

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1332
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026**

SPECIAL BUDDHIST TOURISM PACKAGE

†1332. SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) whether a separate special development fund is being provisioned by the Government for the development of eight major cities in Bihar under a special Buddhist Tourism Package;**
- (b) if so, the name of all the said eight cities;**
- (c) whether the Special development fund is being administered by the State Government and the details of the financial contribution provisioned by the Central Government toward this fund; and**
- (d) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Identification, development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Governments (SG)/Union Territory Administrations (UTA). While no separate special development fund is being provisioned by Ministry of Tourism for the State of Bihar, the Ministry through its existing 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 including Bihar; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by them, availability of funds, Government directions, inter-se priority etc.

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 including Bihar in the year 2024-25 for development of tourism projects.

The details of the projects sanctioned at various tourism destinations in the State of Bihar including those related to Buddhism under the above mentioned schemes of the Ministry is annexed.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (D) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1332 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026 REGARDING SPECIAL BUDDHIST TOURISM PACKAGE RAISED BY SHRI KAUSHALENDRA KUMAR****(i) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Bihar:****(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S.N.	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Amount
1.	Tirthankar 2016-17	Development of Vaishali- Arrah- Masad- Patna-Rajgir-Pawapuri-Champapuri	33.96
2.	Spiritual 2016-17	Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj – Dharmshala-Deoghar	44.76
3.	Buddhist 2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18
4.	Rural 2017-18	Development of Bhitiharwa- Chandrahia-Turkaulia	44.27
5.	Spiritual 2017-18	Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55

(ii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme in the State of Bihar:**(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S.N.	Year of Sanction	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Amount
1.	2024-25	Bodh Gaya	Development of the Buddhist Meditation & Experience Centre, Bodh Gaya	165.44

(iii) Details of Project sanctioned under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme in the State of Bihar:**(Amount in ₹Crore)**

S.N.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount
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1.	Development at Patna Sahib	2015-16	29.62
2.	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar	2014-15	3.63
3.	Development of AmbikaBhawani Temple, Saran	2024-25	13.29

(iv) Details of Project sanctioned under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme in the State of Bihar:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S.N.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Category	Sanctioned Amount
1.	2024-25	Development of Sonepur Fair Site	Saran Dist. (Sonepur Fair) (Culture & Heritage)	24.29

(v) Details of Project sanctioned under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) Scheme in the State of Bihar:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S.N.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Amount
1.	2024-25	Development of Matsyagandha Lake in Saharsa	97.61
2.	2024-25	Karamchat Eco-Tourism and Adventure Hub in Karamchat	49.51
