

Regulatory System for Chardham Pilgrimage

Why in News?

Compelled by the heavy rush of pilgrims, the Uttarakhand Government is set to introduce a regulatory system for the <u>chardham pilgrimage</u>, similar to the 2019 **'Devasthanam Management Board'** which was abandoned due to protests by the priests.

Key Points

- The government has constituted a special High-Level Committee (HLC) to suggest the constitution of a 'new authority or institution' to regulate Chardham and other religious pilgrimages to the state.
- The HLC formed by the state government has been mandated to look into the smooth and uninterrupted regulation of the pilgrimages in Uttarakhand in the future.
 - It will also monitor and regulate the daily flow of devotees in the ongoing Chardham pilgrimage for Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath, and Kedarnath shrines.

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.

