



Char Dham Yatra

Why in News?

Recently, the alarming scenes of a massive turnout at **Yamunotri** and long traffic blockades on the **Kedarnath** and **Badrinath** routes have forced the government to prioritize short-term and long-term solutions for the Char Dham yatra.

Key Points

- The **Char-Dham yatra** in Uttarakhand consists of visiting four temples, **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri**.
- It holds profound spiritual significance in Hinduism. This journey typically occurs from **April/May to October/November**.
- The state is planning to create a "**Dharmik Yatra Authority**" that would regulate not only **Char Dham yatra** but also other pilgrimages like the **Kanwar yatra**.
- The authority will take a call on all issues, like deciding the number of **daily pilgrims, routes, health, and security deployments**, and all other arrangements.
- Uttarakhand is considering adopting the regulatory body for religious events similar to the one in Uttar Pradesh and will study its model before implementation.

Char Dham Yatra

- **Yamunotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
 - River Yamuna is the second-most sacred river in India after River Ganga.
- **Gangotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
 - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.
 - Situated on the bank of the Mandakini River.
 - One of the 12 Jyotirlingas (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Chamoli district.
 - Home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
 - One of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites.

