



Sacred Buddha Relics of Sarnath

Why in News?

[Sacred Buddha relics](#) from Sarnath in Uttar Pradesh will be displayed during the [United Nations Day of Vesak \(UNDV\) celebrations](#) in Vietnam in May 2025 .

Key Points

- **About Buddha Relics:**
 - These relics are enshrined in **the Moolgandha Kuti Viharaya Monastery located in Sarnath, Uttar Pradesh.**
 - It is run by **the Mahabodhi Society, which** was founded by **Anagarika Dharmapala.**
 - The remains were excavated by **H. Longhurst** at [Nagarjunakonda \(Andhra Pradesh\)](#) during **1927-1931 .**
 - These relics were handed over to the Mahabodhi Society on 27 December 1932 by **Rai Bahadur Dayaram Sahni** on behalf of **the Viceroy of India.**
 - The event is being organised in collaboration with **the Ministry of Culture, Government of India** and **the [International Buddhist Confederation \(IBC\)](#) .**
- **United Nations Day of Vesak (UNDV):**
 - **Vesak Day** is the holiest day in Buddhism, celebrated to commemorate **the birth, enlightenment** and **Mahaparinirvana of [Lord Buddha.](#)**
 - **The United Nations General Assembly** passed a resolution on **December 15, 1999** recognizing it as **an international day .**
 - The first official event was held in **2000 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York .**
 - The theme of UN Vesak Day 2025 is **“Buddhist Approach to Unity and Inclusion for Human Dignity: Buddhist Insights for World Peace and Sustainable Development”.**

International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)

- It is the **largest religious Buddhist organization.**
- The aim of the association is to **build the role of Buddhism on the global stage**, to help preserve Buddhism's heritage, share knowledge and promote its values, and to represent Buddhism **through** meaningful participation in global dialogue.
- In **November 2011 the 'Global Buddhist Congregation' (GBC) was hosted in New Delhi**, where the attendees unanimously adopted a resolution to form an international umbrella body—the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC).
- **Headquarters: Delhi (India).**

GAUTAM BUDDHA

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

BIRTH

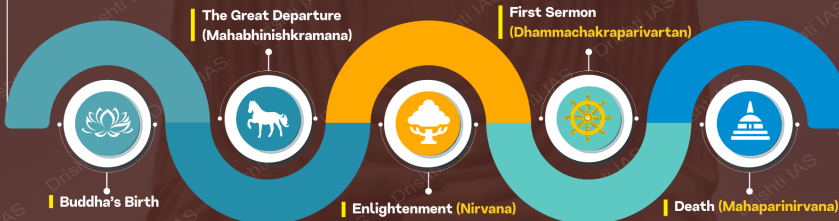
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - Lumbini (Nepal) near Kapilavastu

PARENTS

- Father - elected ruler of Kapilvastu; headed **Shakya republican clan**
- Mother - princess from **Koshala 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

- Bodhi Gaya** (Enlightenment) (named Buddha after attaining enlightenment)
- Sarnath** (first sermon)
- Vaishali** (last sermon)
- Kushinagara** (death place (483 BC))