

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†3673
ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026**

**PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN
EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH**

†3673. SHRI RAMASHANKAR VIDHARTHI RAJBHAR:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of funds approved for the development of historical and religious sites especially connected to the Ramayana Circuit and Buddhist Circuit in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal) particularly in Deoria and Ballia; and**
- (b) whether the Government is considering providing a special package to promote religious tourism in Eastern Uttar Pradesh (Purvanchal) and create employment for local youth, if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (b): Development and promotion of tourism including development of historical and religious sites 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.

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 (UP) including in Eastern UP (Deoria, Balia etc) is annexed.

Ministry of Tourism promotes India as a holistic tourism destination. Ministry also promotes various tourism destinations including those in Uttar Pradesh through various medium including social media, websites and participation in fairs and exhibitions etc.

The Ministry regularly encourages State Governments/ UT Administrations to engage with local communities and to ensure robust operation & management (O&M) of completed projects so as to increase footfall, generate local employment and enhance overall tourist satisfaction.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (B) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.†3673 ANSWERED ON 10.08.2026 REGARDING PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM IN EASTERN UTTAR PRADESH RAISED BY SHRI RAMASHANKAR VIDHARTHI RAJBHAR

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

(in ₹ Crore)			
S. No.	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned
1.	Buddhist 2016-17	Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89
2.	Ramayana 2016-17	Development of Chitrakootand 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, ShaheedSthal (Fatehpur)- Mahuar shaheed Sthal (Ghosi)- ShaheedSmarak(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:

(in ₹ Crore)

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost
1	Naimisaranya	Vedic- wellness Experience	05.03.2024	17.8
2.	Prayagraj	Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Experince	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:

(in ₹ Crore)

S. No.	Destination /Category	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost
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:

(in ₹ Crore)

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost
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:

(in ₹ Crore)

S. No.	Sanction Year	Project Name	Sanction Amount
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
