



Helicopter Services to Ayodhya

Why in News?

The Uttar Pradesh government has decided to offer **helicopter services to Ayodhya from Lucknow, Gorakhpur, Prayagraj, Varanasi, Agra, and Mathura.**

Key Points

- Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath will **inaugurate the helicopter service from Lucknow on January 19.**
 - The government has also set the fares for helicopter services and plans are underway to extend this to other districts in the state in the near future.
- The state government is also introducing an **aerial darshan of Ayodhya city and the Ram Temple for devotees.** The **tourism department** has been assigned **responsibility for this initiative.**
 - The **helicopter rides will take off from** the helipad near **the Tourism Guest House** along the **banks of the Saryu river.**
 - Devotees will enjoy an aerial tour covering renowned tourist destinations, including **Ram Mandir, Hanumangarhi, and Saryu Ghat.**
 - Helicopter services from **Namo Ghat in Varanasi, from Ramabai in Lucknow from the helipad near the Tourism Guest House in Prayagraj** are available.
 - Devotees can opt for helicopter services from the helipad near **Govardhan Parikrama in Barsana, Mathura, and the helipad near Agra Expressway in Agra.**
 - These longer routes, spanning 456 km and 440 km respectively, take 135 minutes to complete, with a fixed fare of Rs 35,399 per devotee.

Saryu River

- The Saryu is a river **that flows through Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh.**
- This **river is of ancient significance as it is mentioned in the Vedas and the Ramayana.**
- The river is **formed at the confluence of rivers Karnali and Mahakali.** It is a tributary of River Ganges.
- On **Ram Navami**, the festival that celebrates the birthday of Lord Rama, **thousands of people take a dip in the Saryu River at Ayodhya.**