

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1426
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

BUDDHIST TOURIST SITES IN KUSHINAGAR

1426 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the measures being taken to ensure affordability and accessibility of Buddhist tourist sites particularly in Kushinagar;
- (b) the manner in which the Ministry is involving local artisans, craftsmen, and vendors in these tourism expansion efforts;
- (c) the details of safeguards in place to protect heritage sites amid commercial development; and
- (d) the manner in which the sustainable tourism practices are being integrated to balance local livelihoods, visitor access, and long term preservation of cultural assets?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the respective State Government/ Union Territory (UT) Administration. However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan, 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies (ACA) for Tourism Infrastructure Development' schemes complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations, subject to availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the State Governments/UT Administrations, inter-se priority etc. In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)' has also provided financial assistance to the States for development of tourism projects.

Projects under above mentioned schemes are identified based on the project proposals submitted by the concerned State Governments/UTAs, with due focus to connectivity; tourism eco-system; environmental, socio-cultural and economic sustainability, operation and management etc. The projects target to provide necessary amenities to the tourists and enhancement of their travel experiences at the destinations. In order to safeguard protection of heritage sites and preservations of cultural assets, the Ministry of Tourism regularly interacts with various stakeholders, concerned Ministries, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) etc.

Details of sanctioned projects under the SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD, ACA and SASCI schemes in the State of Uttar Pradesh including in Kushinagar is annexed.

In addition to the above, the Ministry of Tourism as part of its ongoing promotional activities regularly promotes various tourism destinations and products of the country including Buddhist Tourist Sites in the international and domestic markets through social media, promotional websites, events etc. Such promotion comprise of showcasing of various art forms including local art forms, culture and heritage, festivals, cuisine, sustainable tourism practices etc. The Ministry of Tourism has also started 'Travel for LiFE', a sectoral programme under 'Mission LiFE' with the aim to bring large-scale behavioural changes amongst tourists and tourism businesses to adopt sustainable practices.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1426 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING BUDDHIST TOURIST SITES IN KUSHINAGAR RAISED BY SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH

List of projects sanctioned in the State of Uttar Pradesh under Ministry of Tourism Schemes:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Sanctioned Amount (₹ in crore)
Swadesh Darshan			
1.	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	Buddhist Circuit 2016-17	87.89
2.	Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	Ramayana Circuit 2016-17	69.45
3.	Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh- Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana- Baghpat- Shahjahanpur	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	71.91
4.	Development of Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balia- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi	Spiritual Circuit 2016-17	67.51
5.	Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- MagharDham (SantKabir Nagar)- ChauriChaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- MahuarshaheedSthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	36.65
6.	Development of Ayodhya	Ramayana Circuit 2017-18	127.21
7.	Development of Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja- Banda	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	12.03
8.	Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyaganj)	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	18.30
PRASHAD Scheme			
1.	Development of Varanasi –Phase –I	2015-16	18.73
2.	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	2014-15	10.98
3.	Development of River Cruise Tourism at Varanasi	2017-18	9.02
4.	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	2014-15	9.36
5.	Development of Varanasi – Phase II	2017-18	44.60
6.	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	2018-19	37.59
Swadesh Darshan 2.0			
1.	“Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Exp”	2023-24	14.52
2.	Vedic- wellness Experience at Naimisaranya”	2023-24	17.80
Assistance to Central Agencies			
1.	Joint Development of Agra Cantt. Railway Station	2013-14	5.05
2.	Joint Development of Rai-Bareilly Railway Station	2013-14	4.44

3.	Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath (Dhamekh Stupa in SarnathChaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath, Tomb of Lalkan in Sarnath and Man Mahal in Banaras)	2014-15	5.12
4.	Illumination of three monuments in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh- 1. Dashashwamedh Ghat to Darbanga Ghat (stretch of 300 m) 2. Tulsi Manas Mandir 3. Sarnath Museum	2017-18	2.93
Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)			
1.	Development of Bateshwar in District-Agra	2024-25	74.05
2.	Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti	2024-25	80.24
