FIRST CIRCULAR

At the outset, let me take this opportunity to extend my sincere thanks on behalf of the ISBS to you for your active support and valuable cooperation to make the 19th Annual Conference a success at the Prachya Vidya Peeth, Shajapur (MP) during October 11-13, 2019.

I feel pleasure to inform you that the Indian Society for Buddhist Studies is holding its 20th Annual Conference at Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh (Ladakh) during September 23-25, 2020. Professor Ramesh Chandra Sinha, Chairman, Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi has kindly consented to be the General President of this conference and will deliver the Key-Note Address. The following broad areas/fields are being proposed for deliberations during the Academic Sessions of the Conference:

1. Pali Language and Literature
2. Buddhist Sanskrit Language and Literature
3. Buddhism in Apabhramsha Literature
4. Central & East Asian Language and Literature (including Tibetan, Japanese, Thai, Sogdian, Kuchean etc.)
5. History of Buddhism in India & Abroad (including Art, Architecture, Archaeology etc.)
6. Buddhist Philosophy
7. Contemporary and Applied/Engaged Buddhism
8. Buddhism in the Comparative Light
9. Indian Himalayan Buddhism
10. Buddhist Tourism

Please feel free to write on a topic of your choice concerning the areas cited above. Use of references from Pali/Prakrit/Sanskrit/Tibetan/Chinese sources will be more appreciated.

As a matter of our policy, we always try to highlight Buddhism in the region/place of conference. So we shall have a special session on History and Cultural Heritage of Buddhism in Ladakh. However, other areas of Buddhist Studies hitherto uncovered can also be explored for deliberations. I earnestly hope that other colleagues, who become members of the ISBS, would be able to attend the session and contribute meaningfully through their research papers.

ENROLMENT FOR MEMBERSHIP

Only members can of course, become delegate at the session. Please fill up the enclosed Membership Form and remit membership fee in account by Bank Draft
in favour of the Indian Society for Buddhist Studies, payable at Jammu. It may also be remitted by cheque payable at par, or in cash.

Fee Structure
The Fee structure is as follows:

For Indian Citizens:

i. Annual: Rs. 500/-
ii. Life: Rs. 2000/-*  
iii. Donor: Rs. 3100/- or more (inclusive of Life Membership)
iv. Institutional (Annual): Rs. 2000/-

If the Annual membership is renewed after the due date, an additional amount of Rs. 200/- will be levied as Late Fee.

* Direct Life Membership has been withheld for the time being.

A member, who attends three Annual Conferences consecutively and contributes to the Conference meaningfully through his/her research paper, can apply for the Life Membership the next year. His/her Application will be placed before the Office Bearers, and if approved, Life Membership may be granted to the applicant.

For Foreign Citizens: ##

(A) SAARC countries  (B) Other countries

Annual US$ 50  US$ 100

## Members from countries other than India will have right to cast their votes, but they will not be eligible to contest for Executive Committee or for any of the post of Office Bearers. However, their suggestions will be welcomed.

Please remit your membership fee by cash/DD/cheque payable at par only latest by May 31, 2020. Membership will not be granted after that for the session. Any member, whose remittance is received after the last due dates (i.e. May 31, 2020), may not be able to vote at the session, even if otherwise eligible. He/she can, however, still be a delegate and participate in the academic proceedings of the session.

Please send your correct address, Phone No., Email address etc., if there is any change in your address.

DELEGATES TO THE SESSION

Due to cost constraints and limited number of hotels/guest houses, we may not be able to accommodate guests accompanying the members. So please avoid bringing your family members. They may be allowed, however, in exceptional cases and the members will have to pay the same amount per person what they are supposed to pay for themselves. Every Delegate is required to remit the Delegate Registration Fee @ Rs. 2000/- (US$ 250/-for a foreign delegate) till May 31, 2020. Delegate Registration Fee may, however, be acceptable in exceptional cases till June 30, 2020 with a late fee of Rs. 500/- per head. Those who fail to remit the Membership Fee and the Delegate Registration Fee even by the said date, will not be allowed to attend the Conference.

As already mentioned kindly remit the Delegate Registration Fee by A/C Payee DD payable at Jammu/cheque payable at par in favour of the Indian Society for Buddhist Studies, and addressed to Dr. Lalit Gupta, Secretary. Delegate Registration Fee must reach the Secretary latest by May 31, 2020.

You are requested to encourage and invite your colleagues to become members of the ISBS and pass on the enclosed Membership Form (or its Xeroxed Copy) to them. All its requirements (including providing of photographs and documentary evidence of degree
etc.) may please be complied with. Please remember to send the form along with requisite enclosures to the Secretary as per the following address:

**Dr. Lalit Gupta, 108 A (Private), Gandhi Nagar, Near Gole Market, Jammu-180004**

**TICKET RESERVATION**

The ISBS takes no responsibility for managing ticket for any member/delegate. Please ensure your to and fro reservation well in advance. As, there is no train route to Ladakh, therefore one can take either road route via Manali or go by Flight. Please refer to the flight Time Table for various flights reaching Leh.

**PAPER FOR THE SESSION**

Members are requested to prepare research papers in English/Hindi/Pali/Sanskrit with Roman/Devanagiri script in the light of the said thrust areas and submit the same as per the following deadlines:

**Important dates:**

- **Summary/Abstract of the proposed research paper:** latest by **March 31, 2020** (Pl. do not send any money as membership fee with your Abstract).
- **Full Paper:** latest by **May 31, 2020**.

If it is deemed that the Abstract is going to contribute meaningfully and is acceptable, the contributor will be intimated and confirmed by email/telephonically. Please be in touch with the undersigned. *Only in case of acceptance of the Abstract, Membership and other fees can be remitted by May 31 2020. Only such members shall be extended Formal Invitation Letter to attend the Conference.*

**While writing the paper, the following points must be taken into consideration:**

- The paper must be research oriented and an original contribution to the knowledge of Buddhist Studies bearing notes references etc. at the end only.
- Kindly ensure that your paper is computer typed in double space and does not exceed 10 to 12 pages.
- Please use the font **Times New Roman** for papers in English and **Krutı Dev** for papers in Devanagari Script. Hand written paper will not be accepted.
- If possible, kindly send your paper with its electronic format. It will indeed help us in making correction, improvement and editing.
- Papers received after the last date may not be included in the printed list of the session.
- An **Abstract of not more than 500 words should invariably be provided to the Secretary by March 31, 2020.** The Abstracts of papers are going to be published and will be made available to the Delegates at the time of the Conference. So Abstracts of those delegates who fail to send the same by the given date will not be included in the volume.

**HONOUR TO THE SENIOR SCHOLARS**

- The ISBS has been honouring senior scholars with the **Mańjuśrī Sammāna** for their outstanding contributions towards the promotion of Buddhist Studies and this year, the Honouree will be: **Professor Arvind P. Jamkhedkar, Chairman, Indian Council of Historical Research.** In addition, the honouree will also be honoured with the **Kamladevi Jain Smriti Sammāna** which carries an amount of Rs. 5100/-.
- ISBS feels pleasure to announce a new award from its 20th annual session i.e. **Dr. Sagar Mal Jain Vidya Bhushan Sammāna** which will be conferred to a senior scholar who has attained the age of 70 years and has contributed to the field of Buddhism, Jainism and/or Indian Philosophy through his academic writings. The award will carry an amount
or Rs. 11000/- and a citation. No direct application/request for this award will be entertained. Every year both President and Secretary will suggest at least three names to the Executive Council of ISBS for this award and the Executive Council after scrutinizing the academic contribution of the scholar will take a decision. This new *Sammāna* has been announced by the family members of Dr. Sagar Mal Jain, a luminary personality in the field of Prachya Vidya in India.

*Five awards have been constituted (2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th sponsored) on presentation of the best research papers as per the following specifications:*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>S. No.</th>
<th>Name of the Award</th>
<th>Area of Specialization</th>
<th>Eligibility and Prize Money</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Ācārya Buddhaghosa Award</td>
<td>Paper should be purely on the linguistic, grammatical or literary aspect of Pali.</td>
<td>Rs. 1100/- in cash with a Certificate of Appreciation and the upper age limit of the contestants be 40 years on May 31, 2020.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Ācārya Nāgārjuna Award</td>
<td>Paper should be on Buddhist Sanskrit or Mahāyāna Buddhism.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Mahākavi Svyamabhū Award</td>
<td>Paper should be on Buddhism in Apabhramśa Literature.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Mahapandita Rahul Sankrityayan Award</td>
<td>Paper should be on Buddhist Philosophy.</td>
<td>Age No Bar/Rs. 2500. Only Female Delegates can contest for this award.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Divjot Waak Shodh Samman</td>
<td>On any aspect of Buddhism</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Interested scholars must send their papers, so that the same reaches the office of the Secretary on or before May 31, 2020 for consideration of the Expert Committee. One person will be nominated in one category only. A scholar who has been recipient of an award in a year will not be eligible to contest for the coming 3 years in any of the categories from the session; he/she has been recipient of any award. The documentary proof of age will be mandatory for such scholars. In case of any doubt, query or suggestion, please feel free to contact the undersigned by post or on phone No. +91- 94191-39950 (cell) or through email: mailtoisbs@gmail.com.*

Queries may also be made to the Treasurer Dr. Suresh Kumar on his Cell No. +91- 8825012735.

*Please Note the Important Information*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Last Date for Abstract</th>
<th>Last Date for Full Paper</th>
<th>Fee Payable for New/ Existing Annual Member</th>
<th>Fee Payable for a member eligible to take fresh Life Membership</th>
<th>Fee Payable for Existing Life Member</th>
<th>Fee Payable for renewing Life Membership</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><em>31</em>&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; March, 2020</td>
<td><em>31</em>&lt;sup&gt;a&lt;/sup&gt; May, 2020</td>
<td>Rs. 500 (Membership)+ Rs. 2000 (Delegate)= Rs. 2500</td>
<td>Rs. 2000 (Membership)+ Rs. 2000(Delegate)= Rs. 4000</td>
<td>Rs. 2000 (Delegate Registration only)</td>
<td>Rs. 2000 (Membership)+ Rs. 2000(Delegate)= Rs. 4000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*After Due Date, late fee will be chargeable- Rs. 200 (Annual Membership) and Rs. 500 (Delegate/Life Membership)*
Online payment can also be made in the following account details. While transferring online payment, kindly note that partial payments will not acceptable/valid and such transaction/payment once made will not be refunded. After the last date, the online payment will not be accepted in any case. If someone makes any incomplete payment or after the last date, in that case it will be treated as invalid payment and in no case in will be refunded. It will be compulsory to send the receipt of the payment both hard and soft copy within 15 days from the date of payment as a documentary proof.

**Details of ISBS Bank Account**
Name: Indian Society for Buddhist Studies

Account No: 0345040100009238
Bank: Jammu And Kashmir Bank
Branch: New University Campus Branch, Jammu
Address: University Of Jammu, Railway Road,, Jammu (Jammu & Kashmir)
Branch code: Canaal
IFSC code: JAKA0CANAAL
MICR code: 180051018

**A Brief about the Conference Venue:**
The 20th annual session will be hosted by Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) which is located 12 km from Leh, the capital of Union Territory of Ladakh. Nestled deep within the mighty Himalayan Mountains, Ladakh and especially Leh, being one of the exotic and much sought after Buddhist destinations in South Asia enjoys the maximum tourism.

Ladakh, the cold desert, is the highest plateau with much of it being over 3,000 m (9,800 ft) meters above the sea level. This arid terrain experiences drastic weather changes. The temperatures are so extreme that in winters, it drops below minus 30 degree Celsius, and in summers, it rises near 30 degree Celsius.

Leh city (ht. 3,524 metres/11,562 ft) is well connected by air and road. A number of major airlines now operate regular flights into Leh from Delhi, Jammu and Srinagar. Through Srinagar, Leh can be reached either by state bus or taxi covering 434 km or through Manali in Himachal Pradesh, a distance of 473 km. There are regular taxi services available from Leh to MIMC.

**Acclimatization:** If you arrive to Leh by air, keep a day free to simply acclimatize. Acclimatization is one of the important things to prepare for while planning a trip to Ladakh. Leh and most of the places in Ladakh are located above the altitude of 10,000 feet. Thus, visitors may suffer from dizziness, headaches or even acute mountain sickness. So acclimatization to the high altitude condition becomes one of the most important things to prepare for before planning a trip.

Proper rest must be taken every day. Enough sleep, good food and no exertion will help your body get used to the heights, and low oxygen. It is advisable to avoid bringing the
children and old family members especially who have the medical problems like High BP, Asthma, Heart condition etc.

Kindly note other than heavy woollens, carry the following items before packing for Ladakh for protection from sun and UV-rays:

- Goggles;
- Sunscreen Lotion with high SPF(30 or above);
- Mustard Oil (for applying in nostrils as it can become dry and painful due to dry and cold winds of Ladakh);
- Lip Balm/ Vaseline;
- Gloves for bikers;
- Muffler
- Caps;
- Portable Oxygen Cylinder (easily available in medical stores/airport at Leh);

Looking forward to welcome you at Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre, Leh at our 20th Annual Conference.

With kind regards,

Cordially yours,

Sd/-
(Lalit Gupta)
Secretary