



UN Vesak Day 2025

[Source: PIB](#)

[United Nations Vesak Day \(International Day of Vesak\)](#) was held in **May 2025** in **Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam**, with delegates from 85 countries, themed “**Solidarity and Tolerance for Human Dignity: Buddhist Wisdom for World Peace and Sustainable Development.**”

- In another development, India successfully intervened to **stop the auction** of [Piprahwa Buddhist relics](#) by **Sotheby's Hong Kong** auction house.

UN Vesak Day

- **Vesak Day**, is the **holiest day in Buddhism**, observed on the **full moon of May**, marks the **birth, enlightenment, and Mahaparinirvana** of [Lord Buddha](#), all of which **happened on the same day**.
- **Recognized by the UN since 1999**, Vesak has been **celebrated at the UN Headquarters and worldwide** with Buddhist organizations, with the **first official event being held in 2000 in New York**.
- It highlights the global significance of **Buddhist philosophy** in promoting peace, compassion, and ethical living.

Piprahwa Buddhist Relics

- **Excavated in 1898** at the **Piprahwa Stupa near Kapilavastu** (Siddharthnagar, UP), the relics were **originally deposited by the Sakya clan**, Buddha's kinsmen.
- They include **bone fragments, soapstone and crystal caskets**, a sandstone coffer, and **offerings** (gold and gemstones), which are confirmed to be linked to Buddha by a **key Brahmi inscription**.
- In **1899**, most relics were moved to the **Indian Museum, Kolkata**, and are protected under the **Antiques Act, 1972** and the **Treasure Trove Act, 1878**, prohibiting their sale or export.
 - Some relics were gifted to the **King of Siam (Thailand)** by the British.

GAUTAM BUDDHA

Believed to be 8th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

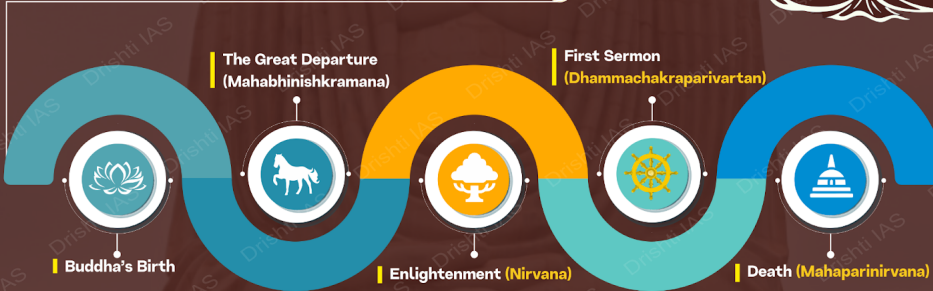
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshalan dynasty**



IMPORTANT EVENTS



Buddha referred to himself as **Tathagata** (one who has thus come/gone) and has been addressed as **Bhagavat** (in Buddhist texts)

CONTEMPORARIES

- Vardhaman Mahavira
- Bimbisara
- Ajatshatru

OTHER IMPORTANT PLACES ASSOCIATED WITH BUDDHA

- **Bodh Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- **Sarnath** (first sermon)
- **Vaishali** (last sermon)
- **Kushinagara** (death place (487 BC))

Read More: [Vesak Celebration](#), [Buddhism in India](#)