



Uttarakhand's Manaskhand Corridor Yatra

Why in News?

Uttarakhand tourism department in collaboration with the **Indian Railways** will start the '**Manaskhand Corridor Yatra**' to popularise the ancient temples of the **Kumaon region**.

Key Points

- A dedicated train service has been arranged to transport passengers from **Pune to Tanakpur in Pithoragarh district** for the pilgrimage.
 - The train will carry over **600 pilgrims in two batches** to the famous temples of '**Manaskhand**', a phrase used in ancient Hindu scriptures to refer to the **Kumaon region of Uttarakhand**.
- The devotees will be taken to temples and other religious places of Tanakpur, Champawat, Pithoragarh and Almora as part of the tour package and briefed on the mythological significance of these temples.
- Visits to Baleswar, **Maneswar and Mayawati temples in Champawat**, Hat Kalika , **Patal Bhubaneswar temples in Pithoragarh**, **Jageshwar and Golu devta temples at Chitai**, **Nanda Devi, Kasar Devi, Katarmal in Almora**, **Nanakmatta Sahib Gurudwara in Udham Singh Nagar** and the **Naina Devi temple in Nainital** are part of the itinerary for the pilgrims.

Kumaon Region

- It comprises six districts of the state: **Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar**.
- Historically known as **Manaskhand and then Kurmanchal**, the Kumaon region has been **ruled by several Hindu dynasties** over the course of history.
- The **Kumaon division was established in 1816**, when the British reclaimed this region from the Gorkhas, who had annexed the erstwhile Kingdom of Kumaon in 1790.
- In independent India the state was called Uttar Pradesh. **In 2000**, the new state of **Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh**, including Kumaon.