

## Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarakhand

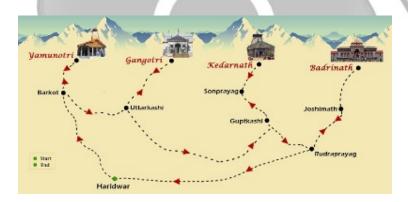
## Why in News?

On April 16, 2025, Uttarakhand completed excavation of the 4.53-km <u>Silkyara Tunnel</u>, which will be **named after local deity Baba Baukhnag.** 

## **Key Points**

- Inauguration of Temple:
  - The Chief Minister of the state inaugurated the Baba Baukhnag temple at the mouth of the Silkyara Tunnel.
  - He called the tunnel breakthrough a symbol of advanced engineering, faith, and dedication.
  - The construction of the tunnel was tendered to Hyderabad-headquartered Navayuga Engineering Company by the National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation Ltd (NHIDCL), a fully owned company of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways, Government of India.
- Char Dham Connectivity and Strategic Importance:
  - The double-lane tunnel, part of the <u>Char Dham all-weather road project</u>, is a major infrastructure project.
  - With an estimated cost of Rs 1,384 crore, the tunnel will cut the distance between Gangotri and Yamunotri by 25 km, improving regional connectivity.

## **Char Dham Yatra**



- The Char-Dham yatra in Uttarakhand consists of visiting four temples, Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri.
  - 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.

