



Swadesh Darshan Scheme

Source: [PIB](#)

The **Ministry of Tourism** undertook a review of the **Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS)** following the [CAG's](#) performance audit.

- The review emphasized **institutional strengthening, data-driven destination selection, infrastructure benchmarking**, and integration of **hard (infrastructure)** and **soft (capacity building)** interventions.
- Focus areas included **monitoring, sustainable operations, promotion**, and **impact assessment** for long-term sustainability.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme (SDS & SD2.0)

- Launched in **2014-15**, SDS is a **100% centrally funded Central Sector Scheme** aimed at **sustainable and responsible tourism** through integrated development of **theme-based circuits** (e.g., **Buddhist, Heritage**).
- It provides financial support to **States/UTs/Central Agencies** for infrastructure development.
- **SD2.0** shifts to **destination-centric, sustainable tourism**, aligned with '**Vocal for Local**' and **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**, encouraging **private sector investment** in tourism and hospitality.
- **Challenge-Based Destination Development (CBDD)**, a sub-scheme under **SD2.0**, follows a **competitive model** focusing on **sustainability, digitalization, skill development, MSME support**, and **efficient management**.

Key Initiatives for Tourism Development

- [National Tourism Policy, 2022](#)
- [Dekho Apna Desh Initiative](#)
- [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat](#)
- [PRASAD Scheme](#)
- [HRIDAY](#)
- Tribal Homestays under [PM-JUGA](#)
- **Capacity Building for Service Providers (CBSP)** for skill and employability enhancement.

Read More: [Swadesh Darshan Scheme, Advancing Sustainable Tourism in India](#)