



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

IBC





*Shri G.K. Reddy, Union Minister for Culture and Tourism,
presenting a memento of the Nalanda seal to
Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi at Global Buddhist Summit- 20 April, 2023*



Message from the **Secretary General**

Dear Dhamma brothers and sisters,

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is pleased to present a brochure outlining the organisation's objectives, structure, office bearers, activities, and academic and Dhamma accomplishments.

Created in 2012 following a resolution at the Global Buddhist Congregation in New Delhi in 2011, the IBC serves as an umbrella Buddhist organisation headquartered in New Delhi, India. It aims to preserve, propagate, and promote shared Buddhist values and principles globally, providing a platform for different Buddhist traditions and organisations.

In pursuit of its aim, the IBC has organised various academic conclaves such as the First Global Buddhist Summit, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation's conference on shared Buddhist heritage and pilgrimage of the monastic delegations to Buddhist holy heritage sites in India. Recent activities also include Dhamma Teachings, participation in the exposition of Holy Buddha Relics in Mongolia and Thailand and organising the 'Bodh Gaya Marathon - Run for Global Peace'.

Moreover, the IBC has expanded its presence globally, including in Central America, Africa and Latin America. It actively engages in interfaith dialogues and forms IBC chapters outside of India.

Additionally, the IBC has established international committees to address various issues such as Conflict Resolution, Social Action and Peace Building; Environment & Conservation; Education, Scientific Research, Healthcare and Well-being; and Preservation of Heritage based on the teachings of the Sakyamuni Buddha.

With the support of the global Buddhist community, government bodies, public and private entities, international organisations, and fellow Buddhist organisations, the IBC aims to fulfil its responsibility to spread and strengthen the Buddha Dhamma worldwide for the common benefit of world peace, happiness and harmony with compassion.

I express sincere gratitude to the Most Venerable (Late) Lama Lobzang Ji, the Founder of the IBC. His selfless efforts and dedication in uplifting backward communities, providing care to the poor and needy, and reviving the Buddha Shasana in modern India have inspired and assisted countless beings. His contribution towards the promotion of the Buddha Dhamma to connect Buddhists from around the world will always be remembered, and his deeds will continue to be a guiding force in all our future endeavours.

With regards,
Yours, in the Dhamma,

(Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden)
Secretary General, IBC



Mahabodhi Buddha, Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

The Mahabodhi Temple, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is an ancient, but restored Buddhist temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India. The temple houses a large statue of the Buddha in a sitting posture, touching the earth with His right hand (Bhumisparsha). This gesture represents the moment when he called upon the earth to witness His enlightenment. This is the location where the Buddha attained enlightenment.

INTRODUCTION

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) is a global umbrella Buddhist organisation headquartered in New Delhi, India.

Established under the patronage of the supreme Buddhist religious hierarchy, it currently has a membership worldwide, both monastic and lay, that include world bodies, national and regional federations, orders, temple bodies and monasteries, etc.

The IBC was conceptualised during an international workshop in Delhi in 2011, where delegates from 11 countries unanimously agreed on the need to form a new International Buddhist organisation in India, the place of the origin, development and dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma that would serve as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide.

Based on its motto, **“Collective Wisdom United Voice”**, IBC aims to make Buddhist values and principles a part of the global discourse by presenting a united Buddhist voice on issues that concern all humankind.

The IBC stands for transparency, inclusiveness and a balanced representation of various traditions, gender, bodies both monastic and lay, and emerging Buddhist communities in Africa and American continents.

Praised by followers of the Buddha Dhamma around the world for including both Sangha and laity in its governing structure, the IBC has been hailed by the international media as a forward looking, inclusive, credible, and action-oriented world Buddhist organisation.

The IBC also stands for the enshrinement of holy relics and the preservation, development, and promotion of Buddhist heritage, especially the holy sites of Lumbini in Nepal, birthplace of Siddhartha Gautam; Bodh Gaya, where He attained Enlightened Awakening; Sarnath in Varanasi where He preached His first discourse, laying the very foundation of Dhamma; Kushinagar, the place of His great demise and others in India. As part of its mandate, IBC is also working towards an important project - the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) which is under construction at the Lumbini Monastic zone, in Nepal.



FORMATION OF IBC



*International Workshop with participation from 11 countries
in New Delhi- 27 August, 2011*

International Workshop 2011

The concept of the IBC was first formulated during an International Workshop held in New Delhi on August 27-28, 2011, where 28 delegates from 11 countries unanimously agreed on the need to form an international Buddhist umbrella body that would serve as a common platform for Buddhists worldwide. The International Workshop was a result of a series of discussions held among representatives of prominent Buddhist organisations across the world with Most Venerable (Late) Lama Lobzang. Due to the schismatic and fractious nature of evolution of the Buddha Dhamma over the centuries, there was a need felt by the wise members of the International Workshop to ensure a coherent and binding factor in the global Buddhist narrative emerging through the creation of a common platform.



*The largest international gathering of
High-Ranking Buddhist Sangha members in India- 27 November, 2011*

Global Buddhist Congregation 2011

The International Workshop had prepared the ground for creation of the IBC through holding of one of the largest international gatherings of Buddhists ever to take place on Indian soil – the Global Buddhist Congregation (GBC). The GBC was organised in New Delhi from 27 to 30 November 2011, to review the global understanding of the Buddha Dhamma. Attended by 900 delegates from 46 countries; heads of various traditions, organisations and monasteries, the workshop adopted a unanimous resolution to form the IBC, an overarching global Buddhist organization, with headquarters in India.





Mahabodhi Temple in Bodh Gaya, Bihar, India

The Mahabodhi Mahavihara temple where the Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree. It is a UNESCO World Heritage Site, and a major pilgrimage destination of Buddhists for over two thousand years.

FOUNDATION OF IBC



INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

With the unanimous adoption of the Resolution to form the IBC, immediate efforts were made to set up the IBC as a permanent umbrella body to carry forward the work and vision of the Global Buddhist Congregation into the future and to represent the enduring interests of Buddhism in the world. Under the banner: 'Collective Wisdom United Voice', the attendees of the GBC agreed that the purpose of the IBC would be to create a role for the Buddha Dhamma on the global stage to help preserve our heritage, share our knowledge, promote our values and to represent a united front for the Buddha Dhamma to enjoy meaningful participation in the global discourse.

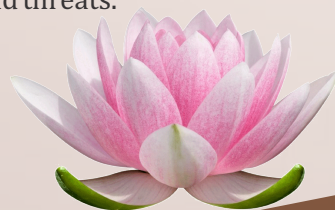
MISSION STATEMENT

To collate wisdom of the Buddha Dhamma around the world, to speak with a united Dhamma voice, to make Buddhist values part of global engagement, while working to preserve and promote Buddhist heritage, traditions, and practices.



AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- Creating a united and common platform for all Buddhist traditions and organisations to serve humanity and promote the path of Dhamma;
- Coordinate with all like-minded stakeholders besides Buddhist organisations worldwide towards addressing, engaging, and evolving a Dhamma response to issues of global concern;
- To highlight the relevance of Peace, Compassion and Harmony in line with Dhamma and against any form of violence;
- Working towards implementing the Dhamma principle of welfare of all sentient beings for preservation of the environment and nature conservation;
- Encouraging and facilitating interfaith dialogue, through exchange, collaboration and mutual understanding;
- Seeking equality of humankind across the world and also working to foster greater social and gender equality in accordance with the Buddha Dhamma;
- Deepening understanding among different Buddhist traditions by nurturing shared Dhamma values;
- To advise and guide relevant authorities on promotion and preservation of Buddhist practices, institutions, and Buddhist heritage sites worldwide;
- Facilitating constant dialogue and seeking synergy between modern sciences and principles of the Dhamma;
- Highlighting the role of Media in promoting and propagating the relevance of the Buddha Dhamma in addressing contemporary challenges;
- Enabling active participation of the youth, across all communities, in universal Buddha Dhamma values towards non-violence and mental well-being;
- Advancing the global dissemination of the Buddha Dhamma and its role in resolving modern-day challenges and threats.



GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETINGS

The General Assembly Meeting is a gathering that is periodically held for IBC members to elect the key office bearers of IBC, as also nominate Presidents, Vice-Presidents and Sub-Committees. Further, the assembly meets to ratify the IBC Charter and Constitution to comply with the aims and objectives of the institution in an ever-evolving world. Issues requiring attention on priority, based on inputs received from our global members, are discussed threadbare, and thereafter included as part of the mandate of IBC at this meeting.

First General Assembly Meeting



First General Assembly Meeting- 9-12 September, 2013

The 4-day First General Assembly, also regarded as the First Founding Members Conclave (9-12 September 2013) of the IBC was attended by 280 members from 34 countries including Mahanayaka Theros of Sri Lanka, Sangharajas of Cambodia, Laos, Vietnam, the heads of all sects of Tibetan Buddhism, Khamba Lamas of Mongolia & Kalmyk, Princess of Bhutan Ashi Kesang Wangmo Wangchuk etc. Video messages from His Holiness Dalai Lama and Daw Aug San Suu Kyi

received standing ovations from the entire audience. The election for Governing Council (a smaller body representing the General Assembly) was the highlight of the Conclave which was highly appreciated for inclusiveness and equal representation of various traditions. Members of the General Assembly also applauded the fair and balanced approach to the gender factor in the Council membership. Another notable aspect was the consideration of emerging Buddhist communities from Europe, the American Continent and Africa. A number of issues relevant to the time, especially those relating to the balance between man and nature were also discussed at the meeting, as 2013 experienced one of the worst casualties as a result of natural disasters.

Second General Assembly Meeting



*Second General Assembly Meeting
10-11 December, 2017*

The two-day Second General Assembly Meeting of the IBC took place in New Delhi on 10-11 December 2017. The meeting was attended by delegates, both monastic and lay, representing various Sanghas, Monasteries and Buddhist organisations and supreme Dhamma Patriarchs worldwide. They deliberated on all the issues concerning the IBC and its future. As per the provisions of its constitution, the General Assembly elected a new Governing Council and office bearers until the next General Assembly meeting.

During this meeting, Venerable Dr. Dhammapiya was unanimously elected as the new Secretary General of IBC. This appointment was relevant in the context of inclusivity of traditions as incorporated in the constitution of IBC, which emphasizes appointment to the post of SG, alternately from the Mahayana and Theravada traditions. Venerable Dr Dhammapiya represents the Theravada tradition, whereas the First Secretary General of IBC, Most Venerable, Late Lama Lobzang represented the Mahayana tradition.

Third General Assembly Meeting



*Office bearers elected at the
Third General Assembly- 27-28 November, 2023*

The last General Assembly Meeting was held on 27-28 November 2023 when the new Constitution of IBC was thoroughly reviewed, amended, and adopted. Thereafter, office bearers were elected as per the new constitution. The gathering served as a significant milestone, drawing together a distinguished assembly of office bearers from 28 countries, a truly global representation including Thailand, Cambodia, Russia, Brazil, Mexico, Norway, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal, Mongolia, France and Germany, among others.

The General Assembly ended with the nomination and election of new office bearers introducing a new leadership and bringing in fresh ideas and perspectives. One of the highlights of the meeting was an open discussion forum providing a platform for delegates to suggest, comment and engage in profound conversations about the future trajectory of IBC. A number of Sub-Committees were also formed on a range of topics of concern, with each sub-committee headed by individuals who are experts in these fields.

Between the General Assembly Meetings, the erstwhile Governing Council met four times; in Rajgir (2014), Ayutthaya (2016), New Delhi (2017) and in hybrid form in New Delhi (2021). With the enactment of the new constitution, the Governing Council has ceased to exist.



The Third General Assembly Meeting in progress

Under the New Constitution that was unanimously approved and ratified by the General Assembly, various office bearer positions were renamed. The alterations streamlined the organization's functioning, making it more agile and efficient in decision-making processes. The amendments were in effect also to broaden the scope of the IBC's objectives, enabling it to enhance its activities and international footprint.



Collection of interesting artifacts in State Museum of History, Uzbekistan

The Buddha with monks

The Buddha in a sanghati robe is sitting in a meditation pose (Dhyana Mudra) under a sacred bodhi tree, with figures of two monks, Arahata Sariputta and Arahata Moggallana on either side. The entire composition is enclosed in a pointed arch supported by columns with capitals. The hair on the crown is gathered into the ushnisha. There is a dot (the Urna) on the forehead between the eyebrows.

Organisational Structure

Some of the key changes that have been implemented are as follows:

1. Council of Patrons and its Privy Council

- a) It is a permanent body and the highest in the organisational structure of the IBC. It includes as Patrons the supreme religious heads of the Sanghas of various traditions and countries.
- b) The Members of the Council of Patrons shall nominate Members to its Privy Council who shall advise, assist, and interact on their behalf and formally participate in the meetings and proceedings of IBC and its various bodies and committees as and when invited by IBC or nominated on behalf of the members of Council of Patrons.

2. Dhamma Council

Dhamma Council is the second highest advisory body which includes the Heads of Traditions, Nikayas, Schools, Orders and Lineages as also the Heads of National Sangha, temple bodies, senior abbots, abbeys and most eminent masters.



3. General Assembly

It consists of Voting Members in three categories, namely: (a) National Sanghas and Federations (b) Monastic/ Temple and Nunnery Bodies and (c) Organisational Members. It also consists of two categories of Non-Voting Members, namely: (i) Emeritus and Honorary Members, and, (ii) Associate Members.

The office bearers are: Presidents, Vice Presidents, Secretary General, Deputy Secretary Generals, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Dhamma Secretaries, Assistant Dhamma Secretaries and Director General (Ex-Officio).

The aims of the General Assembly are:

- i. To lay down the general policy, principles, and guidelines for the activities to be pursued by IBC in accordance with the stated objectives and purposes of the Confederation.
- ii. The General Body shall elect the Members of the Executive Committee and its Office Bearers.

4. Executive Committee

The Executive Committee is a representative body of the General Assembly which meets from time to time to take decisions on critical issues, since the Assembly cannot be held regularly due to its large global representation.

The Executive Committee (EC) shall comprise a minimum of 10 members and maximum of 15 members, with a mandatory inclusion of the Secretary General, one Deputy Secretary General, Treasurer and Director General (as ex-officio member). The incumbent EC comprises members from different countries including Malaysia, Nepal, Korea, Vietnam, France and Myanmar, among others.



5. Sub-Committees Set up by the Executive Committee

In order to implement the aims and objectives of the IBC, the Executive Committee formed nine Sub-Committees which are as follows:

- Buddha Dhamma and Inter-Faith Dialogue Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Heritage (including Heritage sites), Art & Architecture Preservation and Development Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Conflict Resolution, Social Action, and Peace Building Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Environment & Conservation Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Role and Participation of Women in the Society Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma, its application in Education, Scientific Research, Healthcare and Well-being Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Media and Publicity Awareness Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and promotion of Youth Engagement, Pilgrimage, Cultural Exchange Committee;
- Buddha Dhamma and Membership Committee.

6. The Secretariat - The Executive and Administrative Wing of IBC

The Secretariat of the IBC is headed by the Director General, and takes decisions in consultation with the Secretary General. As per the constitution, the Director General's role entails implementing the aims and objectives of IBC. He may appoint other senior Executive Officers and staff as he may deem necessary to implement policies, programmes and projects of the IBC. The Director General also coordinates all activities of the IBC with various organisations and institutions across the board.





Senior monks of the Nalanda tradition (Left) presenting their views on Vinaya to their counterparts from the Theravada tradition (Right), New Delhi- 18 March, 2015

Programmes and Projects

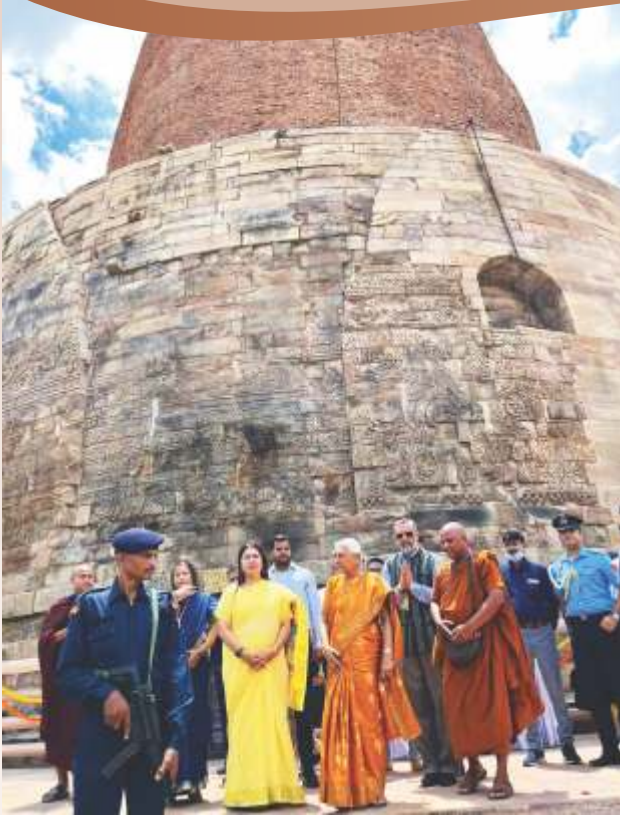
1. Dhamma Activities

- Dhamma Teachings and Collaborations (Science and Spirituality for Indian lay people)–utilising the galaxy of eminent Buddhist masters of all traditions in the IBC membership both from India and other countries;
- To enable high-ranking Buddhist monks from different countries to undertake pilgrimage around the ancient Buddhist heritage sites and academic tour of India;

- To participate in international events of relevance as part of endeavour to build strong bridges with global Buddhist communities;
- Encourage more youth participation in the Buddha Dhamma related events and activities to enable youth across the world to realise the relevance of the Buddha's teachings;
- Dialogue between Theravada, Mahayana and Nalanda Tradition (Vajrayana/ Tibetan Buddhism) to bring about commonalities, unity and remove misgivings;
- Exchange of monk and nun students (residential programmes) between monasteries of different traditions, especially the Nalanda tradition (Tibetan Buddhism) and Theravada;
- Highlighting the role of nuns;
- Understanding and engaging with Buddhist communities, monasteries, organisations, and institutions in India, and in other countries;
- To emphasize IBC's role in the international Buddhist arena for proactive engagement with international Buddhist organizations across the world to work together on common values and ancient wisdom;
- In line with transparency and inclusivity, share thoughts and wisdom with all partners abroad to have a comprehensive understanding of application of Dhamma in different communities and population groups.

2. Promotion and Preservation of Buddhist Heritage Sites, Buddhist Practices and Traditions

- Advice the concerned authorities for preservation and development of Buddhist sites, practices, and traditions, and international expositions of the Holy Relic;
- Research on exploring the prospects for excavation, identification, preservation and highlighting the Holy Buddha sites that remain unexplored;
- Engage State governments to identify areas of cooperation focusing on the heritage and Buddhist pilgrimage circuit;
- Listing and data compilation of all Buddhist pilgrimage and heritage sites, spiritual trails, and the Buddha's life story with the aim of promoting Buddhist tourism circuit and preserving the rich Buddhist heritage;



*Governor of Uttar Pradesh,
Smt. Anandiben M Patel and
Minister of State for Culture,
Government of India,
Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi on
Ashadha Purnima
(Dharmacakrapravartana Divas)
at Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh)
13 July, 2022*

- Building on Asokan Legacy – to study and conduct workshops, exhibitions, seminars on the legacy of Samrat Ashok, a universal icon of the Buddha Dhamma;
- Working towards fulfilment of Bodh Gaya Declaration 2015, adopted in the presence of the Hon'ble Prime Minister and the call given by him for developing Bodh Gaya as spiritual capital;
- Engaging the youth for awareness building towards preserving Buddhist heritage;
- Partnering with States rich in Buddhist Heritage to promote tourism, investments, excavation through foreign partnerships;
- The IBC is engaged in the construction of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage (IICBCH) at a designated plot in the Lumbini Monastic Zone in Nepal, equipped with a prayer hall, a meditation hall, an exhibition arena, library etc.
- Aims to pursue other critical projects which have been perceived and are being evaluated at the highest levels and yet to be implemented.



A meeting in progress with IBC's Nepal Chapter- 14 October, 2023

3. Steps towards a Global Platform

IBC has been making concerted efforts towards facilitating activities of its Chapters. Currently, Nepal and Malaysia are some of its active associates. The Nepal Chapter was formed on 28 November, 2014 and the Malaysian on 24 April, 2019. While formal chapters are in the process of being established in some countries, IBC has a healthy and effective relationship with all the partners in different countries.



IBC's Malaysia Chapter- 24 April, 2019

Separately, IBC has been collaborating with organisations and institutions with similar values and objectives. IBC has signed MoUs with a number of organisations/institutions in India and abroad seeking mutual collaboration on critical issues of importance as per the principles of Dhamma.

These MoUs aim to seek synergy between IBC and these organisations/ institutions with the objective of leveraging each other's potential in nurturing the valued work undertaken by both sides on some rare and unique subjects associated with Dhamma. Such collaborations also involve joint projects, mutual visits, joint research work and regular sharing of information on trends in the global Buddhist arena.



*Signing of MoU between
Vietnam Buddhist Sangha & IBC- 29 May, 2022*



*Signing of MoU between
Department of Tourism and
Culture, Government of
Uttar Pradesh & IBC
6 February, 2024*



Interaction with Buddhist professors and academicians from University of Delhi- 7 May, 2024

4. Academic Research and Outreach

- Interaction with the Academic Institutes dealing with Dhamma or related subjects across the world;
- Setting up of Academic Council comprising of academics from different faculties of universities in India and abroad;
- To enable prominent Buddhist scholars from India to engage with foreign counterparts through participation in international events;
- Organising regional, national, and international exhibitions, conclaves, conferences, and workshops in India and abroad partnering with IBC chapters and member organisations;
- MOUs and collaborations with Universities, Institutions and Monasteries both in India and abroad, with special focus on ASEAN, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Bhutan;

- To build a proficient academic Knowledge Bank on various aspects of the Buddha Dhamma through research work in IBC;
- National and International Scholarship Programmes for Pali and Mahayana Buddhist studies at various universities/ institutions;
- Establishing academic chairs in Buddhist Universities of South East Asia, Sri Lanka, Nepal, and Korea on the lines of ICCR chairs;
- Cultural exchanges, research and academic collaborations across the globe;
- A 'Planning and Monitoring Committee' has been set up for an all-inclusive expert-level discussion on ideas and themes for research related activities.



Participants at the Asian Buddhist Media Conclave- 'Mindful Communication for Conflict Avoidance and Sustainable Development', New Delhi- 27 August, 2018

5. Role of Media

- To publish rich scholarly work undertaken by experts from across the world, made available by IBC in the form of publications;
- To set up a platform for Buddhist media at the national and international level to promote the Buddha Dhamma. IBC is in the process to aggregate networking among media persons working on Buddhist issues and social media influencers who impact Buddhist activities around the world;

- To pursue live transmission of chanting from prominent Buddhist monasteries to different parts of the world;
- Constant effort to promote Buddhist pilgrimage, heritage and ancient wisdom to a larger global audience through publications;
- Revisiting IBC website for a better impact with a presentation of history and activities of Buddhist countries, along with active presence in social media;
- Regularly publish (online and offline) its quarterly Newsletter Samyak Sambodh that highlights IBC events and related Buddhist activities across the globe.





The statue of the reclining Buddha, on His right side, Tajikistan

The Reclining Buddha

The most valuable and popular exhibit in the Museum of Antiquities of Tajikistan is the Buddha in Nirvana. The statue of Buddha lying on his right side was found in the 1960's during the excavations in the town of Ajina-Tepe (surroundings of Kurgan-Tyube). The length of the sculpture is almost 13 meters and weight is over 5.5 tonnes. The main exhibit in the museum is one of the largest monuments of the Buddha in the whole world.

KEY EVENTS

First Global Buddhist Summit

The First Global Buddhist Summit, organised by the IBC and the Ministry of Culture, saw the participation of more than 700 delegates, around 175 of whom were from overseas representing 31 countries on 20-21 April 2023. The theme, *"Responses to Contemporary Challenges: Philosophy to Praxis"* generated informed and intense discussions. The event was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, and attended by several cabinet ministers, including the (then) Minister of Culture and Tourism Shri G Kishan Reddy, the (then) Minister of Law and Justice Shri Kiren Rijiju, the (then) Minister of State for Culture Shri Arjun Meghwal and the (then) Minister of State for Culture and Minister of State for External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi.



Prime Minister offering Chivara Dana to the Supreme Sangha members of Holy Sangha at the Global Buddhist Summit-20 April, 2023



His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama presenting the special address on 'Contribution of the Buddha, the Dhamma and the Sangha towards World Peace'- 21 April, 2023

Participants comprising of academicians, scholars, and Sangha leaders from around the world attended the two-day Global Buddhist Summit, which was divided into two parts: an academic session and a Sangha session. During the academic session, speakers emphasized the implementation of the Dhamma into the field of science and technology to cope with present-day challenges. In contrast, the Sangha session focused on the teaching of Dhamma to benefit the contemporary world with compassion and harmony. Given the current global

challenges, including pandemics and global warming, the Sangha sessions focused on an individual's duty towards the planet. The keynote speakers, His Holiness Thich Tri Quang and Padma Shri Prof. Robert Thurman along with many other session speakers, addressed significant global issues and generated policy recommendations for further implementation. The second day of the event was inaugurated by His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama. The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, extended assistance and support towards conducting this event.



Members of the audience at His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama's special address, at the Global Buddhist Summit in New Delhi- 21 April, 2023



The conference was inaugurated by Union Minister for Culture, Tourism and DoNER Shri G.K Reddy in the presence of the Minister of State for Culture and External Affairs Smt. Meenakashi Lekhi and Minister of State for Culture and Parliamentary Affairs Shri Arjun Ram Meghwal- 14 March, 2023

SCO Conference on Shared Buddhist Heritage

To focus on India's civilisational connection with the **Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) nations**, an international conference on "Shared Buddhist Heritage" was held on 14-15 March, 2023 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The participants were from Russia, United Arab Emirates, China, Belarus, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar,

Bahrain and Pakistan. Indian scholars of Buddhism also participated in the event. The IBC organised the event in coordination with Ministry of Culture and the Ministry of External Affairs. Significantly, considerable knowledge was shared by participants about the nature and extent of Buddhist heritage that exist in SCO countries, including Central Asia.

Buddhaboomi Exhibition - Thailand

With an aim to showcase to the world how rich the journey of Gautama Buddha was in the Indian sub-continent, a Buddhaboomi Exhibition was organised in Thailand in 2022 and 2024 in

collaboration with the Indian Embassy in Bangkok. Government of Uttar Pradesh and its Tourism Department were also partners in this endeavour.



Director General IBC, at the exhibition explaining to Culture Minister of Thailand, Mr. Itthiphol Khunpluem about IBC activities and Projects- 26 August, 2022

Director General IBC explaining the history of the 'Nalanda Seal' to H.E Mr Sermsak Pongpanit, Minister of Culture, Royal Thai Government. The 'Nalanda Seal' was presented to Minister Pongpanit - 23 February, 2024



International Symposium on Vipassana – Thailand

IBC along with the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, Embassy of India in Bangkok, Thailand and Silpakorn University jointly organised a One-Day International Symposium on the **“Significance of Vipassana Meditation for Well-being & Global Peace”** on 27 February, 2024 at the Main Auditorium of the Silpakorn University campus in Bangkok. The inaugural session of the symposium commenced with a replay of the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s video speech on Vipassana. While Vipassana has been an ancient form of meditation that originated in India many thousands of years ago taught by the Buddha, its relevance remains more apt in today’s time and age with complex contemporary challenges that all of us are dealing with on a daily basis across the world. The symposium had significant participation of monks, academicians, vipassana practitioners besides students and faculty members, who very actively interacted during the question-answer session clarifying fundamental ideas like difference between yoga and vipassana, connecting with spirituality and understanding faith etc.

The inaugural session of the symposium commenced with a replay of the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi’s speech on Vipassana- 27 February, 2024



At the inauguration of 'Vipassana' symposium in Silpakorn University, Bangkok, Thailand



Director General IBC, accompanying H.H 12th Kenting Tai Situpa Rinpoche and Lt General Minhas to the starting point of the marathon- 14 January, 2024

Bodh Gaya Marathon

The IBC in collaboration with the Bodh Gaya Marathon Committee (BMC), and with full support from the Korean Buddhist Sangha, organised a Global Run for Peace on 14 January 2024, in Bodh Gaya. Around 80 foreign athletes from more than 7 countries participated in the event giving it an international flavour. The endeavour aimed to reinforce the need for unity and peaceful co-existence amidst all kinds of natural and man-made complexities that the world is facing today.

The marathon was flagged off by His Holiness Tai Situpa Rinpoche representing the monks and Lt. Gen. P. S. Minhas AVSM, Commandant of the Officers Training Academy (OTA), Bodh Gaya. Soldiers and Monks proactively participated in the event. The core essence of the marathon was to highlight the critical message of the Buddha about the combination of mind and body to achieve happiness in our consciousness.



Participants of the Global Run for Peace

Annual Tipitika Chanting

Annual multi-tradition, multi-national Tripitika/Tipitika chanting is undertaken in Bodh Gaya, Sarnath, Shravasti, Rajgir, Sankissa, Lumbini and Delhi in partnership with global Buddhist sangha organisations. The Walk from Jethian to Rajgir is along the route considered as the

sacred path walked by the Sakyamuni several hundreds of years ago. The main chanting takes place each year in Bodh Gaya with the participation of more than 4000 monks from different parts of the world who converge in this holy city for being part of the grand event.



'In the Footsteps of the Buddha'-pilgrims walk from Jethian to Veluvana Valley -13 December, 2023



Monks participating in Tipitika chanting under the Bodhi Tree, Bodh Gaya- 10 December, 2023



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi joins the Sangha in offering prayers under the Holy Bodhi Tree in Bodh Gaya- 5 September, 2015

Samvad

Over 21 countries represented by leading scholars, teachers of spirituality and religion, venerable bhikkus and bhikkunis, political leaders and former heads of state, converged for the 'Samvad – Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Consciousness' in New Delhi, which was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in 2015. The final day of 'Samvad' was held in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. The Samvad was also held again in 2017 (Myanmar) and 2019 (Mongolia). Conflict resolution and environmental consciousness have been topics of serious interest to the IBC and efforts are made to regularly hold events and discussion sessions on these topics.



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with the then Governor of Bihar, Shri Ram Nath Kovind at the 'Samvad – Global Hindu-Buddhist Initiative on Conflict Avoidance and Environmental Consciousness' in Bodh Gaya, Bihar- 5 September, 2015

International Abhidhamma Divas Celebrations



*International Abhidhamma Divas at Gautam Buddha University,
Greater Noida- 28 October, 2023*

The IBC organises International Abhidhamma Divas celebrations mostly in collaboration with Gautam Buddha University, Greater Noida on the full moon day of Sharada Purnima. The day marks the descent of the Buddha from the celestial domain of Tavatimsa/

Trayatrimsa heaven to Sankassiya, presently known as Sankisa Basantapur, Farrukhabad district of Uttar Pradesh, a state in India. It is depicted in the Buddhist texts that after teaching Abhidhamma to the Devas and his mother as a witness, he descended here.



Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Governor of Uttar Pradesh, Smt. Anandiben Patel and Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Yogi Adityanath at the International Abhidhamma Divas celebration at Kushinagar, Uttar Pradesh- 20 October, 2021

Ashadha Purnima



Ashadha Purnima celebrations at Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh- 13 July, 2022



Ashadha Purnima celebrations at National Museum, New Delhi- 3 July, 2023

Dharma Chakra Pravartana Divas or Ashadha Purnima is the second most important sacred day of observance for Buddhists after Vaishakha Buddha Purnima and is annually celebrated by IBC. It commemorates Buddha's First Sermon or the First Turning of the Wheel of Dhamma, when he taught the Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta (Pali) or

Dharmachakra Pravartana Sutra (Sanskrit). This event is usually presided by the Head of the State or a message is conveyed by the Head of State on the occasion. Both the Vaishakha Buddha Purnima Divas and Ashadha Purnima Divas are organised with the support of Ministry of Culture, Government of India.



Vaisakha Buddha Purnima Divas at National Museum, New Delhi- 23 May, 2024

Vaisakha Buddha Purnima Divas

IBC observes the annual Vaisakha Buddha Purnima Divas celebrations with reverence and solemnity. It is celebrated on the Full Moon Day of May and is celebrated as the 'triple blessed day' as all three important events in the life of the Sakyamuni Buddha – His birth in Lumbini, His attainment of Enlightenment in Bodh

Gaya and entering into Mahaparinirvana in Kushinagar – took place on this holy day. This event is usually marked by the presence of the Head of the Government or through a message conveyed by the Head of the Government on the occasion, and is one of the main flagship events of the IBC.

International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars

The IBC organized a one-day International Conference of Young Buddhist Scholars on the theme '**Significance of Buddhist Pilgrimage**' on 1st August, 2023 in New Delhi. The Conference aimed to create a vibrant platform for young researchers to share their insights, engage in scholarly pursuits and contribute to the advancement of knowledge in the field of

Buddhist Pilgrimage. As many as 16 young scholars from various countries such as Cambodia, Iran, Laos, Myanmar, Thailand and Vietnam, among others, who are based in India and studying Buddhism related subjects presented their papers during this Conference. Young scholars from different Indian universities also participated in the Conference.



Mr S.K. Mishra, Chairman of the Indian Trust for Rural Heritage and Development (ITRHD) inaugurating the conference. Mr. G.K.G Sarath Godakanda, Minister Counsellor from the Sri Lankan High Commission also attended the event- 1 August, 2023



Offering flowers to the Sakyamuni Buddha by His Eminence 7th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche, Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya, Secretary General, IBC, Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, Deputy Secretary General, IBC, (now Secretary General, IBC), Geshe Lama Chosphele Zotpa, Secretary, IBC (now Deputy Secretary General, IBC)- 5 November, 2022

10th Anniversary of IBC

After an arduous journey marked by several ups and downs, the IBC today stands strong reaching out to the global Buddhist community in every way possible and holding numerous events spanning different facets of relevance to the Buddha Dhamma. The IBC came into existence on 2 November, 2012 and each year in order to mark its Anniversary on

this day, Team IBC celebrates the occasion in a humble way. The 10th anniversary was a special event in New Delhi with a number of prominent guests, including some on zoom from abroad, joining the event. The 7th Kyabjé Yongzin Ling Rinpoche was the chief guest for the occasion.



The Great Buddha of Thailand

Wat Muang Temple

The Big Buddha of Thailand, Phra Buddha Maha Nawamin, and Mahaminh Sakayamunee Visejchaicharn is a statue of the Buddha, located in Ang Thong Province of Thailand. Also, known as The Great Buddha, it is the tallest statue in Thailand, the second tallest statue in Southeast Asia, and the ninth-tallest in the world. The Buddha adorns the Maravijaya Attitude and features the Bhumisparsha Mudra.

Exposition of the Holy Buddha Relics outside India

Mongolia

A high-level delegation led by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law and Justice escorted with reverence and full State Honors the Holy Buddha Relic from India to Mongolia for a public exposition in June 2022. The Holy Relic was taken from a secure room in the National Museum, New Delhi and flown in a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force. A long serpentine queue of devotees was seen from dawn until dusk waiting at the Gandantegchinlen Monastery in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia to seek blessings of the Holy Buddha Relic. The exposition was extended by a week as many devotees from far off regions were on their way to venerate the Holy Relic. The IBC along with Ministry of Culture, Government of India planned and implemented the project. A large IBC contingent including Deputy Secretary General, Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, Ven. Lama Chosphe Zotpa, Secretary, IBC and Mr Abhijit Halder, Director General, IBC accompanied the Relic.



A high-level delegation led by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of Law & Justice escorted the Holy Buddha Relic from India to Mongolia. He is handing over the Holy Relic to His Eminence Khamba Numun Khan Gabju Choijamts, Supreme Head of Mongolian Buddhists, Mongolia for public Exposition



Large number of devotees at the Gandantegchinlen Monastery to seek blessings of the Holy Buddha Relic-June 2022, Mongolia

Thailand

The Holy Piparahwa Relics of Sakyamuni Buddha and his Two Disciples Arahata Sariputta and Arahata Moggallana reached Bangkok, Thailand on 22 February, 2024 for a 26-day exposition along with a 22-member delegation, headed by Governor of Bihar, Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar and Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment, Dr Virendra Kumar who accompanied the sacred relics. The delegation comprised of venerable monks from Kushinagar, Aurangabad, Ladakh, officials from Ministry of Culture, state government of Madhya Pradesh, curators from National Museum, artists and scholars. The event was organized with the support of Ministry of External Affairs, Indian Embassy in Thailand, IBC, National Museum and the State Government of Madhya Pradesh. The public expositions of the sacred Relics were held at four cities- **Bangkok, Chiang Mai, Ubon Ratchathani and Krabi.**



The Supreme Patriarch Somdet Phra Ariyavongsagatanana IX arrives at the exposition



His Majesty King Maha Vajiralongkorn Phra Vajiraklaochaoyuhua of Thailand and Her Majesty Queen Suthida Bajrasudhabimalalakshana at the venue of exposition of the Holy Relics. The Relics can be seen in a casket in the glass enclosure in the backdrop

The IBC coordinated the delegation comprising senior monks and academicians from India, besides facilitating the logistics involving the Relics, including the journey of the Relics of Arahata Sariputta and Arahata Moggallana from Sanchi to New Delhi and back.



*Sanam Luang Pavilion, Bangkok
22 February, 2024 – 3 March, 2024 (11 Days) Visitors - 2,085,360*



*Ho Kum Luang,
Royal Rujapruek,
Chiang Mai, 4 March,
2024-8 March, 2024
(5 Days) Visitors-511,189*

*Wat Maha Wanaram,
Ubon Ratchathani
9 March, 2024 –
13 March, 2024
(5 Days)
Visitors - 810,374*



*Wat Maha That,
Aoluek, Krabi
14 March, 2024 –
18 March, 2024
(5 Days)
Visitors - 720,667*



Swayambhunath, Kathmandu, Nepal

Swayambhunath Temple

Swayambhunath is an ancient religious complex atop a hill in the Kathmandu Valley. The Tibetan name for the site means 'Sublime Trees'. It is the most sacred Buddhist pilgrimage site among the Buddhist Newars and for the Tibetans



IBC Projects

India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage in Lumbini, Nepal



Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi along with the then Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba unveil the model of the proposed India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage, IICBCH- 16 May, 2022

The 'India International Centre for Buddhist Culture and Heritage' (IICBCH) by the IBC is being constructed at the Monastic Zone of Lumbini, the birth place of Lord Buddha. The state-of-the-art project, will promote Buddhist philosophy and teachings of Gautama Buddha, to unravel the mind's true nature through rigorous practice of learning, reflection, and meditation. This experience will lead to peace within oneself and a feeling of oneness with Lord Buddha.

On 15 August, 2021, the Nepalese Prime Minister allotted a piece of land in the West Monastic Zone of Lumbini for a collaborative Buddhist project. Following an agreement between the Lumbini Development Trust (LDT) and the IBC on 25 March, 2022, the Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi along with the then Prime Minister of Nepal, Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba performed the 'shilanyas' ceremony and laid the foundation stone of IICBCH at the site on 16 May, 2022.

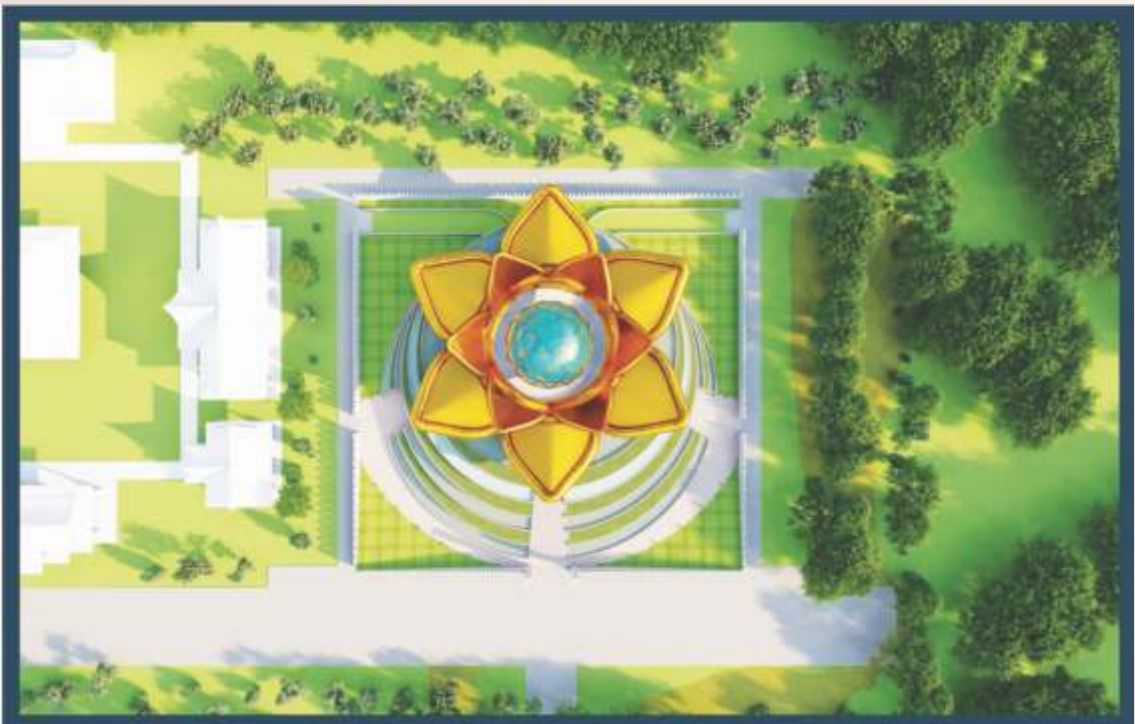
After a series of mandatory administrative procedures associated with tendering of the project and coordination between IBC, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the Embassy of India, Kathmandu, and relevant organisations/institutions in Nepal, the contract for the project was awarded to an India-Nepal (JV) company.

The Lumbini Monastic Zone is not only a pilgrimage site but also a UNESCO World Heritage Site, this special status provides an opportunity to create a sustainable environment through architecture. The IICBCH has been conceived as a modern architectural marvel with a unique design symbolising the essence and meaning of the lotus flower – one of the Buddha Dhamma's most recognisable symbols of enlightenment which is also considered important in Buddhist traditions.



The project envisages a building conforming to Buddhist architectural principles and reflecting a rich Indian Buddhist heritage. It will have a cultural pavilion, interpretation centre, library, meditation and multipurpose hall, auditorium, display and activity galleries, guest rooms, cafeteria, offices, open spaces, parking area, basement and other facilities.

The use of solar energy to provide clean energy, and other active elements which convert the building mass to an efficient energy bank, will help to keep the building cool with radiant cooling. This architectural marvel will conform to Nepal's goal of Net Zero Green House Emission by 2045, and is inspired by the Buddha Dhamma's emphasis on ecological mindfulness and the interdependence of all forms of life.



An aerial view of the IICBCH, Lumbini, Nepal

IBC Facilitates 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's Memorials in Russia and Mongolia

Late 19th Kushok Bakula Rinpoche, recognized by the Thirteenth Dalai Lama as a reincarnation of Bakula Arhat (one of the direct Disciples of the Shakyamuni Buddha), had over the years dedicated his life to the core principles of Buddhist teachings by caring for others. He was highly revered for his erudition and dedication to the education of new generation of young monks and Nuns.



*Statue of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche installed in Chita, Zabaykalshy Krai, Russia
in the presence of His Eminence the 7th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche*

In the post 1991 breakup of the Soviet Union, when Mongolia and the Buddhist Republics of Russia became free to practice Buddhism, Rinpoche was of the firm belief that Buddhist tradition would once again prevail in these countries.

On being designated as India's Ambassador to Mongolia in 1990, Rinpoche was instrumental in promoting the teachings of the Buddha to the people of Mongolia and the Buddhist regions of Russia.

Over a period of 10 years of his assignment, Rinpoche helped re-open ancient monasteries and organized Buddhist peace conferences. Under his guidance, Pethub Monastery and Gandantegchinlen Monastery in Ulaanbaatar developed into important centers of learning for Mongolian Buddhists.

In 2001, The President of Mongolia awarded him one of the highest honours of the country – 'The Polar Star'.

Rinpoche's passing away in 2004 was a great loss not only to the people of Ladakh, but also to the people of Tibet, Mongolia and Russia.

In fond memory of his enormous contribution to the Buddhists in Mongolia and Russia, and in line with wishes of the people of the region, the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) facilitated preparation of a number of statues (both in standing and sitting posture) of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche which have been delivered to various monasteries in Russia and Mongolia.



*His Eminence the 7th Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche
praying at the Aginsky Datsan Monastery,
Transbaikial Region, Russia*



*Ivolganski Datsan,
Ulan-Ude, Buryatia, Russia*

*His Eminence the 7th
Kyabje Yongzin Ling Rinpoche
praying at the Irkutsk Datsan,
Irkutsk, Russia*



*Kushok Bakula Rinpoche's Statue at
St. Petersburg Datsan,
St. Petersburg, Russia*

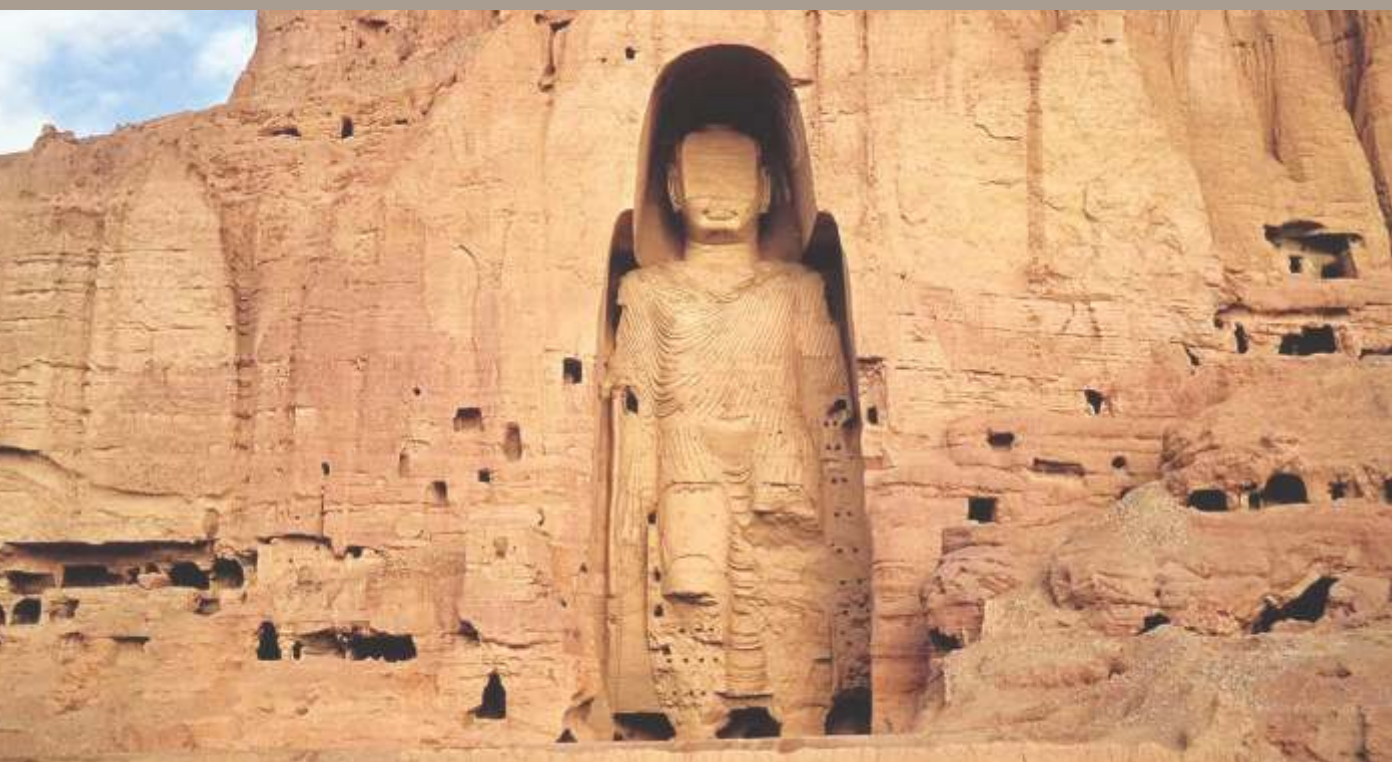
*His Eminence the 7th Kyabje Yongzin
Ling Rinpoche at the
Moscow Buddhist Society where a statue
of Kushok Bakula Rinpoche
has been placed- Moscow, Russia*



*Moscow Buddhist Society,
Moscow, Russia*

In order to convey the extra ordinary story of this extra ordinary monk, the IBC prepared a film on his life. This pioneering documentary film on the Buddhist monk and diplomat Kushok Bakula Rinpoche highlights the critical role he played in the development of modern Ladakh, and as India's ambassador to Mongolia for a decade, besides his seminal role in reviving Buddhism in Mongolia after the fall of Communism.

He has been associated with senior political leadership of India over the years, including Jawaharlal Nehru, Indira Gandhi and Atal Bihari Vajpayee.



West Buddha surrounded by caves, c. 6th–7th century C.E. (Bamiyan, Afghanistan), stone, stucco, paint, 175 feet high, destroyed 2001

The Bamiyan Buddha

Prior to their recent destruction, the 6th-to-7th-century, rock-cut Buddha sculptures in the Bamiyan Valley of central Afghanistan were considered the largest in the world. Known collectively as the Bamiyan Buddhas, the two monumental sculptures had amazed both Buddhist and non-Buddhist visitors for more than a 1,000 years.

A tribute to Bamiyan Buddhas

Recent Eminent Visitors to IBC Headquarters, New Delhi



*Venerable Pannazawda, Chief Monk of
Alodawpyie Meditation Centre, Myanmar,
with IBC Secretary General,
Shartse Khensur Rinpoche
Jangchup Choeden- 4 May, 2024*

*Most Ven. Waskaduwe Mahindawansa
Mahanayake Thero,
President IBC, Sri Lanka-5 April, 2024*



*Ven. Kassapa Mahathera,
President and Abbot,
Mahabodhi Society Bengaluru &
Ven. Dr. Dhammajyoti,
Associate Prof. Nava Nalanda
Mahavihara- 7 March, 2024*



*The Bhutan delegation headed by
8th Gyalsey Jigme Tenzin Wangpo Rinpoche,
Abbot, Tango Choeying Phodrang-
10 February, 2024*



*Most Ven. Phrarat Vajarasuttiwong
Dhammalongkornvibhusit Arayawangso,
Buddhapojhariphunchai Forest Monastery,
amphun, Thailand- 25 November, 2023*



*The IBC hosted a distinguished delegation from 11 countries on a the Buddha Dhamma
educational tour of India, the delegates were in India for the
Buddha Bhoomi Vandan Yatra, supported by Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).
Members of the Buddha Bhoomi Vandan Yatra interacting with IBC- 31 October, 2023*



A distinguished Sangha delegation led by His Eminence Khenchen Sangay Khandu Tshogi Lopen Rinpoche, representing the Central Monastic Body of Bhutan, accompanied by esteemed senior monks, visited the IBC- 23 October, 2023



Ven. Chongdok C.H. Park, Director, Buddhist Culture Research Institute with Prof. Soonil Hwang (extreme right), Dongguk University, Seoul, South Korea- 26 October, 2023



Director General, IBC welcomes Ven. 20th Bakula Rinpoche Stanzin Ngawang Jigmet Wangchuk- 20 September, 2023



*H.E. Mr. Nambaryn Enkhbayar, Former President of Mongolia
accompanied by a delegation- 10 August, 2023*



*His Eminence Gabju Demberel Chojamts,
Patron IBC and Former Khambo Lama of the
Gandan Tegchenling Monastery – the Center
of Mongolian Buddhists - 27 April, 2023*



*Khensur Rinpoche Nicholas Vreeland,
USA- 20 March, 2023*



*Most Ven. Sitagu Sayadaw
Dr. Ashin Nyanissara, Myanmar-
21 February, 2023*



*Ven. Pomnyun Sunim, Chairman,
Jungto Society, South Korea- 13 February, 2023*



IBC in coordination with the Central Monastic Body in Thimphu (Bhutan) organized an 8-day spiritual and educational tour of India of high-ranking Monks from various monasteries in Bhutan. The delegates were hosted by IBC- 20 February, 2023



H.E. 12th Chamgon Kenting Tai Situpa Rinpoche- 17 November, 2022



The Bodhi Tree, Bodhi Gaya, Bihar

Promoting Buddhist Sites in Delhi

The International Buddhist Confederation (IBC) observed Buddha Purnima at five renowned sites associated with Buddhist heritage in the Capital city- Delhi.

The endeavour was to mark the day emphasizing unity, harmony and world peace through prayers at these historical Buddhist landmarks across the city. The event, titled "Prayers for Unity, Harmony and World Peace," brought together Buddhist leaders, practitioners, and enthusiasts to commemorate these values.

The sites were:

- The Shanti Stupa or the Peace Pagoda in Indraprastha Park, outer Ring Road
- The Ashokan Rock Edict in East of Kailash
- The Ashoka Pillar at the Firoz Shah Kotla grounds
- The Buddha Jayanti Park along the Ridge Reserve Forest
- The Asoka Mission in Mehrauli



Shanti Stupa (Peace Pagoda), Indraprastha Park is located in the serene surroundings with a peaceful, meditative atmosphere, outer Ring Road

Buddha Jayanti Park, located along the Ridge area, provides a tranquil setting for prayers and reflections on Buddha's teachings of compassion and unity among all beings.





Asoka Mission, Mehrauli situated in a forested belt symbolizes fostering global peace through collective prayers and meditations

Ashoka Pillar, Firoz Shah Kotla is a testament to Ashoka's commitment to Dhamma and non-violence



Ashokan Rock Edict, emphasizing the historical context of Emperor Ashoka's edicts promoting peace and tolerance at East of Kailash

Glimpses of IBC Secretary General's Meetings



Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden, IBC's Secretary General received a Buddha statue from His Holiness Am Lim Heng, the Acting President of the Supreme Sangha Council of Cambodia. This significant exchange took place during a formal meeting where both leaders engaged in a meaningful discussion on the deep-rooted cultural and religious ties that bind the two nations, emphasizing the shared heritage of the Buddha Dhamma- 3 June, 2024

Secretary General, IBC presenting a statue of Lord Buddha to the top leader of Cambodia Buddhist Sangha- 3 June, 2024



Secretary General, IBC ceremoniously gifted a statue of Lord Buddha to Dr. Shinkai Kori, the esteemed leader of the Nenbutsushu group of the Buddhist Sangha of Japan and serving as the President of the World Buddhist Summit. The two leaders discussed the state of the Buddha Dhamma around the world, exploring ways to promote and preserve Buddhist teachings and practices globally- 3 June, 2024

Ashoka Pillar foundation stone laid in Sri Lanka



Secretary General, IBC attends the foundation stone laying ceremony of the 1st Ashoka Pillar at the Waskaduwe Temple in Sri Lanka. On the occasion, those present were Most Venerable Waskaduwe Mahindawansa Maha Nayaka Thero, the Chief Incumbent of the temple and His Excellency Sri Santhosh Jha, Indian High Commissioner in Sri Lanka.

Foundation stone for the construction of King Ashoka's Pillar of Dharma, at the Rajaguru Sri Subuthi Temple in Wadduwa, Sri Lanka- 28 January, 2024



At the UN Day of Vesak

*Secretary General, IBC
met the Chairman of the UN Day
of Vesak organising committee,
Most Ven. Prof. Dr. Phra Brahmapundit,
of the International Council for the
Day of Vesak (ICDV) and Rector of
Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya
University (MCU) Bangkok, Thailand-
16 May, 2024*



Exposition of Holy Buddha Relics in Krabi, Thailand



*Secretary General, IBC with the
devotees at the Exposition of
Holy Buddha Relics in Krabi,
Thailand, organised by IBC-
16 March, 2024*

Brazil

*Shartse Khensur Rinpoche
Jangchup Choeden
with Buddhist scholars
at the University of Campinas,
Brazil- 23 January, 2023*



*Shartse Khensur Rinpoche
Jangchup Choeden
as Deputy Secretary General
of IBC visited Sau Paulo,
Brazil to lecture and interact
with Buddhist study group,
and researchers clarifying
various topics associated
with the Buddha Dhamma at
the University of Campinas.
Here Rinpoche is with the
mayor of Valinhos, Ms Lucimara
Godoy Vilas Boas, wearing
Khatag and other scholars-
17 January, 2023*

Glimpses of Director General's Interactions

International Sangha Forum



Director General of IBC, Shri Abhijit Halder delivered the keynote address at the International Sangha Forum (ISF) held on 20-22 December, 2023 in Bodh Gaya, Bihar. Over 1700 representatives of Buddhist organisations, monasteries, senior Sangha members, academicians, noted dignitaries, among others, participated in the event. His Holiness the 14th Dalai Lama graced the forum as Chief Guest.

Global Spirituality Mahotsav

Director General, IBC addressing the Global Spirituality Mahotsava, 'Inner Peace to World Peace' at Kanha Shanti Vanam, Hyderabad- 16 March, 2024. The event organised by the Heartfulness Foundation along with Ministry of Culture was attended by IBC as a partner, representing the Buddhist community. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu and the Hon'ble Vice President, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar presented the valedictory address. IBC also organized an exhibition of 'the Buddha's life and teachings' and on 'the Buddha's Relics', besides displaying the art of 'Mandala' and 'Thangka' making. The event witnessed the participation of more than one-lakh people from different Faiths and from around the world, thus emphasizing the relevance of spiritualism and interfaith dialogue.



Echoes of Enlightenment: IGNCA's Journey into Buddhism



'Echoes of Enlightenment: IGNCA's Journey into Buddhism', book released by Shri Ram Bahadur Rai, President, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in the presence of Chief Guest, Shri Abhijit Halder, DG, IBC - 24 May, 2024



Carving of the Nihonji Daibutsu, Japan

Nihonji Daibutsu

This daibutsu is carved in a common pose for a Medicine Buddha, with his left hand holding a bowl and his right palm upward. Visualization of the Medicine Buddha is said to be good for mental and physical health. The Buddha is on the grounds of Nihonji Temple in Chiba Prefecture, which is on the eastern coast of Japan near Tokyo. The original temple was established in 725 CE, making it one of the oldest in Japan.

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BLESSINGS FOREVER
Zen Master Late Most Ven.
Thich Nhat Hanh, France



BLESSINGS FOREVER
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State Sangha Mahanayaka
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Maha Sumedhhipati Ngon
Nget, Supreme Patriarch of
Maha Nikaya, Cambodia



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Thero, Kotte Sri Kalayani
Samagri Dharma Maha
Sangha Sabha of Siyam
Maha Nikaya, Sri Lanka



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Buddhist Development
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Head, Samten Tse Retreat
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Palyul Ling International,
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Director, Auckland,
Zen Center,
New Zealand



Dhamachari Lokamitra,
Founder, Nagarjuna Training
Institute, India



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Bhaddanta Agghiya,
Sangharaja, Shwegyin
Nikaya, Myanmar



BLESSINGS FOREVER

Late Most Ven. Udugama
Sri Buddharakkhita Mahnayake
Thero, 20th Mahanayaka,
Asgiriya Chapter of Siyam
Nikaya, Sri Lanka



BLESSINGS FOREVER

Most Ven. Napana Premasiri
Maha Nayake Thero,
Mahanayaka, Ramanna
Maha Nikaya, Sri Lanka



BLESSINGS FOREVER

His Holiness 102nd Gaden
Tripa Rizong Setrul Rinpoche,
Head, Gelug School of
Tibetan Buddhism, India



BLESSINGS FOREVER

Rev. Ryojun Sato, Abbot,
Koenji Temple, Japan



BLESSINGS FOREVER

His Eminence Kyabje Lama Zopa
Rinpoche, Founder and Spiritual
Director, Foundation for the
Preservation of the Mahayana
Tradition (FPMT), USA

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Founder IBC



BLESSINGS FOREVER

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Founding Secretary General & Executive
President, IBC, and President, Asoka Mission, India

Presidents



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Pothivong Am Lim Heng, Acting
Superme Patriarch of Cambodia



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Kyabgon Chetsang Rinpoche
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Gatsal Ling Nunnery, India



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Secretary General, North
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Council, India



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Saranankara Nyake Thero,
Chief Adhikarana Sangha
Nayaka, Malaysia



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Chairman, State Sangha
Council, Myanmar



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General Secretary,
Mahabodhi Society of
India, Bengaluru



Ven. 20th Bakula Rinpoche Stanzin
Ngawang Jigmet Wangchuk,
Drepung Loseling Pethub
Khangtsen, India



Most Ven. Bounsouane
Phanthavong, Vice President,
Central Buddhist Fellowship
Organization of Lao PDR, Laos



Ven. Dhammapala Bhikkhu,
Founder & Abbot, Brahmavihara
Monastery & Retreat Centre,
Malaysia



Ven Karma Tashi Choedron,
Assistant Professor, Faculty of Social
Sciences, University of Nottingham,
Malaysia



His Eminence Khamba Lama
Dambajav Choijiljav, Chief
Abbot, Zuunkhuree Dashicholing
Monastery, Mongolia



Did Khambo Lama
Tsyren Dondukbaev,
Deputy Khambo Lama of
Trans-Baikal Territory, Russia



Ven. Pomnyun Sunim,
Chairman, Jungto Society,
South Korea



Most Ven Dr. Thich Nhat Tu,
Standing Vice Chancellor,
Vietnam Buddhist University,
Vietnam



Ven. Phra Dr. Anil Sakya,
Advisor, World Buddhist
University, Thailand



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Sovanratana, Secretary of
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Founder President, The
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Buddhist Cultural
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Prof Dr. Saw Htut Sandar, Professor & Advisor, Maha Pajapati Gautami Subharti School of Buddhist Studies, Myanmar



Dr. Hiddugoda Gamage Shermila Dilhani Milroy, Founder President, Prajapathi Buddhist Centre, Sri Lanka



Dr. Sunil Kariyakarawana, Buddhist Chaplain to His Majesty's British Armed Forces, UK

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Former President, Buddhist
Fellowship, Singapore



Anjan Kumar Baruah,
Vice President, All Assam
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Treasurer Assistant Treasurer



Shri Govind S. Khampa,
Former Diplomat, India



Shatrughna Singh Shakya,
General Secretary,
Samrat Ashok Club
India

*The placement of the presidents, vice presidents, and office bearers follows alphabetical order by country, while venerables precede the laity.

GLOBAL ENVOYS



Ani Choyig Drolma,
Founder, Nun's Welfare
Foundation, Nepal



Mr. Richard Gere,
Founder,
The Gere Foundation, USA



Lady Mohini Kent
Noon, Chairperson, Lily
Foundation, UK



Members of the Executive Committee: Core decision making body of IBC

S. No	Name:	Country	Designation
1	Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden	India	Chairman
2	Ven. Khemachara Bhikkhu	India	Member
3	Mr. Govind S. Khampa	India	Member
4	Prof Datuk Seri Dr. Victor Wee Eng Lye	Malaysia	Member
5	Prof. Dr. Hnin Hnin Aye	Myanmar	Member
6	Ven. Khenpo Chimed	Nepal	Member
7	Most Ven. Thich Nhat Tu	Vietnam	Member
8	Most Ven Dr. Woneung Lee Chi Ran	South Korea	Member
9	Mr. Thierry Dodin	France	Member
10	Dr. Damenda Porage	Sri Lanka	Member
11	Ven. Khenpo Konchok Rangdol	India	Member
12	Dr. Milind R. Gaikwad	India	Member
13	Ven. Lama Sangay Yonten	India	Member
14	Mr. Tsering Dorjey Lakrook	India	Member
15	Shri Abhijit Halder	India	Ex-Officio

To implement the aims and objectives of the IBC, the nine Sub-committees formed are as follows:

1. Buddha Dhamma and Inter-Faith Dialogue Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya	India	Advisor
Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena Mahathera	India	Advisor
Most Ven. Bootawatte Sri Saranankara Nayake Thero	Malaysia	Chairman
Ven. Dhammapala Bhikkhu	Malaysia	Member
Khenpo Tashi Tsering	India	Member
Most Ven Thich Quang Ba	Australia	Member
Most Ven. Madampagama Assaji Thero	Sri Lanka	Member

2. Buddha Dhamma and Heritage (including Heritage sites), Art & Architecture Preservation and Development Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Mr. Jamyang Dorjee	India	Chairman
Geshe Khenpo Thubten Jikdol	Nepal	Member
Mr. Prakrita Ranjan Barua	Bangladesh	Member
Capt. Kaji Sherpa	UK	Member
Brother Loka Ng Sai Kai	Malaysia	Member

3. Buddha Dhamma and Conflict Resolution, Social Action and Peace Building Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Most. Ven. Prof. Pallekande Rathanasara Anunayake Thero	Sri Lanka	Chairman
His Eminence Khensur Rinpoche Geshe Lobsang Gyaltsen	India	Member
Mr. Lai Seow Khee	Malaysia	Member
Mr Deva Priya Barua	Bangladesh	Member
Most Ven. Bhikkhu Buddharakkhita	Uganda	Member

4. Buddha Dhamma and Environment & Conservation Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Most Ven. Thich Nhat Tu	Vietnam	Advisor
Most Ven. Ringu Tulku Rinpoche	India	Advisor
Dr. Barbara Maas	Germany	Chairman
Prof. Saw Htut Sandar	Myanmar	Member
Mr. Sotha Ros	Cambodia	Member
Dr. Plinio Marcos Tsai	Brazil	Member
Ms. Katia Buffetrille	France	Member

5. Buddha Dhamma and Role and Participation of Women in the Society Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Most Ven. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo	India	Chairman
Ven. Karma Tashi Choedron	Malaysia	Member
Ms. Tee Siew Seet	Malaysia	Member
Prof. Dr. Christie Yu-Ling Chang	Taiwan	Member
Prof. Dr. Hnin Hnin Aye	Myanmar	Member

6. Buddha Dhamma, its application in Education, Scientific Research, Healthcare and Well-being Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Ven. Dr. Dhammapiya	India	Advisor
Most Ven. Dr. Ashin Nandaka	Myanmar	Chairman
Dr. Vesna Acimovic Wallace	USA	Member
Dr. Hiddugoda Gamage Shermila Dilhani Milroy	Sri Lanka	Member
Geshe Lodoe Sangpo	India	Member
Ven. Dr. Pornchai Pinyapong	Thailand	Member

7. Buddha Dhamma and Media and Publicity Awareness Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Mr. Egil Lothe	Norway	Advisor
Dr. Damenda Porage	Sri Lanka	Advisor
Khensur Rinpoche Nicholas Vreeland	USA	Chairman
Mr. Dawa Penjor	Bhutan	Member
Ms. Chhimi Dem	Bhutan	Member
Mr. Regzin Dorjay	India	Member
Mr Tsering Dorjey Lakrook	India	Member

8. Buddha Dhamma and Promotion of Youth Engagement, Pilgrimage, Cultural Exchange Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Most Ven. Thich Nhat Tu	Vietnam	Advisor
Prof. Dratuk Seri Dr. Victor Wee	Malaysia	Advisor
Ven. Bhikkhu Sanghasena Mahathera	India	Chairman
Ven. Dr. Pornchai Pinyapong	Thailand	Member
Dr. Sunil Kariyakarawana	UK	Member
Mr. Thierry Dodin	France	Member
Mr. Regzin Dorjay	India	Member

9. Membership Committee

Name of the Sub-Committee Members	Country	Designation
Shartse Khensur Rinpoche Jangchup Choeden	India	Advisor
Ven. Khenpo Chimed	Nepal	Advisor
Ven. Khemachara Bhikkhu	India	Chairman
Ven. Lama Sangay Yonten	India	Member
Mr. Henry Baey	Singapore	Member
Dr. Shermila Milroy	Sri Lanka	Member
Ven. Geshe Chosphel Zotpa	India	Member



Message from the **Director General**

Dear Dhamma friends,

Namo tassa bhagavato arahato sammāsambuddhassa
(I pay homage to the Blessed One, the Worthy One, the Fully Enlightened One)

These were the words firmly etched in my mind when I joined this remarkable institution called the IBC in February 2022. Ever since its inception, the IBC has strived to achieve its aims and objectives and the mission which it was created for. The preceding pages would have brought forth the extent and nature of work IBC has undertaken in over a decade of its existence both nationally and around the world.

However, the horizon is vast and there is significant scope and expanse of activities the IBC can, and will undertake in the coming years in spreading the message of the Dhamma from the land of its origin. The IBC remains determined and steadfast in its mission to continue in the footprints of the greatest messengers, such as Emperor Ashoka and the other luminaries over the ages, who have considered it their sacred duty to spread the message of the Buddha to humanity.

One of IBC's core aims has also been to delve deep into the critical contribution made by numerous monks and spiritual leaders from India, whose identities have mostly been obscure, towards spreading the Buddha Dhamma in different parts of the world. Sustained efforts on research and collaboration with universities, think-tanks, academicians and Buddhist institutions has been at the core of this endeavour, with the aim of achieving the Buddha's ultimate objective of doing away with human suffering in this otherwise complex world.

As the Director General of IBC, it has been a matter of pride to possess a small team of young and committed professionals who have a deep commitment to achieve the above goals. I look forward to our supporters, well-wishers and members to join us in fulfilling the responsibility of achieving a world full of Metta (loving kindness), Mudita (compassion), Karuna (sympathetic joy) and Upekkha (equanimity).

Best regards with metta,

(Abhijit Halder)
Director General, IBC

The Spread of Buddha Dhamma from the Ganges Valley, India

Legend:

- Important Buddhist sites
- Heartland of Buddhism, Ganges valley, India 6th to 4th Century BCE
- Buddhist majority realm
- Historical realm of Buddhist expansion
- Mahayana
- Theravada
- Vajrayana-Tantric

The map shows the spread of Buddhism from the Ganges Valley in India to various regions across Asia. The heartland of Buddhism is the Ganges valley, India, from the 6th to 4th century BCE. The Buddhist majority realm is the area surrounding the heartland, including Central Asia, Nepal, Tibet, and parts of China. The historical realm of Buddhist expansion is the area beyond the majority realm, including Mongolia, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. The map also shows the spread of Mahayana, Theravada, and Vajrayana-Tantric Buddhism.

Source - wikimedia commons
Author - Gunawan Kartapranata/KajenCAT

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The Spread of Buddha Dhamma from the Ganges Valley, India

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- Heartland of Buddhism, Ganges valley, India 6th to 4th Century BCE
- Buddhist majority realm
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- Mahayana
- Theravada
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The map shows the spread of Buddhism from the Ganges Valley in India to various regions across Asia. The heartland of Buddhism is the Ganges valley, India, from the 6th to 4th century BCE. The historical realm of Buddhist expansion is shown in orange, covering Central Asia, Mongolia, China, Korea, Japan, and Southeast Asia. The Buddhist majority realm is shown in red, covering the Indian subcontinent, Sri Lanka, and parts of Southeast Asia. The map also shows the spread of Buddhism to other regions, including Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Himalayas. The legend identifies the different types of Buddhism: Mahayana (red arrow), Theravada (green arrow), and Vajrayana-Tantric (blue arrow). The map also shows the spread of Buddhism to other regions, including Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and the Himalayas.

Source - wikimedia commons
Author - Gunawan Kartapranata/KajenCAT

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INTERNATIONAL BUDDHIST CONFEDERATION

Collective Wisdom United Voice

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