



## Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace

**For Prelims:** 12th General Assembly of Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace, Headquarters of ABCP, India International Centre for Buddhist Culture, Four Noble Truths, Eightfold Path of Buddha, [Gautam Buddha](#).

**For Mains:** Convergence of Principles of Good-Governance and Buddhist Teachings, Teachings of Buddha in Navigating Present-Day Challenges

[Source: PIB](#)

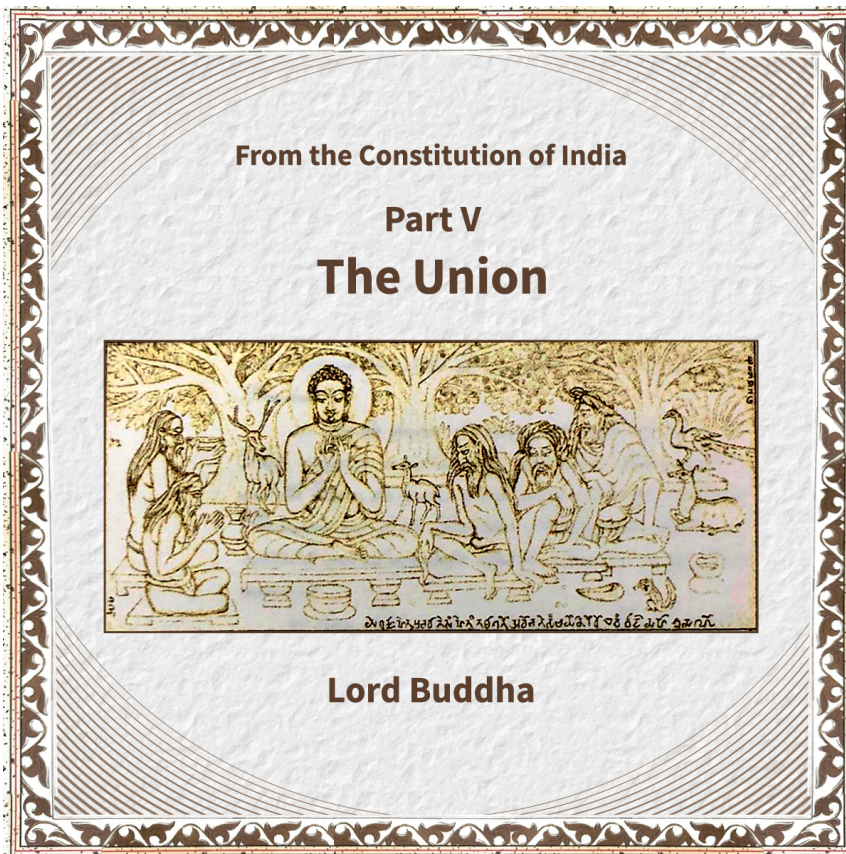
### Why in News?

Recently, the **Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace (ABCP)**, a voluntary mass movement of [Buddhists](#) in Asia convened its **12<sup>th</sup> General Assembly** in New Delhi.

### What are the Major Highlights of the 12th General Assembly of ABCP?

- **Theme: ABCP - The Buddhist Voice of Global South**, reflects India's commitment, as demonstrated through its [G20 presidency](#) and the [Voice of Global South Summit](#).
- **India's Commitment to Buddha's Legacy:** India was featured as a nation guided by the principles of Buddha.
  - Proactive role of India was highlighted in developing the Buddhist circuit and establishing the [India International Centre for Buddhist Culture](#).
- **Constitutional Recognition of Buddha's Influence:** Emphasis was placed on the depiction of Lord Buddha in the artwork of the Indian Constitution, specifically in **Part V**, where he is featured in the section on [Union governance](#).

//



### What is the Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace?

- **About:** ABCP was founded in **1970 at Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia** as a voluntary movement of followers of Buddhism with both monastic (monks) and lay members.
  - ABCP then emerged as a collaborative effort of Buddhist dignitaries from **India**, Mongolia, Japan, Malaysia, Nepal, the then USSR, Vietnam, Sri Lanka, South and North Korea.
- **Headquarters: Gandanthegechenling Monastery** in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.
  - The Supreme Head of Mongolian Buddhists is the current ABCP President.
- **Aims of ABCP:**
  - Bring together efforts of Buddhists in support of consolidating universal peace, harmony and cooperation among peoples of Asia.
  - Furthering their economic and social advancement and promoting respect for justice and human dignity.
  - Disseminating the **Buddhist culture**, tradition and heritage.


### How Buddhist Teachings Convergence with Principles of Good-Governance?

- **Right View in Policymaking:** The Buddha's emphasis on **Right View**, avoiding distortion and delusion, aligns with good governance principles of **transparency, objectivity, and evidence-based decision-making**.
  - For example, [Bhutan's Gross National Happiness index](#), inspired by Buddhist values, aims to measure public well-being beyond just economic indicators.
- **Right Conduct in Leadership:** The Buddha's Five Precepts - non-violence, non-stealing, **non-lying, non-sexual misconduct, and non-intoxication** - can be interpreted as ethical guidelines for public officials.
- **Compassionate Governance:** The Buddha's core teaching of compassion encourages leaders to consider the needs and **suffering of all citizens, not just certain groups**.
  - For example, initiatives like **universal healthcare or fair taxation policies** reflect an attempt to govern with compassion in mind.
- **Dialogue and Nonviolent Conflict Resolution:** The Buddha's emphasis on Right Speech and Right Action promotes respectful communication and nonviolent solutions to conflict.

- This can be applied in **international diplomacy, interfaith dialogue**, and even within internal political debates.

## How Teachings of Buddha Can Help in Navigating Present-Day Challenges?

- **Compass for Ethical Uncertainty:** In an age marked by ethical uncertainty, Buddha's teachings provide a path of **sustainability, simplicity, moderation, and reverence for all life**.
  - The **Four Noble Truths and Eightfold Path** serve as a transformative roadmap, guiding individuals and nations towards **inner peace, compassion, and non-violence**.
- **Mindfulness in a Distracted World:** In an age of constant **digital bombardment**, the Buddha's emphasis on mindfulness is more poignant than ever.
  - Practices like **meditation help us navigate information overload, reduce stress**, and cultivate focused attention in a scattered world.
- **Compassion in a Polarised Society:** With rising social and political tensions, the Buddha's teachings on **compassion and understanding offer a critical antidote**.
  - His emphasis on recognizing the interconnectedness of all beings encourages empathetic communication and constructive conflict resolution.
- **The Middle Way in an All-or-Nothing Culture:** The Buddha's concept of the Middle Way, **avoiding extremes of indulgence and denial**, resonates in our consumerist society.
  - It encourages **mindful consumption, finding balance between personal desires and responsible living**.



# GAUTAM BUDDHA


*Believed to be 8<sup>th</sup> of the 10 incarnations of Lord Vishnu (Dashavatar)*

### BIRTH

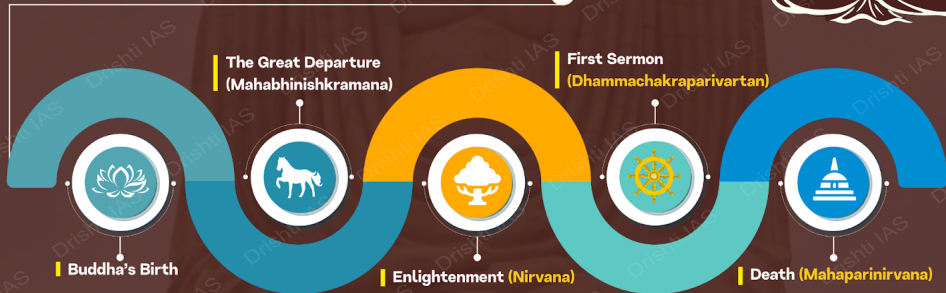
- Born as Siddhartha (563 BC)
- Birthplace - **Lumbini (Nepal)** near **Kapilavastu**

### PARENTS

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



### IMPORTANT EVENTS



| Buddha's Birth
| Enlightenment (Nirvana)
| Death (Mahaparinirvana)

*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 (487 BC))

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Prelims**

**Q. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2020)**

1. Sthaviravadins belong to Mahayana Buddhism.
2. Lokottaravadin sect was an offshoot of Mahasanghika sect of Buddhism.
3. The deification of Buddha by Mahasanghikas fostered Mahayana Buddhism.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

**Q. With reference to the religious history of India, consider the following statements: (2016)**

1. The concept of Bodhisattva is central to the Hinayana sect of Buddhism.
2. Bodhisattva is a compassionate one on his way to Enlightenment.
3. Bodhisattva delays achieving his own salvation to help all sentient beings on their path to it.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Ans: (b)**

---

### **Mains**

**Q. Pala period is the most significant phase in the history of Buddhism in India. Enumerate. (2020)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/asian-buddhist-conference-for-peace>