

Rajasthan to Form Tourism Board

Why in News?

The **Rajasthan government** is taking steps to **establish a tourism board** to enhance the industry's role in economic development.

Key Points

- The tourism sector has experienced substantial growth <u>post-pandemic</u>, contributing 14% to the state's <u>Gross Domestic Product (GDP)</u>.
- More than 1,200 tourism units are benefiting from industry status advantages.
 - Plans to include international tour operators in the upcoming tourism mart aim to increase foreign tourist inflow.

Initiatives Related to Tourism in India:

- Swadesh Darshan Scheme: It was launched to develop theme-based tourist circuits across India, leveraging cultural, historical, and natural heritage.
 - Improved infrastructure and tourist experiences in circuits like the <u>Buddhist</u> Circuit, Coastal Circuit, Desert Circuit, and Eco Circuit.
- PRASAD Scheme: Focuses on the development and beautification of pilgrimage sites.
- <u>HRIDAY (Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana):</u> Aims to preserve and revitalize heritage cities.
- Paryatan Parv: A nationwide campaign to encourage domestic tourism, involving cultural events and activities
- Dekho Apna Desh Initiative: This initiative encourages domestic tourism by promoting the exploration of India's diverse landscapes and cultural heritage.
- <u>Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat:</u> It promotes <u>cultural</u> integration through state pairings, encouraging exchange and collaboration and fostering unity and diversity, enhancing domestic tourism and cultural appreciation.

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