

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2155
ANSWERED ON 05.08.2024**

COASTAL TOURISM

2155 SHRI CAPTAIN BRIJESH CHOWTA:

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the efforts being made by the Government for the development of the Coastal Circuit in Dakshina Kannada, Udupi and Uttara Kannada;**
- (b) whether the Government would consider development of temples of Dakshina Kannada under the PRASHAD scheme;**
- (c) whether there are any institutionalized efforts being made to promote tourism in tier-II cities especially beach tourism in coastal Karnataka;**
- (d) whether there are any projects or efforts to include any sites of Dakshina Kannada for development under the Swadesh Darshan scheme and its Rural Circuit, Spiritual Circuit, Heritage Circuit, Tirthankar Circuit, Eco Circuit, Tribal Circuit; and**
- (e) whether there is any data pertaining to the potential of cruise tourism in coastal Karnataka with special focus on Mangalore, plans for the promotion of the same and the funds allocated for the purpose during the last five years?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (e): The Ministry of Tourism, through its central sector schemes of Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) and Swadesh Darshan (SD) supports tourism infrastructure development by providing financial assistance to State Governments and Union Territory Administrations.

Two destinations viz. Bidar and Udupi are identified for development under the “Challenge Based Destination Development”, a

sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 and 3 projects are sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan 2.0 in Karnataka. The list is given below:

Sr. No.	Destination	Project/ Interventions Name	Cost (Rs. in Crore)
1.	Hampi	Setting up of 'Traveller Nooks'	26.30
2.	Mysuru	'Tonga Ride Heritage Experience Zone'	4.12
3.	Mysuru	'Ecological Experience Zone'	18.36

Under PRASHAD Scheme, a project viz. "Development of Pilgrimage Amenities at Sri Chamundeshwari Devi Temple" is sanctioned at a cost of Rs.45.71 crore in Karnataka and 2 sites are also identified for development viz. 'Sri Renuka Yallamma Temple, Saudatti, Belagavi District' and 'Papnash Temple, Bidar District'.

To harness the potential of cruise tourism, a Task Force has been constituted, with Secretary (Tourism) as the Chairman and Secretary (Shipping) as the co-chairman. Various measures are taken for development of cruise tourism like the facility for e-tourist visa has been extended to passengers arriving at major ports, including Mangalore and immigration counters have been set up at selected major ports visited by cruise ships, thus facilitating the cruise passenger arrivals at the seaports. Moreover, Ministry of Tourism promotes various tourism destinations and products of India including Cruise Tourism.

The Ministry of Tourism does not maintain any data specific to the potential of cruise tourism in Mangalore. However, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has informed that the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA) in Karnataka operates a cruise terminal for both international and domestic cruise vessels and it has handled six international cruise vessels, with a tourist arrival of 2,635 passengers at the port in the financial year 2022-23.

In the financial year 2023-24, the port handled eight international cruise vessels with a tourist arrival of 4,285 passengers.

In addition, it has also been informed that the Government has taken initiatives to facilitate the visits of Cruise vessels and tourists, including the following:

- (i) For berthing, cruise vessel is given priority over cargo vessel.**
- (ii) rationalised cruise tariff has been introduced**

- a. port charges are recovered @ \$0.085/GRT (fixed rate) and a nominal passenger head tax of \$6 for first 12 hours of stay at berth.**
 - b. Cruise ships are provided discounts ranging from 10% to 30% based on volume of their calls.**
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- (iii) Ousting charges have been removed to attract cruise vessels.**
 - (iv) E-Visa and on-arrival visa facilities have been extended.**
 - (v) Single e-Landing Card has been introduced which is valid for all ports in cruise itinerary.**
 - (vi) Cabotage has been waived for foreign cruise vessels. This relaxation allows foreign cruise ship to transport Indian nationals from one Indian Port to another Indian Port during its domestic leg.**
 - (vii) In order to promote tourism, conditional IGST exemption has been approved for foreign going vessel when it converts to coastal run, subject to its re-conversion to foreign going vessel within six months.**
