

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1420**  
ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023

**PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BIHAR**

1420. SHRI VIVEK THAKUR:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) the detailed account of the initiatives implemented by the Ministry to enhance tourism promotion in the State of Bihar during the last five years; and
- (b) the quantifiable benefits and achievements realised by the tourism sector in the State of Bihar as a result of those initiatives?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) & (b): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps/measures under various schemes/initiatives over the years for development and promotion of tourism sector in the country including Bihar as per details given below:

- i. Development of tourism related infrastructure is done through projects sanctioned under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes. The details of projects sanctioned under the above-mentioned schemes in the State of Bihar is given at **Annexure**.
- ii. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach. Under SD2.0, 'Gaya' & 'Nalanda' destinations have been identified for development in the State of Bihar.
- iii. Financial assistance has been provided to the State Government of Bihar for organizing fairs/festivals & tourism related events under Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) Scheme. The details of financial assistance provided to the State of Bihar is given at **Annexure**.
- iv. Dekho Apna Desh initiative launched with the objective to encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- v. Thematic tourism like wellness tourism, culinary tourism, rural, eco-tourism etc., amongst other niche subjects are vigorously promoted so as to expand the scope of tourism into other sectors as well.
- vi. Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e., e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for the nationals of 167 countries.

- vii. E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
- viii. Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%; those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.
- ix. Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with Ministry of Civil Aviation under their RCS-UDAN Scheme. As on date, 53 tourism routes have been operationalized to improve air connectivity to tourist destinations in the country including Bihar.
- x. Ministry of Tourism is running Pan-India Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Program, a digital initiative that aims at creating an Online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators/Guides across the country and generating employment opportunities at local level.
- xi. Conducting Programmes under the 'Capacity Building for Service Providers' (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.
- xii. The National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI) is a technology driven system, which is to facilitate digitalization and promote ease of doing business for hospitality & tourism sector. This initiative has been upgraded as NIDHI+ to have more inclusivity, that is, of not only Accommodation Units, but also Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators, Food & Beverage Units, Online Travel Aggregators, Convention Centres and Tourist Facilitators.

The details of Domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) during the period of 2018 to 2022 in Bihar are given below:

<b>Year</b>	<b>DTV (in Lakh)</b>
2018	336.22
2019	339.90
2020	56.38
2021	25.01
2022	253.30
Source: States/UTs Tourism Department	

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) AND (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1420 ANSWERED ON 14.12.2023 REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN BIHAR BY SHRI VIVEK THAKUR.**

**Swadesh Darshan Scheme (Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Bihar	Tirthankar circuit 2016-17	Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna- Rajgir- Pawapuri- Champapuri	33.96
2.	Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	Integrated Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj – Dharmshala- Deoghar	44.76
3.	Bihar	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18
4.	Bihar	Rural Circuit 2017-18	Development of Gandhi Circuit: Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia- Turkaulia	44.27
5.	Bihar	Spiritual Circuit 2017-18	Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55

**PRASHAD Scheme (Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Approved Cost
1.	Bihar	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar	2014-15	4.27
2.	Bihar	Development at Patna Sahib	2015-16	41.54

**Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development Scheme (Rs. in Crore)**

Sl. No.	State	Name of Projects	Year	Central Agency	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Bihar	Joint Development of tourist Amenities at Gaya Railway Station in Association with Ministry of Railways	2013-14	M/o Railways	5.18

**Financial assistance provided for organizing fairs/festivals & tourism related events under Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) Scheme**

**(Rs. in Lakh)**

Name of State	Year	Name of Fairs & Festivals	Amount Sanctioned
Bihar	2019-20	Sonepur Fair	25.00
		Rajgir Mahotsav	25.00

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