

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3027#
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN PURVANCHAL REGION

3027# SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

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

- (a) whether Government is formulating a special action plan for development of tourist destinations in Purvanchal region, including Chandauli, under the district-based tourism development campaign in Uttar Pradesh;
- (b) if so, whether there is a proposal to develop a tourism circuit by connecting Chandauli's Rajdari-Devdari waterfalls, Chandraprabha Wildlife Sanctuary and other tourist sites with Varanasi, Sarnath, Vindhyachal and Prayagraj; and
- (c) the details of steps being taken to promote local employment, ODOP (One District One Product), handicrafts and tourism-based self-employment through this initiative?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Development and promotion of tourist destination including in Purvanchal region is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/UT Administration (UTA). However, the Ministry through its existing schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of SD2.0, and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations including Uttar Pradesh; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by them, availability of funds, Government directions, inter-se priority etc.

The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was initially designed for the integrated development of thematic tourism circuits. The revamped Swadesh Darshan 2.0 adopts a destination-centric approach with a focus on developing sustainable and responsible tourism destinations.

In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' scheme, has also provided financial assistance in the year 2024-25 to the States for development of tourism projects.

Sanctioning of new project under the above-mentioned schemes is a continuous process. Details of projects sanctioned under above-mentioned schemes in the State of Uttar Pradesh including in Purvanchal region is **annexed**.

Ministry of Tourism regularly encourage all the State Government/UT Administrations to engage local community in tourism activities, where local people get opportunities through homestays, guiding

services, and sale of local products including handicrafts. This also helps in generating income and creating jobs at the local level. In addition, Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic tourism destination. Ministry also promotes various tourism destinations including those in Uttar Pradesh through various medium through social media, websites and participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (C) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3027# ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026 REGARDING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN PURVANCHAL REGION RAISED BY SMT. DARSHANA SINGH

(i) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

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

(ii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1	Naimisaranya	Vedic-wellness Experience	05.03.2024	17.8
2.	Prayagraj	Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Experience	05.03.2024	14.52

(iii) Details of Project sanctioned under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) – a sub-scheme of SD2.0 Scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

S. No.	Destination /Category	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Mahoba (Culture & Heritage)	Development of Cultural Landscape at Mahoba	27.03.2025	24.98

(iv) Details of Project sanctioned under Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)
1	2024-25	Development of Bateshwar in District-Agra	74.05
2.	2024-25	Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development in Shrawasti	80.24

(v) Details of Project sanctioned under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme in the State of Uttar Pradesh:

S. No.	Sanction Year	Project Name	Sanction Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1	2015-16	Development of Varanasi – Phase –I	18.73
2	2014-15	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	10.98
3.	2017-18	River Cruise Tourism in Ganga, Varanasi	9.02
4.	2014-15	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	9.36
5.	2017-18	Development of Varanasi – Phase –II	44.60
6.	2018-19	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	37.59
