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Important Facts for Prelims (12th February 2019)

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Buddhist Tourism Circuit

- Recently the Union Ministry of Tourism has sanctioned **five new projects** under the **Buddhist Circuit**.
- The five states where the project under Buddhist Circuit has been sanctioned are **Madhya Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh**.
- The Buddhist Circuit is one among the **fifteen thematic circuits** identified for development under **Swadesh Darshan Scheme**.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme

- Swadesh Darshan, a **Central Sector Scheme**, was launched in 2014 -15 for integrated development of theme based tourist circuits in the country.
- Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides **Central Financial Assistance (CFA)** to State Governments/Union Territory Administrations for infrastructure development of circuits.
- This scheme is envisioned to **synergise with other schemes** like Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, Skill India, Make in India etc. with the idea of positioning the tourism sector as a major engine for job creation, driving force for economic growth, building synergy with various sectors to enable tourism to realise its potential.

World Sustainable Development Summit 2019

- Recently, the three-day **World Sustainable Development Summit 2019** was **inaugurated in New Delhi**.
- The theme of summit was '**Attaining the 2030 Agenda: Delivering on our Promise**'.
- The World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) is the annual flagship event of **The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)**.
- It has been conceptualized as a single platform to accelerate action towards sustainable development and climate change.

- The goal of the World Sustainable Development Summit is to bring together global leaders and thinkers in the fields of sustainable development, energy and environment sectors on a common platform.
- It was earlier known as **Delhi Sustainable Development Summit**.

The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI)

- TERI is a **non-profit research institute**.
- It conducts research work in the fields of energy, environment and sustainable development for India and the Global South.
- It was **established in 1974 as Tata Energy Research Institute** and renamed to The Energy Resources Institute in 2003.

Light House Projects Challenge

- The Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs has instituted a challenge for States/ UTs to select six sites across the country for constructing the Lighthouse projects under **Global Housing Technology Challenge (GHTC)-India**.
- The winning six States/ UTs that score the highest marks across the prescribed criteria will be awarded lighthouse projects. The States/ UTs will receive **Central Assistance** to construct these projects as per **Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana Urban (PMAY-U) guidelines**.
- The selected sites for lighthouse projects will be used as an **'open laboratory' for live demonstration** and will receive due attention from academia, practitioners, policy makers (Central/ State) and media apart from felicitation/ recognition in Grand Expo-cum-Conference.

Global Housing Technology Challenge

- Global Housing Technology Challenge – India is an initiative by **Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Govt. of India**, with an aim to identify, evaluate and shortlist a basket of proven & potential innovative technologies from across the globe and subsequently mainstream them in Indian construction sector that are sustainable, green, disaster resilient.
- GHTC-India has following **three components**:
 - **Component 1** - Conduct of EXPO-Cum-Conference
 - **Component 2** - Identifying Proven Demonstrable Technologies :Inducting suitable established technologies from across the globe to the Indian market through shortlisting and actual construction of Light House Projects.
 - **Component 3** - Establishment of Affordable Sustainable Housing Accelerators India (ASHA-India) for Indian technologies which have potential but not market ready yet.