Monthly Current Affairs Compilation

September 2026

Uttarakhand PCS (UKPSC) · Uttarakhand + National

22 daily editions · 237 topics · 133 rapid-fire facts · 44 MCQs

Month at a glance

- **Saturday, 5 September 2026** — Uttarakhand's ₹147 cr pension push & record 15.12 lakh Char Dham footfall; India's Q1 GDP at 7.8% and the 26th SCO Summit lead the day.
- **Sunday, 6 September 2026** — Uttarakhand's ₹147-crore one-click pension DBT, CM Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana for free exam coaching, and India's direct-tax buoyancy staying above 1 for a third year.
- **Monday, 7 September 2026** — Alaknanda's 219 hanging glaciers flag rising GLOF risk; RBI holds repo at 5.25% with FY27 growth at 6.7%; ISRO's GSLV-F17 lofts EOS-05.
- **Tuesday, 8 September 2026** — Uttarakhand launches **Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana** for **11,000** students; IMD flags **flash-flood risk** in **10** hill districts; **DAC** clears defence buys worth **₹1.10 lakh crore**.
- **Wednesday, 9 September 2026** — Uttarakhand launches free-coaching Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana; ₹147-crore pension DBT to 9.9 lakh; India to host 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi.
- **Thursday, 10 September 2026** — Uttarakhand's ₹1.11 lakh crore youth-focused Budget, a record 37-lakh Char Dham rush and a fresh UCC test in the Nainital High Court lead today; nationally, a proposed Article 371(K) for Ladakh and ₹20,804 crore of rail multitracking stand out.
- **Friday, 11 September 2026** — Dhami Cabinet clears **10 proposals** and raises interns' stipend; **Char Dham Yatra** crosses **50 lakh** pilgrims; **DAC** approves **₹1.10 lakh crore** defence buys
- **Saturday, 12 September 2026** — 18th BRICS Summit opens in New Delhi under India's chair; Char Dham Yatra crosses 50 lakh pilgrims with second phase from Sep 15; Uttarakhand to draw up disaster-management plans for every school.
- **Tuesday, 15 September 2026** — Amit Shah seals 6-state Kishau Dam pact; Char Dham Yatra enters its second phase; retail inflation climbs to 4.82%
- **Wednesday, 16 September 2026** — Uttarakhand launches 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'; Char Dham crosses 19.80 lakh pilgrims; India chairs 18th BRICS Summit amid record GST mop-up.
- **Thursday, 17 September 2026** — CM Dhami launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'; Char Dham Yatra crosses 50 lakh pilgrims; Centre raises EPFO wage ceiling to ₹25,000
- **Friday, 18 September 2026** — Uttarakhand launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp' service campaign; state studies 5 high-risk glacial lakes; India chairs 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi
- **Saturday, 19 September 2026** — Uttarakhand launches DBT tablet aid for govt-school students; UCC set for 21 NDA states by 2029; MDR returns to high-value UPI from 15 October
- **Sunday, 20 September 2026** — Char Dham Yatra enters historic second phase as CM visits Badrinath; Yudh Abhyas 2026 opens at Auli; EPFO wage ceiling raised to Rs 25,000
- **Monday, 21 September 2026** — Char Dham phase-1 hits record 50.56 lakh; Uttarakhand HC clears Haldwani shift; UCC & homestay reforms advance
- **Tuesday, 22 September 2026** — Char Dham first phase logs a record 51 lakh pilgrims; Uttarakhand's ₹1.11 lakh crore Budget rides the GYAN model; Moody's lifts India's FY27 growth forecast to 7%.
- **Wednesday, 23 September 2026** — Char Dham 2026 nears a record 5-crore darshan, Uttarakhand deepens its Gross Environment Product and UCC rollout, and the India-New Zealand FTA gets a 20 October start.
- **Thursday, 24 September 2026** — Badrinath sets all-time pilgrim record; India–Mongolia 'Nomadic Elephant 2026' drill lands in Pithoragarh; UCC gets 2026 amendments

- **Friday, 25 September 2026** — Nomadic Elephant war-game opens at Pithoragarh; UCC amendment tightens live-in & marriage rules; India–New Zealand FTA to take effect 20 Oct 2026
- **Monday, 28 September 2026** — Uttarakhand releases GEP report & STI Policy-2026; 121 trekkers rescued in Gangotri snowfall as Char Dham Yatra resumes; OECD lifts India FY27 growth to 7.1%
- **Tuesday, 29 September 2026** — Char Dham Yatra crosses a record 53.23 lakh pilgrims; 136 trekkers stranded by early snowfall in Uttarkashi; RBI MPC meets 5–7 Oct amid 4.82% CPI
- **Wednesday, 30 September 2026** — Early snowfall strands 180 trekkers as 1,500 Kedarnath pilgrims are rescued; Char Dham Yatra crosses 53 lakh; India's net FDI hits a 5-year high

All topics — key facts for revision

Saturday, 5 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-05.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand transfers ₹147 crore pension to 9.91 lakh people

- ₹**147.05 crore** transferred in one instalment
- **9,91,914** (9.91 lakh) beneficiaries covered
- **8 categories**: old-age, widow, disability, farmer, deserted-women, dwarf, **Teelu Rauteli** & maintenance allowance
- **5,605** new pensions sanctioned in Aug 2026
- State share ₹**140.11 cr**; Centre ₹**6.94 cr** (NSAP: 2.14 lakh)

Concept: NSAP (1995) is the Centre's umbrella for old-age/widow/disability pensions; **DBT** routes funds to bank accounts.

POLITY Uttarakhand tightens UCC rules on marriage & live-in registration

- Marriage registration compulsory within **60 days**
- Uniform marriage age: **21 (men)** / **18 (women)**
- Live-in relationships must be registered with the **Sub-Registrar**
- Non-registration: up to ₹**25,000** fine and/or **3 months** jail
- **Triple talaq** not recognised; equal inheritance for all
- Based on the **Uttarakhand UCC Act, 2024**; portal live since Feb 2025

Concept: Article 44 (DPSP) urges a UCC; Uttarakhand is the **first state** to operationalise one.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 hits record 15.12 lakh pilgrims; crowd caps enforced

- **15.12 lakh** pilgrims in first 30 days (opened **19 Apr 2026**)
- **Kedarnath 5.5L**, Badrinath 3.5L, Yamunotri 3L, Gangotri 3L
- Peak footfall **70,000-80,000/day**
- **Mandatory registration**; mobile ban inside Kedarnath temple
- Managed by the **BKTC** temple committee

Concept: Char Dham = Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath - in the eco-sensitive Upper Himalaya.

UTTARAKHAND CM hands appointment letters to 101 officers; flags 34,000 jobs in 5 years

- **101 officers**: 88 Livestock Extension Officers + 13 Sugarcane Supervisors
- **34,000+** government jobs in five years (merit-based)
- Sugarcane farmers paid ₹**5/quintal** more than in UP
- Schemes: **Aanchal Amrit**, **Ghasyari Kalyan**, **Rajya Pashudhan Mission**
- Strict **anti-copying law** for recruitment

Concept: Palayan = distress out-migration from Uttarakhand hills; tracked by the **Palayan Aayog**.

ENVIRONMENT Uttarakhand deepens Gross Environment Product to value Himalayan ecology

- **GEP** = 'Green GDP' valuing **air, water, soil & forest** services
- About **71%** of the state is under forest cover
- Complements GDP; supports **payment for ecosystem services**
- Aligns with the **GEP index** and eco-sensitive-zone protection

Concept: GEP quantifies nature's services - a parallel to **Green GDP** and natural-capital accounting.

IR 26th SCO Summit in Bishkek adopts declaration; bloc marks 25 years

- **10** full members; ~**25%** of global GDP, ~**40%** of world population
- **English** added as a 3rd official language (with Russian, Chinese)
- **'SCO Plus'** dialogue format launched
- India stressed **'zero double standards on terrorism'**
- **Pakistan** to chair SCO for 2026-27

Concept: SCO founded 2001; HQ **Beijing**; India a full member since **2017**.

ECONOMY India's Q1 GDP grows 7.8% on revised 2022-23 base year

- Real GDP **+7.8%**; nominal GDP **+10.3%** (Apr-Jun)
- Base year revised **2011-12 → 2022-23** (from 27 Feb 2026)
- Debate over the **manufacturing GVA** gap flagged

Concept: GDP at constant prices = **real GDP**; **GVA + net taxes = GDP**.

POLITY Supreme Court: Bar Council cannot discipline law students

- BCI power under the **Advocates Act, 1961** is limited to **enrolled advocates**
- Students' **Article 19** free-speech rights protected (NALSAR case)
- **Universities** remain the disciplinary authority for students

Concept: The **Advocates Act, 1961** governs the legal profession; the **BCI** is the apex bar body.

DEFENCE India releases first 10-year defence-diplomacy framework 'RAKSHA'

- Released by the Defence Minister on **3 Sep 2026**
- India's **first 10-year** defence-diplomacy framework
- Four pillars: **Strategic Partnerships, Capacity Building, Indigenous Exports, Maritime Security**

Concept: Defence diplomacy = using military cooperation to build strategic ties.

SCI-TECH Government launches 'BIO-NIVESH' to fund biotech start-ups

- Launched by the **Dept of Biotechnology** via **BIRAC**
- Inaugural edition: **20 start-ups**, ~**50 investors**
- Supports the ₹**20 lakh crore** bioeconomy target by 2030

Concept: BIRAC is the biotech industry-funding PSU; the **BioE3** policy backs bio-manufacturing.

HEALTH Panel flags 40 crore Indians in health-cover 'missing middle'

- ~**40 crore** Indians (>25%) lack coverage - out of PM-JAY, too poor for private
- Private sector: **60%+** inpatient, **70%+** outpatient care
- Public health spend **1.43%** of GDP (target **2.5%**)
- Private childbirth ₹**37,630** vs public ₹**2,299**

> **Concept:** **Ayushman Bharat PM-JAY** gives ₹5 lakh/family health cover to the poor.

Sunday, 6 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-06.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand transfers ₹147 crore pension to 9.91 lakh via one-click DBT

- **₹147.05 crore** released via **one-click DBT** on **4 September 2026**
- **9,91,914 beneficiaries** — **2,14,711** under **NSAP** + **7,77,203** under state schemes
- Funding split: State **₹140.11 crore**, Centre **₹6.94 crore**
- Covers old-age, widow, disability, farmer, deserted-women, **Teelu Rauteli** and dwarf pensions
- **5,605 new pensions** sanctioned in August 2026

> **Concept:** **NSAP** (1995) is a Centre-sponsored scheme operationalising **Article 41** (Directive Principle — assistance in old age, sickness and disability). **Teelu Rauteli** honours a Garhwali woman warrior.

UTTARAKHAND CM Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana-2026: free online coaching for youth

- Free **online coaching** for **UPSC/PSC, CDS, SSC, banking and railways**, and entrance tests (**CAT, GATE, NET**)
- Eligibility: students in **state universities and government / government-aided colleges**
- Targets **economically weaker** youth unable to afford private coaching
- Focus on **remote and hill districts** to bridge the access gap
- Complements the state's new **Yuva Aayog** (youth commission)

> **Concept:** Aligns with **DPSP Article 41** (right to education) and **SDG-4** (quality education); mirrors free-coaching models run by several states for weaker sections.

ENVIRONMENT Char Dham monsoon watch: response chain on alert as Garhwal rivers swell

- **IMD** rain alerts prompt temporary halts to the **Char Dham Yatra** on affected stretches
- **SDRF** and **NDRF** kept on standby; **DDMAs** coordinate district-level response
- Key hazards: **landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts** and **GLOF** risk
- Pilgrims advised to follow official advisories and route status before travel
- Rivers of the **Alaknanda-Bhagirathi (Ganga)** system swell rapidly in the catchment

> **Concept:** **GLOF** = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood. **NDMA** (2005 Act) sits at the apex; states run **SDMA** (CM-chaired) and districts run **DDMA** (DM-chaired).

UTTARAKHAND Udyamshala scheme powers rural entrepreneurship; women lead the way

- Over **13,000 entrepreneurs** trained under **Udyamshala**
- More than **8,000 women** among the beneficiaries
- A dedicated **marketing centre** planned in **Dehradun**
- Village-level **chaupals** used for grassroots outreach
- Aims to curb distress **migration ('palayan')** by creating local livelihoods

Concept: Complements central schemes like **PM Vishwakarma** and **DAY-NRLM**; 'palayan' (out-migration) is a core Uttarakhand development challenge addressed by the **Palayan Aayog**.

ENVIRONMENT Himalayan ecology & GEP: Uttarakhand's green-accounting focus

- **GEP** = value of ecosystem services from **air, water, soil and forests**
- Uttarakhand is the **first Indian state** to adopt **Gross Environment Product** accounting
- Concept associated with environmentalist **Anil Prakash Joshi**
- Complements demands for a **Green Bonus** for Himalayan states
- Links to **eco-sensitive zones**, carrying capacity and GLOF-risk management

Concept: **GEP** is a 'green GDP' style measure; it operationalises **sustainable development** and the **polluter-pays / ecosystem-services** principles.

POLITY One year of the Uniform Civil Code; Amendment Ordinance 2026 in force

- Uttarakhand is the **first state** to implement a **Uniform Civil Code** (enforced 2024)
- **UCC (Amendment) Ordinance 2026** in force from **January 2026**
- Covers common rules on **marriage, divorce, succession** and **live-in relationships**
- Mandatory **registration** of marriages and live-in relationships
- **Scheduled Tribes** are exempted from the Code

Concept: **Article 44** (DPSP) directs the State to secure a UCC. Personal law falls in the **Concurrent List (Entry 5)**, enabling state legislation with Presidential assent.

ECONOMY India's direct-tax buoyancy stays above 1 for a third year (1.39)

- Direct-tax **buoyancy at 1.39** for **2024-25**
- Buoyancy has stayed **above 1 for three consecutive years**
- Buoyancy > 1 means **tax revenue grows faster than GDP**
- Reflects better compliance, **digitisation** and formalisation
- Direct taxes include **income tax and corporate tax**

Concept: **Tax buoyancy** = % change in tax revenue / % change in GDP. Distinct from **tax elasticity**, which holds tax structure constant.

POLITY Eight new High Court Chief Justices notified; new LG for A&N Islands

- **Eight** new **High Court Chief Justices** appointed, approved by **President Droupadi Murmu**
- **Sanjay K. Agrawal** is the **44th Chief Justice** of the **Rajasthan High Court**
- **Dinesh Sharma** appointed **Lieutenant Governor** of the **Andaman and Nicobar Islands**
- HC Chief Justices are appointed under **Article 217** on collegium recommendation
- The **Collegium** is headed by the **Chief Justice of India**

Concept: Article 217: HC judges appointed by the President in consultation with the CJI and Governor. LG of a UT is the President's administrator under **Article 239**.

IR India backs UN 'Correct the Map'; Nov 27 named Child Marriage Elimination Day

- India voted for the **'Correct the Map'** resolution on map distortions
- Common projections (e.g. **Mercator**) exaggerate high-latitude landmasses
- **UNGA** designated **27 November** as the day to eliminate **child marriage**
- Resolution adopted on **4 September 2026**
- India also announced it will host the **BRICS Chief Justices' Forum** in New Delhi

Concept: The **Mercator projection** preserves angles but distorts area; alternatives like **Gall-Peters** show truer relative sizes.

DEFENCE Adani Defence signs five-year AK-203 ammunition supply deal

- **Five-year** deal to supply **7.62x39 mm** ammunition for **AK-203** rifles
- Partner: **Indo-Russian Rifles Pvt Ltd (IRRPL)**, the AK-203 joint venture
- AK-203 rifles are made at the **Korwa (Amethi), Uttar Pradesh** plant
- Supports **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** and defence-export goals
- Reduces import dependence for **small-arms ammunition**

Concept: IRRPL is an India-Russia joint venture for AK-203 production; part of the wider **defence indigenisation** drive under 'Make in India'.

SOCIETY Assam's Ahom-era Rangpur-Sivasagar ensemble enters UNESCO tentative list

- **Rangpur-Sivasagar Historical Ensemble** (Assam) added to UNESCO's **Tentative List**
- Linked to the **Ahom dynasty**, which ruled Assam for about **600 years**
- Follows the earlier inscription of the **Moidams** (Ahom burial mounds) as a World Heritage Site
- Highlights **Tai-Ahom** architecture and statecraft
- The Tentative List is a mandatory first step toward **World Heritage** nomination

Concept: UNESCO World Heritage listing requires prior entry on a country's Tentative List; sites are judged on 'Outstanding Universal Value'.

Monday, 7 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-07.html

ENVIRONMENT 219 Hanging Glaciers Mapped in Alaknanda Basin — Rising GLOF & Avalanche Risk

- Total glacier area **71.7 sq km**; ice volume **2.39 cubic km**; one-third of unstable ice in the **Badrinath–Mana** sector.
- Buildings at risk projected to rise **120% by 2030** (vs 2000); population in vulnerable zones up **17%**.
- Recalls the **February 2021 Chamoli disaster** (Rishiganga valley) that killed **200+** with no prior monitoring.
- **NH-7 (Badrinath highway)** and pilgrim sites **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Joshimath** lie in the risk zone.
- Glacier types flagged: **Ramp-Slab, Terrace-Slab, Terrace-Wedge**.

> **Concept: GLOF:** sudden release of water from a glacial lake. **Permafrost:** permanently frozen ground that acts as 'freeze-glue' anchoring mountain ice.

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand on High Alert as Monsoon Fury Triggers Landslides; SDRF Steps Up

- **IMD red alerts** issued for multiple hill districts; schools shut and pilgrim movement regulated.
- **SDRF, NDRF and district authorities** mobilised; **SACHET** alerts and control rooms activated.
- Landslides recurrently block the **Rishikesh–Badrinath (NH-7)** and **Sonprayag–Kedarnath** stretches.
- State pushing a **'disaster-resilient' Char Dham Yatra** model after heavy-rain casualties in 2026.

> **Concept: USDMA:** Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority. **SDRF:** State Disaster Response Force, the first responder in hill emergencies.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product (GEP): Uttarakhand's Green-Accounting Model in Focus

- GEP values four natural assets: **air, water, forest and soil**.
- Uttarakhand is the **first Indian state** to launch a GEP framework, complementing GSDP with an ecological measure.
- Underpins the state's demand for a **'Green Bonus'** / payments for ecosystem services from the Centre.
- Aligns with the concept of **Green GDP** and natural-capital accounting.

> **Concept: Ecosystem services:** benefits people derive from nature (clean air, water, pollination). **Green GDP:** GDP adjusted for environmental costs.

POLITY Uniform Civil Code: Uttarakhand's Rollout and 2026 Amendment in the Spotlight

- UCC covers **marriage, divorce, succession and live-in registration**; **tribal communities are exempted**.
- Backed by **Article 44** of the Constitution (Directive Principles of State Policy).
- A dedicated **online portal** handles registrations and grievances.
- The **2026 amendment** eased procedural and registration provisions.

> **Concept: Article 44 (DPSP):** the State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code. **DPSP:** non-justiciable guidelines for governance.

POLITY Supreme Court Nudges States to Raise District Judges' Retirement Age to 62

- Bench led by **CJI Surya Kant**; states to decide in **two weeks**, amend rules in **two months**.
- **Seven states** have already agreed; **Uttarakhand** is among those yet to commit.
- Court called the financial-burden objection **'negligible'** (citing a **1992** precedent).
- Suitability assessment to follow the **Madras High Court** model.

> **Concept: District judiciary:** the subordinate courts at district level, the backbone of access to justice under **Articles 233–237** of the Constitution.

ECONOMY GDP Base Year Shifts to 2022-23; WPI Replaced by Producer Price Index

- New base year: **2022-23** (from 2011-12).
- **PPI replaces WPI**; a new **Banking Services Price Index (BkSPI)** — India's first — is introduced.
- **IIP** item coverage widened; **60 statements** including revised estimates released.
- Aligns India's statistics with **international standards**.

> **Concept: PPI:** measures the average change in producers' selling prices. **Base year:** the reference year for constant-price (real) GDP.

ECONOMY RBI Holds Repo Rate at 5.25%, Raises FY27 Growth View to 6.7%

- **Repo 5.25%**, SDF **5.00%**, MSF/Bank Rate **5.50%**; decision **unanimous**.
- **FY27 GDP** raised to **6.7%**; **CPI** cut to **5.0%**.
- Quarterly GDP: **Q1 7.0%**, Q2 6.4%, Q3 6.5%, Q4 6.8%.
- Cited global uncertainty from **Middle-East geopolitical tensions**.

> **Concept: Repo rate:** the rate at which RBI lends to banks. **MPC:** the 6-member committee that sets the policy rate; inflation target **4% ±2%**.

SCI-TECH ISRO's GSLV-F17 Successfully Launches EOS-05 Earth-Observation Satellite

- **EOS-05** mass **2,367 kg**; **9-year** design life; geosynchronous orbit (~**36,000 km**).
- **19th GSLV** flight; **107th** launch from **Sriharikota (SDSC-SHAR)**.
- Three-stage vehicle (**51.7 m**, ~420 t) with an indigenous **cryogenic** upper stage.
- Uses: agriculture, **disaster management**, environment and border monitoring.

> **Concept: GSLV:** Geosynchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle. **Cryogenic engine:** uses super-cooled liquid fuel and oxidiser for high thrust.

REPORT UN Warns 1.5°C Target Will Be Breached; Pins Hope on Carbon Removal

- Current warming **~1.4°C**; on present policies, **2.6°C** by 2100.
- Fallback: cap overshoot near **1.8°C**, then remove carbon to bring temperatures down.
- CDR methods: **afforestation, BECCS, direct air capture (DAC), enhanced weathering**.
- Warns of **AMOC** weakening and near-total **coral bleaching** at 1.5°C.

Concept: CDR: removing CO2 from the atmosphere. **AMOC:** Atlantic Meridional Overturning Circulation, a key ocean-current system.

IR India–China Hold First Corps Commander Talks in Arunachal's Eastern Sector

- Talks aimed at easing **border tensions** in the eastern (Arunachal) sector.
- Part of continued **military-diplomatic** engagement on the **LAC**.
- Complements ongoing disengagement discussions across sectors.
- China claims Arunachal as 'South Tibet'; India firmly rejects this.

Concept: LAC: the de facto boundary between India and China. **Corps Commander talks:** a senior military-level mechanism to manage border standoffs.

Tuesday, 8 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-08.html

UTTARAKHAND Dhami launches ‘Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana’

- **11,000** students to get **free online coaching** in the **first phase**.
- Targets government, government-aided colleges and **state universities**.
- Aimed especially at youth from **mountain and remote regions**.
- Over **2.5 lakh** students were consulted while designing the scheme.
- A separate **Youth Commission** will be set up for employment & aspirations.

Concept: Directive Principles (Art. 41) — right to education; state welfare schemes are a recurring UKPSC theme under Governance & Social Justice.

ENVIRONMENT IMD flags flash-flood risk across 10 Uttarakhand hill districts

- **10** districts flagged: **Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Champawat, Dehradun, Pauri, Tehri, Nainital, Pithoragarh, Uttarkashi**.
- **Widespread to very widespread** rainfall forecast during the period.
- Thunderstorms, lightning and wind gusts up to **60 kmph** possible.
- State disaster teams (**USDMA, SDRF**) kept on high alert.
- Follows the **Dharali (Uttarkashi)** flash-flood disaster of **Aug 2025**.

Concept: GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood; **Cloudburst** = >100 mm rain/hour over a small area — classic UKPSC Himalayan-hazard terms.

UTTARAKHAND Haridwar Ardh Kumbh 2027: October 2026 deadline for major works

- Infrastructure projects worth about **₹235 crore** launched for the mela.
- Centre allocated **8,029 MT** additional foodgrain (wheat & rice) quota.
- Major works deadline set for **October 2026**, ahead of the 2027 mela.
- Focus on **crowd management**, sanitation, ghats and connectivity.

Concept: Kumbh/Ardh Kumbh at Haridwar is one of four Kumbh sites; recognised in **UNESCO's Intangible Cultural Heritage** list (2017).

POLITY Uttarakhand deepens Uniform Civil Code (UCC) implementation

- Uttarakhand UCC came into force on **27 January 2025**.
- Covers **marriage, divorce, succession** and **live-in relationships**.
- Mandatory **registration** of marriages and live-in relationships.
- Excludes **Scheduled Tribes** from its ambit (**Art. 342** protection).
- Rests on **Article 44** (Directive Principle) of the Constitution.

Concept: Article 44 directs the State to secure a **Uniform Civil Code**; it is a **non-justiciable Directive Principle** of State Policy.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product (GEP): Uttarakhand's 'green GDP' model

- GEP values **four ecosystem services**: **air, water, soil and forest**.
- Concept championed by environmentalist **Anil Prakash Joshi**.
- Complements GDP by pricing **ecological health**, not just output.
- Supports payment-for-ecosystem-services and green-bonus demands.

Concept: Green GDP / GEP internalises **ecosystem services** into economic accounting — linked to India's **Gross Environment Product** and SDG goals.

ECONOMY PM to dedicate Western Dedicated Freight Corridor sections

- Three WDFC sections worth over **₹35,000 crore** dedicated.
- DFCs **separate freight** from passenger rail traffic for efficiency.
- Cuts logistics cost & transit time; boosts **Make in India** exports.
- India has **Western** and **Eastern** Dedicated Freight Corridors.

Concept: DFC = Dedicated Freight Corridor, executed by **DFCCIL**; part of India's logistics push under **PM Gati Shakti**.

DEFENCE Defence Acquisition Council clears buys worth ₹1.10 lakh crore

- Clearances worth about **₹1.10 lakh crore** across all three services.
- Includes **CBRN reconnaissance vehicles**, radars, **advanced light helicopters**.
- Also **marine gas turbines**, bridge systems and **mechanical mine layers**.
- **CBRN** = Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear.

Concept: DAC is the apex body for capital defence procurement under the **Ministry of Defence**, headed by the **Raksha Mantri**.

IR India to host 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi on 12–13 September

- Venue: **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi; dates **12–13 September 2026**.
- Theme: **Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability**.
- BRICS was founded in **2009** (**BRIC**); South Africa joined in **2010**.
- Recent expansion added new members, boosting **Global South** voice.

> **Concept: BRICS** = Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + new members; a key **plurilateral** grouping of emerging economies.

ECONOMY RBI holds repo at 5.25%; Q1 FY27 GDP grows 7.8%

- **Repo rate 5.25%**; **SDF 5.00%**; **MSF 5.50%** — stance **neutral**.
- **Q1 FY27 GDP** growth at **7.8%**; **FY26** growth projected **7.4%**.
- RBI ran a **₹6 lakh crore** VRRR auction to absorb surplus liquidity.
- MPC is a **6-member** body chaired by the **RBI Governor**.

> **Concept: Repo** = rate at which RBI lends to banks; **SDF/MSF** form the **LAF corridor**; **VRRR** absorbs surplus liquidity.

IR Rajnath Singh visits Sri Lanka to deepen maritime security ties

- Visit dates: **8–10 September 2026**.
- Focus on **defence cooperation** and **maritime security**.
- Reflects **Neighbourhood First** and **SAGAR** vision in the IOR.
- Sri Lanka is a key partner astride vital **Indian Ocean sea lanes**.

> **Concept: SAGAR** = Security and Growth for All in the Region — India's Indian-Ocean maritime doctrine; complements **Neighbourhood First**.

Wednesday, 9 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-09.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand launches Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana for free exam coaching

- Covers **UPSC, State PSCs, CDS, banking, railways, SSC** and higher tests (**CAT, GATE, NET, CSIR-NET**).
- Beneficiaries: university and **government/aided college** students, especially in **remote and hilly areas**.
- Aim: end the need to travel to big cities for coaching — bridges the **rural-urban** access gap.
- Budget 2026-27 earmarked **₹10 crore** for the scheme.

> **Concept:** Links to **Article 21A** (education) and skilling under **NEP 2020** and **Skill India**.

UTTARAKHAND Dhami government transfers ₹147 crore social-security pension to 9.9 lakh beneficiaries

- Schemes: **old-age, widow, disability, farmer, deserted-women** pensions, plus **Teelu Rauteli** & dwarf pensions.
- **₹140.11 crore** from state funds + **₹6.94 crore** central share; **2,14,711** covered under **NSAP**.
- **5,605** new pensioners sanctioned in August (**3,945** old-age, **1,000** widow).

Concept: NSAP (1995) is centrally-sponsored, flowing from **DPSP Article 41** (assistance in old age & disability).

POLITY Uttarakhand High Court clears path to shift seat from Nainital to Haldwani

- New complex planned at **Gaulapar, Haldwani** citing space limits and ecological load on Nainital.
- Shifting a **High Court seat** involves a Presidential process under the **Arts. 214-231** framework.
- Uttarakhand HC was established in **2000** on the state's creation.

Concept: High Court seats/benches are decided by the **President** in consultation with the **CJI & Governor**.

POLITY Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code enforcement continues under 2026 amendment

- Mandatory registration of **marriage, divorce and live-in** relationships; equal **inheritance** rights.
- The state's **Scheduled Tribes** are kept outside the UCC's ambit.
- Rooted in **Article 44** directing the State towards a uniform civil code.

Concept: Article 44 is a **Directive Principle** — non-justiciable; a UCC seeks common personal law across religions.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 11 lakh pilgrims; crowd management under strain

- **Kedarnath** most-visited — **4.5 lakh** darshan in 20 days; **Sonprayag** saw major jams.
- Four shrines: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
- **Biometric registration** and weather alerts used for crowd regulation.

Concept: The shrines lie in the fragile **Higher Himalaya**; pilgrim load ties to **eco-sensitive zone** carrying capacity.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product (GEP): Uttarakhand's green-GDP measure in focus

- GEP measures **ecosystem services** — a 'green GDP' complementing economic output.
- Four components assessed: **air, water, soil and forest**.
- Strengthens the state's claim for a larger **green bonus** / ecological compensation.

Concept: GEP extends **green/natural-capital accounting**, aligning with the UN **SEEA** framework.

ENVIRONMENT Himalayan disaster management in focus as GLOF risk window is flagged

- State agency **USDMA** coordinates warning; **SDRF** leads hill rescue.
- Uttarakhand lies largely in high **seismic zones IV-V**.
- **Glacial-lake mapping** and **Doppler radar** are strengthening early warning.

Concept: GLOF = sudden release of water from a glacial lake; managed under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.

IR New Delhi to host the 18th BRICS Summit on 12-13 September 2026

- **11-member** BRICS: Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, Saudi Arabia, UAE, Indonesia**.
- India's **4th** chairship (2012, 2016, 2021, 2026); the grouping marks its **20th anniversary**.
- **350+** meetings across **25+** cities held during the chairship year.

Concept: BRICS is a **plurilateral** bloc; its 2024 expansion sharply raised its share of world GDP and population.

POLITY Supreme Court: no teacher appointment without prescribed qualifications

- The issue arose in a **PIL** on **provincialisation** of schools.
- The bench invoked **Articles 14, 16, 21A and 254**.
- Reinforces quality norms underpinning the **Right to Education**.

Concept: Article 21A makes education (6-14 yrs) a **fundamental right**; **Article 254** governs Centre-State repugnancy.

ECONOMY RBI holds repo rate at 5.25%, raises FY27 growth forecast to 6.7%

- The **MPC** voted unanimously to pause, citing global and geopolitical uncertainty.
- Quarterly GDP path: **Q1 7.0%, Q2 6.4%, Q3 6.5%, Q4 6.8%**.
- Inflation target band: **4% (+/-2%)** under flexible inflation targeting.

Concept: Repo rate = rate at which RBI lends to banks; the **MPC** (6 members) flows from the **RBI Act, 1934** (2016 amendment).

DEFENCE Rajnath Singh's Sri Lanka visit boosts maritime-security ties in the IOR

- Advances '**Neighbourhood First**' and the **SAGAR** vision in the **Indian Ocean Region**.
- The same week saw the first commander-level **India-China flag meeting** (**6-7 Sept**) on the **eastern LAC**.

Concept: SAGAR = **Security and Growth for All in the Region** — India's maritime doctrine (2015).

SOCIETY **Rashtriya Poshan Maah 2026 launched to strengthen Anganwadi nutrition**

- Month-long drive to strengthen **Anganwadi centres** and community nutrition.
- Anchored in **Poshan Abhiyaan** (National Nutrition Mission).
- Targets **malnutrition, anaemia** and early-childhood care.

Concept: **Poshan Abhiyaan** (2018) uses tech + convergence to cut stunting/wasting; supports **SDG-2 (Zero Hunger)**.

Thursday, 10 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-10.html

UTTARAKHAND **Uttarakhand launches Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana — free exam coaching for youth**

- Free **online coaching from home** for **UPSC/PSC, SSC, banking, railways, CDS defence** and **CAT/GATE/NET** aspirants.
- **Phase 1 covers 11,000 students** in state universities and govt/aided colleges.
- Targets **remote, hilly and financially weaker** students to bridge the coaching-access gap.
- Fits the Budget's **Yuva (youth)** focus under the GYAN model.

Concept: **GYAN model** = **Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata, Nari** — the four focus groups of Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27.

ENVIRONMENT **Heavy-rain alert for five hill districts; disaster machinery on watch**

- Districts on alert: **Dehradun, Tehri, Nainital, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh**.
- **Thunderstorm and strong-wind** warning for all districts through **Sep 14**.
- Monsoon hazards: **landslides, flash floods, cloudbursts** and road blockages on hill routes.
- The **Char Dham Yatra** can be halted or re-routed during severe spells.

Concept: Uttarakhand lies in **Seismic Zones IV & V** and is highly landslide-prone; **USDMA** coordinates state response; **GLOF** = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

UTTARAKHAND **Char Dham Yatra 2026 sees record rush — 37 lakh+ pilgrims in 61 days**

- **Char Dham** = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath**; **Kedarnath** tops preference.
- **37 lakh+ pilgrims in 61 days** signals strong post-pandemic religious-tourism demand.
- **Online registration is mandatory** for crowd and safety management.
- Tourism is a **mainstay of the hill economy** and employment.

Concept: **Carrying capacity** = the maximum tourist load an ecosystem can sustain without degradation — key for eco-sensitive Himalayan shrines.

POLITY UCC faces a fresh legal challenge in the Nainital High Court

- Uttarakhand is the **first state to implement a UCC** (in force from **27 Jan 2025**; an **Amendment Ordinance 2026** added rules).
- PILs argue the law violates **Articles 14, 15, 19 and 21** and privacy.
- UCC covers **marriage, divorce, succession and live-in registration**; **Scheduled Tribes are excluded**.
- **Article 44 (DPSP)** urges a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.

> **Concept: Article 44** is a **Directive Principle** (non-justiciable): the State shall endeavour to secure a UCC.

ENVIRONMENT Green accounting: Uttarakhand's Gross Environment Product back in focus

- Uttarakhand is the **first Indian state to launch a GEP (Green GDP) index**.
- GEP values four ecological services: **air, water, soil and forest**.
- It aims to quantify nature's contribution alongside **GSDP** growth.
- It complements protected areas: **Corbett, Rajaji, Nanda Devi, Valley of Flowers, Gangotri**.

> **Concept: GEP / Green GDP** internalises ecological value and complements GSDP — an 'ecosystem services' valuation.

POLITY Centre proposes special 'Article 371(K)' safeguards for Ladakh

- A proposed **'Article 371(K)'** would offer special protections and a possible **legislative body** for Ladakh.
- Ladakh became a **UT without legislature** after Article 370 was read down in **2019**.
- Demands include **Sixth Schedule** status, **statehood** and job/land safeguards.
- **Article 371** already gives special provisions to states like Nagaland, Mizoram and Sikkim.

> **Concept: Sixth Schedule (Art 244)** — autonomous district councils for tribal areas in Assam, Meghalaya, Tripura and Mizoram.

ECONOMY Cabinet clears 8 railway multitracking projects worth ₹20,804 crore

- Total outlay **₹20,804 crore**, spread over **nine states**.
- **Multitracking** adds parallel lines to decongest busy routes.
- Supports **PM Gati Shakti** and the **National Logistics Policy**.
- Aims to raise **rail's freight share** and lower emissions.

> **Concept: PM Gati Shakti** — an integrated multimodal infrastructure master-plan for logistics efficiency.

DEFENCE India's defence push: DRDO's SHIELD directed-energy programme and joint drills

- **SHIELD** = programme to test **high-power microwave & directed-energy** (anti-drone) tech.
- **22nd India–US 'Yudh Abhyas'** exercise runs **Sep 9–28**.
- **India–Japan 'Veer Guardian 2026'** air exercise at **Jodhpur** (Tejas, Su-30, Rafale vs F-2A).
- The Army's **AASHVAST Lab** will detect Chinese components in drones.

Concept: Directed-Energy Weapons (DEW) use focused energy (microwave/laser) instead of projectiles — very low cost-per-shot.

ENVIRONMENT PM-KUSUM 2.0 with an agrivoltaics component on the anvil

- **PM-KUSUM (2019)** promotes solar pumps and grid-connected solar for farmers.
- **Phase 2** to add **agrivoltaics** — crops + solar panels together.
- Boosts **farmer income, energy security** and clean-energy targets.
- Supports India's **500 GW non-fossil capacity** goal by **2030**.

Concept: Agrivoltaics = simultaneous use of land for solar PV and agriculture, improving land-use efficiency.

Friday, 11 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-11.html

UTTARAKHAND Dhami Cabinet clears 10 proposals; medical interns' stipend raised to ₹25,000

- Medical interns' stipend raised from **₹17,000** to **₹25,000** across **5 government medical colleges**.
- **245** jobs for national/international **sports medalists** + **33** Assistant Physical Education posts.
- **15 acres** near **Salepur** allotted for an **ESI Hospital**.
- **Seva Sankalp Abhiyan** to run **17 Sep–17 Oct 2026** (plantation & cleanliness).
- Govt advocates' fees revised; Prison Service & Legal Metrology rules amended.

Concept: State Cabinet = Council of Ministers under **Art. 163-164**; collectively responsible to the Vidhan Sabha. **ESIC** operates under the **ESI Act, 1948**.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh pilgrims; second phase opens 15 September

- Four dhams: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath** (portals opened Apr 2026).
- **50 lakh+** pilgrims by 10 Sep vs **51 lakh** in the whole of the previous year.
- Officials project a record **~60 lakh** by the season's end in November.
- Landslide-prone stretches flagged on **Rishikesh–Badrinath** and **Kedarnath** routes.

Concept: Carrying capacity = maximum footfall an eco-fragile site can sustain. Char Dham lies in the seismically active **Higher Himalaya (Zone IV–V)**.

ENVIRONMENT Monsoon disaster management back in focus as Himalayan hazards mount

- Recurring hazards: **cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, GLOF, earthquakes, forest fires**.
- State response led by the **USDMA** with **SDRF**; central support via **NDRF/NDMA**.
- Uttarakhand falls largely in seismic **Zone IV and V** — India's highest risk band.
- **GLOF** (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) risk rises as Himalayan glaciers retreat.

> **Concept: NDMA** is chaired by the **PM** under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**; states run mirror **SDMAs** under the Chief Minister.

UTTARAKHAND 'Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana' pitched as youth-empowerment engine

- Targets **skilling, self-employment and jobs** for the state's youth.
- Aligns with the fight against **palayan** (out-migration) from hill districts.
- Complements sports-quota jobs and the state's start-up/homestay push.

> **Concept: Palayan** (out-migration) is tracked by Uttarakhand's **Rural Development & Migration Commission** set up in **2017**.

POLITY Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code stays in national spotlight

- UCC unifies rules on **marriage, divorce, succession** and mandates **live-in registration**.
- Enacted under the **Uttarakhand UCC Act, 2024**; rules notified in **2025**.
- Rooted in **Article 44** (Directive Principles) urging a common civil code.
- **Scheduled Tribes** are kept outside the Code's ambit.

> **Concept: DPSPs (Part IV)** are non-justiciable but 'fundamental in governance'; **Art. 44** concerns a Uniform Civil Code.

SCI-TECH IIT Roorkee to host 'Physical AI Lab' for industrial autonomy

- Lab to work on **Physical AI** — AI that senses and acts in the real world (robotics, autonomy).
- **IIT Roorkee** is among India's oldest technical institutions (est. **1847**).
- Strengthens Uttarakhand's positioning as a research & innovation hub.

> **Concept: Physical AI** couples machine learning with sensors/actuators so machines perceive and operate autonomously in physical environments.

DEFENCE Defence Acquisition Council clears ₹1.10 lakh crore in acquisitions

- Approvals include **CBRN vehicles, helicopters, radars** and **fighter-jet upgrades**.
- **DAC** is the apex body headed by the **Defence Minister**.
- Advances the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** push for indigenous defence manufacturing.

> **Concept: Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** is the first DAC approval stage; **CBRN** = Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear.

HEALTH 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah observed through September under POSHAN 2.0

- Theme centres on **“Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari”** and dietary diversity.
- Focus indicators: **stunting, wasting, anaemia** (tracked via **NFHS**).
- Marks **10 years** of the **Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY)**.
- Delivered through the **Anganwadi** network under the ICDS umbrella.

Concept: **POSHAN Abhiyaan** (launched 2018) targets malnutrition via a jan-andolan; **PMMVY** is a maternity-benefit cash-transfer scheme.

ECONOMY Western Dedicated Freight Corridor sections dedicated; ₹20,804-crore rail push cleared

- WDFC sections worth about **₹20,700 crore** dedicated; part financed with **JICA** support.
- Cabinet cleared **8 rail multitracking projects** worth **₹20,804 crore** across **9 states**.
- DFCs are run by **DFCCIL**, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways.
- Lower logistics cost boosts **PM Gati Shakti** and the **National Logistics Policy** goals.

Concept: **Dedicated Freight Corridor** = rail lines exclusively for goods trains; **PM Gati Shakti** is a multimodal infrastructure master plan (2021).

SCI-TECH ISRO eyes first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in 2026

- **Gaganyaan** is India's maiden **human-spaceflight** programme.
- Recent success: **GSLV-F17** launched the **EOS-05** Earth-observation satellite.
- Manifest includes the **NVS-03** navigation satellite and further FY2026 missions.

Concept: **Gaganyaan** aims to send a crew to **Low Earth Orbit**; **NVS** satellites augment the **NavIC** regional navigation system.

IR Four new Indian sites added to UNESCO Tentative List

- New entries include the **Rangpur–Sivasagar** ensemble (Assam) and **Shekhawati** haveli towns.
- India's inscribed tally stands at **73 sites** (53 cultural, 3 mixed, 17 natural).
- Tentative-list entry is a mandatory first step before formal nomination.

Concept: The **World Heritage Convention (1972)** is administered by **UNESCO**; the **Tentative List** is a prerequisite for nomination.

Saturday, 12 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-12.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra crosses 50 lakh; second phase from Sep 15

- The **four dhams** are **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath**.
- Gates opened **Apr 19** (Gangotri/Yamunotri), **Apr 22** (Kedarnath), **Apr 23** (Badrinath); yatra runs to **November**.
- Last year **51 lakh** pilgrims completed the yatra — 2026 is on course for a **record**.
- Landslide-prone stretches persist near **Kameda, Parthadeep, Maithana and Hathi Pahad**.

Concept: Char Dham lies in the **Garhwal Himalayas**; the yatra drives the state's tourism economy but strains fragile eco-sensitive zones.

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand to prepare disaster-management plans for all schools

- Plans cover **earthquakes, landslides, floods, flash floods, cloudbursts, avalanches and fires**.
- Each school gets **risk assessment**, **evacuation routes**, safe assembly points, first-aid and rescue kits.
- **Student-led teams** (warning, evacuation, first aid, fire, search-and-rescue) with adult supervision.
- A **joint committee** of the Education Dept and **USDMA** will oversee implementation.

Concept: **USDMA** = Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority; the state lies in **seismic Zones IV and V**, India's highest-risk belt.

POLITY 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan' launched (Sep 17 - Oct 17)

- Four pillars: **service, public participation, dialogue and innovation**.
- Focus on **saturation of welfare schemes** and grievance redressal at the grassroots.
- Departments to run **camps and outreach** across districts through the month.

Concept: **Saturation approach**: delivering a scheme to 100% of eligible beneficiaries in a target area.

ENVIRONMENT Himalaya Diwas observed to protect the mountain ecology

- **Himalaya Diwas** is marked every year on **September 9**.
- The theme underlines **conservation of glaciers, forests and springs**.
- Uttarakhand ties it to its **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** green-accounting push.

Concept: **Eco-Sensitive Zones (ESZ)** act as shock-absorber buffers around protected areas under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986.

POLITY UCC implementation deepens with 2026 amendment

- UCC applies uniform rules on **marriage, divorce, succession and live-in relationships** (tribal communities exempt).
- Registration is done through the official **UCC portal** for residents.
- The amendment eased and clarified **registration procedures and timelines**.

Concept: **Article 44** (Directive Principles) urges the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code for citizens.

DEFENCE Yudh Abhyas 2026: India-US drill at Auli and Bikaner

- **Yudh Abhyas** is the annual **India-United States** army exercise.
- It is conducted under the **'Operation Pathways'** framework.
- **Auli (Chamoli district)** offers ideal **high-altitude, mountain-warfare** terrain.

Concept: High-altitude joint drills build **interoperability** — the ability of two armies to operate together seamlessly.

IR 18th BRICS Summit opens in New Delhi under India's chair

- BRICS has expanded to **11 member economies** after recent enlargement.
- Original members: **Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa**.
- The **first BRICS summit** was held in **2009 at Yekaterinburg, Russia**.
- India's priorities centre on the **Global South** and reform of multilateral institutions.

Concept: **BRICS** is an intergovernmental grouping of major emerging economies; it runs the **New Development Bank (NDB)**.

POLITY DILRMP 3.0 launched with 14-digit 'Bhu-Aadhaar'

- **DILRMP** = Digital India Land Records Modernisation Programme.
- Budget of **Rs 565.50 crore** for the period **2026-2031**.
- Creates **GIS-based integrated digital land records** across states.
- **Bhu-Aadhaar** = **ULPIN**, a unique land parcel identification number.

Concept: **ULPIN** geo-tags each parcel, aiming at conclusive titling and easier credit against land.

HEALTH Supreme Court pushes FSSAI on front-of-pack warning labels

- **FoPL** would put **red 'hexagon' warnings** on high salt, sugar and fat foods.
- **FSSAI** = Food Safety and Standards Authority of India.
- Aim: help consumers make **informed, healthier choices** against lifestyle disease.

Concept: **FSSAI** is a statutory body under the **Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006**.

SCI-TECH ISRO clears CE20 cryogenic engine test at 220 kN

- The **CE20** is a home-grown **cryogenic upper-stage engine**.
- It powers the **LVM3** (formerly GSLV Mk III) rocket.
- Test held at the **ISRO Propulsion Complex, Mahendragiri (Tamil Nadu)**.

Concept: **Cryogenic engines** burn liquid hydrogen and liquid oxygen at very low temperatures for high efficiency.

ECONOMY NSO releases first-ever district-level ASUSE data

- **ASUSE** = Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises.
- Women made up **at least one-third of the workforce in 237 districts**.
- Top districts concentrate enterprises in **Gujarat, Telangana, UP and West Bengal**.

Concept: The **unincorporated sector** covers unregistered proprietary and partnership firms — the bulk of informal employment.

Tuesday, 15 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-15.html

UTTARAKHAND Amit Shah chairs 6-state meeting to revive Kishau Multipurpose Project

- Built on the **Tons river**, the largest tributary of the **Yamuna**, on the **Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh** border.
- Six states: **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Uttar Pradesh, Haryana, Rajasthan and Delhi**.
- Centre to bear **90%** of the **water-component** cost; the six states share the remaining **10%**.
- Purposes: **irrigation, hydro-power, drinking water** and **Yamuna rejuvenation**.
- An **MoU** for implementation was agreed and is to go before the **Union Cabinet**.

> **Concept:** **Multipurpose river-valley projects** serve irrigation, power, flood control & water supply. The **Tons** joins the **Yamuna** near Kalsi (Dehradun); Yamuna is itself a tributary of the **Ganga**.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 enters disaster-resilient second phase

- The four shrines: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath**.
- Over **50.6 lakh** pilgrims have completed the yatra; **64 lakh+** registrations so far.
- Current daily footfall of **13,000–14,000**; **helicopter** services resumed **15 September**.
- Heavy monsoon rain killed about **129 pilgrims/people** during this year's season.
- **Landslide-monitoring** systems deployed on vulnerable stretches; bottlenecks cleared.

> **Concept:** **Carrying capacity** = maximum visitors an ecosystem can sustain without degradation. Uttarakhand's disaster machinery: **USDMA** (state) and **DDMA** (district) under the **DM Act, 2005**, with **SDRF Uttarakhand**.

UTTARAKHAND Revised Homestay Scheme bets on community tourism to curb 'palayan'

- New **Community-Based Tourism Units** group **8–10 homestays** across clusters of **3–6 villages**.
- Room cap raised from **6 to 8**; beds capped at **24**; validity **5 years** with online renewal.
- A new **BnB category** added for both rural and urban areas.
- Over **5,000 homestays** registered; about **1,500** owners aided since the **2015** launch.
- Aim: local self-employment so residents 'do not migrate to cities' — tackling **palayan**.

> **Concept:** **Palayan** = large-scale out-migration from Uttarakhand's hill districts, addressed by the **Rural Development & Migration Commission** (Palayan Aayog), headquartered at **Pauri**.

POLITY UCC in Uttarakhand: online marriage registrations cross 4.7 lakh

- UCC took effect on **27 January 2025**; the **UCC Amendment Ordinance, 2026** further eased rules.
- Over **4.7 lakh** marriages registered online in about a year.
- Covers **marriage, divorce, succession** and mandatory **live-in relationship** registration.
- Draws constitutional backing from **Article 44 (DPSP)** on a uniform civil code.
- Tribal communities under **Schedule** protections are **exempted**.

Concept: Article 44 directs the State to secure a UCC. It is a **Directive Principle** — non-justiciable but a goal of governance; Uttarakhand is the **first state** to enact one post-Independence.

ENVIRONMENT Uttarakhand's Gross Environment Product (GEP) — valuing nature

- **GEP** measures the economic value of **ecosystem services** — much like **GDP** does for the economy.
- Launched in Uttarakhand in **2024**; assessed across **air, water, soil and forest**.
- Aligns with the state's push on **green growth** and payment for ecosystem services.
- Reinforces Uttarakhand's role as a **water tower** and carbon sink for the plains.
- Supports arguments for larger **green bonus / GST-type** compensation to Himalayan states.

Concept: Ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, supporting, cultural) underpin **green accounting**, which internalises environmental costs beyond conventional **GDP**.

IR India hosts the expanded 11-member BRICS Summit in New Delhi

- BRICS now has **11 core members** including India, Brazil, Russia, China, South Africa, plus **Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Indonesia**.
- Around **10 partner countries** engage in the wider framework.
- Agenda: **cross-border payments**, local-currency trade, **AI**, MSMEs and climate resilience.
- India's theme stressed **'Humanity First'** and reform of multilateral institutions.
- Signals a stronger **Global South** voice in world economic governance.

Concept: BRICS (coined from Brazil-Russia-India-China, later +South Africa) is a plurilateral bloc of major emerging economies; its **New Development Bank (NDB)** is headquartered in **Shanghai**.

ECONOMY Retail inflation quickens to 4.82% in August 2026

- **CPI headline**: **4.82%** (Aug) vs **4.45%** (Jul).
- **Food inflation** climbed to **5.95%**; **onion** inflation jumped to **48.27%** YoY.
- RBI's flexible-inflation-targeting band is **4% ±2%** (i.e. **2–6%**).
- The next **Monetary Policy Committee (MPC)** meets on **5–7 October 2026**.
- Elevated prices may delay any further **repo-rate** cut.

Concept: CPI tracks retail prices of a fixed basket (base **2012**); **inflation targeting** was adopted in **2016**, with a **4% ±2%** target set by the government in consultation with the **RBI**.

SCI-TECH Bengaluru Space Expo 2026 showcases India's private-space push

- India's rockets have now carried **430+ satellites for 34 nations**, a point PM Modi hailed at a Paris space summit.
- Focus on **private-sector participation**, satellites and launch-vehicle manufacturing.
- **IN-SPACe** and **NSIL** anchor commercialisation of the space sector.
- Aligns with the goal of expanding India's share of the **global space economy**.
- Builds on missions like **Chandrayaan** and **Aditya-L1**.

> **Concept: IN-SPACe** is the single-window promoter/regulator for private space activity; **NSIL** is ISRO's commercial arm; **Antrix** was the earlier marketing arm.

ECONOMY No bank charge on UPI up to Rs 2,000; Aadhaar deepens welfare delivery

- **UPI** person-to-merchant payments up to **Rs 2,000** carry **no MDR/charge** for users.
- **UPI** is operated by the **National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI)**.
- **Aadhaar** (issued by **UIDAI**) underpins **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)**.
- Expansion raises fresh **privacy and consent** questions in digital governance.
- Digital rails have made India a global leader in **real-time payments**.

> **Concept: MDR** (Merchant Discount Rate) is the fee a merchant pays on a digital transaction; **NPCI** is an umbrella body promoted by the **RBI** and banks; **UIDAI** issues **Aadhaar**.

Wednesday, 16 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-16.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'

- Runs **17 Sep – 17 Oct 2026**; spans **11 flagship programmes**.
- Anchored to the **'Viksit Bharat @2047'** vision.
- **'Seva Setu'** camps deliver Central + State scheme benefits at the doorstep.
- **'Seva First Innovation Challenge'** ties in **IITs and IIMs**.
- Focus on **women, youth and rural** participation.

> **Concept:** Links to **cooperative federalism** & 'Whole-of-Government' delivery; static tie-in: **DPSPs (Art. 38, 39)** on the welfare state.

UTTARAKHAND Dhami Cabinet clears health, sports & land proposals

- **Stipend hiked** for **MBBS & PG intern** doctors.
- New **3-year compulsory hill-service bond** for govt medical-college MBBS graduates before PG.
- **283 posts** across departments reserved for athletes under **Sports Policy 2021**.
- **15 acres** near Haridwar allotted for an **ESI hospital**.
- **972 sq yd** GMVN land transferred to the **Garhwal Sabha**.

> **Concept:** Illustrates the **Cabinet system & collective responsibility (Art. 163–164)** at the state level; welfare + HR governance.

POLITY UCC: near-100% online marriage registration milestone

- **Uttarakhand = first state** to enforce a **UCC** (**27 Jan 2025**).
- **Amendment Ordinance 2026** notified **27 Jan 2026** under **Art. 213**.
- **Nearly 100%** of marriages now registered **online**.
- **4,74,447** marriages registered by **19 Jan 2026**; certificate in ~**5 days**.
- Aligns penal procedure with the new criminal codes (**BNS/BNSS**).

Concept: Art. 44 (DPSP) — Uniform Civil Code; **Art. 25–28** freedom of religion; ordinance route via **Art. 213**.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 19.80 lakh pilgrims

- **19,80,437** pilgrims in the first **34 days** (from **19 Apr 2026**).
- **Kedarnath** highest at **7.82 lakh**; **Badrinath 5.24 lakh**.
- **Yamunotri 3.40 lakh**, **Gangotri 3.34 lakh**.
- Single-day peak **89,079** devotees (**23 May 2026**).
- **SDRF/NDRF** on alert; online registration mandatory.

Concept: Char Dham: **Yamunotri (Yamuna), Gangotri (Bhagirathi), Kedarnath (Mandakini), Badrinath (Alaknanda)**; theme of **sustainable tourism**.

ENVIRONMENT Himalayan disaster preparedness in focus this monsoon

- Key hazards: **cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, GLOF, earthquakes** (Seismic **Zone IV–V**).
- **GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood** — sudden release from a moraine-dammed lake.
- **USDMA/SDMA** is the state nodal body; **SDRF** the state force.
- Follows the **DM cycle**: mitigation → preparedness → response → recovery.
- Early warning + hazard mapping are core mitigation tools.

Concept: Disaster Management Act, 2005; **NDMA (PM-chaired)**; distinguish **hazard, vulnerability & risk**.

ENVIRONMENT Uttarakhand's Gross Environment Product (GEP) model

- Uttarakhand = **first state (2024)** to launch a **GEP index**.
- Measures the value of **air, water, forest and soil**.
- Complements economic output with **ecological value**.
- Feeds **payment-for-ecosystem-services** thinking for hill states.
- Strengthens the state's **Green Bonus** demand.

Concept: Green GDP / natural-capital accounting; ecosystem services (provisioning, regulating, cultural, supporting).

IR India chairs 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi

- **New Delhi Declaration** adopted by consensus.
- Expanded bloc includes **Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, UAE** with the founders.
- Focus on **governance reform** & economic cooperation.
- Bharat Mandapam also hosted the **2023 G20** Summit.
- BRICS' bank is the **New Development Bank (NDB)**, HQ Shanghai.

Concept: **BRICS** = Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa + new members; **NDB** & **Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA)**.

ECONOMY RBI holds repo at 5.25%, lifts FY27 growth view

- **Repo rate: 5.25%** (unchanged); stance **neutral**.
- **FY27 GDP** growth projection raised to **6.7%**.
- **SDF 5.00%**, **MSF/Bank Rate 5.50%**.
- **MPC** = **6 members** (3 RBI + 3 external); majority vote.
- Inflation target: **4% (±2%)** under flexible inflation targeting.

Concept: **Repo, Reverse repo, SDF, MSF, CRR, SLR**; **MPC** under the RBI Act (amended 2016).

SCI-TECH ISRO launches GISAT-1A (EOS-05) on GSLV

- A **geostationary Earth-observation** satellite.
- Launched by **GSLV** (cryogenic upper stage).
- Aids **disaster monitoring, agriculture & forestry**.
- Replaces **GISAT-1**, lost in a 2021 failure.
- Enables near-real-time imaging of a fixed region.

Concept: **GEO vs LEO/SSO** orbits; **GSLV vs PSLV vs LVM3**; remote sensing & GIS applications.

DEFENCE India in Ex Veer Guardian-2026 & Yudh Abhyas

- **Veer Guardian-2026** (**India–Japan** air) at **Jodhpur, 9–22 Sep 2026**.
- IAF flew **Tejas, Su-30 MKI, Rafale**; Japan **F-2A**.
- **Yudh Abhyas 2026** (**India–US** army) held near the **LAC**.
- First deployment of the US **MLIDS** counter-drone system.
- Yudh Abhyas began in **2004**.

Concept: Know the pairs — **Malabar (naval, Quad), Varuna (France), Indra (Russia), Garuda (France air)**.

SOCIETY India win 8th Women's T20 Asia Cup; Asian Games open

- India won the **Women's T20 Asia Cup** — a record **8th title** (Dubai, **13 Sep**).
- **Shafali Verma** hit the tournament's **fastest fifty (24 balls)**.
- **2026 Asian Games**: **Aichi–Nagoya, Japan, 19 Sep–4 Oct**.
- India's contingent: **508 athletes** across **37 sports**.
- **16 September = World Ozone Day** (Montreal Protocol, **1987**).

Concept: The **Montreal Protocol** phases out **ODS (CFCs)**; the **Kigali Amendment** targets **HFCs**.

Thursday, 17 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-17.html

UTTARAKHAND CM Dhami launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'

- Runs **17 September to 17 October 2026** across all **13 districts**.
- **11 major programmes** planned around service, participation, dialogue and innovation.
- Targets **students, youth, women, beneficiaries** and public representatives.
- Aim: showcase scheme benefits and real-life **beneficiary impact stories**.

> **Concept: Viksit Bharat 2047**: vision to make India a developed nation by the **centenary of independence**; 'saturation' approach seeks 100% scheme coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

POLITY Nainital High Court raps state on encroachment, teacher transfers

- Court sought a clear status report on **drain encroachment** removal.
- Directed the **Education Director** to respond on teacher transfer grievances.
- Nainital is the **seat of the Uttarakhand High Court** (est. **2000**).
- Reflects growing use of **judicial oversight** over hill-town civic issues.

> **Concept: High Court** powers flow from **Articles 226/227** (writs & superintendence); a **PIL** lets courts act on public-interest grievances.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh pilgrims as phase-2 begins

- **Gangotri & Yamunotri** opened 19 Apr; **Kedarnath** 22 Apr; **Badrinath** 23 Apr.
- Yatra routes kept **operational**; repairs on in landslide-hit stretches.
- **Traffic surge** and congestion expected in vulnerable zones post-Sep 15.
- Char Dham lies in the **eco-sensitive Higher Himalaya**, prone to GLOF/landslides.

> **Concept: Carrying capacity**: maximum visitors an ecosystem can sustain without degradation — key to **sustainable Himalayan tourism**.

POLITY UCC Uttarakhand: 4.7 lakh+ marriages registered online

- **First state** in independent India to enforce a **Uniform Civil Code**.
- **Online portal** enables marriage, divorce, live-in & will registration.
- **UCC Amendment 2026** eased documentation and live-in registration rules.
- UCC flows from **Article 44** — a Directive Principle of State Policy.

> **Concept: Article 44 (DPSP)**: State shall endeavour to secure a **Uniform Civil Code**; DPSPs are **non-justiciable** but fundamental to governance.

ECONOMY Homestay scheme offers up to ₹15 lakh to curb hill 'palayan'

- Incentives support **construction & upgrade** of village homestays.
- Aim: **jobs, rural revival** and reverse migration in hill districts.
- Complements Uttarakhand's push for **year-round, off-season tourism**.
- Migration ('palayan') has emptied many **'ghost villages'** in the hills.

> **Concept: Palayan (out-migration)**: large-scale movement from hill villages to plains/cities for jobs; the **Rural Development & Migration Commission** tracks it in Uttarakhand.

ENVIRONMENT Uttarakhand runs India's first Gross Environment Product (GEP)

- GEP values **four components**: air, water, forest and soil.
- First-of-its-kind **environmental valuation** by any Indian state.
- Links **ecology with economy** for evidence-based green policy.
- Reinforces Uttarakhand's identity as a **Himalayan ecological state**.

Concept: Ecosystem services: benefits nature provides (provisioning, regulating, cultural, supporting); GEP is a tool of **green/natural-capital accounting**.

ECONOMY Cabinet raises EPFO wage ceiling to ₹25,000

- Ceiling hiked **₹15,000 → ₹25,000**; last revised in **2014**.
- Set to cover an extra **~51 lakh employees** under EPF/EPS.
- Estimated annual cost to government: about **₹11,339 crore**.
- Widens **formal-sector social security** and pension base.

Concept: EPFO administers **EPF, EPS-1995 & EDLI**; the wage ceiling is the salary limit up to which EPF membership is **mandatory**.

REPORT State of India's Environment 2026 report released

- Tracks **air & water pollution, forest cover** and climate trends.
- Flags rising **extreme weather** and Himalayan disaster risk.
- A widely-cited **data compendium** for policy and exams.
- Complements the **Environmental Performance Index (EPI)** debate.

Concept: Such **State of Environment** reports track **SDGs** (esp. 13-Climate, 14-Life below water, 15-Life on land) and inform India's climate policy.

POLITY Mining amendment reignites fiscal-federalism debate

- **2024 SC verdict** affirmed states can tax **mineral-bearing land**.
- Amendment may cap levies via **Entry 50, List II** limits.
- Mineral-rich states like **Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand** most affected.
- Touches core of **Union vs. State financial autonomy**.

Concept: Seventh Schedule: divides powers into **Union, State & Concurrent Lists**; **fiscal federalism** governs revenue-sharing between Centre and states.

IR India lodges protest after Pakistan warship collision at sea

- Incident occurred in the **North Arabian Sea**; only **minor damage**, no casualties.
- India cited breach of a **1991 bilateral military agreement** clause.
- Both sides lodged **counter-protests** through diplomatic channels.
- Highlights need for stronger **maritime confidence-building measures**.

Concept: CBMs (Confidence-Building Measures): steps between rivals to reduce risk of accidental conflict, e.g. **hotlines** and prior notification of exercises.

Friday, 18 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-18.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp' service campaign

- **11 flagship programmes**, including **Seva Setu** doorstep scheme camps and **Aashirwad Ka Diya**.
- The **Seva First Innovation Challenge** uses **IIT/IIM** experts as jury and mentors.
- Guiding theme: **'Jan-Jan Ki Sarkar, Jan-Jan Ke Dwar'** (government at the citizen's doorstep).
- Targets students, women, youth, beneficiaries and elected representatives.

Concept: Saturation governance aligns with **SDG-16**; **Viksit Bharat 2047** is the 2047 centenary development vision.

POLITY Uttarakhand HC pulls up Nainital admin over 'epidemic-like' water crisis

- **2 deaths** and **250+ people** fell ill across villages such as **Jeolikote, Chhina and Sariyatal**.
- **Peyjal Nigam** told to fast-track a **Kumaon water-testing lab**; the pollution board to sample **20-25 sources** in **6 days**.
- The DM must ensure tanker supply of potable water; **₹4 lakh** released for **ELISA** tests.

Concept: A **PIL** under **Art. 226** lets High Courts enforce rights; the right to clean water flows from **Art. 21**.

ENVIRONMENT Expert teams study 5 high-risk glacial lakes amid GLOF fears

- **5 critical lakes**: **Vasudhara** (Chamoli), a **Dharchula** cluster and a **Joshimath** lake.
- The state has **450 glacial lakes**; **13** are **Category-A** (maximum risk).
- Teams from the **Wadia Institute**, **CWC** and **C-DAC** assess natural dams and downstream risk.

Concept: A **GLOF** is the sudden release of glacial-lake water when a moraine or ice dam fails, worsened by warming.

UTTARAKHAND Haridwar gears up for Kumbh 2027; financial powers delegated

- The **Mela Officer** can sanction works up to **₹1 crore**; the **Garhwal Commissioner** up to **₹5 crore**.
- **250 new** State Transport buses were approved to boost Kumbh-period mobility.
- Focus areas: crowd management, sanitation and riverfront (ghat) safety.

Concept: The **Kumbh Mela** (UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage, 2017) rotates among Haridwar, Prayagraj, Nashik and Ujjain.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product: Uttarakhand's green-accounting model in focus

- **GEP** values four resources - **air, water, soil and forests** - as an ecological balance-sheet.
- It complements **GDP** by pricing **ecosystem services**, a form of 'green GDP'.
- It supports payment-for-ecosystem-services and eco-sensitive-zone planning.

Concept: **Ecosystem services** - provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting - underpin GEP valuation.

IR India chairs the 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi

- **Modi-Xi**: reaffirmed that 'differences must not become disputes' and stressed border peace.
- **Modi-Putin**: cooperation on defence, energy and space; India invited to the annual summit in Russia.
- The **New Delhi Declaration** urged restraint on West Asia and humanitarian access to Gaza.

Concept: BRICS (2009; expanded from 2024) is a plurilateral bloc in which India is a founding member.

SCI-TECH ISRO launches EOS-05, its first dedicated GEO imaging satellite

- At **2,367 kg**, it is the **heaviest payload** ever flown by a **GSLV**.
- It operates near **36,000 km** for **continuous** observation of the same region.
- It aids **cyclone, flood and forest-fire** tracking and disaster response, with a **7+ year** life.

Concept: A **geosynchronous orbit** (~35,786 km) has an orbital period equal to Earth's rotation.

SCI-TECH ESA and ISRO deepen ties on Gaganyaan, Moon and Venus

- **ESA** will provide ground-station support for **Gaganyaan** (3 crew, **400 km** orbit, 3-day mission).
- The **Venus Orbiter Mission** is set for **March 2028**, costs **₹1,236 crore** and carries **19 payloads**.
- Cooperation extends to the planned **Bharatiya Antariksh Station** and lunar exploration.

Concept: Gaganyaan is India's first human-spaceflight programme; **V. Narayanan** chairs ISRO.

REPORT India ranks 131st on the Global Gender Gap Index 2026

- India **retained** its **131st** rank; gaps persist in economic participation and health.
- **Iceland** remains **No. 1**, as it has for well over a decade.
- The index scores four sub-indices: economy, education, health and political empowerment.

Concept: The **World Economic Forum** publishes the Gender Gap, Global Risks and Travel & Tourism reports.

ECONOMY RBI holds the repo rate at 5.5% with a neutral stance

- **Repo rate: 5.5%**; policy **stance: neutral**.
- GDP growth is projected at around **6.8%** for the year.
- The inflation-targeting band remains **4% (+/- 2%)**.

Concept: The **MPC** (6 members) sets policy under the RBI Act's **flexible inflation-targeting** framework.

Saturday, 19 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-19.html

UTTARAKHAND CM Yuva Vidyarthi Manthan-2026: DBT scheme to fund tablets for govt-school students

- Event: **CM Yuva Vidyarthi Manthan-2026**, held in **Dehradun** on **18 September 2026**.
- New **DBT scheme** to fund **tablets** for **Class 10 & 12** government-school students.
- CM coined **“In-G” (Indian Generation)** for today's youth in place of “Gen Z”.
- **140 student** competition winners felicitated; ideas spanned tourism, ecology & migration.
- Framed within India's **Viksit Bharat @2047** vision.

> **Concept: DBT** routes subsidy money straight to beneficiaries' Aadhaar-linked accounts, cutting leakage — a recurring UKPSC governance theme.

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand certified India's sixth fully literate state under ULLAS

- Scheme: **ULLAS – Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram** (New India Literacy Programme).
- Full-literacy bar: **95% adult literacy** among those aged **15+**.
- Uttarakhand is the **6th** fully literate state.
- Earlier certified: **Mizoram, Goa, Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim**.
- **Ladakh** was the first UT so certified.

> **Concept: Functional literacy** = reading, writing, numeracy plus life skills — the ULLAS benchmark, distinct from mere signature literacy.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh registrations; autumn phase resumes

- Registrations in 2026 crossed **50 lakh (5 million)**.
- Four shrines: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
- Registration is **free**; **Aadhaar mandatory**, with **QR-code** e-pass verification.
- Extra counters: **30 in Rishikesh, 20 in Haridwar**; daily darshan caps enforced.
- “Yatrimitras” posted at checkpoints for QR scanning.

> **Concept: Carrying capacity** — the maximum footfall an eco-fragile site can bear without degradation — anchors Himalayan pilgrimage management.

UTTARAKHAND Revised Homestay policy adds Community-Based Tourism to curb palayan

- Scheme: **Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Homestay** (from 2015), now revised.
- New **Community-Based Tourism Unit**: **8–10 homestays** across **1–6 villages**.
- Room cap raised from **6 to 8 rooms**; up to **24 beds** per property.
- Over **5,000 active homestays** operate statewide.
- Aimed at **reverse migration (palayan roktham)** and hill self-employment.

> **Concept: Palayan** (out-migration) from Uttarakhand's hills is a core state issue; the **Mukhyamantri Palayan Roktham Yojana** and homestays target reverse migration.

POLITY Uniform Civil Code: Uttarakhand model to expand across NDA states

- UCC targeted for **21 NDA-ruled states by 2029**.
- **Uttarakhand** operational since **2025**; **Amendment Ordinance 2026** in force.
- Basis: **Article 44** (non-justiciable Directive Principle).
- Covers marriage, divorce, succession and **live-in relationship registration**.
- Enacted UCCs **exempt Scheduled Tribes**.

Concept: DPSPs (Part IV) guide policy but are not enforceable; Article 44 urges a UCC — in tension with Articles 25 and 29.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product: Uttarakhand's green-GDP model in focus

- **GEP** = value of **ecosystem services**, alongside conventional GDP.
- Uttarakhand is **India's first** state to adopt GEP.
- Four components: **air (GAP)**, **water (GWP)**, **soil (GSP)**, **forest (GFP)**.
- Recognises the Himalayas as a **water tower** and carbon sink.
- Supports demand for **green bonus / GST-style ecological compensation**.

Concept: Green GDP adjusts output for environmental depletion; GEP goes further by valuing positive ecosystem services — relevant to Himalayan states.

REPORT NITI Aayog's India Electric Mobility Index 2025: Delhi tops the states

- Released by **NITI Aayog** with **WRI India**.
- Top scorers: **Delhi (84)**, **Maharashtra (78)**, **Karnataka (73)**.
- **Manipur (46)** leads the hilly / north-eastern category.
- **29 of 36** states & UTs have notified EV policies.
- **Madhya Pradesh** is the biggest gainer (**+16 ranks**).

Concept: Composite indices benchmark states and spur **competitive/cooperative federalism** by ranking policy performance.

ECONOMY MDR returns to high-value UPI payments from 15 October 2026

- **MDR** of **0.4%** on person-to-merchant (P2M) transactions **above ₹2,000**.
- Fee capped at **₹300** for transactions of **₹75,000+**.
- Essential sectors (railways, telecom, fuel): flat **₹5 per transaction**.
- **97.5%** of UPI transactions **remain free**; only **2.5%** high-value P2M affected.
- App share: **PhonePe ~46%, Google Pay ~32%**.

Concept: MDR is the fee a merchant pays its bank per digital transaction; **NPCI** runs UPI. Zero-MDR aided adoption but strained ecosystem economics.

ECONOMY Western Dedicated Freight Corridor goes fully operational

- **WDFC: 1,506 km** (Dadri to JNPT); with **EDFC 1,337 km** = **2,843 km** total.
- Daily trains rose from **247 (2023-24)** to **443 (Aug 2026)**; WDFC at **88% capacity**.
- India's logistics cost: **~7.97% of GDP** (2023-24).
- Freight cost per tonne-km: **₹1.96 rail** vs **₹11.03 road**.
- Aligned with **PM GatiShakti** and **Sagarmala**.

> **Concept: Dedicated Freight Corridors** are freight-only rail lines that decongest mixed traffic and speed up goods movement.

IR US House bill threatens up to 100% tariff on India over Russian oil

- Bill authorises tariffs of **up to 100%** on India over Russian oil imports.
- Targets Russia's **“shadow fleet”** of ageing, opaquely-owned tankers.
- Shadow fleet moves sanctioned oil outside **price-cap** arrangements.
- Tests India's **strategic autonomy** and energy-security calculus.
- Comes amid wider India-US **trade-deal** negotiations.

> **Concept: Strategic autonomy** — keeping independent foreign-policy choices — has guided Indian diplomacy from non-alignment onward.

HEALTH Stem-cell therapy for autism restricted to approved trials only

- Advisory (**16 Sept**): stem-cell therapy for **ASD** only within **approved trials**.
- Triggered by a **Supreme Court judgment (30 Jan 2026)**.
- Basis: **National Guidelines for Stem Cell Research, 2017** (ICMR & DBT).
- **ICMR**: evidence does not support stem-cell therapy over behavioural therapies for ASD.
- Aims to curb **unproven, costly** treatments.

> **Concept: Stem cells** can differentiate into many cell types; unregulated clinical use raises safety and ethics concerns — hence ICMR/DBT oversight.

DEFENCE Sanjukta Parasor becomes first woman IG of CRPF's CoBRA

- First **woman IG** of **CoBRA** (Commando Battalion for Resolute Action).
- **2006-batch IPS**, Assam-Meghalaya cadre; the “Iron Lady of Assam”.
- **CoBRA** is a **10-battalion** jungle-warfare unit raised in **2008**.
- Specialises in anti-**Left-Wing Extremism (LWE)** operations.
- Marks growing **women's leadership** in central armed police forces.

> **Concept: CoBRA**, under the **CRPF**, is India's dedicated guerrilla-warfare unit for LWE-affected zones.

Sunday, 20 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-20.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra enters historic second phase; CM prays at Badrinath

- **66,07,749** pilgrims registered for the **2026** Yatra; a record **50,56,160** visited in phase one (to 14 Sept)
- Shrine-wise phase-1 footfall: **Badrinath 17.36 lakh**, **Kedarnath 14.98 lakh**, **Gangotri 7.89 lakh**, **Yamunotri 7.08 lakh**, **Hemkund Sahib 3.22 lakh**
- Second phase focuses on **smooth travel, CCTV-based crowd management** and road repair
- Badrinath **master plan** progresses within the **6-month** Himalayan construction window

Concept: Char Dham (Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath) — a Himalayan pilgrimage circuit; Yamunotri-Yamuna, Gangotri-Bhagirathi/Ganga origin points.

UTTARAKHAND House of Himalayas drives women's products to global markets

- **House of Himalayas** — a common brand for women's products from all **13 districts**
- **Mukhyamantri Sashakt Behna Yojana** converts SHGs into enterprises; **Mukhyamantri Udyamshala** builds skills
- **Collateral-free** loans to SHGs and **interest-free** loans to women entrepreneurs
- Retail centre coming up on **Sahastradhara Road**, Dehradun; products sold at airports, stations & online

Concept: SHG (Self-Help Group) — a small savings-and-credit collective; 'Lakhpati Didi' aims to raise SHG women's annual income above Rs 1 lakh.

DEFENCE 22nd India-US Yudh Abhyas 2026 opens at Auli

- **22nd** edition; runs **15-28 September 2026**
- Venues: **Auli (Chamoli, Uttarakhand)** for mountain warfare and **Mahajan (Rajasthan)** for desert terrain
- About **600 personnel each** from the Indian and US armies participate
- Focus: **Integrated Battle Groups**, interoperability, drones and autonomous surveillance systems

Concept: Yudh Abhyas — the largest India-US joint land exercise, alternating annually between the two countries; Auli sits above 2,800 m in Chamoli.

ENVIRONMENT Expert teams intensify GLOF-risk study of Uttarakhand glacial lakes

- Uttarakhand has about **450 glacial lakes**; **13** are classified sensitive, **5** taken up for ground study
- **Category A** (highest risk): **Vasudhara Tal (Chamoli)**, and Mambag, Syuntiankitta & Pyungru (Dharchula)
- Agencies: **USDMA, NDMA, CWC, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, C-DAC**
- Study assesses natural dams, water levels and downstream **GLOF** risk

Concept: GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) — sudden release of water when a moraine/ice dam holding a glacial lake fails, causing downstream flash floods.

POLITY Uttarakhand HC calls Nainital water crisis 'epidemic-like'

- Division Bench termed the situation **'epidemic-like'**; **2 deaths** and over **250 people** fell ill
- Affected villages include **Jeolikote, Ganja, Virbhatti, Chhina, Beluakhan and Sariyatal**
- Court ordered **tanker water**, a complaint **helpline**, and a **water-testing lab** for Kumaon
- Pollution board told to sample **20-25 water sources** within **6 days**

Concept: PIL & judicial oversight: courts use writ jurisdiction (Art. 226) to enforce the right to safe water read into Article 21 (right to life).

ENVIRONMENT Uttarakhand's Gross Environment Product: valuing nature

- Uttarakhand is the **first Indian state** to measure **Gross Environment Product (GEP)**
- GEP tracks four ecosystem services: **air, water, soil and forest**
- It complements GDP by valuing **ecological health** alongside economic output ('green GDP')
- Supports payments-for-ecosystem-services and eco-sensitive-zone planning

Concept: GEP - a green-accounting metric assigning monetary value to ecosystem services, so environmental gains/losses show up alongside GDP.

ECONOMY Cabinet raises EPFO wage ceiling to Rs 25,000

- Wage ceiling raised from **Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000** per month - first revision since **2014**
- About **51 lakh** additional employees expected to come under coverage
- Estimated five-year expenditure: about **Rs 56,696 crore**
- Higher ceiling raises both PF savings and pension base for formal workers

Concept: EPFO - Employees' Provident Fund Organisation; the wage ceiling is the maximum monthly wage up to which EPF membership is mandatory.

ECONOMY Zero MDR notified for UPI and RuPay debit cards

- **Zero MDR** on UPI transactions up to **Rs 2,000** and on **RuPay** debit-card payments
- Notified under the **Payment and Settlement Systems Act, 2007**
- Keeps small-merchant acceptance of digital payments free of transaction cost
- **NPCI** operates both UPI and RuPay

Concept: MDR - Merchant Discount Rate; the fee a merchant pays their bank per card/digital transaction, here waived for specified small payments.

DEFENCE DAC clears Rs 1.10 lakh crore defence acquisitions

- Proposals worth about **Rs 1.10 lakh crore** cleared; **98%** to be sourced from **Indian industry**
- Chaired by the **Defence Minister**; clearance is an **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**
- Includes **CBRN** recce vehicles, high-mobility vehicles, Arudhra radars and marine gas turbines
- Aligns with the **Atmanirbhar Bharat** self-reliance push in defence

Concept: DAC - Defence Acquisition Council, the apex MoD body for capital purchases; AoN is the first approval stage in the procurement cycle.

SCI-TECH SEMICON India 2026 showcases chip-making push

- Held at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi (17-19 September 2026)** with **600+** exhibitors
- Over **300 international firms** participated
- **12** semiconductor projects approved; **3** units began commercial production
- Advances the **India Semiconductor Mission** for domestic chip fabrication

Concept: Semiconductor fab - a facility that manufactures integrated-circuit chips; India Semiconductor Mission offers fiscal support to build them.

IR India deepens ties with MERCOSUR and Vietnam

- India-**MERCOSUR** signed the **First Additional Protocol** enabling **electronic Certificates of Origin**
- MERCOSUR bloc: **Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay, Uruguay** (South American customs union)
- India and **Vietnam** designated **2027** the 'Year of Friendship', marking **55 years** of ties
- India-Vietnam set a **USD 25 billion** bilateral trade target by **2030**

Concept: MERCOSUR - 'Southern Common Market', a South American trade bloc; a Certificate of Origin proves a good's source country for tariff purposes.

Monday, 21 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-21.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026: phase-1 sets record, second phase underway

- **Phase-1 footfall: 50.56 lakh** pilgrims (as of 14 Sept); total **registrations: 66.08 lakh**.
- Shrine-wise: **Badrinath 17.37 L**, **Kedarnath 14.99 L**, Gangotri 7.90 L, Yamunotri 7.08 L, **Hemkund Sahib 3.23 L**.
- The four dhams: **Yamunotri (Yamuna, Uttarkashi)**, **Gangotri (Bhagirathi, Uttarkashi)**, **Kedarnath (Mandakini, Rudraprayag)**, **Badrinath (Alaknanda, Chamoli)**.
- **Second phase began 15 September 2026**; mandatory online registration continues for crowd control.

Concept: **Char Dham** = Himalayan circuit in Garhwal; **Panch Prayag** confluences feed the Alaknanda; **Hemkund Sahib** is a Sikh shrine near the Valley of Flowers.

POLITY Uttarakhand HC clears path to shift from Nainital to Haldwani

- Bench of **Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari** and **Justice Pankaj Purohit** dismissed the challenge (early Sept 2026).
- Nainital cited for **'acute lack of space and inadequate infrastructure'**, high living costs and poor connectivity for litigants.
- Full court (19 June) approved shifting to ~**73 hectares** of forest land in the **Tarai-Central Forest Division near Rudrapur**.
- Site is ~**10 km** from the elephant corridor; forest de-reservation and statutory clearances still pending.

Concept: The **Uttarakhand High Court** was established in **2000** at Nainital; relocating a HC seat involves executive notification and forest-law clearances.

UTTARAKHAND Homestay policy powers 'reverse palayan' in the hills

- **537 beneficiaries** received **₹79.28 crore** subsidy over four years.
- **Over 5,000 homestays** now operate statewide; **~6,500 migrants** returned, ~**22%** taking up homestays.
- Subsidy: **50% (max ₹15 lakh)** in hills, **25% (max ₹7.5 lakh)** in plains; only Uttarakhand natives eligible.
- A **Trekking Traction Centre Homestay** sub-scheme aided **258** applicants under 'My Plan, My Government'.

Concept: Palayan = out-migration from hill villages; **reverse migration** restores demographic balance and revives 'ghost villages' (bhutiya gaon).

POLITY Uttarakhand UCC: first-mover reform completes rollout

- UCC came into force **27 January 2026**; Uttarakhand is the **first state** to implement one post-Independence.
- Common rules on **marriage, divorce, succession and inheritance**; **polygamy and halala barred**; **equal inheritance** for daughters.
- **Live-in relationships require mandatory registration**; a dedicated **UCC portal** handles filings.
- **Scheduled Tribes are exempted**; rooted in **Article 44 (DPSP)** directive for a uniform civil code.

Concept: Article 44 (DPSP) urges the State to secure a **UCC**; DPSPs are **non-justiciable** (Art. 37) yet fundamental to governance.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product: Uttarakhand values its nature

- **Uttarakhand launched India's first GEP** to value ecological wealth alongside economic output.
- GEP measures four services: **air, water, soil and forest**.
- Aligns with the state's push on **eco-sensitive zones, green bonuses and Himalayan resilience**.
- Complements **Green GDP** accounting and the demand for a **Green Bonus** for Himalayan states.

Concept: GEP = monetary value of ecosystem services; kin to **Green GDP**, which nets natural-resource depletion from output.

ECONOMY Retail inflation climbs to 4.82%, repo held at 5.25%

- **CPI August 2026: 4.82%**, up from **4.45%** in July; **food inflation 5.95%**.
- **Repo rate: 5.25%** (neutral stance); positive **real policy rate**.
- Credit growth **19.1%** vs deposit growth **17.8%**; **credit-deposit ratio 80.3%**.
- **GDP growth 7.8%**; inflation stays within the **RBI 4% (+/-2%)** band.

Concept: Repo rate = rate at which RBI lends to banks; the **CPI** target is **4% (+/-2%)** under flexible inflation targeting.

IR US law authorises 100% tariff on buyers of Russian oil

- Law authorises **100% tariffs** on importers of Russian oil, atop existing duties.
- **US takes ~20%** of India's goods exports; **Russia supplied 51%+** of India's oil imports (July 2026).
- Requires a written **waiver justification to the US Congress**.
- Sharpens India's **energy-security vs market-access** trade-off.

Concept: Strategic autonomy = India's policy of independent choices; **secondary sanctions** penalise third countries dealing with a sanctioned state.

SCI-TECH Semiconductor Mission Phase 2: ₹1.27 lakh crore push

- **Government commitment: ₹1.27 lakh crore** under Phase 2; **~₹1 lakh crore** investor interest received.
- Widens scope to **design, fabrication, equipment and materials** (from assembly/testing).
- Five-year goal: chips for **automobiles, power systems and appliances**.
- Advances **Atmanirbhar Bharat** and cuts import dependence in electronics.

Concept: Semiconductor = material for chips; India's mission targets the full value chain - **design -> fab -> ATMP (assembly, test, marking, packaging)**.

REPORT NITI Aayog Electric Mobility Index 2025: Delhi tops

- **Delhi 1st (score 84**, up from 77); **Maharashtra 2nd (78)**, **Karnataka 3rd (73)**.
- Covers **36 states/UTs** across **16 indicators**.
- Signals accelerating **EV adoption and charging-infra** rollout.
- Feeds India's **net-zero-by-2070** and clean-mobility goals.

Concept: e-mobility = electric transport; **NITI Aayog** is India's apex policy think-tank (replaced the Planning Commission in 2015).

SOCIETY EPFO wage ceiling raised to ₹25,000 a month

- Wage ceiling raised from **₹15,000 to ₹25,000/month**, effective **17 September 2026**.
- **EPS pension contribution** capped correspondingly (~**₹2,080**).
- Expands retirement-savings coverage for more formal workers.
- Administered by **EPFO** under the Ministry of Labour & Employment.

Concept: EPFO manages the **EPF/EPS**; employer and employee each contribute **12%** of basic wages to provident fund.

ECONOMY GIFT City jumps to 37th in Global Financial Centres Index

- **GIFT City rose to 37th** (from 46th) in **GFCI 40**.
- **New York** topped, followed by **London** and **Hong Kong**.
- GIFT City hosts India's first **IFSC**, regulated by **IFSCA**.
- Boosts India's ambition as a global **fintech and bullion** gateway.

Concept: GIFT City = Gujarat International Finance Tec-City; its **IFSC** is regulated by a unified regulator, **IFSCA**.

Tuesday, 22 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-22.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026: Record First Phase, Second Phase Under Way

- First phase drew a record **51.06 lakh (50,56,160)** pilgrims (till 14-15 Sep 2026).
- Dham-wise: **Badrinath 17.36 lakh**, **Kedarnath 14.99 lakh**, **Gangotri 7.90 lakh**, **Yamunotri 7.08 lakh**, **Hemkund Sahib 3.23 lakh**.
- Second phase on since **15 September 2026**; total footfall expected to cross **55 lakh**.
- Focus on **CCTV coverage, traffic & crowd management** and transparency in counting of offerings.

> **Concept:** Char Dham = **Yamunotri (Yamuna)**, **Gangotri (Bhagirathi)**, **Kedarnath (Mandakini)**, **Badrinath (Alaknanda)**; linked by the **Panch Prayag** confluences of the Alaknanda.

POLITY UCC Uttarakhand: Amendment 2026 Streamlines Rules & Portal

- Compulsory **marriage registration** and mandatory **live-in relationship registration**.
- Uniform **grounds for divorce** and equal **inheritance/succession** rights across communities.
- Bans **polygamy, halala, iddat** and sets a uniform **marriage age**.
- **Scheduled Tribes are exempted** (protected under **Article 342**); services via the **ucc.uk.gov.in** portal.

> **Concept: Article 44 (DPSP)** directs the State to secure a UCC; personal law falls in the **Concurrent List**, allowing state action.

POLITY High Court Pulls Up Officials Over Nainital Water Contamination

- **2 deaths** and **250+ people** fell ill across villages such as Jeolikote, Ganja and Virbhatti.
- Cause: **sewage water mixing** with a drinking-water source near an old garbage pit.
- Court ordered a **water-testing lab for the Kumaon region** and sampling of **20-25 sources within 6 days**.
- Released **₹4 lakh** for ELISA/medical tests; DM to personally oversee relief and tanker supply.

> **Concept:** Access to clean water flows from the **Right to Life (Article 21)**; courts use **PIL** and continuing mandamus to enforce it.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product (GEP): Uttarakhand's Green Accounting Model

- GEP values the health of **air, water, soil and forests** as a growth indicator.
- It complements GDP with **green accounting / natural-capital accounting**.
- The concept was championed by environmentalist **Anil Prakash Joshi (HESCO)**.
- Aligns with **SDGs** and the state's push for a low-carbon, green economy.

> **Concept: Green GDP / Natural Capital Accounting**; ecosystem services span provisioning, regulating, cultural and supporting functions.

ECONOMY Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27: ₹1.11 Lakh Crore on the GYAN Model

- Total size **₹1,11,703 crore** (about **10%** higher than the previous year).
- Capital expenditure **₹46,713.77 crore**; fiscal deficit **₹12,579.70 crore** (**below 3% of GSDP**).
- Gender budget **₹19,692 crore**; **₹1,027 crore** for **Kumbh 2027 (Haridwar)**.
- **₹1,050 crore** for PMGSY rural roads; **₹2,502 crore** for PWD roads & bridges.

Concept: GYAN = Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata, Nari; the **FRBM** framework caps fiscal deficit at **3% of GSDP**.

ENVIRONMENT Himalayan Disaster Management & GLOF Risk in Focus

- The state lies in **seismic Zones IV and V** — high earthquake risk.
- Recurrent **cloudbursts, landslides and flash floods** during the monsoon.
- **GLOF** danger from expanding glacial lakes — recall **2021 Chamoli** and **2013 Kedarnath** disasters.
- Response via **USDMA/SDMA** and rapid **SDRF** deployment with early-warning systems.

Concept: Disaster Management Act, 2005: **NDMA → SDMA (CM as chair) → DDMA (DM as chair)**; GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood.

DEFENCE SLINEX-26: India-Sri Lanka Naval Exercise off Visakhapatnam

- Held **17-21 September 2026** off **Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh)**.
- India fielded **INS Kavaratti** and **INS Jyoti**; Sri Lanka sent **SLNS Sindurala**.
- Comprised **harbour and sea phases** focused on interoperability.
- Reinforces maritime security in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

Concept: SLINEX has run since **2005**; bilateral naval drills build trust and interoperability among navies.

SCI-TECH India-Russia Sign AI & Cybersecurity Technology Pacts

- **Four strategic agreements** signed at the industrial expo (**9-11 Sep 2026, New Delhi**).
- A joint **Centre of Excellence in AI & cybersecurity**.
- Pacts on **investment promotion** and **healthcare** collaboration.
- A **joint venture in interactive technologies**.

Concept: India-Russia enjoy a **Special & Privileged Strategic Partnership**; S&T cooperation is a key pillar.

ENVIRONMENT First Soil-Carbon Payments to Farmers in Punjab & Haryana

- **2,550 smallholder farmers** received **₹2.9 crore** in payments.
- Programme covered about **30,000 acres** and generated **50,000+** verified carbon credits.
- Individual payouts ranged **₹3,000 to ₹15,000** per farmer.
- Rewards regenerative practices that raise **soil organic carbon**.

Concept: Carbon credits monetise avoided/removed emissions; the **voluntary carbon market** funds climate-friendly farming.

IR EAM's Bhutan Visit: ₹4,000 Crore Line of Credit for Energy

- Visit held **16-18 September 2026**.
- **Five development projects** launched during the trip.
- A **₹4,000 crore** concessional **Line of Credit** extended for the energy sector.
- Reaffirms deep **hydropower** and development cooperation.

> **Concept:** A **Line of Credit (LoC)** is a soft loan for development projects; **Neighbourhood First** anchors India's regional diplomacy.

DEFENCE Indigenous KAL Long-Endurance Drone Tested at Pokhran

- Range about **1,000 km** with **7-8 hours** endurance.
- Payload capacity **50 kg**; service ceiling around **5,000 m**.
- Developed by an **Indian defence startup** — boosts **Atmanirbhar Bharat**.
- Tested at the **Pokhran Field-Firing Range (Rajasthan)**.

> **Concept: UAV classes** span mini, tactical, MALE and HALE by range/altitude; drones are force-multipliers in modern warfare.

Wednesday, 23 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-23.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 Nears 5-Crore Darshan; State Reviews Safety

- **6.607 crore (66.07 million)** pilgrims registered by **14 September 2026**; **5.056 crore** darshan completed.
- Shrine-wise darshan: **Badrinath 1.74 cr**, **Kedarnath 1.50 cr**, **Gangotri 78.9 lakh**, **Yamunotri 70.8 lakh**, **Hemkund Sahib 32.2 lakh**.
- High-risk stretches flagged: **Chirbasa, Bhairav Glacier, Syanachatti**; movement of pilgrims, horses and mules regulated.
- Second horse-parking at **Yamunotri**, route widening for **Yamunotri & Gangotri**, and better mobile coverage ordered.

> **Concept: Char Dham** = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath** (plus **Hemkund Sahib**); spread across **Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag & Chamoli** districts in the Garhwal Himalayas.

SOCIETY CM Orders Time-Bound Justice in SC/ST Atrocity Cases

- Cases pending since **2024** to be reviewed and disposed on priority with fixed timelines.
- **Police, administration and prosecution** told to coordinate on serious and longstanding cases.
- Adequate **special public prosecutors** and continuous monitoring of **special courts** ordered.
- Focus on victims getting **justice, security and dignity** in a time-bound manner.

> **Concept: SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act, 1989** — a special law providing **Special/ Exclusive Special Courts**; complements **Art. 17 (abolition of untouchability)** and **Art. 15(4)**.

POLITY High Court Slams Nainital Over 'Epidemic-Like' Water Contamination

- **2 deaths** and **250+ people** sickened across **Jeolikote, Ganja, Virbhatti, Chhina, Beluakhan, Sariyatal** (8 Sept 2026).
- The bench called it **'epidemic-like'**, blaming unrepaired sewer and drinking-water pipelines.
- **DM** to personally monitor relief and clean-water tankers; a sewer-leak **helpline** ordered.
- Water-testing lab for **Kumaon** to be fast-tracked; **20-25 sources** sampled in 6 days; **₹4 lakh** released for medical testing.

Concept: The **Right to clean water** flows from **Art. 21 (Right to Life)**; PIL and judicial activism let High Courts (**Art. 226**) enforce civic duties.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product: Uttarakhand's Green-Accounting Push

- **GEP** assigns monetary value to **four resources: air, water, forest and soil**.
- It covers **provisioning, regulating and cultural** ecosystem services.
- First-of-its-kind in India (launched **2024**); the index used **2020-22** data showing a **0.9% rise** in environmental output.
- It distinguishes man-made assets (**amrit sarovars**) from natural processes such as rainfall.

Concept: GEP ≈ Green GDP — it internalises environmental degradation and biodiversity loss; about **66%** of Uttarakhand's area is under forest.

POLITY Uniform Civil Code: Uttarakhand's Rollout Deepens

- UCC enforced from **27 January 2025**; **Amendment Ordinance, 2026** notified to ease implementation.
- Mandatory registration of **marriage, divorce and live-in relationships**; equal **inheritance** rights.
- **Polygamy, halala, iddat** and child marriage prohibited; a uniform **marriageable age** set.
- Backed by **Article 44 (DPSP)** — the goal of a Uniform Civil Code across India.

Concept: Art. 44 is a **Directive Principle** (non-justiciable); the tension between personal-law reform and religious freedom (**Art. 25**) is the core debate.

ENVIRONMENT Monsoon Aftermath Tests Uttarakhand's Disaster Machinery

- At peak, **100+ roads** were blocked; a **30-metre** stretch of the Karnaprayag-Nainisain road washed away in Chamoli.
- Alerts spanned **Dehradun & Bageshwar** (orange) and 8+ hill districts (yellow).
- The state is prone to **landslides, cloudbursts, flash floods, GLOF and earthquakes** (Seismic **Zones IV & V**).
- **USDMA** coordinates response; **SDRF** and early-warning systems are deployed.

Concept: GLOF = Glacial Lake Outburst Flood; Uttarakhand's fragile geology plus high seismicity make it a multi-hazard Himalayan state.

IR India-New Zealand FTA to Take Effect from 20 October 2026

- NZ offers **100% duty-free** access to Indian exports from day one; India opens **70.03%** of tariff lines (~**95%** of bilateral trade).
- A **US$20 billion** New Zealand investment commitment over **15 years**.
- **5,000** temporary work visas and **1,000** working-holiday visas a year for Indians; **3-year** post-study work for STEM graduates.
- India's arbitration base: **Arbitration & Conciliation Act, 1996**; recent BITs signed with **UAE & Uzbekistan**.

Concept: An **FTA** cuts tariffs and non-tariff barriers between partners; a **BIT** protects cross-border investment via **ISDS** dispute settlement.

ECONOMY RBI Drains ₹71,971 cr via VRRR to Manage Liquidity

- **₹71,971 crore** absorbed against a notified **₹75,000 crore**.
- **VRRR** mops up liquidity, while **VRR** injects it — both are **LAF** tools.
- Aim: control inflation, steady **overnight/call rates**, and curb excess credit growth.
- The **policy repo rate** stays the RBI's key signalling rate.

Concept: LAF (Liquidity Adjustment Facility): **Repo** injects, **Reverse Repo/VRRR** absorbs — part of the RBI's monetary-policy toolkit.

ECONOMY GDP Data Revamp: New Base Year 2022-23, 'Double Deflation'

- The base year shifts to **2022-23** (from 2011-12).
- **Double deflation** adopted for manufacturing — output and input prices adjusted separately.
- Greater use of **GST** and administrative data for real-time coverage.
- It aligns India's GVA/GDP estimates with global standards.

Concept: GDP = value of final goods/services; **GVA** = GDP + subsidies − product taxes; the **base year** fixes constant (real) prices.

POLITY SC: No Penalty for Declining to Sing the National Song

- The Court's view: individuals **cannot be penalised** for declining to recite the National Song.
- It is rooted in **Art. 25 (freedom of conscience)** and **Art. 26**.
- Key precedent: **Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986)** — the National Anthem case.
- **Art. 51A(a)** — the fundamental duty to respect the Constitution, National Flag and Anthem.

Concept: Vande Mataram is the **National Song** (Bankim Chandra Chatterjee), adopted **24 Jan 1950** — equal in status to Jana Gana Mana but with no codified singing rules.

DEFENCE India-Mongolia 'Nomadic Elephant' Military Drill Begins

- This is the **18th edition**, which began **21 September 2026**.
- Focus: counter-terror and counter-insurgency operations in semi-mountainous, rural terrain.
- Other India drills: **Khaan Quest** (Mongolia, multinational), **Mitra Shakti** (Sri Lanka), **Garuda Shakti** (Indonesia).
- It boosts interoperability and strategic ties in the region.

Concept: Bilateral exercises build **interoperability**; Mongolia is a key **'third neighbour'** in India's Act-East and Central-Asia outreach.

REPORT **55 Indian Cities Among the World's 100 Fastest-Growing**

- **55 of 100** fastest-growing cities (by GDP growth) are Indian.
- **Delhi** ranked **268** overall on the broader global list.
- The index weighs **economics, human capital, quality of life, environment and governance**.
- It signals India's rising urban share of GDP and consumption.

Concept: A **Global Cities Index** benchmarks cities on multi-dimensional strength; rapid growth need not mean a high absolute rank (base effect).

Thursday, 24 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-24.html

UTTARAKHAND **Badrinath Dham Sets All-Time Record: 17.79 Lakh Pilgrims in 2026 Season**

- Badrinath footfall: **17,79,805 pilgrims** as of **22 September 2026**, first time above **17 lakh**.
- Season opened **23 April 2026**; figure reached over **153 days**; ~1.5–2 months of yatra remain.
- **Second phase** of the yatra resumed from **15 September 2026** after monsoon disruptions.
- Char Dham = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath** — all in the Garhwal Himalayas.
- Thrust on pilgrim facilities, **health services and security**; Badrinath being redeveloped as a planned shrine.

Concept: Char Dham lies in the **Higher Himalayas**; Badrinath is on the **Alaknanda** (Chamoli) and Kedarnath on the **Mandakini** (Rudraprayag); linked by the Char Dham All-Weather Road.

ENVIRONMENT **Kedarnath Trek Reopens After Chirbasa Landslide; Monsoon Risk Persists**

- Landslide struck near **Chirbasa** on the Kedarnath foot route; trek later restored after clearance.
- The 2026 monsoon repeatedly blocked **Badrinath & Kedarnath highways**; rivers ran in spate.
- Uttarakhand lies in **Seismic Zones IV & V** and is highly landslide-prone.
- Nodal body: **Uttarakhand SDMA (USDMA)**; district response via **DDMAs**.
- **GLOF** (glacial lake outburst flood) risk rising with warming; early-warning being expanded.

Concept: **GLOF**: sudden release of water from a glacial lake; **landslides** depend on slope, rainfall & lithology; the DM Act, 2005 sets the NDMA–SDMA–DDMA structure.

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand Revamps Homestay Policy to Push Rural, Resident-Led Tourism

- **~6,000 homestays** registered; **Nainital** leads, then Dehradun & Pithoragarh.
- Homestays now restricted to **permanent residents** operating from their **own homes**.
- Registration renewal every **5 years** (earlier one-time).
- Non-residents / caretaker-run units shifted to the **Bed & Breakfast** scheme.
- Aims to curb **palayan (out-migration)** and spread tourism to villages.

Concept: **Palayan** = out-migration from hill villages; the Rural Development & Migration Prevention (Palayan) Commission tracks it; homestays are a livelihood-diversification tool.

DEFENCE India–Mongolia Drill 'Nomadic Elephant 2026' Begins in Pithoragarh

- **18th edition**; held **21 Sept – 3 Oct 2026** at **Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand**.
- **45 personnel each** side; the Indian contingent is from the **Arunachal Scouts**.
- Focus: counter-insurgency in mountainous terrain, **drones & cyber security** under a UN mandate.
- Reflects Mongolia's **'Third Neighbour' policy** toward India.
- Pithoragarh borders **Tibet (China) & Nepal** — strategically sensitive.

Concept: Mongolia is a **landlocked** 'third neighbour' partner; Pithoragarh sits on the **Kailash-Mansarovar (Lipulekh)** route in the trans-Himalaya.

POLITY Uttarakhand Strengthens Uniform Civil Code With 2026 Amendments

- Uttarakhand became the **first state to implement a UCC** (rules notified **27 January 2025**).
- **UCC Amendment / Ordinance 2026** refined marriage, divorce, succession & **live-in registration** rules.
- Applies uniform rules across communities (**Scheduled Tribes exempted**).
- Backed by **Article 44** (Directive Principles) — non-justiciable.
- Online portal **ucc.uk.gov.in** handles registrations.

Concept: **Article 44**: State shall endeavour to secure a UCC. Rooted in Constituent Assembly debate (23 Nov 1948, draft Art. 35); Goa already had a common civil code.

ENVIRONMENT India: Non-Fossil Sources Cross 54% of Installed Power Capacity

- **Non-fossil > 54%** of installed power capacity.
- Per-capita emissions **< 50%** of the global average.
- **Wind capacity tripled** in ~12 years; India **3rd** in renewables globally.
- Updated **NDC (2022)**: **45%** emissions-intensity cut by 2030; **net zero by 2070**.
- Leads **ISA, Global Biofuels Alliance, Big Cat Alliance & Mission LiFE**.

Concept: **NDC** = Nationally Determined Contribution under the Paris Agreement; **emissions intensity** = CO2 per unit GDP; ISA HQ is at **Gurugram**.

POLITY SC: State May Prescribe National Song but Can't Force Anyone to Sing It

- A **three-judge Bench** (CJI-led) ruled on the National Song question.
- Reaffirmed **Bijoe Emmanuel v. State of Kerala (1986)** — silent, respectful objection is protected.
- Grounded in **Articles 19(1)(a) & 25** (speech & conscience).
- Heard a challenge to the **Prevention of Insults to National Honour (Amendment) Act, 2026**.
- Distinguished State promotion from **compelled speech**.

Concept: **Vande Mataram** (Bankim Chandra) is the National Song; **Jana Gana Mana** is the National Anthem. Fundamental Duty **51A(a)** is to respect national symbols.

SCI-TECH SEMICON India 2026: ~Rs 1 Lakh Crore Pledged; Market Eyeing $200 Billion by 2035

- **5th edition**; theme '**Silicon to Systems**'; by **MeitY** with SEMI.
- India's semiconductor market projected **$64 bn (2026) → $200 bn (2035)**.
- **56 MoUs** across design, fabrication, packaging, AI & HPC.
- **~Rs 1 lakh crore** investment commitments under **Semicon 2.0**.
- '**Odisha Silicon Valley**' planned at Naraj, Cuttack.

Concept: The **India Semiconductor Mission (ISM)** anchors chip policy; a **fab** makes wafers, while **ATMP/OSAT** does assembly-test-packaging.

REPORT Global Cities Index 2026: 55 of World's 100 Fastest-Growing Cities Are Indian

- **55 of the top 100** fastest-growing cities are Indian.
- Highest-ranked Indian city: **Delhi, 268th** (score 57.6/100).
- **Bengaluru 311th, Mumbai 330th, Chennai 381st**.
- Delhi: Human Capital **13th**, but Environment **915th**.
- Gap = strong growth/talent vs weak **liveability & air quality**.

Concept: Such indices typically score cities on **Economics, Human Capital, Quality of Life, Governance and Environment**.

REPORT UN Gender Snapshot 2026: Funding for Equality at Lowest Since 2021

- **1 in 4** gender-equality mechanisms saw budget cuts.
- Global equality funding at its **lowest since 2021**.
- Women in parliaments: **27.4%** (up from 22.3% in 2015).
- **Six in seven** countries are led by men.
- Tied to the **SDG-5 (Gender Equality)** review.

Concept: **SDG-5** targets gender equality by 2030; **gender-responsive budgeting** allocates funds to close gender gaps.

SCI-TECH Canal-Top Solar: Land-Neutral Power With 131 GW National Potential

- First **1 MW** canal-top plant: **Narmada canal, Mehsana, Gujarat (2012)**.
- Saves ~**9 million litres** water/year per stretch; generates ~1.6 million units/year.
- National potential ~**131 GW** across canal-top/bank sites.
- Top states: **UP, Bihar, Karnataka, Andhra Pradesh, Punjab**.
- **PM Surya Sarovar Yojana** targets **5,000 MW** floating solar.

> **Concept: CTPV** cuts evaporation and saves land; **floating solar** sits on reservoirs — both raise the land-use efficiency of renewables.

Friday, 25 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-25.html

UTTARAKHAND Exercise Nomadic Elephant begins at Pithoragarh

- Venue: **Pithoragarh**, a strategic **border district** of Uttarakhand adjoining **Nepal and Tibet (China)**.
- About **45 personnel** from each side; focus on **counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism** under a **UN mandate**.
- Drills cover **drone operations, cybersecurity** and **cordon-and-search**.
- Nomadic Elephant is an **annual** exercise; complements naval **Exercise Varuna** (with France) also in the news.

> **Concept:** Uttarakhand shares international borders with **Nepal** and **China (Tibet)**; Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi are border districts. Other India exercises: Yudh Abhyas (US), Garuda Shakti (Indonesia), Maitree (Thailand).

POLITY UCC (Amendment) 2026 tightens marriage & live-in rules

- Uttarakhand is **India's first state** to implement a **UCC** (rules notified **2025**).
- **Misrepresentation of identity** made a ground for **marriage annulment**.
- **Registrar General** empowered to cancel registrations of marriage, divorce, live-in & succession.
- Aligned with **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023** and **Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023**.

> **Concept: Article 44 (DPSP)** urges the State to secure a **Uniform Civil Code**. UCC applies one set of personal laws (marriage, divorce, succession) across communities; tribal areas are exempted in Uttarakhand's law.

UTTARAKHAND Nanda Devi Raj Jat — the 'Himalayan Mahakumbh'

- Held roughly **once every 12 years**; called the **'Himalayan Mahakumbh'**.
- Dedicated to goddess **Nanda Devi**, patron deity of the **Garhwal–Kumaon** hills.
- A long trek culminating near **Roopkund/Homkund** in **Chamoli** district.
- A four-horned ram (**chau-singhya khadu**) traditionally leads the procession.

> **Concept:** Uttarakhand folk culture spans **Kumaoni, Garhwali and Jaunsari** traditions; other fairs: **Kumbh (Haridwar), Nanda Devi Mela (Almora), Uttarayani**.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra autumn phase & tourism push

- Char Dham = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
- Yatra runs in **phases**, pausing at monsoon peak and resuming in **Sep–Nov** before winter closure.
- **Homestay scheme revised** to promote **community-based tourism** with capital subsidy.
- Tourism is pitched as a tool against **'palayan' (out-migration)** from hill villages.

Concept: The four shrines lie in **Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag and Chamoli** districts; Kedarnath (Mandakini) & Badrinath (Alaknanda) sit in the **upper Ganga basin**, an eco-sensitive, disaster-prone zone.

ENVIRONMENT Gross Environment Product (GEP): the 'Green GDP'

- GEP values **ecosystem services** — **air, water, soil and forests** — alongside economic output.
- Often called a **'Green GDP'** metric for measuring ecological health.
- Uttarakhand's **forest cover** is among the highest in India (**over 45%** of geographical area).
- Complements the idea of **payment for ecosystem services** for hill states.

Concept: Related ideas: **Green GDP**, **Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)**, **Natural Capital Accounting**, and India's target of **net-zero by 2070**.

ENVIRONMENT Disaster management & GLOF preparedness in the hills

- Uttarakhand lies in **seismic zones IV & V** — highly earthquake-prone.
- **GLOF** occurs when a **glacial lake** bursts, sending sudden downstream floods.
- Response chain: **NDMA – SDMA – DDMA**, with **SDRF/NDRF** rescue.
- Lessons from the **2013 Kedarnath** and **2021 Chamoli** disasters drive early-warning systems.

Concept: Framework: **Disaster Management Act, 2005** created **NDMA** (PM-chaired) and state/district authorities; India follows the **Sendai Framework** for disaster risk reduction.

IR India–New Zealand FTA to take effect 20 Oct 2026

- India secured **100% duty-free access** for its exports to New Zealand.
- Bilateral trade target: **double to ₹35,000 crore** within **five years**.
- Follows the **first Indian PM visit** to New Zealand in **40 years**.
- Adds to India's FTA network (**UAE, Australia, EFTA, UK**).

Concept: An **FTA** cuts tariffs/quotas between partners; deeper forms include **CEPA/CECA**. Trade terms link to **WTO** rules and India's export-diversification goals.

ECONOMY Make in India completes 12 years

- Original target: raise manufacturing to **25% of GDP**.
- Non-petroleum exports rose from **$253.5 bn (2014-15)** to **$388.3 bn (2025-26)**.
- Manufacturing GVA share (new series): **14.6% → 15.6%**.
- **PLI** investment reached about **₹2.4 lakh crore** by March 2026.

Concept: Linked schemes: **PLI, PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy, Startup India**; measures like **GVA** and **FDI** track industrial health.

ECONOMY RBI absorbs surplus liquidity via VRRR auction

- VRRR absorbed **₹71,971 crore** (notified **₹75,000 crore**) at a **5.24%** cut-off.
- System **surplus liquidity** stood around **₹4.92 lakh crore**.
- Also planned **OMO sales** totalling about **₹1 lakh crore** in September.
- Aim: keep short-term rates aligned with the **repo rate**.

Concept: **VRRR** withdraws liquidity; **VRR** injects it. Key tools: **repo, reverse repo, CRR, SLR, OMO**; the **MPC** sets the policy repo rate.

SCI-TECH Global human brain-cell atlas published

- Focus: the **dorsolateral prefrontal cortex**, key to reasoning and decision-making.
- Analysed nuclei from over **6.3 million brain cells**.
- Insights into **neurodevelopment, ageing** and **neuropsychiatric conditions**.
- Indian researchers were part of the global effort.

Concept: Builds on **Human Genome Project** and single-cell genomics; relates to India's schemes like the **National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems**.

DEFENCE MoD signs ₹810.79 crore deal for SAT-SAAW

- Deal for **160 SAT-SAAW** (Satellite-guided Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons).
- Contract value: **₹810.79 crore**, signed **23 September 2026**.
- Strengthens the IAF's **precision-strike** capability.
- Part of the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** defence push.

Concept: Related: **DRDO, DAP-2020, defence corridors (UP & Tamil Nadu), positive indigenisation lists**; India remains a major arms importer.

Monday, 28 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-28.html

UTTARAKHAND Uttarakhand releases GEP technical report & Science, Technology & Innovation Policy-2026

- GEP report values the state's natural capital — **forests, water, biodiversity, soil conservation** and **carbon sequestration** — in economic terms.
- CM directed that **carbon-credit mechanisms** be built into the STI policy to reward conservation.
- STI Policy-2026 focuses on **Himalaya-specific research**: **glacier science, disaster management, energy, water, agriculture, health**, plus **IPR** and start-ups.
- Instruction to make **rainwater harvesting** low-cost and locally adapted for common citizens.
- Nodal body: **UCOST** (Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology); partners incl. **IIT Roorkee**, **ANRF** and **HESCO**.

Concept: **GEP** = value of ecological goods/services, complementing **GDP**. Uttarakhand became the **first state** to launch a **GEP Index (July 2024)** built on **four pillars — Air, Water, Soil, Forest**. GEP idea was championed by **HESCO founder Dr Anil Prakash Joshi**.

UTTARAKHAND Early Himalayan snowfall: 121 trekkers rescued at Gomukh-Tapovan; Char Dham Yatra resumes

- **136** people stranded in high passes: **89** expedition members, **18** at **Kalindi Pass** base camp, **29** at **Auden's Col** base camp.
- **3 helicopters** positioned at **Harsil**; agencies: **SDRF, NDRF, Police, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM)**, Forest Dept.
- Snowfall also reported at **Kedarnath, Gangotri** and **Hemkund Sahib**; **Garhwal Commissioner** ordered DMs to hold pilgrims at safe points.
- Yatra began **19 April**; **2024** footfall exceeded **50.87 lakh** (**Badrinath 17.47 lakh**, highest).

Concept: Kalindi Khal/Pass (~5,940 m) links **Gangotri** with **Badrinath (Mana)**; **Auden's Col** joins **Gangotri** and **Bhilangna** valleys. **Gangotri National Park** (est. **1989**) lies in **Uttarkashi**. **SDRF Uttarakhand** was formed after the **2013 Kedarnath** disaster.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham footfall snapshot: Badrinath & Kedarnath carry two-thirds of pilgrim load

- **Badrinath 17.47 lakh**, **Kedarnath 15.03 lakh**, **Gangotri 7.95 lakh**, **Yamunotri 7.13 lakh** (2024).
- **Hemkund Sahib** (Chamoli) recorded **3.26 lakh** visitors.
- Yatra runs **April-November**; online **registration** is mandatory for all pilgrims.
- Shrines: **Yamunotri & Gangotri — Uttarkashi**; **Kedarnath — Rudraprayag**; **Badrinath — Chamoli**.

Concept: Rivers: Yamunotri–**Yamuna**; Gangotri–**Bhagirathi**; Kedarnath–**Mandakini**; Badrinath–**Alaknanda**. **Carrying capacity** = maximum visitors a place can support without ecological or safety damage.

ECONOMY Uttarakhand's ~350 MW peak power deficit exposes hydro-dependence; NTPC-EDF pumped-storage JV

- **UJVN Ltd** hydro output down **~170 MW** year-on-year: **1,094 MW → 912 MW** in September.
- Central hydro share down **~90 MW**; **Tehri Pumped Storage Plant** technical unavailability **~100 MW**.
- **UPCL** (distribution utility) is trying to minimise cuts; state plans to recover dues from government offices.
- NTPC-EDF JV cites national target of **100 GW pumped-storage capacity by 2036**.

Concept: Pumped storage: water pumped uphill when power is cheap and released through turbines at peak — a 'water battery'. **Tehri Dam** is on the **Bhagirathi** (Tehri Garhwal) and operated by **THDC India**; the state's power utilities are **UJVN (generation), PTCUL (transmission), UPCL (distribution)**.

UTTARAKHAND Bindukhatta revenue-village demand: 15,000 march; CM to place issue before cabinet

- Bindukhatta began as a **British-era forest settlement** for cattle rearing; residents hold community, not individual, rights.
- Demand pending since **1985**; block & district **Forest Rights Committees** have cleared the claim under **FRA 2006**.
- File was sent back to the **Nainital DM** for re-examination, triggering the protest; markets at **Car Road & Ghodanala** shut in support.
- A proposed **elephant corridor (2018)** in the area has added to residents' fears of displacement.

Concept: Revenue village = surveyed unit with defined boundaries where land is recorded in revenue records, enabling **ownership, registry, loans**. **FRA 2006 Sec 3(1)(h)** grants the right to **convert forest villages** into revenue villages; the **Gram Sabha** initiates claims.

POLITY Panchayat by-polls: voting on 12 October, results on 14 October

- Schedule: nominations **30 Sept-1 Oct**; scrutiny **3 Oct**; withdrawal **4 Oct**; symbols **5 Oct**; **polling 12 Oct**; **counting 14 Oct**.
- Uttarkashi: **1 Gram Pradhan** & **2 Kshetra Panchayat member** posts (**Bhatwari**) plus ward members.
- Ward posts by block: **Naugaon 71**, **Bhatwari 39**, **Dunda 39**, **Mori 23**, **Chinyalisaur 21**, **Purola 6**.
- Uttarakhand follows a **three-tier** system: **Gram Panchayat — Kshetra Panchayat — Zila Panchayat** (Haridwar polls held separately).

Concept: Art 243K: superintendence of panchayat elections vests in the **State Election Commission**, appointed by the **Governor**; removed only like a **High Court judge**. Vacancies must be filled within **6 months** (**Art 243E**).

ENVIRONMENT NTCA clears second phase of tiger translocation from Corbett to Rajaji's western zone

- Aim: revive Rajaji's **isolated western tiger population** and ease **human-tiger conflict** around Corbett.
- Each tiger will be **radio-collared** after a health check.
- **Soft release**: **3-4 days** in an acclimatisation enclosure, then **~3 months** of radio monitoring.
- Rajaji's western part is cut off from the east by the **Ganga**, highways and settlements.

Concept: Corbett — India's **first national park (1936, Hailey NP)**; **Project Tiger launched here in 1973**. **Rajaji** declared **Tiger Reserve in 2015**, spread over **Haridwar, Dehradun, Pauri**. **NTCA** is a statutory body under **WPA 1972 (2006 amendment)**.

REPORT India climbs 9 places to 31st in WEF Travel & Tourism Development Index 2026

- Top 5: **Japan (5.27)**, **USA**, **Spain**, **Australia**, **France**; lowest: **Mali (2.75)**.
- India's strengths: **price competitiveness**, **natural & cultural resources** (top-10 for **cultural World Heritage sites**), better infrastructure.
- Weak spots: **workforce skills**, **environmental sustainability**, tourism infrastructure capacity.
- **101 of 110** economies improved scores; average rise **2.1%**.

Concept: TTDI (successor to the **TTCI**, since **2022**) is published **biennially** by the **WEF** and measures enabling factors — not arrivals or spending. **World Tourism Day** is observed on **27 Sept** (UN Tourism).

IR UNGA adopts first-ever declaration on sea-level rise; protects statehood & maritime zones

- Creates a **presumption of continued statehood** and preservation of **maritime zones** even if coastlines retreat.
- Four pillars: **science & early warning**, **accessible finance**, protection of **livelihoods & heritage**, **international law**.
- Global sea level rose **~6 mm in 2024** — the **largest annual rise on record**; **~770 million** people live within **5 m** of high tide.
- Relevance to India: **Lakshadweep, Andaman & Nicobar, Sundarbans**; India has a **~11,000 km** coastline (revised).

Concept: UNCLOS (1982): **Territorial sea 12 nm**, **Contiguous zone 24 nm**, **EEZ 200 nm** — all measured from **baselines**. **COP31** is due in **Antalya, Türkiye (Nov 2026)**.

DEFENCE Exercise Tarang Shakti 2026 enters operational phase at Jodhpur

- **2nd edition** — the first was held in **2024**; theme **"Power in Partnership"**.
- Foreign participants: **Australia, USA, UAE, France, Germany, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh**.
- Aircraft: **F-35 Lightning II, Rafale, F-16, A400M, MRTT, C-130J, KC-30A**; IAF fields **Tejas, Su-30MKI, Rafale**.
- Includes seminars, **defence-industry** tours and cultural exchanges.

Concept: Interoperability = ability of forces of different nations to operate together. Other IAF exercises: **Garuda (France)**, **Cope India (USA)**, **Red Flag (USA-hosted)**, **Pitch Black (Australia-hosted)**.

POLITY Right to vote: statutory or fundamental? Deletion errors revive constitutional debate

- At present voting is a **statutory right** under **RPA 1951 (Sec 62)**; **Art 326** provides for **universal adult suffrage** at **18 years**.
- **Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India (2006)**: right to vote is **statutory**, not fundamental.
- **Justice Ajay Rastogi's 2023 dissent** linked voting to **Art 19(1)(a)** and **Art 21**.
- **Supreme Court (May 2026)** upheld the ECI's authority to conduct the **SIR**.

Concept: Art 324 — ECI superintends elections; **Art 326** — adult suffrage (voting age cut from **21 to 18** by the **61st Amendment, 1988**). **Right to vote** (statutory) differs from **freedom of voting** (expression, **PUCL 2013 — NOTA**).

Tuesday, 29 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-29.html

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra 2026 hits record 53.23 lakh pilgrims; Gangotri sets all-time high

- **Badrinath 18.10 lakh**, **Kedarnath 15.57 lakh**, **Gangotri 8.41 lakh** (**highest ever**), **Yamunotri 7.5 lakh+**.
- **Hemkund Sahib**: **3,52,765** pilgrims, past **3 lakh** for the first time in several years.
- Disaster management teams on **24x7 alert** in **Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Uttarkashi**.
- Second phase of the yatra began in **mid-September** after the monsoon.

> **Concept:** **Badrinath** (Chamoli, **Alaknanda**, Vishnu); **Kedarnath** (Rudraprayag, **Mandakini**, Jyotirlinga); **Gangotri** (Uttarkashi, **Bhagirathi**); **Yamunotri** (Uttarkashi, **Yamuna**). **Hemkund Sahib** lies near the **Valley of Flowers** (Chamoli).

UTTARAKHAND Early snowfall strands 136 climbers in Uttarkashi; multi-agency air rescue under way

- Stranded: **89** expedition members, **18** trekkers at **Kalindi Pass**, **29** at **Auden's Col**.
- Monday: **40** evacuated by **4 helicopters** (29 from Auden's Col, 11 from Kalindi Khal); **9** more on Tuesday — **49** safe at **Harsil helipad**.
- Agencies: **SDRF, ITBP, NDRF, NIM Uttarkashi**, Forest, Police, Health; district control room led by the **DM**.
- Others still at camps near **Mount Jogin** and Kalindi base are being supplied rations and water.

> **Concept:** **Kalindi Khal** (~**5,940 m**) links **Gangotri to Badrinath (Mana)**; **Auden's Col** links the **Gangotri valley** to the **Khatling glacier** (Tehri). **NIM Uttarkashi** was set up in **1965**; state **SDRF** was raised after the **2013 Kedarnath disaster**.

POLITY Uttarakhand panchayat by-polls on 12 October; nominations open 30 September

- Schedule: nominations **30 Sept–1 Oct**, scrutiny **3 Oct**, withdrawal **4 Oct**, symbols **5 Oct**.
- **Voting 12 Oct**, **counting 14 Oct**.
- Uttarkashi ward vacancies: **Naugaon 71**, **Bhatwari 39**, **Dunda 39**, **Mori 23**, **Chinyalisaur 21**, **Purola 6**.

> **Concept:** **73rd Amendment (1992)** added **Part IX**; **Art. 243K** — State Election Commission conducts panchayat polls; **Art. 243E** — 5-year term, vacancies filled within **6 months**. Uttarakhand runs a **three-tier** system under the **Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj Act, 2016**.

ENVIRONMENT SARRA to scientifically revive 54 historic naula-dhara water sources across Uttarakhand

- Ancient stone structures to be preserved with **zero-cement structural engineering** and **stone corbelling**.
- Tools: **geo-tagging, GIS mapping**, **springshed** and **hydrogeological** analysis.
- **Contour trenches** and recharge works in **catchment (recharge) zones**.
- Partners: **UCOST**, **HNB Garhwal University**, Watershed Management Directorate and **gram panchayats**.

Concept: **Naula** = stone-lined stepwell-like spring tank (Kumaon); **dhara** = spring spout; **gul** = hill irrigation channel. SARRA was constituted in **2025**; drying Himalayan springs threaten both drinking water and river base flow.

UTTARAKHAND 120th All India Kisan Mela at GBPUAT Pantnagar from 3 to 6 October

- **400+** stalls; focus on **drones**, **natural farming**, agri-machinery, **agri-startups**, traditional crops and cattle care.
- Seeds on sale: **2,039 q wheat**, **100 q oilseeds**, **50 q lentil**, 26 q gram, 5 q barley.
- **15% discount** on basic price of **breeder seed**; horticulture and forestry planting material too.

Concept: **GBPUAT** (inaugurated **1960**) is India's **first agricultural university** on the land-grant model and a cradle of the **Green Revolution**; **breeder seed → foundation seed → certified seed** is the seed chain.

SOCIETY Uttarakhand's Sania Joshi and Parth Vohra win silver at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026

- **Sania Joshi** — silver in **Retail Sales**; **Parth Vohra** — silver in **Industrial Design Technology**.
- India: **6 silver** medals and **20 Medallions for Excellence**.
- About **1,400** competitors in **64 skill trades**.
- Selected through **IndiaSkills 2025-26** (state → regional → national rounds).

Concept: **WorldSkills** is a **biennial** "skills Olympics"; India's participation is coordinated under the **Skill India Mission** (launched **2015**).

ECONOMY CPI climbs to 4.82% in August; RBI MPC meets 5–7 October with repo at 5.25%

- Current **repo rate 5.25%**, **neutral** stance (held in **August**).
- Poll: **35 of 61** economists expect a **25 bps** hike to **5.50%**.
- Inflation is now broad-based; policy transmission to loans is the key concern.

Concept: **MPC** under **Sec 45ZB, RBI Act 1934** (inserted **2016**): **6 members**, Governor has a **casting vote**. **Flexible inflation targeting: 4% ± 2%** on **CPI (Combined)** released by **NSO/MoSPI**.

ECONOMY Bharat Maritime Insurance Pool builds a home-grown shield against war-risk premiums

- Underwriting capacity **₹13,906.50 cr (~US$1.5 bn)**; **sovereign guarantee ₹12,980 cr**.
- Covers **Hull & Machinery**, **Cargo**, **Protection & Indemnity (P&I)** and **War Risk**.
- By **7 Sept**: **3,000** cargo-war, **92** hull war-risk, **3** P&I policies; war-risk premiums down **35–40%**.
- Administered by **GIC Re**; tenure **10 years**, extendable to **15**.

Concept: **P&I** insurance covers **third-party liabilities** (crew, pollution, collision). Prior annual premium outflow was about **US$45–60 mn**.

SCI-TECH Rice-straw bio-bitumen moves towards highway standards; CSIR-IIP Dehradun a co-developer

- Bio-oil replaces **20–30%** of the **petroleum binder** in bitumen.
- Made by **pyrolysis** of post-harvest **rice straw** (high heat, **no oxygen**).
- Field trial: **100 m** on **Jorabat–Shillong Expressway (NH-40)**, Meghalaya.
- Co-products: combustible gas, bio-pesticide fractions, **high-grade carbon**.

Concept: **Pyrolysis** = thermal decomposition without oxygen → bio-oil + syngas + biochar. **CSIR-IIP Dehradun** (est. **1960**) is a key petroleum and bio-fuel lab in Uttarakhand.

DEFENCE Exercise VARUNA 2026: INS Trishul joins French Navy at Toulon for 24th edition

- Bilateral naval exercise begun in **1993**, named **VARUNA** in **2001**.
- **INS Trishul** is a **Talwar-class stealth frigate**.
- Sea phase: anti-air, anti-submarine drills, cross-deck operations, replenishment at sea.

Concept: India–France **Strategic Partnership** since **1998**; other India–France exercises: **Shakti** (Army), **Garuda** (Air Force).

SOCIETY PM-AJAY: 18,093 SC-majority villages declared Adarsh Grams

- **18,093** villages declared **Adarsh Gram**; **47.79 lakh** beneficiaries.
- Village eligibility: **≥40% SC** population and total population **≥500**.
- **₹1,730+ cr** released (FY22–FY26); **785** hostels completed.

Concept: Launched **2021-22**, **100% centrally sponsored**; merged **PM Adarsh Gram Yojana**, **SCA to SCSP** and **Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana**.

Wednesday, 30 September 2026

Full notes with diagrams: studyforgs.com/current-affairs/ukpsc/2026-09-30.html

UTTARAKHAND Early Snowfall Strands 180 Trekkers on 10 High-Altitude Routes; 1,500 Kedarnath Pilgrims Rescued

- **180 trekkers** on **10 routes**: **137** on **9 treks** in **Uttarkashi** and **43** at **Khati–Pindari Glacier** (**Bageshwar**).
- About **1,500 pilgrims** evacuated from the **Chhirbasa** landslide zone near **Gaurikund** on the Kedarnath route amid rockfall.
- **19** trekkers airlifted from **Kalindi Khal** and **29** from **Auden's Col** to **Harsil helipad**; **8 helicopters** deployed.
- **SDRF, NDRF and DDRF** coordinated; **no casualties** reported; foreign climbers were also stranded at **Tapovan** base camp.

Concept: **SDRF Uttarakhand** was raised after the **2013 Kedarnath disaster**; the **DM Act, 2005** created the **NDMA–SDMA–DDMA** tiers. **Kalindi Khal (~5,900 m)** links **Gangotri** with **Badrinath**.

UTTARAKHAND Char Dham Yatra Crosses 53 Lakh Pilgrims; Gangotri Logs Highest-Ever Footfall

- Total **53,23,401** pilgrims against about **46 lakh** in the same period last year.
- **Badrinath 18.10 lakh**, **Kedarnath 15.57 lakh**, **Gangotri 8.41 lakh** (record), **Yamunotri 7.5 lakh**.
- **Hemkund Sahib**: **3,52,765** devotees, above **3 lakh** for the first time in several years; portals close on **10 October**.

Concept: **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri** — **Uttarkashi**; **Kedarnath** — **Rudraprayag** (Mandakini); **Badrinath** — **Chamoli** (Alaknanda). **Hemkund Sahib** is in **Chamoli**, near the **Valley of Flowers**.

UTTARAKHAND SARRA to Revive 54 Historical Naulas and Dharas Across Uttarakhand

- Restoration uses **cement-free stone masonry** and **corbelling** — 'zero-cement' engineering that resists **seismic** damage.
- Teams trained in **geo-tagging**, **GIS mapping** and **contour trenches** in **recharge zones**.
- Work will run with **village panchayats**, linking water heritage (**'Jal Mandir'** architecture) with modern hydrogeology.

Concept: A **naula** is a stepped stone reservoir that collects groundwater seepage; a **dhara** is a spout-fed spring. A **NITI Aayog (2018)** study found that nearly **half of Himalayan springs** are drying or declining.

UTTARAKHAND Rajya Sabha Poll for One Uttarakhand Seat on 16 October

- Notification **29 September**; last date for nominations **6 October**; scrutiny **7 October**; withdrawal **9 October**.
- Polling and counting on **16 October**; electors are the **70 elected MLAs** of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly.
- A by-election for **1 West Bengal** seat will be held alongside.

Concept: Rajya Sabha members are chosen by elected MLAs through **proportional representation by single transferable vote** (**Art. 80(4)**); the House is **permanent**, with **one-third** members retiring every **2 years** (term **6 years**).

UTTARAKHAND Garhwal Rifles Leads India at KAZIND-2026; Yudh Abhyas Concludes at Auli

- KAZIND: **28 September – 11 October**; **60** Indian personnel; focus on **counter-terrorism** in semi-urban and mountainous terrain.
- Drills include **air mobility**, **UAS/counter-UAS**, raids, cordon-and-search and a **Joint Command Post**.
- **Yudh Abhyas 2026** (22nd edition) was hosted at **Auli (Chamoli)** — high-altitude training with the US Army.

Concept: Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre — **Lansdowne** (Pauri Garhwal); **Kumaon Regiment Centre** — **Ranikhet** (Almora). KAZIND supports India's **Connect Central Asia** policy.

UTTARAKHAND Pantnagar to Host 120th All India Kisan Mela from 3 October

- The fair is held **twice a year**; the **119th** edition was held on **13–16 March 2026**.
- Focus on **drone spraying**, precision farming, improved **seed** varieties and **animal husbandry** for plains and hill farmers.
- Stalls from agri-industries, state departments and **KVKs**, with direct seed sale to farmers.

Concept: GBPUAT (est. **1960**) is **India's first agricultural university**, built on the US **land-grant model**, and is hailed as a **harbinger of the Green Revolution**.

ENVIRONMENT India Issues First PRAMAAN Certificates for Sustainable Forestry

- APFDC plantations covering **33,000 hectares** certified for sustainable management.
- IFWCS was launched by **MoEFCC** in **December 2023**; operating agency: **IIFM, Bhopal**.
- Third-party audits by **NABCB-accredited** bodies; standards cover **forest management**, **trees outside forests** and **chain of custody**.
- Helps exporters comply with the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**.

Concept: Forest certification verifies that wood comes from legally and sustainably managed sources; IFWCS standards align with the **National Working Plan Code, 2023**.

ECONOMY Sagarmala Finance Launches India's First Blue Bond

- Size **₹600 crore**, including a **₹500 crore green-shoe** option; tenor **10 years**.
- Rated **AA+** by **ICRA** and **CARE**.
- Proceeds for **maritime lending**, **greenfield ports** and **coastal road** networks, to be used within **FY 2026-27**.

Concept: A **blue bond** is debt that finances **ocean and marine** projects; **Seychelles** issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in **2018**. India's first **sovereign green bonds** came in **January 2023**.

ECONOMY Pashudhan Bima Portal Launched for Digital Livestock Insurance

- End-to-end online enrolment, premium payment and **claims** tracking.
- Available in **11 regional languages** plus **Hindi** and **English**.
- Aims to cut paperwork and speed up settlement for **small and marginal** livestock keepers.

Concept: The **NLM** (2014-15, revamped in 2021-22) covers breed development, **feed and fodder** and **risk management**, including livestock insurance with a **premium subsidy**.

DEFENCE HAL Signs ₹2,491-Crore MoU with SkyPulse for 30 Civil Helicopters

- **Phase 1 (2027–29): 10** helicopters; **Phase 2 (2030 onwards): 20**.
- Uses: **HEMS** (air ambulance), **disaster response**, **search and rescue**, tourism, **UDAN** routes and charters.
- Package includes **MRO**, training and spares support.

> **Concept: HAL** (Bengaluru, founded **1940**) is a **Maharatna** defence PSU. **UDAN** (**2016**) is the **Regional Connectivity Scheme** for affordable flying.

SOCIETY India Ranks 10th at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 with 6 Silver Medals

- **6 silver medals** and **20 Medallions for Excellence**.
- Silvers in **Bakery** (Smriti Nambiar — **Best of Nation**), **Dental Prosthetics**, **Digital Interactive Media Design**, **Industrial Design Technology**, **Logistics** and **Retail Sales**.
- Over **1,400** competitors from about **70 countries**; next edition in **Aichi, Japan (2028)**.

> **Concept: WorldSkills International** holds the 'Skills Olympics' every **2 years**; India's participation is steered by **MSDE** through **NSDC**.

Prelims rapid-fire — 133

1	First state to implement a UCC → **Uttarakhand** (Act 2024)
2	SCO's newest official language → **English**
3	RBI repo rate → **5.25%**; Governor → **Sanjay Malhotra**
4	India's first Gross Environment Product (Green GDP) → **Uttarakhand**
5	New GDP base year → **2022-23** (from 2011-12)
6	Teachers' Day honours → **Dr S. Radhakrishnan** (Bharat Ratna 1954)
7	**Teelu Rauteli** — legendary **Garhwali woman warrior** commemorated by a state pension/ award.
8	**GLOF** stands for **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood**, a key Himalayan hazard.
9	**GEP** (Gross Environment Product) — Uttarakhand is the **first Indian state** to adopt it.
10	**Article 44** (DPSP) directs the State to secure a **Uniform Civil Code**.
11	**Tax buoyancy > 1** means tax revenue grows **faster than GDP**.
12	**AK-203** rifles are manufactured at **Korwa, Amethi (UP)** by the India-Russia JV **IRRPL**.
13	Winter **Corbett-region tourism festivals** promote off-season Kumaon tourism and 'Vocal for Local'.
14	The **16th National Meet of State Biodiversity Boards** was held in **Chandigarh**.
15	The **National Biodiversity Authority** crossed **₹200-crore** cumulative Access & Benefit-Sharing disbursement.
16	India's **U-20 men's football** team qualified for the **AFC U-20 Asian Cup** after 20 years.
17	The **IAF Sarang** helicopter display team performed at the **El Alamein Airshow, Egypt**.
18	**Tamil Nadu** began **Phase-3 underwater archaeology** at **Poompuhar**.
19	**International Literacy Day** is observed on **8 September** (UNESCO).
20	ISRO launched earth-observation satellite **EOS-05** via **GSLV** on **4 Sep 2026**.
21	**PM-KISAN** extended to **2030–31** with a **₹3.15 lakh crore** outlay (₹6,000/yr).
22	**Semicon India Programme 2.0** notified with a **₹1.27 lakh crore** outlay.
23	Uttarakhand Cabinet: job security for **7,000+ UPNL** staff; FY **2026–27** budget **₹1.11 lakh crore**.
24	A Japanese agency upgraded India's sovereign rating to **A-** (from BBB+) on **2 Sep 2026**.
25	Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27 size? **₹1.11 lakh crore** (GYAN model).
26	First state to enforce a UCC? **Uttarakhand** (27 Jan 2025).
27	GEP values which four domains? **Air, water, soil and forest**.
28	Venue of the 18th BRICS Summit? **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
29	RBI repo rate (Aug 2026)? **5.25%**, neutral stance.
30	Poshan Maah 2026 theme? '**Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari**'.
31	**Sheetal Devi** won compound gold at the **World Archery Para Series** (Ahmedabad); India finished **2nd** overall.
32	Uttarakhand's **GYAN model** targets **Gareeb, Yuva, Annadata, Nari**.
33	**PM-SETU** approved **₹735.7 cr** for 3 new **ITI clusters** (Bhiwadi, Medchal, Meerut).

34	New lichen species **Buellia maharajensis** found in **Mathikettan Shola NP, Kerala**.
35	**Char Dham** = **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath** (Uttarakhand).
36	**Dr Vinaya Prakash Singh** re-elected **APPU** Secretary-General (2027–30).
37	**GalaxEye** (India) won a US patent for **OptoSAR** — fusing **optical + SAR** for all-weather imaging.
38	**SDRF** (State Disaster Response Force) is Uttarakhand's dedicated rescue unit for Himalayan disasters.
39	The **Char Dham** comprises Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.
40	Uttarakhand pioneered accounting for **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** alongside GSDP.
41	**DFCCIL** operates India's Dedicated Freight Corridors under the Ministry of Railways.
42	**PMMVY** completed **10 years** in 2026; **POSHAN Abhiyaan** was launched in **2018**.
43	India's forex reserves are held largely as **Foreign Currency Assets** by the **RBI**.
44	**Char Dham Yatra** second phase begins **Sep 15, 2026**.
45	**Himalaya Diwas** is observed every year on **September 9**.
46	**Bhu-Aadhaar** is a **14-digit** unique land parcel ID (ULPIN).
47	**ISRO's CE20** cryogenic engine was tested at **220 kN** thrust for **LVM3**.
48	The **first BRICS Summit** was held in **2009** at **Yekaterinburg, Russia**.
49	**Uttarakhand** was the **first state** to launch a **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** index (2024).
50	The **Kishau Multipurpose Project** is on the **Tons** river, largest tributary of the **Yamuna**.
51	Uttarakhand is India's **first state** to launch a **Gross Environment Product (GEP)** index (2024).
52	The **Char Dham**: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
53	**August 2026 CPI** inflation = **4.82%**; RBI target **4% (±2%)**.
54	India hosted the **11-member BRICS Summit** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
55	Uttarakhand's **UCC** took effect on **27 Jan 2025**; online marriage registrations crossed **4.7 lakh**.
56	**Seismic zones** covering most of Uttarakhand: **Zone IV & V**.
57	**Char Dham** by 2026 footfall: **Kedarnath > Badrinath > Yamunotri > Gangotri**.
58	**State bird / animal** of Uttarakhand: **Himalayan Monal** / **Alpine Musk Deer**.
59	**Repo rate** (Aug 2026): **5.25%**; **SDF 5.00%**, **MSF 5.50%**.
60	**18th BRICS Summit** venue: **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**.
61	**World Ozone Day**: **16 September**; treaty: **Montreal Protocol (1987)**.
62	**Seva Sankalp Abhiyan**: runs **17 Sep–17 Oct 2026** in Uttarakhand.
63	**Char Dham Yatra 2026**: crossed **50 lakh** pilgrims; target **60 lakh**.
64	**EPFO wage ceiling**: raised to **₹25,000** (from ₹15,000), effective 17 Sep.
65	**India Q1 FY27 GDP**: **7.8%**, above RBI's 7% forecast.
66	**UCC Uttarakhand**: **first state** to implement; **4.7 lakh+** marriages registered.
67	**GEP**: Uttarakhand launched India's **first Gross Environment Product**.
68	**GSLV-F17** launched **EOS-05** on **4 Sept 2026** - India's first GEO imaging satellite.
69	**Venus Orbiter Mission**: **₹1,236 crore**, launch **March 2028**, **19 payloads**.

70	Uttarakhand's **GEP** (air, water, soil, forests) was **India's first** green-GDP model.
71	The **Kumbh Mela** is on UNESCO's **Intangible Cultural Heritage** list (**2017**).
72	**Iceland** tops the **Global Gender Gap Index 2026**; **India** is **131st**.
73	**RBI repo rate: 5.5%**; inflation target **4% (+/- 2%)**.
74	**ULLAS** = Nav Bharat Saaksharta Karyakram (New India Literacy Programme).
75	Uttarakhand's four Dhams: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath**.
76	**GEP** components: air (GAP), water (GWP), soil (GSP), forest (GFP).
77	UPI **MDR** of **0.4%** applies on P2M above ₹2,000 from 15 Oct 2026.
78	**WDFC** runs Dadri → JNPT, length **1,506 km**.
79	**CoBRA** (raised 2008) is the CRPF's jungle-warfare, anti-LWE force.
80	**Asian Games 2026** are being held in **Aichi-Nagoya, Japan**; India has fielded about **508 athletes**.
81	**Vasudhara Tal (Chamoli)** is a **Category-A** GLOF-risk glacial lake in Uttarakhand.
82	**House of Himalayas** is the common brand for women's SHG products from all **13 UK districts**.
83	The **EPFO** wage ceiling was raised to **Rs 25,000** - the first revision since **2014**.
84	**Dhiraj Bommadevara** became the first Indian male recurve archer to win the **World Cup Final**.
85	The **22nd Yudh Abhyas** is held at **Auli (Uttarakhand)** and **Mahajan (Rajasthan)**.
86	**GOBARdhan**: Compressed Biogas (CBG) priced at **₹2,110/MMBTU (₹98/kg)**, with **₹10/kg** support for 10 years.
87	**Karnataka** gave **Tulu** additional official-language status in Dakshina Kannada & Udupi; **₹82 lakh/yr** for translation.
88	**NPCI**: UPI transactions **above ₹2,000** to attract **0.4% MDR** from **15 Oct 2026**; below ₹2,000 stay free.
89	**Arthur M. Bueche Award 2026** went to Indian-American **Sethuraman Panchanathan** - a first for an Indian-origin scientist.
90	**Registration of Births & Deaths (Amendment) Act 2026** effective **1 Oct 2026**; digital birth certificate as single document.
91	**Swachhata Hi Seva 2026**: **17 Sept-2 Oct**, theme 'Swachhata Mein Sahbhag; Swachh Bharat, Viksit Bharat'.
92	A new wild cat, **Leopardus tilcayo**, was described from Bolivia's Yungas cloud forest (**17 Sep 2026**) — the first new living feline in over a century.
93	The Marathi film **'Gondhal'** is India's official entry for the **Oscars 2027** (Best International Feature Film).
94	**World Bamboo Day** is observed on **18 September**.
95	Uttarakhand set a record by receiving **18 GI tags in a single day** — the most by any state.
96	India will host the **11th Asian Wushu Championships in 2028** (~500 athletes, 42 nations).
97	Uttarakhand's **Valley of Flowers** & **Nanda Devi** form a UNESCO site; the state also has **Jim Corbett** (India's oldest NP, 1936) and **Rajaji** tiger reserves.
98	**NSWS** (National Single Window System) uses **PAN** as a **Single Business ID**; run by **DPIIT**; launched **22 Sept 2021**.
99	**National Ayush Mission** received **₹6,406.99 crore** (2014-15 to 2025-26); it is a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme**.

100 **Punjab** groundwater extraction is at **156.87%**; **115 of 153** units over-exploited — scheme '**Paani Bachao, Paisa Kamao**'.

101 **Bab el-Mandeb Strait** links the **Red Sea** to the **Gulf of Aden**; **Perim Island** lies within it.

102 **Agasthyamalai Biosphere Reserve** lies in the Southern **Western Ghats**, spanning **Kerala & Tamil Nadu**.

103 Uttarakhand holds a record of **18 GI tags in a single day**; e.g., **Uttarakhand Pahari Toor Dal**.

104 Badrinath Dham's 2026 footfall crossed **17.79 lakh** — its highest ever.

105 Exercise **Nomadic Elephant 2026** (India–Mongolia) is being held at **Pithoragarh**, Uttarakhand.

106 India's semiconductor market is projected to reach **$200 billion by 2035**.

107 Non-fossil sources now exceed **54%** of India's installed power capacity.

108 Uttarakhand was the **first state** to implement a **Uniform Civil Code**.

109 **GST 2.0** (effective 22 Sept 2025) uses slabs of **0%, 5%, 18% & 40%**.

110 **Great Indian Bustard**: fewer than **150** individuals left in the wild (critically endangered).

111 **INS Trishul** at Toulon, France for the **24th Exercise Varuna** with the French Navy.

112 **Asian Games 2026** (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan): India's women's cricket team won **gold**, beating Sri Lanka.

113 **Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY)** completed **8 years** (launched 23 Sept 2018).

114 **Uttarakhand** = India's **first** state to launch **Gross Environment Product (GEP)**.

115 **BIS** (est. **1 April 1987**) expanded its mandatory quality-mark list for electronics.

116 **Khatima (Udham Singh Nagar)**: CM inaugurated a **₹7.23 crore gaushala** at Haldighera and laid stones for **15 projects worth ₹108.84 crore** (24 Sept).

117 **STF Uttarakhand** cyber helpline **1930** saved **~₹73 lakh** from fraudsters in one week.

118 **Mega Ports**: **JNPT, Paradip, Kandla (Deendayal), Mundra** notified — criteria **150 MMT** bulk cargo or **7.5 million TEUs**; Mundra is the only private port.

119 **Mandeep K. Bhandari** (IAS 2001, AGMUT) appointed **CBSE Chairperson**.

120 **Poompuhar** (Mayiladuthurai, TN) underwater dig: **West Asian torpedo-jar** fragment, **ring wells**; habitation **5th-4th century BCE**.

121 **Lok Sabha** has stayed adjourned **sine die** (not prorogued) for **46+ days** since **13 Aug** — third-longest ever; record **76 days (1987)**.

122 **46th Chess Olympiad**: Held at **Samarkand (Uzbekistan)**; India won **silver (Open)** and **bronze (Women)**; golds went to hosts **Uzbekistan** and **China**.

123 **Dehradun chill**: Night minimum **18.4°C** — coldest September night in about **14 years**; **Mukteshwar** max **16.6°C** (5°C below normal).

124 **Health days**: **World Heart Day** on **29 Sept**; **World Rabies Day** on **28 Sept** (death anniversary of **Louis Pasteur**; goal: zero dog-mediated rabies deaths by **2030**).

125 **Green Highways Policy**: Launched **2015**; **1%** of NH civil cost for plantation; NH network grew from **91,287 km (2014)** to **1,46,572 km (Mar 2026)**.

126 **Kandla e-Methanol**: **150 TPD** plant at **Deendayal Port**, Gujarat; cost **₹2,300 cr**; Phase-I (**50 TPD**) by **Jan 2027**.

127 **Arogya Manthan 2026**: Marks **8 years of AB PM-JAY** (launched **23 Sept 2018**) and **5 years of ABDM**.

128 **Hemkund Sahib** portals close for winter on **10 October** after fresh snowfall.

129	**Dehradun** logged a September night low of **18.4°C**, the coldest such night in about **14 years**.
130	**Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026**: **2–5 November** at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi.
131	**Tarang Shakti 2026** (2nd edition) multinational air exercise at **AFS Jodhpur** until **12 October**.
132	**Exercise Varuna** (**24th** edition, India–France navies) under way at **Toulon**.
133	**30 September** — **International Translation Day** (feast of **St. Jerome**).

Data points

₹1.11 lakh cr

Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27 (GYAN model)
Theme **GYAN** = Garib, Yuva, Annadata, Nari. Gender budget ₹**19,692 cr**; Kumbh infra ₹**1,027 cr**; food security ₹**1,300 cr**; road development ₹**400 cr**; tourism ₹**100 cr**.

₹147.05 crore / 9,91,914 beneficiaries

Data Point of the Day — Social Security Reach
Uttarakhand's single-day, one-click DBT pension release (Sep 2026): State share ₹140.11 cr + Centre share ₹6.94 cr, covering NSAP and eight state pension categories.

₹1.11 lakh crore

Uttarakhand State Budget, FY 2026-27
Roughly a **10% increase** over the previous fiscal; **28 cabinet proposals** were cleared alongside — including an **Advanced Apple Nursery** scheme, a **Honey Production Policy 2026** and a **treated-water reuse** policy.

≈ 19.80 lakh in 34 days

Char Dham Yatra 2026 — cumulative pilgrim footfall
Kedarnath led with **7,82,136** pilgrims, followed by Badrinath **5,24,218**; a single-day peak of **89,079** devotees underlines rising pilgrim-tourism pressure and the crowd-management challenge in Uttarakhand's fragile hills.

₹1.11 lakh crore

Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27 size
Presented on **10 March 2026** by CM Dhami on the **'GYAN'** model (Garib-Yuva-Annadata-Nari). Key heads: **Annapurti** food security **₹1,300 crore**, **PM Matsya Sampada ₹160.13 crore**, **PM Awas (rural) ₹298.35 crore**, **Mission Apple ₹42 crore**.

₹1,11,703 crore

Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27 outlay
Capex ₹46,714 cr • Gender budget ₹19,692 cr • ~10% YoY rise • themed on the GYAN model.

≈ $682.2 billion

India's Foreign Exchange Reserves
As of late July 2026 — enough to cover about **11 months of imports** and roughly **89%** of external debt; the all-time high was about **$704.89 billion** (Sep 2024).

₹1.11 lakh crore

Uttarakhand Budget FY 2026-27
The State Cabinet cleared a budget of about Rs 1.11 lakh crore for 2026-27, approving 28 proposals with a green-growth focus.

4.82%

India retail (CPI) inflation, August 2026
Up from 4.45% in July and above the RBI's 4% target (band 2–6%) for a third straight month; food inflation at 5.95%.

₹1,99,853 crore — **GST collection — August 2026**
Record August mop-up, up **14.8% YoY**; domestic GST **₹1.37 lakh cr** (+9.3%), import GST up **29%**; the Apr–Aug FY27 total is **₹10.42 lakh cr** (+11%).

7.8% — **India GDP Growth — Q1 FY27 (Apr–Jun 2026)**
India's real GDP grew **7.8%** in Q1 FY27, beating the **RBI's 7% forecast**. Growth was led by **manufacturing (+9.2%)** and **services (+10%)**, while **mining contracted 2.4%** — signalling resilient momentum despite global headwinds.

₹3,81,889 crore — **Uttarakhand GSDP, 2025-26**
Projected to rise about 12% to ₹4,27,716 crore in 2026-27; the state targets 70 million tourists a year by 2030.

₹1.11 lakh crore — **Uttarakhand Budget, FY 2026-27**
Cleared by the state cabinet (25 Feb 2026) — about a 10% rise over the previous year, with continued thrust on infrastructure, tourism and hill development.

66,07,749 — **Char Dham Yatra 2026 - Pilgrim Registrations**
Total pilgrims registered for the 2026 Char Dham Yatra; a record 50.56 lakh completed darshan in the first phase alone.

50.56 lakh pilgrims — **Char Dham Yatra 2026 - Phase 1**
Highest-ever first-phase footfall; total registrations touched 66.08 lakh, with the yatra reopening for its second phase on 15 September 2026.

7.0% — **India's FY27 GDP growth forecast (Moody's, Sep 2026)**
Raised from **6.0%**; Q1 FY27 growth **7.8%**, H1 CY2026 **8.2%**, projected inflation about **4.8%**.

~₹1.11 lakh crore — **Uttarakhand State Budget, FY 2026-27**
The state cabinet cleared a record budget of about **₹1.11 lakh crore** for **2026-27**, prioritising infrastructure, hill-area development and disaster resilience (official state release).

Rs 1.11 lakh crore — **Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27**
The FY 2026-27 state budget is about **Rs 1,11,000 crore**, with thrust on villages, women, education, justice (UCC & fast-track courts) and hill infrastructure.

₹1.11 lakh crore — **Uttarakhand State Budget FY 2026–27**
The state cabinet cleared a budget of about **₹1.11 lakh crore** for **FY 2026-27**, alongside **28 proposals**, with capital spending on roads, power and **disaster resilience**, and a hill focus on migration, tourism and horticulture.

7.1% — **OECD forecast for India's real GDP growth, FY 2026-27**
Raised by **80 bps** from **6.3%** (June); FY28 seen at **6.5%**, inflation **4.7%** (2026). Highest among major forecasters — **ADB, S&P, Moody's 7.0%**, **Fitch 6.9%**, **RBI 6.7%**. World growth: **2.9%** (2026).

5.22% of GDP

India's tourism economy (World Tourism Day, 27 Sept 2026)
Tourism supports **8.46 crore** jobs (2023-24); **foreign exchange earnings ₹2.77 lakh crore** and **2.53 crore foreign tourist visits** in **2025**; **e-Visa** now for **172 countries**. For Uttarakhand, religious and adventure tourism (Char Dham, treks) is a core growth engine — WTD 2026 theme: **"Digital Agenda and AI to Redesign Tourism"**.

US$ 7.35 billion

India's net FDI inflow — July 2026
5-year high — the highest since **May 2021 (US$ 8.80 bn)** and up **64%** year-on-year. Gross inflows were **US$ 14.58 bn**; **April–July 2026** net FDI stood at **US$ 13.4 bn** against **US$ 9.7 bn** a year ago. **Mauritius, UAE and US** supplied about **70%** of equity inflows.

Practice MCQs — 44

Q1. Which one of the following is NOT one of the four shrines of the Char Dham Yatra in Uttarakhand?

1. Badrinath
2. Kedarnath
3. Vaishno Devi
4. Gangotri

Q2. With reference to the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), consider: (1) India became a full member in 2017. (2) English was recently added as an official language. (3) Its headquarters is in Moscow. Which are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q3. With reference to the National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP), consider the following statements: 1. It is a fully state-funded scheme. 2. It gives concrete shape to Article 41 of the Constitution. 3. It includes old-age, widow and disability pension components. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q4. Consider the following with reference to disaster management in Uttarakhand: 1. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) is chaired by the Chief Minister. 2. GLOF refers to flooding caused by the sudden release of water from a glacial lake. 3. The District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) is headed by the District Magistrate. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q5. Consider the following about Gross Environment Product (GEP): (1) Uttarakhand was the first Indian state to launch a GEP index. (2) GEP measures the value of air, water, forest and soil. (3) GEP replaces Gross State Domestic Product (GSDP). Which of the above is/are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q6. With reference to the RBI's August 2026 monetary policy, which statement is correct?

1. Repo rate was raised to 5.50%
2. Repo rate was kept at 5.25% with a neutral stance
3. FY27 GDP growth was cut to 6.0%
4. The CPI inflation target was scrapped

Q7. With reference to Gross Environment Product (GEP), consider the following statements: 1. Uttarakhand is the first Indian state to launch a GEP index. 2. GEP assesses the value of air, water, soil and forest. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q8. Which one of the following is NOT part of Uttarakhand's Char Dham?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Dwarka
4. Gangotri

Q9. With reference to the Gross Environment Product (GEP), consider the following statements: (1) Uttarakhand is the first Indian state to launch a GEP index. (2) GEP assesses the health of air, water, soil and forest. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q10. Consider the following about BRICS in 2026: (1) India holds the BRICS chair and hosts the 18th Summit. (2) BRICS currently has 11 member countries. Which is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q11. Consider the following about Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC): (1) Uttarakhand was the first state to implement a UCC. (2) It provides for registration of live-in relationships. (3) Scheduled Tribes are excluded from its ambit. Which of the above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q12. The Gross Environment Product (GEP) index, first launched by an Indian state, values which of the following ecological services?

1. Air and water only
2. Air, water, soil and forest
3. Only forest cover
4. Carbon credits alone

Q13. With reference to Uttarakhand's Char Dham Yatra, consider the following: 1. Kedarnath and Badrinath lie in the Garhwal Himalaya. 2. The four shrines are all dedicated to Lord Shiva. 3. The Yatra typically runs from the summer months to November. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. (a) 1 and 3 only
2. (b) 2 only
3. (c) 1 and 2 only
4. (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q14. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in the news, is: 1. Chaired by the Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister). 2. The apex body for capital procurement in the Ministry of Defence. 3. Empowered to grant 'Acceptance of Necessity' (AoN). Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

1. (a) 1 and 2 only
2. (b) 2 and 3 only
3. (c) 1 and 3 only
4. (d) 1, 2 and 3

Q15. Uttarakhand became the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product (GEP) index. It primarily assesses the health of which of the following?

1. Air, Water, Soil and Forest
2. GDP, GNP, NNP and Per-capita income
3. Roads, Rail, Power and Telecom
4. Wheat, Rice, Pulses and Millets

Q16. With reference to the Char Dham Yatra of Uttarakhand, consider the four dhams. Which one is NOT part of the Char Dham circuit?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Hemkund Sahib
4. Gangotri

Q17. The Kishau Multipurpose Project, recently in the news, is being built on which river?

1. Alaknanda
2. Tons
3. Bhagirathi
4. Sharda (Kali)

Q18. Consider the following about Gross Environment Product (GEP): 1) Uttarakhand is the first Indian state to launch a GEP index. 2) It measures the economic value of ecosystem services such as air, water, soil and forest. Which is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q19. With reference to the Gross Environment Product (GEP), consider the following: (1) Uttarakhand was the first Indian state to launch a GEP index. (2) GEP measures the value of air, water, forest and soil. Which is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q20. Consider the Char Dham shrines and their rivers. Which pair is correctly matched?

1. Kedarnath – Alaknanda
2. Badrinath – Mandakini
3. Gangotri – Bhagirathi
4. Yamunotri – Saraswati

Q21. Consider the following about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India: 1. Uttarakhand was the first state in independent India to implement a UCC. 2. The UCC is explicitly mentioned as a Fundamental Right in Part III of the Constitution. 3. Article 44 relates to the Uniform Civil Code. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 1 and 3 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q22. With reference to the Gross Environment Product (GEP), which was in the news, consider the following: 1. It is India's first initiative of its kind, launched by Uttarakhand. 2. It assigns economic value to ecological services such as air, water, forest and soil. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q23. With reference to Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) in Uttarakhand, consider the following statements: 1. The state has classified its glacial lakes into risk categories A, B and C. 2. Category-A lakes carry the maximum risk. 3. The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is among the agencies studying them. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q24. EOS-05, recently launched by ISRO, is best described as:

1. A navigation satellite in low Earth orbit
2. India's first dedicated imaging satellite in geosynchronous orbit
3. A communication satellite launched by the PSLV
4. A lunar orbiter

Q25. With reference to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India, consider the following statements: 1. The Directive Principle urging the State to secure a UCC is contained in Article 44. 2. Uttarakhand was the first state to make a UCC operational. 3. The enacted state UCCs apply uniformly to Scheduled Tribes as well. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q26. Consider the following statements about the Char Dham Yatra: 1. The four Dhams are Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. 2. Registration for the yatra requires a paid fee and Aadhaar. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q27. With reference to glacial lakes of Uttarakhand, consider the following pairs (lake : district): 1. Vasudhara Tal : Chamoli 2. Kedartal : Uttarkashi 3. Mambag : Dharchula How many pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one
2. Only two
3. All three
4. None

Q28. Consider the following statements about the recent EPFO wage-ceiling revision: 1. The mandatory-coverage wage ceiling was raised to Rs 25,000 per month. 2. It was the first such revision since 2014. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q29. With reference to the Char Dham Yatra, consider the following shrine-river pairs: 1. Kedarnath - Mandakini 2. Badrinath - Alaknanda 3. Yamunotri - Bhagirathi. Which of the pairs is/are correctly matched?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q30. The 'Gross Environment Product (GEP)', recently in news, was launched first by which Indian state, and it primarily values which of the following?

1. Sikkim; only forest cover
2. Uttarakhand; air, water, soil and forest services
3. Himachal Pradesh; hydropower output
4. Kerala; coastal ecosystems only

Q31. With reference to the Char Dham of Uttarakhand, consider the following pairs (Dham : River): 1. Yamunotri – Yamuna; 2. Gangotri – Alaknanda; 3. Kedarnath – Mandakini; 4. Badrinath – Bhagirathi. How many pairs are correctly matched?

1. Only one pair
2. Only two pairs
3. Only three pairs
4. All four pairs

Q32. Consider the following statements about Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC): 1. Uttarakhand is the first state in independent India to implement a UCC. 2. The UCC makes registration of live-in relationships mandatory. 3. Scheduled Tribes are exempted from its provisions. Which of the statements are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q33. With reference to Uttarakhand's Gross Environment Product (GEP), consider: 1) It assigns a monetary value to air, water, forest and soil. 2) Uttarakhand was the first Indian state to launch it. 3) It is designed to replace GDP as the sole growth measure. Which are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q34. The Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR), often in the news, is used by the RBI primarily to:

1. Inject liquidity into the banking system
2. Absorb surplus liquidity from the banking system
3. Set the government's fiscal deficit target
4. Regulate foreign exchange reserves

Q35. Consider the following about Exercise Nomadic Elephant 2026: 1) It is a joint military exercise between India and Mongolia. 2) The 2026 edition is being held in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. 3) The Indian contingent is drawn from the Arunachal Scouts. Which of the statements are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q36. With reference to the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), consider the following: 1) Article 44 is a part of the Fundamental Rights. 2) Uttarakhand was the first Indian state to implement a UCC. 3) The directive on UCC is non-justiciable. Which of the statements are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q37. The India–Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant', in the news recently, was held at which location in Uttarakhand?

1. Auli, Chamoli
2. Pithoragarh
3. Ranikhet, Almora
4. Chakrata, Dehradun

Q38. Consider the following about Uttarakhand: 1. It is India's first state to implement a Uniform Civil Code. 2. It is India's first state to launch a Gross Environment Product (GEP) index. Which of the statements is/are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 2 only
3. Both 1 and 2
4. Neither 1 nor 2

Q39. With reference to the Gross Environment Product (GEP) of Uttarakhand, consider the following statements: 1. Uttarakhand was the first Indian state to launch a GEP Index. 2. The GEP Index is built on the four pillars of air, water, soil and forest. 3. The GEP technical report released in September 2026 covers the years 2023-24 and 2024-25. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 and 2 only
2. 2 and 3 only
3. 1 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Q40. Kalindi Pass and Auden's Col, recently in news due to stranded trekkers, are located in which district of Uttarakhand?

1. Chamoli
2. Pithoragarh
3. Uttarkashi
4. Rudraprayag

Q41. With reference to the Char Dham Yatra 2026, which of the following shrines recorded its highest-ever pilgrim footfall this season?

1. Kedarnath
2. Badrinath
3. Gangotri
4. Yamunotri

Q42. Kalindi Khal, where climbers were stranded after early snowfall, is a high-altitude pass that connects:

1. Gangotri and Badrinath
2. Kedarnath and Badrinath
3. Yamunotri and Har Ki Dun
4. Pindari and Milam glaciers

Q43. Consider the following pairs (Shrine — District): 1. Gangotri — Uttarkashi; 2. Kedarnath — Chamoli; 3. Badrinath — Chamoli; 4. Yamunotri — Tehri Garhwal. Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

1. 1 and 3 only
2. 1, 2 and 3 only
3. 2 and 4 only
4. 1, 2, 3 and 4

Q44. With reference to PRAMAAN certification, consider the following statements: 1. It is issued under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme. 2. The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, is its operating agency. 3. It relies on self-declaration by growers without any third-party audit. Which of the statements given above are correct?

1. 1 only
2. 1 and 2 only
3. 2 and 3 only
4. 1, 2 and 3

Answer key & explanations

Q1 — Answer: C
The Char Dham of Uttarakhand comprises Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. Vaishno Devi is in Jammu & Kashmir.

Q2 — Answer: A
India joined as a full member in 2017 and English was added as an official language; however, the SCO headquarters (Secretariat) is in Beijing, not Moscow.

Q3 — Answer: B
NSAP is a Centre-sponsored scheme (not fully state-funded), so statement 1 is wrong. It operationalises Article 41 (DPSP) and includes old-age, widow and disability pensions, so 2 and 3 are correct.

Q4 — Answer: D
Under the Disaster Management Act, 2005, the SDMA is chaired by the CM and the DDMA by the DM/ Collector; GLOF is a Glacial Lake Outburst Flood. All three statements are correct.

Q5 — Answer: A
GEP complements — it does not replace — GSDP; it is an ecological measure valuing ecosystem services across air, water, forest and soil. Hence statement 3 is incorrect.

Q6 — Answer: B
The MPC held the repo rate at 5.25% (neutral stance), raised FY27 GDP to 6.7% and trimmed CPI to 5.0%; the 4% (±2%) inflation target remains in force.

Q7 — Answer: C
Uttarakhand is the first state to launch a GEP (green-GDP) index, valuing four ecosystem services — air, water, soil and forest. Both statements are correct.

Q8 — Answer: C
Uttarakhand's Char Dham comprises Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. Dwarka (Gujarat) is part of the national char-dham, not Uttarakhand's.

Q9 — Answer: C
Uttarakhand launched India's first **GEP**, valuing **air, water, soil and forest** — a green-GDP measure. Both statements are correct.

Q10 — Answer: C
India **chairs BRICS in 2026** and hosts the **18th Summit** at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi; BRICS has **11 members** after the 2024 expansion. Both are correct.

Q11 — Answer: D
All three are correct. The UCC (in force 27 Jan 2025) is India's first state UCC; it mandates live-in registration and exempts Scheduled Tribes.

Q12 — Answer: B
Uttarakhand's GEP values four services — air, water, soil and forest — as a green-GDP style measure.

Q13 — Answer: a
Kedarnath (Shiva) and Badrinath (Vishnu) are in Garhwal, so statement 2 is wrong (Badrinath is a Vishnu shrine); the Yatra runs roughly April/May to November.

Q14 — Answer: d
The DAC is headed by the Defence Minister, is the apex procurement body and grants AoN — all three are correct.

Q15 — Answer: A
GEP is a green-accounting metric that measures the ecological value of four natural resources — air, water, soil and forest. Uttarakhand launched it in 2024.

Q16 — Answer: C
The Char Dham are Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath. Hemkund Sahib is a revered Sikh shrine but is not one of the four dhams.

Q17 — Answer: B
The Kishau dam is on the **Tons**, the largest tributary of the **Yamuna**, on the Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border.

Q18 — Answer: C
Both statements are correct — Uttarakhand launched India's **first GEP index (2024)**, valuing **air, water, soil and forest** ecosystem services.

Q19 — Answer: C
Uttarakhand (2024) launched India's first GEP index, which values air, water, forest and soil — so both statements are correct.

Q20 — Answer: C
Gangotri lies on the Bhagirathi (a headstream of the Ganga). The correct pairs are Kedarnath–Mandakini, Badrinath–Alaknanda and Yamunotri–Yamuna.

Q21 — Answer: B
Uttarakhand was the first state to implement a UCC (2025). Article 44 (a DPSP, not a Fundamental Right) deals with the UCC, so statement 2 is wrong.

Q22 — Answer: C
GEP, launched by Uttarakhand, is India's first 'green GDP' that values ecosystem services of air, water, forest and soil. Both statements are correct.

Q23 — Answer: D
Uttarakhand's ~450 glacial lakes are tiered A/B/C; the 13 Category-A lakes are highest-risk; the Wadia Institute, CWC and C-DAC are among the study agencies. Hence all three are correct.

Q24 — Answer: B
EOS-05, launched on GSLV-F17 at 2,367 kg (the heaviest GSLV payload), is India's first dedicated Earth-imaging satellite headed to geosynchronous orbit (~36,000 km) for continuous observation.

Q25 — Answer: A
Article 44 (DPSP) urges a UCC (St.1 correct). Uttarakhand made a UCC operational first (St.2 correct). Enacted UCCs exempt Scheduled Tribes, so St.3 is wrong.

Q26 — Answer: A
The four Dhams are correctly listed (St.1). Registration is free (though Aadhaar is mandatory), so St. 2 is wrong.

Q27 — Answer: C
All three are correct. Vasudhara Tal (Chamoli) is Category-A; Kedartal (Uttarkashi) is Category-B; Mambag lies in Dharchula (Pithoragarh).

Q28 — Answer: C
Both are correct. The ceiling rose from Rs 15,000 to Rs 25,000, the first revision since 2014, bringing about 51 lakh more employees under EPFO.

Q29 — Answer: A
Kedarnath lies on the **Mandakini** and Badrinath on the **Alaknanda**. **Yamunotri** is the source area of the **Yamuna**, not the Bhagirathi (which is linked to **Gangotri**). Hence 1 and 2 only.

Q30 — Answer: B
Uttarakhand launched India's first **GEP**, valuing four ecosystem services - **air, water, soil and forest** - as a green counterpart to GDP.

Q31 — Answer: B
Pairs 1 (Yamunotri–Yamuna) and 3 (Kedarnath–Mandakini) are correct. Gangotri is the source of the Bhagirathi (Ganga), not the Alaknanda; Badrinath lies on the Alaknanda, not the Bhagirathi. Hence only two pairs match.

Q32 — Answer: D
All three are correct. Uttarakhand became the first state (post-independence) to enforce a UCC (from 27 Jan 2025); it mandates registration of live-in relationships and marriages; and Scheduled Tribes are exempted, consistent with constitutional protections under Article 342.

Q33 — Answer: A
GEP values four resources and Uttarakhand launched it first (2024); it complements — not replaces — GDP. Hence 1 and 2 only.

Q34 — Answer: B
VRRR is an LAF tool to absorb/mop up surplus liquidity; repo injects liquidity. The RBI notified ₹75,000 cr and absorbed ₹71,971 cr.

Q35 — Answer: D
All three are correct — it is the 18th India–Mongolia drill at Pithoragarh (21 Sept–3 Oct 2026), with the Indian side drawn from the Arunachal Scouts.

Q36 — Answer: B
Article 44 is a Directive Principle (Part IV), so statement 1 is wrong. Uttarakhand implemented the first state UCC (2025) and DPSPs are non-justiciable, so statements 2 and 3 are correct.

Q37 — Answer: B
The 18th edition of Exercise Nomadic Elephant between India and Mongolia commenced at Pithoragarh, a strategic border district of Uttarakhand.

Q38 — Answer: C
Uttarakhand is both the first Indian state to implement a UCC (rules notified 2025) and the first to launch a GEP (Green GDP) index. Hence both statements are correct.

Q39 — Answer: d
All three are correct: Uttarakhand launched India's **first GEP Index** in **July 2024** on **four pillars (air, water, soil, forest)**, and the **Sept 2026** technical report covers **2023-24 and 2024-25**.

Q40 — Answer: c
Both high passes lie in the **Gangotri** region of **Uttarkashi** district; **Kalindi Khal** links Gangotri with **Badrinath (Chamoli)**, and **Auden's Col** links Gangotri with the **Bhilangna** valley (Tehri).

Q41 — Answer: c
Gangotri recorded **8.41 lakh** pilgrims, its highest ever. **Badrinath (18.10 lakh)** had the largest absolute number; total footfall was **53,23,401**.

Q42 — Answer: a
Kalindi Khal (~5,940 m) links the **Gangotri** region (Uttarkashi) with **Badrinath/Mana** (Chamoli). **Auden's Col** links Gangotri valley to the **Khatling glacier** (Tehri).

Q43 — Answer: a
Kedarnath is in **Rudraprayag** and **Yamunotri** in **Uttarkashi**; Gangotri (Uttarkashi) and Badrinath (Chamoli) are correctly matched.

Q44 — Answer: b
PRAMAAN uses **independent third-party audits** by **NABCB-accredited** bodies, so statement 3 is wrong; statements 1 and 2 are correct.

Mains practice questions

1. Record pilgrim footfall on the Char Dham route poses growing challenges for disaster management and Himalayan ecology in Uttarakhand. Examine and suggest a sustainable pilgrimage-tourism framework. (250 words)
   Link carrying capacity, GLOF/landslide/cloudburst risk, eco-sensitive zones and slot-based crowd control; cite registration caps and the GEP approach.
2. Direct benefit transfer (DBT) has transformed the delivery of social-security pensions in hill states like Uttarakhand. Discuss its benefits and the challenges that remain in ensuring last-mile delivery. (250 words)
   Cover benefits (leakage reduction, Aadhaar seeding, timeliness, transparency) and challenges (banking access and connectivity in hills, exclusion errors, digital literacy, dormant accounts). Link to Article 41 and JAM trinity; suggest way forward.
3. The Himalayan state of Uttarakhand faces a rising frequency of GLOF and cloudburst-driven disasters. Discuss the structural and ecological factors behind this, and suggest a disaster-resilient development model for the state. (250 words)
   Cover permafrost thaw and hanging glaciers (219 in the Alaknanda basin), unregulated construction on fragile slopes, and Char Dham pressure; then link solutions — GLOF early-warning sensors, carrying-capacity limits, eco-sensitive zoning and GEP-based green planning.
4. Uttarakhand's fragile Himalayan geography makes it acutely vulnerable to monsoon disasters. Examine the state's institutional disaster-management framework and suggest measures to reduce risk from cloudbursts, flash floods and GLOF events. (250 words)
   Cover USDMA/SDRF and DDMA roles, early-warning systems, GLOF and landslide zonation, eco-sensitive zones, Char Dham route safety, and community preparedness.
5. The 2026 Char Dham Yatra has again exposed the tension between pilgrimage tourism and Himalayan ecological fragility in Uttarakhand. Discuss the challenges of crowd and disaster management, and suggest a carrying-capacity based framework. (250 words)
   Use pilgrim-surge data (11 lakh, ~50,000/day), eco-sensitive zones, GLOF/cloudburst risk, SDRF/NDRF response, slot registration, and link to PES/GEP.
6. Rising pilgrim footfall on the Char Dham route highlights the tension between religious tourism and Himalayan ecological fragility. Discuss with reference to carrying capacity and disaster management. (250 words)
   Cover the record footfall, carrying capacity, monsoon hazards (landslides/GLOF), SDMA measures, and sustainable-tourism steps like staggered registration and waste management.
7. Uttarakhand's fragile Himalayan geography makes disaster management a governance priority. In this light, examine the institutional mechanisms and preventive measures needed to make the Char Dham Yatra safe and sustainable. (150 words)
   Link carrying capacity, seismic Zone IV–V vulnerability, GLOF/landslide risk, and the USDMA–SDRF–NDRF chain; suggest early-warning tech, registration caps and eco-sensitive-zone norms.
8. Uttarakhand's Himalayan geography exposes it to recurring disasters such as cloudbursts, flash floods and landslides. Examine the state's disaster-management preparedness with reference to recent initiatives.
   Cover seismic Zones IV-V and cloudburst risk, USDMA, the new school disaster-management plans, early-warning and Char Dham crowd safety, and eco-sensitive-zone regulation.
9. Uttarakhand faces a recurring trade-off between pilgrimage-driven tourism and Himalayan ecological fragility. Discuss with reference to Char Dham Yatra crowd management and disaster resilience.

Link carrying capacity, 2013 Kedarnath tragedy, landslide/GLOF risk, USDMA-DDMA-SDRF machinery, registration caps, all-weather roads and eco-sensitive zones.

10. Uttarakhand faces recurring cloudbursts, flash floods and GLOF events. Critically examine the adequacy of the state's disaster-management framework and suggest measures to build Himalayan resilience. (250 words)
    Use the DM cycle (mitigation→preparedness→response→recovery); cite the DM Act 2005, USDMA/SDRF, GLOF early-warning, eco-sensitive zones and carrying-capacity limits for the Char Dham Yatra.
11. Pilgrimage tourism is both an economic opportunity and an ecological challenge for Uttarakhand. In the light of the Char Dham Yatra, discuss the measures needed to balance faith, livelihoods and Himalayan sustainability. (150 words)
    Cover: record footfall & revenue/jobs; fragile Higher-Himalaya ecology (GLOF, landslides, carrying capacity); crowd-management tech; infrastructure vs. eco-sensitive zones; homestay-led local livelihoods; disaster preparedness (USDMA/SDRF).
12. Recurrent GLOF and cloudburst events expose the fragility of Himalayan states. Discuss the disaster-management measures Uttarakhand needs, integrating early-warning technology and community preparedness. (250 words)
    Anchor on the Aug 2026 Nepal GLOF, 450 lakes / 13 Category-A, the DM Act 2005 and SDMA, sensors and lake-lowering siphons, and community drills; conclude with green-accounting (GEP) linkages.
13. “Reverse migration (palayan roktham) in Uttarakhand's hills depends less on subsidies and more on building rural livelihood ecosystems.” Critically examine with reference to the state's homestay and tourism policy.
    Discuss drivers of palayan (jobs, health, education, connectivity); assess Deen Dayal Upadhyaya Homestay Scheme, Community-Based Tourism, Mukhyamantri Palayan Roktham Yojana; argue that clustered, market-linked livelihoods matter more than one-off grants.
14. Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOF) have emerged as a recurring threat to Uttarakhand's Himalayan region. Examine the causes and discuss the measures needed to strengthen the state's disaster-preparedness. (250 words)
    Link glacier retreat and warming to lake growth; cite Vasudhara-type Category-A lakes and the 450/13/5 study framework; suggest early-warning sensors, lake siphoning, downstream zoning and institutional coordination (USDMA-NDMA-CWC).
15. Uttarakhand's homestay policy is being projected as a tool against 'palayan' (out-migration). Examine how tourism-led livelihood models can address hill-region migration, and the risks they must guard against.
    Cover reverse-migration data (537 beneficiaries, ~6,500 returnees), employment and GI/trek linkages; risks - carrying capacity, ecological stress, uneven benefits; suggest carrying-capacity limits and skill support.
16. Uttarakhand's fragile Himalayan ecology is increasingly stressed by mass pilgrimage tourism and climate-driven disasters. Critically examine these challenges and suggest a sustainable, carrying-capacity based model for religious tourism in the state. (250 words)
    Link record Char Dham footfall to GLOF/cloudburst risk and eco-sensitive zones; weave in GEP, disaster-management institutions (DM Act 2005) and carrying-capacity based registration as the sustainable model.
17. Uttarakhand's fragile Himalayan geography makes disaster management central to its governance. Discuss the state's key hazards and suggest a road map for building disaster resilience. (250 words)
    Cover landslides, cloudbursts, flash floods, GLOF and seismic Zones IV/V; the role of USDMA/SDRF, early-warning systems, eco-sensitive-zone regulation, carrying-capacity limits on pilgrim routes, and slope stabilisation.

18. Uttarakhand's Himalayan geography makes it both a spiritual magnet and a disaster hotspot. Discuss the challenges of managing high-volume pilgrimage such as the Char Dham Yatra in an ecologically fragile, disaster-prone state, and suggest a sustainable model. (250 words)
    Cover footfall data & carrying capacity, landslide/GLOF risk, the all-weather road debate, the SDMA framework, tech-based slot & early-warning systems, and an eco-sensitive / GEP approach.
19. Uttarakhand's Himalayan geography makes it highly vulnerable to disasters such as landslides, cloudbursts and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Examine the causes of this vulnerability and suggest measures to strengthen disaster preparedness in the state. (150 words)
    Cover fragile young-fold geology, seismic zones IV–V, unplanned construction & tourism, climate change and glacial retreat; then NDMA–SDMA–DDMA framework, GLOF monitoring, early-warning systems, eco-sensitive-zone rules and carrying-capacity limits.
20. "Uttarakhand's hydropower strength is also its seasonal vulnerability." In the light of the recent peak-hour power deficit, examine the state's energy challenges and suggest a diversified energy strategy. (200 words)
    Intro: **~350 MW** deficit, UJVN output **1,094 → 912 MW**. Body: dependence on **run-of-river** hydro, lean-season flows, **Tehri PSP** outage, ecological limits after **2013/2021** disasters; solutions — **solar + storage**, **pumped storage (100 GW by 2036)**, power banking, demand management, green hydrogen. Conclude with **GEP**-aligned growth.
21. "Traditional naula-dhara systems are Uttarakhand's first line of water security." In the light of SARRA's revival drive, discuss the causes of drying springs in the Himalaya and suggest a springshed-based strategy. (125 words)
    Causes: **deforestation**, **road-cutting**, concrete over **recharge zones**, changing rainfall, neglect after piped supply. Strategy: **springshed mapping (GIS)**, **recharge trenches**, **zero-cement heritage restoration**, **community user groups**, panchayat bye-laws, discharge monitoring, link with **Jal Jeevan Mission** and **GEP**.
22. Record pilgrim footfall and growing high-altitude trekking are raising disaster exposure in Uttarakhand's upper Himalaya. Discuss the challenges and suggest a risk-management framework. (125 words, 8 marks)
    Intro: **180 trekkers** and **1,500 pilgrims** stranded (**Sept 2026**). Body: fragile geology, erratic weather, **carrying capacity**, weak tracking, last-mile rescue gaps. Framework: registration with **GPS**, **IMD nowcasts**, pre-positioned **SDRF/ITBP**, **heli-ambulances**, footfall caps in line with the **Sendai Framework**. Conclude with safe, sustainable tourism.

One-line revision — the whole month

- **Saturday, 5 September 2026:** Uttarakhand = first UCC state + first GEP state; Char Dham 2026 crosses 15.12 lakh; India Q1 GDP 7.8%; 26th SCO Summit → Bishkek Declaration.
- **Sunday, 6 September 2026:** Remember today: ₹147.05 cr pension DBT to 9.91 lakh (Uttarakhand) • Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana (free coaching) • GEP = first state • UCC Amendment Ordinance 2026 • Direct-tax buoyancy 1.39 • 8 new HC Chief Justices • UN 'Correct the Map'.
- **Monday, 7 September 2026:** Remember: **219 hanging glaciers** in the Alaknanda basin; **GEP** values air-water-forest-soil; **RBI repo held at 5.25%** with FY27 GDP at **6.7%**; **EOS-05 (2,367 kg)** launched on GSLV-F17; **UCC** — Uttarakhand is the first state.
- **Tuesday, 8 September 2026:** Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana (11,000 students) • flash-flood alert in 10 hill districts • Char Dham ~20 lakh (Kedarnath leads) • Ardh Kumbh 2027

(Oct 2026 deadline) • DAC ₹1.10 lakh cr • BRICS 12–13 Sep, New Delhi • RBI repo 5.25%, Q1 FY27 GDP 7.8%.

- **Wednesday, 9 September 2026:** GEP green-GDP • Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana • UCC Amendment 2026 • ₹1.11 lakh crore Budget • 18th BRICS Summit, New Delhi • RBI repo 5.25%.
- **Thursday, 10 September 2026:** Remember today: ₹1.11 lakh cr Uttarakhand Budget (GYAN) • 5-district rain alert • 37 lakh Char Dham pilgrims • Article 371(K) for Ladakh • ₹20,804 cr rail multitracking • DRDO SHIELD.
- **Friday, 11 September 2026:** Interns' stipend ₹25,000 • Char Dham 50 lakh+ • Seva Sankalp 17 Sep–17 Oct • DAC ₹1.10 lakh cr • Poshan Maah (POSHAN 2.0) • Forex ≈ $682 bn • UNESCO total 73.
- **Saturday, 12 September 2026:** Remember today: Char Dham crosses 50 lakh (2nd phase Sep 15); Uttarakhand schools to get disaster plans; 18th BRICS Summit in New Delhi; DILRMP 3.0 brings 14-digit Bhu-Aadhaar; ISRO CE20 tested at 220 kN.
- **Tuesday, 15 September 2026:** Kishau (Tons/Yamuna) 6-state pact • Char Dham Phase-2 from 15 Sep (50.6 L pilgrims) • CPI 4.82% • BRICS-11 at New Delhi • GEP = UK first.
- **Wednesday, 16 September 2026:** Must-revise today: Seva Sankalp Abhiyan (17 Sep–17 Oct), UCC online-marriage milestone, Char Dham 19.80 lakh, GST ₹1,99,853 cr, Repo 5.25%, BRICS New Delhi Declaration, GISAT-1A, World Ozone Day.
- **Thursday, 17 September 2026:** Remember today: Seva Sankalp Abhiyan (17 Sep–17 Oct) • Char Dham 50 lakh+ • EPFO ceiling ₹25,000 • India GDP 7.8% • UCC 4.7 lakh marriages • GEP = India's first green GDP.
- **Friday, 18 September 2026:** Revise today: Seva Sankalp (17 Sep-17 Oct), 450 glacial lakes / 13 Category-A, EOS-05 on GSLV-F17 (2,367 kg), 18th BRICS in New Delhi, India 131st on the Gender Gap Index, RBI repo 5.5%.
- **Saturday, 19 September 2026:** Remember today: Uttarakhand → DBT tablets for Class 10 & 12, 6th fully literate state (ULLAS), Char Dham 50 lakh+, revised Homestay policy; National → UCC for 21 states by 2029, UPI MDR from 15 Oct, WDFC operational.
- **Sunday, 20 September 2026:** Remember today: Char Dham 2nd phase & 66.07 lakh registrations; Badrinath prayers; 22nd Yudh Abhyas at Auli; GLOF study of 5 of 13 lakes; EPFO ceiling Rs 25,000; zero MDR; DAC Rs 1.10 lakh crore (98% indigenous); SEMICON India 2026.
- **Monday, 21 September 2026:** Char Dham phase-1 record 50.56 lakh | UK HC to Haldwani | Homestay ₹79.28 cr reverse-palayan | UCC live-in registration | GEP green accounting | CPI 4.82% / repo 5.25% | Semiconductor Mission-2 ₹1.27 lakh cr | GIFT City 37th.
- **Tuesday, 22 September 2026:** Char Dham 1st phase 51.06 lakh • UK Budget ₹1,11,703 cr (GYAN) • UCC Amendment 2026 • GEP = India's 1st state • SLINEX-26 • Moody's India FY27 GDP 7%.
- **Wednesday, 23 September 2026:** Revise: Char Dham 5.05 cr darshan • GEP values air-water-forest-soil • UCC = Art. 44 • VRRR absorbs liquidity • India-NZ FTA from 20 Oct 2026 • GDP base year 2022-23.
- **Thursday, 24 September 2026:** Today: Badrinath hits record 17.79 lakh pilgrims • Nomadic Elephant 2026 at Pithoragarh • UCC 2026 amendments • SEMICON India eyes $200 bn • India non-fossil power > 54%.
- **Friday, 25 September 2026:** Remember today: Nomadic Elephant @ Pithoragarh • UCC Amendment 2026 • India–NZ FTA (20 Oct 2026) • GEP = Uttarakhand's Green GDP • RBI VRRR ₹71,971 cr.

- **Monday, 28 September 2026: GEP report + STI Policy-2026** (first-state green accounting) | **121 rescued at Gomukh-Tapovan**, Char Dham resumed **28 Sept** | **~350 MW** power gap | **OECD 7.1%** | **TTDI 31st** | **UN sea-level declaration (24 Sept)**.
- **Tuesday, 29 September 2026:** Char Dham **53.23 lakh** (Gangotri record **8.41 lakh**) • **136** stranded at **Kalindi Khal/Auden's Col** • SARRA **54** naula-dhara • by-polls **12 Oct** • Kisan Mela **3–6 Oct** • CPI **4.82%**, repo **5.25%**, MPC **5–7 Oct** • BMIP **₹13,906.50 cr** • bio-bitumen **20–30%** • VARUNA **24th**, Toulon.
- **Wednesday, 30 September 2026:** Revise: **180 trekkers / 1,500 pilgrims** rescued • Char Dham **53.23 lakh • SARRA – 54 naulas** • RS poll **16 Oct • KAZIND – Garhwal Rifles** • Net FDI **US$ 7.35 bn • PRAMAAN – IIFM** • First blue bond **– SMFCL**.