



# Shiva idol Leaves for Kedarnath Shrine

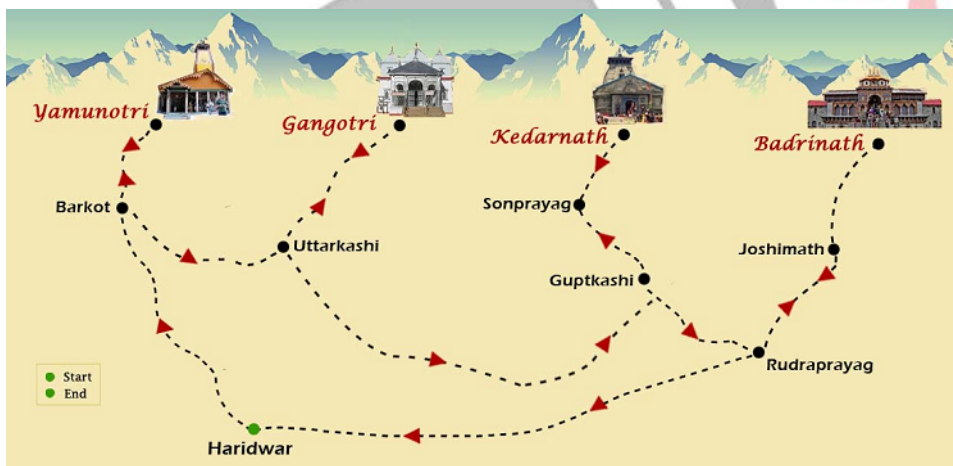
## Why in News?

The **idol of Lord Shiva**, adorned with flowers and carried in a palanquin, left its **winter abode** in [Ukhimath](#) for the [Kedarnath shrine](#), which will reopen to devotees on 2 May 2025.

## Key Points

- **The Ritual:**
  - Before Kedarnath temple reopens in summer, a **key ritual involves shifting the idol of Lord Shiva** from **Ukhimath's [Shri Omkareshwar Temple](#)**, where he is worshipped during winter back to the Kedarnath shrine.
  - The **Panchmukhi Doli**, a **five-faced palanquin** carrying Lord Shiva's idol, undertakes its **traditional journey to Kedarnath** with scheduled **halts at Guptkashi, Phata, and Gaurikund**.

## Char Dham Yatra



- **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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