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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