

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5037  
ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026**

**DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF  
BUDDHIST TOURISM CIRCUITS**

**5037. SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY:**

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

- (a) the current status of Buddhist tourism circuit, as envisaged under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme, including the number of identified Buddhist heritage sites being developed along with the Central Financial Assistance (CFA) allocated for infrastructure upgradation, interpretation centres and tourist amenities;**
- (b) the details of initiatives taken by the Government to promote inter-State and international connectivity among major Buddhist pilgrimage destinations such as Sarnath, Kushinagar, Shravasti, Kapilvastu, Bodh Gaya and Rajgir to attract domestic and foreign tourists;**
- (c) the details of annual domestic and international tourist footfall at principal Buddhist Circuit destinations in India, particularly in Bihar along with associated economic and employment impact; and**
- (d) the details of specific measures to enhance tourism-related employment, capacity building of tourist guides and sustainable heritage conservation to elevate India's position as a premier global Buddhist tourism hub?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products, including Buddhist pilgrimage destination, is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments (SGs)/Union Territory Administrations (UTAs). However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0**

**(SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of SD2.0 and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), availability of funds, Government directions, inter-se priority etc.**

**The Ministry had launched the Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS) in 2014-15 for integrated development of tourism infrastructure under identified thematic circuits, including the Buddhist Circuit. Under the Scheme, projects were sanctioned across different States with a total outlay of ₹5290.33 crore and have been implemented in accordance with the scheme guidelines.**

**In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' scheme, has also provided financial assistance to the States in the year 2024-25 for development of tourism projects.**

**The details of projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD and SASCI schemes at Buddhist sites across India, are placed at Annexure-I.**

**The Ministry undertakes promotion of tourism destinations of the country, including Buddhist sites, through various ongoing initiatives such as participation in domestic and international travel exhibitions and fairs, organisation of familiarisation (FAM) tours, stakeholder engagement, support to States/UTs for organising fairs and festivals, and digital outreach through official platforms.**

**The Ministry also engages with neighbouring countries such as Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka and Thailand under the framework of international tourism cooperation, including for promotion of Buddhist tourism.**

**Connectivity to major Buddhist destinations such as Kushinagar, Bodh Gaya, Rajgir, Nalanda, Vaishali, Sarnath and Shravasti has been augmented through development of air, rail and road infrastructure by the concerned Ministries/Agencies. The international airport at Kushinagar has facilitated improved air connectivity for pilgrims, while road connectivity has been strengthened through National Highways developed by the concerned authorities. Theme-based tourist trains are also operated covering important Buddhist destinations, including links with Lumbini.**

**Ministry of Tourism compiles data on Domestic Tourist Visits (DTVs) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) based on information received from the respective State Governments and Union Territory Administrations. The Ministry of Tourism does not maintain destination-wise data on the economic and employment impact of tourism. However, the total number of tourism jobs (direct and indirect) in the country for 2023-24 was 84.63 million. The total share of tourism in the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) for 2023-24 is estimated at 5.22%. The details of tourist visits in the State of Bihar, which houses principal Buddhist destinations such as Bodh Gaya, Nalanda, Rajgir, and Vaishali, and the other States/UTs of India including in the state of Bihar during the last five years are placed at Annexure-II.**

**Further, Ministry supports capacity building, skill development and promotion of sustainable tourism practices through its ongoing programmes, in coordination with the concerned stakeholders and in accordance with the existing policy framework.**

**\*\*\*\*\***

**ANNEXURE-I****STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5037 ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF BUDDHIST TOURISM CIRCUITS RAISED BY SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY**

The details of projects sanctioned under SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD and SASCI schemes at Buddhist sites across India

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>State/UT</b>	<b>Scheme</b>	<b>Sanction Year</b>	<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)</b>
<b>1.</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam-Bavikonda-Bojjanakonda - Amravati- Anupu</b>	<b>35.24</b>
<b>2.</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>CBDD</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Enriching Buddhist Heritage and Cultural Experiences at Nagarjuna Sagar at Nagarjuna Sagar</b>	<b>25.00</b>
<b>3.</b>	<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>PRASHAD</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrim Amenities at Amaravati</b>	<b>27.77</b>
<b>4.</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Buddhist circuit-Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya</b>	<b>95.18</b>
<b>5.</b>	<b>Bihar</b>	<b>SD 2.0</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Buddhist Meditation &amp; Experience Centre in Bodhgaya</b>	<b>165.44</b>
<b>6.</b>	<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>PRASHAD</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh,</b>	<b>48.44</b>

				<b>Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh</b>	
<b>7.</b>	<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch- Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana</b>	<b>26.68</b>
<b>8.</b>	<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa- Mandsaur-Dhar</b>	<b>74.02</b>
<b>9.</b>	<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>PRASHAD</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom</b>	<b>33.32</b>
<b>10.</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>SD</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, &amp;Kapilwastu</b>	<b>87.89</b>
<b>11.</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>PRASHAD</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Varanasi</b>	<b>18.73</b>
<b>12.</b>	<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>SASCI</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti</b>	<b>80.24</b>
<b>13.</b>	<b>Telangana</b>	<b>CBDD</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>Buddhavanam – Development of Digital Experience Centre</b>	<b>24.85</b>

\*\*\*\*\*

**ANNEXURE-II**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.5037 ANSWERED ON 23.03.2026 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF BUDDHIST TOURISM CIRCUITS RAISED BY SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY**

**State wise Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits (DTV & FTV) during 2021-2025**

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>2021 DTV</b>	<b>2021 FTV</b>	<b>2022 DTV</b>	<b>2022 FTV</b>	<b>2023 DTV</b>	<b>2023 FTV</b>	<b>2024 DTV</b>	<b>2024 FTV</b>	<b>2025 (DTV)</b>	<b>2025 (FTV)</b>
<b>Andaman &amp; Nicobar Islands</b>	<b>126,238</b>	<b>1,687</b>	<b>235,061</b>	<b>4,461</b>	<b>323,189</b>	<b>9,025</b>	<b>710,397</b>	<b>11,497</b>	<b>722,922</b>	<b>10,179</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>93,277,569</b>	<b>27,551</b>	<b>192,716,721</b>	<b>165,845</b>	<b>254,706,328</b>	<b>60,426</b>	<b>290,266,452</b>	<b>262,431</b>	<b>333,827,759</b>	<b>226,311</b>
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	<b>102,915</b>	<b>182</b>	<b>222,437</b>	<b>1,055</b>	<b>1,040,601</b>	<b>4,496</b>	<b>869,912</b>	<b>4,714</b>	<b>794,190</b>	<b>4,288</b>
<b>Assam</b>	<b>1,409,161</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>8,382,003</b>	<b>9,001</b>	<b>7,612,720</b>	<b>23,818</b>	<b>7,608,169</b>	<b>27,170</b>	<b>9,102,890</b>	<b>32,042</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>2,501,193</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>25,330,364</b>	<b>86,829</b>	<b>81,585,701</b>	<b>546,576</b>	<b>65,463,304</b>	<b>736,720</b>	<b>68,223,783</b>	<b>619,447</b>
<b>Chandigarh</b>	<b>228,809</b>	<b>5,451</b>	<b>3,027,165</b>	<b>28,439</b>	<b>365,591</b>	<b>31,498</b>	<b>998,605</b>	<b>39,058</b>	<b>2,357,909</b>	<b>11,096</b>
<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>4,747,417</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>23,636,291</b>	<b>238</b>	<b>26,022,069</b>	<b>953</b>	<b>31,487,900</b>	<b>3,485</b>	<b>33,396,138</b>	<b>926</b>
<b>Dadra Nagar Haveli &amp;</b>	<b>661,222</b>	<b>185</b>	<b>799,602</b>	<b>1,791</b>	<b>1,004,327</b>	<b>4,048</b>	<b>1,358,901</b>	<b>2,626</b>	<b>3,856,126</b>	<b>9,099</b>

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>2021 DTV</b>	<b>2021 FTV</b>	<b>2022 DTV</b>	<b>2022 FTV</b>	<b>2023 DTV</b>	<b>2023 FTV</b>	<b>2024 DTV</b>	<b>2024 FTV</b>	<b>2025 (DTV)</b>	<b>2025 (FTV)</b>
<b>Daman &amp; Diu</b>										
<b>Delhi</b>	<b>10,642,477</b>	<b>100,178</b>	<b>27,186,209</b>	<b>815,713</b>	<b>39,414,622</b>	<b>1,828,116</b>	<b>46,257,000</b>	<b>1,999,410</b>	<b>46,257,000</b>	<b>1,999,410</b>
<b>Goa</b>	<b>3,308,089</b>	<b>22,128</b>	<b>7,011,992</b>	<b>174,799</b>	<b>8,175,460</b>	<b>452,692</b>	<b>9,941,286</b>	<b>467,911</b>	<b>10,314,548</b>	<b>551,272</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>24,525,210</b>	<b>11,319</b>	<b>135,811,325</b>	<b>1,777,215</b>	<b>178,066,579</b>	<b>2,806,871</b>	<b>184,014,075</b>	<b>2,274,477</b>	<b>217,075,988</b>	<b>2,351,261</b>
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>2,025,450</b>	<b>4,578</b>	<b>2,108,496</b>	<b>2,439</b>	<b>2,012,162</b>	<b>1,346</b>	<b>1,892,251</b>	<b>543</b>	<b>1,718,019</b>	<b>1,007</b>
<b>Himachal Pradesh</b>	<b>5,632,270</b>	<b>4,932</b>	<b>15,070,944</b>	<b>29,333</b>	<b>15,942,118</b>	<b>62,806</b>	<b>18,041,929</b>	<b>82,765</b>	<b>13,350,748</b>	<b>81,570</b>
<b>Jammu &amp; Kashmir</b>	<b>11,314,920</b>	<b>1,650</b>	<b>18,499,332</b>	<b>19,985</b>	<b>20,679,336</b>	<b>55,337</b>	<b>23,012,707</b>	<b>65,452</b>	<b>17,604,403</b>	<b>39,306</b>
<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>3,383,642</b>	<b>1,637</b>	<b>38,284,379</b>	<b>192,319</b>	<b>35,776,102</b>	<b>189,261</b>	<b>54,040,789</b>	<b>45,273</b>	<b>62,650,354</b>	<b>13,616</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>81,333,659</b>	<b>72,487</b>	<b>182,413,203</b>	<b>128,520</b>	<b>284,120,502</b>	<b>409,333</b>	<b>304,563,569</b>	<b>485,204</b>	<b>296,080,878</b>	<b>500,219</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>7,537,617</b>	<b>60,487</b>	<b>18,867,414</b>	<b>345,549</b>	<b>21,871,641</b>	<b>649,057</b>	<b>22,246,989</b>	<b>738,374</b>	<b>24,337,046</b>	<b>793,300</b>
<b>Lakshadweep</b>	<b>13,500</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>22,844</b>	<b>125</b>	<b>45,796</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>67,430</b>	<b>898</b>	<b>61,252</b>	<b>628</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>25,554,067</b>	<b>41,601</b>	<b>35,848,781</b>	<b>204,454</b>	<b>111,946,409</b>	<b>182,685</b>	<b>133,176,410</b>	<b>167,535</b>	<b>152,603,121</b>	<b>187,940</b>
<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>43,569,238</b>	<b>185,643</b>	<b>111,297,624</b>	<b>1,511,623</b>	<b>161,359,527</b>	<b>3,387,739</b>	<b>189,371,541</b>	<b>3,705,170</b>	<b>189,371,541</b>	<b>3,705,170</b>

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>2021 DTV</b>	<b>2021 FTV</b>	<b>2022 DTV</b>	<b>2022 FTV</b>	<b>2023 DTV</b>	<b>2023 FTV</b>	<b>2024 DTV</b>	<b>2024 FTV</b>	<b>2025 (DTV)</b>	<b>2025 (FTV)</b>
<b>Manipur</b>	<b>49,371</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>139,518</b>	<b>3,908</b>	<b>57,701</b>	<b>3,668</b>	<b>29,102</b>	<b>2,518</b>	<b>25,281</b>	<b>2,892</b>
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>154,409</b>	<b>411</b>	<b>937,091</b>	<b>7,774</b>	<b>1,402,624</b>	<b>20,023</b>	<b>1,585,535</b>	<b>23,075</b>	<b>1,805,108</b>	<b>10,439</b>
<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>87,232</b>	<b>234</b>	<b>218,420</b>	<b>2,611</b>	<b>209,122</b>	<b>3,754</b>	<b>421,888</b>	<b>5,414</b>	<b>715,568</b>	<b>11,319</b>
<b>Nagaland</b>	<b>23,968</b>	<b>325</b>	<b>97,431</b>	<b>2,923</b>	<b>99,720</b>	<b>4,725</b>	<b>125,516</b>	<b>5,623</b>	<b>125,975</b>	<b>5,384</b>
<b>Odisha</b>	<b>3,742,22 1</b>	<b>2,269</b>	<b>7,867,909</b>	<b>22,12 1</b>	<b>9,725,18 4</b>	<b>45,17 3</b>	<b>10,998,8 19</b>	<b>87,854</b>	<b>12,553,9 62</b>	<b>59,683</b>
<b>Puducherry</b>	<b>1,253,21 3</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>1,760,480</b>	<b>862</b>	<b>2,092,07 6</b>	<b>31,21 4</b>	<b>2,119,79 2</b>	<b>17,819</b>	<b>2,281,34 9</b>	<b>28,284</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>26,640,4 29</b>	<b>308,1 35</b>	<b>26,089,42 5</b>	<b>329,4 58</b>	<b>35,707,6 00</b>	<b>741,7 34</b>	<b>27,745,1 83</b>	<b>541,78 4</b>	<b>33,526,1 97</b>	<b>256,10 6</b>
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>21,988,7 34</b>	<b>34,80 6</b>	<b>108,328,1 56</b>	<b>396,6 84</b>	<b>179,051, 925</b>	<b>1,699, 869</b>	<b>230,084, 198</b>	<b>2,072, 407</b>	<b>252,290, 010</b>	<b>1,944, 329</b>
<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>511,669</b>	<b>11,50 8</b>	<b>1,625,573</b>	<b>68,64 5</b>	<b>1,321,16 9</b>	<b>93,90 8</b>	<b>1,540,42 1</b>	<b>84,820</b>	<b>2,827,41 2</b>	<b>101,82 7</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>115,336, 719</b>	<b>57,62 2</b>	<b>218,584,8 46</b>	<b>407,1 26</b>	<b>286,011, 515</b>	<b>1,174, 899</b>	<b>306,842, 014</b>	<b>1,161, 302</b>	<b>357,095, 556</b>	<b>1,545, 988</b>
<b>Tripura</b>	<b>177,816</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>235,600</b>	<b>8,493</b>	<b>366,104</b>	<b>66,708</b>	<b>600,651</b>	<b>90,824</b>	<b>681,103</b>	<b>27,320</b>
<b>Telengana</b>	<b>32,000,6 20</b>	<b>5,917</b>	<b>60,748,42 5</b>	<b>68,40 1</b>	<b>58,447,5 73</b>	<b>160,9 12</b>	<b>88,239,6 75</b>	<b>155,31 3</b>	<b>83,460,0 03</b>	<b>169,38 0</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>109,708, 435</b>	<b>44,73 7</b>	<b>317,913,5 87</b>	<b>648,9 86</b>	<b>478,525, 688</b>	<b>1,601, 503</b>	<b>646,807, 146</b>	<b>2,269, 067</b>	<b>1,545,54 8,242</b>	<b>4,529, 606</b>
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>19,434,4 75</b>	<b>8,532</b>	<b>54,642,55 9</b>	<b>61,561</b>	<b>57,570,5 78</b>	<b>143,0 27</b>	<b>60,849,0 60</b>	<b>139,37 5</b>	<b>61,573,1 70</b>	<b>159,41 2</b>

<b>States/UTs</b>	<b>2021 DTV</b>	<b>2021 FTV</b>	<b>2022 DTV</b>	<b>2022 FTV</b>	<b>2023 DTV</b>	<b>2023 FTV</b>	<b>2024 DTV</b>	<b>2024 FTV</b>	<b>2025 (DTV)</b>	<b>2025 (FTV)</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>24,325,9 84</b>	<b>34,82 8</b>	<b>84,542,19 5</b>	<b>1,037, 017</b>	<b>145,669, 292</b>	<b>2,706, 942</b>	<b>184,475, 527</b>	<b>3,124, 462</b>	<b>294,318, 520</b>	<b>3,996, 141</b>
<b>Ladakh</b>	<b>303,023</b>	<b>1,054</b>	<b>510,137</b>	<b>21,259</b>	<b>489,059</b>	<b>36,315</b>	<b>336,682</b>	<b>39,704</b>	<b>306,188</b>	<b>32,121</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>677,632, 981</b>	<b>1,054 ,642</b>	<b>1,731,013 ,539</b>	<b>8,587, 562</b>	<b>2,508,81 7,710</b>	<b>19,24 1,212</b>	<b>2,948,19 0,825</b>	<b>20,942 ,074</b>	<b>4,132,84 0,259</b>	<b>24,018 ,318</b>

\*\*\*\*\*