



Silkyara Tunnel in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On April 16, 2025, Uttarakhand completed excavation of the 4.53-km [Silkyara Tunnel](#), 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 [Char Dham all-weather road project](#)**, 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.**

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