

Sacred Piprahwa Relics of Lord Buddha Return Home to India

Government of India and Godrej Industries Group Join Hands to Secure and Repatriate Revered Buddhist Relics

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The Ministry of Culture, Government of India, proudly announces the historic return of the sacred Piprahwa relics of Lord Buddha to their rightful home in India. This momentous repatriation has been made possible through an exemplary public-private partnership between the Government of India and the Godrej Industries Group.



Relics of Immense Spiritual and Historical Significance

The Piprahwa relics, discovered in 1898 by British civil engineer William Claxton Peppé in Piprahwa, Uttar Pradesh, are believed to be associated with the mortal remains of Lord Buddha. Enshrined by His followers around the 3rd century BCE, these relics have long held immense spiritual value for the global Buddhist community and represent one of the most important archaeological discoveries in India's history.



Timely Intervention Prevents Auction in Hong Kong

Originally slated for auction in Hong Kong in May 2025, the sacred artefacts were successfully secured by the Ministry of Culture through decisive intervention, reflecting the Government's unwavering commitment to preserving India's cultural and spiritual heritage.



Union Culture Minister Lauds PM Modi's Vision

Speaking on the occasion, Union Minister of Culture Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated: "The return of the Piprahwa Gems is a matter of great pride for every Indian. This is one of the most significant instances of repatriation of our lost heritage and would not have been possible without the vision and initiative of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi."



Corporate Commitment to Cultural Legacy

Pirojsha Godrej, Executive Vice Chairperson of Godrej Industries Group, remarked: “We are deeply honored to contribute to this historic moment. The Piprahwa gems are not just artefacts—they are timeless symbols of peace, compassion, and the shared heritage of humanity. Our partnership with the Government of India reflects our deep commitment to preserving cultural legacies for future generations.”

A Model of Cultural Cooperation

This successful repatriation sets a benchmark in cultural diplomacy and collaboration, showcasing how strategic partnerships between public institutions and private enterprise can protect and preserve global heritage.



Upcoming Public Display Ceremony

The sacred Piprahwa relics will be formally unveiled during a special ceremony and placed on public display, allowing citizens and global visitors to pay homage and witness these rare artefacts.

Strengthening India's Role as Global Custodian of Heritage

This initiative aligns with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's broader mission to reclaim and celebrate Bharat's ancient cultural and spiritual heritage from across the world. The return of the Piprahwa Gems further reinforces India's standing as a global guardian of peace, compassion, and the timeless values of the Buddha.

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