



Bodhgaya Temple

Why in News?

Several Buddhist monks are protesting at [Mahabodhi Mahavihara \(Bodhgaya Temple\)](#) in Bihar demanding repeal of **the Bodhgaya Temple Act (BTA), 1949**.

Key Points

▪ About the Issue:

- This protest is being carried out by various Buddhist groups led by **All India Buddhist Forum (AIBF)** .
- They are opposed to the provision of making Hindu followers members of **the Bodhgaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC)** under this Act .
- Buddhist monks say that the management of the temple should be completely in the hands of the Buddhist community.

▪ Bodh Gaya Temple Management Committee (BTMC):

- BTMC was established in 1953 under the Bodhgaya Temple Act, 1949 to manage the Mahabodhi Temple at Bodh Gaya in Bihar.
- This committee has four members from the Buddhist community and four from the Hindu community.
- As per the Act, **the District Magistrate (DM) of Gaya is the ex-officio Chairman of the Committee** .

▪ Bodhgaya Temple

- The Mahabodhi Temple located in Bodh Gaya is a sacred place of Buddhism.
- It deals with the life of [Lord Buddha](#) and especially his attainment of enlightenment.
- The Mahabodhi Temple was built by [Emperor Ashoka](#) in 260 BC after he adopted Buddhism.
 - It is one of the earliest Buddhist temples built entirely of bricks.
- It was included in **the [UNESCO World Heritage List](#) in the year 2002**.
- Chinese pilgrim [Hiuen Tsang](#) has given a detailed description of this temple.
- The present temple structure was built by **the Gupta rulers** in the 5th or 6th century AD.