

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.3177
ANSWERED ON 27.03.2025

DEVELOPING AN INDUS VALLEY CIVILIZATION TOURIST CIRCUIT

3177 SHRI SAMIK BHATTACHARYA:

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

- (a) whether Government plans to establish a comprehensive tourist circuit showcasing the Indus Valley Civilization sites, including Dholavira, Lothal, Surkotada, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan and minor sites like Mithathal and Tigrana;
- (b) if so, the timeline and details of the proposed tourist circuits, including infrastructure development and promotional strategies to attract domestic and international tourists;
- (c) whether any feasibility studies or consultations with State Governments and archaeological experts have been undertaken for developing these circuits; and
- (d) the measures being considered to ensure the preservation of these historically significant sites while enhancing tourism potential?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and products, is undertaken by the respective State Government/UT Administration. The Ministry of Tourism complements the efforts of States/UTs by developing and promoting various tourism products of the country, including heritage Tourism in Gujarat through various schemes and initiatives.

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/Central Agencies including the State of Gujarat.

Proposals are received from States/UTs from time to time for seeking financial assistance for development of tourist spots, under the various schemes of the Ministry of Tourism. Reviewing and sanctioning of the projects is an ongoing process and is done as per procedures and requirements stipulated in the scheme guidelines.

Information on tourist destinations in the country is promoted through the Incredible India Digital Portal. Ministry promotes various tourist destinations and products of the country including Heritage sites in Gujarat through various initiatives including promotional events, assistance to State Governments, stakeholders for organizing fairs and festivals, participation in exhibitions, website and social media.

Ministry of Tourism has revamped Incredible India digital portal which is a comprehensive digital repository of high-quality images, films, brochures, newsletters etc. and also highlights promotional material related to Heritage destinations.

As conveyed by the Archeological Survey of India, all necessary steps has been taken to preserve protected monuments/sites including Dholavira, Lothal, Surkotada, Rakhigarhi, Kalibangan, as per their requirement and approval of annual works programme.
