

Beat: News

## Center Continues To Provide Assistance For Tourism Development In AP

**Dr. Mahesh Sharma**

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**USPA NEWS** - The Minister of State for Culture (Independent Charge), Tourism (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma addressing in the NELLORE NEXT event, in Nellore District, Andhra Pradesh on April 25, 2015.

The Union Minister of State for Tourism (Independent Charge), Culture (Independent Charge) and Civil Aviation, Dr. Mahesh Sharma said that the Central Government has been giving funds for a number of Tourism related projects in the state of Andhra Pradesh and will continue to provide assistance in the future too.

The Minister visited the Indian Institute of Travel & Tourism in Nellore, Andhra Pradesh on April 25. On the occasion of his visit, the Union Minister announced a sum of Rs. 50 crore for the development of tourism in Nellore over the next five years.

Dr Mahesh Sharma said India is a country known for its hospitality, and its visitor-friendly traditions, varied life styles and cultural heritage and colorful fairs and festivals hold great attraction for the tourists.

The Minister also said that domestic tourism is as old as the Indian society. According to available statistics, domestic tourism has grown substantially during the last one decade. Some of the recent initiatives taken by the Government to boost tourism are the best examples of the government's dedication towards tourism and culture, he added.

The Union government gave financial assistance to the tune of Rs ten lakhs for organizing Flamingo festival in Nellore district in the month of January, 2015, Dr. Sharma said. Similarly, development of Kakinada Hope Island Konaseema as World Class coastal and Eco Tourism Circuit in Andhra Pradesh is also being supported under the new Swadesh Darshan Scheme of Ministry of Tourism.

A sum of Rs. 10811 lakhs has been sanctioned by the Union Ministry of Tourism for 13 projects during the year 2014-15 to the state of Andhra Pradesh. A sum of Rs 1253.4 lakhs was released for these projects during the year 2014-15.

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