



# Mahabodhi Temple

[Source:TH](#)

Buddhist monks under the [All India Buddhist Forum \(AIBF\)](#) have launched protests at **Bodh Gaya's Mahabodhi Temple (Mahavihara)** demanding the repeal of the **Bodh Gaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949**.

## ▪ Provisions of the Act under Spotlight:

- The BTA created an **eight-member management committee** with **equal representation from Hindus and Buddhists**.
  - It appointed the **district magistrate as the ex-officio chairperson**.
- Since the district magistrate has traditionally belonged to the Hindu majority, this led to a **functional Hindu majority in the committee**.
  - Buddhist bodies have long **demanded full control over the Mahabodhi Temple**.

## ▪ Mahabodi Temple:

- [Emperor Ashoka](#) worshiped at the Bodhi tree and **built the Mahabodhi Temple in the 3rd century BCE**.
  - The temple remained a Buddhist site through the [Pala period](#) and was visited by [Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang](#) in 629 AD.
  - Following [Bakhtiyar Khilji's invasion](#) in the 13th century, Buddhism declined in the region.
- The present Temple dates to **5th-6th century CE (Late Gupta period)**; made entirely of brick.
  - **In 1590, a Hindu monk** established the **Bodh Gaya mutt**, bringing the temple under Hindu control.
  - After Independence, **the BTA (1949) transferred** control from the Hindu head to a **shared management committee**.
- **Architectural Features:** Shikhara, Vajrasana (Diamond Throne), Chaitya niches, amalaka, kalasha, Sculpted balustrades, Buddha images, votive stupas.
- **Seven Sacred Sites** include **Animeshlochan Chaitya, Ratnachakrama, Lotus Pond, Ajapala Nigrodh Tree, Ratnaghar Chaitya** etc., marking Buddha's 7 weeks after Enlightenment.



**Read More:** [Buddhism's Global Legacy](https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/mahabodhi-temple-2)

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