CURRENT AFFAIRS — 1 OCTOBER 2026

Thursday, 1 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Vasundhara Tal (Chamoli)**: Uttarakhand's first **GLOF early-warning system**; work **29 Sep–15 Oct 2026**.
- Uttarakhand has **344 glacial lakes**; **13** are **high-risk**.
- **Census 2027** reference date for snow-bound areas: **00:00 hrs, 1 Oct 2026**; revisional round **1–5 Oct**.
- **Char Dham 2026**: record **53,23,401** pilgrims; **Gangotri** all-time high **8.41 lakh**.
- **Haridwar Kumbh 2027**: **32 sectors**, AI alerts, up to **20 crore** devotees expected.
- **PRAGATI-50**: **Dehradun & Haridwar** among **50** model sanitation cities (SBM-U 2.0).
- **Rajya Sabha** poll on **16 Oct**: Uttarakhand's **1** seat (Naresh Bansal retiring).
- **UPSC centenary**: PSC set up on **1 Oct 1926**; coin, stamp & book released.
- **Rabi MSP 2027-28**: wheat **₹2,610** (+₹25); safflower biggest hike **+₹675**.
- **GEC Phase-III**: **₹1,86,405 crore**, **135 GW** RE evacuation, **50 GWh BESS**.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — Schemes, Policy, Disaster & Ecology, State Economy

Vasundhara Tal (Chamoli): How the GLOF Early-Warning Chain Works



Lead: Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology + CSIR-CBRI • 344 glacial lakes, 13 high-risk • 29 Sep – 15 Oct 2026

Uttarakhand begins installing its first glacial-lake early-warning system at Vasundhara Tal, Chamoli

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Mgmt — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Geography of Uttarakhand + Disaster Management | Prelims: **GLOF**, **Chamoli** district, **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (Dehradun)**.
Context	A **22-scientist team** led by the **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology** began installing an automated **early-warning system (EWS)** at the high-risk glacial lake **Vasundhara Tal** in **Chamoli** on **29 September 2026**; the work window runs till **15 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Sensors track **water level, weather, snow depth, sub-surface temperature, ground movement** and **water flow**; data travels via **satellite** due to poor mobile connectivity. ■ Partners: **CSIR-CBRI Roorkee**, **USDMA**, the **National GLOF Risk Mitigation Programme**, **SDRF**, **NDRF** and **ITBP**. ■ Uttarakhand has **344 glacial lakes** (2023 assessment), of which **13 are high-risk**; Vasundhara Tal is one of them. ■ A lesson from the **2013 Kedarnath** and **2021 Chamoli (Rishiganga)** disasters, both linked to glacial/high-altitude hazards.
Way Fwd	Extend EWS to all **13 high-risk lakes**, link sirens to downstream villages, run community drills and feed data to the **State Emergency Operations Centre**.
Concept	**GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood)** = sudden release of water when a **moraine or ice dam** fails, often triggered by **avalanches, landslides, earthquakes** or heavy rain. Risk is rising with **glacier retreat** due to warming.

Census 2027: Snow-bound Uttarakhand's population count frozen at 00:00 hrs, 1 October 2026; revisional round begins

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance — Uttarakhand)**

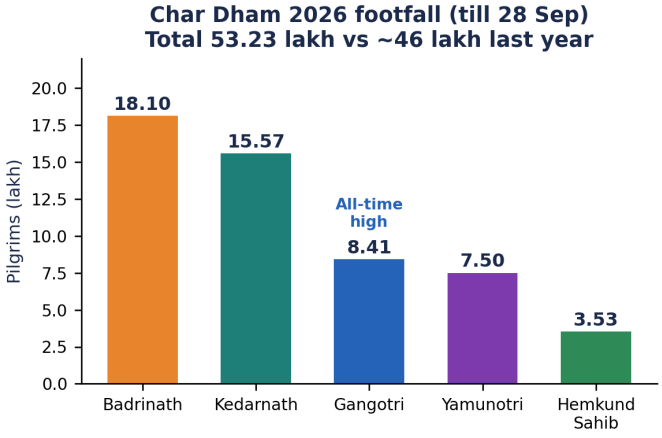
Syllabus Linkage	Polity & Governance; demography of Uttarakhand | Prelims: **Census Act, 1948**, reference date, **Union List (Entry 69)**.
Context	For the **snow-bound non-synchronous areas** of **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, J&K and Ladakh**, the reference date of **Census 2027** is **00:00 hrs on 1 October 2026**. After house-to-house enumeration (**1–30 September**), the **revisional round** runs **1–5 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ **Self-enumeration** window in these areas: **17–31 August 2026**; enumeration: **1–30 September 2026**. ■ For the **rest of India**, the reference date is **00:00 hrs, 1 March 2027**. ■ India's **16th Census** (**8th** since Independence) and the **first digital census**, with **caste enumeration** included. ■ Notified by the **MHA** under the **Census Act, 1948**; Phase-I (**Houselisting**) began on **1 April 2026**.
Way Fwd	Ensure full coverage of **high-altitude border villages** and seasonal migrants; data will shape **delimitation** and hill planning against **palayan** (out-migration).
Concept	**Census** is a **Union List** subject (**Entry 69, Seventh Schedule**), conducted by the **Registrar General & Census Commissioner** (MHA). Uttarakhand 2011: population **1.01 crore**, sex ratio **963**, literacy **78.8%**.



Char Dham Yatra 2026 hits record 53.23 lakh pilgrims; Gangotri sees highest-ever footfall despite Chirbasa landslide

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand tourism, geography & disaster management | Prelims: shrine–district–river pairs, **Hemkund Sahib**, crowd management.
Context	As of **28 September 2026**, the four shrines recorded **53,23,401** pilgrims against about **46 lakh** in the same period last year. The yatra, halted on **26 September** for heavy rain, **resumed on 28 September**; over **1,500 pilgrims** were rescued after a landslide at **Chirbasa** on the Kedarnath trek (**Rudraprayag**).
Key Facts	■ **Badrinath 18.10 lakh**, **Kedarnath 15.57 lakh**, **Gangotri 8.41 lakh** (all-time high), **Yamunotri 7.5 lakh**. ■ **Hemkund Sahib**: **3,52,765** devotees, the first time in several years above **3 lakh**. ■ Joint rescue by **SDRF, NDRF and DDRF**; pilgrims shifted to **Gaurikund**. ■ **District Magistrates** empowered to suspend or regulate the yatra based on local weather and route conditions.
Way Fwd	Adopt **carrying-capacity**-based daily caps, **slope-stability mapping** of trek routes and weather-linked registration to balance tourism with Himalayan fragility.
Concept	**Char Dham**: **Yamunotri & Gangotri (Uttarkashi)**, **Kedarnath (Rudraprayag; Mandakini)**, **Badrinath (Chamoli; Alaknanda)**. The **Char Dham all-weather road** is about **889 km** long.



Haridwar Kumbh 2027: Major works near completion; 32-sector, AI-enabled crowd plan for up to 20 crore devotees

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (History, Culture & Governance — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Culture of Uttarakhand + crowd/disaster management | Prelims: Kumbh cycle, **UNESCO Intangible Heritage (2017)**, **Har-ki-Pauri**.
Context	Officials said on **30 September 2026** that major bridges and roads for the **Kumbh Mela 2027** at **Haridwar** are nearly complete; focus has shifted to **temporary tent settlements, lighting, drinking water and sanitation**.
Key Facts	■ Expected footfall: up to **20 crore** devotees over **90–100 days**. ■ Mela area split into **32 sectors** for crowd control, entry-exit, security and disaster management. ■ **AI-based real-time alerts** on crowd and traffic pressure; an **integrated control room**. ■ Special arrangements for **women** and **persons with disabilities**; coordination with **Akharas**; Ganga cleanliness built in.
Way Fwd	Follow **NDMA crowd-management guidelines**, simulate stampede scenarios at ghats and bottlenecks, and enforce **Namami Gange** norms of zero untreated discharge.
Concept	**Kumbh Mela** is on **UNESCO's Representative List of Intangible Cultural Heritage (2017)**. Venues: **Haridwar (Ganga)**, **Prayagraj (Sangam)**, **Ujjain (Shipra)** and **Nashik (Godavari)**.

Dehradun & Haridwar among 50 model cities under PRAGATI-50; Chief Secretary orders real-time monitoring of all STPs

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Urban Governance — Uttarakhand)**

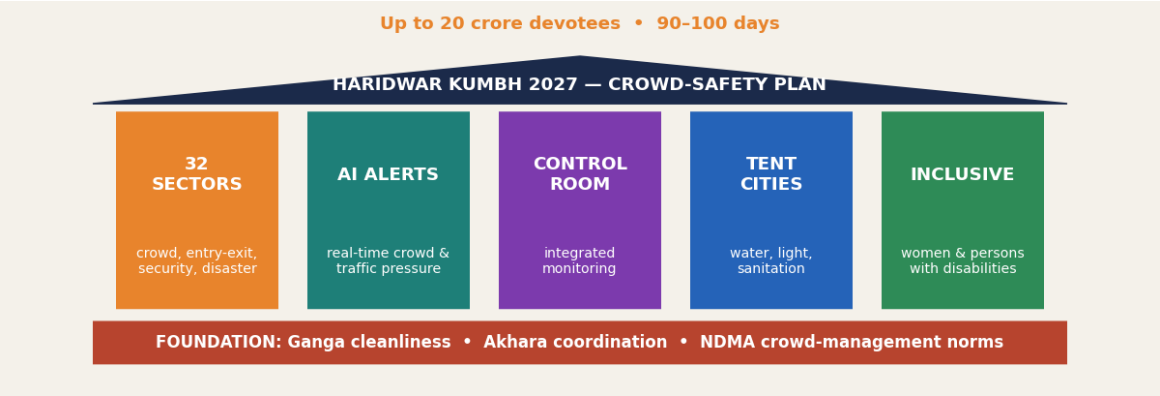
Syllabus Linkage	Environment, urbanisation & schemes | Prelims: **SBM-Urban 2.0**, **Garbage Free Cities**, STPs, **Pirul** (pine needles).
Context	The **Union Housing & Urban Affairs Ministry** launched **PRAGATI-50** on **29 September 2026**, choosing **50 cities across 24 states** as sanitation models, including **Dehradun** and **Haridwar**. On **30 September**, Chief Secretary **Anand Bardhan** ordered a **centralised real-time monitoring system** for all **sewage treatment plants (STPs)**.
Key Facts	■ PRAGATI-50 runs under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban 2.0** toward **Garbage Free Cities**; progress tracked via **KPIs** and reviews every **two months**. ■ Add-ons: **Swachh Bharat Test Bed & Innovation Centre** at **Durgapur** (with CSIR-CMERI) and **13 startups** onboarded via IIT Kanpur. ■ **Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board** to monitor STPs of large commercial and group-housing complexes. ■ DMs to review the **25-point programme** monthly; data on **Pirul** collection and community income to be compiled.
Way Fwd	Link STP data to **Ganga water-quality** stations, penalise non-compliance and scale **Pirul**-based livelihoods to cut **forest-fire** fuel load.
Concept	**SBM-U 2.0** (2021) targets garbage-free cities and **used-water management**. **Pirul** (Chir pine needles) is highly inflammable and a key **forest-fire** driver; the state buys it under **'Pirul Lao-Paise Pao'**.

Rajya Sabha polls on 16 October: Uttarakhand's lone vacancy as Naresh Bansal's term ends; BJP finalising nominee

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	Indian Polity — Parliament | Prelims: **Article 80**, **Fourth Schedule**, open ballot, Uttarakhand's seats in Parliament.
Context	The **Election Commission** has announced biennial polls to **11 Rajya Sabha seats** — **10 in Uttar Pradesh** and **1 in Uttarakhand** — with voting on **16 October 2026**. The Uttarakhand seat falls vacant as **Naresh Bansal**'s term ends; the state BJP has sent a panel of contenders to its central leadership.

Key Facts	■ Uttarakhand has **3 Rajya Sabha** and **5 Lok Sabha** seats; its **70-member** Assembly forms the electoral college. ■ Members are elected by **elected MLAs** through **proportional representation by single transferable vote (STV)**. ■ **Open ballot** for RS polls was introduced in **2003** by amending the **RP Act, 1951**. ■ Term is **6 years**; about **one-third** of members retire every **2 years** (**Art. 83(1)**).
Way Fwd	Hill-state concerns such as **migration, disasters and border villages** need a strong voice in the **Council of States**, which represents federal interests.
Concept	**Article 80**: maximum strength **250** (**238** elected + **12** nominated); state-wise seats in the **Fourth Schedule**. Rajya Sabha is a **permanent body**, not subject to dissolution.



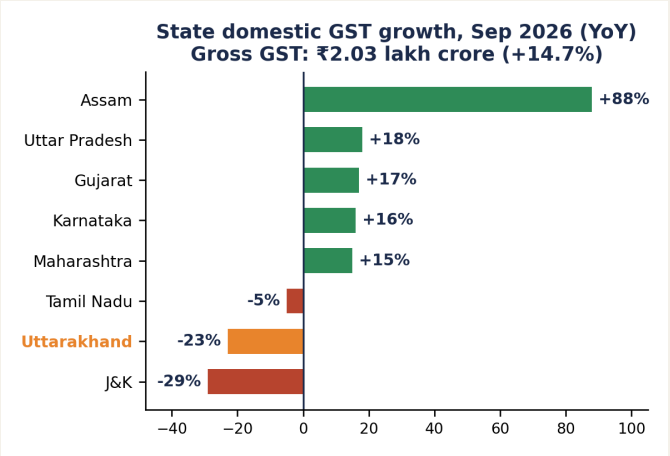
SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

GROSS GST COLLECTION, SEPTEMBER 2026

₹2.03 lakh crore (+14.7% YoY)

Net GST after refunds rose **18.1%** to **₹1.76 lakh crore**; imports surged **26%** to **₹65,525 crore** and domestic GST grew **10.1%** to **₹1.38 lakh crore**. April–September gross: **₹12.46 lakh crore** (+11.6%). State-wise domestic data show **Uttarakhand at ₹1,277 crore**, down **23%** from **₹1,665 crore**, while **Assam (+88%)** and **UP (+18%)** led growth.

Exam angle: **GST** subsumed central & state indirect taxes from **1 July 2017** (**101st Constitutional Amendment, 2016**; **Art. 279A** GST Council). Falling state collections hurt **revenue-dependent hill states** like Uttarakhand.



SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Environment & Reports

UPSC turns 100: PM releases commemorative coin, stamp and '100 Landmark Judgements' book at Bharat Mandapam

POLITY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	Constitutional bodies | Prelims: **Articles 315–323**, **Lee Commission**, **GoI Act 1935**, removal of members (**Art. 317**).
Context	On **1 October 2026**, the **Union Public Service Commission** completed **100 years**; the Prime Minister attended the centenary celebrations at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi**, ending a **year-long observance** that began on **1 October 2025**.

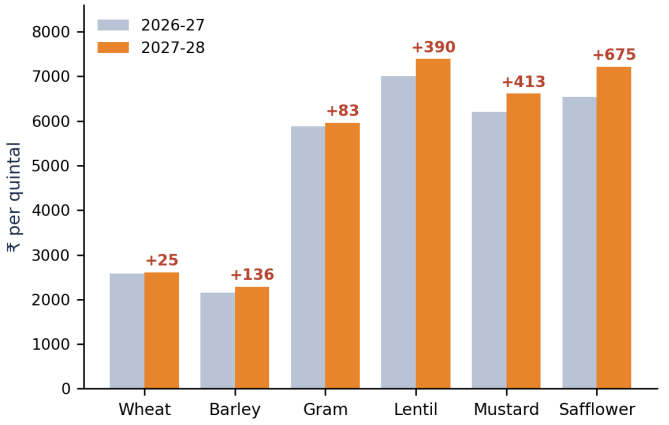
Key Facts	■ **Public Service Commission** set up on **1 October 1926** on the **Lee Commission (1924)** recommendation; first Chairman **Sir Ross Barker**. ■ Became the **Federal PSC** under the **GoI Act, 1935**; renamed **UPSC** on **26 January 1950**. ■ Releases: **commemorative coin**, **postage stamp** and the book **'100 Landmark Judgements – Shaping the Policies of UPSC and PSCs in India'**. ■ **'Shatabdi Samaroh – Manthan'** on **30 September** discussed civil-service evolution and administrative innovation.
Way Fwd	Shorten recruitment cycles, use tech-enabled secure exams and keep reforms **merit-based** while safeguarding the Commission's **independence**.
Concept	**UPSC**: constitutional body (**Part XIV, Arts 315–323**); members appointed by the **President** for **6 years or till 65 years** of age. **UKPSC (Haridwar)** is the state counterpart under **Art. 315**.

Rabi MSP 2027-28: Safflower up ₹675, mustard ₹413, lentil ₹390; wheat raised by just ₹25 to ₹2,610 per quintal

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Agriculture & food security | Prelims: **CACP**, **CCEA**, **A2+FL** cost, **1.5×** norm.
Context	The **CCEA** on **30 September 2026** raised MSPs of all **six mandated rabi crops** for **Rabi Marketing Season 2027-28**, favouring **pulses and oilseeds**; the estimated payout to farmers is **₹90,962 crore**.
Key Facts	■ New MSP (₹/qtl): **Wheat 2,610**, **Barley 2,286**, **Gram 5,958**, **Lentil 7,390**, **Rapeseed-Mustard 6,613**, **Safflower 7,215**. ■ Margin over cost: **wheat 106%**, **mustard 96%**, **lentil 92%**, **gram 59%**, **barley 58%**, **safflower 50%**. ■ Wheat production cost cited at **₹1,264/qtl**, so MSP is **more than double** the cost. ■ Wheat hike only **₹25** versus **₹160** last year — a nudge towards **diversification** into oilseeds and pulses.
Way Fwd	Back higher MSP with **assured procurement** of pulses and oilseeds (**PM-AASHA**); hill farmers of Uttarakhand need better **mandi access** for barley and lentil.
Concept	**MSP** is announced for **22 mandated crops** (plus **FRP** for sugarcane) on **CACP** recommendations; the **2018-19 Budget** fixed MSP at **at least 1.5 × A2+FL** cost.

Rabi MSP: 2026-27 vs 2027-28 (₹/qtl)

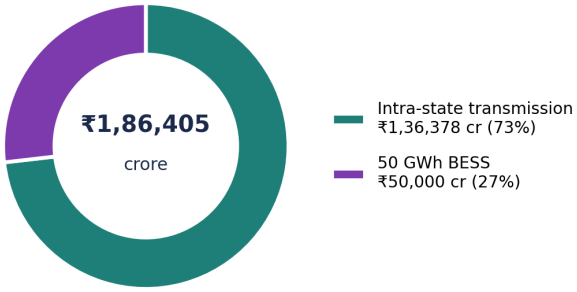


Cabinet clears ₹1.86 lakh crore Green Energy Corridor Phase-III to evacuate 135 GW renewables, with 50 GWh battery storage

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Energy, infrastructure & climate | Prelims: **InSTS vs ISTS**, **BESS**, **TBCB**, **900 GW** non-fossil target (2035).
Context	On **30 September 2026**, the Union Cabinet approved **Green Energy Corridor (GEC) Phase-III** for **intra-state transmission (InSTS)** with a total outlay of **₹1,86,405 crore**, to evacuate up to **135 GW** of renewable power by **FY 2032-33**.
Key Facts	■ Central financial assistance: **₹54,082 crore** (about **29%**) to offset transmission charges. ■ **₹1,36,378 crore** for intra-state lines and substations; **₹50,000 crore** for **50 GWh** of **Battery Energy Storage Systems (BESS)**. ■ New projects via **Tariff Based Competitive Bidding (TBCB)**, upgrades on **cost-plus**; implemented by **State Transmission Utilities**. ■ Supports the goal of **900 GW non-fossil capacity by 2035**.
Way Fwd	Hill states like **Uttarakhand** can pair storage with grid strengthening to absorb **small hydro and rooftop solar**; quick land and forest clearances are key.
Concept	**GEC Phase-I** covered ISTS + InSTS in **8 RE-rich states**; **Phase-II (2022)** covered InSTS in **7 states**. **BESS** stores surplus solar for **non-solar hours**, aiding **grid stability**.

Green Energy Corridor Phase-III outlay
135 GW RE • Central aid ₹54,082 cr • by FY 2032-33



Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026 comes into force today, replacing the colonial-era 1891 law

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity, Governance & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Legislation & banking reforms | Prelims: **IT Act 2000**, electronic evidence, **Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam 2023**.
Context	The **Bankers' Books Evidence Act, 2026**, which got **Presidential assent on 13 August 2026**, takes effect from **1 October 2026**, modernising how bank records are proved in courts.
Key Facts	■ **Technology-neutral**: recognises records in **physical, electronic, digital, virtual and cloud** forms. ■ Digital records **cannot be rejected solely for format**; safeguards for **authenticity, integrity** and **cyber-security**. ■ Certification via **First & Second Schedules** with manual, digital or electronic signatures as per the **IT Act, 2000**. ■ Courts must record **'special cause' in writing** before summoning bank officials where the bank is not a party.
Way Fwd	Train judges and bank staff on e-certification and extend the framework to other **financial-sector entities** by notification, as the Act allows.
Concept	Part of the drive to replace **colonial-era laws**, like **BNS, BNSS and BSA (2023)** replacing the IPC, CrPC and Evidence Act. The **BSA** treats **electronic records as primary evidence**.

WHO–UNICEF report: School drinking-water coverage in India jumps to 97%, but 5 crore children still lack school sanitation

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice — Health & Education)

Syllabus Linkage	Social sector — health & education | Prelims: **JMP**, **SDG 6** & **SDG 4.a**, **Swachh Vidyalaya**.
Context	The **WHO–UNICEF Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP)** report **'Progress on drinking water, sanitation and hygiene in schools 2015–2025'** shows big gains in India's school water access, but sanitation lags.
Key Facts	■ Schools with **basic drinking water**: **55% (2015) → 97% (2025)**, a **42-percentage-point** jump. ■ **Basic sanitation** coverage is **81%**; about **5 crore (50 million)** Indian children attend schools **without sanitation** services, the highest globally. ■ India lacks **2025 data** on **handwashing facilities** with soap and water. ■ Report urges focus on **usability and maintenance** of toilets, not just construction.
Way Fwd	Fund **O&M** of school toilets under **Samagra Shiksha**, ensure usable **gender-separate** toilets in remote hill schools and restore **hygiene data** in UDISE+.
Concept	**SDG 6**: clean water & sanitation; **SDG 4.a**: safe school facilities. **Swachh Vidyalaya Abhiyan (2014)** aimed at separate toilets for girls and boys in every school; the **JMP** was set up in **1990**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **1 October**: **International Day of Older Persons** — UNGA resolution **45/106 (1990)**; first observed in **1991**.
2. **1 October** is also **National Voluntary Blood Donation Day** in India (since **1975**).
3. **Hemkund Sahib** (Chamoli) lies at about **4,632 m** near **Lokpal lake**; footfall in 2026: **3,52,765**.
4. **Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya)**: India's women's **compound archery team** won gold beating China **238-234**.
5. **UKPSC** headquarters: **Haridwar**; constituted under **Article 315** after the state's formation on **9 November 2000**.
6. **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology** is in **Dehradun**; it works under the **Department of Science & Technology**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER — UKPSC Pattern

Q1. With reference to Census 2027, consider the following statements: 1. For the snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand, the reference date is 00:00 hours of 1 October 2026. 2. 'Census' is a subject in the Concurrent List. 3. The Census is conducted under the Census Act, 1948. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Statement 2 is wrong: Census is in the **Union List (Entry 69)**. Statements 1 and 3 are correct — the snow-bound reference date is **1 October 2026** and the exercise is notified under the **Census Act, 1948**.

Q2. Which one of the following pairs of a Char Dham shrine and its district is NOT correctly matched?

(a) Kedarnath – Rudraprayag
(b) Badrinath – Chamoli
(c) Gangotri – Tehri Garhwal
(d) Yamunotri – Uttarkashi

Answer: (c) — **Gangotri** lies in **Uttarkashi** district, like Yamunotri. Kedarnath is in **Rudraprayag** and Badrinath in **Chamoli**. In 2026, Gangotri recorded its highest-ever footfall of **8.41 lakh**.

MAINS PRACTICE: Glacial lakes are emerging as a major disaster risk in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. Discuss the causes of GLOF risk in the state and evaluate the role of early-warning systems in disaster risk reduction. (150 words, 10 marks)

Hint: Intro: **344 lakes, 13 high-risk**; Vasundhara Tal EWS (**2026**). Causes: **glacier retreat**, moraine dams, cloudbursts, seismicity, unplanned construction. EWS role: real-time sensors, satellite link, lead time for evacuation, **2013/2021** lessons. Limits: last-mile sirens, maintenance, community trust. Conclude with **Sendai Framework** and NDMA GLOF guidelines.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Revise: **Vasundhara Tal** GLOF EWS (Chamoli) | Census snow-bound ref. date **1 Oct 2026** | Char Dham **53.23 lakh** | UPSC est. **1926** | Wheat MSP **₹2,610** | GEC-III **135 GW** | GST **₹2.03 lakh crore**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team | ▶ **YouTube: @Study_ForGS** | ➤ **Telegram: t.me/studyforgeneralstudies**