

Union Minister of Culture & Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat and Ladakh L-G Vinai Kumar Saxena inaugurate Sound and Light Show at Leh Palace

Sound and Light Show will boost heritage tourism in Ladakh

Initiative to enhance cultural experience, promote night tourism and strengthen local economy

Leh, April 24: In a major boost to the promotion of cultural and heritage tourism in Ladakh, a mesmerising Sound and Light Show was inaugurated yesterday, at the historic Leh Palace by the Hon'ble Union Minister of Tourism and Culture, Shri Gajendra Singh Shekhawat, and the Lieutenant Governor of the Union Territory of Ladakh, Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena. The project, implemented by the India Tourism Development Corporation (ITDC) under the Ministry of Tourism, has been executed at a cost of ₹8.57 crore, reflecting the Government of India's commitment to strengthening tourism infrastructure in heritage destinations like Ladakh.

Leh Palace, one of Ladakh's most iconic monuments, was built in the 17th century by King Sengge Namgyal and served as the residence of the Namgyal dynasty and the administrative and ceremonial centre of the region. Over the centuries, it has stood as a witness to Ladakh's political, cultural, and spiritual evolution, making it an invaluable heritage asset.

The newly inaugurated Sound and Light Show presents Ladakh's rich cultural, historical, and architectural legacy through modern and engaging techniques, making heritage more accessible to visitors. The Show is a testament to the integration of such a contemporary facility within an ASI-protected monument, highlighting that heritage conservation and enhanced visitor experience can go hand in hand.

Highlighting the significance of the initiative, Gajendra Singh Shekhawat stated that Ladakh, particularly Leh, holds immense tourism potential and is entering a new phase of transformation under the leadership of Vinai Kumar Saxena. He noted that at a time when the country is witnessing rapid development, Ladakh is fortunate to have leadership committed to environmental conservation, tourism promotion, and heritage preservation in line with the vision of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

He described the inauguration of the Sound and Light Show at Leh Palace as a moment of pride, emphasising that the initiative goes beyond tourism infrastructure and represents a meaningful step towards bringing Ladakh's rich history, including that of the Namgyal dynasty, to life. He added that the immersive multimedia experience would connect both domestic and international tourists with the region's culture and heritage, effectively bridging the past and the future.

The Union Minister further remarked that Ladakh is not merely a tourist destination but a land of centuries-old civilisation, where spirituality, culture, art, and natural beauty coexist. He lauded the efforts of the Ministry of Culture and the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) in preserving and revitalising heritage, noting that conservation also involves celebrating civilisational legacy for future generations.

Lieutenant Governor Shri Vinai Kumar Saxena stated that the project marks an important step towards promoting sustainable cultural and heritage tourism in Ladakh. He emphasised that the initiative will help visitors better understand and appreciate the region's rich history and cultural legacy.

He further noted that the Government of India, under the leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has accorded high priority to the development of Ladakh since it became a Union Territory, with equal focus on infrastructure development and preservation of cultural heritage.

The Lieutenant Governor underscored that the Sound and Light Show will be a major value-add to Ladakh's tourism ecosystem by enriching the visitor experience and fostering a deeper connection with the region's culture and history. He added that it will also promote night-time tourism, thereby creating new opportunities for local guides, performers, hospitality providers, transport operators, and small businesses, contributing to employment generation and local economic growth.

Reiterating the Administration's vision, the Lieutenant Governor emphasised that Ladakh's natural beauty is complemented by its vibrant culture and heritage, and that sustained efforts are being made to position Ladakh as one of the most sought-after tourist destinations in the country and the world, while ensuring a world-class experience for visitors.

