

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1427
ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025

DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT IN GUJARAT

1427 SHRI NARHARI AMIN:

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

- (a) whether Government is aware of the initiative taken by Government of Gujarat to develop a Buddhist Circuit across 12 heritage sites, including Devni Mori in Aravalli District, under the Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme, whether the Ministry has reviewed the ₹653 crore proposal submitted for Devni Mori's development;
- (b) the details of the Centre-State funding share for this project under SD 2.0, and whether similar proposals from other States have been considered or approved; and
- (c) the current status of land acquisition and infrastructure development across these 12 sites in Gujarat?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (c): Development and promotion of tourist destinations and tourism products is primarily undertaken by the respective State Government/Union Territory (UT) Administration. The Ministry of Tourism with the idea of develop thematic circuits in the country launched Swadesh Darshan (SD), a central sector scheme, in 2014-15 and sanctioned 76 projects for ₹5290.30 Crore till 2018-19 including 3 projects in the state of Gujarat which included 1 project in Buddhist Circuit covering 12 sites. The details of the projects sanctioned under SD scheme in Gujarat is at **Annexure-I**.

Gujarat Government has informed that it submitted a revised project report for Devni Mori amounting to ₹653.15 Crore to the Ministry of Tourism in November, 2018. However, post 2018-19, the Swadesh Darshan scheme was under review. The Ministry of Tourism vide its communications issued in March, 2021 and November, 2021 to the State Governments/UT Administrations informed that while the scheme is under review, the proposal submitted by them are deemed returned.

The Ministry of Tourism further revamped the scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable tourist destinations. The State Government of Gujarat submitted its State Perspective Plan and proposed tourist destinations including Devni Mori for consideration under Swadesh Darshan. The Ministry of Tourism under SD2.0 identified 'Dholavira' and 'Dwarka'. Swadesh Darshan 2.0 is a central sector scheme under which 100% funds are sanctioned by the Ministry of Tourism. Accordingly, the Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned 52 projects under SD2.0 in the country, the details of which is at **Annexure-II**.

The Ministry of Tourism also sanctioned the following projects in 2024-25 in Gujarat under 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan:

S. No.	Name of the project	Sanctioned Cost (₹ In Crore)
1.	Transformation of sharmishtha Lake: Light & culture at Vadnagar	17.28
2.	The Sacred Ocean Retreat at Harsiddhi Shore, Porbandar	24.66
3.	THOL: Transformative Tourism' Harmonious Sustainability, Optimized Skilling' Leading Technology	9.96

In addition, Government of India under its initiative for 'Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI)' has sanctioned the following projects in Gujarat in 2024-25:

S. No.	Name of the project	Sanctioned Cost (₹ In Crore)
1.	Ecotourism Destination at Kerly (Mokarsagar) in Porbandar	99.50
2.	Tented City and Convention Centre in Dhordo	51.56

As per the scheme guidelines of Swadesh Darshan 2.0, land acquisition for development is a non-admissible component for funding.

State Government of Gujarat has informed that for development Devni Mori site a total of approximately 206 hectares of land is required as per the initial master plan. Out of this, 28 hectares are already in possession. It has further been informed that in the financial year 2023–24, the Tourism Department of Government of Gujarat has made a budgetary provision under the new item "Iconic Destination Development" including development of Devni Mori.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1427 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT IN GUJARAT RAISED BY SHRI NARHARI AMIN

List of projects sanctioned in the State of Gujarat under Swadesh Darshan Scheme:-

S. No.	Name of the Project	Circuit/ Sanction Year	Sanctioned Amount (₹ in crore)
1.	Development of Ahmedabad- Rajkot- Porbandar –Bardoli-Dandi	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	59.17
2.	Development of Vadnagar- Modhera	Heritage Circuit 2016-17	91.12
3.	Development of Junagadh- Gir Somnath- Bharuch-Kutch- Bhavnagar- Rajkot- Mehsana	Buddhist Circuit 2017-18	26.68

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1427 ANSWERED ON 31.07.2025 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF BUDDHIST CIRCUIT IN GUJARAT RAISED BY SHRI NARHARI AMIN

List of projects sanctioned under SD2.0 scheme in the country:

S No.	State	Year of Sanction	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Cost (₹ in Crore)
1.	Andhra Pradesh	2024-25	Bapatla	Development of Suryalanka Beach Experience	97.52
2.	Andhra Pradesh	2023-24	Araku-Lambasingi	Borra Cave Experience at Araku	29.87
3.	Arunachal Pradesh	2023-24	Nacho	Unlock Nacho Expedition	14.02
4.	Arunachal Pradesh	2023-24	Mechuka	Mechuka Cultural Haat	18.48
5.	Arunachal Pradesh	2023-24	Mechuka	Mechuka Adventure Park	12.75
6.	Assam	2023-24	Kokrajhar	Kokrajhar Wetland Experience	26.67
7.	Assam	2023-24	Jorhat	Reimagining Cinnamara Tea Estate	23.88
8.	Bihar	2024-25	Bodh Gaya	Development of the Buddhist Meditation & Experience Centre, Bodh Gaya	165.44
9.	Chhattisgarh	2024-25	Kawardha	Bhoramdeo Corridor Development, Kabirdham District	145.99
10.	Dadra Nagar & Haveli and Daman & Diu	2024-25	Daman	Daman Convention Centre	147.13
11.	Goa	2023-24	Porvorim	Porvorim Creek Experience	24.07
12.	Goa	2023-24	Colva	Colva Beach Experience	19.98
13.	Haryana	2024-25	Panchkula	Development of Adventure Tourism Hub at Tikkar Taal and Adventure Park	26.68
14.	Haryana	2024-25	Panchkula	Rejuvenation of Yadavindra Garden	65.82
15.	Himachal Pradesh	2024-25	Maa Chintpurni Temple (District - Una)	Development of Maa Chintpurni Devi Temple, Una	56.26
16.	Karnataka	2023-24	Hampi	Setting up of 'Traveller nooks'	25.63
17.	Karnataka	2023-24	Mysuru	Tonga ride Heritage experience zone	2.71
18.	Karnataka	2023-24	Mysuru	Ecological Experience Zone	18.48
19.	Kerala	2023-24	Kumarakom	Kumarakom Bird Sanctuary Experience	13.92
20.	Kerala	2024-25	Alappuzha	Alappuzha: A Global Water Wonderland	93.17

21.	Kerala	2024-25	Malampuzha	Enhancement of Tourist Experience at Malampuzha Garden and Leisure Park	75.87
22.	Ladakh	2023-24	Leh	Julley Leh Biodiversity Park	23.16
23.	Ladakh	2023-24	Kargil	Exploring LOC and Hundarman village Experience	11.91
24.	Lakshadweep	2024-25	Bangaram	Enhancement of Tourist Experience at Bangaram	81.18
25.	Madhya Pradesh	2023-24	Gwalior	Phoolbagh Experience Zone	16.73
26.	Madhya Pradesh	2023-24	Chitrakoot	Spiritual experience at Chitrakoot	27.21
27.	Madhya Pradesh	2024-25	Pitambara Peeth, Datia	Development of Pitambara Peeth Datia	44.24
28.	Maharashtra	2023-24	Pune	Shivrushti Historical Theme Park- Phase 3	76.22
29.	Meghalaya	2023-24	Sohra	Waterfall Trails Experience	27.84
30.	Meghalaya	2023-24	Sohra	Meghalayan Age Cave Experience	32.45
31.	Mizoram	2024-25	Champhai	Eco Resort Experience at Keilungliah, Zote, Ngur & Mualbuhvum, Champhai	38.85
32.	Mizoram	2024-25	Champhai	Heritage and Cultural Centre, Champhai	33.87
33.	Nagaland	2023-24	Chumoukedima	Eco-Tourism Exp at Chumoukedima viewpoint	7.87
34.	Nagaland	2023-24	Chumuoukedima	Tribal Cultural Experience at Midway Retreat	21.56
35.	Nagaland	2024-25	Chumuoukedima	Adventure Tourism Experience at Jacob Village, Chumoukediema	32.54
36.	Puducherry	2023-24	Karaikal	Karaikal beach and waterfront experience	20.29
37.	Punjab	2023-24	Kapurthala	Eco Tourism experience at Kanjli wetland	20.06
38.	Punjab	2023-24	Amritsar	Border Tourism Experience at Attari	25.90
39.	Rajasthan	2023-24	Bundi	Spiritual Experience, Keshavraipatan	21.65
40.	Rajasthan	2024-25	Sikar	Development works at Shri Khatu Shyam Ji Temple (Sikar)	87.87
41.	Rajasthan	2024-25	Karni Mata temple, Bikaner dist.	Development Works at Shri Karni mata mandir, Bikaner	22.57
42.	Rajasthan	2024-25	Malaseri Dungari (District - Bhilwara)	Development of Malaseri Dungri, Bhilwara District	48.73
43.	Sikkim	2023-24	Gyalshing	Eco-Wellness Experience at Yuksom Cluster	15.40
44.	Sikkim	2023-24	Gangtok	Gangtok Cultural Village	22.59
45.	Tamil Nadu	2023-24	Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore	30.02

				Temple	
46.	Telangana	2023-24	Bhongir	Bhongir Fort Experiential Zone	56.81
47.	Telangana	2023-24	Ananathagiri	Eco tourism zone at Ananathgiri forest	38.00
48.	Tripura	2024-25	Agartala	Tripura Heritage Village & Sangeet Experience at Agartala (Phase-1 &2)	48.94
49.	Uttar Pradesh	2023-24	Prayagraj	Azad Park and Dekho Prayagraj Trail Exp	14.52
50.	Uttar Pradesh	2023-24	Naimisaranya	Vedic- wellness Experience	17.80
51.	Uttarakhand	2023-24	Pithoragarh	Rural Tourism Cluster Experience at Gunji	17.86
52.	Uttarakhand	2023-24	Champawat	Tea Garden Experience	19.89
TOTAL AMOUNT					2108.87
