

11 forts, historical bldgs to be restored through PPP model

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Lucknow: The state govt has launched an initiative to restore 11 historic forts and buildings—including Alambagh Bhawan, Gulistan-e-Eram and Darshan Vilas Kothi in the city — through the public-private partnership (PPP) model.

A senior govt official said the project is aimed at preserving the state's architectural legacy while promoting tourism and creating employment opportunities across regions.

Acting on the directives of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the tourism department will implement the plan in collaboration with private agencies, which will be responsible for the design, development and operation of the sites before handing them over to govt. The official added that the selected structures are known for their unique architecture and historical significance and will be transformed into heritage hotels, cultural centers or museums.

The 11 heritage sites slated for rejuvenation are: Talbehat Fort (Lalitpur), Rangarh and Bhuragarh Fort (Banda), Wazirganj Baradari (Gonda), Alambagh Bha-



(Top) Kothi Darshan Vilas and Alambagh Palace to get a facelift

wan, Gulistan-e-Eram, and Darshan Vilas (Lucknow), Tikait Rai Baradari (Kanpur), Mastani Mahal and Senapati Mahal (Mahoba), Tahrauli Fort (Jhansi), and Sitaram Mahal or Kotwan Fort (Mathura).

The initiative is expected to particularly benefit regions like Bundelkhand, where heritage tourism has

the potential to significantly strengthen the local economy. The official noted that this approach is part of govt's broader strategy to balance cultural preservation with economic development.

This effort also aligns with the CM's ongoing push to promote eco-tourism and religious tourism.