

'Feat validates UP's vision for Buddhist pilgrimage'

Unesco Tag Likely To Attract More Int'l Pilgrims

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The sacred landscape has sustained a pilgrimage tradition for 2,500 years

Matter of pride for UP, says CM

CM Yogi Adityanath called it a proud moment for all Indians. "Sarnath's inscription on the Unesco World Heritage List is a proud moment for every Indian and a shining reflection of Uttar Pradesh's glorious spiritual and cultural legacy. Uttar Pradesh welcomes the world to experience this eternal heritage," he wrote on X.

forts to position itself as the heartland of Buddhist pilgrimage.

"Sarnath has been central to our strategy of taking UP's Buddhist heritage to international audiences. Through travel trade engagement, familiarisation visits, Buddhist celebrations and investments in visitor infrastructure, we have worked to build a stronger global presence for the state's Buddhist Circuit. Unesco recognition gives those efforts an even stronger platform and is expected to increase international footfall while encouraging visitors to explore destinations across the circuit," he said.

Conservation architect Abha Narain Lambah, who

prepared Sarnath's Unesco nomination dossier, said the site's exceptional value lay in the combination of its history and living traditions.

"Sarnath uniquely brings together the place of Buddha's First Sermon, the beginnings of the Buddhist Sangha and an unbroken pilgrimage tradition spanning nearly 2,500 years. That is what gives it an exceptional place in world heritage," she said.

The Heritage tag will further strengthen Uttar Pradesh's Buddhist tourism strategy, which links Sarnath with destinations such as Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Kaushambi and Sankisa. Officials believe the Unesco tag will not only at-

Tribute to India's civilisational legacy: PM Modi

PM Narendra Modi hailed the announcement. "Delighted that Sarnath has been inscribed on the Unesco World Heritage List. Sarnath has a close association with Lord Buddha, whose timeless message of wisdom, compassion and harmony inspires the world. This recognition celebrates India's profound civilisational and spiritual heritage. It will also inspire more people across the world to come to Sarnath and connect with the ideals of Lord Buddha," he wrote on X.

tract more international pilgrims and heritage travellers but also encourage longer stays and wider exploration of the state's Buddhist circuit, giving a fresh impetus to tourism in eastern UP.

"For more than 2,500 years, Sarnath has been a place of pilgrimage and inspiration for Buddhists around the world... Its temples, stupas, and monasteries bear witness to centuries of faith, devotion, and shared human heritage. Safeguarding this exceptional site is our collective responsibility for present and future generations" said Tim Curtis, director and representative, UNESCO Regional Office for South Asia.

Lucknow: For Buddhists across the world, Sarnath marks one of the defining moments in the faith's history. The sacred landscape has sustained a pilgrimage tradition for nearly 2,500 years and preserves some of the earliest surviving examples of Buddhist monastic architecture, art and learning.

UP tourism and culture minister Jaiveer Singh described it as a landmark achievement for Uttar Pradesh's cultural heritage. "From the land of Lord Buddha and the Ramayan to Jain, Sufi and other spiritual traditions, Uttar Pradesh carries an extraordinary civilisational legacy. Sarnath's recognition after a 28-year wait is a historic achievement that will give our Buddhist Circuit a major global push while taking Uttar Pradesh's message of peace, spirituality and cultural inclusivity to a much wider international audience," he said.

Additional chief secretary, tourism, culture and religious affairs, Amrit Abhijat, said the inscription validated Uttar Pradesh's sustained ef-