



Madhya Pradesh Pilgrimage Scheme

Why in News?

Madhya Pradesh Chief Minister has directed for the expansion of the **government's pilgrimage scheme for senior citizens** and inclusion of the state's religious places in it.

Key Points

- The **Mukhyamantri Tirth Darshan Yojana**, under which people visit various pilgrimage sites in the country, was started in 2012.
- The **geographical structure of Madhya Pradesh prevents many residents from visiting various pilgrimage sites**, leaving them unaware of the unique features within their own state.
 - The **scheme should be expanded to enable senior citizens to visit** not only **renowned pilgrimage sites across the country** but also notable religious locations within Madhya Pradesh.
- The CM asked the officials to:
 - Prepare a plan for **facilitating meritorious students to visit important tourist places** of historical importance.
 - Enable **visits of folk artists from tribal-dominated areas to the tourist places**, where they can **showcase their art**.

Mukhyamantri Teerth Darshan Yojana

- It was **launched** by the Department of Religious Trusts and Endowments, Government of Madhya Pradesh in **June 2012**.
- Under the scheme, the state government provides **one-time assistance to senior citizens above 60 years of age (2 years relaxation in case of women) of the state to visit a prescribed pilgrimage outside the state**.
- In this scheme, **free travel** is made to senior citizens of the state.
 - The pilgrims travel by special train, breakfast, food, and pure drinking water, arrangements for stay at pilgrimage places, etc.