

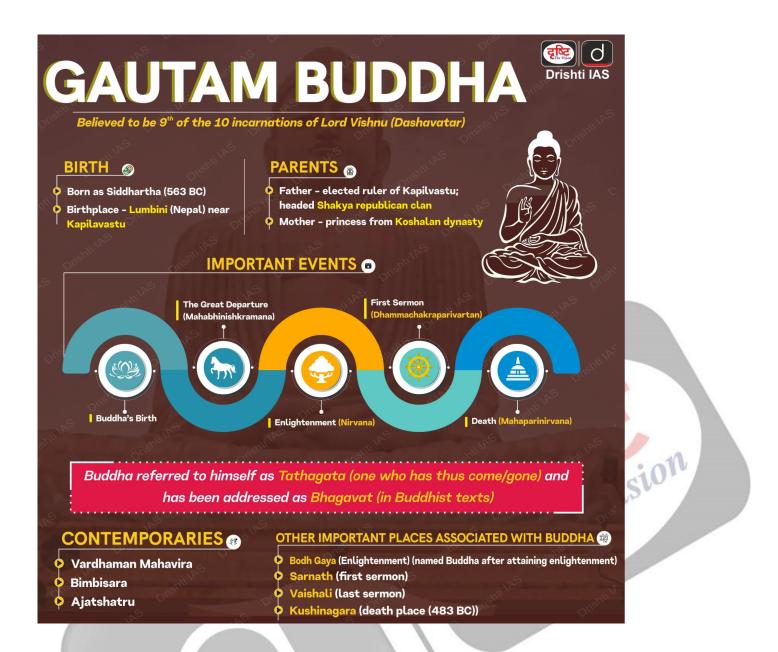
Bhutan Prime Minister Visit to Bodh Gaya | Bihar | 06 Sep 2025

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of Bhutan visited the **Mahabodhi temple in Bodh Gaya**, offered prayers before Lord Buddha's statue, and meditated under the **sacred Bodhi tree**.

Mahabodhi Temple

- About: The Mahabodhi temple marks the site where <u>Gautam Buddha</u> attained <u>enlightenment</u> under the Bodhi Tree.
 - The original shrine was built by <u>Emperor Ashoka</u> in the 3rd century BCE, while the present structure dates back to the 5th-6th centuries CE.
 - Architectural Features: The complex comprises the 50 m high main temple (Vajrasana), the sacred Bodhi Tree, and six other associated sacred sites of Buddha's enlightenment, surrounded by ancient votive stupas.
 - It is among the earliest surviving brick temples of the Gupta period, with the Vajrasana (Diamond Throne) installed by Ashoka to mark Buddha's meditation spot.
- Sacred Sites: Key sites include the Bodhi Tree (a direct descendant of the original tree), the Animesh Lochan Chaitya (where Buddha meditated after enlightenment), and other related spots.
- Recognition: The Mahabodhi Temple was inscribed as a <u>UNESCO World Heritage Site</u> in 2002.



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