

## Chhattisgarh's 'Ramlala Darshan' Scheme

(Chhattisgarh's 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme offers free Ayodhya pilgrimage, promoting cultural ties, inclusivity, and community engagement, impacting government aspirants positively.)



(Source: Edunovations)

Chhattisgarh, in a significant move, has introduced the 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme, aiming to facilitate a free pilgrimage to Ayodhya Dham. This initiative is expected to have a broad impact on various sectors, particularly on government exam aspirants preparing for positions in teaching, police, banking, railways, defense, and civil services like PSCS to IAS.

### Boosting Cultural and Religious Tourism:

Chhattisgarh's 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme holds immense importance as it promotes cultural and religious tourism. By providing a free pilgrimage to Ayodhya Dham, the state is making a commendable effort to encourage citizens to connect with their cultural roots.

#### 1. Historical Significance of Ayodhya:

The scheme is deeply rooted in the rich cultural and historical tapestry of India. Ayodhya, as the birthplace of Lord Rama, has been a pilgrimage site for centuries. By facilitating pilgrimages to Ayodhya, the Chhattisgarh government is aligning itself with the historical traditions of pilgrimage and reinforcing the cultural ethos that has been an integral part of India's heritage.

#### 2. Attracting Tourists and Pilgrims:

The 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme is expected to attract not only local residents but also tourists from other states. This influx of visitors can positively impact the local economy, creating opportunities for businesses, hospitality services, and cultural exchanges. The pilgrimage journey, spanning 900km and including stops at Varanasi's Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor and Ganga Aarti, enhances the overall cultural and spiritual experience for the participants.

### Inclusivity in Government Initiatives:



(Source: The Hindu)

This initiative ensures inclusivity in government schemes, allowing people from various sections of society to participate in religious activities. Aspirants preparing for government exams, particularly those in the age group of 18-75, need to be aware of such programs that reflect the government's commitment to the welfare of its citizens.

### 1. Prime Minister's Guarantee:

The decision to launch the 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' is in alignment with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee to facilitate the pilgrimage for around 20,000 Chhattisgarh residents to the newly built Ram Temple at Ayodhya every year. This commitment highlights the collaborative efforts between the state and central government to promote religious and cultural activities.

### 2. Eligibility Criteria and Health Exam:

The eligibility criteria, including age (18-75) and the requirement to pass a health exam, ensure that the pilgrimage is accessible to a diverse range of residents. The inclusion of disabled individuals, allowing them to travel with one family member, emphasizes the commitment to cater to the needs of all citizens, irrespective of physical abilities.

### 3. Implementation Mechanism:

The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, funded by the Tourism Department, will play a pivotal role in the implementation of the scheme. District committees under District Collectors will be responsible for selecting beneficiaries, ensuring a decentralized approach for effective execution. This approach enhances transparency and local engagement.



### Social Impact and Community Engagement:

The scheme's emphasis on free pilgrimage contributes to social impact and community engagement, which is crucial for aspirants aiming for roles in civil services and defense, where community relations play a vital role.

#### 1. Strengthening Social Fabric:

The pilgrimage journey is not just a religious excursion but also an opportunity for community bonding. Participants, coming from different backgrounds, will share a common spiritual experience, fostering a sense of unity and shared identity. This social impact resonates with the broader goal of nation-building and social cohesion.

#### 2. Community Relations in Civil Services and Defense:

Understanding the dynamics of community relations is a key aspect of roles in civil services and defense. The 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme, by bringing people together in a religious context, provides aspirants with insights into the social fabric they may encounter in their future roles. This experiential learning is invaluable for those preparing for positions where community engagement is integral to success.

### Cabinet Meeting Highlights:



(Source: adda 247)

The decision to launch the 'Shri Ramlala Darshan Scheme' was made during a state cabinet meeting held in Raipur. The key highlights of the meeting shed light on the intricacies of the scheme.

#### 1. Fulfilling Prime Minister's Guarantee:

The scheme, named after Lord Rama, aims to fulfill Prime Minister Narendra Modi's guarantee to facilitate the pilgrimage of a significant number of residents to Ayodhya every year. This aligns with the broader vision of promoting cultural and religious activities across the nation.

#### 2. Eligibility and Health Exam:

The eligibility criteria, limited to Chhattisgarh residents aged 18-75 who pass a health exam, ensure that the pilgrimage is accessible while also prioritizing the well-being of participants. The health exam

requirement reflects a commitment to the safety and comfort of the pilgrims.

### 3. Implementation and Management:

The Chhattisgarh Tourism Board, supported by the Tourism Department, will be responsible for the implementation and management of the scheme. This ensures a structured and organized approach, with district committees overseeing the selection of beneficiaries, adding a layer of local administration to the process.

#### Travel and Logistics:

The logistical details of the pilgrimage journey, spanning 900km and including a one-night stay in Varanasi, highlight the meticulous planning involved in making the 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme a reality.

#### 1. Train Journey and Varanasi Visit:

The 900km journey by train from Durg-Raipur, Raigarh, and Ambikapur adds a unique dimension to the pilgrimage. The inclusion of a one-night stay in Varanasi, coupled with visits to Kashi Vishwanath Temple Corridor and Ganga Aarti, transforms the pilgrimage into a comprehensive cultural and spiritual experience.

#### 2. MoU with IRCTC:

The Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC) ensures the smooth execution of various aspects of the journey. This includes provisions for security, health, food, sightseeing, local transport, and escorts, emphasizing the commitment to the well-being and safety of the participants.

#### 3. Weekly Train and Phased Implementation:

The initial plan to have a weekly train reflects a phased approach to the implementation of the scheme. This allows for an organized rollout, with the flexibility to adjust the frequency based on availability and demand. The phased implementation also prioritizes residents above 55 years in the first phase, showcasing a strategic and thoughtful approach to execution.

#### Additional Details:

Several additional details further enhance the scope and impact of the 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme.

#### 1. District Collectors' Responsibilities:

District Collectors play a crucial role in ensuring the smooth conduct of pilgrimages. Their responsibilities, including pick-up and drop-off from stations, showcase the decentralized nature of the scheme. This ensures that local administrations are actively involved in the success of the initiative.

#### 2. Budget Allocations:

The allocation of budgets for additional arrangements underlines the commitment to providing a comfortable and enriching experience for the pilgrims. This financial commitment reflects the government's dedication to the success of the scheme, going beyond the basic requirements.

#### 3. Government Officials' Involvement:

The decision to have government officials accompany each pilgrimage group adds a layer of supervision and support. This ensures that the participants receive guidance and assistance throughout the journey, reinforcing the commitment to their well-being.

Chhattisgarh's 'Ramlala Darshan' scheme emerges as a multi-faceted initiative with implications for





Date : 13th Jan 2024

Important News Analysis

English

cultural, religious, social, and administrative spheres. The emphasis on inclusivity, community engagement, and the meticulous planning of the pilgrimage journey demonstrates a thoughtful approach by the state government. As news of this scheme spreads, it is poised to not only impact government exam aspirants but also contribute significantly to the cultural and religious tapestry of India. The success of the initiative will be measured not only by the number of pilgrims it facilitates but also by the lasting impact it leaves on the participants and the communities involved.

