



Bharat Gaurav Express

Why in News?

The **Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation (IRCTC)**, in collaboration with the [Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board](#), has launched online ticket reservations for the **Bharat Gaurav Express train** from Tamil Nadu to six spiritual destinations in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- The six spiritual destinations are: **Rishikesh, Rudraprayag, Guptkashi, Kedarnath, Joshimath, and Badrinath.**
 - The journey spans over 13 days and includes a helicopter transfer from Guptkashi to Kedarnath.
- **Kedarnath Dham** is located in **Rudraprayag district**. It is **dedicated to Lord Shiva** and situated on the bank of the [Mandakini River](#). It is one of the [12 Jyotirlingas](#) (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham** is located in **Chamoli district**. It is home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple, **dedicated to Lord Vishnu.**
- **Rudraprayag** is one of the **Panch Prayag of Alaknanda River**, the point of confluence of rivers **Alaknanda and Mandakini.**
 - It is **named after Rudra, an aspect of Lord Shiva.** According to a legend, Lord Shiva appeared here as 'Rudra' to bless Narad Muni.
- **Joshimath** is a hilly town located on the Rishikesh-Badrinath National Highway (NH-7) in **Chamoli district** of Uttarakhand.
 - The city serves as a tourist town as it acts as an **overnight rest stop** for people visiting **Badrinath, Auli, Valley of Flowers, and Hemkund Sahib,** among other important religious and tourist locations in the state.
- **Guptkashi** is located in the **Rudraprayag district**. It is known for its ancient Vishwanath Temple dedicated to the god Shiva, which is similar to the one in Varanasi.
- **Rishikesh** is located in the Dehradun district. It is commonly referred to as the '**yoga capital of the world**'.
 - It is situated on the **right bank of the Ganges River** and is a pilgrimage town for Hindus, with ancient sages and saints meditating there in search of higher knowledge.

Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)

- It is a government body responsible for promoting tourism in the state of Uttarakhand.
- It was **established in 1976** and is **headquartered in Dehradun.**
- The UTDB works to develop and **promote tourism infrastructure, attract investment, and market** Uttarakhand as a tourist destination.

