

PRASHAD scheme

July 16, 2021

In news- Prime Minister recently inaugurated various development projects in Varanasi which included the Tourist Facilitation Centre under the Project “Development of Varanasi Under PRASAD Scheme – Phase II” .

About the scheme-

- The ‘**National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive**’ (PRASHAD) is a Central Sector Scheme launched by the Ministry of Tourism in the year 2014-15.
- Its **objective** is integrated development of identified pilgrimage and heritage destinations.
- The scheme aimed at infrastructure development such as entry points (Road, Rail and Water Transport), last mile connectivity, basic tourism facilities, eco-friendly modes of transport, rain shelters, Telecom facilities, internet connectivity etc..
- This scheme **focuses on** developing and identifying pilgrimage sites across India for enriching the religious tourism experience.
- This scheme seeks to leverage the voluntary funding available for **Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and the Public-Private Partnership (PPP)** for improved sustainability of the projects under this scheme.
- The **Central Government provides 100% funding** for the project components undertaken for public funding.
- The project components under the scheme that are not **eligible to receive assistance are** Land acquisition for development, Resettlement and rehabilitation package, operation, maintenance and management of the assets created, Improvement or investments in assets or structures owned by private entities.
- The **following cities are identified under the PRASAD**

scheme- *Amritsar (Punjab), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh), Gaya (Bihar), Kamakhya (Assam), Dwaraka (Gujarat), Puri (Odisha), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Kanchipuram(Tamil Nadu), Velankanni (Tamil Nadu).*