Mountain, Water, Rock, God

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Definition</th>
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<tr>
<td>abhishek</td>
<td>ritual bathing of a deity/sacred object with auspicious materials</td>
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<tr>
<td>acheri</td>
<td>Garhwali forest/mountain spirit</td>
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<td>Agama</td>
<td>a set of Shiva-focused ritual and philosophical texts</td>
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<td>apda</td>
<td>disaster</td>
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<td>arati</td>
<td>evening worship offering light and songs to deities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Badrinath</td>
<td>Himalayan shrine of the god Vishnu, part of the Uttarakhand Char Dham Yatra</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhagwan</td>
<td>God, Lord</td>
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<td>Bhairav(a), Bhairavnath</td>
<td>a fierce deity who became known as Shiva's lieutenant</td>
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<tr>
<td>bhajan</td>
<td>devotional song</td>
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<td>bhog</td>
<td>food offerings to a deity</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bhukund Bhairavnath</td>
<td>the form of Bhairavnath resident in Kedarnath</td>
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<tr>
<td>bhumi</td>
<td>earth, land</td>
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<td>BJP</td>
<td>Bharatiya Janata Party</td>
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<td>Chorabari Tal</td>
<td>(tal = Hindi: lake) the snowmelt lake above Kedarnath that descended in the Himalayan Tsunami, also known as Gandhi Sarovar</td>
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<td>dakshina</td>
<td>ritual fees</td>
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</table>
Dashanami a monastic order of Shaiva renunciants

deora yatra of a Garhwali deity

Dev Bhumi Land of the Gods, state-promoted name for the Garwhal region

devdarshini a vantage point from which you are first able to glimpse the deity of a particular place

Devi or Mahadevi, the Goddess
devi a form of the Goddess
devra same as deora
devta a deity
dham an abode or dwelling place of a deity

dharamshala pilgrim guesthouse
divya shila “divine rock,” the massive boulder that stopped in front of the temple in the 2013 floods and shielded the temple from further debris flow

doli Hindi, Garhwali: palanquin

Durga warrior goddess, a manifestation of the Goddess

Durga Puja annual Hindu festival for the goddess Durga

gana(s) the fierce followers or troops of Shiva; manifestations of Shiva’s anger

Gandhi Sarovar another name for Chorabari Tal

Gangotri shrine of the goddess/river Ganga, part of the Uttarakhand Char Dham Yatra

Garwhal Himalayan region in which Kedarnath is located, today part of the state of Uttarakhand

Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam Garhwal Regional Development Authority

Gaurikund village where the footpath to Kedarnath begins

ghat steps to river for bathing, bathing area with steps leading down to it

GMVN Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam

havan ritual of fire offering

ishtadevta personal deity

jyotirlinga (Sanskrit) / jyotirling (Hindi) a linga of light, a vibrating column of light that manifests Shiva’s universal form; one of twelve locations spread throughout India where such a column of light embeds itself in the ground
Kalamukhas a Shiva-oriented group that focused on using transgressive behavior as a way to move past mundane distinctions of pure and impure

Kali a manifestation of the anger of the Goddess

Kapalikas a sect of those who worship Shiva in his Bhairava form

katha recitations of famous stories from epics and Puranas

kedaramandala word for Kedara region in Sanskrit texts

Kedareshvara synonym for Kedarnath-Shiva in Sanskrit

Kedarnath a pilgrimage site that is an abode of Shiva, and the village located there. Literally, “Lord of the Marshy Ground”

Kumaon neighboring region to Garwhal, today part of the state of Uttarakhand

langar free food kitchen

linga the cylindrical shaft that is the aniconic form of Shiva’s presence in the world

Mahadevi the “Great Goddess” of Hindu traditions

Mahapath/Mahapanth the Great Path; the path that the Pandavas took in the Climb to Heaven

Mahaprasthanika The chapter of the Great Departure, one of the chapters of the Sanskrit Mahabharata connected to Kedarnath

Maheshvara Great Lord (another name for Shiva)

mantra powerful sacred verse

Mantramarga the path of mantras, an early Shaiva tradition

math headquarters

mela festival

murti Hindi: material form of a deity

-nath lord

Naths, Nath-Siddhas a tantric Shaiva sect partially descended from the Kalamukhas with a substantial presence in Garhwal and Kumaon

naur Garhwali term for a designated human representative of the deity, often one whom the deity regularly possesses

Panch Kedar group of five Shaiva temples in central Garhwal that includes Kedarnath, Madmaheswar, Tungnath, Kalpanath, and Rudranath
pap  \(\text{wickedness (Hindi)}\)
papa  \(\text{wickedness (Sanskrit)}\)
parikrama  \(\text{Hindi: circumambulation}\)
Pashupatapas  \(\text{early Shaiva group}\)
Pashupati  \(\text{Lord of Cattle/Beasts, often understood as an epithet of Shiva}\)
prakriti  \(\text{Hindi: nature, also a form of the Goddess in some contexts}\)
prasad  \(\text{devotional offerings shared with God, typically food}\)
pravacan  \(\text{teaching sermon}\)
puja  \(\text{ritual worship that contains a sense of offering and reverence}\)
pujari  \(\text{Hindi: ritual specialist tasked with the daily worship of temple deities}\)
Rudraprayag  \(\text{the district in which Kedarnath is located; also the name of a town within the district}\)
saddhaka  \(\text{siddha, tantric practitioner}\)
sakshat darshan  \(\text{a visual encounter with (or visual knowing of) the divine in its most true form (sakshat = actual)}\)
Samiti  \(\text{(committee, assembly); Badrinath-Kedarnath Temples Committee}\)
sarupata  \(\text{the state of having the same form as a specific deity}\)
Shaiva  \(\text{Shiva-oriented}\)
Shaiva Siddhanta  \(\text{an early Shaiva system of devotional practice and thought}\)
shakti  \(\text{force, power, energy, authority; personified, as a specific goddess, who is both an independent being and the consort of a god such as Vishnu or Shiva}\)
Shakti  \(\text{one form of Mahadevi, the “Great Goddess” of Hindu traditions}\)
Shankara  \(\text{famous Hindu philosopher who is believed by many to have visited the central Indian Himalaya before the end of his life}\)
shraddh  \(\text{Hindi: the rituals of ancestor worship}\)
shraddha  \(\text{faith}\)
siddhi  \(\text{supernatural powers}\)
svayambhu a self-manifested form of the deity (as opposed to one created by human beings)

swargarohan in Hindi, the Climb to Heaven made by the Pandava family

svarupa (Sanskrit) / svarup (Hindi) true form (e.g., of a god) (rupa / rup = form)

tirtha a place that offers the possibility that one can “cross over” or “ford” the ocean of rebirth

tirth purohit pilgrimage priest

Udak Kund the Udaka water tank in Kedarnath

Ukhimath the town where Kedarnath-Shiva is worshipped in the winter months when Kedarnath is closed

Uttarakhand state in which the Garwhal region and the Kedarnath site are located

Uttarakhand Char Dham Yatra Hindi: Uttarakhand Four Abode Pilgrimage. A journey to the abodes of four deities: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath

Ved-pathi Veda-reciter employed by the Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple to assist devotees in performing puja in the Kedarnath temple

Virashaiva a Shiva-oriented denomination; members are Virashaivas. This term has a complicated relationship with another Shaiva group known as Lingayats.

Yamunotri shrine of the goddess/river Yamuna, part of the Uttarakhand Char Dham Yatra

yatra a term of broad and fuzzy semantic range that can mean pilgrimage, tour, or vacation