



Kanwar Yatra

Why in News?

Recently, [the Supreme Court](#) halted the controversial orders from the **governments of Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, and Madhya Pradesh**, which required the **display of owners' names** at hotels, shops, eateries, and dhabas along the route of the **'Kanwar yatra' (holy expedition)**.

Key Points

- The Kanwar Yatra is a **Hindu pilgrimage** in the **month of Shravana**, by **Lord Shiva devotees**.
- The devotees **travel to pilgrimage places** like [Haridwar](#), [Gaumukh](#), [Gangotri](#) in Uttarakhand, [Sultanganj](#) in Bihar, [Prayagraj](#), [Ayodhya](#), and [Varanasi](#) in Uttar Pradesh, and return by carrying [Ganga](#) water in kanwars to seek the blessings of Shiva.
 - The water is offered to Shiva temples, including the [12 Jyotirlingas](#) across India and other shrines like the Pura Mahadev Mandir and Augharnath in Uttar Pradesh, the famous [Kashi Vishwanath temple](#), and the [Baba Baidyanath Temple](#) in Deoghar, Jharkhand. The ritual is known as **Jal Abhishek**.

12 Jyotirlingas

- A Jyotirlinga is a **shrine where Lord Shiva is worshipped** in the **form of a Jyotirlingam**.
- Each Jyotirlinga is a **different manifestation of Lord Shiva**.
- There are currently **12 main Jyotirlingas in India**. These are:
 - [Somnath Jyotirlinga](#) in Gir, Gujarat
 - [Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga](#) in Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh
 - [Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga](#) in Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
 - [Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga](#) in Khandwa, Madhya Pradesh
 - [Baidyanath Jyotirlinga](#) in Deoghar, Jharkhand
 - [Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga](#) in Maharashtra
 - [Ramanathaswamy Jyotirlinga](#) in Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu
 - [Nageshwar Jyotirlinga](#) in Dwarka, Gujarat
 - [Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga](#) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
 - [Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga](#) in Nasik, Maharashtra
 - [Kedarnath Jyotirlinga](#) in Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand
 - [Ghrishneshwar Jyotirlinga](#) in Aurangabad, Maharashtra