

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2220
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT IN KUSHINAGAR

2220 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the specific funds released and utilized for development of Buddhist circuit under the Swadesh Darshan scheme in Kushinagar during the last two years;
- (b) the plan for upgrading pilgrim amenities at the core sites;
- (c) the steps taken to establish a state-of-the-art Convention Centre for international Buddhist meetings;
- (d) the progress made on developing the eco-tourism zone around local water bodies; and
- (e) the timeline for launching the unified digital ticketing system for monuments?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Identification, development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the respective State Government (SG)/ 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 scheme and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development in the country by extending financial assistance to the SGs/UTAs on receipt of the project proposals in synergy with the scheme guidelines from them, Government instructions, availability of funds etc.

In addition, Government of India under its 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' sanctioned 40 projects in the country in Financial Year 2024-25, with the primary objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country, branding and marketing them at global scale.

Under Swadesh Darshan scheme, the Ministry of Tourism sanctioned a project, i.e. 'Development of Buddhist Circuit in Srawasti, Kushinagar & Kapilwastu' during Financial Year 2016-17 for an amount of Rs.87.89 Crore and the project is reported to be physically complete. Currently, there is no proposal for development of Convention Centre or eco-tourism zone etc. at Kushinagar under active consideration of the Ministry of Tourism.

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) already operates a unified digital ticketing system that enables visitors to purchase entry tickets for its 143 ticketed monuments through a dedicated website. Physical ticket counters also continue to function as per requirement, ensuring

that both online and offline options are available for public convenience. The system allows visitors to book tickets in advance online, facilitating digital payments and reducing queues at monument entrances. The initiative was introduced to modernize the ticketing process and enhance visitor convenience.

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

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2220 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT 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-Baghat- 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 |
| 9. | Development of Wayside Amenities in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar | Wayside Circuit 2018-19 | 15.07 |
| 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 |

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|--|---|---------|-------|
| 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 |
| CBDD | | | |
| 1. | ‘Development of Cultural Landscape at Mahoba | 2024-25 | 24.98 |
| 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 |
