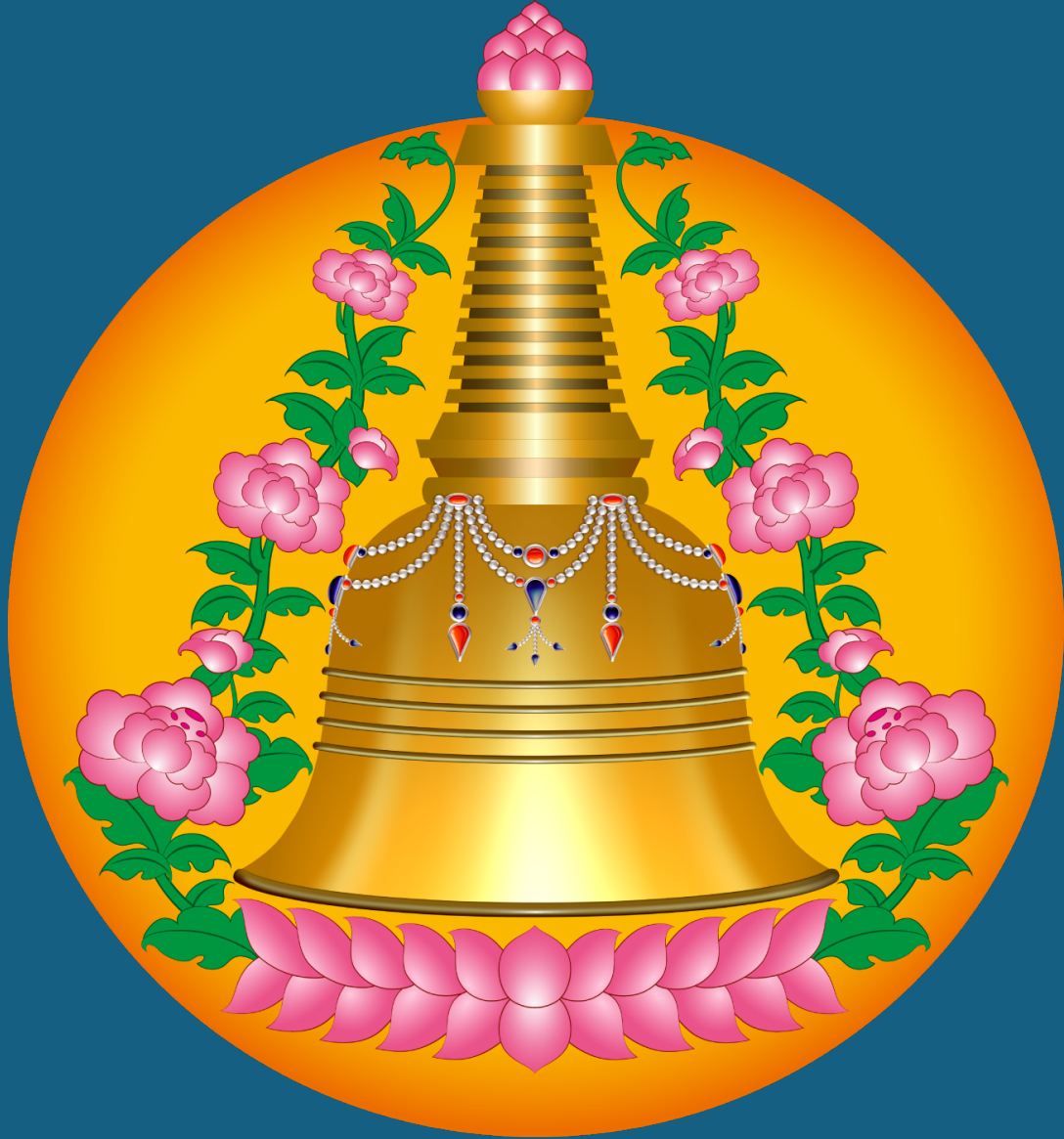


**The Annual Report of the Atisha  
Charitable Trust**



**The Atisha Charitable Trust, Headquarters**

**Arasinakere, Mysore**

**2023**

## **The Annual Report of the Atisha Charitable Trust, Arasinakere, Mysore,**

### **For the year 2023**

This year's significant development was vital to the aims of Kundeling Monastery and the Atisha Charitable Trust (ACT). It concerns the growth of our members, task force, and human resources, which are the backbone of achieving our goals and progressing in all our undertakings—a new development and breakthrough in our efforts. We know it took us eight and a half months to present this report, and we sincerely regret the delay.

### **The Free Medical Camp**

Two Free Medical Camps took place this year; one was the 36th, held on the 8th of January and the other the 37th on the 5th of March, in the school compound grounds of the (Government Higher Primary) GHP School situated in the village of Arasinakere. The 37th FMC happened to be the last of what has occurred in the village in the years.

Since 2013, we have collaborated with the Sai Baba Trust members located in the city of Mysore. Through the 10 years, to be precise, they have been gracious to consider concentrating on the Village of Arasinakere. However, because they wanted to move to new destinations to spread their outreach, they decided to discontinue the FMCs in Arasinakere.

Our primary intention for years has been to be able to establish a medical clinic of our own. It would serve the needs of our community and the villages on our periphery. Luckily, we could associate with the Sai Baba team of volunteers, who unfortunately will not be available. Therefore, we now look forward to the possibility of an alliance with medical practitioners in allopathy who are willing to provide free medical services voluntarily.

As a permanent medical clinic within our property, we would require a proper domicile with medical equipment and medicines. We have, therefore, decided for the first time to appeal to parties willing to provide us with medical expertise or donate medical tools and medicine for this purpose. We very much look forward to resurrecting our medical project in one way or another. But for now, the allopathic FMC has been discontinued for the above reasons.

### **Our Sponsorship Projects for This Year**

From all our reports of our activities undertaken for sponsorship in previous years, which we have diligently provided to all our readers, we have ensured dynamism and a philanthropic spirit in all our undertakings. For this reason, our contributions, though mainly focused on educational and medical projects, have also endeavoured to assist in funds for relief from natural calamities and plagues and causes that are worthy of help.

### ***Promoting Art & Culture***

Thus, in tune with our bylaws, promoting works of art by commissioning religious structures such as Mandalas (abodes of deities) and paintings of deities and symbols is vital to fostering spiritual art and culture. We undertook work on the Ten.do (the Substitute Abode of Dorje Shugden) reported in 2022, and paintings of deities and symbols of religious significance this

year. Work of this nature does not occur every year but rather depends on the availability of skilled artisans.

Patronising art and culture and preserving its manifestations is relevant to all nations. Vincent van Gough's paintings and Leonardo da Vinci's Mona Lisa evoke an appeal amongst abstract art lovers, the scope limited to landscapes and individuals. The artwork we promote has historical, cultural and spiritual value, further inspiring values that enhance altruism and wisdom.

Given its value and appeal to those with an eye for artistry and a holistic outlook, we do not promote art solely as a religious undertaking for Buddhists. Spiritual art of many of the major faiths is extant as cultural artefacts and monuments—in ruins or otherwise—worldwide. It generates tourism, and many earn their revenue from it. We, however, have not promoted art for financial gains but for the moral support and inspiration it provides to both the votaries and art lovers.

### ***Educational Projects Undertaken***

Continuing our work supporting secular education, we could claim that we have attempted to do what few religious organisations would try in this field—not taking into consideration those who run secular schools either free or on hefty fees—whether to promote their faith or indulge in the conversion of the same.

Our support through the years has been multifaceted, with what we have personally been able to derive as contributions from various donors, such as clothes, shoes, winterwear, school bags, raincoats, etc., during my annual European tours. Such had been manageable for a few years until changing rules and tariff demands in the customs department made it impossible to bring them from abroad.

Rural communities on our periphery, with their schools run by state government authorities, enabled us to target these for our support. Helping literacy projects in villages is ideal as they lack much of the infrastructure available in urban areas. Our help, therefore, involved providing stationary tools, school uniforms, financing renovation work (when needed) and interschool competitions, milk and fruits and complimentary gifts to school staff to boost their morale.

Thus, it was possible to resume the distribution of stationary tools and sponsor inter-school contests in four villages, such as Arasinakere (in our vicinity), Harohalli, Gumachanahalli, and Hampapura. Sacramental food, such as biscuits, eatables, fruits, and drinks, was distributed yearly during our mammoth engagements. These were initially ritually offered and later distributed to the school in Arasinakere, the ACT staff, and working staff elsewhere.

### **The Recruitment Project a Significant development for The KMC & ACT**

In light of the Aims and Objectives of the Atisha Charitable Trust, we wish to highlight the significance of the multiplication of KMC's members, or its recruits, to be precise. We certainly are not about expansion through procreation nor believe in population density. However, nations, industries, and societies need numbers as their task force to function.

The history of the count of our members has been low for two decades, requiring herculean efforts in maintaining our projects and other tasks. As our struggle with our task force is over, we present you with this development and spare you the details with a brief narrative of how this sudden growth in numbers occurred.

Our outgoing members of the KMC back in their hometowns had taken the initiative to encourage their friends and families to enrol their children in our monastery. Due to their voluntary efforts, families from the Buddhist communities in Nepal personally came to deliver their wards. Therefore, we acquired 21 postulants in total this year. Hence, information about the procurement of candidates and the work involved is necessary.

Parents who want to send their children to monastic communities voluntarily do so but cannot afford the expenses. The monastery must then, as a result, cover all costs of the journey of each applicant from their hometown to their admission and stay, whether lifelong or merely for a decade. It is a standard procedure for all monastic communities, and it was the same for us.

During their sojourn, the Kundeling monastery takes total responsibility for their upkeep, which is not the practice elsewhere. We suggest our readers look into the detailed report on the expenses we incur in our care for each individual rather than enlisting them here.

With the arrival of 20 recruits and an additional one in three batches this year, our existing members took on various responsibilities, including distributing the apprentices under the guardianship of senior members, where some took responsibility as teachers. In contrast, others took on miscellaneous jobs of overseeing discipline, hygiene, and routine study. The routine even involved their laundry, recreation, and playtime tools.

We are talking about the upbringing and care of 15 kids and five adolescents, its requirements and all that goes towards parenting. Monasteries are also homes besides centres for spiritual training; benevolent guidance and care are its salient features. After the admission of our wards, our standards are to keep recruits on probation to see if they are suitable for a monastic vocation. They otherwise are sent back to their homes.

Since everyone has the right to pursue their life goals, we maintain that if the recruits remain permanent members, they will serve in different capacities, taking on responsibilities to guide the next generation of recruits. Among these will be those who become qualified to serve on the committee of Board membership of the ACT.

Since April, May, and July of this year, recruits that had arrived in three batches needed to acclimatise and get familiar with an environment foreign to the ones they were acquainted with. Firstly, catering to their provisions and accommodation, a week had passed before introducing them to their training under designated guardians.

We invited Mrs Rekha, a new teacher besides Mrs Geeta, our teacher for almost two decades, who undertook the English and grammar-related subjects, besides having our senior members taking on the Tibetan language classes. Hopefully, this briefly gives you an idea of what the busy months involving the induction of new postulants were all about and how the seniors within our community had been caring for and guiding them.



Separate from this, we think it unnecessary to dwell on the routine engagements and study programmes of the KMC, which many should now be familiar with, as it is now available on our new website. Suffice it to say that the venerable Geshe Thupten Kunsang and Geshe Losang Samten, who occasionally grace our community, are valuable guides to our community members.

As mentioned earlier, the Geshes have also committed themselves to providing spiritual classes, as in previous years. The Geshe Losang Samten has, as per the expressed wishes of our community, been guiding Lamrim classes. Under his guidance, many have memorised essential texts related to the outlines and other liturgical texts related to the Lamrim.

### **Sundry Works and Projects Undergone for Maintenance of the KMC & ACT**

Given that our only large-capacity vehicle was on the verge of retirement, we now have a new seven-seater Toyota Innova (Hycross Hybrid) equipped with extra features to be long-lasting and sturdy and an older four-seater Renault Duster. We make it a point to remind those unfamiliar that we are 28 kilometres from Mysore, but for some essentials, all other provisions for our day-to-day functions come from the city.

As was expected, the influx of 21 new postulants required a list of requirements involving clothes, footwear, educational material and other accessories. It was a time and period for further improvement to the security and communication tools required to facilitate information and be able to reach out to those wishing to contact or visit us. We have, therefore, installed CCTV cameras and a long-awaited internet connection for the first time.

Repairs and renovation are ongoing work due to wear and tear, damages, or accidents that can suddenly occur. Health and other needs that secure the well-being of each of our members become the responsibility of the ACT and the KMC staff. Happily, few have had physical problems requiring serious medical care or hospitalisation. We are likewise responsible for the necessary recreation and excursion tours, as exposure is essential in this age and time.

### **The Paricharya Project—A Ritual Engagement for Spiritual Support**

We continue, as always, with a precious project that is often misconstrued in the West but not in Asia and elsewhere. It is essential to understand that ritual solutions are commonly viewed as practical means to imbroglios and have a therapeutic effect on many. Likewise, there is a sizeable demand for it even in the West, even if many here are ill-informed of its value.

Just as a bizarre group of so-called elite bohemians attempt to eradicate homoeopathy medicine and treatment from Europe. These are the select group of people who would like to declare holistic

healing techniques and alternative remedies that incorporate rituals as being witchcraft and illegal. So, while it appears as though talking about rituals makes no sense to a specific group of people, There are many who practice and promote alternative healing, with Shamanism also, which is on the rise in the West.

The purpose of engaging in 'Paricharya,' which essentially means 'Actions Engaged for Others,' implies an altruistic concern involving the utilisation of skilful acts for the welfare of others. For this skilful action, a directory of diverse practices connected to various divinities and invoking their assistance is available. Besides, the persons conducting these need to fulfil multiple criteria.

Such rituals cannot merely be described as faith healing, for there is a systematic approach which involves merit, pure motivation and the strength of the numbers who live a life of virtue. Due to these conditions, fully ordained monks in the Buddhist order who have engaged in meditational practices of divinities are considered qualified persons to conduct such rites.

This year, 12 Bhikshu monks from the Serpom Monastic community in Bylakuppe settlement had arrived for the purpose. As in previous years, they gracefully complied with our list of rituals on behalf of the KMC and all its patrons. The venerable monks who resided for 28 days precisely were catered to and served by our community of monks, which is the norm.

In India, the common phrase 'Dakshina' indicates monetary and material contributions to holy persons, priests or those within a religious order. Those living a religious vocation do not strive for their livelihood; they are sustained for their daily needs by voluntary donations, also called offerings. We follow the Buddhist convention of creating merit by offering money and material objects to the clergy during their sojourn with us.

Years earlier, I provided some explanations for some of the rites. The details of the most important ones are now available on the ACT website. We request our readers to look for a summarised explanation of each on the website. At this stage, we would like to add that this project is no easy task and is not about a random expenditure on faith. In another sense, it contributes to upholding Buddhist values of simple living and high thinking!

Here in India, there is a distinction between the 'Administrative Expenses' that involve the Office cum staff-related costs of institutions and the administration of a community. The authorities mandate only a certain percentage for expenses on behalf of an office. The Income Tax authorities have prescribed our undertakings as being 80% per cent Religious and 20% per cent social.

As mentioned above and in the years earlier, a detailed report concerning expenses incurred is also available, where those interested may procure in-depth information. It is about all we have to report for this year, 2023.

We sincerely thank all patrons and donors, without doubt, for all your kind contributions and make heartfelt prayers and dedications for all the merit accrued by yourself that it ripens to the benefit of one and all!

From the President's desk for the Atisha Charitable Trust,

Kundeling Rimpoche.

**Subham astu Sarva Jagattam!**

May there be Auspiciousness throughout the Universe!



A. The Mandala of Dorje Shugden completed on 16th January, 2023



B. The pile of the 100,000 Offerings, 3rd February, 2023



B. The 100,000 Gurupuja Offerings of eatables and drinks on 3rd February, 2023



C. Distribution of Sacrements in the Arasinakere GHPS School, 7th Feb, 2023





D. 36th FMC in Arasinakere, GHPS Compound, 8th Feb, 2023



D. 36th Free Medical Camp in Arasinakere, 8th Jan, 2023



D. Service by KMC members for the FMC in Arasinakere, 8th Feb, 2023.



E. 37th FMC in Arasinakere, 5th March, 2023.



E. The 37th FMC in Arasinakere school, 5th March, 2023





E. The 37th FMC service by KMC members in Arasinakere, 5th March, 2023



F. Purchase of the Toyota Vehicle, 7th March, 2023.



G. 1st Batch of Recruits in the KMC, 24th April, 2023



G. Recruits taking open air shower, 24th April, 2023.



H. A view of the CCTV Cameras, 29th April, 2023.



H. Installation of CCTV's in the property of the ACT, 29th April, 2023.



I. The 2nd Batch of recruits, 22nd July, 2023.





*J. The 3rd Batch of recruits with parents, 21st Aug, 2023.*



*K. Recruits visit the Chamundi temple, 21st Sep, 2023.*



*K. Recruits with senior members on an excursion tour, 20th Sep, 2023*



*L. at play in the monastery, 11th Oct, 2023.*



*L. At work washing blankets, 11th Oct, 2023*



*M. ACT's sponsorship in Gumachanahalli, 4th July, 2023.*



*M. ACT's Sponsorship Project for educational materials, in Hampapura 17th July 2023.*



*M. School children with ACT's gifts in hand, July, 2023.*





M. Sponsorship of school in Harohalli, 20th June, 2023.



N. The yearly Torma preparation for the KMC, 21ST nOV, 2023.



O. Recruits attend prayer session for the 1st time, 26th Nov, 2023



U. The Mirror Darpana

*Some Samples of our Art Works undertaken*



V. The Precious Wheel Dharmachakra



W. The Secondary Jewels



X. The Sovereigns Jewels