

# Kushinagar airport

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**In news**– Recently, the Indian Prime Minister inaugurated Kushinagar International Airport.

## About Kushinagar Airport-

- It will be Uttar Pradesh's third international airport.
- The airport is spread across 3600sqm.
- The new terminal is equipped to handle 300 passengers during peak hours.
- At present, Chaudhary Charan Singh International Airport at Lucknow and Lal Bahadur Shastri International Airport at Varanasi are operational in the state.
- Another one is coming up at Jewar in Gautam Budh Nagar.

## Historical significance of Kushinagar-

- The ancient city of Kushinagar is the **final resting place of Gautama Buddha**, where he attained Mahaparinirvana after his death.
- It is also at the centre of a Buddhist tourist circuit, which includes Lumbini (Nepal), Sarnath and Bodhgaya.
- Other Buddhist destinations nearby include Nalanda, Sravasti and Kapilavastu.
- According to one theory, Kushinagar was the **capital of Kosala Kingdom** and according to Ramayana it was built by King Kush, son of Rama, protagonist of the epic Ramayana.
- As per Buddhist tradition *Kushavati* was named prior to the king Kush.
- The naming of Kushwati is believed to be due to the abundance of Kush grass found in this region.
- The present Kushinagar is identified with Kusavati (in the pre-Buddha period) and Kushinara (in the post-Buddha period).
- Kushinara was the capital of Mallas which was one of the

sixteen mahajanpads of the 6th century BCE.

- However, modern Kushinagar came into prominence in the 19th century with **archaeological excavations carried out by Alexander Cunningham, the first Archeological Surveyor of India** and later followed by **C.L. Carlleyle** who exposed the main stupa and also discovered a 6.10 meters long statue of reclining Buddha in 1876.