



Buddha Purnima

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Why in News

In 2020, **Buddha Purnima** is being celebrated on **7th May**.

Key Points

- The day falls on the **Poornima** (full moon) of the Hindu month **Vaishakha** (April or May).
- It marks the **birth anniversary of Gautam Buddha**, founder of **Buddhism**.

Gautam Buddha

- He was born as **Siddhartha Gautam** in circa **563 BCE**, in a royal family in **Lumbini** which is situated near the **Indo-Nepal border**.
- His family belonged to the **Sakya clan** which ruled from **Kapilvastu**, Lumbini.
- At the age of 29, Gautam left home and rejected his life of riches and **embraced a lifestyle of asceticism** or extreme self-discipline.
- After 49 consecutive days of meditation, Gautam attained Bodhi (**enlightenment**) under a pipal tree at **Bodhgaya, Bihar**.
- Buddha gave his **first sermon** in the village of **Sarnath**, near **Varanasi** in Uttar Pradesh. This event is known as Dharma Chakra Pravartana (**turning of the wheel of law**).
- He **died at the age of 80 in 483 BCE** at **Kushinagara**, Uttar Pradesh. The event is known as **Mahaparinibban or Mahaparinirvana**.
- He is believed to be the **eighth** of the ten incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar).

Source: PIB