

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM

RAJYA SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO.1909#
ANSWERED ON 16.03.2023

ROLE OF TOURISM IN CREATING A \$5 TRILLION ECONOMY

1909# SMT. SUMITRA BALMIK:

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

- (a) the role of tourism in making India a \$5 trillion economy;
- (b) the plan of the Ministry to execute this role successfully; and
- (c) the details of the plan to generate employment from tourism and provide assistance to young entrepreneurs?

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM

(SHRI G. KISHAN REDDY)

(a) to (c): Ministry of Tourism has taken several measures to give boost to the tourism sector and in turn increase its contribution to country's economy and generate employment opportunities through tourism as per details given below:

- i. Development of tourism related infrastructure through projects sanctioned under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme. The Ministry of Tourism has revamped its Swadesh Darshan Scheme as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0) with the objective to develop sustainable and responsible destinations following a tourist & destination centric approach.
- ii. Development of tourism related infrastructure through projects sanctioned under the National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD) Scheme.
- iii. Dekho Apna Desh initiative launched with the objective to encourage citizens to travel within the country.
- iv. Thematic tourism like wellness tourism, culinary tourism, rural, eco-tourism, etc. amongst other niche subjects are vigorously promoted so as to expand the scope of tourism into other sectors as well.
- v. Providing facility of e-Visa for 5 sub-categories i.e. e-Tourist visa, e-Business visa, e-Medical visa, e-Medical Attendant visa and e-Conference visa for nationals of 166 countries.
- vi. E-Visa has been further liberalized and the visa fee has been substantially reduced.
- vii. New mountain peaks have been opened for Mountaineering/Trekking to give boost to adventure tourism in the country.
- viii. Lowering of GST on hotels rooms with tariffs of ₹1,001 to ₹7,500/night to 12%; those above ₹7,501 to 18% to increase India's competitiveness as a tourism destination.
- ix. On the recommendation of the Ministry of Tourism, 59 tourism routes have been awarded to the identified airlines by the Ministry of Civil Aviation under

the RCS UDAN Scheme, for which Ministry of Tourism extends financial support in form of VGF (Viability Gap Funding). 51 of these routes have been operationalized to improve air connectivity to tourist destinations.

- x. Ministry of Tourism is running Pan-India Incredible India Tourist Facilitator (IITF) Certification Program, a digital initiative that aims at creating an Online learning platform with the objective of creating a pool of well trained and professional Tourist Facilitators/Guides across the country and generating employment opportunities at local level.
- xi. Conducting Programmes under the ‘Capacity Building for Service Providers’ (CBSP) Scheme to train and up-grade manpower to provide better service standards.
- xii. Under the CBSP scheme, Ministry of Tourism conducts a programme namely ‘Entrepreneurship Programme (EP)’ with the objective of facilitating micro and small business start-ups. The target for the programme are those who are 8th class pass and the age above 18 years.

As per estimation in accordance with 3rd Tourism Satellite Account (TSA), the contribution of tourism in total employment of the country for year 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20 and 2020-21 are:

	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Share in jobs (in %)	14.78	14.87	13.50	12.91
Direct (%)	6.44	6.48	5.89	5.63
Indirect(%)	8.33	8.38	7.61	7.28
Direct + Indirect jobs due to tourism (in million)	72.69	75.85	69.44	68.07

Source: The above estimates have been updated using 3rd TSA & National Account Statistics 2022.
