

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
**LOK SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1141**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 02.12.2024

**SETTING UP OF UNESCO GEOPARK IN CHITRAKOOT**

†1141. SHRI GANESH SINGH:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government has formulated any roadmap to preserve the Indian Art and Cultural Heritage;
- (b) whether the Government proposes to develop a tourist circuit covering Orchha, Khajurao, Panna, Kalinjar Fort, Chitrakoot Sarbhanga Ashram, Sutikshan Muni Ashram, Siddha Pahad, Birsinghpur, Satna, Ramvan, Pondi Khajuri, Markandeya Ashram, White Tiger Safari Mukundpur, Bansagar, Bandhavgarh, Amarkantak, Kanha National Park linking Chitrakoot where Bhagwan Shri Ram spent the maximum eleven years in exile;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that this whole region covers cultural heritage, religious belief, national parks, tiger safari, water bodies and is the source of holy rivers;
- (d) whether the Government is also aware that the selection of the said region for setting up UNESCO Geopark is under consideration; and
- (e) if so, the details thereof?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) The Ministry of Culture is actively engaged in conservation and preservation of tangible and intangible art and culture through its various subordinate and attached offices. Archaeological Survey of India under the Ministry of Culture regularly maintains ancient monuments and archaeological sites and remains of national importance as per requirement.
- (b) The Ministry of Tourism, under its various schemes like Swadesh Darshan, Challenge Based Destination Development, Special Assistance to State for Capital Investment, PRASAD Scheme and Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development provide financial assistance to State / UT Administration for tourism infrastructure development subject to the availability of funds, submission of suitable Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), adherence to scheme guidelines, etc.  
  
The details of projects sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism are given at **Annexure**.
- (c) The region is rich in such diversities.
- (d) In this regard; Geological Survey of India under the Ministry of Mines has initiated its preliminary field investigation.
- (e)

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**ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF THE LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†1141 FOR 02.12.2024**

**THE DETAILS OF PROJECTS SANCTIONED**

(A) Details of project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

1.	Development of Wildlife Circuit at Panna- Mukundpur- Sanjay- Dubri-Bandhavgarh- Kanha- Mukki- Pench	Wildlife Circuit / 2015-16	92.10
2.	Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandsaur-Dhar	Buddhist Circuit / 2016-17	74.02
3	Development of Gwalior – Orchha – Khajuraho – Chanderi – Bhimbetka – Mandu	Heritage Circuit / 2016-17	89.82
4	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- BhedaGhat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	Eco Circuit / 2017-18	93.76

(B) The Swadesh Darshan Scheme has been revamped as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme (SD2.0) with the aim to develop sustainable and responsible tourism. In consultation with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh and in line with the SD2.0 scheme guidelines, the Ministry has identified "Gwalior" and "Chitrakoot" in Madhya Pradesh and has sanctioned "Phoolbagh Experience Zone, Gwalior for Rs.16.73 Crore" and "Spiritual Experience at Chitrakoot for Rs. 27.21 Crore".

(C) Under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme under SD2.0, the Ministry has sanctioned "Mandu" and "Orchha" as destinations under "Culture & Heritage" and "Spiritual Tourism" respectively for Rs. 25 Crore each.

(D) Further, the Government of India has sanctioned two projects in Madhya Pradesh i.e., "Orchha A Medieval Splendour for Rs.99.92 Crore" and "International Convention Centre for MICE in Bhopal for Rs.95.34 Crore" under the Scheme-Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment(SASCI) 2024-25.

(E) Under "Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" Scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned 02 projects 'Development of Amarkantak' and 'Development of Omkareshwar' for Rs.49.99 Crore and Rs.43.93 Crore respectively. Under PRASHAD scheme, the Ministry has identified "Shri PeetmbraPeetha, Datia District" and "Shanidev Temple, Morena District" in Madhya Pradesh.

(F) Under "Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development" Scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned a project "Tourism Infrastructure at Beltaal Lake, Damoh, Madhya Pradesh by ITDC" for an amount of Rs.23.15 Crore.

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