

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA  
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1795**

**ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025**

**TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN KERALA**

**1795. SHRI BENNY BEHANAN:**

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

- (a) the details of the special funds likely to be allocated by the Government for tourism infrastructure development in Kerala State, considering its high tourism potential;**
- (b) the details of the central schemes, if any, supporting eco-tourism projects in said State, especially in forest reserves and backwaters;**
- (c) the details of the steps taken by the Government to promote pilgrimage tourism in said State, especially for Sabarimala and other major religious sites;**
- (d) whether the Government has any proposal to include more heritage sites from said State in UNESCO's World Heritage list, if so, the details thereof;**
- (e) whether the Government has any specific schemes to boost Ayurveda-based medical tourism in Kerala, if so, the details thereof; and**
- (f) the details of financial assistance provided by the Government to said State under the 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'PRASHAD' schemes during the last five years, year-wise?**

**ANSWER**

**THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)**

**(a) to (f): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, including eco-tourism, religious tourism & Ayurveda-based medical 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-tourism, religious tourism & Ayurveda-based medical tourism in the state of Kerala through various schemes and initiatives.**

**Ministry of Tourism under the schemes of 'Swadesh Darshan' and 'National**

**Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' provides financial assistance to State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations for the development of tourism related infrastructure and facilities at various tourism destinations in the country including in eco tourism and religious sites of Kerala.**

**In 2016-17, under the Spiritual Circuit theme of Swadesh Darshan Scheme a project for 'Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam' was sanctioned for a cost of Rs.46.54 Crore.**

**Ministry has revamped Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a destination centric approach. Under SD 2.0 Scheme a project for development of 'Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience' has been sanctioned for a cost of Rs.13.92 Crore.**

**Under the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centers to Global Scale (SASCI) Scheme a project for development of 'Ashtamudi Biodiversity and Eco-recreational Hub in Kollam' has been sanctioned by Government of India at a cost of Rs.59.71 Crore.**

**Details of funds allocated to the State of Kerala under the Swadesh Darshan and PRASHAD Schemes including projects for development of eco tourism and religious sites are Annexed.**

**As conveyed by the Archaeological Survey of India, as of now, there are 3 properties from Kerala in the tentative list of World Heritage Site. The names of those are as follows:**

- i. Mattanchery Palace, Ernakulam,**
- ii. Padmanabhapuram Palace and**
- iii. Sites of Satyagrah, India's non-violent freedom movement (Gujarat, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Bihar, Madhya Pradesh, Kerala, Uttar Pradesh, Delhi)**

**Ministry of Tourism promotes various destinations and products of the country in a holistic manner including Ayurveda-based medical tourism in Kerala through various initiatives under its Schemes of "Domestic Promotion & Publicity including Hospitality" (DPPH) and "Overseas Promotion & Publicity (OPP)". e-Ayush Visa and e-Ayush Attendant Visa have been included as e-visa categories for facilitation of Ayurveda-based medical tourists. e-Visa scheme is now available to the nationals of 167 countries. e-Visa is valid for entry through 31 designated Airports and 6 designated seaports.**

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**ANNEXURE**

**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (f) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1795 ANSWERED ON 10.03.2025 REGARDING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT IN KERALA RAISED BY SHRI BENNY BEHANAN**

**Details of Projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme in the State of Kerala**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Circuit</b>	<b>Sanction Year</b>	<b>Name of the Project</b>	<b>Amount Sanctioned (₹ Crore)</b>	<b>Amount Released/ Authorized* (₹Crore)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Eco Circuit</b>	<b>2015-16</b>	<b>Development of Pathanamthitta- Gavi-Vagamon- Thekkady</b>	<b>64.08</b>	<b>64.08</b>
<b>2</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Sabarimala - Erumeli-Pampa-Sannidhanam</b>	<b>46.54</b>	<b>33.39</b>
<b>3</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>Development of Sree Padmanabha Arnamula</b>	<b>78.08</b>	<b>73.77</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>Rural Circuit</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Development of Malanad Malabar Cruise Tourism Project</b>	<b>57.35</b>	<b>45.88</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>Spiritual Circuit</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>Development of Sivagiri Sree Narayana Guru Ashram- Arruvipuram-Kunnumpara SreeSubrahmania-ChembazhantiSree Narayana Gurukulam</b>	<b>66.42</b>	<b>42.01</b>

\* Includes amount of authorization to CNA through TSA Model I for Central Sector Scheme.

**List of sanctioned projects under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in the State of Kerala**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Destination</b>	<b>Name of the Experience</b>	<b>Sanctioned Cost (₹Crore)</b>	<b>Date of Sanction</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Kumarakom</b>	<b>Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience</b>	<b>13.92</b>	<b>05-03-2024</b>

**List of sanctioned projects under PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Kerala**

<b>S. No.</b>	<b>Project Name</b>	<b>Sanction Year</b>	<b>Approved Cost (₹Crore)</b>	<b>Amount Released (₹Crore)</b>
<b>1</b>	<b>Development at Guruvayur Temple</b>	<b>2016-17</b>	<b>45.19</b>	<b>45.19</b>

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