

# UP set to transform historic forts, palaces into luxurious hotels

Hotel chains like Leela Hotels, Taj Group and Hyatt Regency keen to develop these sites

**Our Bureau**

New Delhi

Uttar Pradesh is transforming its historic forts and palaces into luxurious heritage hotels to boost tourism. Notable properties, including the ancient Chunar Fort and Mastani Palace, will be repurposed. Renowned hotel chains like Leela Hotels, Taj Group, Neemrana Group, Mahindra Hotels and Resorts, Oberoi Hotels, Hyatt Regency and Lalit Hotels are interested in developing and managing these sites.

Mukesh Kumar Mesharam, Principal Secretary,



**NEW LOOK.** Chhatrar Manzil in Lucknow will be one of the properties to be transformed under Phase 1

Department of Tourism and Culture, Uttar Pradesh said that Uttar Pradesh tourism has been soaring to newer heights in recent times with a significant rise registered in both domestic and inbound tourism. To facilitate

the tourists looking for experiential tourism we are developing infrastructure and facilities that will cater to tourists coming from all economic segments.

The State's tourism policy requires a minimum invest-

ment ranging from ₹30 crore to ₹100 crore for transforming heritage properties into hotels.

## PROPERTIES

In the initial phase, properties such as Chunar Fort in Mirzapur, Barua Sagar Fort in Jhansi, Jal Mahal in Barsana, Lucknow's Chhatrar Manzil and Kothi Roshan-ud-Daula and Shukla Talab Haveli in Kanpur will be transformed into hotels. Reports for these projects have been prepared and submitted to the State government for approval. Upon approval, the next phase will involve converting Mastani Mahal

and Lake Palace in Mahoba, Tehroli in Jhansi, Tal Behat Fort in Lalitpur, and Rangarh Fort in Banda into hotels.

Additionally, plans are in place to transform a heritage building at Akbar's hunting ground in Kirawali, Agra, a city with the highest influx of tourists in the State, into a hotel.

These heritage hotels will feature wellness centers, museums, heritage restaurants and thematic parks, providing tourists with luxurious accommodations while simultaneously generating employment opportunities.