



1st Asian Buddhist Summit

Source: [PIB](#)

Why in News?

Recently, the first [Asian Buddhist Summit \(ABS\)](#) was organised by India's **Ministry of Culture** and the [International Buddhist Confederation \(IBC\)](#) in New Delhi, India.

What are the Key Highlights of the 1st ABS?

- **About:** It's a significant **international gathering** aimed at fostering dialogue, promoting understanding, and addressing contemporary challenges in the Buddhist community across Asia.
- **Theme:** “**Role of Buddha Dhamma in Strengthening Asia**” which emphasises Asia's collective, inclusive, and spiritual development.
- **Key Themes of the Summit:**
 - **Buddhist Art, Architecture, and Heritage:** Highlights the rich cultural legacy of Buddhist landmarks like [Sanchi Stupa](#) and [Ajanta caves](#).
 - **Buddha Cārikā and Dissemination of Buddha Dhamma:** Focuses on **Buddha's travels (Buddha Cārikā)** and his role in spreading teachings across India.
 - **Role of Buddhist Relics and its Relevance in Society:** Buddha relics inspire **devotion and mindfulness**, support local economies through [pilgrimage tourism](#), and promote peace and compassion.
 - **Role of Buddhist Literature and Philosophy in the 21st Century:** Demonstrates Buddhism's enduring relevance in modern **philosophical discourse**.
 - **Buddha Dhamma in Scientific Research and Well-being:** Integrates [Buddhist principles](#) with scientific research to enhance **mental and physical health**.
- **Exhibition:** A special exhibition titled “**India as the Dhamma Setu (Bridge) connecting Asia**” highlighted India's role in spreading Buddhism across Asia.
- **Significance for India:** The summit supports **India's Act East Policy** and [Neighborhood First Policy](#), focusing on collective, inclusive, and spiritual development in Asia.

Note:

- **Buddha Bhoomi Vandan Yatra** was organised by the [Indian Council of Cultural Relations \(ICCR\)](#) in 2022 that facilitated Buddhist scholars from countries like **Japan, South Korea, and Sri Lanka** to explore India's Buddhist sites and learn about its Buddhist heritage.
- The IBC is a **Buddhist umbrella body** based in **New Delhi** that serves as a **common platform for Buddhists worldwide**.

What are India's Recent Initiatives to Support Buddhism?

- [Buddhist Tourism Circuit in India](#)
- [First Global Buddhist Summit](#)
- [Asian Buddhist Conference for Peace](#)

- [Classical Status to Pali Language](#)
- [International Abhidhamma Diwas](#)

BUDDHISM

Drishti IAS

ORIGIN

- **6th century BC**, based on the teachings of Gautam Buddha

MAIN FEATURES

- **Essence** - Attainment of enlightenment (Nibbana)
- **Supreme Deity** - None

PRINCIPLES

- Avoid the extremes; follow Madhyam Marg (middle path)
- Individualistic component (everyone is responsible for their own happiness)
- **4 Noble Truths:**
 - Dukkha (suffering)
 - Samudya (cause of suffering)
 - Nirodha (suffering could be ended)
 - Atthanga Magga (8-fold path to achieve this)
- **8-Fold Path:**
 - Right - view, intention, speech, action, livelihood, mindfulness, effort and concentration

BUDDHISM REJECTS

- Authenticity of Vedas
- Concept of soul (atman) (unlike Jainism)

MAJOR BUDDHIST TEXTS

- **Sutta Pitaka** (main teachings of Buddha - Dhamma)
- **Vinaya Pitaka** (rules of conduct for monks/nuns)
- **Abhidhamma Pitaka** (philosophical analysis)
- Other imp texts - **Divyavadana, Dipavamsa, Mahavamsa, Milind Panha**

Budhha's teachings were rehearsed, authenticated & divided in 3 Pitakas at the 1st Buddhist Council

These teachings were written down c. 25 BC in Pali

4 BUDDHIST COUNCILS

Buddhist Council	Patron	Venue	Chairman	Year
First	Ajatashatru	Rajgriha	Mahakashyapa	483 BC
Second	Kalashoka	Vaishali	Sabbakami	383 BC
Third	Ashoka	Patliputra	Mogaliputra	250 BC
Fourth	Kanishka	Kundalban (Kashmir)	Vasumitra	72 AD

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Questions (PYQs)

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.Consider the following: (2019)

1. Deification of the Buddha
2. Treading the path of Bodhisattvas
3. Image worship and rituals

Which of the above is/are the feature/features of Mahayana Buddhism?

(a) 1 only

(b) 1 and 2 only

(c) 2 and 3 only

(d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (d)

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)