

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1103
ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025

STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP HERITAGE TOURISM

1103 SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) the steps Government is taking to promote and develop heritage tourism in Punjab, particularly in the context of historical and cultural landmarks;
- (b) whether there are any dedicated funding schemes for the restoration and preservation of heritage sites in Punjab;
- (c) the manner in which the Government is collaborating with the State to improve tourism infrastructure and facilities;
- (d) the initiatives being introduced to attract both domestic and international tourists to Punjab's heritage sites; and
- (e) the manner in which the Government plans to involve local communities in the development of heritage tourism to ensure sustainable growth?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including Heritage Tourism, is undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry complements the efforts of States/UTs by developing and promoting various tourism products of the country, including Heritage Tourism in Punjab through various schemes and initiatives.

The Ministry promotes various tourist destinations and products of the country including Heritage Tourism in Punjab through various initiatives including promotional events, assistance to State Governments, stakeholders for organizing fairs and festivals, participation in exhibitions, website and social media.

The Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' provides financial assistance to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country including in Punjab.

In 2018-19, under the Heritage Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme Ministry of Tourism had sanctioned a project 'Development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Khatkar Kalan – Kalanour – Patiala' for a cost of Rs.85.32 Crore. The project is reported to be complete.

Ministry of Tourism has revamped the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations, following a destination & tourist-centric approach.

The details of projects sanctioned under the above mentioned schemes in the State of Punjab are given at **Annexure-I**.

Under 'Scheme for Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centers to Global Scale', Government of India has recently sanctioned a project 'Development of Heritage Street as a tribute to Shaheed-e-Azam, Sardar Bhagat Singh at Khatkar Kalan in SBS Nagar' for a cost of Rs.53.45 Crore.

Under the Challenge Based Destination Development', a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0, Ministry has identified Ferozpur (Hussainiwala Border) for development under the Culture & Heritage category.

Proposals are received from States/UTs from time to time for seeking financial assistance under the various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism. These proposals are extended for projects subject to fulfillment of the stipulated provisions and availability of funds.

For projects sanctioned by Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Tourism encourages the State Governments/UT Administrations to adopt principles of sustainable tourism. It also encourages due consultation with local communities during preparation of projects for development of destinations by States/UTs.

As conveyed by the Archeological Survey of India, there is no dedicated funding scheme for the preservation of heritage sites in Punjab. However, a cumulative fund for the comprehensive scientific preservation projects of the heritage monuments located in the state of Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh is allocated annually. The details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred towards scientific preservation of the heritage monuments located in Punjab during the last three years are at **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1103 ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025 REGARDING STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP HERITAGE TOURISM RAISED BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

Projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the State of Punjab:

| S. No. | Circuit | Sanction Year | Name of the Project | Amount Sanctioned (₹ in Crore) |
|---------------|------------------|----------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| 1 | Heritage Circuit | 2018-19 | Development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Khatkar Kalan – Kalanour - Patiala | 85.32 |

Projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme for the State of Punjab:

| S. No. | Destination | Name of the Experience | Sanctioned Cost (₹ in Crore) | Date of Sanction |
|---------------|--------------------|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 | Kapurthala | Eco Tourism experience at Kanjli wetland | 20.06 | 05-03-2024 |
| 2 | Amritsar | Border Tourism Experience at Attari | 25.90 | 20-08-2024 |

Projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme for the State of Punjab:

| S. No. | Project Name | Sanction Year | Approved Cost (₹ in Crore) |
|---------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1 | Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar | 2015-16 | 6.40 |
| 2 | Development of Chamkaur Sahib | 2021-22 | 31.57 |

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1103 ANSWERED ON 13.02.2025 REGARDING STEPS TAKEN TO PROMOTE AND DEVELOP HERITAGE TOURISM RAISED BY SHRI RAGHAV CHADHA

Details of the funds allocated and expenditure incurred for scientific preservation works of the heritage sites in Punjab during last three years

| Financial Year | Name of the ACP of Centrally protected monuments in Punjab | Budget Allocation (In Rs.) | Expenditure (In Rs.) |
|-----------------------|--|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 2021-22 | Scientific Treatment and Preservation of Exterior of Shamsheer Khan Tomb, Batala, District: Gurdaspur | 12,44,900 | 12,44,700.50 |
| 2022-23 | Scientific Treatment and Preservation of Exterior of Shamsheer Khan Tomb, Batala, District: Gurdaspur | 14,500 | 14,499 |
| | Scientific Treatment and Preservation of Exterior of Baradari (Anarkali), Batala, District. Gurdaspur | 10,02,760 | 10,02,759 |
| 2023-24 | Scientific treatment and preservation to exterior of dome, small copulas and surrounding parapet wall of Mohamad Momin tomb, Nakodar District-Jalandhar, | 8,00,000 | 7,76,330 |
