

TITHANKAR CIRCUIT

Prelims: Governance- Schemes; Art & Culture- Heritage Tourism

Mains: GS-II- Government policies and interventions for development in various sectors and issues arising out of their design and implementation.

Why in News?

- ▶ Ministry of Tourism under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme has identified Tirthankar Circuit as one of the fifteen thematic circuits for development in the country. All the sites associated with Jainism are covered under this circuit.

Tithankar Circuit Project:

- ▶ Ministry has sanctioned the project “Development of Tirthankar Circuit: Vaishali-Arrah-Masad-Patna-Rajgir-Pawapuri-Champapuri in Bihar.

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- ▶ Swadesh Darshan Scheme – Integrated Development of theme-based tourist circuits is the flagship scheme of Ministry of Tourism for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.
- ▶ Under Swadesh Darshan Scheme Ministry of Tourism is developing critical tourism infrastructure in the country in a sustainable and inclusive manner to make India into a world class tourist destination.
- ▶ The focus under the scheme is to develop public facilities like last mile connectivity, Tourist reception Centres, Way side Amenities, Solid Waste Management, Illumination, Landscaping, parking etc. where Private Sector is not willing to invest.

Objectives of the scheme:

- ▶ Position tourism as a major engine of economic growth and job creation;
- ▶ Develop circuits having tourist potential in a planned and prioritized manner;
- ▶ Promote cultural and heritage value of the country to generate livelihoods in the identified regions;
- ▶ Enhance the tourist attractiveness in a sustainable manner by developing world class infrastructure in the circuit/destinations;
- ▶ Follow community-based development and pro-poor tourism approach;

- ▶▶ Create awareness among the local communities about the importance of tourism for them in terms of increased sources of income, improved living standards and overall development of the area.
- ▶▶ Create employment through active involvement of local communities;
- ▶▶ Harness tourism potential for its effects in employment generation and economic development.
- ▶▶ Make full use of the potential and advantages in terms of available infrastructure, national culture and characteristic strong points of each and every region throughout the country by development of theme-based circuits.

