practice of Sila.

Then The following books were released by the monks

1. Milinda panha Kannada Tipitaka series - Ven.Munglang Sayadaw
2. Hattharatana – Buddhist Handbook – Ven.Nanda Sayadaw
3. Dhammapada – Ven.Vicitta Sayadaw
4. Invisible Protection – Ven.Kassapa Mahathera
5. Satipatthana – Ven.Pamokkha Sayadaw
6. Buddhattva, Santoshakkonde Dari – Ven.Panyarakkhita Bhikkhu
7. Vipassana Dhyana – Ven.Panyarakkhita Bhikkhu
8. Buddhara amulya nudigalu – Smt.Latha, Councilor, BBMP
9. From Ignorance to Light of Right View – Ven.Panyaloka Bhikkhu
10. Meditations for beginners – Ven. Dhammaloka Bhikkhu

In keeping with the wish of Bada bhanteji that Dhamma books should be published constantly, these books were printed and published. Some of them for free distribution. The authors and translators, Shri Anish Bodh, Shri Udaykumar Habbu and the printer Shri Thimmarayappa Gowda were honored at the same time.

There was Sanghadana offered by devotees and then lay people recollected Bada Bhanteji with their experiences. It was followed by a film on Bada Bhanteji after which there was lunch arranged for all lay people.

In the afternoon there was a program for monks where all bhikkhus and novice monks were offered dana of daily needs by Ms.Monica Thaddey. All the Mahabodhi branch heads had come to attend this program and each one of them gave inspiring talks to the monks. Later all the incharge monks held meeting and shared their experiences and suggestions. It was a great get together of monks which they do every year at least once.

The day's program concluded with evening puja and merit sharing to all the donors and all beings with deepa puja.



Venerable monks performing puja on 2nd death anniversary of Bada bhanteji



Release of books

24th September 2015 at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura

The second day program was organized at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura. It is a retreat center of Mahabodhi and it was in this place the Most Ven. Acharya's mortal remains were consigned to flames. A grand pagoda is coming up in the place of cremation. All the monks left in three buses and cars to Dhammaduta Vihara.

The main puja was held in the meditation center and after offering puja to the Triple Gem, Ven. Munglang Sayadaw did the Patthana chanting. It was followed by a small Dhamma talk and meditation practice led by the Munglang Sayadaw. Thereafter Sanghadana was arranged and devotees offered lunch to every monk. Later devotees had lunch and some of them continued with meditation. All the labour workers were offered good clothes and gifts on the occasion. In the afternoon at 4:30 pm special chanting was conducted at the pagoda. Ven. Munglang Sayadaw chanted the Mahasamaya sutta and Patthana combined with Buddhanussati. The whole atmosphere was charged with deep spiritual tranquility and there was heavy shower soon after the chanting in Bengaluru.

The monks returned after the tea.



Ven monks at Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura



Special chanting by Ven. Munglang Sayadaw and venerable monks at Bodhi Rashmi pagoda.

25th September 2015 at Mahabodhi Maitri Mandala, Mysore

The third day of the program was held at Mahabodhi Mysore. The monks went in the morning by cars and they were received ceremoniously by the staff, children and devotees of Mysore. Sanghadana was offered by the students and staff. At 2.30 PM all the monks visited the School premises and Ven. Munglang Sayadaw inaugurated the newly made children play station area. After that Ven. Kassapa bhanteji inaugurated a photo panel showing the life and works of Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita by the students of Mahabodhi School.

All the monks proceeded to the meditation hall and special Patthana chanting was conducted by Ven. Munglang Sayadaw and he gave an inspiring Dhamma talk. He also gave blessings to Ven. Bhikkhu Ananda as it was his birthday. Ven. Kassapa Mahathera also gave Dhamma talk telling people to remember the great teacher Acharya Buddharakkhita who has given so much to all of us. Then Ven. U Vicitta bhante gave blessings. The devotees offered homage to the monks. Soon after that the monks travelled back to Bengaluru, stopping at Shri Puttamadaiah's house in Mandya for blessing ceremony.

26th September 2015 at Mahabodhi Buddha Vihara, Hyderabad

Early morning all the guest monks and head monks of Mahabodhi branches left by flight to Hyderabad arriving at the Vihara at 11 AM exactly in time for the Sanghadana. Many traditional Buddhists offered Sanghadana with great devotion. After the lunch there was a program of registering a new trust called Mahabodhi Foundation Hyderabad which was held in the main hall after offering the puja. At 4:30 PM



Most Ven. Munglang Sayadaw did the Buddha puja followed by Patthana chanting for the development of the Vihara. He gave an inspiring talk on Dhamma emphasizing on performing good karmas. Then after blessing the devotees he went around the Vihara and then all the monks visited the Buddha statue in Hussain Sagar lake in the center of the city.

Thereafter on 27th early morning all the monks left to their places by flight so that they would reach their viharas before night as it was vassa time where monks cannot go out of station for more than seven nights. All the programs ended with great success where many people participated and developed more faith towards the Triple Gem and heard many Dhamma discourses. The new publications were also received with much appreciation. The only way one can express gratitude and respects our beloved Bada Bhanteji is through the practice and teaching of the Dhamma which was done intensively during these four days by very eminent senior monks. It was also a great occasion to pay homage to Bada Bhanteji by all Mahabodhi monks coming together from far distances which happens normally once in a year. It was also an occasion to commit to the aims and guidance given by the Most Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita bhanteji. May the merits of these noble actions come to all beings and may all beings be happy!



Kathina Festival and Maha Paritta Chanting

This year some very special programs were organized in Maha Bodhi Society Bangalore after the end's of Rain's Retreat for three months. The Kathina ceremony was organized in a very traditional manner. Nearly 500 persons from Arunachal Pradesh, Tripura, Assam, Mizoram and other parts of





North eastern India and Bangladesh visited Maha Bodhi Society and stayed in Bangalore for nearly fifteen days. They all participated in the grand robe making ceremony. In addition monks from various countries also visited Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara to participate in this program.

Kathina is a festival that takes place during the months of October/November. For 2600 years families have gathered to take part in the largest offerings of alms-giving and other requisites to the monks and monasteries. Friends, families, parents and children join together in a celebration on the theme of generosity and harmony. Kathina occurs at the end of the Vassavasa-three month's rains retreat of monks. As there were no sewing machines or textile factories in those days, the preparation of robes for monks required a lot of manpower and coordination. It could not be done in a single day. The Buddha realized this problem and allowed his lay disciples to prepare and make robes for any monks who needed them. The process required searching for appropriate cloth or weaving cloth, washing it, cutting it, sewing the pieces together into robes, colouring the robes, and drying them. After that, the robes are offered to the Sangha with one robe specially designated as Kathina civara. All this is done almost overnight.

On November 7, 2015 afternoon all the participants gathered in Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara, Bangalore. Venerable monks from various parts of India and abroad also came to take part in this grand Kathina celebrations. Around 3.30 PM, monks and laity gathered outside Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara and hoisted the Buddhist flag on top of the vihara. Subsequently, all of them gathered at the Dhamma Hall of Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara and thereafter, Tisarana and Pancasila (Three Refuges and Five Precepts) were administered to the laity. Afterwards, some of the senior monks gave Dhamma discourses. After the Dhamma discourses were finished, the monks and the laity proceeded in a grand procession to the specially decorated pendal where the Kathina weaving ceremony was to be held. After reaching the pendal, the monks gave blessings to the laity for the successful conduction of the program. Thereafter, the laity started distribution of their respective assignments such as, weaving, colouring, stitching robe etc. and they started their program.

Night Long Maha Paritta Chanting

Around 7PM in the evening, the monks gathered in the Satipatthana Kutira and they worshiped the relics of the Buddha and His Chief Disciples and Great Disciples and then they went around the sacred Bodhi Tree, chanting the qualities of the Supremely Enlightened Buddha. Then they proceeded to the Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara and settled down on the stage where the Maha Paritta chanting was to be conducted. Then the formal invitation was made by the laity to the monks for starting the Maha Paritta chanting. The Maha Paritta was conducted by the monks from Mahamevanwa monastery in Sri Lanka and they were joined by Mahabodhi monks and monks from various other countries such as Thailand, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Australia and monks from some other places.



It started with a Dhamma discourse delivered by venerable monks from Mahamevanwa monastery. Subsequently, Maha Paritta chanting was started. A large number of laity was present at the Dhamma Hall who also participated in the Maha Paritta Chanting. Several Suttas (discourses of the Supremely Enlightened Buddha) were chanted by the monks, which includes, among others,



Mangala Sutta- for blessings and prosperity;

Ratana Sutta- for getting free from dangers caused by disease, evil spirits and famine;

Metta Sutta - for suffusing all kinds of beings with loving-kindness and overcome relationship problems

Khandha Sutta- for protecting against snakes and other creatures;

Mora Sutta- for protection against snares, imprisonment and for safety;

Vatta Sutta - for protection against fire, accidents, etc;

Dhajagga Sutta- for protection against fear, trembling and horror;

Dhammacakka Pavattana Sutta – The first discourse of Lord Buddha to group five monks;

Mahasamaya Sutta – Discourse about the great gatherings of Arhant monks and deities of ten thousand world systems; and

Atanatiya Sutta- for protection against evil spirits, and gaining health and happiness.

In addition, some more Paritta Suttas were also chanted by the venerable monks.



Night long chanting of Maha paritta chanting



Venerable monks inagurating the place for Kathina making ceremony.



Night long Kathina robe making

While the chanting was conducted at Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara, the making of the Kathina Robe was also simultaneously going on in full swing. Many persons were participating in that program and many visitors also came to see this unique program.

The chanting ended around 5 AM on November 8, 2015. Thereafter, the monks distributed the strings blessed with Maha Paritta chanting and holy water spiritually recharged with great powers of Maha Paritta chanting. Then the devotees dispersed to their homes to get ready as they were to come back by 9.30 AM for participating in the Kathina Civara dana program.

Photo -

At 9.30 AM on November 8, 2015, the monks and laity again gathered at the Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara and then after the Puja, Tisarana and Pancasila were administered to the laity. Then the Upasakas and Upasikas who participated in the nightlong Kahina Civara making program, came and offered the Kathina Civara to Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, the President of Maha Bodhi Society. After the Kathina Civara dana, Sanghadana consisting of monastic requisites was also performed by the devotees. Then the venerable members of the Mahasangha gave appropriate Dhamma discourses to the laity about Kathina Civara dana. Then the monks went to take their lunch and after the lunch of the monks, the lay devotees also had their lunch.



Large number of Lay people who participated in Kathina making program



Laity offering the Kathina robe to the Bhikkusangha



Venerable from many countries during the Kathina robe offering ceremony



Lay people from North East offering monks requisites as sanghadana

In the afternoon there was Dhammadeeksha program.

In the evening, puja, Dipa puja and other spiritual programs were performed by the monks and the laity.

Additionally, cultural programs were also organized by the devotees of Northeast India for three consecutive days along with local Karnataka troupes.

In this manner, the Kahina Civara dana and Maha Paritta chanting program was successfully completed at Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru. After the programs a weeklong tour was arranged for the guests of Northeast to Bengaluru and Mysore.





BUDDHA BHUMI VANDANA YATRA – 2015

Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, organized Buddha Bhumi Vandana Yatra – Pilgrimage to offer salutations to the Sacred Places related to life of the Buddha from 14 to 28 November 2015. Merits accrued from this pilgrimage were dedicated to the founder of Maha Bodhi Society, Most Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita. It was a rare pilgrimage in the sense that 304 persons participated from all the branches of Mahabodhi and supporters of Mahabodhi from India and abroad as follows:

1. **Bengaluru/Mysore**
 - a. 33 Anagarikas
 - b. 19 Sameneras
 - c. 8 Bhikkhus (Bh. Ananda, Bh. Dhammaloka, Bh. Buddhadatta, Bh. Dhammadatta, Bh. Sanghadatta, Bh. Dhammaratna, Bh. Abhaya, Bh. Sanghavamsa)
 - d. 35 Kappiyas Mettaloka Students (33 boys, 02 girls)
 - e. 1 Bengaluru Kappiya (Dr. Gridhar)
 2. **Hyderabad**
 - a. 18 Anagarikas
 - b. 1 bhikkhu (Bh. Kusalachitta)
 - c. 1 Kappiya
 3. **Namsai-**
 - a. 18 Sameneras
 - b. 16 Kappiya Maitri Students (12 girls, 2 lady, 2 men)
 4. **Diyun-**
 - a. 10 monks (9 Sameneras, 1 Bhikkhu- Bh. Panyarakkhita)
 - b. 18 Kappiyas - Rita Girls Home
 5. **Bordumsa-**
 - a. 27 Sayale (nuns)
 - b. 3 Kappiyas (2 ladies, 1 men)
 6. **Tripura-**
 - a. Chichingchera – 12 Monks (1 Bhikkhus 11 Sameneras)
 - b. Suknachari- 12 Monks (2 Bhikkhus, 10 Sameneras)
 7. **Tawang-**
 - a. 12 Kappiyas (10 girls, 2 men)
 8. **Parents-**
 - a. 6 Kappiyas (parents of Bh. Dhammaratna, Bh. Abhaya, Vajira and Amaro)
 9. **Sri Lanka-**
 - a. 23 Monks (Bhikkhus)
 - b. 4 Kappiya (men)
 10. **Burma-**
 - a. 3 Monks (Bhikkhus)
 - b. 3 Kappiyas (2 ladies, 1 men)
 11. **Swiss-**
 - a. 1 Bhikkhu (Bh. Anuruddha)
 - b. 17 Kappiyas (13 ladies, 4 men)
 12. **Australia and Switzerland and Thailand**
 - a. 3 Bhikkhus
- Total - 304**

14-11-2015

Gathering in Patna from different places: The program started with get-together from different places at Patna on 14th November. The Swiss group with Ms. Monica Thaddey and the Sri Lankan group of monks and others arrived by flights and some by trains at Patna. The accommodation was arranged in the Burmese temple, guest house and in a hotel.

15-11-2015

At 8 AM pilgrims departed for Vaishali. The traffic was horrible and it took four hours to reach Thai Temple in Vaishali. On arrival lunch was arranged and after the lunch a get together was arranged. That was the gathering point for all the pilgrims. Venerable Ananda addressed the gathering and introduced all groups to everybody. Mementoes were distributed and general instructions were given. Also responsibilities were given to monks and others.

At 2:30 PM everybody went in procession to the Licchavi stupa where relics of Lord Buddha were kept. They paid homage and did puja. Ratana sutta was chanted there by all the monks and Ven. Acinna Sayadaw chanted the Patthana pali. Discourse was given by Venerable Subodhi Bhante. Later the program ended with meditation.



Monks chanting at the stupa



Paying homage to the stupa

At 6 PM everyone left back to Patna and passing through the traffic jam all reached at around 10 pm.

16-11-2015

Pilgrims had early breakfast and left for Vaishali early to avoid traffic.

They reached Vaishali and went in procession to Kutagarasala stupa. After preparing the seating arrangements and the Buddha altar beside the Ashokan pillar and the stupa, puja was done. Ratana sutta was chanted along with other suttas. Ven. Subodhi bhante explained about the Kutagara monastery and some incidents. Later everyone went in procession chanting Buddhānussati to the main Kutagara sala and Gandha kuti. After paying homage there, they returned to the Thai Monastery and had lunch.



Monks meditating near stupa



Venerable monks with the holy relics during procession



Monks performing puja

At 1 PM pilgrims left for Kesaria Stupa. Kesaria is the place where Lord Buddha gave discourse to the Kesaputtias, the name of which is known as the Kalama Sutta. Kesaria Stupa is considered to be one of the biggest stupas, which is still half excavated. All the monks and devotees circumambulated the stupa chanting the Kalama sutta. Ven. Subodhi bhante gave a discourse on Kalama sutta. At 4 PM pilgrims departed for Kushinagar. At 7 pm, they reached Kushinagar and settled in the guest houses.

17-11-2015

Everyone had breakfast and gathered at the Burmese pagoda. A beautiful procession was arranged carrying the offerings, specially the robes prepared for the big Buddha statue (depicting the Parinibbana pose of Lord Buddha) at the Mahaparinibbana stupa. The procession was held with chanting the qualities of the Buddha and after going round three times around the Mahaparinibbana temple and stupa, the offerings were made. The robes were devotionally put on the statue of Lord Buddha.



Monks, nuns and laity at the Mahaparinibbana temple and stupa



Statue of Lord Buddha



The entire stupa and surrounding places were decorated with flowers. Then on the spot of Lord Buddha's parinibbana, a bed was made out of flowers and then beautiful cloth mattress and pillow were prepared. It appeared to the devotees as if the Lord Buddha was lying there at that very moment. Buddha puja was done and after that sections of the Mahaparinibbana Sutta were chanted beautifully and explained by Ven. Anuradha bhante and Ven. Subodhi bhante. The entire scene of Lord Buddha's passing away was recollected in a solemn atmosphere.



Monks making a bed of flowers at the spot of Lord Buddha's parinibbana



Spot decorated with flowers

After the lunch at the Buremese Temple, respects were offered at the Gurubhumi – the monument of Venerable Chandramani Mahathera, the pabbajja ordination preceptor of Bada Bhanteji, who also gave him his monastic name, Buddharakkhita.

The group then visited Mata Kuar Temple, the place where the Buddha took His last bath and with nicely decorated monastery remains. Then the pilgrims did the puja and discourse was given. Then the group proceeded to the Sri Lanka temple where Ven. Assaji welcomed and gave introduction and tea. After visiting Thai temple, the pilgrims came to Rambhar stupa, the spot where the Lord Buddha was cremated. The procession went around the stupa three times chanting the Buddhanussati and then after setting up the altar, puja was done. Then Ven. Subodhi bhante explained the last moments of the Buddha, the cremation, etc which was very touching. The monks and devotees then lighted thousands of candles around the stupa and again went around chanting.



Pilgrims at the Rambhar stupa

2015 - 2016



After the Rambhar stupa puja, the group visited Mahamaya Temple developed by a Buddhist nun Ven. Nayanadhamma from Karnataka. She invited our group to inaugurate the newly built five guest rooms and temple. After doing a puja, it was inaugurated and bhantes blessed her and the donors.

18-11-2015

It was a day of travel to Lumbini. On the way the lunch was arranged at a school ground. It took more than two hours to finish the immigration formalities at the Indo Nepal boarder at Sanouli. Then pilgrims visited the Nigrodharama monastery on the Nepal side of Kapilavatthu. Nigrodharama monastery was the place where the Lord first stayed when he visited for the first time his native place. After offering puja there, the group visited the place where the palace of Suddhodhana stood, the places where the prince Siddhartha spent his childhood, Suddhodhana and Queen Mahamaya stupas.

At the monastery

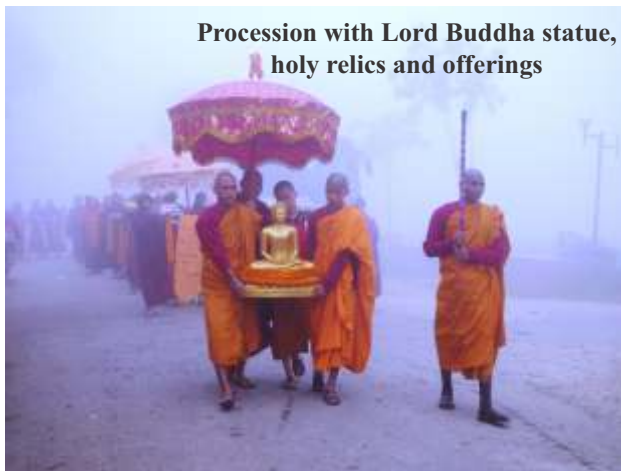


19-11-2015

After the breakfast all assembled in the Korean Temple and a procession with Lord Buddha statue, holy relics and other offerings went towards the Mahamaya temple, the birthplace of Lord Buddha. It was a long walk and after going around the main temple, the group lined up for worshipping the main spot of the birth of the Buddha. It took a long time as the queue was in single line. Then the whole group settled beside the Ashokan pillar where it is written that it is here that Lord Buddha was born.



At the birth place of the Buddha



Procession with Lord Buddha statue,
holy relics and offerings

At this holy Jata Cetiya of Lord Buddha, Nalakasutta was chanted and explained and then Acchariya-abbhuta sutta was explained beautifully by Ven.Subodhi Bhante. Then Ven. Nodinyana Sayadaw explained the meaning of the first words of prince Siddhartha when he was born – “Aggo hamasmi lokassa.....” . After a group photo the group had lunch at the Korean temple and after the lunch visited Chinese temple, Nepal temple, Tara temple, Sri Lankan Temple, Burmese temple,



Monks doing puja at lumbini

pagoda, and then visited Pajapati Gotami Nunnery. After visiting all these places, the group then came back to Mahamaya temple where Karaniya metta sutta was chanted and metta bhavana meditation was practiced.

20-11-2015

It was a long day of travel to Savatthi. But in the morning, after crossing the border, pilgrims visited Kapilavatthu, which is on the Indian Side. It is the place where one of the eight stupas built after the demise of Lord Buddha. After setting up the Buddha altar and the relics, Mahasamaya sutta was chanted beautifully by all the monks led by Ven. Anuaradha bhante. A short discourse was given there. We had lunch at the Buddhist Society of India temple and then visited the Museum which is yet to be inaugurated. Then it was a whole day travel to Savatthi and reached Savatthi in the late evening and the whole group was accommodated in the Korean Temple guest house.

21-11-2015

After the breakfast, everybody gathered at the old gate of the Jetavana and got prepared for the procession of the offerings. It was a dignified procession, a long one with solemn chanting of the nine qualities of the Buddha carrying the holy relics, Buddha Statue and offerings. After entering the Jetavana monastery all the monks and lay people got into decorating the entire Mulagandhakuti area and Dhammasabha area with flowers. After putting lot of flowers and preparing the bed and seat of Lord Buddha, one by one flower offerings were made while chanting was going on. On this occasion Mangala sutta was chanted which was given at Jetavana. After the chanting Ven.Sayadaw Achinna bhante gave an inspiring Dhamma discourse about the meaning of the pilgrimage going within.

2015 - 2016



Mulagandhakuti decorated with flowers



Monks doing puja

After the discourse and paying homage once again at the Mulagandha kuti, the group proceeded to the Dhamma Sabha sala and made offerings and Dhamma Seat of the Buddha. After chanting the qualities of the Dhamma the group then proceeded to the Ananda Thera kuti and made offerings of robes etc.

Then the group went for lunch at the Korean Temple and after the lunch proceeded to the Thai Temple. It is a massive monastery with huge sitting Buddha statue and huge stupa. The monks were led inside the stupa and they chanted suttas inside the stupa. After the visit, the founder of the monastery, a lady lay devotee who welcomed and gave dana. After visiting the Thai temple the group went to Pubbarama monastery and did chanting there.

From Pubbarama monastery, everybody came back to Jetavana and offered flowers and candles at the Ananda Bodhi Tree and did puja. Beautiful robes were offered at the holy tree. Mangala sutta, Karaniya metta sutta and other pujas were made with meditation and soon after the whole Jetavana was lighted with candles.

22-11-2015

After the breakfast all buses visited the Angulimala stupa and the Anathapindika palace and Ojhar Stupa where Lord Buddha performed Yamaka Patihariya – Twin Miracle. Lunch was arranged in a school ground on the way and then, for rest of the day, pilgrims travelled to Sarnath and reached Sarnath in the evening.

23-11-2015

Early morning at 4:45 AM, everybody gathered at the Mulagandhakuti Vihara. It was an extraordinary occasion of exposition of the sacred Buddha relics at 5 AM. Amidst the chanting of Ratana sutta and qualities of the Buddha the relic was brought out and placed in the center of the temple where everybody got chance to worship.

There was Sanghadana arranged by the devotees to all the monks of Sarnath. After the breakfast, a procession was arranged from the Maha Bodhi Society to the Dharmarajika with the special offerings of Dhamma seat, Dhammacakka, robes, etc as it is at this holy spot Lord Buddha taught the first discourse the Dhammacakka Pavattana sutta. After going to Dharmarajika stupa everybody decorated the stupa with the flowers and Buddha alter was made. Beautiful puja and Dhammacakka pavattana sutta was chanted. Ven.Subodhi recollected the beautiful events of the Buddha.

Pilgrims at the Dhammek stupa



Monks doing puja and chanting the Dhammachakkapavattana sutta



Flag procession around Dhammek stupa

2015 - 2016



After the Dhammarajika stupa puja, the group went to Dhammek Stupa with the procession of long Buddhist flag. It was very nicely tied around the entire Dhammek stupa and Anattalakkhana sutta was chanted. After worshipping the Dhammek stupa, the group then visited the Mulagandhakuti spot and the Ashokan pillar which stood there with Lion Capital but now broken and the Lion Capital is placed in the museum.



Monks paying homage

A big Sanghadana was arranged for all the monks of Sarnath for over 600 people. After the lunch, part of the group went for rest and part of the group went to visit the Museum, Thai temple with big standing Buddha and then the Choukhandi stupa where the five monks received the Lord were visited by the pilgrims. At 3 PM, everybody came back again to the Dhammarajika stupa which was decorated very beautifully with flowers and participated in the chanting of the Dhammacakka pavattana sutta. Then there was going around the stupa and procession to the Dhammek stupa and then to Mulagandhakuti Vihara. Everybody lighted lot of candles. Thus came to the end the day of intense practice of saddha.

24-11-2015

Most of the group after breakfast had free time in Sarnath. The Swiss and Sri Lankan groups went to visit Ganga river and did boating in the river seeing different ghats. After the visit everybody had lunch at the Maha Bodhi Society and thanked Venerable Seewali Thero profusely for arranging special Holy Relic darshan.

Then all proceeded to Buddhagaya.

25-11-2015 Full Moon day

Being full moon day it was a great day to be in Buddhagaya. After the breakfast, everybody gathered at the Maha Bodhi Society carrying offerings of robes and other things with holy relics. Ven. Munglang Sayadaw, Gunawantha mahathera led the procession. After going round three times with solemn chanting everybody went inside the main temple and worshiped and offered the robes to the Blessed Lord Buddha. Then the group settled in the specially prepared pandal to the South of the main temple. Most Venerable Munglang sayadaw then chanted the Patthana pali and other blessing chants in memory of Bada bhanteji and for welfare of all the Mahabodhi activities. It was followed by the chanting by all other monks the chanting of Paticca Samuppada. Sections of Gotamaka sutta were also chanted by Anuradha bhante and Subodhi bhante.



Monks and laity paying respects to holy relics of the Buddha



2015 - 2016



Venerable monks at the main temple



At the Bodhi tree in Bodh gaya



Monks doing puja to the south of the main temple

Then a big Sanghadana for all the monks of Buddhagaya was arranged at the Kalachakra grounds where about 700 people participated.



Sanghadana



Lighting of lamps at Bodhgaya



After the lunch, the group gathered once again at the main temple pandal and chanted the entire Mahasatipatthana sutta. After the chanting of the sutta and blessing and merit sharing, Ms. Monica Thaddey was honoured for her extra ordinary generosity in organizing this mega pilgrimage.

It was then time for everybody to have their free time to worship on their own for two hours which was followed by offering of the lights at the Light house. The whole full moon day was observed thus at the holy place of Buddhagaya.

26-11-2015

The first program on this day was visit to Buddhagyan Ashram of Mahamewnava monastery. The Ven. Gnanavijaya bhante and the lay devotees received with great faith and offered hospitality. After paying rich tributes to Ven. Kusalacitta who passed away few months back, the group then visited the 80 feet Buddha statue at the Japanese temple. Then having a photo session the group visited the Thai temple. After having the lunch at the Maha Bodhi Society there was a program to thank the donors and honour all the monks from Sri Lanka for joining the pilgrimage and doing all the nice chanting and explaining with discourses. Then Swiss group was honoured for their support for daily lunch dana. They were presented with mementoes. At the same time Ven. Dhammaratana Mahathero of Buddhist Vihara of Malaysia also visited and offered to give scholarships to the deserving students. The Malaysian group was overwhelmed to see our monks. It was also time to say good bye to the Sri Lankan group as they were going to stay back at Buddhagaya the next day when all others would leave.

In the evening a puja was arranged once again at the Main temple.

27-11-2015

It was the day to leave Buddhagaya to Rajagaha. Everybody enjoyed the cable chair car to go up to the Shanti stupa and then came to the Gijjhakuta where puja was done. After the puja the group visited the Ananda Thera cave and Sariputta Thera cave. Lunch was arranged at the Thai monastery and after the lunch the group visited the Bimbisara Jail and the Veluvana, the first monastery offered to the Lord.

Then everybody travelled to Nalanda and visited the famous monastic and stupa remains. A puja was done at the Sariputta Thera stupa. A guide explained beautifully the significance of Nalanda.

It was time to say good bye to each group as from there the Bangalore group was going to Patna railway station and others to Burmese Vihara and Swiss group to a hotel. It was very touching moment when everybody said good bye to each other and bid farewell with tearful eyes.

Thus on 27th and 28th each of the group left to their destinations with lot of memories and experiences. The chantings, undertaking of 8 precepts at all holy places by the Swiss group, Dhamma discourses and discussions and long travels in the dusty roads of North India, etc, more than anything the feeling of the living in the presence of our Supreme Buddha made life much more meaningful. To offer merits everyday in the name of Bada Bhanteji Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita made us to feel his presence all the time with protection. Throughout the pilgrimage with 304 people there was not one untoward incident and trouble to anybody. It is all the blessings of Bada Bhanteji which made everything go smoothly.

We are extremely grateful to Ms. Monica Thaddey who sponsored the pilgrimage and personally participated with lot of devotion. Also we are grateful to all the organizing team.



Dhammapada Festival

Birthday of Most Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita

March 20 to March 23, 2016

Like every year, this year also the 95th birthday of Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita, the Founder of Maha Bodhi Society and its sister organizations was celebrated as Dhammapada Festival through various meaningful spiritual and humanitarian activities. The main programs that were organized between March 20, 2016 and March 23, 2016. The important program was enshrinement of the sacred relics of the Buddha and His enlightened disciples in Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda (this pagoda was built on the place of cremation of Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita), a two day international conference on “**Human Freedom, Social Justice and Buddhism – A 21st Century Interface**”, chanting of the sacred Dhammapada, release of new publications, hospital dana service.

The programs started on March 20, 2016. On that day, at the Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Narasipura village a grand ceremony was organized to enshrine the holy relics of the Buddha and His enlightened disciples. However, from March 18, 2016 onwards, an unbroken chanting of Patthana was organized at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara and that chanting continued for two days without any break. Monks from Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara and Myanmar participated in this Patthana chanting. On March 20, 2016, monks from India and other countries, such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Thailand gathered at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara. A great number of lay devotees also came to attend the program.

After gathering at Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara, Sandhadana, lunch, was offered to the monks by devotees. Then all the monks and lay people proceeded to the vihara where the sacred relics of the Buddha, Arahats and objects such as Buddha statues, Holy Tipitaka etc. were kept. There, the monks and lay people took their seats and then puja was done by the monks. After the puja, lay devotees were administered with Three Refuges and Five Precepts. Then the monks, lay people started carrying the enshrinement objects towards Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda in a procession.

Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda has 58 cells and it will be used for meditation when fully operational. The sacred objects were kept outside the pagoda and then the monks and laity again sat down before the sacred objects and paid their respects. Thereafter, special chanting for the enshrinement was done by the monks. After the chanting, the monks lined up on the specially built staircase that led to the top of the pagoda. Then the sacred objects were passed through the hands of the monks and reached on top of the pagoda. There, in the empty cell at the peak of the pagoda, the sacred objects were kept by the monks in proper order. In this manner this solemn ceremony was finished and the dome with sacred objects was sealed afterwards. Thereafter Dhamma discourses were given by the monks.



Venerable monks performing puja at the Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara



Venerable monks of the Mahasangha carrying the enshrinement objects(sacred relics of The Buddha, Arahants.etc) to be enshrined at Bodhi Rashmi Pagoda

2015 - 2016



Special chanting done by venerable monks for the enshrinement



Ven. Ananda bhanteji reading out the inscription on the copper plate to be enshrined in the pagoda



Sacred relics of the Buddha



Sacred enshrinement objects being kept by monks at the peak of the pagoda

Then the lay people took their meals. This ceremony has a special significance, because this Bodhi Rasmi Pagoda is the first Burmese style pagoda built in Southern India and enshrinement of the holy relics and sacred objects was also a unique affair. This will be remembered for a very long time to come and will inspire people to follow the path of Dhamma.

The next day, March 21, 2016 the first day of the two day international conference on “Human Freedom, Social Justice and Buddhism – A 21st Century Interface” was organized at Tumkur University, Tumkur. In the morning, the monks and lay people started from Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru and reached Tumkur University by 10.30 AM. Then the conference was inaugurated by the President of Maha Bodhi Society, Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, General Secretary, Venerable Ananda Bhante, Sayadaw Jotika from Myanmar, Venerable Wiriyakirthi Thero from Sri Lanka, The Vice Chancellor of Tumkur University, Dr A H Rajasab, the Registrar of Tumkur university and other distinguished guests. The key note speaker of this conference was Dhammacari Lokamitra (Gerome Goody) from Britain, President of Nagaloka, Nagpur. He is an expert on the tiled theme of the conference. Then many speakers spoke on the sub-themes throughout the day. The first day of the conference was concluded by 6 PM in the evening.



Day 1 of 2day International conference on 'Human freedom, Social justice and Buddhism- A 21- century Interphase, held at Tumkur University



Ven.Kassapa Bhanteji and Ven.Jotika Bhanteji inaugurating the conference



2nd day of the Two day International conference at MBS, Bangalore.

The next day, the conference continued in Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore. In the morning, a group of delegates from Tumkur University arrived at Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore and then the second day of the conference was inaugurated by President of Maha Bodhi Society, Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, General Secretary, Venerable Ananda Bhante, Sayadaw Jotika from Myanmar, Venerable Wiriyakirthi Thero from Sri Lanka and the Professor Ramesh from Tumkur University. After that some very eminent speakers spoke in the title theme of the conference i.e., "Human Freedom, Social Justice and Buddhism – A 21- Century Interface". The important speakers on this occasion were Dr Anusaya Kamble and Dr Venkatagiri Dalwahi. Afterwards, professor U S Moorti and professor Ramesh also delivered their valuable speeches. Then the vote of thanks was proposed by Venerable Ananda Bhante, General Secretary of Maha Bodhi Society, Bangalore. Then this conference came to an end. In the evening, puja and meditation was also arranged at the Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara. A hospital dana was also arranged at Kidwai Cancer Hospital in the name of Bada Bhanteji.

On March 23, 2016, which was the full moon day and also the birthday of Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita, the monks gathered under the Bodhi Tree at 9.30 AM. They were joined by the lay devotees.



Monks during hospital dana,



Hospital dana at the Kidwai Cancer Hospital in the name of Bada bhanteji.



Monks doing puja at Bada Bhanteji's kuti

After doing the Bodhi puja, Stupa and Cetiya Vandana, the monks and the laity proceeded to the Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara. Then the lamps were lit and all of them took their respective seats. Then the puja started. After the conclusion of the puja, five precepts were administered to the laity. Subsequently, Dhamma discourses and blessings were given by President of Maha Bodhi Society, Venerable Kassapa Mahathera, General Secretary, Venerable Ananda Bhante, Sayadaw Jotika from Myanmar, Venerable Wiriyakirithi Thero from Sri Lanka and other distinguished monks of India and abroad. Two books written by Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddhharakkhita were also released on this occasion. They were **Dhamma – The Path to Freedom** and **Invisible Protection**. A sanghadana was organized for the monks and then the lay persons also took their meals. Around 2 PM, monks and lay devotees again gathered at the Vihara and the Dhammapada was chanted by all of them. The Dhammapada chanting continued till 5 PM. In the evening Deepa Puja was organized and the entire Mahabodhi Loka Shanti Buddha Vihara was lit up with thousands of candles and it created a wonderful sight. With the evening puja, the Dhammapada Festival came to an end. On March 24, 2016 a hospital dana service was organized at Victoria Hospital.



Books written by Ven. Acharya Buddhharakkhita; 'Dhamma- The path to Freedom' and 'Invisible Protection' being released.

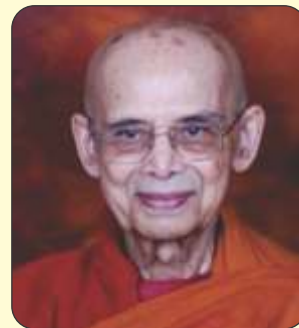


Hospital dana service at Victoria hospital in the name of Bada Bhanteji.

MAHA BODHI SOCIETY

BENGALURU

Management Committee for the year 2015-2016



Late Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita
Founder President



Venerable Kassapa Mahathera
President



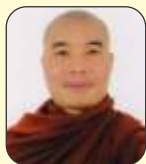
Venerable Bhikkhu Ananda
General Secretary



Venerable Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita
Treasurer



Venerable Bhikkhu Panyarakkhita
Member and In Charge of MMMAP
and Tawang and Diyun Branch



Venerable Bhikkhu Dhammaloka
Member and In Charge of
Mysore Branch



Venerable Bhikkhu Panyaloka
Member and In Charge of
Mahabodhi Namsai Branch



Venerable Bhikkhu Buddhadatta
Member and Monk In Charge of
Mahabodhi Dhammaduta Vihara



Venerable Bhikkhu Buddhapala
Member and In Charge of Hyderabad Branch



Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghadatta
Member and Superintendent of MMI



Venerable Bhikkhu Dhammadatta
Member and Principal MMI



Venerable Bhikkhu Sugatananda
Member and Director of MBCTBS

Venerable Monks of Mahabodhi with responsibilities 2015-2016

1. **Ven.Kassapa Mahathera**, President
2. **Ven.Bhikkhu Ananda**, General Secretary, MBS
3. **Ven.Bhikkhu Sangharakkhita**, Treasurer, MBS
4. **Ven.Bhikkhu Pamokkha**, Teacher, MMI
5. **Ven.Bhikkhu Panyarakkhita**, Chairman, Mahabodhi Arunachal Branches
6. **Ven.Bhikkhu Panyaloka**, Director, Mahabodhi Namsai Branch
7. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammaloka**, Director, Mahabodhi Mysore Branch
8. **Ven.Bhikkhu Buddhadatta**, Principal, Mahabodhi Monastic Institute
9. **Ven.Bhikkhu Sugatananda**, Director, Center for Theravada Buddhist Studies
10. **Ven.Bhikkhu Visuddhananda**, Director, Mahabodhi Chichingchera Branch
11. **Ven.Bhikkhu Rajinda**, Chairman, Mahabodhi Suknachari
12. **Ven.Bhikkhu Nyanarakkhita**, Director, Mahabodhi Suknachari Branch
13. **Ven.Bhikkhu Buddhapala**, Director, Mahabodhi Hyderabad Branch
14. **Ven.Bhikkhu Nyanapala**, Asst Director, Mahabodhi Tawang Branch
15. **Ven.Bhikkhu Assaji**, Director, Mahabodhi Deomali Branch
16. **Ven.Bhikkhu Sanghadatta**, Superintendent, MMI
17. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammadatta**, Asst. Treasurer, MBS
18. **Ven.Bhikkhu Khemananda**, Superintendent, Mahabodhi Chichingchera Monastery
19. **Ven.Bhikkhu Sunanda**, Teacher, MMI
20. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammadipa**, Teacher, MMI
21. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammajyoti**, Teacher, MMI
22. **Ven.Bhikkhu Sanghavansa**, Teacher, MMI
23. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammagaveso**, Asst Superintendent, MMI
24. **Ven.Bhikkhu Ratthapala**, Teacher, MMI
25. **Ven.Bhikkhu Dhammankur**, Mahabodhi School, Chichingchera
26. **Ven.Sayale Yasanandi**, Principal, Mahabodhi Gotami Nunnery, Bordumsa



Maha Bodhi Society

14, Kalidasa Road, Gandhinagar, Bengaluru - 560 009, India

Tel : 080-22250684, Fax : 080-41148440, E-mail : info@mahabodhi.info, Web : www.mahabodhi.info

Maha Bodhi Society, Bengaluru, is a registered under the Karnataka Societies Registration Act No 17 of 1960
Registration No.S123/68-69 AMR 10/08-09, Bengaluru