

NGT to Uttarakhand: Disclose Carrying Capacity Responsibility

Why in News?

The <u>National Green Tribunal</u> asked the **Uttarakhand's environment department to disclose responsibility** in case of an accident as there is no carrying capacity restricting the number of pilgrims across <u>Char Dham</u> in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- According to the tribunal, there is no carrying capacity fixed even on an ad-hoc basis for the pilgrims on the tracks of Shri Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri, and there is no restriction in respect of the number of pilgrims on those tracks.
 - According to the state government's counsel, one year would be required to get a report about the carrying capacity at the four pilgrimage sites.
 - As per NGT, the unregulated **number of pilgrims could result in a mishap** and someone must take its responsibility.

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.

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