

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS**

**RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3748**

TO BE ANSWERED ON THE 25TH MARCH, 2026/ CHAITRA 4, 1948 (SAKA)

TOURISM DIVERSIFICATION AND ECO-TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN UNION TERRITORIES

3748 # SMT. DARSHANA SINGH:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken any concrete step to promote new types of tourism in the Union Territories;

(b) whether Government has made any effort to promote the possibilities 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): 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.

Various niche segments of tourism are being promoted in the UTs, to showcase the unique tourism offerings of the UTs on the national and global front. Some of the key projects include the setting up of the first-ever Dark

Sky Reserve in India at Hanle (Ladakh); development of world-class seafronts, riverfronts and tent cities, developing nature trails and a world-class aviary housing exotic and native bird species (Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman and Diu); introducing the Barren Island Cruise to provide travellers an experience of India's only active volcano (Andaman & Nicobar Islands); hosting various niche sporting events and festivals like the Ladakh Ice Climbing Festival, Ladakh Ice Hockey League, and Frozen Marathon at Pangong Lake (Ladakh); winter trekking and gondola rides (Jammu and Kashmir); development of inter-city tourist circuits and promotion of weekend tourism (Chandigarh); launching a Double Decker Bus for enhancing tourism experience (Delhi); developing marine and adventure tourism activities like snorkeling, kayaking and scuba diving (Lakshadweep); developing MICE infrastructure (Puducherry); etc.

The Government has also taken steps to promote eco-tourism in the island UTs. In Andaman & Nicobar Islands (A&NI), the letter of award has been issued for development of eco-tourism resorts in Long Island, Aves Island, Shaheed Dweep and brownfield project of Megapode Resort. UT of Lakshadweep has also awarded contracts to develop Lagoon Villas at Kadmat and Suheli island on Public Private Partnership mode and made 50 luxury tents resorts operational at Bangaram island.
