
Buddhism Free PDF By Governmentadda.com

Buddhism in Ancient History of India

Life of Gautama Buddha:

- The founder of Buddhism was **Gautam Buddha**, was born as **Siddhartha**.
- Siddhartha was **born in 566 BC at Lumbini** (now falls in territory of Nepal) in the **Sakya clan of Kshatriya**. That is why Buddha is also known as **Sakyamuni**.
- He died at 80 years of age in 486 BC at **Kushinagar** (near Gorakhpur in Uttar Pradesh).
- The mother of Siddhartha was 'Mahamaya' who died after giving birth to him. Thereafter, he was brought up by 'Prajapati Gautami' his maternal aunt. Therefore, he was also called Gautam.
- The name of his father was **Siddhodhana**. He was the only son of his father.
- Siddhartha was married to **Yashodhara**. He also had a son named Rahul. But neither his wife nor his son were able to tie him to the worldly life.
- He then left his home and became an ascetic at the age of 29 in search of truth and end of sorrows. This event in Buddha's life is known as "**Mahabhishekramana**".
- Buddha's teachers were – Alara and Udraka.
- After seven years of roaming around, at the age of 35, Siddhartha got enlightenment at Uruvela while meditating on the bank of river Niranjana under a Peepal(Banyan) tree. This tree is called the Bodhi Tree. The place is known as Bodhi Gaya.
- Buddha attained the knowledge on the Purnima of Vaishakha month.
- He then gave his first sermon at Sarnath(Varanasi). This historic event in Buddha's life is known as "**Dhammachakra Parivartan**".
- As mentioned above, Buddha passed away in 486 BC under a Sal tree in Kushinagar (Kushinagar was under Licchavi Kingdom).
- Various notable rulers of his time were Buddha's disciples such as **Prasenjit, Bimbisara, and Ajatashatru**.
- Some famous Bhikkhus of Buddhism were Sariputra, Ananda, Mahakassapa, Anuradha, Upali, and Rahul.
- Vardhaman Mahavir(Jainism) was a contemporary of Gautam Buddha(Buddhism).
- The events in Buddha's life are depicted by various symbols in Buddhism:

Event in Life of Buddha

Buddha's Birth

The Great Departure (Mahabhishekramana)

Enlightenment (Nirvana)

First Sermon (Dhammachakraparivartan)

Death (Parinirvana)

Symbolised by:

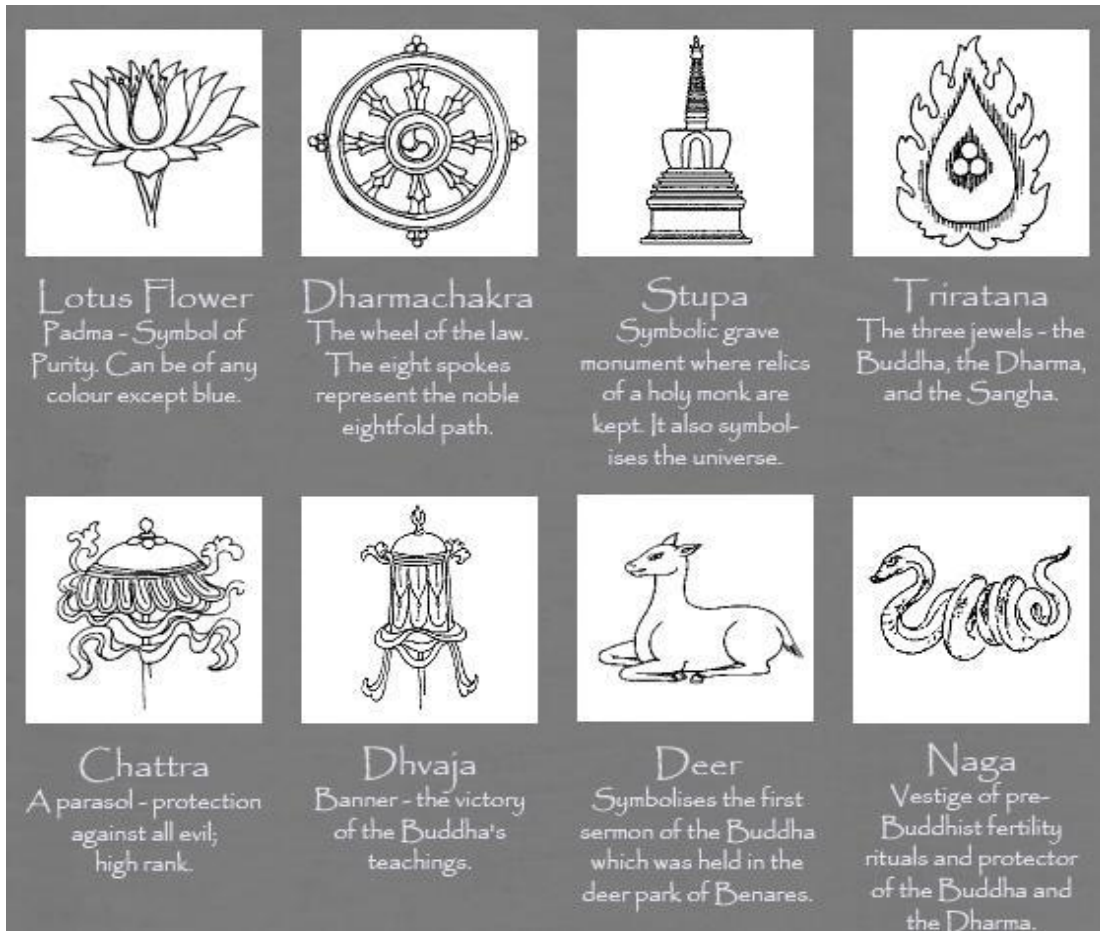
Lotus & Bull

Horse

Bodhi Tree

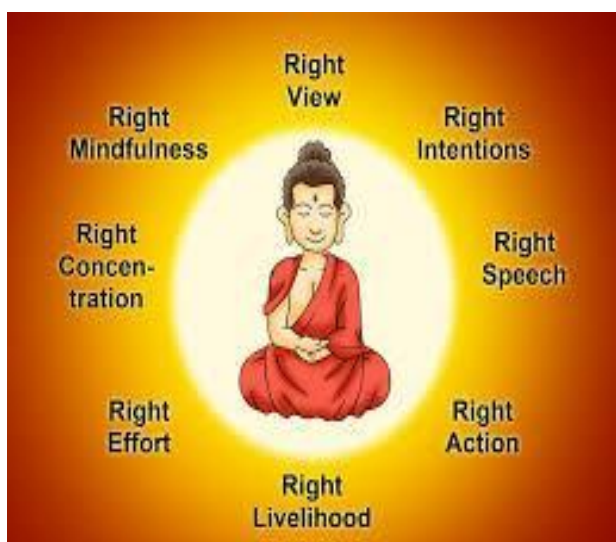
Wheel

Stupa



Buddhist Philosophy:

- The Buddhist philosophy is based on Madhyama marga or the middle path.
- According to madhyam marga philosophy, both the extremes of the world- indulgence and strict abstinence both are avoided and a middle path between them is followed.
- The main teachings of Buddha are summarised in **four noble truths**(Arya satya) of Buddhism:
 - The world is full of sorrow(Dukkha)
 - Desire is the cause of sorrow(Dukha samudya)
 - If desire is conquered all sorrow is won over(Dukha nirodha)
 - Desire can be conquered by following eight fold paths (Ashtangirka Marg)
- To conquer the desire, Eight Fold Path has to be followed:
 - **Samyak Drist:** Right Understanding
 - **Samyak Sankalpa:** Right Resolve
 - **Samyak Vani:** Right Speech
 - **Samyak Karma:** Right Action
 - **Samyak Ajiv:** Right Living
 - **Samyak Vyayam:** Right Efforts
 - **Samyak Smriti:** Right Mindfulness/thought
 - **Samyak Samadhi:** Right Self-Concentration



- There are three base Pillars known as Tri-ratnas in Buddhism: **Buddha, Dhamma, Sangha.**
- **Buddha** means the highest spiritual potential in every human being.
- **Dhamma** refers to the teachings of Buddha.
- **Sangha** is the organization of the monks practicing Buddhism.

[box type="shadow" align="aligncenter"]China adopted Buddhism in 1st century AD[/box]

Buddhist Works:

- One of the reasons of spread of Buddhism across the subcontinent was its use of Pali. Pali was the language of common people, unlike Sanskrit which had become restricted to the elite Brahmins.
- The literary sources of Buddhism are the three "Tripitaka" written in Pali – Sutta Pitak, Vinaya Pitak, and Abhidhamma Pitak.
- **Dhammapad** is known as the Gita of Buddhism. It is basically canonical text of Buddhism.
- **Aswaghosa**, the Buddhist monk was the writer of **Buddhacharita**.
- **Milinda Panho** is a Buddhist Treatise about a dialogue between the Indo-Greek king **Menander** and Buddhist monk **Nagasena**.
- Sunyavada or the theory of void is propagated by a South Indian Buddhism Philosopher, Nagarjuna. He wrote *Mulamadhyamakarikā*, where he wrote that sunyata is the nature of all things.

Buddhist Councils:

There were four councils/Sangeethis of Buddhism organised under different regimes:

I. First Council-

- It was held under the patronage of **Ajatshatru** (Haryanka Dynasty) in 486 BC.
- Monk Mahakassapa Upali presided over the first council.
- It was held at Sattapani caves in **RajGriha** just after the death of Buddha.
- Compilation of Vinaya Pitaka and Sutta Pitaka was accomplished here.

II. Second Council-

- In 383 BC. under the patronage of **Kalashoka** (Shishunaga Dynasty).
- It was held at **Vaishali** after one century of Buddha's death (parinirvana).
- The second council was presided over by Sarvakamini.
- First division in Sangha took place. Theravedin and Mahasanghika split up here.

III. Third Council-

- In 250 BC under the patronage of King **Ashoka**.
- It was held at **Pataliputra**
- It was presided by Mogaliputta Tissa.
- Compilation of **AbhidhamPitaka** was done.

IV. Fourth Council-

- In the 1st century AD, under patronage of King **Kanishka** (Kushan dynasty).
- It was held in Kundalvana of **Kashmir**.
- Under the presidency of Vasumitra along with Asvaghosha.
- Buddhism was divided into two sects namely, Hinayana and Mahayana.