

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 238**

**TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 27TH NOVEMBER, 2024/ AGRAHAYANA 6, 1946
(SAKA)**

PROMOTING NEW TYPES OF TOURISM IN UNION TERRITORIES

238 # SHRI ADITYA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of Home Affairs be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has taken any concrete steps to promote new type of tourism in the Union Territories;**
- (b) whether Government has made any effort to boost the potential of eco-tourism in the island Union Territories; and**
- (c) if so, the details thereof?**

ANSWER

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS

(SHRI NITYANAND RAI)

(a) to (c): Yes Sir. The Government, with an aim to diversify tourism and boost the local economy of Union Territories (UTs), is actively promoting various new types of tourism like astro-tourism, eco-tourism, nature/biodiversity tourism, heritage/cultural tourism, wellness tourism, spiritual tourism, adventure tourism, monsoon tourism, experiential tourism, religious tourism, cruise tourism, MICE (Meetings, Incentives, Conferences and Exhibitions) tourism, tribal and rural tourism, border tourism, horticulture tourism, sports tourism, destination wedding tourism etc.

Some key tourism projects undertaken in the UTs include the setting up of the Hanle Dark Sky Reserve in Ladakh (the first-ever Dark Sky Reserve in India); development of world-class seafronts, riverfronts and tent cities in Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu (DNH&DD); development of MICE infrastructure in Puducherry; opening up of new trekking routes in Ladakh; identification of off-beat tourist destinations in Jammu & Kashmir, development of inter-city tourism circuits in Chandigarh; celebration of cultural festivals such as Zanskar Festival in Ladakh, Wullar Festival in Jammu & Kashmir etc. To boost the tourism potential of UTs, local art and traditional crafts are being promoted in the UTs, and restoration, beautification and landscaping of various tourist/heritage sites is also being done.

Moreover, emphasis has also been laid on community engagement in the promotion of tourism in UTs, in order to ensure inclusive and responsible tourism.

The Government has also taken various initiatives to boost the potential of eco-tourism in the island Union Territories of Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI) and Lakshadweep. To promote eco-friendly and sustainable tourism, enabling physical infrastructure is being created in these UTs.

This includes the development of eco-tourism resorts, tent resorts, beach villas and India's first water villas in Lakshadweep. Similarly, eco-tourism projects have also been planned in Andaman & Nicobar Islands in a holistic development framework, with construction of premium island resorts, premium tents and tree houses. Further, in order to further boost the potential of eco-tourism in these island UTs, infrastructure facilities for blue flag certification of more beaches are also being created.
