



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 [Gautam Buddha](#) attained [enlightenment](#) under the Bodhi Tree.
 - The original shrine was built by [Emperor Ashoka](#) 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 [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in **2002**.

GAUTAM BUDDHA

Believed to be 9th of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)

BIRTH

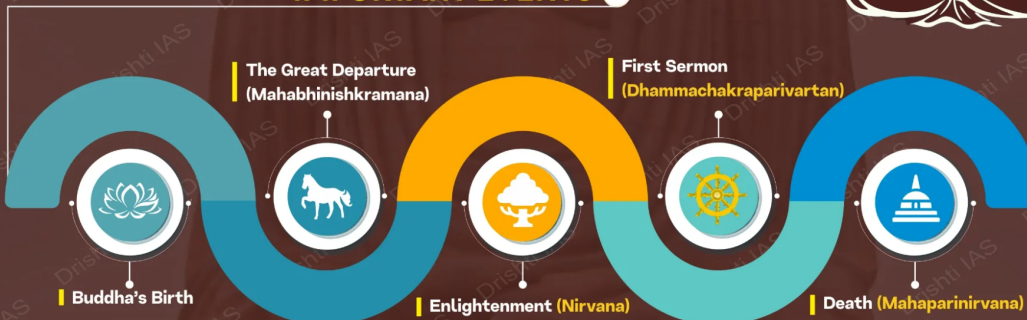
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

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 (483 BC))