

Annual (activities) Report 2009-10

Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee

1. Introduction:

Buddhagaya in Bihar, India, is the place where the Prince Siddhartha Gautama of Kapilavasthu attained enlightenment 2599 years ago and became the Buddha. The land is venerated as the holiest place of Buddhist pilgrimage. The main shrines of Bodhgaya Temple complex, a world heritage site, comprises the Mahabodhi Mahavihara (Temple), Vajrasana, (Diamond Throne), the most sacred Bodhi Tree and numerous Votive Stupas. This world renown Buddhist Temple is under the care of Government of Bihar through the management of an autonomous body known as Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC) constituted under the Bodhgaya Temple Act of 1949 of Bihar Government and is maintained with the support of public donations. There are 4 Buddhist members and 4 Hindu members with the District Magistrate, Gaya, as the Ex officio Chairman and one of the members is appointed as the Member-Secretary. The tenure of the Committee members in each term is for 3 years.

The daily Temple routine services, including the morning and evening Prayer chanting inside the main Shrine, are attended to by 9 resident monks headed by one Chief Monk on honorary service. The Chief monk is assigned with the responsibility to ensure smooth functioning of Puja and ritual ceremonial activities inside the Temple (Mahabodhi Mahavihara). This includes grant of permission to devotees/pilgrims/Puja organizers for organising Puja/ prayer ceremonies and night meditation inside the Temple premises. His other important responsibility is to receive the donation/offering (cash or kind)made to the Temple by devotees/pilgrims against issue of printed Temple receipt and necessary entry into record registers.

The BTMC's main responsibility is to keep the Mahabodhi Mahavihara Complex well maintained and for this, we have teams of dedicated staff members, namely : 6 office staff, headed by one Public Relations' Officer, one Librarian, 20 Guards, 17 Gardeners and

19 cleanness (सफाई कर्मी). BTMC also deploys the services of trained Private Security Guards to ensure strict security measurer within the Temple complex, besides six Police personals on duty regularly within the Temple premises from the district administration.

The present Committee constituted in May, 2008 now completes 2 years' of its tenure in the service of Mahabodhi Mahavihara. During the period April,2009 to March,2010, three General Meetings of BTMC were held on the 27th June, 09, 31st October, 09 and 27th February, 2010.

The following short report summarizes BTMC's important progressive activities during the period April, 2009 to March, 2010.

2. Conservation/ restoration & repair/ maintenance works.

- The conservation / restoration works of the main structure of Mahabodhi Mahavihara being executed by the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) are still under progress. The conservation of the outer lower portion structure of the temple, funded by BTMC, taken up by ASI during 2009 was completed in December, 2009. Votive stupas inside the middle circle complex of the Temple were cleaned with chemical treatments by ASI in March, 2010 and the fund was provided by BTMC.
- One of the most important project proposals, the restoration and replacement of the entire cemented decayed inner railings and outer boundary railings of the Temple by red sandstone structures approved by BTMC in 2008 and requested the ASI for execution of the work could not be taken up so far. The fund required for this project is available with BTMC with generous support of devoted donors.
- It is to report that the Holy Bodhi Tree is under the care and observavtion by Forest Research Institute of Dehradun. As per the annual report on the Holy Bodhi Tree submitted by FRI for the period Nov. 2007 - Oct. 2009,the health of Holy Bodhi Tree is reported as in good health. It is even clearly visible by visitors to the Temple. A latest photograph of Holy Bodhi Tree is published in this year's Prajna for record.
- The Sanctum Sanctorum of the Temple was beautifully redecorated with best quality teak wood Altar, duly keeping the existing wooden structure intact, with new glass panels and electric lights fitting. The old 2 Air Conditioners inside the same Shrine were replaced by three new Air Conditioners.

- Another important project, installation of Stone Panels of Buddha's Life History at the lower walls of Northern Parikrama passage sides of the Temple was successfully completed on 28th March, 2010. Earlier on 4th January, 2010, the Project was inaugurated by His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
- The installation of 52 Golden plaques of Eight thousand lines of Sutra (Buddha's teachings) and 56 Golden Prayer Wheels at the Northern Parikrama passage of the Temple was successfully completed in December, 2009.
- The Reception hall at the main entrance of the Temple was repaired with new paintings and its old 2 toilet rooms were renovated completely with new walls, flooring, ceiling and fittings of required amenities.
- One 52" LCD TV monitor for public viewing of ceremonies inside the Temple was also installed in the same Reception Hall.
- Two roomed temporary structured out house to accommodate Police personals on duty and to store temple's machinery & garden equipments was built at the back of Butter lamps houses.
- The new Kirloskar generator to back up Temple's power supply installed at the back of Butter lamps houses is provided with an iron roofed Shed with necessary repair of the flooring areas by bricks and re-setting of the entrance gate.
- The Buddha's statue at Muchilind Sarovar (Lake) was repaired and repainted. The Sarovar's front area is provided with iron grills fencing to protect the area against accidents.
- An aeration compressor machine has been installed at Muchilind Sarovar to clean the water. This machine installation is to keep the water clean and healthy with complete clarity within one year as permanent solution to the present problem of mudded polluted water.
- The Ashokan pillar at the south of Temple, as advised by the Expert Advisory Committee of BTMC, is provided with an iron fencing to protect it from damages.
- The Bodhi Tree base areas at the Western side of Temple are provided with brick flooring on muddy areas, excluding open spaces kept for airing of the Bodhi Tree's roots, to keep the area clean and dust free.

- The muddy courtyard earlier used as Butter lamps site at the Western side of temple was covered with sand stone flooring and is now free from dust and mud.
- All discarded articles/ materials and non usable old items stored at the back of BTMC office were cleared and the same area was developed for proper use of the space with reuse of old stone slabs for flooring.
- There was no proper dining hall for BTMC resident monks. So, necessary repairs and renovation works were carried out on an old one storied building at the back of BTMC office to accommodate one kitchen cum dining hall for monks and one living room for Chief Monk attached to his office room.
- The entire Temple complex including BTMC offices and monks' residential buildings were repainted with high quality paints and materials. No further repainting of these buildings are required at least for next two years.
- The Kalachakra ground pavilion with 2 rooms and 4 units of old Toilet rooms at its back in unserviceable conditions were renovated completely with addition of one open bath room unit and a new water tank installation before the visit of His Holiness the Dalai Lama to Bodhgaya in January, 2010. Now the pavilion is well maintained with two rooms. One room with attached bath room is provided with necessary electric fittings and required amenities.
- The office complex of Meeting Room, Secretary's Office, Chief Monk's office and front corridors were renovated with new floorings and repairs and repainting of walls and ceilings with necessary partition to accommodate one separate computer & printing machines room.

The above works carried out during the period under report was possible due to the generous donation support of Temple's devotees and dedicated services rendered by resident Monks on duty, particularly Ven. Bhikkhu Deenanand for his initiatives and day and night hard work and all other members of BTMC staff with collective cooperation of BTMC Members and under the close guidance of the Chairman, BTMC.

3. Major Pujas/ prayer ceremonies held at the main Temple as annual events during 2009–10 were as under :

Sl.No.	Name of Puja	Dates of Puja
1.	Kathina civara dana Ceremony	8th October 2009
2.	Kathina civara dana Ceremony	30th and 31st October 2009
3.	Kagyue Monlam.	27 th November to 3 rd Dec. 2009
4.	Tipitaka Chanting	2 nd to 12 th December, 2009
5.	Jonang Monlam Chenmo Puja	13 th Dec. 2009 to 20 th Dec. 2009
6.	27 th Kagyu Monlam.	24 th to Dec. 2009 to 31 st Dec. 2009
7.	Special Geluk Monlam	3rd-9th Jan. 2010
8.	H.H. late Jigme Phuntsok Monlam	10th to 14th January 2010
9.	Ngungney (Penance) Prayers.	10th to 14th January 2010
10.	21 st Nyingma Monlam Chenmo.	16th January to 25 th January 2010.
11.	Dudjom Throemai Chhenmo	2nd February to 6th February 2010
12.	Dhamma Cakka Puja	1st february to 7th feb.2010
13.	Songchoe Monlam Puja	27th Jan. to 4th Feb.2010
14.	Amitabha Dzunggyur Prayers	27th Jan. to 4th Feb.2010

All above Puja/prayer ceremonies at the main Temple were performed orderly and peacefully without any problems or unwanted incidents. Gatherings of Puja participants were comparatively bigger in numbers compared to last year. All Puja organizers were happy with the support extended by BTMC. Possible endeavor was made by BTMC to keep the Temple complex clean, including toilet rooms. Adequate Security Guards arrangements to cope with the crowd were successfully managed by BTMC.

Bodhgaya had the gracious visit of H.H the Dalai Lama from 4th to 10th January, 2010. There was 5 days long Teachings by His Holiness from 5th to 9th January, 10 at Kalachakra Ground. The District Administration made elaborate arrangements for the visit of His Holiness. All departments of District Administration geared up and 24 hours on duty by turn control room was set up at BTMC office during that period. The facilities required for officials on control room duty were provided by BTMC. 40 temporary and 4 permanent toilet units were constructed by PHE Department during that occasion and the cost was borne by BTMC.

4. Finance and accounts.

The main source of income of the temple is the donation and offerings from devotees. The quarterly statement of the accounts of both income and expenditure is placed in the meeting of BTMC, with circulation of the statement to the members in advance, for information and confirmation of the expenditure incurred. The donation boxes kept inside the temple and other places within the temple were opened and counted for deposit into BTMC's Accounts with Banks from time to time. The opening of donation boxes by two

separate keys one with BTMC office and one with District Administration, NDC office and counting of the money is carried out by BTMC staff and the concerned District Administration staff in the presence of representatives of monasteries/ temple in Bodhgaya and BTMC members under the full video recording coverage.

All donations in cash or by cheque received by the temple against donation receipts issued by the BTMC office from year 2008 onwards are placed in BTMC's website: www.mahabodhi.com This list in the website is updated quarterly.

BTMC would like to take this opportunity to express its appreciable gratitude and thanks to all devotees and well wishers who supported the temple and its management whole heartedly through donations in cash and offering in kind during the year of 2009-2010.

The BTMC particularly acknowledges the following donors with high appreciation for their generous support to the Temple :-

1. Most Ven. Tarthang Tulku, USA, for donation of Golden Plaques of Buddha's teachings and Golden Prayer wheels.
2. *Khun Ratana Meelonont*, Thailand, for Altar redecoration, Air Conditioners, Muchilinda aeration, publication of Coffee Table book on Bodhgaya and office furniture.
3. *Madam Datin Sri Loo, Malaysia*, for Stone Panels of Buddha's life history and advance donation for start of restoration of inner railings works of Temple.
4. *Ven. Phra Achan Dr. Krissada Siri wattano* and his devoted groups Mrs. Pajit Nuntanawat, Miss Suvimon Witsupakorn and others, Thailand, for Bodhi Tree iron pillars, LCD TV and boundary stone fencing works.
5. *Mr. Paiboon Pitisongwat and Mrs. Pornrat Pitisongwat*, for refurbishment of 2 (two) toilet rooms of Reception Hall.

Sri A. K. Sinha, Chartered Accountants, appointed by BTMC as the Auditor audited the accounts of BTMC for the financial year of 2009-10. A summarized statement of the accounts for the financial year of 2009-10 is published along with this report for the information of the general public.

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Sri Nangzey Dorjee*