

Need to include Dhauli-Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi Buddhist Circuit under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme ? laid

SHRIMATI SANGEETA KUMARI SINGH DEO (BOLANGIR): Odisha has huge Buddhist Tourism potential. Archaeological exploration and excavations have established more than two hundred Buddhist sites across the State. The Buddhist triangle popularly known as the Diamond Triangle of Odisha comprises tourist attractions. The Rock Edict-XIII of Emperor Ashoka of 3rd Century B.C. found at Dhauli near Bhubaneswar bears testimony to the acceptance of Buddhism spread to rest of the world after Kalinga War from this very place of present day Odisha. The Buddhist remains in the form of Chaityas, Stupas, Monasteries and the relic Casket found here aptly establish this Circuit at par with Nalanda and Bodhgaya. In view of the above, Odisha deserves to be included in the list of Buddhist Circuits announced by Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. Final Revised DPR was submitted vide DOT letter No. 8358/7SM dated 24.09.2019 to Government of India. A reminder in this regard was communicated vide DOT letter bearing No. 5562/TSM dated 17.07.2020 to the Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India. I request the Hon'ble Minister of Tourism to approve the Dhauli-Ratnagiri-Lalitgiri-Udayagiri-Langudi Buddhist Circuit of Odisha under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.