

# Buddha Purnima

May 26, 2021

**In news-** Buddha Purnima, **celebration of the birth of Gautama Buddha** was observed.

## **About Buddha Purnima-**

- The day is also known as **Vaisakhi Buddha Purnima or Vesak**.
- As per the Hindu calendar, Buddha Jayanti falls on a **full moon day in the month of Vaisakh** (which usually falls in **April or May**).
- As it is actually **based on the Asian lunisolar calendar**, the dates change every year.
- Buddha Jayanti, 2021 marked the Lord Buddha's **2583rd birth anniversary**.
- This day is commemorated by Buddhists and Hindus all over the world, and is a major festival in countries like India, Nepal, Bhutan, Burma, Thailand, Tibet, China, Korea, Laos, Vietnam, Mongolia, Cambodia, Singapore, Indonesia and Sri Lanka (where it is called Vesak).
- The **full moon in May is a more auspicious day** for Buddhists because three major events in the life of the Buddha took place on this day.
- It was on the Day of Vesak, in the year **623 B.C**, the Buddha-to-be, Prince Siddhattha was **born at Lumbini Grove** (modern day Nepal).
- Secondly, after six years of hardship, he **attained enlightenment** under the shade of the **Bodhi tree and became Gotama Buddha at BodhGaya** also on the full moon day of May.
- Thirdly, after 45 years of teaching the Truth, when he was eighty, **at Kusinagara, he passed away** to nibbana, the cessation of all desire, on the full moon day of May.

- The UN General Assembly, by its **resolution 54/115 of 1999** recognized internationally the Day of Vesak to acknowledge the contribution of Buddhism to humanity.
- Though in Hinduism, Buddha is considered as the ninth avatar of Lord Vishnu, Buddhists do not consider so.