



Bharat Gaurav Scheme

Why in News

Recently, the Indian Railways has announced the new scheme '**Bharat Gaurav**' to tap the huge potential of tourism.

Key Points

▪ About:

- Under the scheme, now trains have a **third segment for tourism**. Till now, the Railways had passenger segments and goods segments.
 - These trains are **not regular trains** that will run as per a timetable but will be more on the lines of the **Ramayana Express** being run by the **IRCTC**.
- It was announced under the **theme-based tourist circuit trains**. These trains will be **run, by both private players and IRCTC**, in theme-based circuits
 - **By theme-based tourism (circuits)**, the railways means trains like Guru Kripa that goes to all places related to **Guru Nanak** or a Ramayan-themed train to touch upon places related to **Lord Ram**.
- Anyone, from **societies, trusts, consortia** and even state governments can apply to take these trains and run them on special tourism circuits based on a theme.
 - Service Provider will offer all **inclusive packages** to tourists including rail travel, hotel accommodation, sightseeing arrangement, visit to historical/heritage sites, tour guides etc.

▪ Benefits of such Scheme:

- These trains will **help realise India's rich cultural heritage** and magnificent historical places to the people of India and the world. They will also help in **tapping** the vast **tourism potential** of India.

▪ Other Related Scheme:

- [Swadesh Darshan Scheme](#)
- [PRASHAD Scheme](#)
- [Buddhist Conclave](#)
- **Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative**

Tourism in India

- Tourism in India is **important for the country's economy** and is growing rapidly.
- According to the **World Travel and Tourism Council**, the travel & tourism industry's contribution to the [Gross Domestic Product \(GDP\)](#) was USD 121.9 billion in 2020 and this is expected to reach USD 512 billion by 2028.
- In India, the industry's direct contribution to the GDP is **expected to record an annual growth rate of 10.35%** between 2019 and 2028.

- Also, the **Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report 2019** ranked India **34th out of 140 countries overall**, showing India's efforts to improve in the field.

Source: [PIB](#)

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