

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 2613
TO BE ANSWERED ON 17TH MARCH, 2025**

FIRST ASIAN BUDDHIST SUMMIT 2024

2613 SHRIMATI ANITA SUBHADARSHINI:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government is planning to improve Buddhist heritage sites as tourist spots in the light of First Asian Buddhist Summit 2024;
- (b) if so, the name of these sites;
- (c) whether the above summit aims to increase cultural & religious cooperation among Asian Nations;
- (d) if so, the Government is thinking about to organise Subsequent Buddhist summit in future; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

**MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

(a) & (b) Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' extends financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of Buddhist Tourism. The 'Buddhist Circuit' has been identified as one of the thematic circuits for development under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Details of projects sanctioned under the Buddhist thematic circuit is at **Annexure**.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) under the Ministry of Culture undertakes conservation and preservation of protected monuments as well as take action for providing public amenities such as toilets, drinking water, parking, pathways, signage, benches, ramps, wheel chairs etc. at various monuments including protected Buddhist Sites, under the Annual Conservation program. Providing public amenities and improving them is a regular activity.

(c), (d) & (e) Yes, the 1st Asian Buddhist Summit (ABS), was organized by the Ministry of Culture in collaboration with the International Buddhist Confederation (IBC), New Delhi, a grantee body of this Ministry. The said summit was based on Asian spirit tradition and cultural & religious cooperation among Asian Nations. The 1st Asian Buddhist Summit witnessed presence of more than 650 delegates including 130 foreign delegates from 26 Asian countries, diplomats from 12 countries and 40 Monks each from Mahayana and Theravada traditions. It has been decided to hold Asian Buddhist Summit in alternate years.

Annexure

Details of projects sanctioned under the Buddhist thematic circuit:

S. No.	State/UT	Circuit	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Cr.)	Amount Released/ Authorized (₹ Cr.)*
1	Andhra Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit	2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam-Bavikonda-Bojjanakonda - Amravati- Anupu	35.24	30.02
2	Bihar	Buddhist Circuit	2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18	95.18
3	Gujarat	Buddhist Circuit	2017-18	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch- Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68	22.28
4	Madhya Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit	2016-17	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa- Mandsaur-Dhar	74.02	72.75
5	Uttar Pradesh	Buddhist Circuit	2016-17	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89	72.56

* Includes amount of authorization to CNA through TSA Model I for Central Sector Scheme.

Under the PRASHAD Scheme, 'Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints at Yuksom, Sikkim' project was sanctioned for an amount of Rs.33.32 Crore in the year 2020-21.

Under the **Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI)** Scheme of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, the operational guidelines for **Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale** were issued by the Ministry of Tourism. In line with the guidelines, on 26.11.2024 Government of India has approved a Project 'Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti' in Uttar Pradesh for a cost of Rs. 80.24 Crore.
