

## **The Buddhist remains and monuments in Uttar Pradesh, India: the archaeo - literary evidences of Chinese pilgrims**

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In the history of Indian religions Buddhism occupied a flourishing and glorious status as it opened the vision of knowledge and universal truth among different classes of society. Uttar Pradesh (hereafter U.P.) is one of the major states of India. It is equally rich in yielding Buddhist remains as well as other cultural remains. The extension of Buddhism in foreign countries like Thailand, Cambodia, Middle and South East Asia, Nepal, Tibet, Indonesia, Korea, Sri Lanka, Mongolia and China etc, had an impact upon their policies, society, economy, warfare, sculpture, literature and language as well as other activities of life. In this way Buddhism became the favorite and popular religion not only of India but of the whole world. Through this article, I have tried to focus light on spread of Buddhism in U.P. as recorded by the Chinese pilgrims. Actually speaking, the North-Eastern portion of U.P. was the important region where Buddhism had its influence. After attainment of enlightenment at Bodhi Gaya, Lord Buddha selected some particular places for his activities. These places became great Buddhist centers for the development of religion, philosophy, literature and architecture. Chinese pilgrims have well narrated the main Buddhist centers of monuments and remains of U.P. The Chinese pilgrims and great scholars like Fa-hian, Hsien-Tsang and It-sing traveled many places of India specially in U.P. and Bihar and witnessed the Buddhist monuments and remains. It has a great importance in reconstruction of Indian history and culture. In my article I have discussed the places like Lumbini, Sarnath, Sankisa (Sankasya), Kusinagar, Sravasti, Ayodhya, Kannauj (Kanyakubja), Kosambi, etc.

**Key words:** Archeology, Buddhism, Chinese pilgrims, Monuments, Indian history

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