

'apsidal' architecture was buddhist in its origin. It was prevalent in Ajivikas, Jains & Hindus.

Sanchi – The oldest extant Buddhist sanctuary

The Great Stupa that is located at Sanchi Town in MP – It is the oldest STONE structure in India – commissioned by Ashoka.

After Ashoka came the Sunga, Satavahanas & Kushanas to contribute to the growing heritage. The Gupta kings built along some temples – Sanchi has both Hindu and Buddhist faith.

Interestingly, Sanchi had lain abandoned for ~600 years before it was discovered.

Why is Kushinagar a famous Buddhist place

Kushinagar has a gilded statue of Buddha. That signifies his Parinirvana. It is the completion of nirvana, usually understood to be within reach only upon the death of the body of someone who has attained complete awakening (bodhi).

Kushinagar also finds a mention in epic Ramayan as the city of Kusha the son of Ram, the famous king of Ayodhya.

The parinirvana of the Buddha is described in the Mahaparinibbana Sutta.

Four things you should know about the Mahabodhi Temple

The Mahabodhi Temple (Literally: "Great Awakening Temple"), a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is a Buddhist temple in Bodh Gaya, marking the location where Siddhartha Gautama, the Buddha, is said to have attained enlightenment.

4 things to know about the Mahabodhi Temple



1. This temple was built in mid 5th century AD at the site where **Buddha gained enlightenment**. It is the **OLDEST** standing **GRAND** structure in India.
2. The **Chinese pilgrim Fa-hien** recorded that the site contained several statues and monuments. (Just in case they ask which Chinese band had visited the place?)
3. In 2002, UNESCO declared the Mahabodhi Temple a **World Heritage Site**.
4. This is one of the 4 holiest places for Buddhists.

What are the other 3?

Lumbini : Nepal
Sarnath : Uttar Pradesh, India
Kushinagar : Uttar Pradesh, India

Sanchi : The oldest extant Buddhist sanctuary

The Journey

- Oldest **STONE** structure in India & was **commissioned by King Ashoka**.
- After Ashokan times, more structure was added by **Sunga & Andhra - Satavahanas**.
- From the 2nd to 4th century AD, Sanchi & Vidisha came under the **Kushanas & Kshatrapas**.
- And then finally to **the Guptas**.

PS - Although, it is said that Buddha never visited this site during any of his former life or earthly existence!

Trivia

When it was discovered in **1818** by **General Taylor**, Sanchi had lain abandoned for **600 years** & was **overrun with vegetation**.

Why is Kushinagar a famous Buddhist place?



1. We have the Mahaparinirvana Temple at this place.
2. In Buddhism, the term **parinirvana** is commonly used to refer to nirvana-after-death, which occurs upon the death of the body of someone who has attained nirvana during their lifetime.
3. See how the mighty Buddha relaxes like a boss.
4. **Did you know?** Kushinagar finds mention in epic Ramayan as the city of Kusha the son of Ram, the famous king of Ayodhya.
5. The parinirvana of the Buddha is described in the **Mahaparinibbana Sutta**.

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Oldest known axe found in Australia

1) Context: Australian scientists claimed to have unearthed a fragment of the world's oldest known ground edge axe

2) Age: It was created up to 49,000 years ago, around the