

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF TOURISM**

**LOK SABHA
STARRED QUESTION NO.*118
ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026**

STEPS TO BOOST TOURISM IN TAMIL NADU

***118. SHRI MANI A:**

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

- (a) the details of the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years and the current year, year-wise, along with the estimated revenue generated from tourism during the said period;**
- (b) the details of the number of tourists who visited Dharmapuri district and its major tourist destinations such as Hogenakkal Falls;**
- (c) whether the Government has undertaken any assessment of the contribution of tourism to employment and economic growth in Tamil Nadu, particularly in Dharmapuri district and if so, the details thereof; and**
- (d) the details of the steps taken by the Government to boost tourism in Tamil Nadu through infrastructure development, destination promotion, heritage, eco, coastal and spiritual tourism, improved air and rail connectivity and digital tourism initiatives, including projects sanctioned or implemented in Dharmapuri district?**

ANSWER

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI GAJENDRA SINGH SHEKHAWAT)

(a) to (d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT IN REPLY OF PART (A) to (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*118 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026 REGARDING STEPS TO BOOST TOURISM IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI MANI A

(a): As informed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, the number of domestic and foreign tourists who visited the State of Tamil Nadu during the last five years and the current year are as given below.

Year	Domestic Tourist visits	Foreign Tourist visits
2021	115336719	57622
2022	218584846	407139
2023	286011515	1174899
2024	306842014	1161302
2025	362978487	1687465
2026 (upto May)	189474093	1133197

The Government of Tamil Nadu also informed that the tourism department does not have any revenue generation data.

(b): As informed by the Government of Tamil Nadu, number of Tourists who visited Dharmapuri District, including major Tourist attractions/destinations such as Hogenakkal Falls within the district is placed at Annexure I.

(c): The Government of Tamil Nadu informed that tourism has been identified as a priority sector contributing significantly to employment generation and economic development in Tamil Nadu. The State has undertaken periodic assessments through studies, policy documents, and project reports prepared by the Department of Tourism and other agencies. Tourism generates both direct employment (hotels, restaurants, travel agencies, tour operators, tourist guides and transport services) and indirect employment (handicrafts, local trade, agriculture and allied services).

It also informed that in Dharmapuri district, tourism associated with Hogenakkal Falls and other attractions supports livelihoods through boating services, accommodation, food establishments, transport, handicrafts, and other tourism-related activities, thereby contributing to the local economy.

(d): Identification, development and promotion of tourism destinations and products is continuous process primarily undertaken by the concerned State Government /Union Territory Administration. The Ministry of Tourism also complements these efforts by extending financial assistance to all States/ UTs through central sector schemes such as Swadesh Darshan 2.0 (SD2.0), Challenge Based Destination Development (CBDD), and Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment (SASCI). The revamped Incredible India Digital Portal serves as a one-stop digital solution providing travelers with curated information on destinations, attractions, and real-time travel services. Details of central sector schemes sanctioned to boost tourism in Tamil Nadu are placed at Annexure II.

Further, the state has reported that the Government of Tamil Nadu has taken several measures to develop and upgrade tourism infrastructure under State-funded schemes including:

- 1. Improvement of basic tourist amenities such as roads, parking facilities, toilets, drinking water, signage, lighting, viewpoints, and visitor information centers.**
- 2. Promotion of heritage, eco-tourism, spiritual, coastal, rural and adventure tourism through destination-specific projects.**
- 3. Intensive destination marketing through print, electronic and digital**

media, participation in national and international travel marts, and social media campaigns.

- 4. Development of tourism circuits and integrated destination planning.**
- 5. Capacity building and skill development programmes for tourism stakeholders, including tourist guides and local service providers.**
- 6. Facilitation of improved connectivity through coordination with the concerned departments and agencies for better road, rail and air access to major tourist destinations.**
- 7. Adoption of digital initiatives such as online information portals, digital promotional campaigns, QR-code-enabled tourist information, and improved online services through the Tamil Nadu Tourism website and mobile applications.**

In the Hogenakkal area of Dharmapuri district, a sum of ₹17.57 crore was allocated for development works. These works—comprising an entrance gate, an entrance plaza with a sanitary complex, a ticket counter, shops, a cafeteria, a facilitation center, a promenade, a coracle boarding platform, a waiting area, a coracle docking area, site development, renovation of bathing areas for men and women, changing rooms, a viewing deck, a landing platform, a massage area, drinking water facilities, and food stalls—were completed and inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu on 26.11.2024.

ANNEXURE-I**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (B) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*118 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026 REGARDING STEPS TO BOOST TOURISM IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI MANI A****Tourist attraction/destination wise Number of Tourists who visited Dharmapuri District**

Name of Attraction/ Destination	Years		
	2023	2024	2025
Hanging Bridge, Hogenakkal TTDC	301279	362100	188460
Govt. Museum, Archaeological, Dept, Dharmapuri	1727	1524	1823
Crocodile Park, Hogenakkal	146573	64503	104033
Hogenakkal Water falls	1761400	1286970	1651540
Sentraya Perumal Temple (ASI)	11360	11310	12730
Thoppur Darga	38630	38215	36360
Vaniyar Dam	12015	11530	13430
Subramana Siva Memorial, Papparapatti	11416	8930	15630
Theerthagiriswarar (Siva) Temple Theerthamalai	97620	77330	80965
Athiyaman Kottai	11580	11020	12340
Kalabhairavar Temple, Athiyamankottai	118125	112040	117070
Anjaneyar Temple, Muthampatty	29030	21240	22270
Malligarjunes warar Temple, Dharmapuri (Kottai Kovil)	32285	33945	33520
Kunthi Amman Temple, Kovilur, Palacodu	14035	15000	16870
Subramaniasamy Temple, Kumarasami Pettai, Dharmapuri	110160	115370	132760
Kalyana Ramar Temple, Thenkarai Kottai	15365	13680	15025
Vathalmalai	17070	37220	79570
Chitheri Hills	8720	7240	7300
TOTAL	2738390	2229167	2541696

ANNEXURE-II**STATEMENT IN REPLY TO PART (D) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*118 ANSWERED ON 27.07.2026 REGARDING STEPS TO BOOST TOURISM IN TAMIL NADU RAISED BY SHRI MANI A****Details of central sector schemes sanctioned to boost tourism in Tamil Nadu.**

Swadesh Darshan				
Circuit/ Sanction Year	Name of the Project	Amount Sanctioned	Amount Released/ Authorized for Utilization (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Utilized (in ₹ Crore)
Coastal 2016-17	Development of (Chennai-Mamallapuram- Rameshwaram – Manpadu- Kanyakumari)	73.13	71.03	71.03
Swadesh Darshan 2.0				
Destination	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Authorized for Utilization (in ₹ Crore)
Mamallapuram	Immersive experience at Shore Temple	29.02.2024	30.02	-
Challenge Based Destination Development				
Destination / Category	Name of the Experience	Sanction Date	Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Authorized for utilization (in ₹ Crore)
Rameswaram Island (Spiritual Tourism)	Iconic transformation of Rameswaram	27.03.2025	20.01	10.01

Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment							
Year of Sanction	Name of the Project			Sanctioned Cost (in ₹ Crore)		Amount Released 66% (in ₹ Crore)	
2024-25	Development of Nandavanam Heritage Park in Mamallapuram			99.67		112.13	
2024-25	Eco Park at Race Course in Ooty			70.23			
Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)							
Sanction Year	Project Name	Sanction Amount (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Released (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Utilised (in ₹ Crore)	Physical Progress (%)	Financial Progress (%)	Status
2016-17	Development of Kanchipuram	13.99	13.99	13.99	100	100	Completed
2016-17	Development of Velankanni	4.86	4.86	4.86	100	100	Completed
2024-25	Development of 8 Navagraha Temples	40.94	11.75	0	8.06	0	Ongoing

Assistance to Central Agencies						
Agency	Name of Project	Sanction Year	Amount sanctioned (in ₹ Crore)	Amount Released (in ₹ Crore)	Utilized Amount (in ₹ Crore)	Status
ITDC	Illumination and allied works at Gangaikonda Cholapuram Temple, District - Ariyalur	2024-2025	11.47	1.14	0	Ongoing
Chennai Port Trust	Cruise Passenger Facilities Centre in the existing Passenger Terminal at Chennai Port.	2012-2013	17.24	17.24	17.24	Completed
Joint development of tourist amenities by the Ministry of Railways and Ministry of Tourism	Rameshwaram Railway Station	2017-2018	4.7	3.75	2.26	Physically Complete
	Madurai Railway Station	2018-2019	4.48	3.56	2.23	Physically Complete
Domestic Promotion and Publicity including Hospitality						
Year	Name of Fairs & Festivals				Amount sanctioned (in ₹ Lakh)	
2015-16	Indian Dance Festival at Mamallapuram, Tamil Nadu				8	
2016-17	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram				25	
2017-18	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram				25	
2018-19	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram				25	

2019-20	Indian Dance Festival	25
2019-20	Kumari Festival	10
2019-20	Tourism Cultural Festival	15
2021-22	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram	25
2022-23	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram	25
2023-24	India Dance Festival at Mamallapuram	25
2024-25	Indian Dance Festival-Mamallapuram	50
2024-25	Margazhi Music Festival - Chennai	10
2024-25	Madurai Pongal Festival	20
2025-26	Indian Dance Festival	25
