

## Exposition of the Holy Relics of Lord Buddha

*Prelims: Current events of national and international importance*

### Why in News?

Recently, India announced the public exposition of the Holy Devnimori Relics of Lord Buddha in Sri Lanka as part of cultural and spiritual outreach.

- **Organised by - The Ministry of Culture.**
- **Aim** - To strengthen India-Sri Lanka cultural ties and promote shared Buddhist heritage through spiritual diplomacy.
- **Relics Origin** - The Devnimori Relics originate from an archaeological site in the Aravalli district of Gujarat.
- **Discovery** - The site was excavated in 1957, revealing evidence of early Buddhist presence in western India.
- **Components** -
  - **Relic Casket** - A green schist casket inscribed in Brahmi script and Sanskrit, identified as the abode of the Buddha's bodily relic.
  - **Copper Box** - A box placed inside the casket containing organic material with holy ashes.
  - **Sacred Bottle** - A gold-coated silver-copper bottle kept within the copper box, along with silk cloth and beads.

## Holy Devnimori Relics of Lord Buddha



**Relic Casket**



**Copper Box**



**Sacred Bottle**

- **Key Highlights - Venue** - It is ***exhibited at Gangaramaya Temple, Colombo***, in February 2026.
- **Current Custody** - The relics are presently *enshrined at The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Vadodara*.
- **Delegation** - The Indian delegation to be led by the Governor of Gujarat and the Deputy Chief Minister of Gujarat.
- **Protocol** - The relics will travel with full state honours aboard a special aircraft of the Indian Air Force.
- **Significance - Diplomacy** - Serves as an instrument of *soft power and people-centric foreign policy*.
- Reaffirms shared spiritual, cultural, and civilizational bonds between India and Sri Lanka.
- **Shared heritage** - Continues India's tradition of sharing Buddhist relics globally.
- **Progress** - In recent years, Lord Buddha's sacred relics have been *exhibited in countries such as Thailand, Mongolia, Vietnam, Russia, and Bhutan*, attracting millions of devotees.

## References

1. [PIB | Exposition of Holy Devnimori Relics of Lord Buddha](#)
2. [Ministry of Culture | Exposition of the Holy Devnimori Relics in Sri Lanka](#)



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