



# Bharat Gaurav Scheme

## Why in News?

India's first private train, under the [Bharat Gaurav scheme](#) has been flagged off from Coimbatore.

- The train will cover **several historical destinations on the route while giving the passengers an insight into the cultural heritage** of the country.

## What is Bharat Gaurav Scheme?

### ▪ About:

- **Launched in November 2021**, under the scheme, trains now **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 mean trains like **Guru Kripa that go 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.

## What are the other Related 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.

### ▪ [PRASHAD Scheme](#):

- The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) was launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15 with the **objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations**.

### ▪ [Buddhist Conclave](#):

- Buddhist Conclave is **organised every alternate year with the objective of promoting India as a Buddhist Destination** and major markets around the globe.

### ▪ [Dekho Apna Desh' Initiative](#):

- It is an **initiative to encourage the citizens to travel widely within the country** and explore the wonders of India thus enabling the development of Domestic Tourism tourist facilities and infrastructure in tourism spots in the country.

## What is the State of 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 34<sup>th</sup> out of 140 countries** overall, showing India's efforts to improve in the field.

**Source: IE**

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