

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2377
ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN TAMIL NADU

2377 SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN:

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

- (a) whether Tamil Nadu has emerged as one of the top preferred tourist destinations in the country for ancient temples, heritage monuments, hill stations, beach and coastal tourism during the last five years and the current year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) whether the Central Government provides financial assistance for the development of infrastructure facilities around ancient temples, heritage monuments, beaches as high-end tourism destinations; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof, including the names of schemes or programmes and the funds sanctioned and released?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a): The Ministry of Tourism compiles information on Domestic and Foreign Tourist Visits from the State/UT governments. As per the information available with the Ministry, during the last five years, Tamil Nadu has remained in the top 2 States/UTs in terms of the number of visitors. The state wise number of tourist visitors during the last five years is given at **Annexure-I**. This includes visitors to ancient temples, heritage monuments, hill stations, beach and coastal tourism.

(b) and (c): While development and promotion of tourism destinations and products is primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government (SG)/Union Territory Administration (UTA), Ministry of Tourism through its central sector schemes complements the efforts of tourism infrastructure development in the country by extending financial assistance to the SGs/UTAs; on receipt of the project proposals from the concerned State Government/Union Territory Administration in synergy with the scheme guidelines, Government directions, availability of funds, inter-se priority etc.

The details of the projects sanctioned under 'Swadesh Darshan (SD), 'Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0)', 'Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan 2.0 scheme' and 'Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)' are given in **Annexure-II**.

In addition, Government of India under its Special Assistance to 'States for Capital Investment (SASCI) – Development of iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale' has also sanctioned projects in the country in Financial Year 2024-25, with the primary objective to comprehensively develop iconic tourist centres in the country including in the state of Tamil Nadu, branding and marketing them at global scale. Details of Assistance to Central Agencies schemes in the state of Tamil Nadu is provided as **Annexure-II**.

ANNEXURE-I

STATEMENT IN REPLY OF PART (a) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2377 ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN.

State wise number of tourist visitors during the last five years					
States/UTs	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Uttar Pradesh	87013225	109753172	318562573	480127191	649076213
Tamil Nadu	141879564	115394341	218991972	287186414	308003316
Karnataka	77618664	81406146	182541723	284529835	305048773
Andhra Pradesh	70896181	93305120	192882566	254766754	290528883
Rajasthan	15563696	22023540	108724840	180751794	232156605
Maharashtra	40497000	43754881	112809247	164747266	193076711
West Bengal	29305017	24360812	85579212	148376234	187599989
Gujarat	19674564	24536529	137588540	180873450	186288552
Madhya Pradesh	23619451	25595668	36053235	112129094	133343945
Telangana	40043695	32006537	60816826	58608485	88394988
Bihar	5946104	2502239	25417193	82132277	66200024
Uttarakhand	7046603	19443007	54704120	57713605	60988435
Jharkhand	2575194	3385279	38476698	35965363	54086062
Delhi	10264901	10742655	28001922	41242738	48256410
Chhattisgarh	2812549	4747425	23636529	26023022	31491385
Punjab	17051311	26948564	26418883	36449334	28286967
Jammu & Kashmir	2524841	11316570	18519317	20734673	23078159
Kerala	5329727	7598104	19212963	22520698	22985363
Himachal Pradesh	3213379	5637202	15100277	16004924	18124694
Odisha	4632479	3744490	7890030	9770357	11086673
Goa	3561466	3330217	7186791	8628152	10409197
Assam	1274183	1409697	8391004	7636538	7635339
Puducherry	1207022	1253534	1761342	2123290	2137611
Haryana	2132205	2030028	2110935	2013508	1892794
Dadra Nagar Haveli & Daman & Diu	403999	661407	801393	1008375	1361527
Meghalaya	27045	154820	944865	1422647	1608610
Sikkim	336343	523177	1694218	1415077	1625241
Arunachal Pradesh	43832	103097	223492	1045097	874626
Chandigarh	430171	234260	3055604	397089	1037663
Andaman & Nicobar Islands	196619	127925	239522	332214	721894
Tripura	159692	177821	244093	432812	691475
Mizoram	31155	87466	221031	212876	427302
Ladakh	7869	304077	531396	525374	376386
Lakshadweep	3875	13504	22969	46551	68328
Manipur	52808	50019	143426	61369	31620
Nagaland	11497	24293	100354	104445	131139

ANNEXURE-II

STATEMENT IN REPLY OF PARTS (b) AND (c) OF RAJYA SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.2377 ANSWERED ON 12.03.2026 REGARDING DEVELOPMENT OF TOURISM INFRASTRUCTURE IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI R. GIRIRAJAN.

A. Projects sanctioned under Swadesh Darshan Scheme as on 15.01.2026 for the State of Tamil Nadu

The Ministry of Tourism under Swadesh Darshan Scheme has sanctioned one project in the State of **Tamil Nadu**, as given below: -

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Circuit / Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released/ Authorised
1.	Coastal Circuit 2016-17	Development of (Chennai- Mamamallapuram – Rameshwaram – Manpadu – Kanyakumari)	73.13	71.03
Total			73.13	71.03

B. Project Sanctioned under SWADESH DARSHAN 2.0 as on 15.01.2026 for the State of Tamil Nadu

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Date	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released/ Authorised
1.	Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore Temple	2023-24 (Rev May 2025)	30.02	---
Total				30.02	

C. Details of projects sanctioned and amount released to the State of Tamil Nadu under Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), a sub-scheme of Swadesh Darshan scheme.

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Destination/ Category	Name of the Experience	Sanctioned Date	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released/ Authorised
1.	Rameswaram Island (Spiritual Tourism)	Iconic transformation of Rameswaram	2024-25	20.01	2.00
Total				20.01	2.00

D. Project Sanctioned under PRASHAD Scheme in the State of Tamil Nadu:

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Project Name	Sanction Year	Sanction Amount	Amount Released
1.	Development of Kanchipuram	2016-17	13.99	13.99
2.	Development of Velankanni	2016-17	4.86	4.86
3.	Development of 8 Navagraha Temples	2024-25	40.94	0.00
Total			59.79	18.85

E. Details of projects sanctioned and amount released to the State of Tamil Nadu for Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI Scheme) - Development of Iconic Tourist Centres to Global Scale.

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Year of Sanction	Name of the Project	Sanctioned Cost	Amount Released/
1.	2024-25	Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mammallapuram	99.67	112.13
2.	2024-25	Eco Park at Race Course in Ooty	70.23	
Total			169.90	112.13

F. Details of projects sanctioned and amount released to the State of Tamil Nadu under the Scheme Assistance to Central Agencies.

(₹ in Crore)

S. No.	Year	Name of Fairs & Festivals	Amount sanctioned	Amount Released
1.	31-03-2025	Illumination and allied works at Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple, District - Ariyalur	11.47	0
2.	24-09-2012	Cruise Passenger Facilities Centre in the existing Passenger Terminal at Chennai Port.	17.24	17.24
3.	28-03-2018	Rameshwaram Railway Station	4.7	3.75
4.	30-06-2018	Madurai Railway Station	4.48	3.56
Total			37.89	24.55
