

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3179
ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026

PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM

3179 SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI:

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

- (a) whether Government is promoting religious tourism;
- (b) if so, the details thereof;
- (c) the details of projects sanctioned in this regard, State/ Union Territory-wise and the estimated cost thereof; and
- (d) the efforts being made to sanction various components at the pilgrimage sites to maintain environment sustainability?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products, is primarily undertaken by the respective State Governments (SGs) and Union Territory Administrations (UTAs).

As part of ongoing promotional efforts, the Ministry of Tourism promotes various destinations and tourism products of the country, including spiritual and religious tourism, through Incredible India website, digital and social media platforms, participation in fairs and festivals, and other promotional activities aimed at domestic and international markets.

The Ministry of Tourism under its various schemes including “Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive” (PRASHAD), Swadesh Darshan (SD), Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), and ‘Challenge Based Destination Development – CBDD’, a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, provides financial assistance to the State Governments (SGs) and Union Territory Administrations (UTAs) for development of infrastructure and experiences across the country, including at identified religious sites.

The Government of India under its ‘Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale’ provides financial assistance with the primary objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country, including religious tourist centres.

The details of the projects sanctioned under the aforementioned schemes for religious tourism are **annexed**.

Under these schemes, the Ministry of Tourism seeks to develop tourism infrastructure in an inclusive, integrated and sustainable manner. The sites are developed with a focus on environmental sustainability encouraging use of renewable energy, eco-friendly material, eco-friendly vehicles, incorporation of eco-friendly infrastructure like solar lighting, solid waste management systems and pious waste management systems. Also the schemes envisage consultation with local communities and stakeholders while preparing projects DPRs for development of destinations. Furthermore, States/UTs are required to ensure the sustainable operation and maintenance of completed projects.

ANNEXURE

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3179 ANSWERED ON 19.03.2026 REGARDING PROMOTION OF RELIGIOUS TOURISM RAISED BY SHRI PRAMOD TIWARI

Details of projects sanctioned under the aforementioned schemes are as under:

1. Swadesh Darshan

S. No.	State/UT	Destination	Sanction Year	Name of the project	Sanctioned amount (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Shalihundam, Bavikonda, Bojjanakonda, Amravati, Anupu	2017-18	Development of Buddhist Circuit: Shalihundam-Bavikonda- Bojjanakonda - Amravati- Anupu	35.24
2.	Bihar	Vaishali, Arrah, Masad, Patna, Rajgir- Pawapuri, Champapuri	2016-17	Development of Tirthankar Circuit-Vaishali-Arrah-Masad- Patna- Rajgir-Pawapuri- Champapuri	33.96
3.	Bihar	Sultanganj, Mojma, Banka	2016-17	Integrated Development of Kanwaria Route: Sultanganj-Mojma- Banka	44.76
4.	Bihar	Bodhgaya	2016-17	Development of Buddhist circuit- Construction of Convention Centre at Bodhgaya	95.18
5.	Bihar	Banka	2017-18	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Mandar Hill & Ang Pradesh	44.55
6.	Gujarat	Somnath, Bharuch, Kutch, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Mehsana	2017-18	Buddhist Circuit-Development of Junagadh-Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch-Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	26.68
7.	Haryana	Kurukshetra	2016-17	Krishna Circuit- Development of Tourism Infrastructures at places related to Mahabharata in Kurukshetra	77.39
8.	Kerala	Thiruvalla	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam	46.54
9.	Kerala	Thiruvananthapuram	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamura	78.08
10.	Kerala	Varakala	2018-19	Spiritual Circuit-Development Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram-Arruvipuram- Kunnumpara Sree Subrahmania- Chembazhant hi Sree Narayana Gurukulam	66.42

11.	Madhya Pradesh	Sanchi, Satna, Rewa, Mandasaur, Dhar	2016-17	Buddhist Circuit-Development of Sanchi-Satna-Rewa-Mandasaur-Dhar	74.02
12.	Maharashtra	Dhapewada	2018-19	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Waki-Adasa-Dhapewada-Paradsingha-Telankhandi-Girad	45.47
13.	Manipur	Lemba Khul	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Shri Govindajee Temple, Shri Bijoy Govindajee Temple – Shri Gopinath Temple – Shri Bungshibodon Temple – Shri Kaina Temple	45.34
14.	Punjab	Ferozpur, Khatkar Kalan, Kalanour, Patiala	2018-19	Heritage Circuit-Development of Anandpur Sahib - Fatehgarh Sahib - Chamkaur Sahib - Ferozpur - Khatkar Kalan – Kalanour - Patiala	85.32
15.	Puducherry	Thirukanch, Karaikal, Yanam	2017-18	Development of Spiritual Circuit in Puducherry- – Thirukanch- Karaikal- Yanam	34.96
16.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Sikar, Nathdwara	2016-17	Krishna Circuit- Development of Govind Dev ji temple (Jaipur), Khatu Shyam Ji (Sikar) and Nathdwara (Rajsamand)	75.8
17.	Rajasthan	Jaipur, Bharatpur, Chittorgarh	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Spiritual Circuit– 'Development of Churu (Salasar Balaji)-Jaipur (Shri Samodke Balaji, Ghatke Balaji, Bandheke Balaji)-Viratnagar (Bijak, Jainnasiya, Ambika Temple)- Bharatpur (Kaman Region)- Dholpur (Muchkund) - Mehndipur Balaji- Chittorgarh (Sanwaliyaji)	87.05
18.	Rajasthan	Jaipur	2015-16	Development of Sambhar Lake Town and Other Destinations	50.01
19.	Uttar Pradesh	Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	2016-17	Buddhist Circuit - Development of Srawasti, Kushinagar, & Kapilwastu	87.89
20.	Uttar Pradesh	Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	2021-22	Ramayana Circuit - Development of Chitrakoot and Shringverpur	69.45
21.	Uttar Pradesh	Aligarh, Unnao, Pratapgarh,	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit-Development of Ahar-	71.91

		Kausambi, Mirzapur, Gorakhpur, Domariyaganj, Basti, Barabanki, Azamgarh, Kairana, Baghpat, Shahjahanpur		Aligarh-Kasganj-Sarosi (Unnao)-Pratapgarh- Kausambi-Mirzapur- Gorakhpur-Domariyaganj- Basti-Barabanki-Azamgarh- Kairana- Baghpat- Shahjahanpur	
22.	Uttar Pradesh	Bijnor, Meerut, Kanpur, Kanpur Dehat, Banda, Ghazipur, Salempur, Ghosi, Balua, Ambedkar Nagar, Aligarh, Fatehpur, Deoria, Mahoba, Sonbhadra, Chandauli, Mishrikh, Bhadohi	2016-17	Spiritual Circuit- Development of Bijnor- Meerut- Kanpur- Kanpur Dehat- Banda- Ghazipur- Salempur- Ghosi- Balua- Ambedkar Nagar- Aligarh- Fatehpur- Deoria- Mahoba- Sonbhadra- Chandauli- Mishrikh- Bhadohi	67.51
23.	Uttar Pradesh	Ayodhya	2017-18	Ramayana Circuit - Development of Ayodhya	127.21
24.	Uttar Pradesh	Jhewar, Sikandrabad, Khurja, Banda	2018-19	Spiritual Circuit- Development of Jewar-Dadri- Sikandrabad-Noida-Khurja- Banda	12.03
25.	Uttar Pradesh	Gorakhpur, Balrampur, Domariyaganj	2018-19	Spiritual Circuit- Development of Gorakhnath Temple (Gorakhpur), Devipattan Temple (Balrampur) and Vatvashni Temple (Domariyaganj)	18.3
26.	Uttarakhand	Katarmal, Jogeshwar, Bajjnath, Devidhura	2016-17	Heritage Circuit- Integrated Development of Heritage Circuit in Kumaon Region - Katarmal -Jogeshwar- Bajjnath-Devidhura	76.32

2. Swadesh Darshan 2.0

S. No.	State	Destination	Sanction Year	Name of the project	Sanctioned Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Bihar	Bodha Gaya	2024-25	Development of the Buddhist Meditation & Experience Centre, Bodh Gaya	165.44
2.	Himachal Pradesh	Una	2025-26	Development of Maa Chintpurni Temple, Una District	56.67
3.	Madhya Pradesh	Chitrakoot	2023-24	Spiritual experience at Chitrakoot	27.21

4.	Madhya Pradesh	Datia	2025-26	Development of Pitambara Peeth, Dist.- Datia	44.56
5.	Rajasthan	Sikar	2024-25	Development works at Shri Khatu Shyam Ji Temple (Sikar)	87.87
6.	Rajasthan	Bundi (Keshavraipatan)	2023-24	Spiritual Experience, Keshavraipatan	21.65
7.	Rajasthan	Bikaner	2025-26	Development works of shri Karni Mata Temple	22.58
8.	Rajasthan	Bhilwara	2025-26	Development of Malaseri Dungri, Bhilwara District	48.73
9.	Uttar Pradesh	Naimisaranya	2023-24	Vedic- wellness Experience	17.8

3. PRASHAD

S. No.	State/UT	Destination	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Sanction Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Guntur	2015-16	Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination	27.77
2.	Andhra Pradesh	Srisailam	2017-18	Development of Srisailam Temple	43.08
3	Andhra Pradesh	Simachalam	2022-23	Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam in Vishakhapatnam	54.04
4	Andhra Pradesh	Annaram	2024-25	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure in Annaram Temple Town	25.33
5	Arunachal Pradesh	Lohit	2020-21	Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit Distt.	37.88
6	Assam	Guwahati	2015-16	Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati	29.80
7	Bihar	Patna	2015-16	Development at Patna Sahib	29.62
8	Bihar	Gaya	2014-15	Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar	3.63
9	Bihar	Saran	2024-25	Development of Ambika Bhawani Temple, Saran	13.29
10	Chhattisgarh	Rajnandgaon	2020-21	Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh	48.44
11	Goa	Goa	2024-25	Development of Bom Jesus Basilica	16.46
12	Gujarat	Dwarka	2016-17	Development of Dwarka	10.46

13	Gujarat	Somnath	2016-17	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath	45.36
14	Gujarat	Somnath	2018-19	Development of Promenade at Somnath	47.12
15	Gujarat	Banaskantha	2022-23	Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Ambaji Temple, Banaskantha, Gujarat	50.00
16	Haryana	Panchkula	2019-20	Development of Mata Mansa Devi Temple and Nada Saheb Gurudwara in Panchkula District	48.53
17	Jammu & Kashmir	Srinagar	2016-17	Development at Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar	40.46
18	Jharkhand	Deoghar	2018-19	Development of Baba Baidyanath Dham, Deoghar	36.79
19	Karnataka	Mysuru	2023-24	Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple, Mysuru	45.38
20	Karnataka	Belgavi	2024-25	Development of Renuka Yallama Devi temple	18.37
21	Karnataka	Bidar	2024-25	Development of Basic Amenities at Papnash Temple, Bidar dist.	22.25
22	Kerala	Guruvayur	2016-17	Development at Guruvayur Temple	45.19
23	Madhya Pradesh	Amarkantak	2020-21	Development of Amarkantak	49.99
24	Madhya Pradesh	Omkareshwar	2017-18	Development of Omkareshwar	43.93
25	Maharashtra	Nashik	2017-18	Development of Trimbakeshwar, Nashik	45.41
26	Meghalaya	East Khasi hills	2020-21	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation in Meghalaya	29.29
27	Mizoram	Aizwal	2022-23	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism in the State of Mizoram	44.89
28	Mizoram	Champhai	2024-25	Development of Basic Amenities under PRASHAD scheme in Vangchhia, Champhai District	5.47
29	Nagaland	Mokukchung	2018-19	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland	25.20
30	Nagaland	Zunheboto	2022-23	Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Zunheboto	18.18
31	Odisha	Puri	2014-15	Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham - Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Demuli under Mega Circuit	50.00
32	Puducherry	Puducherry	2024-25	Development of Pilgrim Facilities & Tourist attractions for Sri Dharbaranyeswara Temple	25.94

33	Punjab	Amritsar	2015-16	Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar	6.40
34	Punjab	Rupar	2021-22	Development of Chamkaur Sahib at Rupar, Punjab	30.52
35	Rajasthan	Ajmer	2015-16	Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer	32.64
36	Sikkim	Yuksom	2020-21	Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom	33.32
37	Tamil Nadu	Kanchipuram	2016-17	Development of Kanchipuram	13.99
38	Tamil Nadu	Velankanni	2016-17	Development of Velankanni	4.86
39	Tamil Nadu	Thanjavur	2024-25	Development of 8 Navagraha Temples	40.94
40	Telangana	Alampur	2020-21	Development of Jogulamba Devi Temple, Alampur	38.90
41	Telangana	Ramappa	2022-23	Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu	62.00
42	Telangana	Kothagudem	2022-23	Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam, Bhadradi Kothagudem District	41.38
43	Telangana	Hyderabad	2024-25	Development of Basic Amenities at goddess Renuka Yellama Devasthanam	4.22
44	Tripura	Udaipur	2020-21	Development of Tripura Sundari Temple, Udaipur	34.43
45	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	2015-16	Development of Varanasi – Phase –I	18.73
46	Uttar Pradesh	Mathura	2014-15	Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)	10.98
47	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	2017-18	River Cruise Tourism in Ganga, Varanasi	9.02
48	Uttar Pradesh	Vrindavan	2014-15	Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan	9.36
49	Uttar Pradesh	Varanasi	2017-18	Development of Varanasi – Phase –II	44.60
50	Uttar Pradesh	Goverdhan	2018-19	Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan	37.59
51	Uttarakhand	Kedarnath	2015-16	Integrated Development of Kedarnath	34.77
52	Uttarakhand	Badrinath	2018-19	Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham	56.15

53	Uttarakhand	Gangotri	2021-22	Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities and Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham	54.36
54	West Bengal	Howrah	2016-17	Development of Belur Math	30.03

4. CBDD

S. No.	State	Destination	Sanction Year	Name of the project	Sanctioned Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1	Andhra Pradesh	Ahobilam	2024-25	Ahobilam-A spiritual Odyssey	24.99
2	Andhra Pradesh	Nagarjuna Sagar	2024-25	Enriching Buddhist Heritage and Cultural Experiences at Nagarjuna Sagar	25
3	Jharkhand	Ramrekha Dham	2024-25	Tourism Infrastructure Development at Ramrekha Dham, Simdega	18.86
4	Kerala	Thalassery	2024-25	Thalassery: The Spiritual Nexus	25
5	Telangana	Nalgonda	2024-25	Digital Experience Centre at Bhuddhavanam in Nalgonda	24.84
6	Meghalaya	Nartiang village	2024-25	Nartiang Spiritual & Cultural Centre	24.86
7	Punjab	Rupnagar	2024-25	Heritage street -A symbol of peace and Harmony at Sri Anandpur Sahib, Rupnagar	24.9
8	Tamil Nadu	Rameshwaram	2024-25	Iconic Transformation of Rameswaram	20
9	Uttarakhand	Kainchidham	2024-25	Development of Kainchidham campus, Kainchidham	17.59
10	Sikkim	Kabi	2024-25	Kabi Chronicles: A journey through Unity and Heritage	24.96
11	Nagaland	Impur village	2024-25	Soulful Trails: The Impur Heritage Experience	24.94
12	Madhya Pradesh	Orchha	2024-25	Orchha A Medieval Splendour 2.0	24.99
13	Gujarat	Porbandar	2024-25	The Sacred Ocean Retreat at Harsiddhi Shore	24.65

5. SASCI

S. No.	State	Destination	Sanction Year	Name of the project	Sanctioned Amount (in ₹ Crore)
1	Karnataka	Belagavi	2024-25	Development of Savadatti Yallammagudda	100
2	Maharashtra	Nashik	2024-25	RAM-KAL PATH	99.14
3	Telangana	Ramappa	2024-25	Ramappa Region Sustainable Tourism Circuit	73.74
4	Telangana	Somasilla	2024-25	Wellness & Spiritual Retreat Nallamala	68.1
5	Tripura	Gomati	2024-25	51 Shakti Peethas Park at Banduar	97.7
6	Uttar Pradesh	Bateshwar	2024-25	Development of Bateshwar	74.05
7	Uttar Pradesh	Shrawasti	2024-25	Integrated Buddhist Tourism Development	80.24
