

Buddhist Councils

In addition, the primary objective of these councils was to preserve Buddhism's sanctity and spread the Buddhist religion worldwide. The **first Buddhist council** was established with the primary objective of safeguarding the preachings of Buddhism and presenting a set of instructions for the monks and disciples.

- The second Buddhist council was led with the aim of resolving the disputes of numerous subdivisions.
- The third council brought forth the concern of revamping the major educational institutions.
- The **4th Buddhist council** led to the splitting of the Hinayana and Mahayana.
- The fifth council examined the preachings of Buddhism in smaller pieces.
- The sixth Buddhist council aimed to regulate and protect the Vinayana and Dhamma of Buddhism.

Keep reading the article below to read more about the Buddhist councils that will help you prepare for your upcoming competitive exams.

A Brief About Buddhism

Founded by Gautama Buddha (Sakyamuni), Buddhism is an ancient religion in India practiced worldwide. The Buddhist councils carried the objective of conserving and safeguarding the teachings of Gautam Buddha and Buddhism. In addition, the teachings of Buddhism remain on the following principles:

- Four Virtuous Truths (Arya Satya) – Samudaya, Dukkha, Naroda, and Magga.
- Eight-Fold Course (Ashtangika Marga) – Right resolve, Right thought, Right discourse, Right effort, Right earning, Right endeavour, Right mindfulness, and Right concentration (samadhi).
- Three Treasures (Triratnas) – the Buddha, the Sangha, and the Dharma
- Code of Conduct.
- Belief in Nirvana.
- Faith in Ahimsa.

What Are the Six Buddhist Councils?

All the Buddhist councils were established to cater to the primary needs of conserving the learnings of Buddhism and preachings of Gautam Buddha. Get the complete details of all the Buddhist councils that have been illustrated here. There were established six Buddhist councils in ancient times, and they are as follows:

First Buddhist Council- Established in 400 BC

- The **1st Buddhist council** met in Rajgriha at the Sattapanni caves, under the aid of King Ajatashatru. This Buddhist council was held just after the death of Gautama Buddha.
- This council was headed by Buddhist monks Mahakasyapa.
- The primary agenda of this Buddhist council was to safeguard the teachings of Gautama Buddha and set some guidelines for disciples and monks.
- The monks' Upali and Ananda chanted Vinaya and Suttas. The monks also recited Abhidhamma Pitaka in this council.

Second Buddhist Council- Established in 383 BC

- The **second Buddhist council** took place at Vaishali (Now in Bihar) under the aid of King Kalasoka of the Shisunaga Dynasty and was headed over by Sabakami.
- The primary agenda of this second Buddhist council was to resolve the conflicts of various subdivisions.
- This Buddhist council repudiated the Mahasangikas as canonical Buddhist literature. It is why this council holds a special place in Indian history.

Third Buddhist Council– Established in 250 BC

- The **3rd Buddhist council** took place under the aid of renowned Emperor Ashoka at Pataliputra in the Magadha Empire and was headed over by Moggaliputta Tissa.
- The main agenda of this Buddhist council was to examine the various Buddhism educational institute and refine them.
- Emperor Ashoka sent different groups to different nations to spread the preachings of Buddhism after this council.

Fourth Buddhist Council- Established in 72 AD

- The **fourth Buddhist council** took place in Kashmir in the era of Emperor Kanishka of the Kushan Dynasty and was headed by Asvaghosha and Vasumitra.
- The primary agenda of this fourth Buddhist council was to intervene in various confrontations between different schools of introspection.
- Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism sects split after this fourth Buddhist council.

Fifth Buddhist Council- Established in 1871

- The fifth Buddhist council took place at Mandalay in Burma, now Myanmar, under the aid of King Mindon of Burma Kingdom and was headed by the Narindabhidhaja, Jagarabhivamsa, and Sumangalasami.
- The principal plan of this Buddhist council was to chant all the Buddhism preachings by Gautama Buddha and examine them in little pieces.

Sixth Buddhist Council- Established in 1954

- The Sixth Buddhist Council took place at Kaba Aye in Myanmar(Burma) and Yangon(Rangoon) under the aid of Prime Minister U. Nu of the Republic of Myanmar. It was headed over by Bhadanta Vicittasarabhivamsa and Mahasi Sayadaw
- The primary agenda of the sixth Buddhist council was to maintain and conserve the genuine Vinaya and Dhamma of Buddhism.

