

BEFORE THE HON'BLE NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL  
PRINCIPAL BENCH, NEW DELHI

EXECUTION APPLICATION NO. 27 OF 2023

IN

ORIGINAL APPLICATION NO. 561 OF 2022

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

SHASHIKANT PUROHIT

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & ORS.

...RESPONDENT(S)

IN

**IN THE MATTER OF:**

URVASHI SHOBHNA KACHARI

...APPLICANT

VERSUS

STATE OF UTTARAKHAND & ORS.

...RESPONDENT(S)

**ADDITIONAL DOCUMENTS ON BEHALF OF THE APPLICANT.**

S. NO.	PARTICULARS	PAGE NO.
1.	True copy of article published in the 'The Economic Times' dated 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025 titled " <i>Uttarakhand: Around 13.5 lakh register for Char Dham Yatra</i> ".	1-3
2.	True copy of the article published in 'The Week' on 18 <sup>th</sup> August, 2024 titled " <i>Despite calamities, Uttarakhand decides no cap on char dham tourists</i> ".	4-5
3.	True copy of an article published in 'The Times of India' on 19 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024 titled " <i>Now, U'khand plans major push for winter Char Dham yatra</i> ".	6
4.	True copy of an article published in 'The Economic Times' on 20 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024 titled " <i>Uttarakhand government plans to promote Char Dham yatra during winter</i> " on 20 <sup>th</sup> November, 2024 titled " <i>Uttarakhand government plans to promote Char Dham yatra during winter</i> ".	8-9
5.	True copy of an article published on NDTV on 8 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025 titled " <i>No Cap On Number of Devotees This Year For Char Dham Yatra: Official</i> ".	10

6.	True copy of an article published in the 'The Hindustan Times' on 10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2025 titled " <i>Unregulated pilgrim influx during Char Dham Yatra dangerous, warns NGO</i> ".	<b>11-14</b>
7.	True copy of a letter dated 31 <sup>st</sup> March, 2025 from the Commissioner, Animal Husbandry, Government of India to The Principal Secretary, Animal Husbandry Department, Government of Uttarakhand.	<b>15</b>
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FILED BY

DELHI

DATED: 05.05.2025

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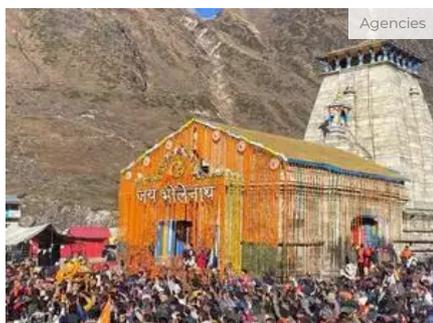
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Business News &gt; News &gt; India &gt; Uttarakhand: Around 13.5 lakh register for Char Dham Yatra

# Uttarakhand: Around 13.5 lakh register for Char Dham Yatra

## Synopsis

Around 1.35 million devotees have registered for the Char Dham Yatra, commencing with the Badrinath Dham opening on May 4th. Uttarakhand's Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has removed devotee restrictions, ensuring facilities and safe darshan. Preparations, including traffic management, health facilities, and parking, are underway, with the yatra route divided into sectors monitored by police to ensure devotee safety.



Agencies

Dehradun: Around 13.5 lakh devotees have registered for the upcoming [Char Dham Yatra](#), with the doors of Badrinath Dham slated to open from May 4, Garhwal Mandal Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said on Tuesday.

Representational

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Crucially, there is no restriction on the number of devotees who can attend the four Dhams in Uttarakhand, with Chief Minister [Pushkar Singh Dhami](#) ensuring that devotees get every facility with a safe darshan.

"We are continuing our registration process, till now around 13.5 lakh people have registered for the yatra, the important thing is that there is no restriction on the number of devotees, CM has given clear instructions that whoever wants to do a darshan of Char Dham, they can definitely do it, and it be done without any problems, and with facilities, with the expectation that the yatra is good," the Garhwal Mandal Commissioner told ANI.

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According to the division's head, CM Dhama has been checking in daily to get updates regarding the preparations which had started after the conclusion of last year's yatra itself.

"We had started the preparations for this Char Dham Yatra (2025) just after the conclusion of last year's yatra. Chief Minister (Pushkar Singh Dhama) had given us orders then itself to start preparations. There have been at least 2-3 meetings with the Chief Minister regarding this too," Commissioner Pandey said.

"CM takes updates on this daily to check on which stage the preparations have been completed, what are the shortcomings, and how to fix them," he added.

Regarding meetings, he informed that various district officials, including police personnel, zilla officials met on April 5 to get updates on the preparations for devotees, with officials focusing on making sure there is adequate parking, proper health facilities and traffic management.

"In February, and on 5th (April) too, we had a meeting in the Yatra office in Rishikesh where Gharwal Mandal's district officials, zilla officer, police personnel were present, and HoDs of every department were present too. We are almost finished with the preparations. We have focused on 3-4 things, like traffic management, taking care of people's health, and especially making sure parking is there, and holding areas, we have discussed in detail," Garhwal's Commissioner said.

This year, the whole of approximately 1,600 kilometres

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Uttarakhand: Around 13.5 lakh register for Char Dham Yatra

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which there will be police with walkie-talkies, the sectors are also clubbed into zones and super zones too. CM has given clear instructions that there should be no trouble to devotees," Commissioner Pandey told ANI.

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Earlier, as part of the yatra's preparations, a 30-member advance team of the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) reached Badrinath Dham yesterday to oversee and begin restoration and infrastructural arrangements ahead of the annual pilgrimage, said an official statement.

It is worth mentioning that the doors of Badrinath Dham are opening on 4th May. The state government is preparing for the Chardham Yatra before the Yatra, while preparations are being made continuously at the BKTC level for the Yatra.

The weather is clear in Badrinath Dham, although snow can still be seen in some places and on the nearby hills.

The pilgrimage, consisting of four holy sites in Uttarakhand -Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath- is taken out yearly by lakhs of devotees. The pilgrimage typically starts in April/May depending on the weather conditions and continues till November.

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ET Spotlight Last Updated: Apr 17, 2025, 10:39:00 PM IST

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### Synopsis

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# Despite calamities, Uttarakhand decides no cap on char dham tourists

The yatra that starts in May continues till the first week of September



By Puja Awasthi

Updated: August 18, 2024 14:31 IST



Devotees arrive to offer prayers at Badrinath Temple during the Char Dham yatra | PTI

Despite multiple landslides that have blocked the route for pilgrims, the Uttarakhand government has decided that there will be no cap on the number of pilgrims visiting the dhams till September first week.

In a meeting held with purohits from the teerths, officials, hotel association members, tour operators, transporters and trade associations, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced that registrations will be permitted on the spot as well. “There will be no limit to the number of such registrations,” he said. These registrations are in addition to the online registrations that are mandatory for the yatra.

The yatra that starts in May continues till the first week of September when the temperatures fall and the deities are also carried away from the temples.

Offline registrations will be available at Rishikesh, Haridwar; and at the main stopping points at Badrinath and Kedarnath. The latter means that there is every possibility that the crowds will far outstrip the already stretched carrying capacity of these pilgrimage centres.

As per the latest government bulletin, nine lakh plus tourists have been to Badrinath till August 16. More than one lakh vehicles have reached Badrinath. According to the government's own numbers, parking facilities available en route the dhams can cater to just over 700 vehicles.

On the night of July 31, the 19 kilometre Kedarnath access road for on-foot pilgrims caved in at 29 places. The pilgrims stranded on the road were rescued by helicopter services and with the help of locals. It took 15 days and 260 labourers to build the tourist path again, and despite that a few places are still not repaired.

The state government has decided that the dhams can accommodate 12,000 pilgrims per day but in 2018, a Supreme Court-appointed committee recommended a daily limit of 5,000 pilgrims to Kedarnath. There is also great discrepancy in the capacity for other teerths including Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.

In an investor summit in 2023, the state government had put forth a figure of 15 per cent as the contribution of the tourism sector to the state's GDP. The state also intends to invite investments worth Rs 20,000 crore in the sector and take up 200 projects in the PPP mode by 2030.

# Now, U'khand plans major push for winter Char Dham yatra

Nov 19, 2024, 11.31 PM IST



Dehradun: Uttarakhand govt is actively chalking out plans to promote winter Char Dham yatra so that pilgrims can visit the winter abodes of the deities of the Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines. After the Char Dham temples close for winter (Nov to March), the worship of the deities is done at places situated at a lower altitude than the original shrines. While the Gangotri idol is worshipped at Mukhba, the Yamunotri deity's worship takes place at Kharsali and that of Badrinath and Kedarnath at Jyotirmath (previously Joshimath) and Ukhimath respectively. The initiative to get people to visit these winter shrines (which hardly see any footfall) aims to reduce the strain on resources during the summer pilgrimage season (April to Nov), as

the influx of pilgrims during the season often overwhelms the state's infrastructure and causes traffic snarls, officials familiar with the development said.

The govt plans to use the winter pilgrimage to distribute pilgrim traffic more evenly throughout the year, the officials further said, adding that the initiative will also help generate employment for locals during winter, regarded as a "low tourist season".

In order to ensure that pilgrims coming to the winter a ~~892~~ do not face any problems, the public works department (PWD) will work on road repairs and widening, while the tourism department will promote homestays and renovate rest houses on the route. State govt has sought proposals to enhance infrastructure in this regard. Additionally, the tourism department plans to deploy doctors and state disaster response force (SDRF) teams on the route to ensure the safety of pilgrims.

Tourism minister Satpal Maharaj said, "Winter is a tough season, especially in the hills, but at the same time it has its own charm. We have most of the required infrastructure, and are making an elaborate plan to ensure that devotees do not face any issue. With fewer visitors during winter, those who come can easily have darshan of the deities."

Approximately 47 lakh devotees visited the Char Dham shrines from May 10 to Nov 17 this year, compared to 54 lakh last year. While 16.5 lakh pilgrims visited Kedarnath and 14.3 lakh visited Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamunotri recorded 8.1 lakh and 7.1 lakh visitors respectively. Officials attributed the slight decline in numbers to extended spells of monsoon rains and damage caused by landslides on the Kedarnath trek route.

# Uttarakhand government plans to promote Char Dham yatra during winter

ET Online Last Updated: Nov 20, 2024, 12:04:00 PM IST

## Synopsis

In a bid to boost tourism and ease the burden on infrastructure during peak season, the Uttarakhand government is taking steps to promote the winter Char Dham pilgrimage. This initiative aims to attract visitors to the lower-altitude winter abodes of the revered shrines while offering a unique experience during the quieter months.



Badrinath shrine

The [Uttarakhand](#) government is making plans to promote the winter [Char Dham yatra](#) so that pilgrims can visit the temples of Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath shrines, reported TOI.

The worship of deities is done at places situated at lower altitudes after the Char Dham temples are closed from November to March for winter.

While the Gangotri idol is worshipped at Mukhba, the Yamunotri deity's worship takes place at Kharsali and that of Badrinath and Kedarnath at Jyotirmath

(previously Joshimath) and Ukhimath respectively.

These [winter shrines](#) witness hardly any footfall. The initiative to get people to go here aims to reduce the strain on resources during the summer pilgrimage season between April and November as the influx of pilgrims during the season often overwhelms the state's infrastructure and causes traffic snarls, officials familiar with the development told TOI.

The government plans to use the winter pilgrimage to distribute pilgrim traffic evenly throughout the year, the officials further said. They added that this would also generate employment for locals during winter, regarded as a "low tourist season".

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The public works department (PWD) will work on road repairs and widening, while the tourism department will promote homestays and renovate rest houses on the route to ensure that pilgrims coming to the winter abodes do not face any problems.

Additionally, the tourism department plans to deploy doctors and state disaster response force (SDRF) teams on the route for the safety of pilgrims.

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Around 47 lakh devotees visited the [Char Dham shrines](#) from May 10 to November 17 this year, compared to 54 lakh last year. While 16.5 lakh pilgrims visited Kedarnath and 14.3 lakh visited Badrinath. Gangotri and Yamunotri recorded 8.1 lakh and 7.1 lakh visitors respectively.

Officials attributed the slight decline in numbers to extended spells of monsoon rains and damage caused by landslides on the Kedarnath trek route.

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# No Cap On Number Of Devotees This Year For Char Dham Yatra: Official

Char Dham Yatra: The official said that traffic arrangements, pure drinking water, and parking are the main focus of the preparations.

Asian News International | India News | Apr 08, 2025 09:43 am IST

Read Time: 3 mins

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The official also talked about the administration's efforts to make the Yatra 'green'.

**Garhwal (Uttarakhand):** Garhwal Divisional Commissioner Vinay Shankar Pandey said that the administration's preparations for the Char Dham Yatra are almost complete. He added that there will be no cap on the number of devotees who can participate in the pilgrimage.

The official said that traffic arrangements, pure drinking water, and parking are the main focus of the preparations.

"Our preparations are almost done. There is a special focus on 3-4 things: traffic arrangements, pure drinking water, and parking. This time, the Yatra route has been divided into sectors of 10 km each. Our officials will travel this 10 km on two-wheelers with walkie-talkies. After the sector, it has been further converted into zones and super zones," Mr Pandey told ANI.

"Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has given very clear directions that the pilgrims should not face any kind of inconvenience. Registration is ongoing; around 13.5 lakh people have registered online so far. This time, there is no cap on the number of pilgrims undertaking the Yatra," he added.

The official also talked about the administration's efforts to make the Yatra 'green' and ensure cleanliness throughout the pilgrimage.

"PM Modi has given a tagline of 'Green Yatra' for this Yatra, so it is being appealed to the pilgrims and field officers have been clearly told that the Dhams have a religious value and their holiness has to be kept intact but it should also be our effort to ensure that there is no garbage on the route and deter the usage of something that is harmful to the environment. People are being motivated towards this, and an alternate is also being made available," Mr Pandey said.

He said that soon after the conclusion of the Yatra, the Chief Minister instructed officials to prepare for this year's.

"Soon after the Char Dham Yatra concluded last year, the Chief Minister gave directions to begin preparations (for this year's Yatra). 2-3 meetings have already been done by the Chief Minister. He takes feedback regarding the preparations every day. I held a meeting at Yatra office in Rishikesh in February and on 5th (April), all DMs, SPs and HoDs of all departments of Garhwal division were present there," Mr Pandey said.

Earlier, as part of the yatra's preparations, a 30-member advance team of the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC) reached Badrinath Dham yesterday to oversee and begin restoration and infrastructural arrangements ahead of the annual pilgrimage, said an official statement.

The doors of Badrinath Dham are opening on 4th May. The state government is preparing for the Chardham Yatra before the Yatra, while preparations are being made continuously at the BKTC level for the Yatra.

The weather is clear in Badrinath Dham, although snow can still be seen in some places and on the nearby hills.

The pilgrimage, consisting of four holy sites in Uttarakhand -Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath- is taken out yearly by lakhs of devotees. The pilgrimage typically starts in April/May depending on the weather conditions and continues till November.

*(Except for the headline, this story has not been edited by NDTV staff and is published from a syndicated feed.)*

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By

## Unregulated pilgrim influx during Char Dham Yatra dangerous, warns NGO | Latest News India

### Unregulated pilgrim influx during Char Dham Yatra dangerous, warns NGO

PTI |

□

#### Unregulated pilgrim influx during Char Dham Yatra dangerous, warns NGO

Dehradun, A local NGO on Thursday emphasised the need to regulate the number of pilgrims visiting the Char Dham temples daily, warning that uncontrolled influx of devotees could be dangerous.



Unregulated pilgrim influx during Char Dham Yatra dangerous, warns NGO

Citing media reports about the Uttarakhand government's decision not to impose any limits on the number of pilgrims visiting the Himalayan

temples, Social Development for Communities Foundation founder Anoop Nautiyal said it posed a serious risk.

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Nautiyal said, "This effectively means that every registered pilgrim would be permitted to visit the shrines. Considering the rising rush of pilgrims with each passing year, regulating the number of pilgrims becomes more important."

"Without regulating the number of pilgrims based on the carrying capacity of the holy shrines, a situation of overcrowding and mismanagement could easily arise, posing significant risks to both the pilgrims and the region's fragile environment," he added.

The annual Char Dham Yatra is scheduled to begin on April 30, with the opening of the Gangotri and the Yamunotri temples. Last year, about 50 lakh devotees reached the Char Dham Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath located in the Upper Garhwal Himalayan region.

SDC Foundation is a Dehradun-based NGO working in areas such as climate change, environment, urbanisation and waste management.

Nautiyal said SDC Foundation had consistently urged the government to consider the carrying capacity of the Char Dham sites.

Back

Referring to a detailed report released by SDC Foundation on the Char Dham Yatra in 2024 that lasted for 192 days, he said it documented the number of daily visitors to each shrine over a 28-week period. It included 14 data-driven graphs highlighting 10 key issues, alongside a special feature analysing media coverage and recommendations to simplify the registration process.

While the government has said all pilgrims would be allowed entry into the shrines, many have found that online registration slots are already full for specific days.

As of now, slots for Yamunotri are already full until May 18 and slots for only seven days for Kedarnath remain open.

"If there are no restrictions on the number of pilgrims, then why are slots getting booked and why is registration being denied?" Nautiyal asked.

If registration is being restricted despite claims of unrestricted access, it could result in not only disappointment and inconvenience for pilgrims

but also create operational difficulties for the government staff and departments involved, he added.

Nautiyal noted that the government had previously indicated a 60:40 ratio for online and offline registrations.

If pilgrims arrive in Uttarakhand under the assumption that everyone would be allowed, only to be turned away due to the slots being full, it could damage the state's reputation and create a chaotic situation, he said.

"The focus must now shift from celebrating record-breaking numbers to ensuring that the yatra is managed with consideration for the health and safety of pilgrims, preservation of local ecosystems and the welfare of communities that depend on these sacred sites," Nautiyal said.

"We urge the government and stakeholders to adopt a more regulated, capacity-based approach to the pilgrim influx. The increased footfall is straining local infrastructure, degrading fragile ecosystems and disrupting the sanctity of the holy places," he added.

The tendency of the state government to widely promote the Char Dham pilgrim numbers as a record is not right. Focusing solely on pilgrim numbers as some sort of a new record undermines the yatra's spiritual and cultural significance, he claimed.

The essence of the Char Dham Yatra lies in its religious and emotional value, connecting devotees to the divine and offering spiritual renewal. When the emphasis shifts to counting pilgrims, it risks reducing this profound experience to a mere statistical achievement, the SDC Foundation founder said.

The increased footfall is straining local infrastructure, degrading fragile ecosystems and disrupting the sanctity of the holy places, he added.

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**AD-12014/4/2025-AHC**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry and Dairying**  
**Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying**

Chanderlok Building, New Delhi  
Dated the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025

To

The Principal Secretary,  
Animal Husbandry Department  
Government of Uttarakhand

**Subject:** Confirmation of Equine Influenza (H3N8) in Rudraprayag District of Uttarakhand- reg.

Sir,

Reference is invited to this Department's OM of even number dated 29th March 2025, regarding the confirmation of an outbreak of Equine Influenza in Rudraprayag district, Uttarakhand. In view of the potential risk of further transmission, immediate action is required to contain and prevent its spread.

As per **Section 6** of the **Prevention and Control of Infectious and Contagious Diseases in Animals Act, 2009** (a copy enclosed), the disease must be notified immediately, and the affected villages declared as a controlled area to enforce necessary movement control measures.

It is, therefore, advised to take following measures immediately:

1. Notify the disease immediately and declare the affected area as a controlled area under the provisions of the Act.
2. Restrict movement of animals and other associated materials as per legal provisions.
3. Strengthen surveillance and biosecurity measures to prevent further spread.
4. Issue advisories to stakeholders and ensure strict enforcement of containment measures.

Given the urgency of the situation, ensure immediate compliance and keep this Department informed of the steps taken.

Yours faithfully

  
(Abhijit Mitra)

Animal Husbandry Commissioner

**Copy to:** (1) The Director, Animal Husbandry, Government of Uttarakhand  
(2) The Director, NRC-Equine, Hissar

**Internal:** (1) Sr PPS to Secretary, AHD, (2) Joint Secretary, Livestock Health



Shaalini Agrawal &lt;shaaliniagrawal04@gmail.com&gt;

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**Service of Additional Documents being filed in Execution Application No. 27/2023 filed in Original Application No. 561/2022 titled 'Urvashi Shobhna Kachari V/s. Union of India & Ors.'**

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Shaalini Agrawal &lt;shaaliniagrawal04@gmail.com&gt;

5 May 2025 at 15:28

To: rtpdep123@gmail.com, secy-ah-ua@nic.in, chiefsecyuk@gmail.com, cs-uttarakhand@nic.in, secy-for-ua@nic.in, msukpcb@yahoo.com, dm-rud-ua@nic.in, dm-utt-ua@nic.in, Anjali Rajput <advanjali.rajput@gmail.com>, officeofkaushalgautam@gmail.com

Cc: Esha Dutta <eshadutta7@gmail.com>, Siddharth Pandey <siddharth.pandey17@gmail.com>

Dear Sir/Ma'am,

Please find attached additional documents being filed in Execution Application No.27/2023 filed in Original Application No. 561/2022 titled '*Urvashi Shobhna Kachari V/s. Union of India & Ors.*' The next date of hearing for the matter is 9th May 2025.

This is for your kind information, notice, necessary action and constitutes service of the document.

Regards,  
Shaalini Agrawal  
Advocate



**Compendium for 09.5.2025.pdf**

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