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## Annual Free Train Scheme to Ayodhya Ram Mandir | Chhattisgarh | 12 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chhattisgarh government sanctioned **an annual free train travel scheme for devotees who want to visit the Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Temple in Uttar Pradesh's Ayodhya.**

- It will be **implemented by the Chhattisgarh Tourism Board and the state tourism department** would allocate a necessary budget for the same.

### Key Points

- **Not everyone can avail this scheme as of now** as a committee would be set up under the collectors to select pilgrims.
  - As per a state government release, those **eligible to avail this scheme** should be fit individuals **aged between 18 and 75 years** and those **above 55 years will be given priority in the initial phase.**
- **Around 20,000 people** would be **taken to Ayodhya on yearly pilgrimage by train.**
  - Stations for boarding are **Raipur, Durg, Raigarh, and Ambikapur**, with the 900-km journey culminating in Ayodhya.
  - There is also a **stopover at Varanasi** for devotees **to visit the Kashi Vishwanath temple and attend the Ganga Aarti.**
- **A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** will also be signed **with the Indian Railways Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)** to implement the scheme.
- **A weekly special train will also be arranged for pilgrims** wanting to visit Ayodhya.

### Note

- The state government had declared **January 22 as a dry day in the entire state**, given the **consecration of the Ram Temple in Ayodhya.**
- **Chhattisgarh** is the '**nanihal**' (**the place of his maternal grandparents**) of Lord Ram.
  - **Chandkhuri**, a village located 27 km from Chhattisgarh capital Raipur, is **considered as the birthplace of Mata Kaushalya, mother of Lord Ram.**
  - The ancient **Mata Kaushalya temple situated in the village** was given a magnificent look during the previous government in the state.

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## Prafull Bharat: New Advocate General of Chhattisgarh | Chhattisgarh | 12 Jan 2024

## Why in News?

According to the sources, the Chhattisgarh government has appointed **Prafull Bharat** as the **new Advocate General (AG) of Chhattisgarh**.

## Key Points

- He served as the **Additional Advocate General of Chhattisgarh from 2014 to 2018**.
- With an extensive legal career, Bharat has been practicing at the **High Court of Chhattisgarh since November 2000, specializing in Civil, Constitutional, Arbitration, and Criminal matters**.
- His legal expertise also extends to his **tenure at the High Court of Madhya Pradesh from 1995 to 2000** and the **District Court in Jagdalpur, Bastar from 1992 to 1995**.
- **Bharat succeeds Satish Chandra Verma**, who quit as AG after the new government assumed office after the recent assembly elections.

## Advocate General of State

- The Advocate General of state is **responsible for advising the State Government on legal matters referred to him by the Governor**.
- This is a **Constitutional post** and authority duly **appointed under Article 165** of the Constitution of India. **He/She acts as the highest law officer in the State**.
  - Under Article 165 of the Constitution of India **the Governor of each State shall appoint a person who is qualified to be appointed as a Judge of a High Court to be Advocate General for the State**.

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## Concerns over Hit-and-Run Law | Chhattisgarh | 12 Jan 2024

### Why in News?

The recent protests by **transporters and commercial drivers** in states like Maharashtra, **Chhattisgarh**, West Bengal, and Punjab shed light on the contentious **Section 106 (2) of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 (BNS)**.

### Key Points

- This section, which stipulates **severe penalties for hit-and-run incidents**, has become a focal point of discontent among the driving community.
- The countrywide truckers' strike has been called off after the government assured that it would consult stakeholders before implementing a contentious law against hit-and-run.
- Transporters and commercial drivers are **demanding the withdrawal or amendment** of Section 106 (2) of the BNS, 2023.
  - They argue that the **prescribed penalties**, including a 10-year imprisonment and Rs. 7 lakh fine, are **excessively severe**.

### Provisions of Hit-and-run Law

- The hit-and-run provision is part of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), which is **set to replace the colonial-era Indian Penal Code, 1860**.
  - **Section 106 (2) of the BNS, 2023 stipulates a penalty of up to 10 years in jail and**

- a fine** for fleeing an accident spot and failing to report the incident to a police officer or a magistrate.
- However, **if the driver reports the incident immediately after the accident, they will be charged under Section 106(1) instead of Section 106(2)**. Section 106(1) provides for a punishment of up to five years for causing death by any rash or negligent act not amounting to culpable homicide.

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