

FAQ's

1. Briefly explain the terms Hinayana and Mahayana Buddhism

Hinayana and Mahayana are the two schools of thought of Buddhism. Hinayana, the earlier form of Buddhism thrived around 300BC-100AD. It is also called the lower vehicle. They worshipped belongings of Buddha and considered Buddha as a human. Buddhism was followed more as a philosophy. Mahayana, the later form of Buddhism thrived around 200BC-150BC. It is also called the Greater Vehicle. They started worshipping the Buddha statue itself and gave a metaphysical form to Buddha as the Three kayas: nirmanayaka (mind), sambhogakaya (speech) & dharmakaya (body). Buddhism was followed as a religion

2. Name any four countries in which Buddhism evolved

Four countries in which Buddhism evolved are: India, Bangladesh, Srilanka, Thailand

3. What is a stupa?

A stupa is a mound like structure containing Buddhist relics, typically the remains of Buddha, used by Buddhists as a place of worship.

4. Explain the architectural characteristics of a Buddhist Chaitya Hall

Chaitya halls were assembly halls used by Buddhists for religious gatherings. They were typically approached by a small rectangular opening which opened out into a long vaulted hall, with apsidal end and divided longitudinally by two colonnades forming a broad nave in the centre and two side aisles. At the end is a stupa also carved in natural rock with enough space around it for circulation. The roof is usually semi-circular