

Ancient trail with Mahabharata circuit

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Lucknow: After Buddhist and Ramayana circuits, a Mahabharata circuit is on the cards for Uttar Pradesh. Connecting the places linked to Ved Vyasa's epic, the UP government is in talks with Delhi-based Draupadi Dream Trust for the project.

Founder trustee of the organisation, Neera Mishra, will give a presentation on the circuit before the state's government officials on Wednesday.

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Meerut. Kampilya, now a small town called Kampil near Farrukhabad, is the second site and is believed to be the birthplace of Draupadi. Ahichchhatra or Panchal Desha, is the third site. Remains of this city have been discovered near Ramnagar village in Aonla tehsil of Bareilly. Ahichchhatra was the post-war kingdom ruled by the Panchala king after he gave away half of his land to Acharya Drona. **P 13**

'Plan to also develop tourist infrastructure'

MAHABHARATA CIRCUIT MAIN SPOTS

HASTINAPUR | 37km from Meerut, it was the stronghold of Kuruvansh. According to the Mahabharata, the city was named after King Hastin of the Paurava dynasty, who is also said to have founded it

KAMPILYA | Now a small town known as Kampil near Farrukhabad, was the capital of Panchal kingdom and birthplace of Draupadi. It also saw

the Mahaswayamwar. The place is older than the Mahabharata times and was also the birthplace of 13th Jain Teerthankar



AHICHCHHATRA OR PANCHAL DESHA | Remains of this city have been discovered near Ramnagar village in Aonla tehsil of Bareilly. This is the portion which was ruled by Panchal kings after he gave away half of his land to Acharya Drona

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The three places have many important sites which may be archaeologically linked to the Mahabharata period," said Neera Mishra in her report to the state tourism department.

Director general, UP Tourism, Amrit Abhijat, said, "Linking these sites is not the only thing being worked upon. The plan also includes the development of tourist infras-

tructure in the selected destinations. Besides this, we would also be promoting the important Buddhist and Jain sites falling in the districts."

Sankisan is an ASI protected site where Lord Buddha is believed to have descended from heaven after his death, while Kampilya is said to be the birthplace of the 13th Jain Teerthankar. Popular tourist destinations, these sites are frequented by followers of Jainism and Buddhism.