

## Vaishakh Samman Prashasti Patra honours 2019, 2020 and 2021:

*For 2019*

**Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India**

*For 2020*

1. **Ven. Anil Sakya**, *Thailand*
2. **Most Ven. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo**, Abbess, Dongyu Gatsal Ling Nunnery, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh, India
3. **Dasho Karma Ura**, President of Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research Centre, Thimphu, Bhutan
4. **Prof K. T. S Sarao**, retired as Professor & Head of Department of Buddhist Studies at the University of Delhi. *India*

*For 2021*

1. **Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu**, Vice Rector of the Vietnam Buddhist University, Vietnam
2. **Most Ven. Bhikkuni Dhammananda**, *Thailand*

## DETAILED PROFILES

FOR 2019

### **Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India**



Bhandarkar Institute of Oriental Research was founded on 6 July 1917 and is named after Ramakrishna Gopal Bhandarkar regarded as the founder of Indology in India. The institute is well known for its collection of old Sanskrit and Prakrit manuscripts. It has done pioneering work in preservation, printing, translation of rare and voluminous ancient Buddhist manuscripts such as History of Buddhist Tantras.

The institute has one of the largest collections of rare books and manuscripts consisting of over 125,000 books and 29,510 manuscripts. It also hosts the Manuscripts Resource and Conservation Centre under the auspices of the National Mission for Manuscripts, a project of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India.

In its 90 years of existence, it has earned the recognition of scholars and especially those keen on study of ancient Buddhist texts as the favored medium to research and publish their research.

**Bhandarkar Oriental Research Institute, Pune, India** is being conferred with **Vaishakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for the year **2019**

**FOR 2020**



**Phra Devashakyavongsapandita, (Venerable Sugandha / Dr. Anil Sakya), THAILAND**

Also known as **Venerable Sugandha** and **Dr. Anil Sakya** he is Honorary Rector, World Buddhist University and Vice President for Foreign Affairs and Global Engagement, Mahamakut Buddhist University, Thailand.

He was born in Nepal and has greatly contributed to the Buddhist world, particularly to Nepal and Thailand. He is widely recognized all as a Buddhist scholarly monk and teaches as visiting professor in various universities worldwide and is often invited for talks by top Thai government administrators, business world, and UN organizations. He represents the modern face of Theravada Buddhism, a bridge between the monastic's principled authority and the ever-changing realities of secular existence.

**Phra Devashakyavongsapandita** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for the year **2020**



**Most Ven. Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo**  
Abbess, Dongyu Gatsal Ling Nunnery,  
Himachal Pradesh, INDIA

Born in England, **Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo** is the Abbess of Dongyu Gatsal Ling Nunnery, Himachal Pradesh, India. One of the first westerners to be ordained as a nun in the Tibetan Buddhist tradition, she is a brilliant teacher who is able to touch the hearts with her profound understanding of the Dharma, and its application in daily life. She is also a powerful voice for female Buddhist practitioners.

Jetsunma spent twelve years from 1976 to 1988 meditating in a cave in the Himalayas in India. Her biography *Cave in the Snow*, remains a bestseller, till today, and was also made in to a film of the same name.

She is also President of Sakyadhita International Association of Buddhist Women, the International Buddhist Confederation and several other organisations

**Most Venerable Jetsunma Tenzin Palmo** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for the year **2020**



**.Dasho Karma Ura,**  
President, Centre for Bhutan Studies and GNH Research Centre,  
**BHUTAN**

Dasho Karma Ura is an alumnus of St. Stephen College, Delhi University Oxford University and Edinburgh University, UK. He was a member of the Committee to draft the new Constitution of Bhutan in 2008. He is currently the President of the Centre for Bhutan Studies, and GNH Research.

He holds numerous international positions and was awarded the ancient title of “Dasho” by His Majesty, the 4th King of Bhutan and later bestowed with the title “Druk Khorlo” by His Majesty, the 5th King. He is an acclaimed scholar, historian, and writer and well-known painter in both in traditional and Buddhist art as well contemporary art.

**Dasho Karma Ura** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for the year **2020**



**Prof K. T. S Sarao**  
**INDIA**

Prof. K.T.S. Sarao retired as Professor & Head of Department of Buddhist Studies at the University of Delhi.

An alumnus of University of Delhi he was a Commonwealth Scholar at the University of Cambridge from where he earned his second doctorate from Faculty of Oriental Studies.

Professor Sarao has been a visiting professor and fellow at several International Universities in South Korea, Taiwan, UK, France, Canada and India. He also authored and co- authored several books and his papers have been published in some of the most prestigious journals.

**Prof. K. T. S Sarao** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for the year **2020**

**FOR 2021**



**Most Venerable Prof. Dr. Thich Nhat Tu, Vietnam**

He is Vice Rector of the Vietnam Buddhist University. A prolific author he has written more than 70 books on varied topics which has been translated many languages. An alumnus of Delhi University, he received Doctorate from Allahabad University in 2001 and Honorary Doctorates from Universities in Thailand and USA.

He is widely known for innovative propagation of Buddha's teachings through education, cultural activities and charitable programs. He is also actively engaged in the inter-religious dialogue and promotion of peace and harmony.

**Most Venerable Thich Nhat Tu** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for **2021**



**Most Ven. Bhikkuni Dhammananda,**  
Abbess, Songdhammakalyani Monastery  
**THAILAND**

**Most Venerable Bhikkuni Dhammananda** is a Buddhist nun and Abbess of Songdhammakalyani Monastery in Nakhonpathom province, Thailand.

Highly respected world over for her scholarship she is also known for her advocacy for women's right to Nun's ordination and revival of the Bhikkhuni Sangha in Thailand.

She graduated from Vishva Bharati University, India and received Ph.D. from Magadh University, Bihar, India. She had taught for 27 years at Department of Philosophy and Religion, Thammasat University, Thailand. She is a well-known author of more than 100 books on contemporary issues.

**Most Venerable Bhikkuni Dhammananda** is being conferred with **Vaisakh Samman Prashasti Patra** for **2021**