

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*92
ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025**

ECO AND HERITAGE TOURISM IN ASSAM

***92. SMT. BIJULI KALITA MEDHI:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the manner in which the Government is planning to promote Eco tourism and Heritage tourism in Assam; and**
- (b) the details of the specific steps being taken to enhance facilities at major tourist destinations like Kaziranga and Kamakhya Temple?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (b): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*92 ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING ECO AND HERITAGE TOURISM IN ASSAM RAISED BY SMT. BIJULI KALITA MEDHI.

(a) & (b): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including Eco and Heritage Tourism, is undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry complements the efforts of States/UTs by developing and promoting various tourism products of the country, including Eco and Heritage Tourism in Assam through various schemes and initiatives.

Ministry of Tourism annually organizes International Tourism Mart (ITM) in the North Eastern region. This event serves as a vital platform, bringing together tourism businesses and entrepreneurs from the North Eastern States to foster collaboration and interactions among buyers, sellers, media, government agencies, and other stakeholders. Ministry of Tourism organized the 12th edition of the International Tourism Mart (ITM), in Kaziranga from November 26th to 29th, 2024.

In order to position India as a preferred global destination for Eco Tourism, Ministry of Tourism has formulated National Strategy for Eco – Tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes of ‘Swadesh Darshan (SD)’, ‘Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)’ and ‘Assistance to Central Agencies for Tourism Infrastructure Development’ complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development in the country by extending financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations including the State of Assam.

Under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme two projects were sanctioned in Assam one under Wildlife Circuit which also includes interventions at Kaziranga and another under Heritage Circuit. Details of these projects are Annexed.

Ministry of Tourism has 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 & tourist-centric approach. Kokrajhar and Jorhat have been identified for development under it.

The Ministry of Tourism has also issued guidelines for 'Challenge Based Destination Development', a sub-scheme under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 with the aim for holistic development of destination to enhance tourist experience. Details of destination identified for development in the State of Assam is Annexed.

Under the PRASHAD Scheme, the Ministry has sanctioned a project for 'Development of Pilgrimage amenities at Kamakhya Temple'

With a view to providing enhanced amenities and facilities for tourists, a project 'Joint Development of Kamakhya Railway Station' was sanctioned by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Tourism on 50:50 cost sharing basis.

The Government of India under the guidelines for Special Assistance to States/Union Territories for Capital Investment (SASCI) for Development of Iconic Tourist Centres has approved two projects in Assam.

Details of projects sanctioned for the State of Assam under the aforesaid schemes of Ministry of Tourism is Annexed.

As informed by the Government of Assam, to enhance the facilities at Kaziranga, the project “Upgradation of Tourist facilities at Kaziranga” sanctioned by North Eastern Council in the year 2021-22 has been executed by the Government of Assam and the project is completed in Nov, 2024. Moreover, under the Amar Alohi Scheme of Government of Assam, in the FY 2017-18 and 2018-19, sixteen beneficiaries had been selected at Kaziranga for development and promotion of homestays and the works had been completed accordingly.

ANNEXURE**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (b) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*92 ANSWERED ON 10.02.2025 REGARDING ECO AND HERITAGE TOURISM IN ASSAM RAISED BY SMT. BIJULI KALITA MEDHI.****List of sanctioned projects under Swadesh Darshan Scheme for the state of Assam**

S. No.	Circuit	Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)
1	Wildlife Circuit	2015-16	Development of Manas–Probitora–Kaziranga–Saikhowa Nameri–Dibru–	94.68
2	Heritage Circuit	2016-17	Development of Tezpur – Majuli – Sibsagar	90.98

List of sanctioned projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 for the state of Assam

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Date of Sanction
1	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar Wetland Experience	26.67	05-03-2024
2	Jorhat	Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate	23.91	05-03-2024

Destination identified for development under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD) Scheme

S. No.	Destination	Category	Funding Amount (₹ Crore)
1	Sivasagar	Ecotourism and Amrit Dharohar Sites	10.00

List of sanctioned projects under special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale for the state of Assam

S. No.	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost (₹ Crore)	Date of Sanction
1	Assam State Zoo Cum Botanical Garden in Guwahati	97.12	26-11-2024

2	Beautification of Rang Ghar in Sivasagar	94.76	26-11-2024
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List of sanctioned projects under PRASHAD for the state of Assam

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Approved Cost (₹ Crore)
1	Development of Pilgrimage amenities at Kamakhya Temple	2015-16	29.80

List of sanctioned projects under Assistance to Central Agencies for the state of Assam

S. No.	Name of Project	Agency	Sanction Year	Amount Sanctioned (₹ Lakhs)
1	Development of Jetties at 9 main points of embarkation/disembarkation of River Cruise on National Waterways No. 1 & 2	IWAI	2020-21	28.03
2	Joint Development of Kamakhya Railway Station	M/o Railways	2018-19	4.96
3	Joint Development of Guwahati Railway Station	M/o Railways	2018-19	4.99
