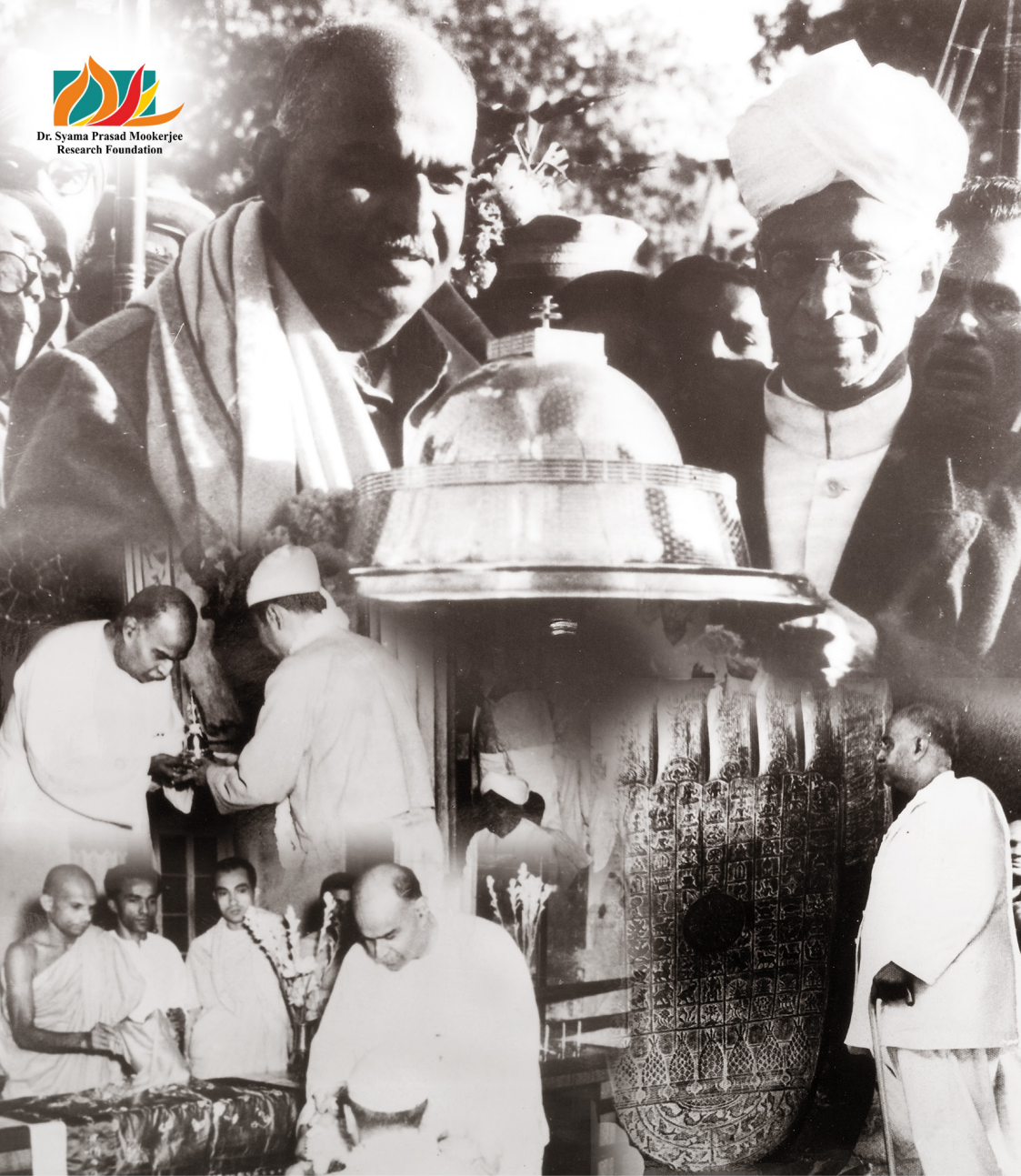




Dr. Syama Prasad Mookerjee
Research Foundation



**Spreading the Eternal
Message of Lord Buddha
Towards the Asian Century**

Tribute



Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee (1901-1953)

Patriot, Educationist, Statesman

Vice Chancellor, University of Calcutta (1934-1938)

President, Mahabodhi Society of India (1942-1953)

Member, Constituent Assembly of India (1946-1950)

Independent India's first Minister for Industry & Supply (1947-1950)

Founder, Bharatiya Jana Sangh (1951)

Member of Parliament - Lok Sabha (1952-1953)

Specially prepared for: National Programmes: "Commemorating the
Conferring of Classical Language Status on Pali and Prakrit"

(To be distributed in the interest of public education.
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Pali Translated by

Professor (Dr.) Ram Nakshatra Prasad

Formerly Vice Chancellor Nava Nalanda Mahavihara, Nalanda

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Research Foundation

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Some Thoughts...

This short booklet is a tribute to one principal dimension of Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's persona, that of a Buddha-bhakta and an envoy of Sakyamuni's eternal message in modern times. Among the many important



and historic roles that he adorned in the history of modern India, Dr Mookerjee's role as President of The Maha Bodhi Society of India, between 1942-1953, was an important one. His contribution to spreading the message of Lord Buddha and in revivifying, rekindling and relaying India's civilisational linkages with the Southeast Asian countries and civilisations, in the early years after independence, was crucial for a free India then trying to rediscover her Buddha heritage and legacy.

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's father, Sir Asutosh Mookerjee (1864-1924), the formidable scholar, towering educationist, mathematician, jurist and thinker, had served as President of The Maha Bodhi Society of India from 1911 to 1924. His historic association with Bodhisattva Anagarika Dharmapala (1864-1933) helped lay deeper the foundations of various activities connected to the dissemination of the Teachings of Lord Buddha across India, in the early years of the twentieth century.

Later, as one of the most active Presidents of The Maha Bodhi Society of India, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee was at the forefront of taking the essence of Lord Buddha's Teachings far and wide, both within India and abroad. Till almost the very end of his life he carried out this responsibility and mission with great devotion, dedication and energy.

For Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Buddha's Teachings and that of His followers were eternal, as he once said, while addressing a mammoth public meeting abroad in 1952, 'They are ancient, they yet throb with new life and are capable of bringing about peace and goodwill amongst all people of the world, no matter which particular religion sections of them may pursue.' India's messengers who went out to the world, especially to Asia, centuries ago, Dr Mookerjee said, 'carried with them the torch of learning and wisdom, of truth, justice and equality and paved the way for world-fellowship.' Dr Mookerjee himself, in modern times, carried that torch of learning, wisdom, of justice and equality across countries and continents.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has indefatigably and on a mission-mode, worked to rejuvenate the sacred civilisational and spiritual linkages, between India and the world, by spreading the message and preserving the legacy and heritage of Lord Buddha. A historic move in further disseminating the Buddha Legacy was his decision to confer the status of Classical Language on Pali and Prakrit. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has often reiterated that to envisage the Asian century one needed to walk in the path of Buddha. That message is the most significant message for our times when we are aspiring for and dreaming of an Asian Century. It is a century that has to be shaped and driven by Dharma and Dhamma.

Dr Anirban Ganguly
Chairman

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee Research Foundation

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee's Reflections on Lord Buddha

Buddhist culture has to be examined not in isolation but in relation to the magnificent march of Indian thought and civilisation down the centuries.

Gautama Buddha gave to the world his message of love, peace and understanding 2,500 years ago in a simple manner which carried faith and conviction not only to the learned but, what is more, which carried hope and inspiration to the masses of the people. They gave solace and strength to millions throughout the world. It needed no sword ; no arms helped the spread of the doctrine to countries far and near.

Many of the countries in South-East Asia, after attaining independence, are striving hard to revive the highest elements of Buddhist cultural and religious thought. In this respect, India occupies the role of their spiritual mother. With a true sense of humility and responsibility we must re-establish bonds of friendship and understanding with them so that this fraternity would not only be welcomed by the peoples of the countries concerned but would also create a mighty source of strength and solidarity which would worthily contribute to the maintenance of world peace and freedom.

Buddha showed the path of peace, peace not of the grave but of the living, peace born out of deep understanding and proper appreciation of the realities of life. Peace can only be permanent if it conquers evil and brings about a true harmony between spiritual and material impulses of man so that both by his preaching and practice, he may prove himself worthy of the Master.

There are many holy places in India which are sanctified by their associations with the life and activities of Lord Buddha and they would naturally attract pilgrims and visitors from all Buddhist countries throughout the world. I fervently hope that these places would not only be preserved and protected by our Government and the peoples of India but, in and around them, would develop institutions and monasteries which should become active centres of beneficent activities both in social and cultural spheres inspiring masses of the people and also attracting those who want to devote themselves in the cause of higher studies and research.

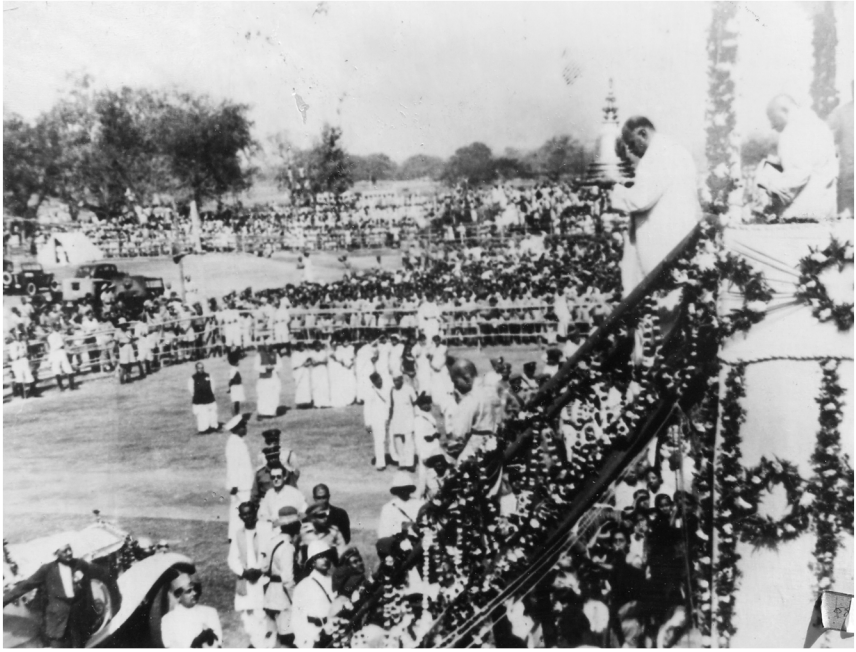


Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee receiving the Relics of Arhants Mogallana and Sariputta from then Prime Minister Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Brigade Parade Ground, Kolkata, 1949

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डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, 1949तमे वस्से ब्रिगेड परेड ग्राउन्ड कोलकातायं
तदानितनपधानमन्तितो पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरूतो अरहन्तमोगलानस्स
सारिपुत्तस्स च सरीरधातु गण्हन्तो ।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee with
the Relics, Kolkata, 1949

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, 1949तमे वस्से
कोलकातायं सरीरधातुना सद्धिं।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President of The
Maha Bodhi Society of India handing over the
Relics of Mogallana and Sariputta to Prime
Minister U.Nu (Thakin Nu) of Myanmar (Burma),
Sri Dharmarajika Vihara, Kolkata, February, 1950

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डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, सभापति, महाबोधि सोसाइटी ऑफ इण्डिया,
फरवरी 1950तमे वस्से सिरि धम्मराजिक विहार कोलकातायं म्यांमारपधानमन्तिणे
ऊ नू महासयाय (थकिन नू) मोग्गलानस्स सारिपुत्तस्स च सरीरधातु पददन्तो ।





The Relics being handed over to then
Prime Minister of Myanmar U.Nu, Sri Dharmarajika
Vihara, Kolkata, February 1950

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फरवरी 1950तमे वस्से सिरि धम्मराजिक विहार कोलकातायं
तदानितनम्यांमारपधानमन्तिणे ऊ नू महासयाय हत्थन्तरितो
सरीरधातु ।



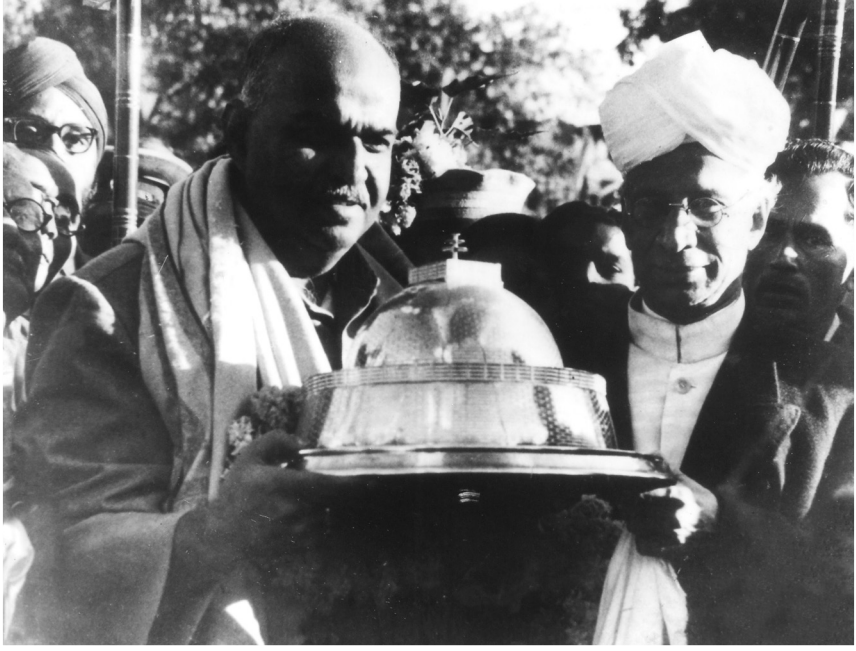


Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President of
The Maha Bodhi Society of India & Member of
Parliament with Prime Minister Pandit Nehru
and Prime Minister of Myanmar U.Nu

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डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, सभापति, महाबोधि सोसाइटी ऑफ
इण्डिया संसदीय जनपतिनिधि च पधानमन्तिणा पण्डितनेहरूमहोदयेन
म्यांमारपधानमन्तिणा ऊ नू महोदयेन च सद्धिं ।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and
Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan, then
Vice President of India, holding the Relics,
for installation at the new Vihara, Sanchi,
December, 1952

दिसम्बर 1952 तमे वस्से न्यू विहार सांची'ति ठाने ठपनाय सरीरधातु
गण्हन्ता डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी तदानितन-भारत-उपरदुपति
डॉ. सर्वपल्ली राधाकृष्णनो च।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President, The Maha Bodhi Society of India, Dr S. Radhakrishnan, Vice President of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India at the first International Buddhist Conference (IBC) in Sanchi, Madhya Pradesh, December, 1952

दिसंबर 1952तमे वस्से मध्य-प्रदेसे सांची'ति ठाने पठम
अन्तररट्टियबुद्धसमागमे डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, सभापति, महाबोधि सोसाइटी
ऑफ इण्डिया, भारतीय-उपरट्टपति डॉ. एस. राधाकृष्णन, भारतीयो पधानमन्ती
पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरू च।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President, The Maha Bodhi Society of India and Member of Parliament, addressing the first International Buddhist Conference in Sanchi, December 1952. Also seen are Dr S. Radhakrishnan, Vice President of India, Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, U.Nu Prime Minister of Myanmar.

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दिसंबर 1952तमे वस्से सांची'ति ठाने पठम अन्तररट्टियबुद्धसमागम सम्बोधेन्तो डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, सभापति, महाबोधि सोसाइटी ऑफ इण्डिया अथ च संसदीयो जनपतिनिधि। अञ्चे च सन्ति दिस्समाना भारतीय-उपरट्टपति डॉ. एस्. राधाकृष्णनो, भारतीयो पधानमन्ती पण्डित जवाहर लाल नेहरू, म्यांमार पधानमन्ती ऊ नू च।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee carrying the Relics to be installed at the new Vihara in Sanchi, December, 1952.

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, दिसंबर 1952तमे वस्से न्यू सांची'ति ठाने ठपनीयं सरीरधातुं वहन्तो।





International Buddhist Conference- Sanchi, December 1952 - (standing first from left Ven. Kushak Bakula Rinpoche) (Seated second from right Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Member of Parliament and President the Maha Bodhi Society of India. Also seen are Dr Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan Vice President of India and Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime of India)

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अन्तरराष्ट्रीय बौद्ध सम्मेलन - सांची, दिसम्बर 1952 - (वामतः प्रथमं स्थितः वन्दनीयः कुशक बकुल रिनपोछे) (दक्षिणतः द्वितीयं स्थितः डॉ. श्याम प्रसाद मूकर्जी, संसद सदस्यं च महा बोधि समाजस्य भारतस्य अध्यक्षः। अपि च दृष्टं अस्ति डॉ. सर्वेपल्ली राधाकृष्णन, भारतस्य उपराष्ट्रपति च पण्डित जवाहरलाल नेहरू, भारतस्य प्रधान मंत्री च)

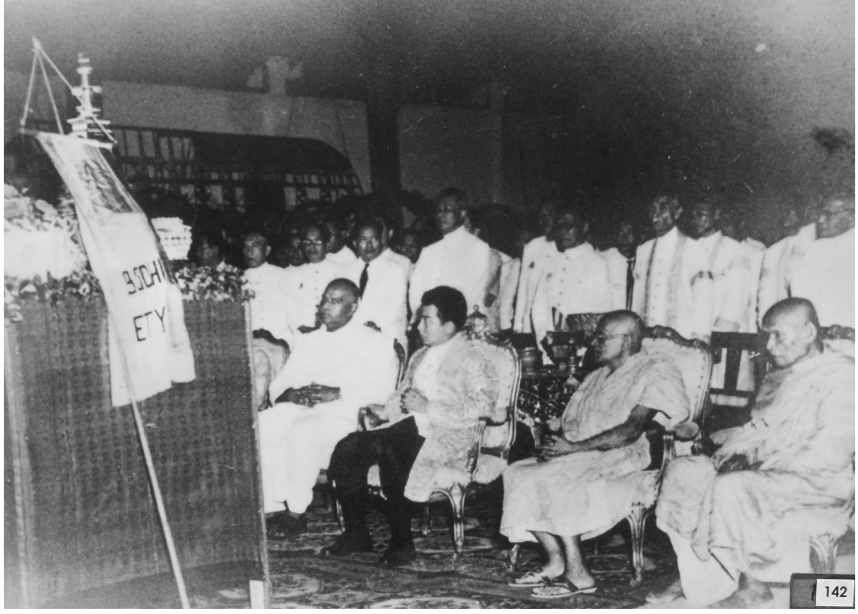




Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President,
The Maha Bodhi Society of India and Member of
Parliament, lands in Phnom Penh, Cambodia
with the relics of Arhants Mogallana and
Sariputta, 5 October, 1952.

5 अक्टूबर 1952तमे वस्से अरहन्तमोग्गलानस्स
सारिपुत्तस्स च सरीरधातुना सद्धिं फनोम पेन्ह इति ठाने
ओतरितो सभापति, महाबोधि सोसाइटी ऑफ इण्डिया अथ च
संसदीयो जनपतिनिधि डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee with the Relics in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, to his left King and later Prime Minister of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk and senior monks.

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, कम्बोडियाय फनोम पेन्हनगरे शरीरधातुना सद्धिं, तस्स वामपस्से कम्बोडियाय राजा, पच्छा पधानामच्चो च नोरोडोम सिंहानुको, अपि च अग्गभिकखवो।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee worshipping
the Relics with King and later Prime Minister
of Cambodia, Norodom Sihanouk, Phnom Penh,
October, 1952.

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डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, कम्बोडियाय फनोम पेन्हनगरे
अक्टूबर 1952 तमे वस्से कम्बोडियाय रञ्जुना पच्छा
पधानामच्चेन च नोरोडोम सिंहानुकेन सद्धिं शरीरधातुं पूजेन्तो।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President,
The Maha Bodhi Society of India, addressing a
mammoth public meeting on Lord Buddha's
legacy, Phnom Penh, Cambodia, October, 1952.

डॉ. श्यामा प्रसाद मुखर्जी, सभापति, महाबोधि
सोसाइटी ऑफ इण्डिया, कम्बोडियाय फनोम पेन्हनगरे
अक्टूबर 1952तमे वस्से भगवतो बुद्धस्स परम्पराविसये
महालोकसङ्घातं सम्बोधेन्तो।

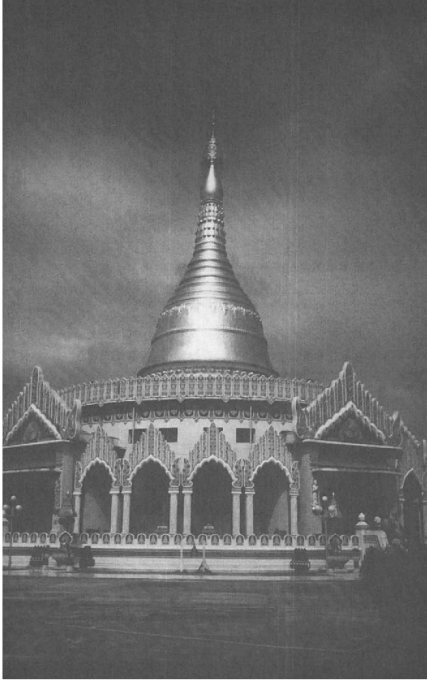
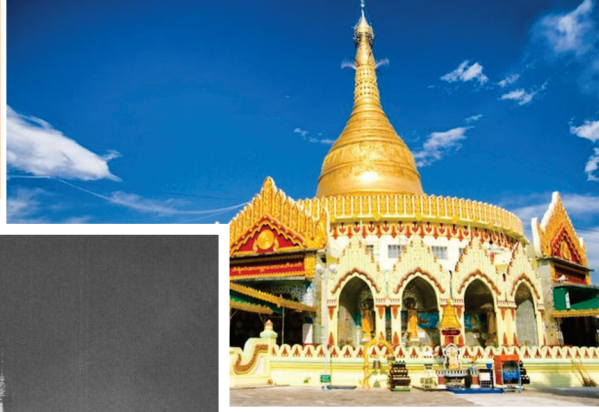




Following Lord Buddha's Sacred Footprints
in Southeast Asia

दक्षिण-पुव्व-एसियायं बुद्धस्स पावनपादलञ्छनं अनुगच्छन्तो ।





Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, President, The Maha Bodhi Society of India attends, as special guest, the installation ceremony of the Relics of Arhants Mogallana and Sariputta in Kaba Aye Pagoda, Rangoon (Yangon), with Venerable Jina Ratna Maha Thero of Sri Lanka & Secretary Maha Bodhi Society of India, March, 1952.

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डॉ. श्याम प्रसाद मुखर्जी, अध्यक्ष, महाबोधि समाज भारत, विशेष अतिथि रूपेण, काबा अये पगोडा, रंगून (यांगून) इत्यस्मिन् अरहन्तोऽस्मिन् मोगल्लानसारिपुत्तस्य अवशेषाणां प्रतिष्ठापनसमारोहे वेरनेबल जिनरत्न महाथेरो च श्रीलंका महाबोधि समाजस्य सचिवेन सह, मार्च, 1952।



Special Initiative by Dr Syama Prasad
Mookerjee Research Foundation and Sanatan
Dharma Swayamsevak Sangh – Installation of
Commemorative Plaque on Dr Syama Prasad
Mookerjee at Kaba Aye Pagoda, Yangon,
February, 2019





“The Teachings of Buddha and His followers are eternal. They are ancient, yet they throb with new life and are capable of bringing about peace and good will amongst all people of the world, no matter to which particular religion sections of them may pursue...Centuries ago India sent her ambassadors of peace and good will to many countries in the world, especially in Asia, and they carried with them the torch of learning and wisdom, of truth, justice and equality and paved the way for world-fellowship.”

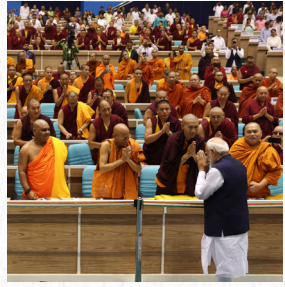
Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi participates in celebration of International Abhidhamma Divas and recognition of Pali as Classical Language at New Delhi



Some Excerpts from PM Shri Narendra Modi's Speech

- This year, a historic achievement is also attached along with the celebration of Abhidhamma Divas. The Pali language in which this heritage of the Abhidhamma of Lord Buddha, his words and his teachings was given to the world, has been declared a classical language by the Government of Bharat this month.
- This recognition of Pali as a classical language is an honour for the great legacy of Lord Buddha. You all know that Abhidhamma is inherent in Dhamma. To understand the essence of Dhamma, knowledge of the Pali language is essential.
- Unfortunately, today the ancient language of Pali, in which the original words of Lord Buddha exist, is not in common use. Language is not just a medium of communication! Language is the soul of civilization and culture. Every language carries its own essence.



- Therefore, it is our responsibility to keep the Pali language alive to keep the words of Lord Buddha alive in their original spirit. I am happy that our government has humbly fulfilled this responsibility.
- The Buddha, who resides in the soul of Bharat, and the symbols of Buddha that were adopted as the symbols of Bharat at the time of independence, were gradually forgotten in the decades that followed. It took seven decades for the Pali language to get its rightful place.
- Along with the pride of Pali becoming a classical language, we all have a collective responsibility to preserve and promote this language.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Prayed at the Mahaparinirvana Stupa in Kushinagar





Prime Minister Shri Narendra with Monks & Spiritual Leaders in Lao PDR & Mongolia



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with Buddhist Monks from across India and the world in Bodh Gaya



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi performed Dana followed by prayer at the Maha Bodhi Society, in Colombo



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with then President of Sri Lanka, Mr. Maithripala Sirisena offers prayers at the Sri Maha Bodhi Tree, in Anuradhapura, Sri Lanka



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi with then Sri Lankan Prime Minister Mr. Ranil Wickremesinghe, at the Gangaramaya Buddhist Temple in Colombo



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and then Prime Minister of Nepal Shri Sher Bahadur Deuba at the foundation laying ceremony of the India International Centre for Buddhist Culture & Heritage, Lumbini, Nepal



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's Reflections on Lord Buddha

"I say with great conviction that the solution for the world lies not in war but in the teachings of Buddha. On the occasion of Abhidhamma Day, I appeal to the entire world to learn from Buddha, end wars, and pave the way for peace, for Buddha teaches that there is no greater happiness than peace."

"It is my privilege that the journey of connecting with Lord Buddha, which began at the time of my birth, continues unbroken. I was born in Vadnagar, Gujarat, which was once a major center of Buddhism. Over the past 10 years, I have had the opportunity to participate in many sacred events—from visiting India's historic Buddhist sites to witnessing the birthplace of Lord Buddha in Nepal and unveiling his statue in Mongolia."