

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3014
ANSWERED ON 13.08.2026

MEASURES TO ATTRACT INTERNATIONAL TOURISTS

3014 SHRI RATANJIT PRATAP NARAIN SINGH:

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

- (a) the details of specific reforms introduced in visa processing to attract more foreign tourists and improve convenience for Indian service providers;
- (b) the manners in which destination development under the new budget would create local employment and uplift rural tourism clusters;
- (c) whether these initiatives would contribute to India's goal of welcoming 25 million foreign arrivals by 2025;
- (d) the measures being taken to promote lesser-known destinations and support small tourism businesses; and
- (e) whether infrastructure upgrades at key tourist sites are being undertaken to ensure accessibility and safety for domestic and foreign tourists alike and if so, the details thereof?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): The e-Visa system has been streamlined to ensure that majority of e-Visa applications, including e-Tourist visa, are processed within the stipulated timeline, thereby facilitating faster and more effective visa issuance. Further, the Indian Visa regime has been rationalized and simplified by reducing and consolidating visa categories, enabling foreign nationals to identify and apply for the appropriate visa category with greater ease and enhancing convenience for legitimate foreign travellers coming into India.

Development and promotion of tourism destinations and products is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/Union Territory Administration (UTA). However, the Ministry of Tourism through its various schemes provides financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations for development of tourism infrastructure and experiences in the country, on receipt of the project proposals from the concerned SGs/UTAs under the relevant schemes, in synergy with the scheme guidelines, Government instructions, availability of funds etc.

The Ministry of Tourism revamped its Swadesh Darshan scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible tourism destinations with focus on enhancing tourism amenities and experiences in the country including lesser-known destinations, cultural and eco-tourism regions. The scheme guidelines also envisage development of both hard and soft interventions including tourism products, capacity building, digitization etc.

Ministry of Tourism under its scheme called the “National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)” provides Financial Assistance to the State Government and Union Territories Administration for development of Tourism Infrastructure at the identified Pilgrimage destinations/ Heritage Cities. The selection of pilgrimage destinations / heritage sites under PRASHAD Scheme is based on various parameters, which, inter-alia, include the number of footfalls, cultural, historical & heritage significance of the locations, equitable representation to ensure nationwide development, and other factors. This process is undertaken in consultation with State Governments (SGs) and UT Administrations (UTs).

Ministry of Tourism has been periodically requesting all State Governments and Union Territories for availing the benefits of the ‘Safe Tourism Destinations for Women’ under Nirbhaya fund which can be utilized for projects specifically designed to improve the safety and security of women tourists.

The projects sanctioned under the above-mentioned initiatives provide direct as well as indirect employment opportunities in the region and also support small tourism businesses. These initiatives also contribute to provide safe and secure environment for domestic and foreign tourists.
