

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF CULTURE
RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.518
ANSWERED ON 23.07.2026

DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL CORRIDORS

518. SHRI SANJAY SETH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the progress made in infrastructural and aesthetic development of spiritual corridors in Kashi, Ayodhya and Mathura;
- (b) whether the successful integration of modern amenities has vastly improved the pilgrimage experience while preserving heritage architecture;
- (c) the details of central financial assistance seamlessly utilized for these mega-cultural projects during the last four months;
- (d) the positive socio-economic impact on local artisans, guides and the hospitality sector driven by increased cultural tourism; and
- (e) the steps taken to continuously maintain the cleanliness and ecological balance around these heavily visited heritage sites?

ANSWER

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

- (a) to The infrastructural and aesthetic development of the spiritual corridors in Kashi, Ayodhya
- (e) and Mathura has been undertaken through tourism infrastructure projects sanctioned under various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, including Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD), Swadesh Darshan, Swadesh Darshan 2.0, Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), Assistance to Central Agencies (ACA) and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI). These projects are sanctioned based on proposals received from the respective State Governments/ UT Administrations, subject to the prescribed scheme guidelines and availability of funds. The details of progress made in the development of these spiritual corridors are at **Annexure**.

The projects have been designed to integrate modern visitor amenities while preserving the cultural, architectural and heritage character of these important spiritual destinations, thereby enhancing the overall pilgrimage experience.

The tourism infrastructure developed under these schemes is also expected to generate positive socio-economic outcomes by promoting cultural tourism, increasing tourist footfall and creating additional livelihood opportunities for local artisans, tourist guides, and stakeholders in the hospitality and allied sectors.

Further, to promote cleanliness, environmental sustainability and ecological balance around heavily visited heritage sites, the Ministry encourages States/UTs to incorporate sustainable components in the sanctioned projects, including solid waste management systems, sewage treatment facilities, public sanitation infrastructure, landscaping and plantation, rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient and solar lighting systems, eco-friendly mobility solutions and other environmentally responsible measures.

ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) to (e) OF THE RAJYA SABHA
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THE DETAILS OF PROGRESS MADE IN INFRASTRUCTURAL AND AESTHETIC
DEVELOPMENT OF SPIRITUAL CORRIDORS IN KASHI, AYODHYA AND MATHURA

SL. NO.	NAME OF SPIRITUAL CORRIDOR	DETAILS OF WORKS CARRIED OUT
1.	Kashi (Varanasi)	• The development of Varanasi (Phase I & II). • Development of River Cruise Tourism on the Ganga. • Illumination of monuments and heritage sites including Dashashwamedh Ghat to Darbhanga Ghat, Tulsi Manas Mandir, Sarnath Museum, Dhamekh Stupa, Chaukhandi Stupa, Tomb of Lal Khan and Man Mahal.
2.	Ayodhya	• The Ramayana Circuit development.
3.	Mathura–Vrindavan	• Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre. • Development of the Mathura–Vrindavan as a Mega Tourist Circuit. • Development of infrastructure facilities at Govardhan.
