

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.620**  
ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025

**ROADMAP TO PROMOTE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN SOUTH INDIA**

620 SHRI I.S. INBADURAI:

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

- (a) the number of tourists who visited the country during the last twelve months;
- (b) the number of tourists who visited the country since 2021, after the pandemic;
- (c) whether the country aims to achieve 100 million tourist arrivals in future and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether Government has prepared any roadmap to promote tourism, including specific plans for southern States, specifically the proposal to set up and promote an international tourism park at Radhapuram, Tirunelveli along with the details of fund allocation; and
- (e) whether Government proposes to develop Kodavilai at Tirunelveli for "Blue Beach" tourism purposes and if so, the funds allocated therefor?

**ANSWER**

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (b): The Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTAs) in India during the last three years and current year is given below:

Year	FTAs (in lakh)
2021	15.27
2022	64.37
2023	95.21
2024	99.52
2025 (Jan to October) (P)	69.80

(P): Provisional

Source: Bureau of Immigration

(c) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism has taken several steps and initiatives to boost tourist arrivals and promote the tourism sector in the country. The details are as follows:

The Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of ‘Swadesh Darshan’, ‘National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’ and ‘Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development’ provides financial assistance to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations/ Central Agencies for the development of tourism-related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country, including Tamil Nadu.

The Ministry of Tourism has now revamped the Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD 2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations, following a destination & tourism-centric approach.

Additionally, the Ministry of Tourism has formulated “Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD)” as a sub-scheme under SD2.0 aiming for holistic development of destination to enhance tourist experience.

The details of projects sanctioned under the above-mentioned schemes in the State of Tamil Nadu is given at **Annexure.**

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## ANNEXURE

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (c) TO (e) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.620 ANSWERED ON 04.12.2025 REGARDING ROADMAP TO PROMOTE TOURISM INDUSTRY IN SOUTH INDIA RAISED BY SHRI I.S. INBADURAI.**

List of sanctioned projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the state of Tamil Nadu:

Circuit	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)	Amount Released/ Authorised (₹ Crore)
Coastal Circuit	2016-17	Development of (Chennai-Mamamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)	73.13	71.03

List of sanctioned projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for the state of Tamil Nadu:

Year of Sanction	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)
2023-24	Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore Temple	30.02

List of sanctioned projects under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme in Tamil Nadu:

Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Category	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Amount Authorized (₹ Crore)
2024-25	Iconic Transformation of Rameswaram	Spiritual Tourism	20.01	2.00

List of sanctioned projects under special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale in Tamil Nadu:

S. No.	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Amount Released (₹ Crore)
1	2024-25	Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram	99.67	112.13
2	2024-25	Garden of Flowers in Devala	70.23	

List of projects sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme in Tamil Nadu:

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount (₹ Crore)	Amount Released (₹ Crore)
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	0.00

List of sanctioned projects under Assistance to Central Agencies in Tamil Nadu:

<b>Sr. No.</b>	<b>Name of Project</b>	<b>Agency</b>	<b>Sanction Date</b>	<b>Amount sanctioned (₹ Crore)</b>	<b>Amount Released (₹ Crore)</b>
1	Illumination and allied works at Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple, District - Ariyalur	ITDC	31-03-2025	11.47	0.00
2	Cruise Passenger Facilities Centre in the existing Passenger Terminal at Chennai Port.	Chennai Port Trust	24-09-2012	17.24	17.24

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