

6. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026 – History

1. Background

Context of the Event

In 2026, Hyderabad hosted the inaugural World Buddhist Peace Conference. This landmark event serves as a platform for international "Buddhist heritage diplomacy," positioning the state of Telangana as a global hub for peace-building and ethical leadership.

Key Definitions

Buddha Dhamma – The teachings and doctrines of the Buddha.

Samsara – The beginningless cycle of birth, death, and rebirth.

Nirvana (Nibbāna) – The ultimate spiritual goal in Buddhism; a state of liberation from suffering and the cycle of rebirth.

Parinirvana – The final passing away of the Buddha, marking his total liberation.

2. World Buddhist Peace Conference 2026

Organizers – A collaborative effort between Buddhavanam, the Telangana Tourism Development Corporation, and the Vietnam Buddhist Sangha.

Participation – Attended by ministers, monks, scholars, and delegates representing over 20 countries.

Primary Objectives –

- To advance global dialogue on reconciliation and ethical leadership.
- To showcase Buddhavanam as a premier Buddhist Heritage Theme Park.
- To invite international Buddhist nations to establish monasteries and educational centers within the park to boost global pilgrimage.

3. Buddhavanam – India's First Buddhist Theme Park

Located in Telangana, Buddhavanam is a unique project developed to preserve and promote Buddhist art and philosophy.

Location – Situated on the scenic banks of the Krishna River.

Features – The park utilizes thematic installations, meditation zones, sculptures, and art to narrate the life and teachings of Siddhartha Gautama.

Development – Spearheaded by the Telangana State Tourism Development Corporation to attract both tourists and spiritual seekers.

4. Core Philosophy and Teachings of Buddhism

Buddhism is a spiritual tradition based on the teachings of Siddhartha Gautama (c. 563–483 BCE). Its primary focus is understanding and overcoming human suffering.

The Four Noble Truths

Dukkha – The truth of suffering; existence is fundamentally unsatisfactory.

Samudaya – The origin of suffering is craving and attachment (*tanhā*).

Nirodha – The cessation of suffering is possible by eliminating craving.

Magga – The path to end suffering is the Noble Eightfold Path (Wisdom, Ethical Conduct, and Mental Discipline).

The Three Marks of Existence

Anicca (Impermanence) – Everything in the universe is in a constant state of flux.

Dukkha (Suffering) – Dissatisfaction is inherent in life.

Anattā (Non-self) – There is no permanent, unchanging soul or self.

5. The Buddhist Circuit and Holy Sites

In 2016, the Ministry of Tourism launched the Buddhist Circuit as India's first transnational tourism initiative, connecting major sites across India, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The Four Holiest Sites (Chaturmahāsthāna)

Site	Location	Significance
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Lumbini	Nepal	The birthplace of Siddhartha Gautama.
Bodh Gaya	Bihar, India	Where he attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.
Sarnath	Uttar Pradesh, India	Site of his first sermon (<i>Dhammachakra Pravartana</i>).
Kushinagar	Uttar Pradesh, India	Where he attained <i>Mahaparinirvana</i> (death).

Additional Sites – The circuit also includes Vaishali, Rajgir, Shravasti, and Kapilavastu, allowing pilgrims to trace the historical footsteps of the Buddha.

6. International Buddhist Confederation (IBC)

The IBC is the overarching global body representing the Buddhist community on the world stage.

Founding – Established in 2012 following the Global Buddhist Congregation in New Delhi.

Scope – It is the first organization of its kind, uniting monastic orders and lay institutions across 39 countries and over 320 member bodies.

Headquarters – New Delhi, India.

Mission – To foster harmony and embed Buddhist values into global conversations.

Governing Principle – A unique structure that includes both monks and laypeople, reflecting collective responsibility in propagating the Buddha Dhamma.

Source – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/Hyderabad/hyderabad-hosts-global-buddhist-peace-conference-calls-for-inner-transformation-and-dialogue/article70792612.ece>

