

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2212
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025

HERITAGE AND ECO-TOURISM CIRCUITS IN TAMIL NADU

2212 SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM:

Will the Minister of **TOURISM** be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government has assessed the potential for expanding sustainable, heritage and eco-tourism circuits in Tamil Nadu, particularly in coastal and delta regions;
- (b) the details of central financial assistance released to the State under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD schemes during the last three years;
- (c) the status of pending tourism infrastructure proposals submitted by the State;
- (d) whether the State would be prioritized for new spiritual, cultural and rural tourism circuits; and
- (e) the steps taken to improve digital tourism services, safety standards and last-mile connectivity in key destinations?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): Identification for expanding potential of tourism and development of tourism circuits, including sustainable, heritage, eco-tourism and coastal circuits are primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/Union Territory Administration (UTA). 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 SD2.0, and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations; subject to adherence to scheme guidelines, submission of Detailed Project Reports (DPRs), availability of funds, inter-se priority etc.

The details of the projects sanctioned under aforesaid schemes of the Ministry of Tourism in the state of Tamil Nadu is **annexed**.

Receipt and appraisal of project proposals from the State/UT is an ongoing process. Further, Central Sanctioning and Monitoring Committee (CSMC) under CBDD scheme in its meeting dated 07.03.2025 considered the proposal for 'Enhancement and Amenities for Brihadeeswara temple, Tanjore' and directed the State Government of Tamil Nadu to submit relevant clearance.

Ministry of Tourism revamped the Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations in the country, adopting a destination and tourist-centric approach in place of the earlier circuit-based framework.

Ministry of Tourism regularly encourages the concerned State Government/ Union Territory Administration to identify and develop destinations including coastal and delta areas, while emphasizing improvement in digital tourism services, visitor safety, and last-mile connectivity.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2212 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2025 REGARDING HERITAGE AND ECO-TOURISM CIRCUITS IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI S. KALYANASUNDARAM

(i) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S. N.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Amount	Amount Released / Authorized
1.	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of (Chennai- Mamamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)	73.13	71.03

(ii) Details of Project sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S. N.	Year of Sanction	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Amount	Amount Authorized
1.	2023-24	Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore Temple	30.02	-

(iii) Details of Project sanctioned under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S.N.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Category	Sanctioned Amount	Amount Authorized
1.	2024-25	Iconic Transformation of Rameswaram	Spiritual Tourism	20.01	2.00

(iv) Details of Project sanctioned under Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(Amount in ₹Crore)

S.N.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount	Amount Released
1.	Development of Kanchipuram	2016-17	13.99	13.99
2.	Development of Velankanni	2016-17	4.86	4.86
3.	Development of 8 Navagraha Temples	2024-25	40.94	-
