

Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-30.26.2023.00010

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Dhaka

District

Dhaka

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

23.4583

Geolocation(Longitude)

90.5417

Community Category

Religious

Community

Buddhist

Name of the Heritage, (as used by the community or group concerned)

Theravada Buddhism at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka

Short title of the Heritage, (preferably within 200 words)

According to the 1981 census, there were approximately 538,000 Buddhists in Bangladesh, representing less than 1 percent of the population. During the 19th century, a revival movement developed that led to the development of two orders of Theravada monks, the Sangharaj Nikaya and the Mahasthabir Nikaya.

Concerned Community(ies)/Group(s), (who recognize the element as part of their cultural heritage)

Physical location(s) of the element/how often it is practiced

Sparsely spread all over Bangladesh. In the Chittagong Hills, Buddhist tribes formed the majority of the population, and their religion appeared to be a mixture of tribal beliefs and Buddhist doctrines.

Short description of the Heritage, (preferably within 350 words)

Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery, established in 1951 in Dhaka, Bangladesh, serves as a center for Buddhist religious and socio-cultural activities. The monastery, originally named Dhaka Buddhist Monastery, was renamed to commemorate the historical significance of Dhamrai, where a Votive Stupa was established by King Ashoka. Under the

leadership of Mahasanghanayaka Visuddhananda Mahathero, the monastery was established to promote Buddhist teachings, meditation, and community support. The Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha (BBKPS) played a crucial role in reviving the Buddhist heritage of Bangladesh and brought back a portion of the ashes of Atisha Dipankar, a renowned Buddhist scholar from the 10th century. The relics were ceremonially installed at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in 1978. Atisha Dipankar, born in Dhaka, received extensive education in India and other regions, becoming a respected Buddhist monk and scholar. He later went to Tibet to reform Buddhism and passed away there. The monastery is also known for its newly built 38 Standing Buddha Statue, contributing to its significance as a spiritual and cultural landmark.

□ Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- ☐ Oral Traditions and Expressions
- ☐ Performing Arts
- ☐ Social Customs and Traditions
- ☐ Knowledge and Practices related to Nature and Universe
- ☐ Traditional Craftsmanship
- ☐ Food

□ Section-2: Characteristics of the element

□ Practitioners(s)/performer(s) directly involved in the representation or practice of the Heritage (including roles, name, age, gender, social status, and/or professional category etc.)

□ Other tradition bearers (individuals/groups and their roles))

□ Language(s), register(s), speech level(s) involved

□ Associated tangible elements used (if any)

□ How are women and people of other genders associated with this Heritage?

□ Division of labour during the practice of this Heritage

□ Elements to which other customary practices or practices may be connected or accessed in any respect of the heritage (if any)

□ Modes of transmission to others in the community

□ Organizations concerned (non-governmental organizations and others)

□ Section-3: State of the element (viability)

□ Threats to the enactment

☐ Enactment Threats Description

☐ Threats to the transmission (if any)

☐ Threat to associated tangible elements and resources (if any)

☐ Viability of associated intangible elements (if any)

☐ Have been taken any safeguarding measures to preserve this Heritage practices? (if any)

☐ Section-4: Data gathering/documentation, Consent and preparation of inventory entries



☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any)

☐ Section-5: Resource Person



☐ Data provider/Resource person (persons/groups, community representatives)

☐ Date of data collection

☐ Place(s) of data collection

☐ Section-6: Safeguarding techniques



☐ Existing safeguarding techniques adopted by the community for the safeguarding of the Heritage

☐ Suggestions for safeguarding of the Heritage from the community

☐ Section-7: References to literature, discography, audiovisual materials or archives



☐ References to/in literature

☐ Audiovisual materials or archives

☐ Discography or archives

☐ Section-8: Modalities for updating the information contained in the inventory entry

☐ Data Compiler (persons/groups, including community representatives, who compiled the information)

☐ Date of Community Consent

☐ Consent of community/group/individuals concerned for data collection with a view to inventorying

☐ Present Condition of Heritage

☐ Brief description of Present condition of the Heritage, (if any)

☐ Section-9: Community suggestions

☐ Brief description of suggestions for safeguarding of the element by community members/experts/holders, (if any)

☐ Restrictions on use of collected data, (if any).

☐ Section-10: Upload Document

Heritage Images

