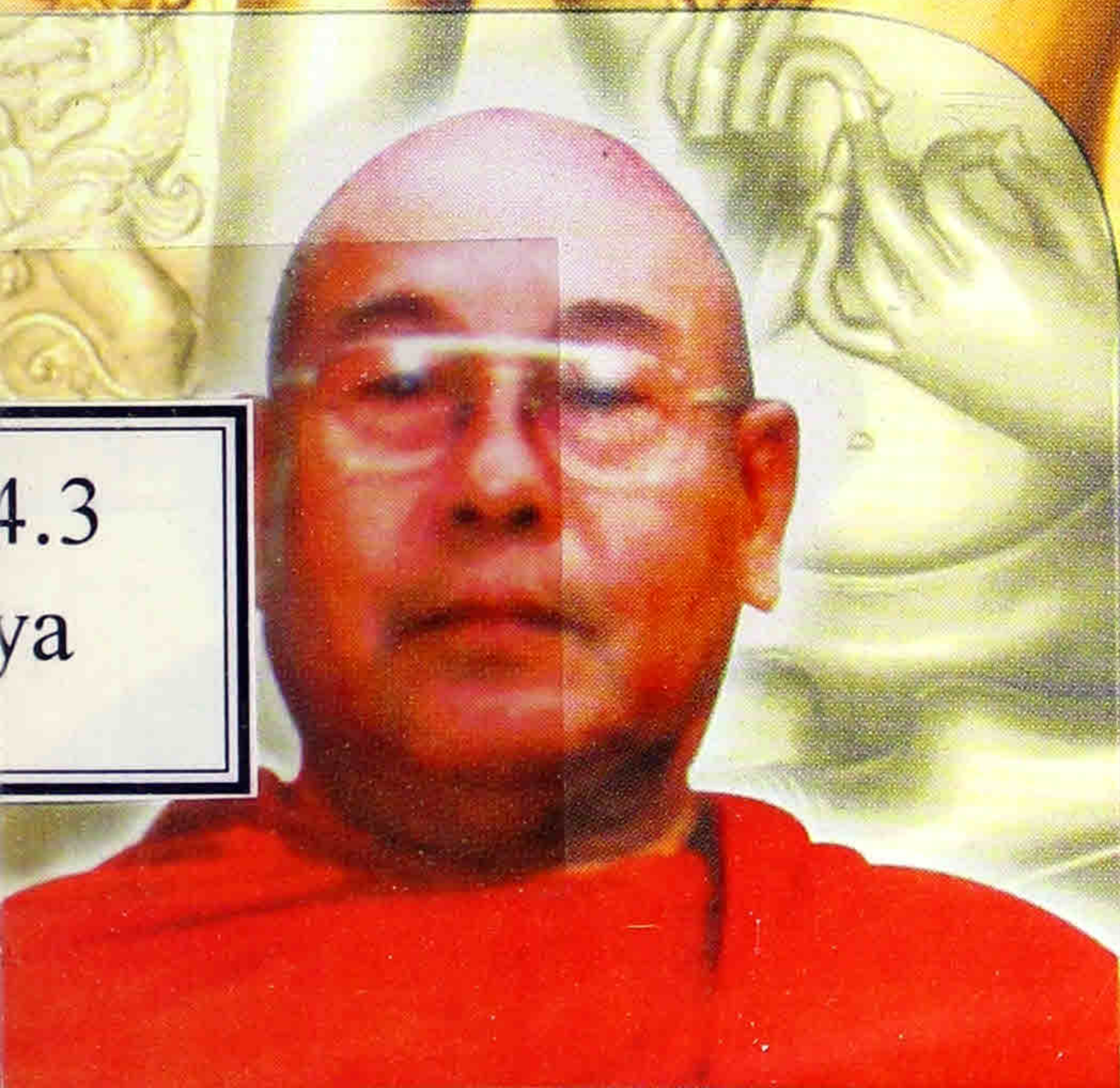
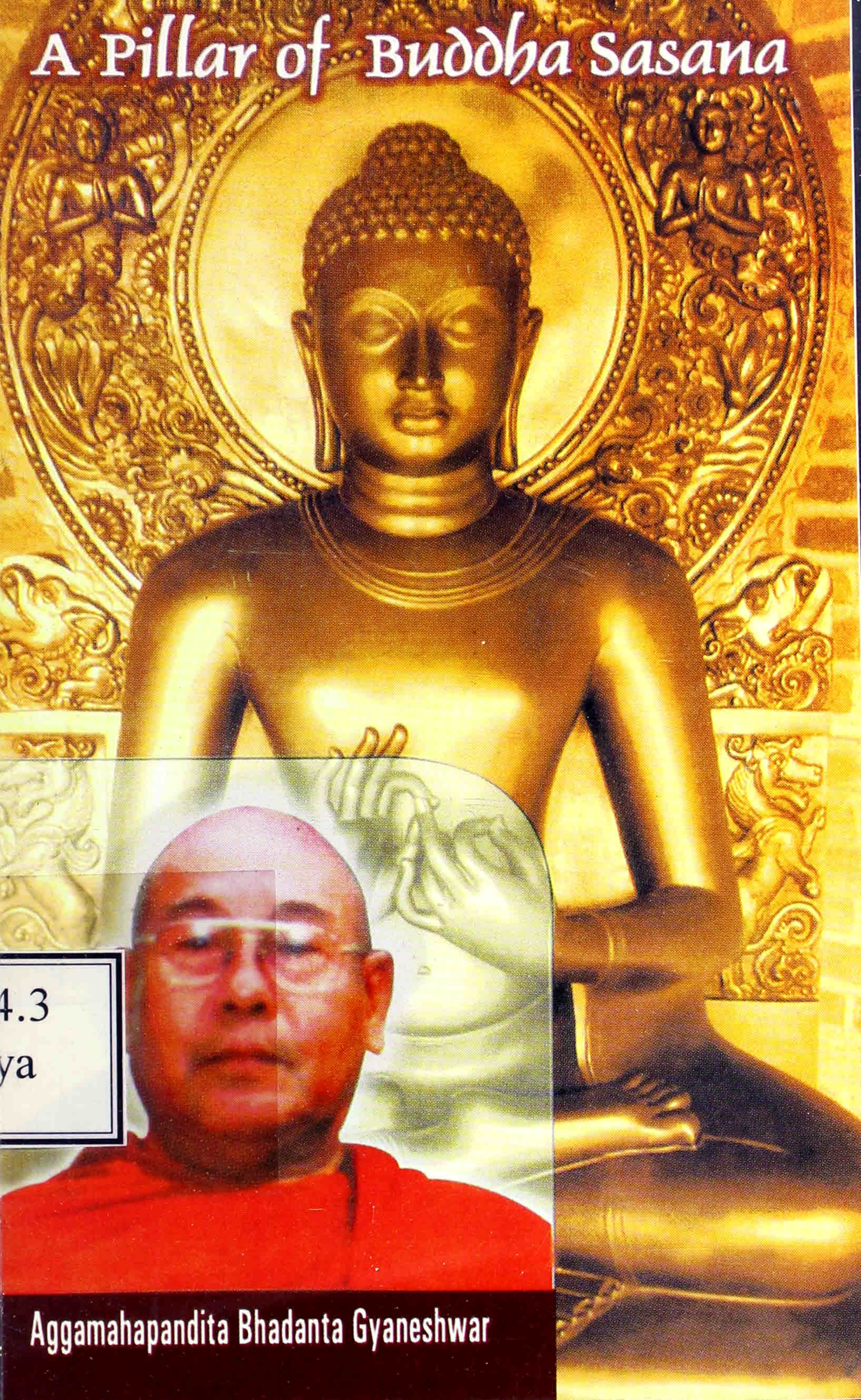


A Pillar of Buddha Sasana



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Aggamahapandita Bhadanta Gyaneshwar

A Pillar of Buddha Sasana

Kushinagar is the place where Lord Gautama Buddha, the outstanding master of spiritual world attained Mahaparinibbana around 2554 years from now on a first fullmoon day of Vaishakha – a month fall inbetween April and May as per English calendar. The blessed started his last journey from Rajgaha, present Rajgir. He reached vaishali. A large community of Bhikkus joined him in Vaishali. Tathagata with the huge mass of sangha proceeded towards Kushinagar. On his way the blessed passed through Bhandagama, Hattigama, Ambagama, Jambugama, Bhoganagara and reached Pawa, presently known as Fazil nagar, 22 km east of Kushinagar. At Pawa the blessed accepted the invitation for lunch from chunda, a goldsmith with a condition to get served sukara – Maddava only to him and not to any other. Soon after Lord Buddha eaten the meal dire sickness fell upon him. He started suffering from severe dysentery. With the sick body and its detoriating condition the non-stop Buddha, the example of forbearance advanced towards Kushinagar. After travelling six mile he reached kakkuta river in present

Mallu Dih. The blessed drank water from the river and rested for a while. Then Tathagata the most compassionate teacher in the world walked six mile more and reached Kushinagar with the large community of Bhikku Sangha. He sat for a while in Matha kuar shrine with the sangha and drank last sip of water brought from khunua Nala, a stream behind the shrine. Then Lord Buddha entered into the sala Bana of the Royal Mallas where the great teacher, the master of Dhamma, the light of Asia attained Mahaparinibbana. The last words of Lord Buddha "Handa dani bhikkave amantayami wo : Vaya dhamma sankhara appamadena sampadetha" "Indeed Bhikkus! I decpate this to you! All compounded things must decay. Work diligently to accomplish your goal," made the wind of Kushinagarecho the message of his greatness even on his last hours.

The holy body of lord Budha was carried to Mukuta-Bandhana chaitya where it was pyred with huge mass of sandal wood by the Royal Mallas and the Bhikku Sangha. The relics of the holy body of lord Buddha were collected and preserved inside the council Hall of the Royal Palace of the Mallas which was behind the present Wat Thai temple. Later the relics of the absolute pure body of Lord Buddha, the perfectly

enlightened one, were divided and distributed by Dona to (1) Ajat Sattu, king of Magadha, (2) Lichchavis of vaishali (3) Sakyas of kapilavastu (4) Kshastriyas of Bulika (5) Koliyas of Ramagram (6) Brahmanas of vethadipaka (7) Mallas of Pawa and (8) Mallas of Kushinagar. The relics belong to Royal Mallas of kushinagar was enshrined inside the Mahaparinibbana chaitya of Kushinagar.

In due course of time due to several reasons Buddhism in India was declined. People only remembered Buddha but not at all aware of his noble teaching. People even forgot the importance of the places Lord Buddha was born enlightened, gave his first sermon and attained Mahaparinibbana.

Ultimately the wheel of Dhamma turned as Buddha taught about impermanence. In the year 1811, Hamilton Bachnan, an archeologist of the British Government traced the ruins of Kushinagar. In 1854 another archeologist H. Wilson commented about the place as the place of Mahaparinibbana of Lord Buddha. In 1864, Cunningham explored the place and it was confirmed as Kushinagar the place of Mahaparinibbana of Lord Buddha. In 1876 the most commendable archeologist in the history of Kushinagar

AC carllyle started excavation. He discovered the Mahaparinibbana Chaitya and 6.1m long reclining statue of Lord Gautama Buddha. In 1904 to 1907 further excavations were done by J.R. vogel to discover the other ruins. In 1910 Prof. Hirananda shastri with his noble effort discovered the Mukuta-Bandhana chaitya.

Thus history revealed the truth and Kushinagar was all set for a motion as a rejuvenated flow of Dhamma that was discoursed by Lord Buddha around 2554 years ago.

The archeologists performed par excellence. History was confirmed and the tremendous energy of Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha unfurled the penta-colour flag of five precepts promulgating the middle path and the noble teachings of Lord Buddha around the world and introducing Kushinagar as a holy city in the spiritual map.

Venerable Mahavir, a retired freedom fighter reached Srilanka from India and put on robe to become a monk. After ordination he travelled to myanmer for some advance practice and successfully returned to Kolkata.

Meanwhile Kheejaree Babu an Arakanese

businessman settled in Kolkata, visited Kushinagar Kheegarjee Babu was well known for his generous contribution for the restoration of Buddha Dhamma in India. He built Myanmar monastery in Kolkata on central avenue presently known as Chittaranjan Avenue. He was very upset to find the sites of Lord Buddha were abandoned. He was determined to find a way to re-establish the sites of Kushinagar in order to restore Buddha Dhamma and groom the place of Mahaparinibbana of Lord Buddha. In the year 1890, on his request venerable Mahavir decided to come to Kushinagar. Kheegaree Babu contributed Rs. 1000 to Venerable Mahavir to start the development work in Kushinagar. Bhikku Mahavir was happy and excited. He reached Deoria railway station with great hope. He had to hire a bullock-cart to start for Kushinagar. Three more passengers shared the cart. They reached river Chhota Gandak. There was no bridge on the Chhota Gandak at that time. The strangers fixed up a boat to cross the river. Venerable Mahavir also shared the boat. Dishonest boatman on finding venerable with money capsized the boat in the middle of the river. Venerable fell down in the river. Somehow he managed to swim across the river. Humiliated Venerable on reaching the other bank waited for a while in vain. The strangers and the

boatman never appeared again. Thus venerable Mahavir lost all his belongings including the amount. He managed to reach Kushinagar feared and panicked. The Mahaparinirvana Temple and its surroundings were covered with big bushes and trees making it absolutely inhospitable. Bhikku Mahavir was deterred and sheltered himself under a tree towards the south of Mahaparinibbana temple.

Anxious khejeree Babu with no message from venerable Mahavir was extremely upset. He sent venerable U Chandramani in 1891 with a sum of Rs. 1000 again. Young Chandramani with the reflex to khejeree Babus aspiration reached Deoria Station keeping the amount carefully hidden. He reached kushinagar with a Punjabi saint on foot. Both of them searched for venerable Mahavir but in vain. They walked upto Gorakhpur with a hope to find venerable Mahavir. When they gave up any hope to locate venerable Mahavir Venerable Chandramani returned to Kushinagar. All of a sudden he managed to locate Venerable Mahavir under a tree. Venerable Mahavir was overwhelmed with joy and burst into tears while expressing his dreadful journey form Deoria to Kushinagar.

They started working together and in 1895 bought a piece of land towards the north of Mahaparinibbana temple. They also resolved to construct a dharamsala (Rest House) by brick, brick-powder, lime and fruitjuice. Thus with their hardship and innovative ideas the first ever Buddhist Rest House (Dharamsala) was completed in 1902. Pilgrims from Arakan state of Myanmar, Nepal, Srilanka, Ladak and Bangladesh started visiting the holy city Kushinagar. This is a major outcome of the noble effort of venerable Mahavir and venerable U. Chandramani who stimulated the tourism in Uttar Pradesh. In 1910 pilgrims from Myanmar also started visiting this holy place which increased in number by now. In 1902 His Highness the 13th Dalai Lama, Thubten Gyatso spent the night in this Rest House during his Kushinagar visit marking it auspicious.

U. Chandramani Mahathera is a name to be mentioned in the golden book of Kushinagar for the revival of Buddhism in India and for the upliftment of Kushinagar in the map of world tourism.

In the year 1919, U. Chandramani noticed the need to improve education in this area. He founded Chandramani Charitable School in order to educate the

down trodden children of this area Later his tremendous drive and selfless, effort developed Buddha High School in 1922. He also established Buddha Intermediate college in 1934 and Buddha Degree College in 1954.

In 1926. U. Po kyo and his wife Daw khin Tsu Tsu Their sister Daw In Ju and her husband U. Po Hlaing, a graceful family from Myanmar and sincere devotees of Buddha Dhamma reached Kushinagar to offer their service for the noble cause. U. Chandramanis guidance helped U.Po kyo and Daw khin Tsu Tsu to restore the Mahaparinibbana Chaitya. They also contributed Rs. 15000 to put Gold Leaf on the 6.1m long reclining statue of Lord Buddha. Simultaeneously Daw In Ju and U. Po Hlaing restored the Matha Kuar Shrine by spending Rs. 6000. Thus the generous family from Myanmar rendered their invaluable support to venerable U. Chandramani on his earnest attempt to restore the Buddhist sites of Kushinagar for the revival of Buddha Dhamma.

In 1929 eminent schola Rahul Sankritayan stayed in the rest house during his kushinagar visit Both of them digged a well to solve their water problem. As soon as they digged water spouted in abundance. Villagers rushed in to view the well. Village elders

suggested venerable U. Chandramani to wed the well with the wood having pulley as per their social custom. Venerable U chandramani and Mahapandit Rahul Sankritayan denied their proposal. Venerable Chandramani explained their misconception about the marriage which is not possible between the no-livings. On finding their acute superstition and orthodox system venerable U. chandramani decided to celebrate Buddha Jayanti. On first fullmoon day in 1929. Exemplary ven U. Chandramani started celebrating Buddha Purnima by taking out a Buddha Rath (Buddha Charriot) along with huge mass of people in procession to mark the occasion. Thus started celebration of Buddha Purnima, every year excels the spirit of people and spark kushinagar with various program before a packed crowd in order to magnify the noble teachings of Lord Gautama Buddha. A monthlong fare was also inaugurated on the same day in Myanmar Temple complex to facilitate the neighbouring villagers with their needs.

While the people of kushinagar was rejoicing and celebrating the Buddha Purnima every year, venerable chandramani with his incomparable knowledge and incessant activities added 'sima' the place for Monkhood in Myanmar Monastery in 1936. Thus a long drive with

perfect flow of dhamma venerable U. Chandramani rejuvenated kushinagar as a holy city activating Buddha Dhamma and sangha which was dormant in India.

U. Kittima a deligent disciple of venerable U. Chandramani was welcomed by G.D. Birla in New Delhi in 1942. They felicitated him with Rs. 5000 to build the chandramani school and Rs. 13000 for a Monastery for his tireless effort to stop a riot between Hindus and Muslims in Myanmar. On his return ven. U. Chandramani congratulated him and they to-gether build the school as well as established the monastery in sigra, Varanasi.

Gradual advancement of Buddha dhamma and the upliftment of kushinagar instinctively insisted ven. U. Chandramani to form kushinagar Bhikku Sangha in 1950 . The sangha drew the attention of the Government by their selfless activities for the development of kushinagar and its surroundings. In 1952 Governemnt handed over 40 acres 11 dl land to the kushinagar Bhikku Sangha in order to support their monkhood and monastic activities.

Venerable U chandramani Mahathera, lovingly known as Chandababa in kushinagar was reknowned for his deep devotion and sincerety towards Buddha,

Dhamma and sangha. He laid a strong foundation of Buddha Dhamma in kushinagar which beckoned many generous personalities as well. As a master in Buddha Dhamma venerable U. Chandramani ordained venerable sangharakshita and venerable Buddha rakshita in 1954. Venerable sanghrakshita after some advance practice formed the friends of western Buddhist order which is now very well established organization in Europe and in other parts of the world performing dhamma activities to propagate the teachings of lord Buddha.

Lord Gautam Buddha, the blessed one graduated religion in to a spiritual practice for peace. Later due to war, change of political scenarios and invasions misled religion into a political force. Teachings of Buddha was almost evaded in India. Myanmar along with a few other countries preserved it with great honour. Significantly 5th and 6th Buddhist councils were held in Myanmar between a gap of 83 years.

The 6th Buddhist council was held in 1954 to 1956 in a specially built cave by the name of Mha Passana Guha in Kaba Aye in Yangoon, Myanmar. The council was ornamented by 2500 monastic's to mark the 2500 years of Mahaparinibbana of Lord Gautam Buddha.

Eminent state heads, politicians, dignitaries of the world delegated the opening ceremony which had every pomp and celebration. Venerable U. Chandramani represented as a head of the Indian sangha. Accompanying him was the eminent philosopher, example of perfect humanism, and the architect of revival of Buddhism in India Dr. B.R. Ambedkar. Venerable Chandramani spoke one and half hour instead of scheduled ten minutes on the demand of the huge audience. In his speech he mentioned that, Buddha was from India, Bodhi Tree is still in India but there is no one to water it. Baba Sahib the admirer of Buddha was convinced with the commendable speech of Ven. U. Chandramani. He came forward respectfully answering U. Chandramani "I along with millions of Indians will water it reverently."

Time changes for the better. The period of acceleration of Buddha Dhamma in India approached. Baba Sahab Dr. Bheem Rao Ambedkar, the legendary architect of the revival of Buddhism along with six lakhs of his followers accepted Buddhism on 14th October, 1956 in Nagpur. Nagpur city dazzled. The aura of Buddha Dhamma travelled all over the world as Baba Sahab and his followers followed the laws of acceptance of Buddha Dhamma and uttered the sensitively

pronounced chantings by the great master of Buddha Dhamma Bhadant U. chandramani Mahathera.

All compounded things decay. The truth proved again venerable U chandramani became seriously ill in 1962. Ven. U. Kittima and ven Dharmarakshita rushed to kushinagar to enquire about his sickness. After observing the need they decided to invite a young monk to look after aged ven. U. Chandramani.

The message was conveyed to ven. Sakke Sayadaw of Akyab, Myanmar. Ven. Sakke sayadaw in one thought directed his best disciple ven. A.B. Gyaneshwar, then known as Gyanessara to reach Kushinagar immediately. Ven A.B. Gyaneshwar then 26 years old, serious about the cause landed in Kolkata with late U sin Nayaka on 1st August, 1963. They arrived in Kushinagar via Varanasi on 5th August, 1963.

On reaching Kushinagar, Venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar started taking care of ven. U. Chandramani and simultaeneously on his advice learned Hindi in Mhavir Junior School. He also studied in Buddha Intermediate College and graduated from Buddha Post Graduate College, Kushinagar, He obtained his degree in law (llb) from saint vinova Degree College of Deoria. In 1975 he completed his M.A. In

History. Thus while educating himself with the formal education, Bhikku Gyaneshwar became familiar with the environment and accustomed himself with the society of kushinagar. His assistance and service to venerable chandramani was praised by all.

On 30th July, 1970 weary ven. U. chandramani handed over officially all his responsibilities on the faithful hands of venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar. On 3rd May 1972, venerable chandramanis health further deteriorated and showed no symptom of improvement.

The darkest night of the century in kushinagar was felt by everyone on 7th May, 1972 Tress fallen without wind, Meteors shoot like rain and ultimately on 8th May, 1972 at 9:45 in the morning, the great teacher, the protector of Buddha, Dhamma and sangha, the monk who initiated all the development work in kushinagar, loving chandababa, left this world. Amidst absolute silence with profound grief whole Kushinagar rushed to Myanmar Monastery to pay last tribute to their most respected personality venerable U. Chandramani the light of Buddha Dhamma Bereaved Kushinagar Bhikku Sangha and the people of kushinagar mourned his last rest for two days. Final rituals were completed with great honour on 20th May 1972.

Thus centuries after the Mahaparinibbana of Lord Gautam Buddha, Kushinagar was guided out of its concealed importance by venerable U. Chandramani Mahathera. Gradually it has risen much in importance and at present it is a prominent place for pilgrimage. Every year thousands of devout pilgrims, tourists and research scholars from all over the world visit this holy place to pay homage to the blessed Lord Buddha with feelings of reverence and inspiration. Many beautiful stupas and monasteries, and temples are built to commemorate the Mahaparinibbana of Lord Gautam Buddha. Nearly hundreds of monks, nuns and novices from different countries live in various monasteries of this holy city. Their deep devotion and sincere service keep alive the teachings of Lord Gautam Buddha and at the same time, Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha reverberates in the air of Kushinagar keeping intact the sanctity of this holy place.

Every design needs an architect to get it materialized. Venerable Agga Mahapandita Bhadant Gyaneshwar is the name must be recorded in the golden leaf of Kushinagar. His tireless service and brilliant leadership not only uplifted this holy city but also honoured the triple gem and guided it boundlessly for world peace.

On 10th November, 1936 Tuesday, in village Zimeji on the bank of Ramao river in Mymbia Tahashil, in Akyab district in Arakan state of Myanmar, U. Maung Kyaw Theu and Daw Win Myaoo were blessed to give birth to their son Aungjanway. Young Aungjanway started his initial education in a large monastery of venerable chandabasa near his home at the age of six years. Venerable chandabasa's strict teaching made him disciplined. His brilliance and intelligence were proved during his childhood. Slowly he became accustomed with the monastic system and rendered his selfless service in the monastery. At the age of twelve he learned astrology and endeared everyone around by his accurate predictions. He also learned Abhidhamma and Vinaya sutra at the same age from ven. Chandabasa. His talent and performance satisfied ven. Chandabasa. Ultimately the most memorable day in his life approached. On 12th April 1949 at the age of 14 years he was ordained as a novice with the name Gyanessara. Young Gyanessara with the robe, joyful and bright, was selected by venerable chandabasa to preach the noble eightfold path of Lord Buddha to nearly 600 villagers in Zimegi. He also delivered the facts of Jatak on 'Uposostha' days.

The watchful eyes of ven. Chandabasa noticed

the originality and the innate talent of shraman Gyanesssara. He wanted his loving disciple to rise to greater height. He sent him to Akyab monastery. Young but determined Gyaneshwara, amidst wind and hails travelled by ship from Mymbia to Akyab. The monastery of Akyab was belonging of Nagabasa a student of Ven. Chandabasa and Ven. U. Chandramani. He learned further the finer aspect of Dhamma from both of them. In the process of acquiring Knowledge, shraman Gyaneshwar realised the importance of Pali- the mother language of Buddhist scriptures. With the aspiration he took consent from Ven. Nagabasa and joined Manglarama Pali University Yangoon on 16th may, 1950 Tuesday. Venerable Keshrabi Bansa, the chief of the university accepted him gladly. As a student of mangalrama Pali University he remained in fast for three continuous days in order to make his native, the neglected Arakan a separate state. His deep sympathy for the downtrodden people resulted in making Arakan a separate state later. His note-worthy efficiency, boundless knowledge and placid demeanour promoted him as a monk on the third day of June 1956, Sunday. It was Vaisakh Asthami. Novice Gyaneshwar became venerable Gyaneshwar on this auspicious day. He also learned the techniques of

Vipassana of Lady Sayadow in the University. Thus venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar completed his advance religious studies and practice most successfully and emerged as a perfect Buddhist Monk. Venerable Chandramani, left this world confidently leaving the responsibilities of restoration, development and service to the Tripple Gem to Ven. A.B. Gyaneshwar. Ven. Gyaneshwar though young in Kushinagar but firm and steady, started his flawless service in order to transverse the message of Buddha, Dharma and sangha around the world simultaneously enriching Kushinagar as one of the most important pilgrimage city of the world. In the year 1977, he obtained Indian citizenship.

Venerable without any hindrances advanced on the flow of Buddha Dhamma. In 1979, he visited neighbouring country Nepal with 83 pairs of robe and Rs. 12,000 for a 'Kathina Chibar Dana' in memory of Ven. U. Chandramini Mahathera. He was welcomed by Mr. Lok Darshan, Chairman of Lumbini Vikash Kosh, and Harsha Ratna Shakya, a devotee, in Kathmandu. A warm reception was arranged for him in Shakya Sinhg Vihar of Patan. He gave a discourse to make people know regarding the system of Kathina Chibar Dana of Myanmar. On 7th October 1979, the auspicious occasion was started with a special puja. On 13th

October, a programme was aorganized to mark the occasion by venerable Buddha Ghosh. Many Buddhist monks of Nepal attended this ceremony. Noted among them was Bhikku Amritananda.

Sincere submission towards dhamma results fruitful conclusions by the grace of Lord Buddha Venerable stayed in Nepal for a month on the requests of devotees. Generous monks, nuns and devotees of Nepal came forward with contributions amounted to Rs. 21,000 in order to install a statue of Ven. U. Chandramani in Kushinagar, Ven. Gyaneshwar was happy and refurbished his aim to install the stautue of Ven. U. Chandramani. On his arrival in Kushinagar, Ven. U. Kittima congratulated him and they together started looking for a sculptor. Ultimately they found a scrupulous sculptor by the name of Nati Imli in sigra Varanasi. The immaculate hands of Nati Imli completed the statue of legendary Ven. U. Chandramani in January, 1981.

Venerable Gyaneshwar without any laxity organized Biswa Dhamma Sammelan (Global religious conference) from 20^h January, 1981 to 26^h January 1981 A committee was formed by the name of Burmese Buddhist Sangha in order to make the occasion a grand

success. Venerable Nayanida of Bodh Gaya was made the chairman of the committee.

On 19th January, 1981, his Holiness Tenzin Gyasto, 14th Dalailama arrived in Kushinagar for the first time. On 20th January 1981, the Burmese sangha along with the people of Kushinagar gave him a warm welcome in Myanmar Monastery. After a special puja, the statue of Ven. U. Chandramani, was inaugurated by the graceful hand of Nobel Laureate his Holiness the 14th Dalailama. The most auspicious and first of its kind in Kushinagar the Global Religious Conference was also ceremoniously inaugurated by the blessed Dalai Lama. The conference carried on successfully with various programmes, debates and speeches related to Dhamma. Venerable Pragyananda delivered note-worthy preaching on 22nd January. On 26th January 1981, on the concluding day of the conference the theme was justifiably, 'the upliftment of Buddhism by Venerable U. Chandramani Mahathera'.

Venerable Gyaneshwar leaves no stone unturned to prioritize the propagation of the noble teachings of Lord Gautam Buddha. In the year 1981, he initiated 'Prabajya'- a programme to ordain novices. Many people young and old rushed in to put on robe by the

distinctive hands of Ven. Gyaneshwar so as to learn the teachings of ever great Lord Gautam Buddha.

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Thus the essence of Buddhism again touched the heart of the world. Human being stormed to it in order to find absolute peace of mind. Its accessibility to everyone drew the attention of the world towards its Master, the blessed Lord Gautam Buddha. More and more curious people started visiting this holy place of Mahaparinibbana of Lord Buddha. Exceedingly, increased number of pilgrims found it difficult for their accommodation. Bhikku Gyaneshwar was blessed for his noble approach towards the pilgrims. In 1984, Dr. Sushila Pradhan and her family from Nepal took all the initiatives to support him financially to build a rest house. Delighted for the opportunity to serve the pilgrims Bhikku Gyaneshwar named it Nepali Dharamshala that has been serving the pilgrims till today.

Venerable gyaneshwara a name always uttered for his high sense of respect towards the triple gem.

Baba Sahab DR.B.R Ambedkar the most respected name in the Buddhist world left an undistinguished image in the heart of Bhikku gyaneshwar. In 1992 he installed a statue of Baba Sahab from godhulia Varanasi. On 12th February 1992,

the statue of Bharat Ratna DR. Bhim Rao Ambedkar was ceremoniously inaugurated jointly by venerable Warnasiri General Secretary of Myanmar Buddhist Sangha and S.N. Subbarao the social activist with Rajiv Gandhi Award.

The audacious advancement of Ven. Gyaneshwar to introduce Buddha Dhamma around the world for peace actuated the Government of myanmar to honour him In 1993 before a huge applauded crowd Venerable gyaneshwar received the title Aggamahapandita from Myanmar government

Aggamahapandita Bhadant gyaneshwar is a monk lives for other. He never gives up for any greater cause. After returning from Myanmar he built a temple within a lake in front of Myanmar monastery and named it Buddha Sarovar making it as a special pilgrims spot in Kushingar.

22nd may, 1997 is a remarkable day in the history of Kushinagar. The dream project of venerable Aggamahapandita Bhadant gyaneshwar had been materialized Sushree Mayawati lovingly known as Bahanji in India the honorable chief minister of Uttar Pradesh a diligent followers of Buddha Dhamma and Baba Sahab Dr. Ambedkar laid the foundation stone of

Chhantaji Zedi,' a pagoda for peace and prosperity in Myanmar monastery complex. It took three years to erect the beautiful Pagoda. On 21st February, 2001 when the trumpets blew, crackers burst with the harmonious chanting of sutars the enormous Chhantaji Zedi was officially inaugurated by honorable ministers shri Sukhdev Rajbhar.

The 108 ft. high beautiful Chhantaji Zedi with a pointing gallery on its octagonal base becomes the visitors from for corners of holy Kushinagar. The great effort by ven. A.B. gyaneshwar and his endeavour made the opening ceremony a grand success Delegates from India, Myanmar, Nepal, Thailand, Srilanka, korea, Tibet, China, vitenam and some western countries ornamented the occasion

Thus Chhantaji Zedi emerged as one among the highest stupas built recently in the Buddhist places of India. Ven. Gyaneshwar not only enriched Kushinagar but also furnished his name in the history of kushinagar and his name in the history of Kushinagar and in the golden books of Buddha Dhamma

The approachable nature of venerable A.B gyaneshwar made him eminent among everybody around. He is a deep thinker and always stands

instrumentally beside the helpless.

'Looking after the sick is as equal to have assisted me'- the noble words of Buddha inspired him for the noble service along with the sky touching Chhantaji Zedi he also inaugurated a free homeopathic clinic in Myanmar monastery on 22nd February , 2001 nearly 5000 patients are benefited from this clinic till today. Later, on his inspiration as a patron Nirran Sewa Sansthan run an ambulance for the villagers, devated by Nissarana Trust of Srilanka.

1998 a year to be mentioned as a tragic year for the people living on the banks o river Narayani. Unprecedented flood caused thousands homeless and thousands were evacuated. Helpless people sheltered themselves on the road. On hearing this Venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar did not waste a single minute. He organised and guided a team of local people to the effected area with loaded trailers of rations and clothes. Every deserted family was supported by rations clothes and money for their survival.

May it be natural disaster ar may it be war. Venerable Gyaneshwar always extends his helping hand for the benevolence of human being. Year 2000 was well known in India for the kargil war. India won the battle

but lost the lives of many infantrys. Bhikku Gyaneshwar summoned the local authority and offered financial support along with the donation collected from the local people of kushinagar for the martyred families.

Thus his leadership and guidance in one hand rendered support to the sufferers, at the same time evoked the spirit of people of kushinagar to live for some greater cause increasing integrity and solidarity of the place.

26th December, 2004 can be recorded as a black day in terms of natural calamity. Devastating earthquake in the Indian ocean caused deadliest Tsunami in the regions of southern peninsular coast of India. Thousands were killed and millions were homeless. Ven Gyaneshwar immediately send a team with necessary fund in order to console their uncompromising bad weather.

Every year the people of kushinagar and kushinagar Bhikku sangha express their affection and gratitude by celebrating his birthday for three consecutive days. The celebration includes some useful activities such as- Tree plantation, painting competitions among the school children, essay writing competitions, Kabbadi competitions, athletic competitions etc. On 10th November on the birthday the

celebration concludes with a prize distribution ceremony. Bhikku Gyaneshwar awards all the participating children to upgrade their morale. Besides this he distributes large numbers of blankets and shawls to the poor and needy villagers of Kushinagar on this special day as a mark of respect to the people of kushinagar and its surroundings.

His commendable personality, magnetic demeanour and unconditional service to the needy humanbeing was immensely appreciated in India as well as in the world. His praiseworthy performance towards Buddha, Dhamma and Sangha and towards the society earned for him several titles such as: Buddha Ratna by Govt. of Bihar, Buddha Visharad by the Ministry of Education Govt. of Bihar. The best teacher and Monk In Chief by Sushree Mayawati, the Honorable chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh.

His indigenous drive, tremendous working ability and innovative idea to uplift Buddha Dhamma included him as a prominent member of the managing committee of the main Temple of Boudh Gaya. As a chief Monk of kushnagar Bikku Sangha, his noble chantings were followed by many dignitaries of India and of the world. Noted among them were, the president

of India, Abdul Kalam the Royal Mother of Bhutan, Princess of Thailand, U.No. the Prime Minister of Myanmar, Prema Dasa, The President of Srilanka, Air chief Marshal of India and many more.

While serving for the triple gem and for the people of Kushinagar he was careful to upgrade the unity of the Sangha. In 1981 he accepted the invitation of being a member of the most respected Governing Body of Akhil Bharatiya Bhikku Sangha. The Governing body apprehended his prodigy and unanimously made him the President of Akhil Bharatiya Bhikku Sangha in 1986.

His splendid performance as a teacher of Buddha Dhamma and dedicated service to rebuilt Kushinager and its surroundings was appreciated by the Government of Myanmar. The Government of Myanmar rightly honored him by awarding Aggamaha Sadhamma Jyotika Dhwaja in 2005.

The seed of the teachings of lord Budha planted by ven. U Chandramani was nurtured by venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar to a huge tree with the fruits of Buddha Dhamma excessible to all. The Buddhist people of the world are indebted to venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar Millions of people in India and in the

world accepted Buddha Dhamma from the Master of Buddha Dhamma venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar. Recently he was honored in Srilanka for his self less service to the Tripple gem. At the time of compiling his interview he left for South korea as devotees there will honour him for his generous contribution to the Tripple Gem.

The enterprise and affability of venerable A.B. Gyaneshwar encoded him as a one man institution. His empathy and generosity endeared him everywhere he stepped in. His roaring success as a Buddhist Monk, as a protector of Tripple Gem and last but not the list as a perfect teacher of human life enabled him to stand upright as a PILLAR OF BUDDHA SASANA.

T.K. ROY
Kushinagar

