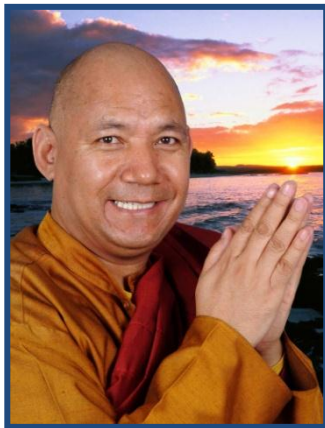


Personal Biography of Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena
(Founder of Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) Leh, Ladakh,
INDIA.)



Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena was born in the remote Himalayan region of Ladakh – an ancient state located in the far north west of India, high on the Tibetan plateau. He was brought up within a deeply religious family, amongst people who followed the ancient Buddhist traditions and believed in peacefulness, humility and innocence as the natural way of life. At the age of seventeen he joined the Indian Army, where he developed a strong sense of personal discipline and responsibility.

1977 was a particularly significant year in his life, for this is when he felt the inner spiritual call and decided to leave the army. He left the mountains of Ladakh far behind him and became a committed disciple of the renowned Buddhist scholar and celebrated monk, Venerable Acharya Buddharakkhita Mahathera, the abbot of the Mahabodhi Society Vihara, Bangalore, South India. Having received full ordination, Ven. Sanghasena undertook enthusiastic studies of the Dhamma and also practiced various methods of Buddhist meditation.

In 1986, Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena founded the Mahabodhi International Meditation Centre (MIMC) in Ladakh. Since then he has worked tirelessly and selflessly to put the Buddha's teachings on loving kindness and compassion into action through multifarious charitable humanitarian services which are being carried out in 250 acres of moon-like desert that forms the impressive backdrop to the Devachan Campus at Choglamsar, Ladakh. For the past many years, he has also worked day and night to provide high quality education and safe shelter for underprivileged children, compassionate healthcare for the sick and the needy, empowerment and literacy programmes for women folk and other socially disadvantaged groups, a caring home for the aged and destitute, and many other humanitarian services. Today, MIMC is growing as one of the leading NGOs based in the Himalayan region.

Ven. Sanghasena has traveled extensively around the world and participated in many international conferences, seminars and workshops. He urges everyone to promote spiritual and cultural values, literacy, environmental protection, non-violence, inter-religious harmony, co-existence, global family and world peace. He actively supports the elevation of the status of all women, poverty stricken and underserved people. Furthermore, he also raises his voice against issues concerning the whole world like destructive armaments, destruction of the environment and ecology, human injustice, consumerism, economic imbalance and racism.

Bhikkhu Sanghasena strongly proposes and advocates the creation of a global family as last solution to the serious crisis faced by the current world. He is actively working with several other leading national and international organizations, which are committed to the developmental works towards a safer, peaceful and integrated world.

Venerable Bhikkhu Sanghasena has distinguished himself as both a charismatic and highly energetic social and spiritual worker over the years. Today, he is an internationally well recognized and respected Buddhist leader.