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News: As rush of devotees ends, Haridwar grapples with a mountain of waste

- The annual ‘Kanwar Yatra’ ended on Saturday with Haridwar witnessing a rush of record number of devotees who come to collect water from the Ganga.
- The unprecedented rush also left behind a mountain of garbage — over 28,000 metric tons of waste, nearly five times more than the total waste generated in the city in a month.

Kanwar Yatra

- The Kanwar Yatra is a pilgrimage organised in the Hindu calendar month of Shravana.
- Saffron-clad Shiva devotees generally walk barefoot with pitchers of holy water from the Ganga or other holy rivers.
- Devotees carry the pitchers of holy water on their shoulders, balanced on decorated slings known as Kanwars.
- The water is used by the pilgrims to worship Shiva lingas at shrines of importance, include the 12 Jyotirlingas, or temples such as the Pura Mahadeva and Augharnath Temple in Meerut, Kashi Vishwanath Temple in Varanasi, Baidyanath Dham in Deoghar, Jharkhand etc.

- An important festival with similarities to the Kanwar yatra in North India, called the Kavadi festival, is celebrated in Tamil Nadu, in which Lord Muruga is worshipped.
- The legend of the ritual goes back to the ‘samudra manthan’, narrated in the Bhagavata Purana.

Jyotirlingas

- A Jyotirlinga is a devotional representation of Shiva.
- There are twelve traditional Jyotirlinga shrines in India.

12 Jyotirlinga in India		
12-Jyotirlinga		
Jyotirlinga List with Location		
No	Jyotirlinga	Location
1	Somnath Jyotirlinga	Saurashtra, Gujarat
2	Mahakaleshwar Jyotirlinga	Ujjain, Madhya Pradesh
3	Omkareshwar Jyotirlinga	Shivpuri, Madhya Pradesh
4	Mallikarjuna Jyotirlinga	Srisailem, Andhra Pradesh
5	Vaijnath Jyotirlinga	Parli, Maharashtra
6	Kedarnath Jyotirlinga	Kedarnath, Uttarakhand
7	Nageshwar Jyotirlinga	Darukavanam, Gujarat
8	Trimbakeshwar Jyotirlinga	Nasik, Maharashtra
9	Bhimashankar Jyotirlinga	Pune, Maharashtra
10	Rameshwar Jyotirlinga	Rameshwaram, Tamil Nadu
11	Grishneshwar Jyotirlinga	Aurangabad, Maharashtra
12	Kashi Vishwanath Jyotirlinga	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh