Heritage Information

Unique Id:

BGD-30.26.2023.00083

Section-1: Identification of the element

Heritage Location

Division

Dhaka

District

Dhaka

Upazila

Details Address

Geolocation(Latitude)

Geolocation(Longitude)

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)

In 1951, the Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery is established in Dhaka City, and permanently installed in its present position at Sabujbag, Kamalapur, Dhaka-1214 in 1960. This is the first Buddhist Monastery in Dhaka after the division of India in 1947. Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha took initiative in 1951 to establish a new Buddhist Centre in

Dhaka, the then Provincial Capital of East Pakistan to unite and project the Religious and Socio-cultural activities of the Buddhists of the newly emerged country Pakistan. It is to be mentioned that greater Dhaka is a place where Buddhism flourished in the past days. Dhamrai, Savar, Narsingdhi and Vikrampur were the Buddhist Centres which is at present coming to light through excavation. Recently ancient Buddhist Monasteries discovered at Savar, Wari-Bateswar and Vikrampur. In order to keep alive the past glory of Buddhism of this area the name of Dhaka Buddhist Monastery has been re-named as Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery. History records that Great King Ashoka established 84 thousand Votive Stupas throughout ancient India which were known as Dharmarajika. Such Votive Stupa was established by King Ashoka at present Dhamrai, Savar, Dhaka. Needless to mention here that Dhamrai originated from Dharmarajika. In order to commemorate this historical name of event the Dhaka Buddhist Monastery has been re-named as Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery. Under the leadership of Late Mahasanghanayaka Visuddhananda Mahathero, the then President of Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha ably assisted by Late Banghish Thero, B. A. and present President of the BBKPS Sanghanayaka Suddhananda Mahathero and with the help and assistance of the Members of Bangladesh Bouddha Kristi Prachar Sangha established this historical Monastery. The Monastery was set up to act as a focal point for Buddhist teachings and meditation and to provide much needed support to the community. Since opening our doors, our center has set up many social welfare programs and has been involved in coming to the assistance of the community whenever a disaster or any other problems arises. BBKPS has brought back a portion of Ash Relics of Atisha Dipankar the great scholar of Bangladesh of 10th century from China in 1978. This relics has been ceremonially installed at Dharmarajika Buddhist Monastery in 1978. Mention may be made here that Govt of Bangladesh rendered all possible assistance at that time. With the arrival of Atisha's ash relics the name of great

Domains of the Heritage (applicable fields)

- [ ] Oral Traditions and Expressions
- [ ] Performing Arts
- [ ] Social Customs and Traditions
- [x] 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

