## <u>Press Release</u> "2 nd INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON DHARMA-DHAMMA"

## February 28 to March 2, 2014

The Centre for Study of Religion and Society in collaboration with the Sanchi University of Buddhist-Indic Studies, Madhya Pradesh is organising a three-day international conference from February 28 to March 2, 2014 at the Madhya Pradesh Council of Science and Technology. The Central theme of this conference will be "Nature, Source and Relevance of Dharma-Dhamma traditions" with the aim to undertake intra and inter-cultural study of the varied Buddhist traditions and their textual sources in the Vedic traditions.

This will be the 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Dharma-Dhamma after September 2012 when the first meeting was held in Bhopal with active participation of the Mahabodhi Society of Sri Lanka and the Department of Culture, Government of Madhya Pradesh. Over 400 delegates from 20 countries participated in this conference.

Ven. Geshe Ngawang Samten vice-chancellor Central Tibetan University (Sarnath); Ven. Banagala Upatitissa Nayaka Thero president Mahabodhi Society (Sri Lanka); Prof William Sweet prof of philosophy, St Francis Xavier University (Canada); Dr Anandita Balslev member, International Society for Science and Religion; Ven Ashin Nyannissara chancellor of Sitagu International Buddhist Academics (Yangon, Myanmar); Dr Lokesh Chandra director International Academy of Indian Culture (New Delhi), Dr David Frawley founder American Institute of Vedic Studies (New Mexico, USA); Rev Dr Sumana Siri Buddhist chief of Malaysia and Singapore, Swami Atmapriyananda vice-chancellor Ram Krishna Mission Vivekananda University (Belur Math, West Bengal) and prof Thich Nhat Tu deputy rector of Vietnam Buddhist University (Vietnam) are a few names among the galaxy of speakers who will address the convention.

Delegates and religious study experts from Sri Lanka, South Korea, Vietman, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Canada, Myanmar, Nepal, Australia, Norway and the USA have given their consent of participation.

The conference will be inaugurated at 10 am on March 1, 2014 by HRH Ashi Sonam Dechan Wangchuck, H E Governor Ram Naresh Yadav, The Royal Princess of Bhutan and chief minister of Madhya Pradesh Shivraj Singh Chouhan, will chair the inaugural session.