CHAPTER VII

Buddhist Upasakas and Upasikas during 20th century in U.P.

(i) Categories of Upasakas. 112
(ii) Districtwise Survey. 112
(i) **CATEGORIES OF UPASAKAS**

The Buddha had two kinds of disciples—monks (Bhikshus) and lay worshippers (Upasakas). The life and role of monks depend upon the contribution of lay worshippers. The aim of the message of the enlightened was Bahujan Hitaya and Bahujan Sukhaya. The lay worshippers finance the religious activities and participate as well. Without a greater number of lay worshippers monks are of no use.

During 20th century, there are two categories of lay worshippers. First category includes social workers, politicians, teachers, businessmen, government officers and employees. The lay worshippers of this category have the quality of leadership.

They have contributed a lot to spread Buddhism. They have adopted Buddhist culture. In fact these lay worshippers of first category have acquired energy from anti-caste thinking. Some of the lay worshippers have political ambition and they think that Buddhist or Ambedkarite movement is a very good forum to get recognition. All Buddha Viharas, Ambedkar Parks and educational institutions have been established by the lay worshippers of this category. Most of the Buddhists of this category are from Scheduled Castes and Backward classes. Only a few prominent academic personalities of general castes have entered this category of Buddhists.

(ii) **DISTRICTWISE SURVEY**

The lay worshippers of the second category includes commoners who form the audience of the monks and the first category lay worshippers. They have entered Buddhism because of Dr. Ambedkar. They can respond to any political, social and religious appeal by the lay worshipers of first category if that is in the name of Dr. Ambedkar. Most of them are rural or urban laborers and farmers. They have recently entered the education campaign as a result of Ambedkarite movement. Their number is increasing day by day.

The lay worshippers of this category have not yet renounced Hindu traditions though they have a lot of hatred in their hearts due to caste factor of Hinduism. They are adopting Buddhist traditions by degrees.

Both categories of the lay worshippers are available in every district of U.P.

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1. Ancient Indian Culture by B.N. Lunia Page 179.
DR. B.P. NILRATAN (I.A.S), AGRA
AGRA:

SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR BAUDDHA, AGRA:
Shri S.K. Buddha is the President of the district unit of Buddhist Society of India, Agra. He has learned Pali language through his personal efforts.

MASTER MAN SINGH, NAGLA LATOORI SINGH, AGRA:
He is a staunch Buddhist of Agra. He has played a key role in the establishment of many Buddhist Schools, Parks and Viharas.

SHRI KARTAR SINGH BHARTI, AGRA:
He is a very staunch Buddhist of Agra. He has been associated with Siddharth Vidyapith Buddha Vihar, Auliya Road.

DR. B.P. NILRATAN (I.A.S), AGRA:
Dr. B.P. Nilratan is a very popular I.A.S officer because of his affiliation with weaker sections and Buddhist activities. He studied in England. He held the posts of D.M. at Hamirpur, Bulandshahr and Ghaziabad. His active support to Buddhism is well known in U.P.

OTHER UPASAKAS:
Shri Kailash Chand Buddha (Nagla Ganga Ram), Shri Ram Swaroop Baudhha, Shri Ram Singh Vimal (Aitmadpur), Shri Mohan Lal Rama (Aitmadpur), Shri Puran Singh are staunch upasakas. Smt Hari Pyari Devi, Smt Usha Baudhha (Nagla Bhirjwani), Smt Aarti Baudhha (Jagdishpura), Smt Radha Bharti (Shahganj) are staunch upasakas of Agra. Shri Hotam Chand Manik, Shri K.P. Singh Hitashi, Shri Achal Singh Gautam are running Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha.

ALIGARH:

Shri B.P. MAURYA:
He was a pioneer of the conversion movement in Uttar Pradesh. He not only provided energy to the weaker sections, he also spread Buddhism and patronized it. He rose to prominence as Industry Minister in Mrs. Gandhi's government. He inspired many politicians and officers to embrace Buddhism.
Mr. G.P. Madan, Allahabad
(Addressing a Buddhist conference)

Shri K.M. SANT:
Shri K.M. SANT:
He has inspired so many persons to embrace Buddhism. He remained instrumental for the establishment of many religious and educational institutions. Arahat Buddha Vihar, Durga Badi, Aligarh was founded by him. As District Magistrate of Sonbhadra, Hardwar, Lakhimpur Khiri and Etawah, he prepared ground for the spread of Buddhism there.

SHRI GULAB SINGH:
Shri Gulab Singh as a staunch Buddhist did a lot for Buddhism. He has inspired many lay worshippers at Bareilly, Aligarh and Sravasti.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF ALIGARH:
Shri Munshi Lal Gautam district president of Bhartiya Baudh Mahasabha, Shri Kartar Singh, General Secretary Bhartiya Baudh Mahasabha Shri Keshav Singh Baudh Chavani, Norangabad, Shri S.P. Gautam, Ambedkar Colony, Shri Naubat Singh Aligarh are also important upasakas who have spread the light of the light of Asia.1

ALLAHABAD

SHRI G.P. MADAN ALLAHABAD:
Mr. Madan was born in Jhajhua village on 5th July, 1942. He is leading legal practitioner at Allahabad High Court. Mr. Madan manages a Buddhist camp at Kumbha fair. Another huge gate is also constructed under his supervision at Kumbha fair. Kumbha Mela Buddhist camp is managed under the direction of Reverend Bhante Sheelbhadra. Shri G.P. Madan attends seminars and meetings of all India level. He is a great social worker at Allahabad.

SHRI RAM AUTAR BAUDDHA, ALLAHABAD:
Shri Ram Autar Baudhia was born on 14th June, 1939 at Pratapgarh. His father’s name was Maharaja Deen Baudhha. At present he is a senior supervisor in Punjab National Bank. Shri Baudhha ji is residing at Allahabad. Shri Ram Autar Baudhha has worked as Deputy Organizer of Bhartiya Baudhha Parishad, Allahabad. He has inspired about 60 families to embrace Buddhism.

1. Interview with Shri Munshi Lal Gautam on 24-12-96. At Aligarh.
S. RAO SAJIVAN NATH:
He was born in 1941 at Sadar Bazar, Sadar Cantonment Area, Allahabad. He received the degree of Baudhhacharya from Bhartiya Baudh Mahisasbha, for 30 years he has been working hard for the spread of Buddhism.¹

OTHER UPASAKAS OF ALLAHABAD:
Shri Rao Sajivan Nath, Shri Ram Nihor Rakesh, Shri Purushottam, Shri Suresh Pasi, Shri Gul-I-Nar, Shri Moti Ram Kushwaha, B.R. Prasad Maurya Shastri are staunch Buddhists.²

ALMORA

UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF ALMORA:
Shri Lalit Mohan Petshali, Dr. Krishna Bairathi, Shri Om Prakash Chauyal, Shri Phool Chand Mahar, Dr. Yogeshwar Singh, Shri Kishan Lal, Shri Ravindra Kalakoti, Ms Pushpa Arya, Shri Bahadur Ram Arya, Shri Ramesh Chandra, Shri Vishan Ram Arya, Shri Shankar Kumar Arya, Shri Kundan Singh, Shri Mohan Ram, Shri Ramesh Bhakuni, Nandram Arya, Shri Diwan Ram, Shri Vimla Arya, Shri Navin Chandra, Shri Ramesh Lal, Shri Narayan Ram, Shri Mohan Ram Arya and Shri Ramesh Chandra Bhoj are staunch Buddhists of Almora.³

BALLIA

UPASAKAS OF BALLIA:
Shri Yogi Ram Gahan Baudtha, Shri Sauru Baudtha, Shri Mangal Prasad, Shri Vikram Prasad, Shri Shyam Sundar Rao, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam, Shri Bal Chand Bharti are staunch Buddhists of Balia.⁴

BANDA

SHRI CHUNVAD PRASAD, ADVOCATE, BANDA:
He was the key person to install the statue of Dr. Ambedkar at collectorate. He is also the General Secretary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Pracharak Mission.

¹. See Nagvanshi Bhongi Matadeen Hela by S. Rav Sajivan Nath, Baudhhacharya, Milan Prakashan, Allahabad.
². Interview with Shri G.P. Madan on 20.09.96 at Allahabad.
³. Interview with Shri Mohan Ram Arya on 14.08.96 at Almora.
⁴. Interview with Shri Yogi Ram Gahan Baudtha on 18.12.96 at Ballia.
OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF BANDA:

Shri Jamuna Das (Atarra), Shri Seva Dass (Chitrakut), Shri Mul Chand (Baghehata), Shri Shauki Lala Bhaiyya (Choti Bazar), Shri Deshraj Verma (Rauli Kalyanpur), Ms. Sarla Ambedkar, Ms. Manmohini, Ms. Kaushalya Devi, Shri Raj Bahadur (Atarra), Shri Dhani Ram (Karbi), Shri Ashok Verma (Atarra), Shri Virenda Kumar (Atarra), Shri Ram Kirpal Advocate are prominent upasaka and upasikas of Banda.¹

BAREILLY

SHRI MOHAN LAL ARYA (BAUDAUN) BAREILLY:

He was born on 1st June at village Bakesna, Tehsil Dataganj, Buadaun in 1939. He is state president of Akhil Bhartiya Pariganit Jati evam Pichda Samaj, founder of Mitra Samaj Kalyan Sangh Bareilly, president of Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha, Bareilly. He is a staunch Buddhist and advocate of the eradication of social evils. He organizes Buddha Jayanti and Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti celebrations at Bareilly and Budaun. He played a key role in the constructions of Dr. Ambedkar Parks and Buddha Viharas at many places.

He has written many articles on Buddhism. His book Itihas; Panchal Rajya throws light upon the history of Panchal area. He embraced Buddhism in 1976 with 135 persons including Shri D.S. Ashok the then Dy. S.P. Probationer under the supervision of Bhante G. Pragyanand. In 1994, he wrote "Dalit Chetna Ka Rahasyod-ghatan". He remained instrumental in the installation of Dr. Ambedkar’s and Lord Buddha’s statue at Chandramani Buddha Vihar, near Delapeer, Bareilly, Dr. Ambedkar Park near Kotwali, Bareilly, village-Kunar, Vijar Ganj road, Bareilly, Dr. Ambedkar, Tikona Park (1994), Dr. Ambedkar Hostel, Budaun.²

OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF BAREILLY:

Shri S.R. Guptarishi, Shri Mulchand Bharti, Shri Atar Singh, Shri Atar Singh Anand, Shri Girdhari Lal Baudhha, Shri Hardayal Sagar, Shri Gyanendra Singh Maurya are also staunch lay worshippers.³

¹ Interview with Shri Chunvad Prasad Gautam on 10.08.96 at Banda.
² Panchal Rajya, Mohan Lal Arya, Page – 64, Published by Mitra Samaj Kalyan Sangha.
³ Interview with Shri Gyanandra Singh Maurya on 16.12.96.
BAHRAICH

UPASAKAS OF BAHRAICH:
Shri Ram Feran, Shri Sunder Lal Gautam, Shri N.R. Dipankar, Km. Renu Bala Gautam, organizer Nav Baudhha Upasika Sangh, Km. Maitina, Smt Lata Azad, Smt Asha Devi, Dr. K.P. Baudhha (Organizer Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha) Shri Maya Ram Kannauiya, Ram Sagar Rav, Baldev Prasad Siddharth, Master Ram Lakhan Gautam, Shri Radhey Shyam Baudhha, Shri Sita Ram Baudhha, Shri J.P Baudhha (President Baba Saheb Ambedkar Yuva Morcha) Shri S.R. Bhaskar, Shri Ram Dhari Lal Baudhha, Shri M.L. Gautam, and Shri J.R. Gautam are staunch Buddhists in Baharaich district.¹

BARABANKI

UPASAKAS OF BARABANKI:
Shri Anand Prakash Gautam, Shri Sundar Lala Bharti, Shri Kamlesh Bharti, Shri Ram Naresh Ravat, Shri Ram Pal, Shri Ratan Lala Rav and Shri V.K. Gautam are Buddhist Upasakas.²

BASTI

UPASAKAS OF BASTI:
Shri R.B. Trisharan, Shri Jayaram Gautam, Shri Pankaj Kumar Gautam, Shri Bhagirath Nigam are staunch Buddhists.³

BIJNOR

SHRI UMRAO SINGH:
He hails from Turavan Nagar, Tehsil Dhampur, District Bijnor. He embraced Buddhism in 1980. He founded Bhimrao Bodhisattva school and a Buddha Vihar at his village. He died in 1996.

SMT JAY KUMARI:
She is wife of Shri Umrao Singh. She has written folk songs upon the life and mission of Dr. Ambedkar and Lord Buddha. She sings those songs also.

¹  Interview with Shri Ram Sewak Baudhha, Distt President, Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha on 07.12.96 at Bahraich.
²  Interview with Shri Sundar Lal Bharti on 10.12.96 at Barabanki.
³  Interview with Shri Jairam Gautam Distt President Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha on 04.11.96 at Basti.
OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKA:
Shri Jagram Singh Baudha, Shri Ganga Ram Baudha and Shri K.P. Singh are also staunch Buddhists.¹

BUDAUN

SHRI GOKIL RAM BAUDDLHA, BUDAUN:
Shri Gokil Ram Baudha was born in 1948 on 10th January, Shri Gokil Ram embraced Buddhism in 1970. He is Deputy organizer of Baudha Maha Sabha, Budaun. He arranges Buddhist programs and meetings under the supervision of Reverend Bhante Pragya Prabhakar.

Shri B.D. JATAV:
Shri B.D. Jatav is also a staunch Buddhist. He has supported many Buddhist activated. He founded Dr. Ambedkar Hostel in Budaun.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF BUDAUN:
Shri Daulat Ram, Shri Sukhram Sagar, Swami Sharan Dev, Shri Dori Lal Arya, and Shri Shadi Lala Sagar are staunch Buddhists.²

BULANDSHAHR

SHRI S.P. GAUTAM:
He is a great Buddhist of India. He has inspired so many personalities to embrace Buddhism. He has been instrumental in the development of many development of many Buddhist activities. The celebrations of the 14th April, Buddha Purnima and 6th December were started by him throughout the state. He is Member of Parliament in Rajya Sabha. He has influenced the society of Uttar Pradesh.³

DR. D. S. ASHOK:
Inspired by Shri S.P. Gautam he embraced Buddhism on 14th April 1976 at Bareilly. He has done his Ph.D on Dr. Ambedkar’s thoughts and role in the nation building. He has also been awarded the degree of D.Ltt on Dr. Ambedkar. He along with his wife Smt Aruna Ashok worked hard to spread Buddhism at Moradabad, Bulandshahr, Meerut, Bareilly, Agra, Jalaun, Aligarh, Etawah, Kauua, farukhabad, Jhansi, Lucknow, Mathura, Gonda and others parts of India.

¹. Interview with Shri. Jagram Singh on 06.08.96 at Bijnore.
². Interview with Shri B.D. Jatav on 14.12.96 at Budaun.
³. Interview with Shri S.P. Gautam on 06.11.96 at 29, western Court, New Delhi.
He is famous for this ornamau on Dr. Ambedkar, Lord Buddha and other relevant topics. As an I.P.S. officer he has introduced Buddhist ideology in the police department also. He has influenced the cultural fabric of the scheduled castes and backward classes of Uttar Pradesh.\(^1\)

**SHRI MAN SINGH GAUTAM, BULANDSHAHR:**

He embraced Buddhism in 1984. Presently he is General Secretary of Bhartiya Baudha Mahasabha, U.P. He is one of the editors of *“Dhamma Sandesh Smarika”* and *“Prerna Punj”* magazines. He has been working sincerely for the spread of Buddhism.

**SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BAUDDHA:**

Born in 1939, at Danpur, in 1957. Throughout his life he spread Buddhism in U.P.

**SHRI R.L. AJAB:**

Born at village Nausana, he embraced Buddhism in 1959. He wrote *“Bharat Ka Bhan Ambedkar”*.\(^2\)

**DR. B.P. ASHOK:**

Inspired by his father Dr. D.S. Ashok and Prof. A. Lal, he has been awarded the degree of Ph. D. on Buddhist religion and culture. He has been working for the spread of Buddhism for 15 years. His aim is the cultural revolution in Indian Society through Buddhism. His wife Mrs. Manju Ashok is also a staunch lay worshipper of Buddhism.

**OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF BULANDSHAHR:**

Shri C.P. Singh, Finance & Accounts Officer, Shri Manik Chand Anand, Shri Dharm Vir Singh Ashok, Shri B.D. Sant, Shri R.L. Rakesh, Shri. H.S. Gautam, Shri D.K. Gautam, Shri. D.P. Singh, Shri Jagannath Gautam, Smt Mithilesh Gautam, Shri G.P. Nimesh, Shri S.L.S Sagar are staunch lay worshippers.\(^2\)

**CHAMOLI**

Shri K.D. Kanyal is a staunch lay worshipper in district Chamoli.\(^3\)

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1. Interview with Dr. D.S. Ashok on 20.04.97 at Mathura.
2. Interview with Shri Man Singh Gautam on 06.11.96 at Bulandshahr.
3. Interview with Shri K.D. Kanyal on 16.09.96 at Chamoli.
DEHRADUN

UPASAKAS:
Shri Shyam Lal Buddhist, Shri Laxman Das, Shri Sundar Lal Maurya, Shri Shyam Sundar, Shri Guman Singh, Shri Genda Das, Shri Manohar Lal are prominent Upasakas. ¹

ETAH

DR. RATAN VERMA, ETAH:
Dr. Ratan verma is one of the most sincere upasakas of district Etah. He holds a prayer of Lord Buddha at his residence and propagates Buddhism with utmost sincerity.

SHRI HARI SINGH SHAKYA:
He is a well read Buddhist and despite being a politician and an advocate he always participates in Buddhist activities.

SHRI SUNIL SHAKYA:
He has been instrumental in organizing seminars in Etah district. In 1993 he organized seminar on the contribution of Rahul sankrityayan and Buddhism and communalism. He is a young advocate.

DR. M.L. SHAKYA:
He is a manager of Gautam Buddha Inter College, Aliganj, Etah. He is a staunch Buddhist.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF ETAH:
Shri Balkishan Baudha, Shri Sevti Lal Vyas, Shri Munshi Lal Gola, Thkedar Tej Singh, Shri Natharam Kalakar, Shri Bhudev Singh, Shri Mangal Singh are prominent social workers and remain busy with Buddhist activities. ²

ETAWAH

SHRI GYANI RAM SANT, ETAWAH:
Mr. G.R. Sant contributed in the construction of Buddha Viharas of Civil Lines, Etawah and Saifai. He also helped establish Dr. Ambedkar Club in 1996 at Mohalla Katara Sahab Khan, Tehsil Etawah and Dr. Ambedkar library at Ramdash Dharmashala in 1970. He wrote Buddha Desh in 1965.

1. Interview with Shri Shyam Lal Buddhist on 12.11.96 at Dehradun.
2. Interview with Shri M.L. Shakya on 08.11.96 at Etawah.
SHRI GAYA PRASAD VERMA, ETAWAH:
He rose to the rank of Minister of state in U.P. Government. He helped establish statues of Dr. Ambedkar at Jaswant Nagar, Etawah, Pilari, Nagala Sukhan, Nagala Verosan, Achaldha. He donated 25000 bricks to Buddha Vihara Civil Lines, Etawah. He was also the key person behind the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar High School at Bichpuri Kheda. He also contributed to the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar Kanya Junior High School, Bichpuri Kheda.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF ETAWAH:
Shri Dhani Ram, Shri Prem Chand, Shri Chet Ram, Shri Rati Ram Baudhha, Shri Jagannath, Shri Balak Ram are other staunch upasakas. Shri Heera Lal, Shri Om Prakash, Shri Anand Prakash, Shri Satyarathi, Shri Vimal Chand Gautam, Shri Kanhaiya Lal, Shri Amar Singh, Shri Subedar, Shri Suresh Chand, Late Shri Duleare Lal Jatav, Dr. Shriram are staunch upasakas of this century. Smt Ram Shri is also a staunch upasika of Etawah.

FAIZABAD
UPASAKAS OF FAIZABAD:
Shri Ram Dhani is the President of Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Nagar Vikas Samiti and is a staunch Buddhist. Shri Nirmohi Ram Tyagi is the General Secretary of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Nagar Vikas Samiti, Shri Ramesh Chand Neeraj, Shri Sidhari Ram, Shri Ram Karan, Shri Shivlochan Ram are staunch Buddhist.

FARRUKHABAD
SHRI MAUJI LAL CHAUDHARY, FARRUKHABAD:
He founded a junior High school at Kanpur and a park at Ghatiya Ghat, Farrukhabad viz. Dr. Ambedkar Park.

OTHER UPSAKAS OF FARRUKHABAD:
Shri. Shrikrishna Dohre has been staunch revolutionary Buddhist. Shri Kalyan Singh Dohre, Ram Bilas Bhaskar (President Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha), and Shri Mukut Singh Ashok are staunch lay worshippers.

1. Interview with Shri M.L. Shakya on 08.11.96 at Etawah.
2. Interview with Shri G.R. Sant on 10.11.96 at Etawah.
3. Interview with Shri R.B. Baudhha, Distt President Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha on 08.08.96 at Farrukhabad.
FATEHPUR

SHRI SHIV RAJ:

Shri Shivraj was born on 15th July in 1940 at village Rampur, P.O. Rivadi Bujurg, Distt Fatehpur. He held the post of Distt. Secretary of Harijan Sewak Sangh. He also held the post of President of Anusuchit Jati/Jan Jati Kalyan Parishad since 1960 to 1970. In 1956 he founded Ambedkar Nagar at Fatehpur. In 1978 he founded Dr. Ambedkar Vidyalaya. In 1986, he embraced Buddhism. Today he is associated with Ambedkar Mission of India and also holds the post of district president of Baudhda Mahasabha.

SHRI R.P. MAURYA:

Shri Ram Pyare Maurya was born on 2nd June, 1994, at Pati village of Ghata Blocks. Shri Maurya is a law graduate. His wife Smt Raj Kumari Maurya a post graduate lady is also a staunch Buddhist. At present, he is running many Buddhist institutions. He opened Dr. Ambedkar Shiksha Sadan in 1978. Another school at Lakhi Rampur higher secondary school at Allipur Bahera in tehsil Khaga. Now a days he is searching land to found a Buddha Vihar.1

FIROZABAD

SHRI K.P. SINGH BAUDDHA, FIROZABAD:


SHRI GAJADHAR SINGH BAUDDHA, FIROZABAD:


SHRI DHEER SINGH BAUDDHA, FIROZABAD:

He is the editor of ‘Bhim Bhavna’ magazine. He also established Dr. Ambedkar Park at Nagla Karan Singh and contributed in the establishment of a Baudhda Vihar at Ratanpur. He wrote a book viz; Mahamanav Ravan. He is also the president of Dr. Ambedkar Anuyayi Parishad.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF FIROZABAD:

Smt Shanti Devi is a staunch upasika of Nagala Karan Singh, Firozabad.

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1. Interview with Shri R.P. Maruya on 18.10.96 at Fatehpur.
GHAZIABAD

SHRI ANIL CHAND KAUSHAL:
He is the District President of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.

SHRI SOHAN LAL KARUNAKAR:
He is also a staunch worker of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.2

SHRI L.B. RAM ANANT:
He is a great Indian Buddhist. He has written “Nyaya Parmita”.

OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS:
Shri Shanti swaroop Baudhda, Shri Lachari Singh Baudhda, Shri Karan Lal Ashok, Shri Dharm Pal Gautam, Shri Atar Singh, Shri Kiran Pal Chaudhary are staunch lay worshippers of Buddhism.

GHAZIPUR

DR. MUSAFIR RAM:
He is the District President of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF GHAZIPUR:
Dr. B.S. Kushawaha, Shri S.S. Kushawaha, Shri J.S. Kushawaha, Shri Mohan Lal Gautam and Shri Siya Ram Jatav are staunch believers in Buddhism.3

GONDA

UPASAKAS OF GONDA:
Shri Ram Raj Master resident of village Padari Kripal founded a Buddha Vihar at Padari Shankar village. Shri Ram Autar Chaudhary, a fiery social worker has been spreading Buddhist teachings.

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1. Interview with Shri Dheer singh Baudhda on 16.10.96 at Firozabad.
2. Interview with Shri Sohan Lal Karunakar on 12.08.96 at Ghaziabad.
3. Interview with Dr. Musafir Ram on 18.09.96 at Ghazipur.
Shri Daya Ram Tyagi, Shri Phaya Ram, Smt Usha Devi (Avas Vikas
Colony and Shri Ramesh Kumar Gautam have been Staunch Upasakas of
Buddhism in Gonda.¹

GORAKHPUR

UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF GORAKHPUR:
Shri Ram Charan Baudh, Shri Sakal Prasad Gautam, Shri Bhanu
Pratap Baudhha, Shri Ramji Azad Baudhha, Shri Shyam Prasad Baudhha
and Shri D.H. Chaudary, Shri Pardesi Prasad Baudhha, Shri Paras Nath
Bauddha, Shri Ram Charan Baudha are staunch Buddhists. Dr. Smita
Modi and Smt Durgawati Chaudhary are staunch Buddhist Upasikas.²

HAMIRPUR

UPASAKAS OF HAMIRPUR:
Shri Maniram Verma (Damar village), Shri Chandra Shekhar
Shankhwar advocate, Shri Balram Shankhwar Advocate, Shri Laxman
Prasad, Shri Pancham Lal, Shri Kalideen Ahirwar, Shri C.L. Verma
(Bharuva Sumairpur), Shri Gore Lal Netaji, Shri Vode Lal, Shri Cheda
Lal, Shri Ram Phal, Shri Ramadhar, Shri Ram Das, Shri Bhure Lal, Shri
Kanta Prasad (Rath), Shri Mahipal Verma (Rath), Shri Jagnandan
Ahirwar, Shri Ram Sahay are staunch lay worshippers.

HARDOI

SHRI REVTI RAM:
Shri Revti Ram was born at village Nau Purwa, Tehsil Nilgram,
District Hardoi. His father’s name was Shri Thakur Prasad and mother’s
name was Smt Hulsi Devi. He struggled hard to study. He got his job as
B.D.O in 1957. He graduated from, Allahabad University. He served the
state Government and society as B.D.O and District Development
Officer. He retired on 30th June, 1990 as D.D.O Firozabad and died on

Despite his government job he served Ambedkarite movement to a
great extent. He is still remembered as a great exponent of Buddhism. He
inspired many persons wherever he lived to embrace Buddhism and even
to adopt Buddhist monkhood. He also founded lifesize statue at Bilgram,
Hardoi. His wife Smt Asha Gautam manages this school. He also
organized Buddha Parishad through which he founded Dr. Ambedkar
primary school, Dr. Ambedkar hostel, Amanita Buddha Vihar. Shri Revti
Ramji was also a good writer.

¹. Interview with Shri Ram Raj At Gonda on 28.08.96.
². Interview with Bal Ram Shankar, Advocate on 24.10.96 at Hamirpur.
He also wrote articles and poetry. He wrote "Vishwa Ko Buddha Ki den", "Bharat Ratna Dr. Ambedkar."

OTHER UPASAKA AND UPASIKAS:
Shri Tularam Hans and Shri Brahmesh Chandra Satyarthi are other staunch lay worshippers.¹

HARDWAR

UPASAKAS:
Shri Jaya Kumar, Shri Basant Lal, Shri Hira Lal Baudhha, Shri Rajpal Baudhha, Shri Rahtu Lal Baudhha, Shri Mehar Singh, Shri Tirtha Pal Ravi, Shri Sadanand, are staunch Upasakas of Buddhism at Hardwar. Shri Rahtu Lal Baudhha and Shri Bijendra Kumar Baudhha are running Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha in the district.²

JALAUN

LATE SHRI CHOTEEY LAL GYANI IPS:
He belonged to district Jalaun and held important posts of police department wherever he was posted, he provided special encouragement and moral boosting to the Buddhist people. He embraced Buddhism. He also played a key role in the promotion of Dr. Ambedkar Mahasabha U.P. Lucknow.

OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS:
Shri Harish Chandra Ashok, Shri Shailendra Lal Shri Milinda Lal and Shri Dilip Kumar and Smt Shanti Lal are other staunch Buddhists.³

JHANSI

DR. DHARM RATAN BAUDHHA, JHANSI:
He is associated with Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha. He has founded many organizations e.g. Akhil Bhartiya Ambedkar Sangh, Dr. Ambedkar Smaraka Evam Sanskritik Society. He embraced Buddhism in 1968 and since then he is busy with Buddhist activities.

OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF JHANSI:
Shri Nand Lal, Shri Prabhu Dayal Adim, Dr. Bhagirath, Shri Om Prakash, Shri S.K. Sarade, R.D. Verma, Shri Tulasi Ram (Maseehaganj) are prominent Upasaks of Jhansi. Smt Suman Kumari Baudhha is also spreading Buddhism.⁴

¹ Interview with Shri Brahmesh Chand Satyarthi on 26.08.96 at Hardwar.
² Interview with Shri Rahtu Lal Baudhha on 26.08.96 at Haridwar.
³ Interview with Shri Harish Chandra Ashok on 06.08.96 at Orai, Jalaun.
⁴ Interview with Dr. Dharm Ratan Baudhha on 10.09.96 at Jhansi.
Dr. A. Lal
VICE CHANCELLOR OF R.M.L. AWADH UNIVERSITY.
1995
KANPUR

UPASAKS OF KANPUR:
Shri Prakash Ratna Gautam, Shri S.D. Bhanu, Shri Sunder Lal Gautam, Shri Satya Narayan Baudhda, Shri Sobaran singh and Shri Laxmi Shankar Upasak staunch Upasakas of Buddhism.1

LAKHIMPUR KHIRI

SHRI SUNDER LAL, LAKHIMPUR KHIRI:
He belongs to siddharth Nagar. He donated land for the foundation of Buddha Vihar at Siddharthnagar.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF LAKHIMPUR KHIRI:
Shri Nathuram Vishwpremi, Shri Maiku Lal, Shri Kamlesh Kumar Anil, Shri Sitaram (Kamlapur), Dr. Shankar Lal, Shri Mul Chand Gautam, Shri Dharmshheel, Shri Sardar Singh are staunch Buddhists. Smt Sundari (Village-Bharigwan, sub division Nidasan) has been very sincere towards the spread of the messages of Lord Buddha to the masses.2

LALITPUR

UPASAKAS OF LALITPUR:
Shri Raj Kumar (Jhansipur), Shri Ram Sevak Ahirwar, Shri Parvat Lal Advocate, Shri sanjiv Siddharth, Shri Sevaram Advocate, Shri Hari Narayan (Nehru Nagar), and Shri. Amrit Lal are staunch Upasakas of Lalitpur.3

LUCKNOW

DR. DAUJI:
Dr. Dauji is a Staunch Buddhist. He attends all seminars and meetings regarding Buddhism. He is a scholar of 18 languages. He had renounced Hinduism. He has worked as the Mayor of Lucknow. He has inspired so many persons to embrace Buddhism.

DR. A. LAL:
He was born in 1935 on 25th Sept in Unnao District. He did Ph.D. on “Sanskrit Baudhda Sahitya Mein Bhartiya Jeevan”. His second research work is Ashwa Ghosha Kaleen Bharat”. He was awarded the degree of D. Litt on “Geographical data in Buddhist Literature in India” He worked as a reader and a professor in Lucknow University.

1. Interview with Shri S.D. Bhanu on 18.10.96.
2. Interview with Shri Ram Chandra Gautam Distt President, Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha on 24.08.96.
3. Interview with Shri Parvat Lal, Advocate on 08.08.96 at Lalitpur.
He was appointed as the Vice Chancellor of Ram Manohar Lohia Awadh University Faizabad. After his retirement he has been working for the spread of Buddhism.

**DR. C.A.MA (DR. RAJUMA):**

Dr. C.A.Ma is a dentist by profession. He is an active participant in the Buddhist movement. He helps financially all Buddhist activities.

**SHRI D.P. VARUN:**

He is a staunch Buddhist. He is a retired civil servant. He wrote 'Buddhist shrines in India.'

**OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF LUCKNOW:**

Shri Shankar Lal, Shri K.L. Sonkar, Shri Asharfi Lal, Shri C.L. Kuril, Dr. G.P.Prashant, Shri C.L. Virsharad, Shri Chandrabali, Shri M.K. Nimbekar, Shri M.R. Dohre, Smt Asha Gautam, Smt Kamlesh Nimbekar, Shri Sadanand Arya, Shri Shyam Sunder Gautam, Shri Chandra Prakash, Smt Sunita Arya, Smt Sushila Gautam and Shri C.D. Gautam are staunch lay worshippers.

**MAHOBA**

**UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS OF MAHOBA:**

Shri Nathu Ram Verma (Gandhinagar), Shri Acche Lal (Janampurs, Shri Bala Prasad, late Shri Channun Lal Ahirwar, Shri G.L. Verma and Ms. Savitri have been staunch Buddhist in Mahoba.¹

**MATHURA**

**SHRI G.P. BAUDDHA, MATHURA:**


**DR. PRABHU DAYAL:**

He has cooperated in Buddhist activities at Mahavan, Lovan, Ambedkar Nagar etc.

¹ Interview with Shri Nathu Ram Verma on 08.08.96 at Mahoba.
OTHER UPASAKAS OF MATHURA:
Shri Bhaghwati Prasad, Shri Balkishan Nimesh, Shri Manak Chand, Shri Chandrabhan, Shri Ram Kumar, Shri Prabhu Dayal, Shri Bacchu Singh, Shri Jagjivan Singh, Shri Banbari Lal are staunch upasakas of Buddhism. Dr. M.R. Gautam and Shri M.M. Gautam are running the District unit of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.1

MAHARAJGANJ

UPASAKAS OF MAHARAJGANJ:
Shri Ram Charan Baudhda is a staunch Buddhist from Rampur village of Maharajganj district. He is associated with B.S.P. Shri L.P. Baudhda and Shri Vibhuti Baudhda are running Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha’s district unit. Master Jagdish is also a Buddhist Upasaka. He was the principal in a primary school. He is associated with Dr. Ambedkar Buddha Vihar Ponaima village.2

MAINPURI

SHRI SUNDER LAL SAGAR:
He is an advocate. He is a staunch Buddhist writer. He has written many books revealing the facts of Hindu scriptures. His writings have created awakening among the scheduled caste and backward classes.

OTHER UPASAKAS:
Shri Jamuna Prasad Baudhda is the District President of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha. Shri H.S. Shakya is also a Staunch lay worshipper.3

MAU

UPASAKAS OF MAU:
Shri Prabhu Nath Gautam of Mau is a staunch Buddhist. Shri Vikrama Rao Ravi is running the District Unit of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.4

MEERUT

Shri R.C. SAROJ:
Shri R.C. Saroj, born in 1935, embraced Buddhism in 1957. He installed Dr. Ambedkar statue at Tikona Park, East Collectorate, Meerut.

1. Interview with Shri Vikrama Rao Ravi on 18.08.96 at District Mau.
2. Interview with Dr. M.R. Gautam Distt President of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha on 24.04.97.
3. Interview with Shri Ram Charan Baudhda on 28.08.96 at Maharajganj.
4. Interview with Shri Sunder Lal Sagar, advocate on 10.08.96 Mainpuri.
He is working as the General Secretary of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha. Presently he is vice President of U.P. Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha and the President of Shiksha Prasar Samiti. He is holding the post of General Manager Bodhisattva Dr. Ambedkar Sanskritik evam Shikshak Sansthan, Maujpur Village, Kharja, Bulandshahr. His wife Smt Sushila Saroj is the president of Dr. Ambedkar Mahila Sudhar Samiti.

OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKA OF MEERUT:

Shri Satpal Singh Gautam, Shri R.C. Badode, Shri Sher Singh Baudhha, Shri D.K. Ashok, Shri Harbajan Singh Baudhda are also prominent among Upasakas. Late Shri Mehar Singh advocate was a staunch Buddhist of Meerut district. Shri V.S. Gautam and Shri Ved Ram Singh Gautam Shri J.S. Anand, Shri G.S. Gautam, Shri Vijay Pal and Shri Shanti Swarup are also staunch Buddhists of Meerut. Shri Girvar Singh Baudhha, Shri Kailash Chand Gautam, Shri G.S. Gautam, Shri S.S. Gautam and Shri Sukh veer Singh are running Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha in Meerut.¹

MIRZAPUR

UPASAKAS OF MIRZAPUR:

Shri T.T Vikrama, Shri Radhey Shyam Gautam, Shri B.L. Gautam, Shri Bhagwat Raj and Shri Raj Kumar are staunch Buddhists of Mirzapur.²

MORADABAD

SHRI MOHAR SINGH:

He was born on 01.01.1945. He founded Akhil Bhartiya Ambedkar Yuvak Sangh in 1968 at Moradabad. Till 1985 he was instrumental behind the installation of Dr. Ambedkar Park and statue in Civil Lines (1974). Dr. Ambedkar Marg and Dr. Ambedkar Market, Buddha Vihar Chandausi. He published the ‘Smarika Sandesh’ and other magazine. He founded Dr. Ambedkar Shiksha Prasar Samiti in 1992. Under his supervision a Dr. Ambedkar Bhavan, , Buddha Vihar and a community centre are going to be constructed. Correspondence course upon the works of Baba Sahil. His wife Smt Maya Singh as also been a good supporter of the cause of Buddhist religion and culture.

OTHER UPASAKAS OF MORADABAD:

Shri Guru Dayal Singh Baudhda, Shri Charan Das Baudha, Shri R.P. Pujari, Shri Kishan Lal Gautam, Shri Dharma Pal Singh Shri

¹ Interview with Shri Girvar Singh Baudhda on 14.10.96 at Meerut.
² Interview with Shri B.L. Gautam District President of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha on 16.08.96
Mahendra Pal Singh, Shri Ram Singh, Shri Ram Pal, Shri Ganga Prasad, are also staunch Buddhists.¹

**NAINITAL**

**SHRI RAM BABU CHAUDHARY, NAINITAL:**

He is medical representative at Mohan Almora and a resident of Nainital district. He is running a school viz. Dr. Ambedkar School at Sundarkhal in Nainital. He has cooperated many Buddhist organizations of Etawah, Nainital and Almora.²

**PILIBHIT**

**SHRI SURESH CHANDRA GAUTAM, PILIBHIT:**

He and his wife Smt Gomti Gautami have been very staunch Upasakas of Pilibhit. Shri Gautam has been instrumental in the establishment of Dr. Ambedkar statue at Bisalpur.

**SHRI RAM SWARUP BAUDDHA, MOHALLA SARFARAJ KHAN, PILIBHIT:**

He is the president of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha. He organize Buddhist festivals and takes part in the Buddha Jayanti and Dr. Ambedkar Jayanti.

**OTHER UPASAKAS OF PILIBHIT:**

Shri Bahadur Lal (Nakhas), Shri Kannahi Lal Advocate (Durga prasad- Mohalla) and Shri Raj Kumar Baudhda are staunch Buddhist upasakas. Shri G.L.Baudhda and Shri Mahendra Singh Dinkar are running the district unit of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.³

**PRATAPGARH**

**SHRI SHIV NARAYAN PASI, PRATAPGARH:**

Shri Shiv Narayan Pasi is a good social worker. He has his aim to educate more and more boys and girls of his area. He has established a girls school in his village, Kandharpur, Pratapgarh.

**SHRI LAL CHAND MAURYA, GADWARA, PRATAPGARH:**

Shri Lal Chand Maurya embraced Buddhism in 1985, since then he has inspired about 300 families to embrace Buddhism. He has constructed a Buddha Vihar at Gadwara, Pratapgarh and he manages himself this Buddha Vihar.⁴

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1. Interview with Shri Guru Dayal Singh Baudhda on 08.09.96 at Moradabad.
2. Interview with Shri Ram Babu Chaudhary on 12.08.96 at Nainital.
3. Interview with Shri Ram Swarup Baudhda on 10.09.96 at Pilibhit.
4. Interview with Shri Lal Chand Maurya on 22.08.96 at Pratapgarh.
RAI BAREILLY

SHRI SHRavan KUMAR ARYA, RAI BAREILLY:
Shri S.K. Arya was born on 27th November, 1951 at village Hardoi Khera, P.O. Khutta. He is working as an engineer at I.T.I Limited Rai Bareilly. Despite his busy job he is associated with Buddhism. He held the post of General Secretary of Balapur Buddha Vihar, Rai Bareilly. He received deeksha from Bhante Chandra Ratna.  

RAMPUR

RAJ PAL SINGH BAUDDHA:
He was the first man to bring Ambedkarite movement to Rampur.

SHRI RISHI RATAN DEEP:
Shri Rishi Ratan Deep is at present an Engineer at Akashwani, Rampur. He has full faith in Buddhism. He is holding membership of many organizations. He has inspired about 50 families to embrace Buddhism. He persuaded Akashwani Rampur to broadcast the programs of Buddhism. He was born at village Sekhpuri, Roorkee, Saharanpur. His father Shri Lakhan Singh is also a follower of Buddhism. He is active member of Dhamma Desha Sangh and Bodhisattva officers club, Rampur. His wife Smt Rajbala is also a staunch supporter of Buddhism.

SHRI B.S. SATYARTHII:
Shri B.S. Satyarthi was born on 01.04.1958 at Sirsa village, Mainpuri. Mr. Satyarthi is the founder of Bodhisattva officers culture club. This club was founded in 1993. He has inspired many persons to serve Buddhist religion and culture. He is also a permanent member of Ambedkar Shikshan Sansthan management committee. He is also the patron of Bhartiya Baudhita Mahasabha, Rampur. He is also active member of Bodhisttva library, Ambedkar Nagar. At present he is also a member of Indo-Japan Buddhist friendship association. He is also the president of Dhamma Desna Sangh, Rampur. He has inspired many persons to become sramner. He inspired about 100 families of Sirsa to adopt Buddhism.

DR. BALwIR SINGH, RAMPUR:
Dr. Balbir Singh was born 17th August, 1961 at Aliganj Benajir village in Rampur district. His father Shri Jhunni Lal also lived as a Buddhist. His wife Smt Sarala is also an educated person with the degree of M.A., B.Ed.

1. Interview with Shri Shravan Kumar Arya on 24.09.96 at Rae Barely.
He is presently posted as Medical officer in charge, Rajya Karmchari Beema Hospital at Moradabad. He resides at Krishna vihar, Sahabad Road, Moradabad. Dr. Balvir Singh embraced Buddhism in 1993. Recently he is General Secretary of SC/ST Maha Sangh and secretary of Ambedkar Shiksha Evam Sanskritik Prasar Samiti, Rampur. He contributed to the construction of Ambedkar Park, Rampur. He has also worked as the Deputy Organizer of Bodhisattva officers club.

**DR. C.L. CHANCHAL:**
He is going to establish a Buddha Vihar at Rampur. He has inspired many persons to embrace Buddhism.

**Shri A.K. GAUTAM:**
He is associated with Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha.

**OTHER UPASAKAS:**
Shri Radhey Shyam is State President Of Buddhist Society of India, Kanwal Bharti has also worked to a great extent. Shri Ram Das Sagar, Shri. Ramesh Dayal Sagar, Shri. Chandan Singh, Shri. Ramesh Sagar Shri Bansi Lal, Shri Banwari Lal Prakash Gautam and shri Shobhita Aditya are staunch lay worshippers.¹

**SITAPUR**

**UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS:**
Shri Barati Lal Chaudhary, Shri B.D. Verma, Shri Nek Pal, Shri Munshi Ram Verma, Shri Babu Lal Kishor, Shri Ram Het (district President of B.S.P.), Shri Ayodhya Prasad Gautam, Shri Krishna, Shri Swesh Karan, Shri Swatantra Prasad chaudhary, Shri Mathura Prasad, Shri Prabhu Dayal Adim, Shri Shiv Lal Bharti, Shri K.K. Nirdwanda are Staunch Uptakes of Buddhism.²

**SHAHJAHANPUR**

**SHRI LAL RAM SAHAY, SHAHJANANPUR:**
Shri Lal Ram Sahay was born on 22nd November, 1934. He is a clothing merchant. He embraced Buddhism in 1968. He is joint secretary of Bhartiya Baudhha Mahasabha Shahjanpur. Besides it, he is the treasurer of Buddha Vihar, Puvayan Road, Shahjahanpur.

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¹ Interview with Dr. C.L. Chanchal on 20.06.97 at Rampur.
² Interview with Shri Barati Lal Chaudhary on 14.09.96 at Sitapur.
SHRI SHRIPAL SINGH GAUTAM, SHAHJAHANPUR:

Shri Shripal Singh Gautam was born on 4th January, 1955 at Dilajak Mohalla (New Colony). He is posted as the Headmaster of R.D. Clothing factory Inter College at Shahjahanpur. He is Vice President of Baudhda Mahasabha, Shahjahanpur and Deputy General Secretary of Karmachari Lok Kalyan Parishad. He is also the founder of Dr. Ambedkar Park, O.C.F. Ground. He also founded a Buddha vihar at Shahjahanpur as well as Siddharth coaching centre inside the Buddha vihar. He embraced Buddhism in 1988.

SHRI KRISHAN VERMA, SHAHJAHANPUR:


OTHER UPASAKAS OF SHAHJAHANPUR:

Shri Bhagwan Swarup Gautam (Village Mau) is the General Secretary of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha. He has established a Buddha Vihar at village Gahaniya of Sada Sub Division. Shri Bhagwant Ram Gautam, Shri Ram Ratan, Shri Pyare Lal Gautam, Shri Netaji Ram Sahay, Shri D. Bharti and Shri Ram Saran are also staunch Upasakas of Shahjahanpur.¹

SONBHADRA

UPASAKAS OF SONBHADRA:

Shri Shiv Nath Ram Gautam, Shri Lal Mani Prasad Gautam, Shri Bacchan Ram Kushawaha are staunch Buddhist of Sonbhadra. Shri Batram Shastri is the president of the district unit of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha.²

UNNAO

SHRI J.N. ADITYA.

Shri J.N. Aditya is the president of Bhartiya Baudhda Mahasabha U.P. He has inspired many people in Uttar Pradesh to embrace Buddhism. He is the Chief Editor of Dhamma Sandesh Smarika and Prerena Purj.

¹ Interview with Shri Bhagwan Swarup Gautam on 12.09.96 at Shahjahanpur.
² Interview with Shri Bahram Shastri on 27.09.96 at Sonbhadra.
OTHER UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS:

Shri Satya Narain Baudh and Shri Raj Bahadur Gautam are staunch lay worshippers.

VARANASI

UPASAKAS AND UPASIKAS:

Shri Mahakashyap Jagannath Baudh and Shri Lalit Ram Baudh and Shri C.L. Upasaka are staunch Buddhists of Uttar Pradesh.¹

¹ Interview with Shri Mahakashyap Jagannath Baudh on 14.08.96 at Varanasi.