

# MAHABODHI RESEARCH CENTRE

Maha Bodhi Society, Karnataka

# ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025





# MAHABODHI RESEARCH CENTRE, Bengaluru (Academic & Research Wing of Maha Bodhi Society)

The Mahabodhi Research Centre (MRC), envisioned by the Most Venerable Dr. Acharya Buddhakkhita, continues to be a pioneering institution for Buddhist studies in India. Upholding its founding motto “Jotetu Buddhasāsanam Bharatasmim Ratthasmim”, MRC promotes quality research and education in Buddhism, inspiring seekers and scholars alike.

Under the dynamic leadership of Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhaddatta, MRC, offers a wide range of academic programs:

- Ph.D. in Buddhist Studies (Affiliated with Tumkur and Jain Universities)
- Diploma & Certificate Courses (with Karnataka Sanskrit University)
- Pali Speaking, Advanced Diplomas, Vassa Retreat Courses, and more

## Academic Highlights

### Diploma & Certificate Programs (2023–24):

43 students enrolled; 12 successfully completed the course. Hybrid classes ensured wide accessibility.

2024–25 Batch: 37 students enrolled. Plans are underway to launch regional courses in Hindi and Kannada.

### Ph.D. Achievements:

- Ven. Sayalay Daw Yasanandi (Myanmar): Ph.D. on “Loka-Dhamma & Cittānupassanā”
- Upasaka Narasimhaiah S: Ph.D. on “Pragmatism in Early Buddhist Literature”

(Affiliated with Tumkur University)



*A one-day seminar on the occasion of the 11th Smaranajali of Bada Bhanteji.*



*Research Scholars from January 2025 Batch*



*The interview panel members at Jain University.*



*Symposium on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti on the topic of the relevance of Buddha’s teachings*

**Ph.D. Admissions – Jain University:**

- August 2024 Batch: 5 students cleared the entrance & completed coursework.
- January 2025 Batch: 5 students selected after interviews at MRC.

**Events & Outreach**

**Seminar – Vesak Buddha Purnima (May 19):**

Theme: “Relevance of Buddha’s Teachings in Today’s World”

Insightful talks by Ven. Buddhadatta, scholars, and spiritual practitioners inspired hundreds.

**Workshop at Jain University (May 21):**

“Learning from Buddhism for Mindfulness & Work-Life Balance”

Held in collaboration with CMS Business School, focused on Dhamma’s practical relevance in modern life.

**Special Seminar on Rajaghatta Site (June 2024):**

MRC hosted Prof. M. S. Krishnamurthy to highlight archaeological findings from Rajaghatta, reviving interest in Karnataka’s ancient Buddhist roots. The event sparked discussions for renewed excavations.

**Ongoing Initiatives**

- **Kannada Tipiṭaka Granthama Project:** Translating the Buddha’s teachings into Kannada for regional accessibility.
- **Publications:** Monthly English and bi-monthly Kannada Dhamma magazines, scholarly journals, and books.
- **Sangayana, Interfaith Dialogues & Workshops:** Building a vibrant Dhamma community.
- **Buddhist Library:** A rich resource hub for research and spiritual study.

**Looking Ahead**

MRC is preparing syllabi for Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Buddhist Studies to meet growing demand. With continued support from the Karnataka Government and academic institutions, the Centre is poised to become a national hub for Buddhist education and cultural revival.

Mahabodhi Research Centre stands as a torchbearer for wisdom, compassion, and scholarly excellence, committed to reviving the Buddha Sāsana in its birthplace.

**Mahabodhi Research Centre – Key Highlights & Events**

**1. 11th Smarananjali Seminar – Honouring the Founder**

On September 22, the 11th Smarananjali of Ven. Dr. Acharya Buddharakkhita was commemorated through a



*Special Seminar on Rajaghatta Buddhist Site  
Ancient Buddhist Heritage*



*Research students, scholars, and alumni attended the  
Dhamma talk by Bhikkhu Bodhi Bhanteji*



*The first-ever Tipitaka Chanting ceremony in Odisha was held with  
great spiritual fervor and celebration*

one-day seminar on “Life and Literary Contribution of Pujya Bada Bhanteji to Buddha Sasana.”

The seminar featured inspiring addresses by Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhadatta, Dr. S. C. Sharma, Dr. J. Srinivasmurthy, Dr. S. Srikantaswamy, and concluded with the valedictory by Ven. Bhikkhu Ananda. It was a heartfelt tribute reaffirming our commitment to Bhanteji’s noble legacy.

**2. Dhamma Talk by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi – February 1**

A special talk by Ven. Bhikkhu Bodhi enriched the minds of scholars, alumni, and seekers. His profound insights and engaging interaction inspired deep reflection. A letter of appreciation and a memento were presented in gratitude.



### 3. Dhamma Deeksha Day – Nagaloka, Nagpur

Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhadatta delivered the keynote Dhamma discourse to hundreds at Nagaloka Institute, uplifting the gathering with timeless teachings.

### 4. Launch of Pali-Kannada Shabdakosha

Compiled by Prof. Mallepuram Venkatesh, the release of this lexicon was graced by Ven. Bhikkhu Ananda and Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhadatta, who highlighted Pali's central role in preserving the Buddha's wisdom.

### 5. Dhamma Retreat – Pune

A two-day residential retreat at Dhamma Vinaya Monastery offered deep spiritual learning and practice to 25 participants, blending theory and meditation.

### 6. International Visit – Singapore

Ven. Buddhadatta met Most Ven. Waragoda Sarada Mahathera, translator of The Dhammapada, acknowledging his global contribution to Dhamma propagation.

### 7. Art & Culture – Odisha

On Buddha Purnima, Ven. Buddhadatta inaugurated a solo art exhibition by Silpi Kesudas in Balasore, Odisha, and praised the artist's spiritual devotion.

### 8. First Tipitaka Chanting in Odisha

A historic Tipitaka Chanting event, co-organized by global Dhamma bodies, featured participation from 16 countries. Ven. Buddhadatta delivered the keynote, and dignitaries released the "Bodhi Marga" Odia Sutra book.

### 9. National TV Appearance – Prarthana TV

On the show Manthana, Ven. Buddhadatta shared

practical insights on "Vipassana Meditation in Our Life," promoting mindfulness and inner peace.

### 10. Academic Collaboration – KSU Visit

The Director of the Research Centre visited Karnataka Sanskrit University, honouring the Vice Chancellor and exploring academic collaborations.

### 11. Spiritual Journey – Thailand

In Thailand, Ven. Buddhadatta received blessings from esteemed meditation masters, including Luang Por Liam, Ajahn Anan, and Ajahn Kevali, strengthening global spiritual ties.

### 12. Blessings to the Karnataka Home Minister

At the residence of Sri G. Parameshwara, Ven. Buddhadatta offered blessings and meditation guidance to the Hon'ble Home Minister and his family.

### 13. State Minority Day – Unity in Diversity

Representing Karnataka Buddhists, Ven. Buddhadatta addressed State Minority Day, promoting interfaith harmony. Meetings were held with key government dignitaries and officials.

### 14. Monastic Heritage Tour – Odisha

A study tour with 45 monks covered ancient Buddhist sites in Lalitgiri, Udayagiri, and Dhauligiri, concluding with a peace prayer at Dhauli. The group also met Prof. Achyuta Samanta, honoring his contribution to education and spirituality.

These events reflect the Mahabodhi Research Centre's unwavering dedication to the dissemination of Dhamma, scholarly research, and interfaith harmony, grounded in the timeless teachings of the Buddha and the visionary legacy of Ven. Acharya Buddharakkhita.



Ven. Daw Yasanandi submitted her Ph.D. thesis to the Director, Mahabodhi Research Centre.



Upasaka Narasimhaiah S received his doctoral degree from Tumkur University.



At the Department of Studies & Research in History & Archaeology, Tumkur University.



Research Scholar from the 2024 August batch will undergo an interview conducted at Jain University.



Research Scholars appeared for an interview conducted in the MBRC Campus.



Speakers grace the symposium on the occasion of Buddha Jayanti



Ven Bhikkhu Buddhadatta was invited as the Chief Guest at nagpur



Ven. Bhikkhu Buddhadatta shared insights on the theme at the Spiritual Conclave on Prarthan.



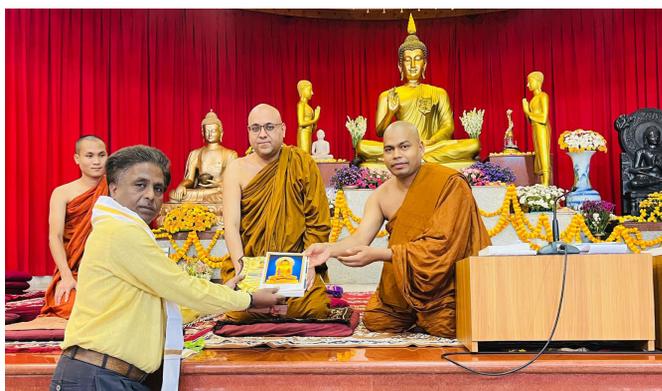
Met and honoured the Karnataka Sanskrit University Vice Chancellor



Ven. Buddhadatta participated in State Minority Day events and met the Honourable Minister, Shri Zameer Ahmed Khan.



45 monks from the Mahabodhi Monastic Institute visited ancient Buddhist sites in Lalitgiri, Udayagiri, and Dhauligiri.



Dr. K Ramachandra addressed the gathering on the topic Navigating the Attha Loka Dhamma in Daily Life.



Mr Sharath Kumar, the Administrator of Mahabodhi Research centre being blessed by monks



Ven. Buddhadatta visited Ajahn Chah's monastery in Thailand and received blessings



Ven Bhikkhu Buddhadatta was invited as the Chief Guest at nagpur