



Educational Tourism

Why in News

- Recently, the **University Grants Commission** has identified 100 places across the country for the purpose of **educational tourism for the students**, out of which 5 sites are related to Bihar.

Key Points

- **Educational tourism** can be defined as a form of tourism in which **tourism is used as an important tool of educational learning**.
- The aim of educational tourism is to make the learning process more practical and interactive as well as introduce the students to different cultures.
- It is noteworthy that under the **National Education Policy-2020**, **educational tourism** has been included under **Activity Education** with the aim of strengthening the spirit of '**Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat**', under which **5 destinations from Bihar- Sasaram, Rajgir, Bodh Gaya, Nalanda and Vaishali** have been included.
- The details of these tourist places are as follows-
 - **Nalanda:** Nalanda was a **famous monastery and center of Buddhist learning** that **developed under the patronage of the Gupta Empire** in the 5th and 6th centuries.
 - **Bodhgaya:** Lord Gautam **Buddha attained enlightenment under the Bodhi tree** in Bodh Gaya.
 - **Vaishali:** Vaishali was a **large and powerful kingdom in the 6th century BCE**, where Kattagarasala was built in Mahavana by the Lichchavi rulers for the abode of Buddha.
 - **Rajgir:** Rajgir is **one of the important sites of the Eight Mahasthalas in Buddhism**.
 - **Sasaram:** A small inscription from Chandan Shaheed near Sasaram in Rohtas district **confirms the Mauryan victory in this area**.

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