



## PM Modi's Visit to Mukhwa

### Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to **Mukhwa**, the winter abode of "**Mother Ganga**" in Uttarkashi district, has generated a positive atmosphere for the [Char Dham Yatra](#) in Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- Char Dham Yatra refers to a pilgrimage of four holy sites [Yamunotri](#), [Gangotri](#), [Kedarnath](#) and [Badrinath](#) situated in the higher ranges of the **Himalayas**.
- The annual Char Dham Yatra is scheduled to begin this year (2025) with the opening of the doors of **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri temples** in the **Garhwal Himalayas** on **30th April 2025**.
- It was for the **first time** that the prime minister came to Uttarakhand close to the start of the **Char Dham Yatra**.
- **Mukhba - Winter Shrine of Gangotri:**
  - This place is popular due to the fact that the **idol of Goddess Ganga** is brought down to **Mukhba** from the **shrine of Gangotri** in the **Upper Himalayas** and kept here throughout the winters as Gangotri becomes inaccessible due to heavy Snowfall.
  - Every year on the auspicious occasion of **Diwali** the **idol of Ganga** is brought down to a temple in Mukhba with a procession of devotees and the Army band of **Garhwal Rifles**.
  - Devotees can visit Mukhba as a part of **Winter Char Dham** as the Uttarakhand government has planned to open all the Char Dhams Shrine for winters also. Mukhba can also be covered during Char Dham Yatra as well.



### 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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