



Char Dham Yatra 2024

Why in News?

Recently, The ritualistic commencement of the [Gangotri shrine](#) began, as the idol of [goddess Ganga](#) was transported from her winter abode in **Mukhba village to Gangotri**.

Key Points

- As per tradition, the ceremony began with prayers of goddess Ganga before placing her on a palanquin and parading her out of the temple.
- The initial group of pilgrims departed from Rishikesh. Various groups were also sent off from different places by religious figures and political leaders.
- The gates of [Kedarnath](#), [Gangotri](#), and [Yamunotri](#) will open on Akshay Tithiya (10th May, 2024) , with the **Badrinath Dham** set to open on 12th May 2024.



Char Dham

- **Yamunotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
 - River Yamuna is the second-most sacred river in India after River Ganga.
- **Gangotri Dham:**
 - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
 - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.

- Situated on the bank of the **Mandakini River**.
- One of the **12 Jyotirlingas** (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
 - **Location:** Chamoli district.
 - Home to the sacred **Badrinarayan Temple**.
 - **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
 - One of the holy shrines for **Vaishnavites** .

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