

Session Name	Buddhist Tourism - Beyond Boundaries Culture Connectivity Infrastructure
Speaker / Panelist	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mr Subhash Goyal, Chairman STIC Travels Pvt. Ltd. • Mr Vijay Gautam (MHA Tourism) • Mr Satyajeet Rajan, Director General–Tourism, Ministry of Tourism, Govt. of India • Mr Ade Sinkendar, Consulate General, Indonesia • Mr Eka Pal, Consulate General, Thailand • Mr Tandin Wancchul, Bhutan • Mr Vinod Zutshi
Key data shared	<p>India is a birth place of Buddhism.</p> <p>Out of 448 million Buddhists, Thailand has 95% of Buddhist Cambodia has 90% of Buddhists Bhutan has 75% of Buddhists Tibet has 65% of Buddhists Srilanka has 72% of Buddhists India has 67% of Buddhists</p>
Topics covered	e.g Industry structure, taxation, regulation. Skills
Issues highlighted Including during Q&A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lack of 5 Star hotels (There is only one five-star hotel in Patna, which is a major hub of Buddhist Tourism. • Non- cooperation from State/ tedious task to get approvals for 5 Star hotel opening. • Lack of Infrastructure • Lack of experiential tourism • State-Centre Coordination issues

Solutions suggested	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Single windows for hotel opening clearances• Build helipads and not airports• Adopt multiple approach to enter to five star hotels / mid segment / low segment• Offer holistic tourism• Develop and promote ASEAN / SAARC tourism. MoU to be signed, joint working groups can be formulated• Integrate with all Buddhist conferences like UNWTO.• Visa: Multiple entry for buddhist tourism• Facilitate soft skills i.e. sensitize local people and community