

THOUSAND BUDDHA HALL

**Doboom Centre for Sangha Retreat and Monastic Arts
Sakatpur, Gurgaon Haryana INDIA**

BACKGROUND

In December 1997, the Supreme Patriarch of Thai Buddhist Sangha, His Holiness Sangaraja graciously donated thousand bronze statues of Buddha to Lama Doboom Tulku. The situation inside Tibet started changing which compelled him to rethink his original idea of sending the statues in Tibet.

With the kind help from Lama Doboom Tulku's admirer Mr. and Mrs. I.V.S. Juneja, a piece of land was acquired in Haryana on which he decided to enshrine the Buddha statues. This gave birth to the concept of the project.

PROJECT VISION

Lama Doboom Tulku has, from a very young age, received Buddhist teachings. Since the 1960's and particularly 1970's, he has received many teachings from His Holiness the Dalai Lama. The teachings have all emphasized simplicity and contentment. They have made a deep and abiding imprint in his mind and so he seeks to treasure and cultivate these values in the materialistic world of today. He has been, for a long time, nurturing a wish to create a MODEL SANGHA COMMUNITY that strictly adheres to these values as a life style.

It is envisioned that the sangha community will not have the usual monastic administrative and hierarchical structure but it will be governed by rules based on Vinaya principles; and seniority would be respected.

This place should never become a centre of commercially oriented activities. It should not become a place where individuals engage in business, political and self promoting activities. In short this centre should become a place, more for contemplation and learning and less for mere rituals, more for activity and less for idle minds, more for harmony and less for arrogance, more for meaningful work and less for glamour, more for hard work and less for pleasure seeking, more for being helpful to others and less for self gain, more for organic evolution and less for imitations, more for society in general and less for the exclusive, more altruistic and less self centered.

PROJECT GOAL

In keeping with Buddhist tradition and culture of simplicity and serenity, the main hall which will enshrine the thousand statues of Buddha, and the structures in the compound, would be such that they create an aura of tranquility for experiencing the Buddha's teachings. The Model Sangha

Community should find inspiration and meditative excellence in a simple yet adequately equipped ambience. There will be emphasis on learning and practice of monastic arts.

PROJECT DISCRIPTION

The project is planned on a small piece of land in Sakatpur Village, Haryana to bring up a centre for Sangha Retreat and Buddhist arts and learning. This centre will provide a unique opportunity for monks and dedicated laypeople to learn Buddhist art and literature or engage in contemplation for a fixed period.

The infra-structure and surroundings will reflect simplicity, serenity and harmony with nature and people. It should be equipped with necessary modern facilities. The hall to enshrine the One Thousand Buddha statues will serve multi-purposes. It will have a library, offices, retreat rooms, staff accommodation and common kitchen. The place will have a primary health care dispensary for the needy.

ACTIVITIES

Courses: The Centre will run regular courses on Buddhist art in general and monastic art in particular over fix period of time. Experts will be engaged to conduct such courses.

Retreat: There will be fixed period retreats for monks and lay people. Novices and monks will register for memorization retreat. A registration fee will be applicable that will include expense for stay and food during the retreat.

Health Camp: Free Health Camps will be a regular feature of the centre. Doctors and nurses from reputed hospitals nearby will be invited to the health centre to provide free check-ups, treatments, vaccinations to the local villagers. Health care education will also be part of the programme.

Teaching and Meditation: Prominent and accomplished masters, teachers and practitioners will be invited to the Centre to conduct discourses, lectures, and pujas both short term and long-term.

Workshop: Buddhist art workshop will be conducted at the centre. Participants will come and stay at the centre for a fixed period and learn the art of creating Buddhist art as well as theoretical knowledge on these arts.

Festival: Art festival will be organized where the centre will show case monastic music and dance and run exhibitions of Buddhist art creations.

Conference & Seminar: The centre will organize national and international level seminars and conferences to ponder on various topics related to Buddhist art, culture and religion.

Environmental Care: With the intention of taking the environmental care beyond the banning of plastic bags and plantation of trees, the centre will make concerted effort to bring awareness on the importance of maintaining ecological balance and interdependent nature of elements of the ecosphere.

Interfaith Meets: Recognizing the fact that the tolerance of diversity within unity and encouragement to unity in diversity is the key to peace in today's world, the centre will work on inter-religious dialogue activities by organizing meaningful events of national and international nature.

Cultural Tours: The centre will also organize group tours in and outside India to showcase Buddhist Culture and monastic arts.
