

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO. *313
ANSWERED ON 11.08.2025**

PROMOTION OF TOURISM AT BUDDHIST SITES

***313. SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote domestic and international tourism in Buddhist cultural and historical sites like Piprahwa in Siddharthnagar district, if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) the details of the total number of domestic and international tourists visited Siddharthnagar district during the last five years and the current year;**
- (c) whether the Government has taken any steps to promote cross-border tourism between the Buddhist cultural and heritage sites like Lumbini in Nepal and Siddharthnagar in India;**
- (d) whether the Government has taken any steps to connect Buddhist cultural and heritage sites like Sarnath, Bodhgaya, Vaishali and Shravasti; and**
- (e) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
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REGARDING PROMOTION OF TOURISM AT BUDDHIST SITES RAISED
BY SHRI JAGDAMBIKA PAL**

(a): The Ministry of Tourism regularly promotes diverse tourist destinations and experiences of India including Buddhist sites of Bodhgaya, Sarnath, Vaishali and Shravasti through various initiatives including promotional events, participation in travel exhibitions and fairs in domestic and international markets, familiarization tours, influencers programmes, assistance to State Governments/Union Territories for organizing fairs and festivals, website, amplification through social media handles etc.

(b): The details of tourist footfall in Siddharthnagar district during the last five years are as follows:

Year	DTVs	FTVs	Total
2024	100595	17546	118141
2023	392516	11797	404313
2022	222289	109	222398
2021	370975	90	371065
2020	505801	4924	510725
Total	15,92,176	34,466	16,26,642

***DTVs - Domestic Tourist Visits / FTVs – Foreign Tourist Visits**

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism regularly engages with neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan and Sri Lanka under

the framework of international tourism cooperation, with a focus on promoting tourism including Buddhist tourism.

The Government has taken significant steps to improve connectivity across Buddhist cultural and heritage sites in the country including Bihar and Uttar Pradesh. The international airport at Kushinagar has enhanced direct air connectivity for international pilgrims. Lumbini in Nepal is connected to Siddharthnagar in India through NH-233. The Buddhist heritage and pilgrimage sites such as Bodh-Gaya, Vaishali, Rajgir, Nalanda etc are well-connected through a network of National Highways developed by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) /Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

The Ministry of Railways also operates theme based tourist circuit trains covering Bodhgaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Sarnath, Kushinagar, Lumbini and Sharavasti.

Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism under its Schemes of Swadesh Darshan, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), Assistance to Central Agencies, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) has sanctioned several projects to develop tourism infrastructure and amenities, in the country including at Buddhist tourism sites. The details of the projects sanctioned under these schemes for promotion of tourism at Buddhist sites are at Annexure.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (e) OF LOK SABHA
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Details of the Projects sanctioned under the schemes of Swadesh Darshan, Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), Assistance to Central Agencies, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) for promotion of tourism at Buddhist sites

S. No.	State/UT	Name of the Scheme / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ in Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Swadesh Darshan (SD) / 2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam- Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda - Amravati- Anupu	35.24
2		PRASHAD / 2015-16	Mahachaitya Stupa & ASI Museum (Under “Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination”)	0.60
3		PRASHAD / 2015-16	Dhyana Buddha Site Development (Under “Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination”)	0.70
4		Challenge Based	Enriching Buddhist Heritage	25.00

		Destination Development / 2024-25	and Cultural Experiences at Nagarjuna Sagar	
5	Bihar	Swadesh Darshan / 2016-17	Development of Buddhist Circuit-Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18
6		Swadesh Darshan 2.0 / 2024-25	Development of Buddhist Circuit-Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	165.44
7	Chhattisgarh	PRASHAD / 2020-21	Development of Prayagiri (Under “Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Rajnandgaon, Dongargarh, Chhattisgarh”)	5.55
8	Gujarat	Swadesh Darshan / 2017-18	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68
9	Madhya Pradesh	Swadesh Darshan / 2016-17	Development of Sanchi-Satna- Rewa-Mandsaur- Dhar	74.02
10	Sikkim	PRASHAD / 2020-21	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints at Yuksom, Sikkim	33.32
11	Uttar	Swadesh	Development of	87.89

	Pradesh	Darshan / 2016-17	Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	
12		PRASHAD / 2015-16	Sound and Light Show, Dhamek Stupa (Under “Development of Varanasi-Phase-I”)	7.34
13		PRASHAD /2015-16	Buddha Theme Park, Sarnath (Under “Development of Varanasi-Phase-I”)	2.20
14		Assistance to Central Agencies / 2014-15	Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath Dhamekh Stupa in Sarnath, Chaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath, Tomb of Lal Khan (Rajghat) in Sarnath and Man Mahal in Banaras)	5.12
15		Assistance to Central Agencies / 2017-18	Illumination of three monuments in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh	2.93
16		Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment/ 2024-25	‘Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti	80.24
17	Telangana	Challenge Based Destination Development / 2024-25	Digital Experience Centre at Buddhavanam in Nalgonda,’	24.85
