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# *Dharmadoot*

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**Special Vol. on 125<sup>th</sup> Years of Celebration of Maha Bodhi Society of India and  
85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Mulagandha Kuti Vihara**

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***With best wishes on the occasion of the  
125th Years of Celebration of  
Maha Bodhi Society of India and  
85<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of  
Mulagandha Kuti Vihara***



**Mulagandha Kuti Vihara (1931 – 2016)**

***Sarnath–The first preaching place of the Buddha***

***The Importance of Sarnath :***

- Preaching of the First sermon by the Sākyamuni Buddha to His first five disciples "*Dhammacakka-pavattana Sutta*".
- Second sermon of the Sākyamuni Buddha, "*Anatta Lakkhaṇa Sutta*".
- First disciple Attains "Sotāpanna" (Koṇḍañña Thera).
- Arahathood of first five disciples after hearing the Second Sermon.
- Ordination of Yaśa Kula-Putra.
- Emerging of first followers of the Triple Gem : The Buddha, Dhamma and Saṅgha.
- Sākyamuni Buddha Sending sixty Arahats to propagate His Dhamma.
- Sākyamuni Buddha spending the first rainy retreat.
- Beginning of the holy word "Sādhu" with veneration to the Sākyamuni Buddha.

## From the Founder

*I welcome you to this hallowed spot, sacred to the Buddhists of Asia as the place where the Devatideva Sakyamuni preached the first Discourse known as the. Dhammacakkapavattana Sutta to the five Bhikkhus 2520 years ago.*

\*\*\*

*The time has now come to elevate India to a state of progress. No progress is possible if internecine quarrels continue. The ancient Buddhist Bhikkhus followed the path of renunciation when they carried the sociological ethics of Aryan civilization to Japan, Korea, China, Siam, Cambodia, Burma and Ceylon. What happened to the wonderfully sublime literature that existed in India in the Buddhist period? No trace of it is found in India; but fortunately the whole literature exists in its fulness in Buddhist lands. Europeans study Pali, Sanskrit, Chinese, Mongolian, Tibetan in the hope of re-discovering the forgotten teachings of the Samma Sambuddha, which saw the light first in India 2520 years ago. But the sons of India have no idea of the wealth that exists in the wonderful Buddhist literature and very few sons of the soil think of discovering the gems that are embedded therein.*

\*\*\*

*After an exile of 800 years the Buddhists have returned to their own dear Holy Isipatana. It is the wish of the Maha Bodhi Society to give to the people of India without distinction of caste and creed the compassionate doctrine of the Samma Sambuddha. I trust that you would come forward to disseminate the Arya Dhamma of the Tathagata throughout India.*

\*\*\*

(Anagarika Dharmapala 11.11.1931 on Opening Ceremony Day  
of the Mulagandha Kutya Vihara)

## *The Managing Editor's Note*

It is a matter of great pleasure that Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath is celebrating the concluding ceremony of the 125<sup>th</sup> Year of the establishment of the Maha Bodhi Society of India in November, 2016. Inaugural ceremony of the 125<sup>th</sup> celebration of Maha Bodhi Society of India was held at Bodhgaya Centre in the month of January, 2016. A two-day National Seminar on “Revival of Buddhism and Contribution of Anagarika Dharmapala” was organized at the Kolkata Centre of Maha Bodhi Society of India on May 31-June 01, 2016. Several programmes are likely to be organized in the month of November 2016 at the Sarnath Centre of Maha Bodhi Society of India. A Two-day International Conference on Pali & Buddhism is being organized on November 11-12, 2016. More than forty scholars in the field of Pali and Buddhist Studies from different Universities of India will participate in this conference. Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath is going to bring out a Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal* to mark the celebration of 125 Years of Maha Bodhi Society of India. I am thankful to all the authors of this special volume and hope their support and encouragement in the future.

*Bhavatu Sabba Maṅgalam*

**Ven. P. Seewali Thero**  
General Secretary  
Maha Bodhi Society of India  
&  
Bhikkhu-in-Charge  
Maha Bodhi Society of India  
Sarnath Centre, Varanasi

## *The Editor's Note*

It is a matter of great pleasure that the Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal* is going to be released on the most auspicious occasion of the closing ceremony of the 125<sup>th</sup> Celebration of the founding of Maha Bodhi Society of India (MBSI). The MBSI, founded in 1891, has completed 125<sup>th</sup> year on May 31<sup>st</sup>, 2016. MBSI, Sarnath has planned to celebrate the concluding ceremony of this event in a befitting manner by holding third International Conference on Pali and Buddhism at the sacred place of Bodhi tree of Mulagandhakuti Vihara, Sarnath, Varanasi on November 11-13, 2016. Great scholars of Pali and Buddhist Studies have been invited to participate in this conference. The MBSI has played an important role in the preparation of the second generation of Indian Buddhist scholars. In the first generation of prominent Indian Buddhist scholars from Calcutta were Rajendralal Mitra, Hara Prasad Shastri, Sarat Chandra Das and Satish Chandra Vidyabhushan. From Maharashtra, R.G. Bhandarkar had included Buddhism among his Indological Studies. In the second generation of Indian Buddhist scholars, Rahul Sankrityayan and Bhadant Anand Kausalayayan were sent to England in 1932 under the aegis of MBSI, Sarnath to teach Buddhism to the Europeans. They stayed there for twenty months. Rahul ji met with Bhikkhu Jagadish Kassapa in 1933 and he guided him in the translation of *Dīghanikāya* and other texts in Hindi. Translation of *Dīghanikāya* in Hindi was published by MBSI, Sarnath. He also translated *Abhidhammatthasaṅgaho* in English as *The Abhidhamma Philosophy or The Psycho-Ethical Philosophy of Early Buddhism*, which was published by the International Buddhist Institute, Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath. He also became first Principal of Maha Bodhi Inter College, Sarnath and continued the teaching of Pali there. Venerable Acharya D. Sasanasiri was appointed as the Principal of the Institute in 1930 and he became Lecturer of Pali in the Mahabodhi College, Sarnath later on. He also assisted in the editing of the Pali Abhidhamma texts, published by the Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda in the fifties under the Directorship of Bhikkhu Jagadish Kassapa. Rahul ji also translated *Vinaya Piṭaka* in Hindi, which was also published by MBSI, Sarnath. Another scholar from Pune was Dharmanand Koshambi, who played a great role in the revival of Buddhism. He taught Pali at University of Calcutta and

later joined University of Bombay and Fergusson College, Pune to establish the Pali subject. He also came to Sarnath and composed a Pali text *Abhidhammatthasaṅgaho* with *Navanītaṭṭhā*, which was published by MBSI, Sarnath. He prepared a band of Pali scholars among them P.V. Bapat and C.V. Joshi were prominent. The International Buddhist Institute, which was established in Sarnath in 1930 by MBSI, continued for more than twenty-five years and contributed in the publication of more than forty Pali and Buddhist texts, edited and translated by Indian scholars. At present, MBSI, Sarnath is also contributing in preserving the aims and objectives of Anagarika Dharmapala, who gave more stress on the development of Theravada Buddhism, by reprinting of the books and bringing out the regular issues of *Dharmadoot Journal*. Maha Bodhi Society of India, Sarnath had also brought out the reprint of the book *The Budh-Gaya Temple Case* in September, 2015. The proceedings of papers presented in Hindi of First National Pāli Conference titled as *PāliVimarśa* was published by MBSI, Sarnath in collaboration with Bharati Prakashan, Varanasi in November, 2015. The Proceedings of the papers presented in English in the last two National Pāli conferences, held in 2014 and 2015 was brought out in the form of a Book, *Bodhi: Recent Studies in Pāli Buddhism*. A Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal* is being published on the occasion of concluding ceremony of the Celebration of 125 Years of Maha Bodhi Society of India. Eminent scholars from different Universities have very kindly contributed for this Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal*. They include scholars like Prof. P.D. Premasiri, Prof. D.J. Kalupahana, Prof. Ram Shankar Tripathy, Prof. Dipak Kumar Barua, Prof. Meena Talim, Prof. Ambika Dutta Sharma, Prof. M.G. Dhalaphale, Prof. Pradyumna Dubey, Prof. R.N. Prasad and others. Some Book Reviews have been done by the scholars. Thus, the Special Volume is likely to be an important work in the field of Pali and Buddhist Studies and will be helpful to the researchers and scholars. We hope that this Special Volume will be a great tribute to Anagarika Dharmapala.

On behalf of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, I am thankful to all the contributors to this Special Volume of *Dharmadoot Journal*.

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