



Mahabodhi Temple

[Source: TOI](#)

The **Supreme Court** declined to entertain a **petition under Article 32** challenging the **Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949**, which sought **exclusive control of the Mahabodhi Temple** by the **Buddhist community**.

- The **Bodh Gaya Temple Act, 1949** was enacted to ensure the **better management** of the **Mahabodhi Temple**, one of **Buddhism's holiest sites**.

Mahabodhi Temple

- **About:** It marks the site where [Gautam Buddha](#) attained enlightenment under the **Mahabodhi Tree**. The original temple was built by [Emperor Ashoka](#) in the **3rd century BC**, while the **present structure dates to the 5th-6th centuries**.
- **Architectural Features:** It includes the **50 m high grand temple (Vajrasana)**, the **sacred Bodhi Tree**, and **six other sacred sites of Buddha's enlightenment**, surrounded by ancient **Votive stupas**.
 - It is among the **earliest brick temples from the Gupta period**, and the **Vajrasana (Diamond Throne)** was originally installed by **Emperor Ashoka** to mark Buddha's meditation spot.
- **Sacred Sites: Bodhi Tree** (direct descendant of the tree under which Buddha attained enlightenment), **Animesh Lochan Chaitya** (Site of Buddha's meditation after attaining enlightenment), etc.
- **Recognition:** It has been a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) since 2002.

GAUTAM BUDDHA



Drishti IAS

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

BIRTH

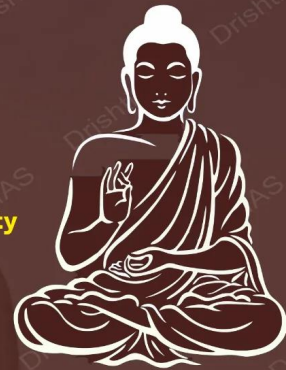


- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini** (Nepal) near **Kapilavastu**

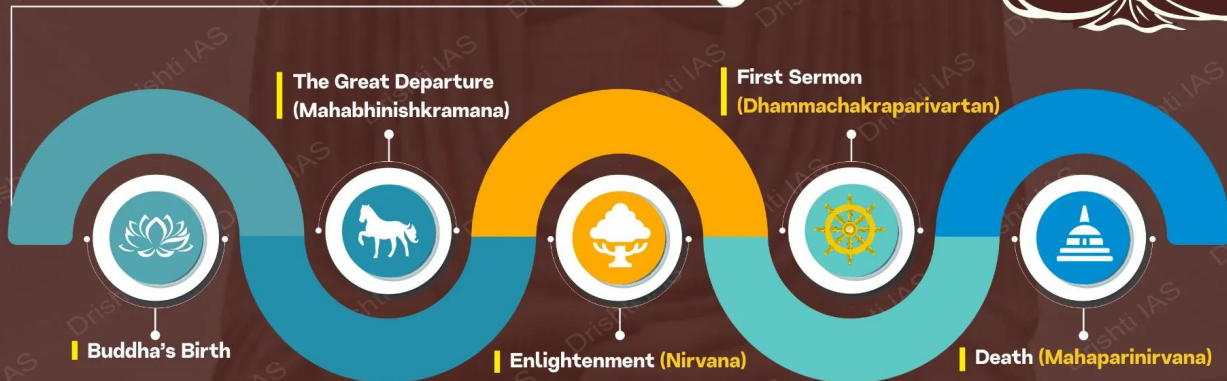
PARENTS



- 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))

Read More: [Corridor Projects for Vishnupad and Mahabodhi Temples](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/mahabodhi-temple-3>