

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF CULTURE  
RAJYA SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1317  
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025**

**SUPPORT FOR CULTURAL TOURISM IN MAHARASHTRA**

1317. SHRI DHANANJAY BHIMRAO MAHADIK:

Will the Minister of CULTURE be pleased to state:

- (a) the initiatives to develop cultural tourism circuits in Maharashtra;
- (b) the investment made in infrastructure and publicity to attract tourists;
- (c) the involvement of local communities in tourism activities ; and
- (d) the impact of cultural tourism on local economy and heritage conservation?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF CULTURE AND TOURISM  
(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

- (a) Development of tourist destinations and creation of enabling infrastructure therein & is primarily undertaken by the respective Governments of State and Union Territory
- (b) (UT) Administration.  
However, the Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan (SD)', Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)' – a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan, 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies (ACA) for Tourism Infrastructure Development' schemes is complementing the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations/Central Agencies subject to availability of funds, adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) by the State Government/ Union Territory Administrations/ Central Agencies etc. In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)' has also provided financial assistance to the States for development of tourism projects.  
The details of projects sanctioned in Maharashtra under various flagship schemes/programs/projects are enclosed at **Annexure**.

- (c) The Ministry of Tourism interacts with various agencies including State Governments to monitor the progress of the projects and encourages the State Governments/ UT Administrations to undertake community consultations.

The Government also organizes community-driven and people-centric events, such as walkthroughs, talks, drawing and painting competitions for schoolchildren, photo exhibitions for visitors, and consultative meetings with locals. These events are held on various occasions, including World Heritage Day, World Tourism Day, World Heritage Week, *Swachchhta Diwas*, and International Day of Yoga among others, and at the time of various other national celebrations to raise awareness and to sensitize people towards the protection of the country's age-old heritage. Local products and handicrafts are given preference at the time of development of any tourist centric infrastructure.

- (d) Cultural tourism has a positive and affirmative impact on the local economy by providing a fillip to the local products and handicrafts and enhancement of employment opportunities. To support cultural tourism, Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) ensures conservation of monuments, as and when required, and undertakes their regular maintenance as per available resources. In addition, visitors amenities such as signages, drinking water, toilets, benches, publication counters, brochures, facilities for specially abled persons etc. are also provided as per requirement at Centrally Protected Monuments / Sites.

## ANNEXURE

ANNEXURE REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PART (a) and (b) OF THE RAJYA SABHA  
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**DETAILS OF PROJECTS SANCTIONED IN MAHARASHTRA UNDER VARIOUS  
FLAGSHIP SCHEMES/PROGRAMS/PROJECTS**

Sr. No.	Name of the Project	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Sanctioned Amount (in ₹ Crore)
<b>Swadesh Darshan</b>			
1.	Development of Gandhisagar Dam- Mandleshwar Dam- Omkareshwar Dam- Indira Sagar Dam- Tawa Dam- Bargi Dam- BhedaGhat- Bansagar Dam- Ken River	Coastal Circuit 2015-16	19.06
2.	Development of Sindhudurg Coastal Circuit - Sagareshwar, Tarkarli, Vijaydurg (Beach & Creek), Mitbhav	Spiritual Circuit 2018-19	45.47
<b>PRASHAD</b>			
1.	Development of Trimbakeshwar, Nashik	2017-18	45.41
<b>Swadesh Darshan 2.0</b>			
1.	Shivrushti Historical Theme Park- Phase 3	2023-24	76.22
<b>CBDD</b>			
1.	Development of Ahmednagar Fort	2024-25	25.00
<b>Assistance to Central Agencies</b>			
1.	Development of KanojiAngre Lighthouse as a tourist Destination	2016-17	15.00
2.	Up-gradation/ modernization to International Cruise terminal at Indira Dock, Mumbai.	2016-17	12.50
3.	Upgradation/Modernization to International Cruise Terminal at Indira Dock, Mumbai Port Trust	2020-21	37.50
<b>SASCI</b>			
1.	INS-Guldar Underwater Museum, Artificial Reef, and submarine Tourism in Sindhudurg	2024-25	46.91
2.	Development of RAM-KAL PATH in Nashik	2024-25	99.14

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