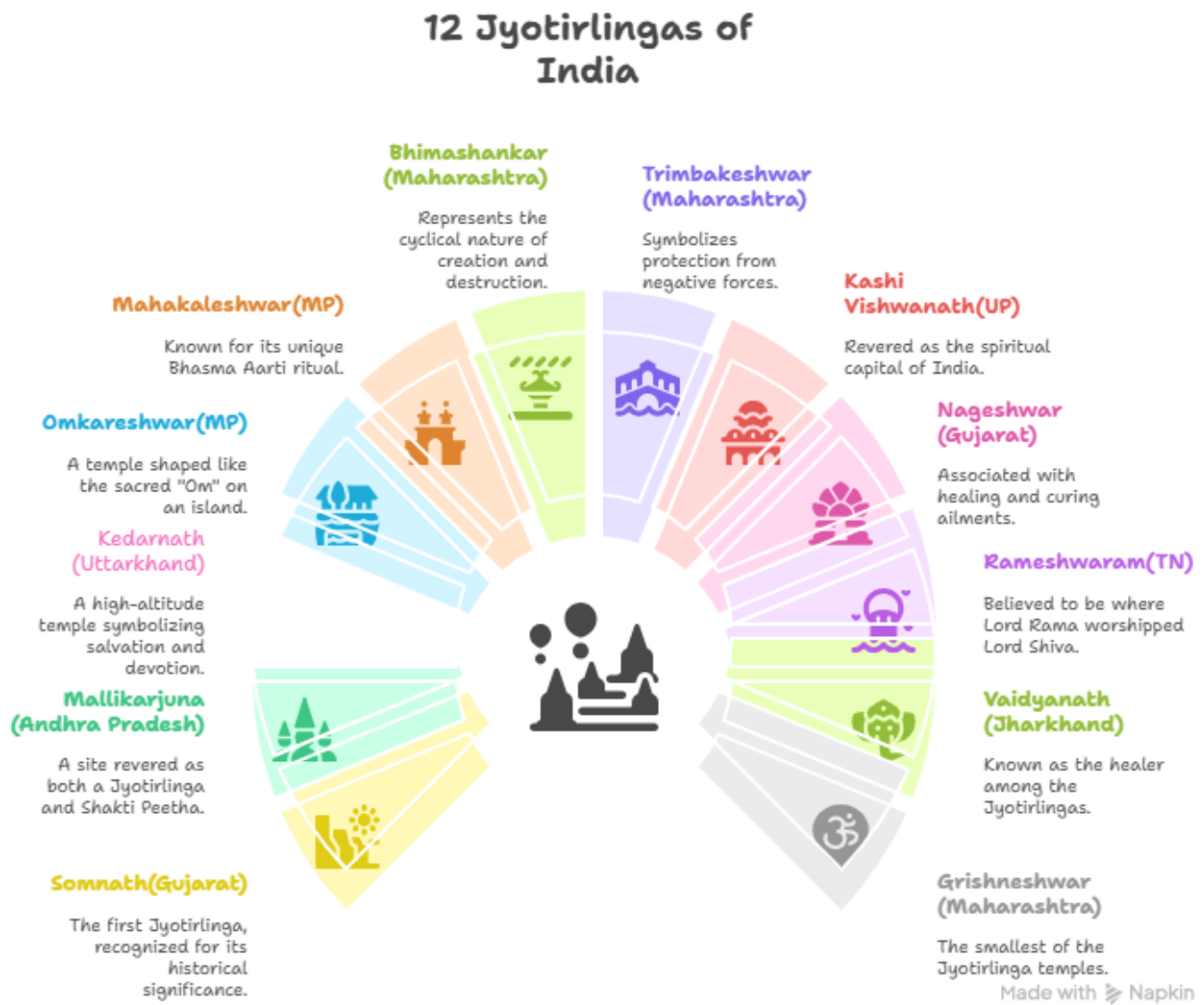




Holy Water Exchange Programme

Why in News?

On the third Monday (28th July 2025) of the sacred **Shrawan month**, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath launched a **historic holy water exchange programme** between the [Kashi Vishwanath Temple](#) and the [Shri Rameswaram Jyotirlinga](#).



Key Points

- **Background:** The exchange programme is part of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's [Kashi-Tamil Sangamam initiative](#), aimed at fostering closer ties between the people of Kashi (Varanasi) and Tamil Nadu.
- **Sacred Water and Sands Exchange:** The exchange involved urns filled with sacred water and sands: **from Prayagraj's Triveni Sangam** (Holy confluence of [Ganga](#), [Yamuna](#), and mythical [Saraswati](#)) and **Rameswaram Kodi Tirtham** (Sacred water from the Rameswaram temple in Tamil Nadu).
 - These were exchanged between the representatives of the **Devakottai Zamindar Family Trust (DZFT)** of Shri Rameswaram Jyotirlinga and officials of **Kashi Vishwanath Temple Trust**.
 - The exchanged water will be used for the '**Jalabhishek**' (ritual bathing) of both **Lord Vishwanath and Lord Ramanathaswamy**.
- **Future Rituals:** The **Jalabhishek of Lord Vishwanath** will take place on **Shrawan Purnima, 9th August 2025**, using the water brought from Rameswaram.
- **Significance:** This initiative strengthens the connection between Kashi and Tamil Nadu while reviving and preserving a sacred tradition for future generations, as described in the scriptures.





Kashi Tamil Sangamam

- **About:** It is a **cultural initiative** that aims to celebrate the deep-rooted historical and cultural ties and strengthen the ancient civilizational bond between **Tamil Nadu and Kashi (Varanasi)**.
 - The event aligns with the [Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat](#) initiative, emphasizing the integration of India's diverse cultural heritage.
 - The **3rd edition of Kashi Tamil Sangamam (KTS 3.0)**, a cultural confluence between Tamil Nadu and Kashi, took place in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh in February 2025.
- **Historical Significance:**
 - The historical ties between Kashi (Uttar Pradesh) and Tamil Nadu date back to the 15th century when **King Parakrama Pandya of Madurai** traveled to Kashi to bring back a sacred lingam for his temple (Sivakasi, Tamil Nadu).
 - The Pandya rulers also established the [Kasi Viswanathar Temple](#) in Tenkasi, located in southwestern Tamil Nadu, near the Kerala border.
 - This deep-rooted spiritual and cultural connection underscores the essence of the Kashi Tamil Sangamam initiative.

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/holy-water-exchange-programme>

