

## Global Buddhist Summit 2023

### Why in news?

The recently concluded global Buddhist summit could leverage India's soft power to connect the Buddhist population around the world.

### What are the significance of the summit?

- **Shakyamuni Buddha** - The prime vision of the Summit is to look into the teachings of the Shakyamuni Buddha.
- **Buddhist diplomacy efforts** - The summit could be a good push to the foreign soft power diplomacy.
- **Buddhist culture and heritage** - The Indian government hopes to demonstrate its commitment to preserving and promoting Buddhist culture and heritage by conducting such event.
- **Four themes** - The discussion during the summit revolves around
  - Buddha Dhamma and Peace,
  - Buddha Dhamma: Environmental Crisis, Health and Sustainability,
  - Preservation of Nalanda Buddhist Tradition,
  - Buddha Dhamma Pilgrimage, Living heritage and Buddha Relics.
- **173 international participants** - Comprising 84 Sangha member and 151 Indian delegates comprising 46 Sangha members, 40 nuns and 65 laity from outside Delhi.
- **Resolve Buddhist issues** - India is well-positioned to play a leading role in shaping the discourse around Buddhist issues on the global stage.
- **Foreign policy** - The Panchamrit principles includes Sanskriti Evam Sabhyata which means cultural and civilizational links, which were heightened in the summit.

### What are the recent efforts taken?

- **Buddhist tourist circuit** - Promotes [Buddhism](#) via tourism.
- The circuit includes places such as Kapilvastu, Kaushambi, Sarnath, Sankisa, Sravasti, and Kushinagar.
- **Buddhist culture and heritage** - Global Buddhist summit promotes the Buddhist culture and heritage in India.
- **Shared Buddhist Heritage** - An international conference of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) with focus on India's civilizational connect with the SCO nations.
- **Press Information Bureau** - Released a digital compilation of 20 speeches made by Modi that were important in understanding the rich connection between Prime Minister and Lord Buddha.

*The Buddhist summit's theme is Responses to Contemporary Challenges:*

### **What is the way forward?**

- The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) could play a significant role in promoting such summit.
- Like china, India must use Buddhist diplomacy to engage with its neighboring countries effectively.
- India must use the Bollywood to promote the Buddhist heritage.
- India's G-20 presidency this year could be used to promote Buddhist diplomacy on a bigger scale.

### **Quick facts**

#### **The Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR)**

- ICCR was founded in **1950** by Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, independent India's first Education Minister.
- ICCR objectives is to actively participate in the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes pertaining to India's external cultural relations.
- ICCR foster and **strengthen cultural relations** and mutual understanding between India and other countries.
- ICCR promotes cultural exchanges with other countries and people, and to develop relations with nations.

### **References**

1. [The Hindu | Global Buddhist Summit](#)
2. [PIB | Significance of the Global Buddhist Summit](#)