



## CONTEXT

The Union Budget announced a pilot scheme for upskilling 10,000 guides in 20 iconic tourist sites and setting up of a National Institute of Hospitality to train professionals in the sector.

## ABOUT



- A National Destination Digital Knowledge Grid to digitally document all places of cultural, spiritual and historic significance would be set up.
- The government also proposed a scheme for the development of Buddhist circuits in the region.



## BUDDHIST CIRCUITS



In 2016, the Ministry of Tourism announced the Buddhist Circuit as the country's first



transnational tourism circuit, covering sites in Nepal and Sri Lanka alongside those in India.



Bodhi Tree



Vaijali



Stupa

The main sites covered under the circuit span the life of Buddha from his birth to his Parinirvana and comprise Bodh Gaya, Vaishali, Rajgir, Kushinagar, Sarnath and Shravasti, along with Kapilavastu and Lumbini.



The Buddhist Circuit seeks to help tourists and pilgrims experience first-hand the teachings of Lord Buddha and trace the footsteps of Buddha.

## FOUR HOLIEST BUDDHIST SITES (Chaturmahāsthāna)



Lumbini (Nepal):  
Birthplace of Gautama Buddha.



Bodh Gaya (Bihar):  
Attained Enlightenment under the Bodhi Tree.



Sarnath (Uttar Pradesh):  
First sermon (Dhammacakka Pravartana).



Kushinagar (Uttar Pradesh):  
Mahaparinirvana (death).