

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION No. 1421
ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021

INITIATIVES UNDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION

1421. DR. VINAY P. SAHASRABUDDHE:

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

- (a) various initiatives undertaken by the Ministry during the last five years under the International Cooperation Division;
- (b) whether the Ministry has signed any bilateral tourism cooperation agreements during the last five years, if so, details thereof, and if not, the reasons therefor; and
- (c) whether the Ministry has sought any actions to attract foreign tourists after the upliftment of COIVD-19 lockdown through the International Cooperation Division, if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism engages in various consultations and negotiations for development and promotion of tourism with foreign countries and the international organisations such as United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation (BIMSTEC), Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), BRICS, IBSA etc. Some of the highlights of the initiatives undertaken by Ministry of Tourism are Organising, the official celebrations of the UNWTO World Tourism Day in 2019, Celebrating 2019 as ASEAN – India Year of Tourism, designating year 2017 as India – U.S. year of partnership to draw roadmap for enhancing cooperation and organising activities under the agreed workplan etc. Details of initiatives undertaken by International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Tourism during last 5 years may be seen at Annexure-I.

(b): The signing of Agreements/Memorandum of Understanding (MoUs) with various countries is an ongoing process and the Ministry of Tourism has signed Agreements/MoUs in the field of tourism cooperation with other countries and multilateral fora. Details of MoUs/Agreements signed in last five years with various countries for bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the field of tourism may be seen at Annexure-II.

(c): The Ministry of Tourism has organised and participated in various events to strengthen and enhance cooperation with other countries and multilateral fora. The ministry has also

encouraged interactions between Indian and foreign stakeholders to revive tourism activities post covid to boost tourist arrivals. Details of activities undertaken are as under:

Activities organised and hosted by Ministry of tourism:

- i. Hosted and co-chaired Joint Working Group meeting with Cambodia (22.09.2021) and Sri Lanka (14.10.2021)
- ii. Organised BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) Tourism Ministers Meeting (13.07.2021)
- iii. Organised IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa) Tourism Ministers Meeting (12.08.2021)
- iv. Organised senior officers level meetings of tourism ministries/departments of BRICS and IBSA countries
- v. Co-Chaired 26th meeting of ASEAN – India Tourism Working Group (08.07.2021)

In addition the ministry also participated in G-20 Tourism Ministers Meeting hosted by Italy, 3rd India Russia Strategic Economic Dialogue, under the Co-chairmanship of the Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog and the Minister of the Economic Development of the Russian Federation, IBSA Tourism Working Group meeting hosted by South Africa, meeting of Heads of Tourism Administrations of the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), 33rd Joint Commission Meeting of Commission for Asia & Pacific (CAP) and Commission for South Asia (CSA), 24th Session of United Nation World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) General Assembly.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1421 ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021 REGARDING INITIATIVES UNDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION

List of initiatives undertaken by International Cooperation Division of the Ministry of Tourism in last five years

| 2016 - 17 | | |
|--|---|---|
| Signing of Memorandum of Understanding / Agreements | Tourism Joint Working Group (JWG) Meetings | Other Important Engagements and Initiatives |
| i. Maldives | i. 1 st India-Cambodia JWG | i. Participated in the 103 rd Session of the UNWTO Executive Council |
| ii. Qatar | ii. 2 nd India – Sri Lanka JWG | ii. 28th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Regional Commission for East Asia and Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia (CAP-CSA) |
| iii. South Africa | iii. 1 st India-Japan JWG | iii. 16th India ASEAN Working Group Meeting |
| iv. Kyrgyzstan | | iv. 104th Session of the UNWTO Executive Council |

| 2017 - 18 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Signing of Memorandum of Understanding / Agreements | Tourism Joint Working Group (JWG) Meetings | Other Important Engagements and Initiatives |
| i. Oman | i. 2 nd India – Australia JWG | i. Co-hosted 29 th Joint Meeting of the UNWTO Commission for the East Asia and the Pacific and the UNWTO Commission for South Asia |
| | ii. 2 nd India – Japan JWG | ii. Participated in 6 th International Conference on Tourism Statistics: Measuring Sustainable Tourism, jointly organised by Department of Tourism of the Philippines and UNWTO |

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|--|--|---|
| | | <p>iii. Hosted 1st meeting of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation), Tour Operators</p> <p>iv. Co –chaired 18th ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group meeting</p> <p>v. Participated in 22nd Session of United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) General Assembly</p> <p>vi. Participated in the 18th meeting of UNWTO Committee on Statistics and Tourism Satellite (TSA)</p> <p>vii. CICA (Conference of the Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia) workshop on “Building bridges across Asia through tourism”</p> <p>viii. Participated and co –chaired 19th ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group meeting</p> <p>ix. Participated and co –chaired the 8th ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers meeting held</p> |
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| 2018 - 19 | | |
|--|---|--|
| Signing of Memorandum of Understanding / Agreements | Tourism Joint Working Group (JWG) Meetings | Other Important Engagements and Initiatives |
| i. Bulgaria | i. 1 st India - South Africa JWG | i. Attended the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) Coastal and Marine Tourism workshop and the 3 rd IORA Tourism Experts meeting |
| ii. Malta | ii. 2 nd India - Cambodia JWG | ii. Participated in 1 st Tourism Ministers’ meeting of Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) |
| iii. Romania | iii. 1 st India – Uzbekistan JWG | iii. Participated in 108 th Session of the UNWTO Executive Council |

| | | |
|--------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| iv. Colombia | iv. 2 nd India - Nepal JWG | iv. Co-Chaired meeting between Tourism Minister and Secretary General of UNWTO on developing a Joint Action Plan |
| v. Uzbekistan | v. 3 rd India - Japan JWG | v. Participated in Buddhist Circuit workshop organized by Tokyo Development Learning Centre in collaboration with UNESCO and UNWTO |
| vi. Korea | | vi. Participated in 20 th ASEAN India Tourism Working Group (TWG) meeting |
| vii. Argentina | | vii. Attended 109 th Session of UNWTO Executive Council |
| viii. Saudi Arabia | | viii. Attended India – China High Level meeting chaired by the Hon'ble Minister for External Affairs |
| ix. Croatia | | ix. Participated and co-chaired ASEAN India Tourism Working Group Meeting and ASEAN India Tourism Ministers meeting. |
| | | x. Participated 19 th Meeting of the UNWTO Committee on Statistic and Tourism Satellite Account. |

| 2019 – 2020 | | |
|--|---|---|
| Signing of Memorandum of Understanding / Agreements | Tourism Joint Working Group (JWG) Meetings | Other Important Engagements and Initiatives |
| i. Paraguay | i. 3 rd India - Australia JWG | i. Participated in G-20 Senior Officials Meeting for the 9 th G-20 Tourism Ministers |
| ii. Philippines | | ii. Expert working group on tourism of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) |
| iii. Finland | | iii. Attended the meeting of the Commission for South Asia and Commission for Asia and Pacific |

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| | | iv. Attended Programme and Budget Committee meeting & 110 th Session of the Executive Council of the UNWTO |
| | | v. CO- Chaired 22 nd ASEAN – India Tourism Working Group Meeting |
| | | vi. Participated in 23 rd Session of UNWTO General Assembly |
| | | vii. Organized the "IBSA Annual Event of Tour Operators" as part of the action plan on tourism between the IBSA member countries |
| | | viii. Organised and hosted the official celebrations of UNWTO World Tourism Day in New Delhi |
| | | ix. Participated in G 20 Tourism Ministers Meeting |

| 2020-21 | |
|---|--|
| Tourism Joint Working Group (JWG) Meetings and Other Important Engagements and Initiatives | |
| S. No. | Activities |
| i. | 1 st India - Philippines JWG |
| ii. | Participated in Extraordinary Tourism Ministers Virtual Meeting of the G20 |
| iii. | Participated in 32 nd UNWTO Commission for East Asia & the Pacific and UNWTO Commission for South Asia |
| iv. | Attended G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting |
| v. | Attended 10 th UNWTO (Virtual) Meeting of the Committee on Tourism and Competitiveness (CTC) |
| vi. | Participated in 1 st Virtual Core Group on Tourism (CGT) Meeting of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) |
| vii. | Participated and co-chaired 24 th ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group Meeting |
| viii. | Participated in 112 th UNWTO Executive Council |
| ix. | Participated in UNWTO committee of Programme and Budget (PBC). |
| x. | Participated in BRICS Tourism Minister's Meeting under Russia's BRICS Chairmanship |
| xi. | Attended the 1 st meeting of UNWTO virtual /committee for the development of the international code for the protection of Tourist |
| xii. | Attended 2 nd Meeting of the BIMSTEC Network of Tour Operators |
| xiii. | Participated in 113 th Session of the UNWTO Executive Council |
| xiv. | Co-Chaired 8 th of ASEAN-India Tourism Ministers meeting |
| xv. | Co-Chaired 24 th Meeting of ASEAN-India Tourism Working Group |
| xvi. | Participated 1 st G20 Tourism Working Group Meeting under Italy's presidency |

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (b) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1421 ANSWERED ON 09.12.2021 REGARDING INITIATIVES UNDER INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION DIVISION

Agreements / Memorandum of Understanding signed in last five years with foreign countries and by the Ministry of Tourism

| Sl. No | Name of the country with whom MoU/ Agreement/Protocol signed | MoU / Agreement / LoI | Date of signature |
|---------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Maldives | MoU | 10.04.2016 |
| 2. | Qatar | MoU | 05.06.2016 |
| 3. | South Africa | MoU | 08.07.2016 |
| 4. | Kyrgyzstan | MoU | 20.12.2016 |
| 5. | Oman | MoU | 11.02.2018 |
| 6. | Bulgaria | MoU | 05.09.2018 |
| 7. | Malta | MoU | 17.09.2018 |
| 8. | Romania | MoU | 19.09.2018 |
| 9. | Colombia | MoU | 04.10.2018 |
| 10. | Uzbekistan | Agreement | 01.10.2018 |
| 11. | Korea | MOU | 05.11.2018 |
| 12. | Argentina | MoU | 18.02.2019 |
| 13. | Saudi Arabia | MoU | 20.02.2019 |
| 14. | Croatia | MoU | 26.03.2019 |
| 15. | Paraguay | MoU | 27.09.2019 |
| 16. | Philippines | MoU | 18.10.2019 |
| 17. | Finland | MoU | 21.11.2019 |
