

MAHAJANAPADAS

•The Buddhist literature Angutara Nikaya gives us a list of 16 great kingdoms called Mahajanapadas

Mahajanapada	Capital	Modern Location
1. Anga	Champa	Bihar and West Bengal
2. Magadha	Girivraja/Rajagriha	Gaya and Patna
3. Kasi	Varanasi	Banaras
4. Vatsa	Kausambi	Allahabad
5. Kosala	Sravasti	Uttar Pradesh
6. Saurasena	Mathura	Western Uttar Pradesh
7. Panchala	Ahichchatra and Kampilya	Western Uttar Pradesh
8. Kuru	Indraprastha	Meerut
9. Matsya	Viratnagar	Jaipur
10. Chedi	Sothivati	Bundelkhand
11. Avanti	Ujjaini or Mahismati	Malwa and Madhya Pradesh
12. Gandhara	Taxila	Rawalpindi
13. Ashmaka/Assaka	Pratisthan/Paithan	Bank of Godavari
14. Vajji	Vaishali	Bihar
15. Malla	Kusinagar and Pavapuri	Uttar Pradesh
16. Kamboja	Pooncha	Rajouri and Hajra

• **Vatsa:**

- Capital: **Kaushambi** (Shifted from the Kuru clan).
- Most Powerful Ruler: Udayana.
- Post-Udayana: Annexed to Avanti.
- Geography: Situated on the banks of the Yamuna River.

• **Avanti:**

- Capital: **Ujjain**.
- Key Ruler: Pradyota.
- Relation with Buddhism: Patronized Buddhism.
- Fate: Eventually annexed to Magadha.

• **Kosala:**

- Capital: **Ayodhya**
- Prominent Ruler: Prasenjit, whose sister married Bimbisara.
- Political Move: Prasenjit gave Kasi as dowry to Magadha.
- Post-Prasenjit: Kosala became part of Magadha after his death.

• **Magadha:**

- Capital: **Rajagriha**.
- Geographical Features: Fertile soil, iron ores near Rajgir, and copper and iron deposits near Gaya.

Famous Kings from Magadha:

•Bhimbisara:

- Founder: Established Hariyanka Dynasty.
- Initiatives: Sent physician Jivika to Ujjain, had the first standing army.
- Contemporary: Lived during the time of Buddha and Mahavira.

•Ajatashatru:

- Religious Affiliation: Embraced Buddhism.
- Council: Convened the First Buddhist Council at Rajagriha after Buddha's death.
- Conquests: Took 16 years to conquer Vaishali.
- Capital: Established the new capital at Pataliputra at the confluence of two rivers.

•Udayabhadra/Udayin:

- Capital Shift: Moved the capital to Pataliputra (Patna).

•Kalasoka:

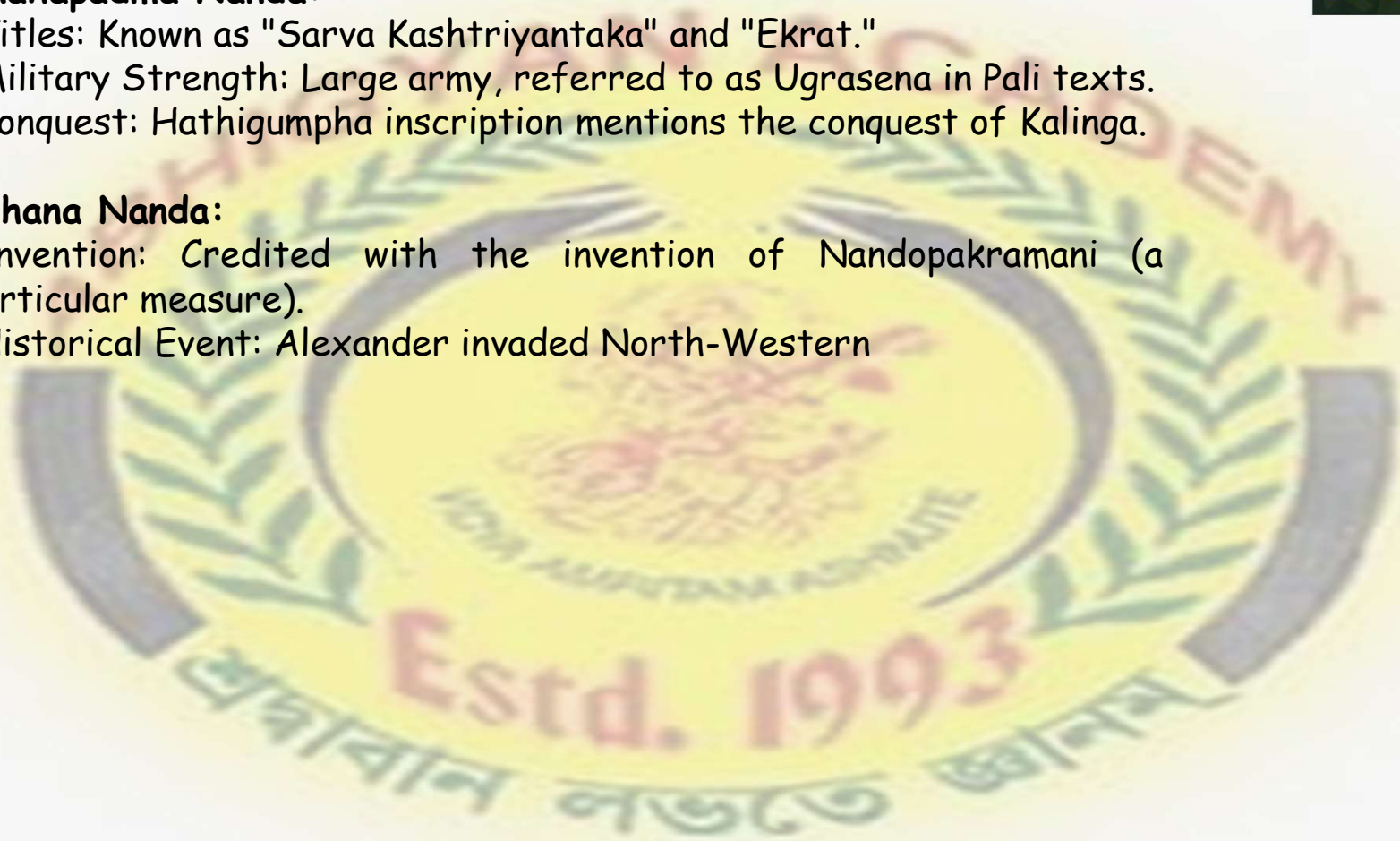
Council: Conducted the Second Buddhist Council at Vaishali

- **Mahapadma Nanda:**

- Titles: Known as "Sarva Kashatriyantaka" and "Ektrat."
- Military Strength: Large army, referred to as Ugrasena in Pali texts.
- Conquest: Hathigumpha inscription mentions the conquest of Kalinga.

- **Dhana Nanda:**

- Invention: Credited with the invention of Nandopakramani (a particular measure).
- Historical Event: Alexander invaded North-Western



Geographical Advantage:

Magadha possessed rich iron deposits near Rajgir, its earliest capital, facilitating superior weaponry for its princes.

Iron deposits in eastern Madhya Pradesh near Avanti's capital, Ujjain, provided competition.

Strategic Capitals:

Magadha's capitals, Rajgir and later Pataliputra, offered strategic advantages.

Rajgir's natural defenses, surrounded by five hills, made it nearly impregnable.

Pataliputra, situated at the confluence of major rivers, commanded communication routes.

Agricultural Fertility:

Magadha, located in the fertile middle Gangetic plain, had highly productive alluvial soil.

Abundant rainfall supported cultivation, particularly of paddy.

Economic Prosperity:

Town development and coin usage contributed to economic growth.

Control over trade routes allowed Magadhan princes to levy tolls, accumulating wealth.

Military Innovation:

Magadha pioneered large-scale use of elephants in warfare, sourced from the eastern regions.

Elephants were crucial for storming fortresses and navigating tough terrains.

Unorthodox Social Structure:

Magadha's society comprised Kiratas and Magadhas initially looked down upon by orthodox Brahmanas.

Racial admixture with Vedic arrivals created a society more inclined toward expansion.

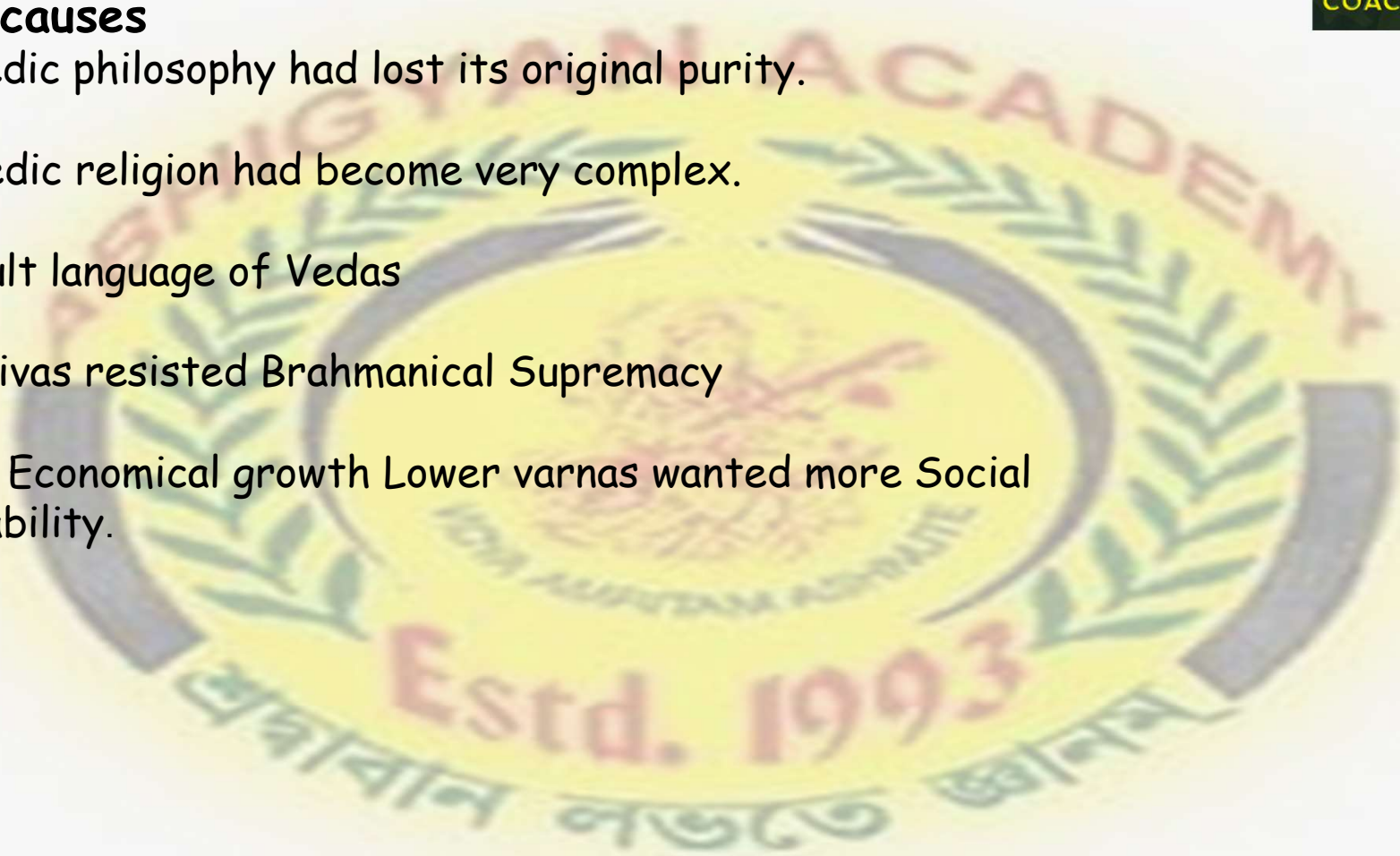
Magadha's expansion was fueled by these factors, leading to the establishment of the first Indian empire.

BUDDHISM



Maior causes

- The Vedic philosophy had lost its original purity.
- The Vedic religion had become very complex.
- Difficult language of Vedas
- Kshatrilvas resisted Brahmanical Supremacy
- Due to Economical growth Lower varnas wanted more Social acceptability.



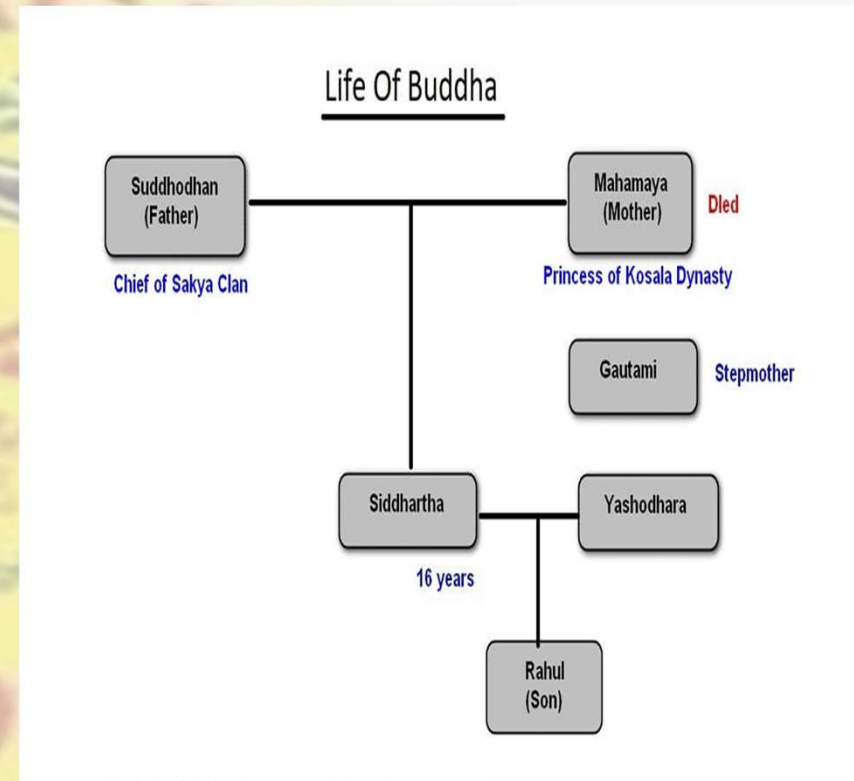
About Buddha:

Birth: Siddhartha, born to **Suddhodana** and **Mahamaya** in 563 BCE at **Lumbini, Kapila Vastu (Nepal)**, in the Sakya Kshatriya class.

Family: Suddhodana, king of Kapilavastu, Mahamaya, princess of the Kosala dynasty. Step-mother: Mahaprajapati Gautami.

Marriage: Married **Yashodhara** at 16, had a son named Rahula.

Two teachers- **Alara kalam** and **udraka**



Four Sights that Changed Everything

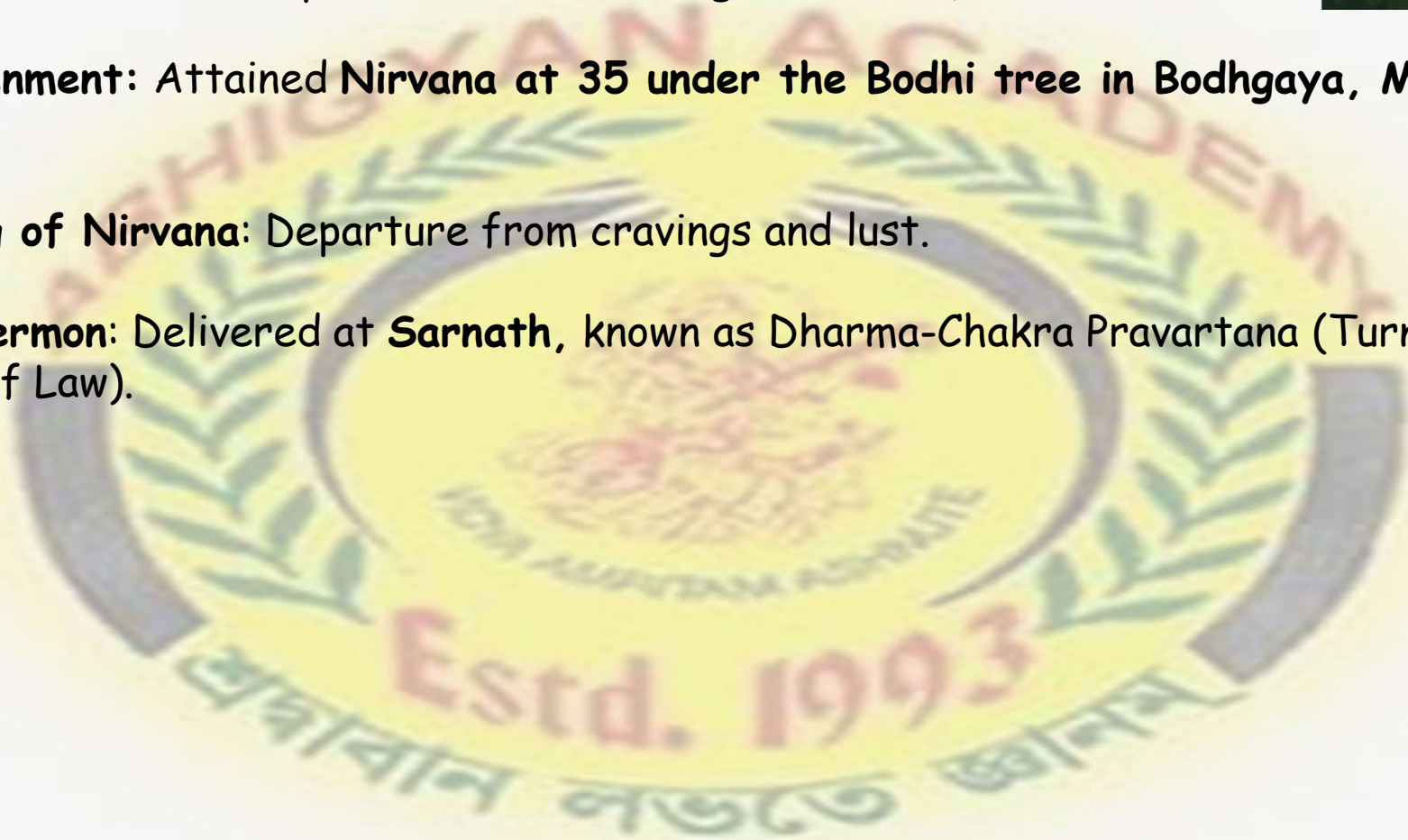


Renunciation: Left the palace at 29 for enlightenment (Mahabhinishkramana)

Enlightenment: Attained Nirvana at 35 under the Bodhi tree in Bodhgaya, Magadha (Bihar)

Meaning of Nirvana: Departure from cravings and lust.

First Sermon: Delivered at **Sarnath**, known as Dharma-Chakra Pravartana (Turning of the Wheel of Law).





•The five forms that represent Buddha are:

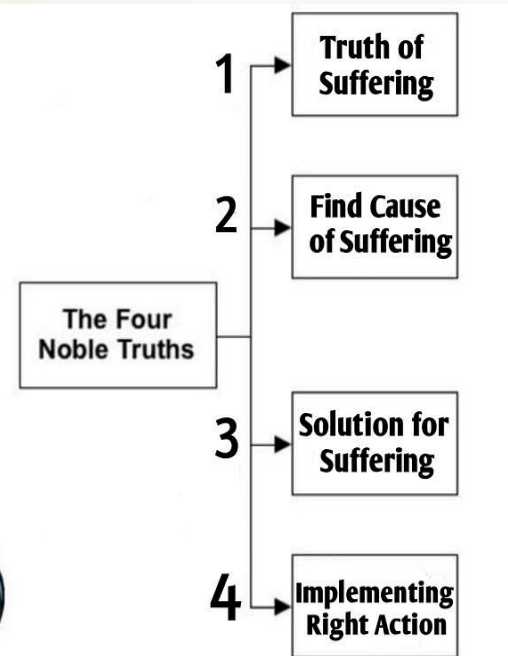
- Lotus and Bull – Birth
- Horse – Renunciation (Mahaabhinishkraman)
- Bodhi Tree – Mahabodhi (Nirvana)
- DhammachakraPravartana – First sermon
- Dead (Stupa)-Mahaparinirvan)

Name's of Lord Buddha-Siddharth, Lord Buddha, Tathagat

Buddha's teaching: The main teachings of Buddhism are encapsulated in the basic concept of four noble truths or **Ariyasachchani** and eightfold path or **Astangika marg**.

Four noble truths:

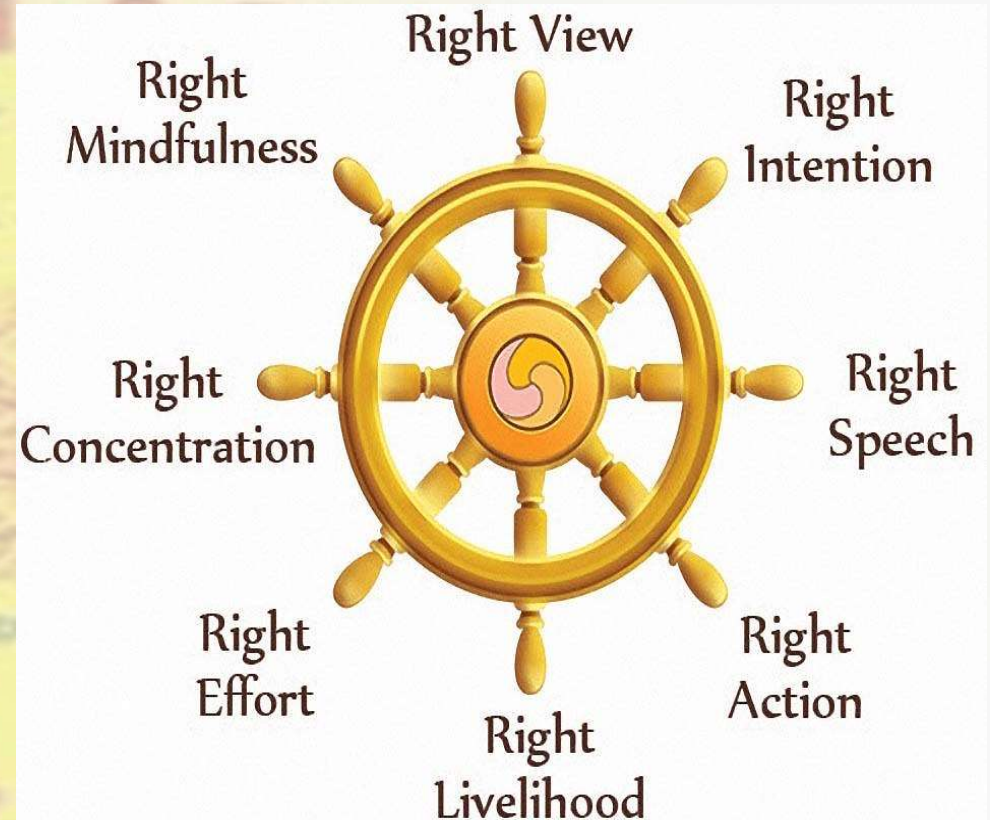
- Suffering (dukkha) is the essence of the world.
- Every suffering has a cause – **Samudya**.
- Suffering could be extinguished – **Nirodha**.
- It can be achieved by following the **Atthanga Magga** (Eight Fold Path).



Eight-Fold Paths:

The path consists of various interconnected activities related to knowledge, conduct, and meditative practices.

- Right view
- Right intention
- Right speech
- Right action
- Right livelihood
- Right mindfulness
- Right effort
- Right concentration



Canonical texts: Considered to be the actual words of the Buddha, such as the **Tipitakas**.

• **Tipitaka (Tripitaka):** Earliest compilation of Buddhist teachings, comprising three baskets/collections:

1. Sutta Pitaka: Main teachings of Buddha, divided into five Nikayas or collections

It is divided into five Nikayas or collections:

- (i) Dighgha Nikaya
- (ii) Majhim Nikaya
- (iii) Sanyukta Nikaya
- (iv) Anguttar Nikaya
- (v) Kshudraka Nikaya

2. Vinay Pitaka: Rules for monks and nuns of the monastic order (Sangha), including Patimokkha and doctrinal expositions.

3. Abhidhamma Pitaka: Philosophical analysis and systematization of the teachings, consisting of religious and metaphysical discourses.



LITERATURE

- **Tripitakas/Tipitaka:** Written in Pali, includes Sutta Pitaka, Abhidhamma Pitaka, and Vinay Pitaka.
- **Milinda Panha:** A dialogue between King Menander I (Milinda) and sage Nagasena on Buddhism, written around 100 BC.
- **Buddhacharita:** An epic poem by Ashvaghosha in Sanskrit, about Buddha's life, composed in the early 2nd century AD.
- **Sri Lankan Buddhist Literature:** Includes Deevansh and Mahavansh.
- **Tibetan Buddhist Literature:** Includes Divyavadan and Ashokavadan.

Buddhist Councils



Council	Time	Place	Ruler	Presided By	Specificity
First	483 BCE	Rajgriha	Ajatashatru	Mahakassappa	Buddha's teachings categorized into 2 baskets (Pitakas)
Second	383 BCE	Vaishali	Kalasoka	Sabbakami	Division: Sthaviravadins (original spirit) vs. Mahasanghikas (liberal interpretation)
Third	250 BCE	Pataliputra	Ashoka	Mogaliputta Tissa	Aimed at purifying Buddhism; Sent missionaries abroad
Fourth	1st Century	Kashmir	Kanishka	Vasumitra	Divided Buddhism into Mahayana and Hinayana sects

Schools of Buddhism:

•Hinayana (Theravada):

- Meaning:** "The Lesser Path" or Theravada, which means "Doctrine of the Elders."
- Philosophy:** True to the original teachings of Buddha.
- Original School:** Theravada was the original school of Buddhist philosophy.
- Scriptures:** Pali scriptures.
- Beliefs:** Rejects idol worship; salvation through self-discipline and meditation.
- Geographical Presence:** Found in Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Thailand, and parts of South-East Asia.
- Patronage:** Patronized by Ashoka.

•Mahayana:

- Meaning:** "The Greater Path."
- Terminology:** Terms Hinayana and Mahayana were given by the Mahayana school.
- Philosophical Schools:** Includes Madhyamika and Yogachara.
- Scriptures:** In Sanskrit.

Beliefs: Considers Buddha as God; worships idols of Buddhas and Bodhisattvas.

Salvation: Attainable through faith, devotion, and mindfulness of the Buddha; believes in mantras.

Geographical Presence: Found mostly in China, Japan, South Korea, Bhutan, etc.

Vajrayana:

Meaning: "Vehicle of Thunderbolt."

Aliases: Also called Mantrayana, Tantrayana, Buddhism.

Establishment: Emerged in Tibet in the 11th century.

Language: Uses highly symbolic language "sandhya-bhasa" or "twilight language."

Leadership: Emphasizes the role of the guru (Lama), with a long lineage of lamas; Dalai Lama is a well-known Tibetan Lama.

Geographical Presence: Predominant in Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, and Mongolia.

Zen:

Origin: School of Mahayana Buddhism, originated in China during the Tang dynasty as the Chan school.

Distinctive Feature: Emphasizes meditation as the distinctive feature



Important Buddhist writers

- **Asvaghosha:** Author of the 'Buddhacharita' (Acts of the Buddha) in Sanskrit.
- **Nagarjuna:** He is the founder of the Madhyamaka school of Mahayana Buddhism.
- **Asanga & Vasubandhu (brothers):** Vasubandhu's greatest work, Abhidharmakosa, is known as an Encyclopaedia of Buddhism. Asanga was an important teacher of Yogachara or Vijnanavada school founded by his guru.
- **Dinnaga:** He is known as the founder of the Buddhist logic, the last intellectual of the fifth century.
- **Dharmakirti:** He lived in the seventh century AD, and was a great Buddhist logician, a philosophical thinker and dialectician.

Important terms in Buddhism

Term	Definition
Upasakas	Male followers of Buddhism.
Upasikas	Female followers of Buddhism.
Pavrajya	"Going forth" from home, the determination to renounce the world and undertake an ascetic path.
Chaityas	Prayer hall of monks.
Viharas	Monasteries.
Torana	The Gateway of a Stupa.

Upasampada	Ordination ceremony when a novice becomes a full-fledged member of the monastic community.
Bodhisattva	Enlightened being refraining from entering nirvana to save others; worshipped as a deity.
Bikkhu Sangha	Sangha of monks.
Bhikkhuni Sangha	Sangha of nuns.
Sarvastivadin	One of the popular schools of Theravada, believing everything exists continuously in all three phases of time.
Sautrantika	Considers only the Sutras (Teachings of Buddha) as valid.
Arhat	A person who has attained enlightenment.
Nibbana	Liberation from the cycle of birth and death.
Sravaka	Direct disciple of Buddha.
Amitabha	Buddha's name in heaven.
Maitreya	Future Buddha.
Milindapanho	A dialogue between King Milinda and Buddhist monk Nagasena.
Shraman Tradition	Practitioners who strive or labor wholeheartedly towards enlightenment; used for monks.