

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2118
ANSWERED ON 07.08.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF CULTURAL TOURISM THROUGH RICH HERITAGE AND RELIGIOUS PLACES

2118 # SHRI HARSH MAHAJAN:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Chamba (Himachal Pradesh) is famous for its rich cultural heritage, ancient temples and religious places like Chamunda Temple, Lakhan Devi Temple, Chaurasi Temple Complex (Bharmour), Manimahesh Yatra and Bhuri Singh Museum;
- (b) whether any special scheme/project has been initiated by Government to promote cultural and religious tourism in Chamba, if so, details thereof; and
- (c) whether any special efforts are being made to bring these places on the national/international tourist map and whether any financial assistance being provided to the State Government for their basic development in these religious places for pilgrims, if so, details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The Chamunda Temple at Chamba, and four Temples namely:- Lakhan Devi Temple, Ganesh Temple, Mani Mahesh Temple and Narsingh Temple at Bharmour are declared as monuments of national importance, which are maintained by Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). Further, Bhuri Singh Museum is under the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
- (b) The Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan(SD)', & 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)' and 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)'—
- (c) a sub-scheme of SwadeshDarshan complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development in the country, including eco-tourism destinations, 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 Government, its assessment etc.

The North Zone Cultural Centre, (NZCC) under the Ministry of Culture, Government of India in collaboration with Department of Language, Art and Culture, Government of Himachal Pradesh and district Administration, Chamba participated in the 'International Minjar Mela' organized in the month of July at Chamba, Himachal Pradesh. Cultural components like folk/tribal dances, singing form etc. from different parts of the India had been presented by NZCC. Further, NZCC also promoting folk dances of Chamba and handicrafts by inviting them in other programmes and Crafts Melas organized at various places across the country.
