

## Activities of the Maha Bodhi Society of India Centres & Branches

### Headquarters: Kolkata

- ✿ Sri Dharmarajika Chetiya Vihara
- ✿ Arabinda Barua Library
- ✿ Dharmapala Institute of Culture & International Guest House
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Nursery & Primary School
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Yoga Class with World Yoga Society
- ✿ Sri Jinaratana Memorial Free Homeopathy Dispensary
- ✿ Morning chanting & evening Dhammachakkapavattana sutra chanting everyday
- ✿ Buddha Jayanti Celebration
- ✿ Birth Anniversary of the late Ven'ble Anagarika Dharmapala, Founder, MBSI
- ✿ Kattina Chivara Dana Celebration
- ✿ Seminar
- ✿ Monthly Yoga Courses

### Buddhagaya

- ✿ Jayasri Maha Bodhi Vihara
- ✿ Junior High School
- ✿ Free Homeopathy Dispensary
- ✿ Free Ambulance Service
- ✿ Free distribution of Dhamma books
- ✿ Publication of Annual Journal "Sambodhi"
- ✿ Kathina-Puja on grand Scale in October - November
- ✿ Annual Global Conference - January 30 & 31
- ✿ Maha Bodhi International Institute of Pali & Buddhist Studies
- ✿ Every year February 1st, 2nd and 3rd the Maha Bodhi Society of India, Buddhagaya Centre celebrates Jayashree Maha Bodhi Vihara Anniversary. On this occasion the sacred relics of Buddha, Sariputta and Maha Moggallana also kept for public exposition.

### Sarnath

- ✿ Mulagandhakuti Vihara
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Inter College
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Girls' College
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Private School
- ✿ Free Medical Service
- ✿ Free Ambulance Service
- ✿ Sunday School
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Birla Dharmasala
- ✿ Mulagandhakuti Vihara Library
- ✿ Daily Dhammachakkapavattana sutra chanting in the evening
- ✿ Every year Kartika Full Moon day The Maha Bodhi Society of India Sarnath Centre are celebrating the Mulagandhakuti Vihara anniversary and exposition of relics

### Bhubaneswar

- ✿ Buddha Vihara
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Public School
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Yoga classes
- ✿ Maha Bodhi Nursery School

### New Delhi Centre

- ✿ Buddha Vihara
- ✿ Sunday Meditation Programme
- ✿ Monthly Dhamma Talk
- ✿ Vesak Day, Dharmapala Day, KathinaPuja Celebrations
- ✿ Morning Chanting & Evening Dhammachakka Sutta Chanting Everyday

All other Centres are organizing function, seminars & publishing Dhamma Books

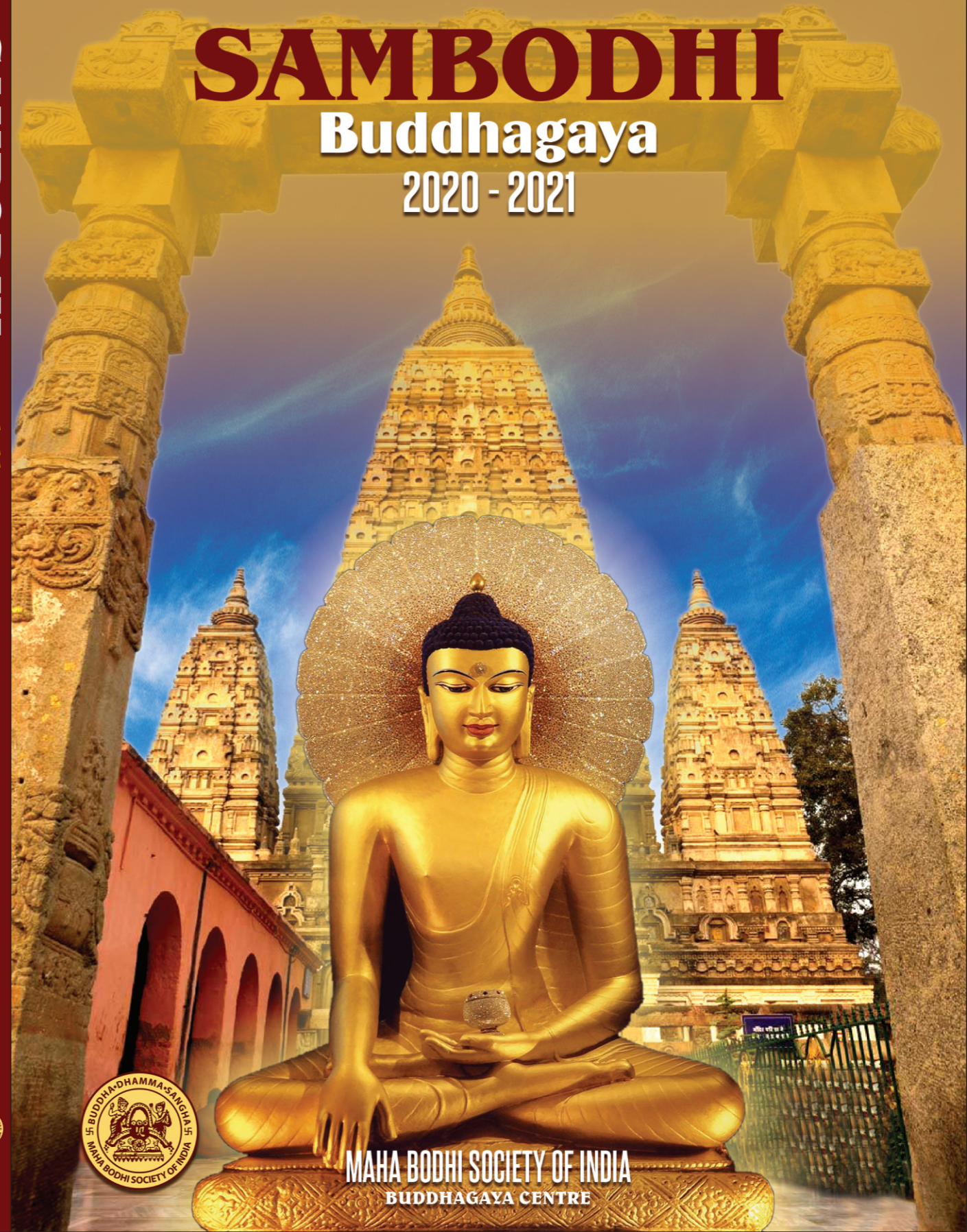
SAMBODHI Buddhagaya

2024

# SAMBODHI

## Buddhagaya

2020 - 2021



MAHA BODHI SOCIETY OF INDIA  
BUDDHAGAYA CENTRE



The progress of mankind is based on  
the universal love of one another.  
– Anagarika Dharmapala

## **Anagarika Dharmapala (1864-1933)** **(The great Buddhist revivalist)**

Anagarika Dharmapala, the founder of Maha Bodhi Society of India, was born in Sri Lanka on 17th September, 1864. The country was then under foreign rule which was unsympathetic and hostile to Buddhism. Alien manners, fashion and even names were in vogue then. Buddhist culture of the country was waning. It so happened that in 1880 an American theosophist, Col. H.S. Olcott arrived in Sri Lanka, established Buddhist Theosophical Society and started a kind of movement for reviving the age-old Buddhist culture.

Anagarika Dharmapala, known as David Hewavitarne joined his mission at the age of 22 in 1886, after obtaining permission from his parents, renounced worldly ambitions and dedicated his life to the service of others. He adopted the new name of Dharmapala which means 'guardian of the Dhamma'. He also became an Anagarika - 'the homeless one' and devoted all his life to the happiness of humanity and service of Buddhism.

Once he came across an article published in the London Telegraph written by Sir Edwin Arnold, the famous author of 'Light of Asia', which dealt with the bad condition of the Buddhagaya Mahabodhi Temple. And this made him to visit India at the age of 27 years in 1891 to see the condition of Buddhagaya. On his visit he observed that the name of the Buddha had been completely forgotten for almost eight hundred years in its own land and the sacred places were in ruins, neglected or in state of desecration. His heart broke when he saw the pitiable and run down condition of the Buddhagaya Temple, where Siddhartha had attained the supreme enlightenment and became the Buddha.

He mentioned in his diary - "As soon as I touched with my forehead the Vajrasana (the Diamond throne) a sudden impulse came to my mind. It prompted me to stop here and take care of this sacred spot - so sacred that nothing in this world is equal to this place where the Sakya Sinha gained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree". And he made a firm resolution to recover Buddhagaya and other sacred places for the Buddhists.

On his return to Sri Lanka he founded the 'Buddhagaya Maha Bodhi Society' on 31st May, 1891 - which later came to be known as Maha Bodhi Society of India. In the same year he convened an International Buddhist Conference at Buddhagaya which was participated by the representatives of many Buddhist countries and Dharmapala succeeded in getting their moral support.

In 1892 he started the THE MAHA BODHI - an English journal through which he could communicate his message to the community of right thinking persons. In 1893 he had an opportunity to visit the USA and to address at the World Religions Congress at Chicago. And this visit made him so popular in the West too. He toured extensively preaching the message of the Buddha and establishing branches of the Society for which he got support of many benefactors.

Anagarika Dharmapala also established many Centers in India and fought a life-long battle for the good cause of the Maha Bodhi Temple. He had helped India to rediscover the Buddha and to take pride in the Buddhist culture as one of her greatest contributions to humanity. The present flourishing condition of Lumbini, Buddhagaya, Sarnath, Kusinara, Sanchi and many other sacred places of Buddhist interest is the direct result of Dharmapala's hard labour. He breathed his last in 1933 at Sarnath in Varanasi, U.P. where he had erected the Mulagandha Kuti Vihara. His great wish was to be reborn twenty-five times for the service of the Buddha Dhamma.

And as such, Anagarika Dharmapala lives even after death through his great contributions in reviving the Buddha Dhamma in its land of its origin.