



Current Affairs of the Day

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- 'Buddhist philosophy connects SCO nations'
- U.P. conversion ordinance challenges SC orders



'Buddhist philosophy connects SCO nations'

News: A virtual exhibition on the shared Buddhist heritage of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) countries was launched by Vice-President M. Venkaiah Naidu during the virtual meeting of the SCO Council of Heads of Government.

Highlights:

1. Buddhist philosophy and art of Central Asia connect SCO countries to each other.
2. The exhibition includes Buddhist treasures from India, including from the Gandhara and Mathura schools, Nalanda and Sarnath, in 3D format. Objects depicting the life of Gautam Buddha from Karachi, Lahore, Taxila, Islamabad, Swat and Peshawar museums are also included.

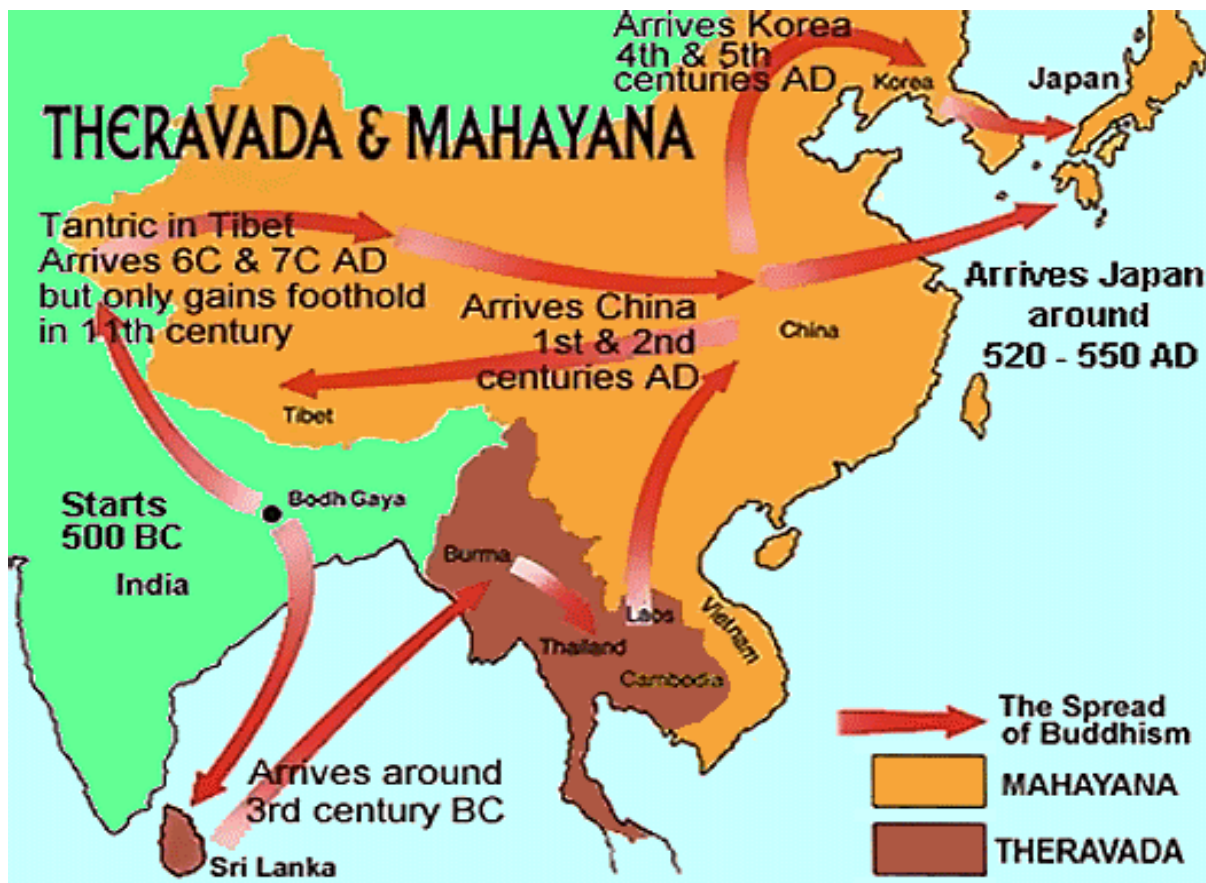
Prelims:

1. Gandhar, Mathura, Sarnath, Amravati Art.
2. Important sites in Life of Buddha
3. Types of Buddhism and their historic geographical spread

Mains:

1. Assess the importance of the accounts of the Chinese and Arab travellers in the reconstruction of the history of India. (Mains 2018)
2. Highlight the Central Asian and Greco-Bactrian elements in Gandhara art. (2019)

Learn Through Graphics: Buddhism spread through Silk Route in Central Asia and Elsewhere





U.P. conversion ordinance challenges SC orders

Bottom line: Top court held that faith, state & courts have no jurisdiction over an adult's right to choose a life partner

Going against the Apex court

1. The Uttar Pradesh ordinance criminalising religious conversion via marriage breaks away from a series of Supreme Court judgments, which hold that faith, the state and courts have no jurisdiction over an adult's absolute right to choose a life partner.
2. The choice of a life partner, whether by marriage or outside it, is part of an individual's "personhood and identity", the top court has held.

The central aspect of Identity: Hadiya Case

Matters of dress and food, of ideas and ideologies, of love and partnership, are within the central aspects of identity. Neither the state nor the law can dictate a choice of partners or limit the free ability of every person to decide on these matters, Justice D.Y. Chandrachud wrote in the Hadiya case judgment.

Autonomy and Privacy: KS Puttaswamy Case

The autonomy of the individual was the ability to make decisions in vital matters of concern to life, the Constitution Bench said in the K.S. Puttaswamy or 'privacy' judgment. Any interference by the State in an adult's right to love and marry has a "chilling effect" on freedoms.