

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†2529  
ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025**

**DEVELOPMENT OF SUHELWA WILDLIFE  
SANCTUARY UNDER ECO-TOURISM**

**†2529. SHRI RAM SHIROMANI VERMA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has any plan to develop Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Balrampur and Shravasti districts of Uttar Pradesh along the Nepal border, as an eco-tourism destination in Eco-tourism circuit or Buddhist Circuit;**
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop these districts under "Swadesh Darshan Yojana", "Prasad Yojana", or any other rural or eco-tourism project;**
- (c) if so, the details thereof along with funds allocated therefor;**
- (d) whether the Government proposes to provide nature trails, wildlife observation centres, training for local guides and eco-lodges, eco-cafe or camping facilities in the area with coordination of the Central and State Governments;**
- (e) whether any integrated programme has been initiated to provide self-employment and training to local residents, particularly forest-dwelling tribal communities for the development of this area;**
- (f) if so, the latest progress regarding these efforts, expenditure details and the number of people benefited; and**
- (g) whether local Gram Panchayats have been roped in for smooth operations of tourism services and if so, the details of the action taken during the last three years along with the details of the proposed schemes thereof?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (g): 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/ Central Agencies; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), availability of funds, 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. The projects sanctioned under above mentioned scheme cover multiple aspects including eco-tourism, wildlife etc.

The Ministry of Tourism under the above-mentioned schemes encourages adoption of principles of sustainable tourism, community participation and local consultations. Further, operation and management of the sanctioned projects is undertaken by the concerned State Government. A variety of works such as development of nature trails, log huts, cafeteria, interpretation centres, shelters, parking, last mile connectivity etc. are approved under sanctioned projects depending on its nature. Details of sanctioned projects under the SD, SD2.0, CBDD, PRASHAD, ACA and SASCI schemes in the State of Uttar Pradesh is annexed.

There is no project for the development of Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary, located in Balrampur and Shravasti districts of Uttar Pradesh presently enlisted for consideration by the Ministry of Tourism under above mentioned schemes.

The Ministry of Tourism with the aim to promote tourism in tribal areas, recently issued guidelines for 'Development of Homestays in Tribal Areas' along with template for formulation of proposal by State Governments and UT Administrations.

Ministry of Tourism, Government of India has entrusted Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification (IITFC) to increase the number of Trained Tourist Facilitators and Guides to cater to the need of Indian Tourism Industry for optimum use of Incredible Indian Tourism environment. The programme commenced in 2020 and the details of the training extended in this regard is as under:

Course Enrolment Data		Passout/ OCC Downloaded Data	
Course	Enrolments	Nos.	Remarks
Basic (IITFC)	14259	7014	NA
Refresher	2770	2652	Candidates downloaded the OCC certificate
IITG-Advance (Heritage)	2084	374	In two phases
Linguistic	-	206	NA

The Ministry of Tourism also launched a national responsible tourism initiative by the name of 'Paryatan Mitra' and 'Paryatan Didi' under which around 3994 candidates have been trained till March, 2025.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) has informed that it has issued guidelines on sustainable eco-tourism in forest and wildlife areas 2021. The Ministry provides financial assistance to State/UTs under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme “Development of Wildlife Habitats” for conservation and management of Wildlife and development of its habitats, as per the Annual Plan of operations (APOs) received from States/UTs, including state of Uttar Pradesh. The activities supported under the scheme includes eco-tourism. No funds have been allocated to the Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary for eco-tourism activity.

Details of funds released to Suhelwa Wildlife Sanctuary under the Scheme during the last three years is as below:

Year	Funds released (₹ in lakhs)
2022-2023	27.94
2023-2024	34.85
2024-2025	44.08

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†2529 ANSWERED ON 04.08.2025 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF SUHELWA WILDLIFE SANCTUARY UNDER ECO-TOURISM RAISED BY SHRI RAM SHIROMANI VERMA**

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

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Circuit/ Sanction Year</b>	<b>Sanctioned Amount (₹ in Crore)</b>
<b>Swadesh Darshan</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, &amp; Kapilwastu</b>	<b>Buddhist Circuit 2016-17</b>	<b>87.89</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur</b>	<b>Ramayana Circuit 2016-17</b>	<b>69.45</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Development of Ahar-Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh- Kausambi-Mirzapur-Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj-Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh-Kairana- Baghpat- Shahjahanpur</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit 2016-17</b>	<b>71.91</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Development of Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balia- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit 2016-17</b>	<b>67.51</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Development of Kalinjar Fort (Banda)- MagharDham (SantKabir Nagar)- ChauriChaura, Shaheed Sthal (Fatehpur)- MahuarshaheedSthal (Ghosi)- Shaheed Smarak (Meerut)</b>	<b>Heritage Circuit 2016-17</b>	<b>36.65</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Development of Ayodhya</b>	<b>Ramayana Circuit 2017-18</b>	<b>127.21</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>Development of Jewar-Dadri-Sikandrabad- Noida-Khurja-Banda</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit 2018-19</b>	<b>12.03</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur)</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit</b>	<b>18.30</b>

	<b>and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyagunj)</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	
<b>PRASHAD Scheme</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Development of Varanasi –Phase –I</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>18.73</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>10.98</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Development of River Cruise Tourism at Varanasi</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>9.02</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>9.36</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Development of Varanasi – Phase II</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>44.60</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>37.59</b>
<b>Swadesh Darshan 2.0</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>“Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Exp”</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>14.52</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Vedic- wellness Experience at Naimisaranya”</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>17.80</b>
<b>CBDD</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Development of Cultural Landscape at Mahoba</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>24.98</b>
<b>Assistance to Central Agencies</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Joint Development of Agra Cantt. Railway Station</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>5.05</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Joint Development of Rai-Bareilly Railway Station</b>	<b>2013-14</b>	<b>4.44</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Illumination of monuments in Varanasi/Sarnath (Dhamekh Stupa in SarnathChaukhandi Stupa in Sarnath, Tomb of Lalkan in Sarnath and Man Mahal in Banaras)</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>5.12</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>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</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>2.93</b>
<b>Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)</b>			
<b>1</b>	<b>Development of Bateshwar in District-Agra</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>74.05</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>80.24</b>

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