

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2335  
ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023**

**RELIGIOUS SITES UNDER PRASHAD SCHEME**

**2335.SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL:**

**SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL:**

**DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT:**

**DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE:**

**PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI:**

**DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL:**

**DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV:**

**SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA:**

**SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO:**

**SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR:**

**SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE:**

**SHRI DILIP SAIKIA:**

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

- (a) whether the Government has taken any steps for rejuvenation of religious sites for boosting tourism in the country and if so, the details thereof;**
- (b) whether the Government has progressed with the Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) scheme and if so, the details thereof;**
- (c) the list of sites under PRASHAD since its inception, State-wise;**
- (d) the detailed account of the initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Tourism over the past five years to enhance tourism promotion; and**
- (e) the quantifiable benefits and achievements realized by the tourism sector as a result of these initiatives?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM**

**(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)**

**(a) to (c): The Ministry of Tourism, under its 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive' (PRASHAD), and 'Swadesh Darshan' Schemes provides financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations for the development of**

**infrastructure at tourist destinations, including religious sites across the country. The Ministry has sanctioned a total of 46 projects under PRASHAD and 76 projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The state-wise details of projects sanctioned under PRASHAD scheme is annexed.**

**(d) to (e): The details of initiatives implemented by the Ministry of Tourism over the past five years to enhance tourism promotion include the following:**

- i. Development of tourism related infrastructure is being carried out through projects sanctioned under the 'Swadesh Darshan', 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' and 'Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development' Schemes.**
- ii. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.**
- iii. Financial assistance has been provided to the State Governments/UT Administrations for organizing fairs/festivals & tourism related events under Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality (DPPH) Scheme.**
- iv. Launched Dekho Apna Desh initiative with the objective to encourage citizens to travel within the country.**
- v. Thematic tourism like wellness tourism, culinary tourism, rural, eco-tourism etc., amongst other niche subjects are vigorously promoted so as to expand the scope of tourism into other sectors as well.**
- vi. Launched Travel for Life (TFL) programme under overall mission for life initiative of Government of India.**
- vii. Providing facility of e-Visa for 7 sub-categories i.e., e-Tourist Visa, e-Business Visa, e-Medical Visa, e-Medical Attendant Visa, e-Conference Visa, e-Ayush Visa and e-Ayush Attendant Visa for the nationals of 167 countries.**
- viii. Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%; those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination**
- ix. Ministry of Tourism has collaborated with Ministry of Civil Aviation under their RCS-UDAN Scheme. Various tourism routes have been operationalized to improve air connectivity to tourist destinations in the country.**
- x. Ministry of Tourism is running Pan-India Incredible India Tourist Facilitator Certification Program, a digital initiative that aims at**

creating an Online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators/Guides across the country and generating employment opportunities at local level.

- xi. **Conducting Programmes under the ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.**
- xii. **The National Integrated Database of Hospitality Industry (NIDHI) is a technology driven system, which is to facilitate digitalization and promote ease of doing business for hospitality & tourism sector. This initiative has been upgraded as NIDHI+ to have more inclusivity, that is, of not only Accommodation Units, but also Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Transport Operators, Food & Beverage Units, Online Travel Aggregators, Convention Centres and Tourist Facilitators.**

**The initiatives have resulted in increase of visitors across the country, details of domestic Tourist Visits (DTV) and Foreign Tourist Visits (FTVs) during the last five years are as given below:-**

**(Figure in Lakh)**

Year	DTV	FTV	Growth rate %	
			DTV	FTV
2018	18537.8	288.5	11.84	7.31
2019	23219.8	314.1	25.26	8.86
2020	6102.2	71.7	-73.72	-77.17
2021	6776.3	10.5	11.05	-85.29
2022	17310.1	85.9	155.45	714.26

**Source: State /UTs Tourism Department**

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2335 ANSWERED ON 18.12.2023 REGARDING RELIGIOUS SITES UNDER PRASHAD SCHEME BY SHRI DEVJI M. PATEL, SHRI UNMESH BHAIYYASAHEB PATIL, DR. HEENA VIJAYKUMAR GAVIT, DR. SHRIKANT EKNATH SHINDE, PROF. RITA BAHUGUNA JOSHI, DR. SUJAY RADHAKRISHNA VIKHE PATIL, DR. KRISHNA PAL SINGH YADAV, SHRI NARANBHAI KACHHADIYA, SHRI BIDYUT BARAN MAHATO, SHRI RANJEETSINGH NAIK NIMBALKAR, SHRI SUDHAKAR TUKARAM SHRANGARE AND SHRI DILIP SAIKIA**

**List of approved projects under PRASHAD Scheme****(Rs. in Crore)**

<b>State/UT</b>	<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sanction Year</b>	<b>Approved Cost</b>	<b>Physical Progress %</b>
<b>Andhra Pradesh</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Development of Amaravati Town, Guntur District as a Tourist Destination</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>27.77</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>2</b>	<b>Development of Srisailem Temple</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>43.08</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>3</b>	<b>Sri Varaha Lakshmi Narsimha Swami Vari Devasthanam at Simhachalam in Vishakhapatnam Temple</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>54.04</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Arunachal Pradesh</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Development of Parshuram Kund, Lohit Distt.</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>37.88</b>	<b>37%</b>
<b>Assam</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>Development of Kamakhya Temple and Pilgrimage Destination in and around Guwahati.</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>29.80</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Bihar</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>Development at Patna Sahib</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>41.54</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>7</b>	<b>Development of basic facilities at Vishnupad temple, Gaya, Bihar</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>4.27</b>	<b>Complete</b>

<b>Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>Development of Maa Bamleshwari Devi Temple, Dongargarh, Rajnandgaon District, Chhattisgarh</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>43.33</b>	<b>55%</b>
<b>Gujarat</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>Development of Dwarka</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>13.08</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>10</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Somnath</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>45.36</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>11</b>	<b>Development of Promenade at Somnath</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>47.12</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>12</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrim Plaza with Queue management complex at Somnath Gujarat</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>49.97</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>13</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Facilities at Ambaji Temple, Banaskantha, Gujarat</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>5%</b>
<b>Haryana</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>Development of Mata Mansa and Nada Saheb Gurudwara Devi Temple in Panchkula District</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>48.53</b>	<b>72%</b>
<b>Jammu and Kashmir</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>Development at Hazratbal Shrine, Srinagar</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>40.46</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>Jharkhand</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>Development of Baba Baidyanath Dham, Deoghar</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>39.13</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Karnataka</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple, Mysuru</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>45.71</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Kerala</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>Development at Guruvayur Temple</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>45.19</b>	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Madhya Pradesh</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>Development of Amarkantak</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>49.99</b>	<b>31%</b>
	<b>20</b>	<b>Development of Omkareshwar</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>43.93</b>	<b>Complete</b>

<b>Maharashtra</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>Development of Trimbakeshwar, Nashik</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>52.92</b>	<b>62%</b>
<b>Meghalaya</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation in Meghalaya</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>29.32</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Mizoram</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism in the State of Mizoram</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>44.89</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Nagaland</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure in Nagaland</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>25.26</b>	<b>76%</b>
	<b>25</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Tourism Infrastructure at Zunheboto</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>18.18</b>	<b>10%</b>
<b>Odisha</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>Infrastructure Development at Puri, Shree Jagannath Dham – Ramachandi - Prachi River front at Deuli under Mega Circuit</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>27%</b>
<b>Punjab</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>Development of Karuna Sagar Valmiki Sthal at Amritsar</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>6.40</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>28</b>	<b>Development of Chamkaur Sahib at Rupar, Punjab</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>31.57</b>	<b>26%</b>
<b>Rajasthan</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>Integrated Development of Pushkar/Ajmer</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>32.64</b>	<b>92%</b>
<b>Sikkim</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Facilitation at Four Patron Saints, Yuksom</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>33.32</b>	<b>38%</b>
<b>Tamil Nadu</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>Development of Kanchipuram</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>13.99</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>32</b>	<b>Development of Velankanni</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>4.86</b>	<b>Complete</b>

<b>Telangana</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>Development of Jogulamba Temple, Alampur</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>36.73</b>	<b>52%</b>
	<b>34</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage and Heritage Tourism Infrastructure at Rudreshwara (Ramappa) Temple, Mulugu</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>62.00</b>	<b>0%</b>
	<b>35</b>	<b>Development of Pilgrimage Infrastructure at Bhadrachalam, Bhadradri Kothagudem District</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>41.38</b>	<b>0%</b>
<b>Tripura</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>Development of Tripura Sundari Temple, Udaipur</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>37.80</b>	<b>50%</b>
<b>Uttar Pradesh</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>Development of Varanasi -Phase -I</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>18.72</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>38</b>	<b>Development of Mathura-Vrindavan as Mega Tourist Circuit (Ph-II)</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>10.98</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>39</b>	<b>River Cruise Tourism in Ganga, Varanasi</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>9.02</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>40</b>	<b>Construction of Tourist Facilitation Centre at Vrindavan</b>	<b>2014-15</b>	<b>9.36</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>41</b>	<b>Development of Varanasi - Phase II</b>	<b>2017-18</b>	<b>44.60</b>	<b>Complete</b>
	<b>42</b>	<b>Development of Infrastructure facilities at Govardhan</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>39.74</b>	<b>94%</b>
<b>Uttarakhand</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>Integrated Development of Kedarnath</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>34.77</b>	<b>Complete</b>

	<b>44</b>	<b>Development of Infrastructure for Pilgrimage Facilitation in Badrinath Ji Dham</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>56.15</b>	<b>62%</b>
	<b>45</b>	<b>Augmentation of Pilgrimage Infrastructure Facilities and Gangotri and Yamunotri Dham</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>54.36</b>	<b>20%</b>
<b>West Bengal</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>Development of Belur Math</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>30.03</b>	<b>92%</b>

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