

Bodh Gaya rearing centre sanctuary for butterflies from China, Saudi & Europe

Alok Kumar | TNN

Gaya: Bodh Gaya, the revered spiritual place for Buddhists, has now become a sanctuary for butterflies. Drawing species from as far as the Himalayas, China, Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia and Europe, the Butterfly Rearing Centre (BRC) in Bodh Gaya provides a serene refuge to these delicate creatures, who thrive amidst sacred surroundings.

Opened by the Gaya Forest Division in November 2022 at the Jayaprakash Udyan, the BRC has over 5,000 plants of as many as 55 species spread across more than 18,000 sq ft, which provides nectar to these creatures.

Manish Bhandari



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These plants of different species attract the butterflies, which fly over 3,000 km from different parts of the globe and the country to reach the park and find a safe habitat. The BRC is also home to rare

species—Painted Lady and Spot Swordtail—mainly found in China and the Himalayan region. To the rich collection, a 'life release' tradition of Buddhists adds to the number of winged insects. Not on-

ly Buddhist pilgrims, but other visitors too, coming to Bodh Gaya on a spiritual tour, release the flying insects at the park as part of the ritual.

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