

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.149#**  
ANSWERED ON 02.02.2023

**DEVELOPMENT OF SARNATH AS BUDDHIST PILGRIMAGE SITE**

149# SMT. GEETA ALIAS CHANDRAPRABHA:

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

- (a) whether there is a scheme to develop Sarnath as a Buddhist pilgrimage site, along with the development of Varanasi as a tourist destination;
- (b) if so, the work done by Government, under this scheme, till date;
- (c) the total funds spent for the development of Sarnath during the last two years, the details thereof; and
- (d) apart from Sarnath, the names of the Buddhist sites which are planned to be developed by Government in Uttar Pradesh, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tourism under its scheme viz. National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), on receipt of proposals from the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, has approved following projects for Varanasi, including the works at Sarnath, in Uttar Pradesh:

(Rs. in Crore)

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Year of Sanction	Approved cost	Physical Progress
1.	Development of Varanasi – Phase - I	2015-16	20.40	Complete
2.	Cruise Tourism in River Ganga, Varanasi	2017-18	9.02	Complete
3.	Development of Varanasi Under PRASHAD Scheme – Phase II	2017-18	44.60	Complete

Under the project at Sl. No. 1 above, following works have been approved and executed at Sarnath:

Sr. No.	Name of Works	Cost in Lakh INR	Status
1.	Dhamek Stupa- Sound and Light Show	733.66	100%
2.	Buddha Theme Park, Sarnath	220.22	100%

(d): Projects under PRASHAD scheme are considered and approved on receipt of proposals from the respective State Government or Union Territory Administrations, in line with the guidelines of the scheme.

\*\*\*\*\*