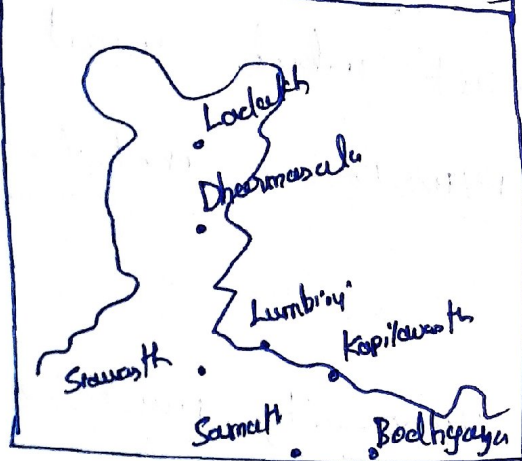


Buddhist pilgrimage centres can help India engage vigorously in its soft diplomacy which will have influence on other dimensions too.

The foundation stone for Kushinara international airport was laid recently. Event marks India's stress on Buddhist diplomacy.

### Important Buddhist Sites



### Influence of Diplomacy

The Buddhism though originated in India is strong in Central Asia, East and South-East

Asian countries

The Buddhist heritage virtual exhibition with Shangai Cooperation Organisation displayed the arts, articles from Central Asia. The connect from Kushinara to SCO has been maintained.

The Vajrayana Buddhism is followed in China as Chan, Zen in Japan.

The Vajrayana Buddhism can ally with central Asian region, Nepal, Bhutan and Mongolia which could act as a deterrent against China.

The Drakpa Nuns who were awarded by UNESCO can help propagate self defence, marital arts, etc with our neighbours.

Tourism can be boosted by swadesh Dhaman scheme and Buddhist circuit which would welcome delegates from BIMSTEC and near countries.

Academics - The Nalanda University must be leveraged to regain our position from China which has started similar university.

The idea of Buddhism has become new area of diplomacy to ally the neighbours such as Sri Lanka, Myanmar, etc with which India has high stakes.