CURRENT AFFAIRS — 02 Nov 2026

Monday, 02 November 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

- **Joshimath (Chamoli)** heli crash on **30 Oct**: all **6** aboard dead; **UCADA** grounded the operator's fleet; **AAIB** to probe.
- **Kedartal (Uttarkashi)**: **7 trekkers + 1 guide** missing in heavy snow; SDRF aerial recce from **Harsil**.
- CM Dhami approved **₹805 crore**: **₹398.30 cr** dam safety (World Bank), **₹328.28 cr** to urban local bodies.
- Villagers of **Kwanu (Dehradun)** protest the **Kishau Dam** on the **Tons** river (**232.6 m**, 6 states).
- Uttarakhand eyes **5,000 ha** of new apple orchards; current area about **12,000 ha**.
- **CM Sports Club** in every gram panchayat; CM Championship Trophy sports **32 → 50**.
- Gross GST **₹2.31 lakh crore** in Oct 2026 (**+22.9%**); Uttarakhand **₹1,776 cr (+11%)**.
- **ACM Ashutosh Dixit** took charge as **29th Chief of the Air Staff** on **31 Oct**; vision **"VAYU"**.
- **GSLV-F18** launched **NVS-03** (2,232 kg) with an **indigenous atomic clock** for NavIC.
- From **2 Nov**, senior advocates are barred from **oral mentioning** in the Supreme Court.

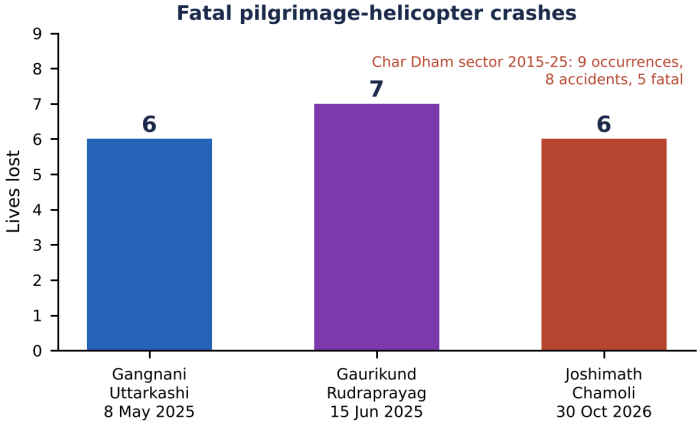
SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL: Disaster, Ecology, State Economy & Schemes

Joshimath heli crash: Char Dham air-safety under the scanner

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Disaster Management — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management, tourism & pilgrimage safety; Prelims: **AAIB, DGCA, UCADA**, Char Dham geography.
Context	A helicopter (**VT-HCX**) flying **Badrinath → Sahastradhara (Dehradun)** crashed into a hillside near **Joshimath (Jyotirmath), Chamoli** on **30 Oct 2026**, killing all **6** aboard, including **5 pilgrims from Bengaluru**.
Key Facts	■ Operator **Trans Bharat Aviation**; **UCADA** grounded its entire fleet as a precaution. ■ IMD had an **orange alert** (thunderstorm, hail) for **Chamoli** that day; cause not yet confirmed. ■ **AAIB** has counted **9 occurrences (5 fatal)** in the Char Dham heli-sector during **2015-25**. ■ Earlier fatal crashes: **Gangnani, 8 May 2025** (6 dead) and **Gaurikund, 15 Jun 2025** (7 dead).
Way Fwd	Real-time **mountain-weather (AWS) network**, DGCA-supervised heli control centre with recorded radio, and strict **SOPs for valley flying**.
Concept	**AAIB** (under Ministry of Civil Aviation) investigates accidents; **DGCA** is the safety regulator; **UCADA** manages state heli-services. Joshimath lies on the **Alaknanda** valley.

Fatal pilgrimage-helicopter crashes

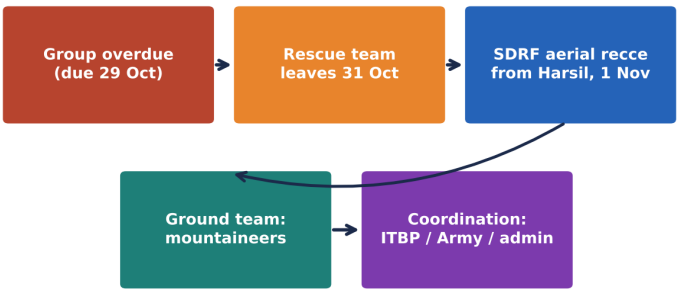


Kedartal: 7 trekkers, 1 guide missing in heavy snowfall

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Disaster Management — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Mountain hazards, adventure-tourism regulation; Prelims: **high-altitude lakes**, **Gangotri National Park**, SDRF.
Context	A **13-member** group left **Gangotri** on **27 Oct** for **Kedartal (Uttarkashi)**; glaciers and fresh snow blocked the route. **7 trekkers and a guide** are missing; **SDRF** began search on **1 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ SDRF flew **two aerial reconnaissance** sorties using **Harsil** as base; no tents sighted. ■ A specialised **mountaineering team** from SDRF battalion HQ has been deployed. ■ **Kedartal** (~**4,750 m**) lies below **Thalay Sagar** peak, inside **Gangotri NP**.
Way Fwd	Mandatory **trek registration + GPS trackers**, weather-linked trek closures and certified guides.
Concept	**SDRF** is constituted under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** (state counterpart of NDRF). Uttarakhand set up its SDRF in **2013** after the Kedarnath disaster.

High-altitude search & rescue chain (Kedartal)

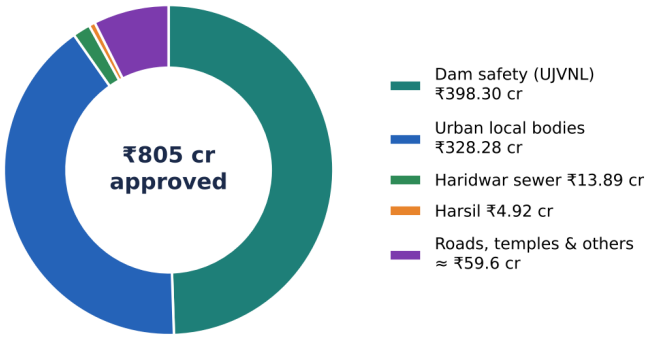


₹805 crore cleared for dam safety, urban bodies & heritage works

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

Syllabus Linkage	State finances, local self-government (**74th Amendment**), dam safety; Prelims: **UJVNL, State Finance Commission**.
Context	On **1 Nov 2026**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** approved over **₹805 crore** for development works across districts.
Key Facts	■ **₹398.30 cr** to strengthen **6 UJVNL dams/barrages** under a **World Bank** project. ■ **₹328.28 cr** to all **urban local bodies** (Q3 FY27) per the **5th State Finance Commission**. ■ **Haridwar** sewer lines **₹13.89 cr** (Bhupatwala, Kankhal); **Harsil** facade facelift of **23 buildings ₹4.92 cr**. ■ Temple works: **Ghatika Temple, Chalanichhina (Almora)**; **Bhagwati Mela** site, **Dudhauri (Champawat)**.
Way Fwd	Link dam-safety upgrades with **GLOF/flash-flood early warning**; time-bound fund release to ULBs.
Concept	**Art. 243-I / 243Y**: State Finance Commission every 5 years for panchayat & municipal finances. **Dam Safety Act, 2021** created the NCDS and NDSA.

CM approvals, 1 Nov 2026

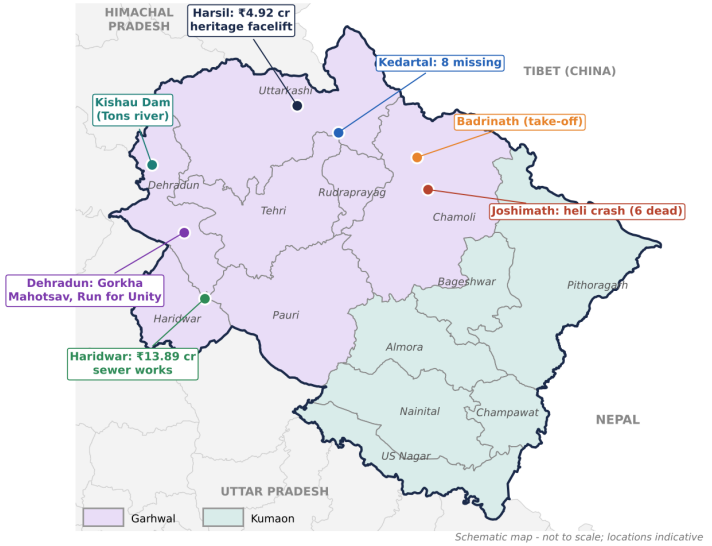


Kwanu villagers protest Kishau Dam on the Tons

ENVIRONMENT **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Environment — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Rivers of Uttarakhand, hydropower, displacement; Prelims: **Tons–Yamuna**, interstate projects, **Jaunsar-Bawar**.
Context	Villagers of **Kwanu (Dehradun district)** protested on **1 Nov** against the **Kishau Multipurpose Project**, whose six-state agreement was signed on **15 Sep 2026**.
Key Facts	■ **232.6 m** concrete gravity dam on the **Tons**, on the **Uttarakhand–Himachal** border. ■ Storage about **1,562 MCM**; about **1,476 MU** of power a year. ■ Partners: **UK, HP, UP, Haryana, Rajasthan, Delhi**; Centre bears about **90%** of cost.
Way Fwd	Fair **R&R package**, cumulative **seismic & ecological** assessment and free prior consent of affected villages.
Concept	The **Tons** is the **largest tributary of the Yamuna**, rising in the **Bandarpunch** region and joining near **Kalsi**. Sister Upper-Yamuna projects: **Lakhwar** and **Renuka**.

Uttarakhand: Today's News Locations



Apple push: 5,000 ha of new orchards to rival Himachal & Kashmir

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

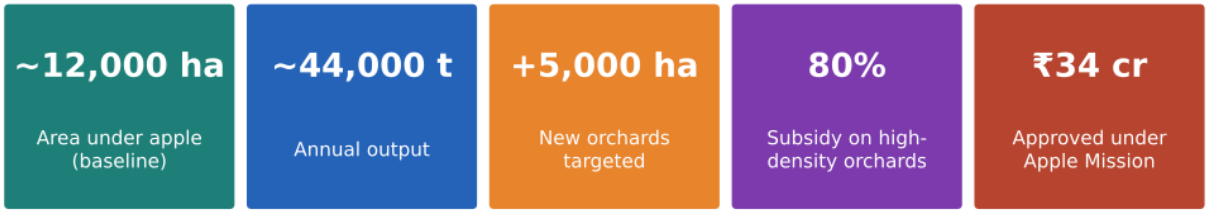
Syllabus Linkage	Hill horticulture, migration (**palayan**) & livelihoods; Prelims: **Apple Mission**, high-density plantation.
Context	The state plans **apple orchards on 5,000 ha** to compete with **Himachal Pradesh and Kashmir**, building on the **Apple Mission** launched this year.
Key Facts	■ Baseline: about **12,000 ha** under apple, output about **44,000 MT** a year. ■ **80% subsidy** for **high-density** orchards; **₹34 crore** approved under the mission. ■ Varieties: **King Roat, Mema Master, Hypek** — commercial yield in **3-4 years**.
Way Fwd	Cold chains, **CA storage**, FPO marketing and hail nets to make orchards climate-resilient.
Concept	Apple belt: **Uttarkashi (Harsil), Dehradun (Chakrata), Almora, Nainital (Ramgarh)**. **Harsil apple** is linked to **Frederick Wilson** (19th c.).

CM Sports Club in every gram panchayat; trophy expands to 50 sports

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

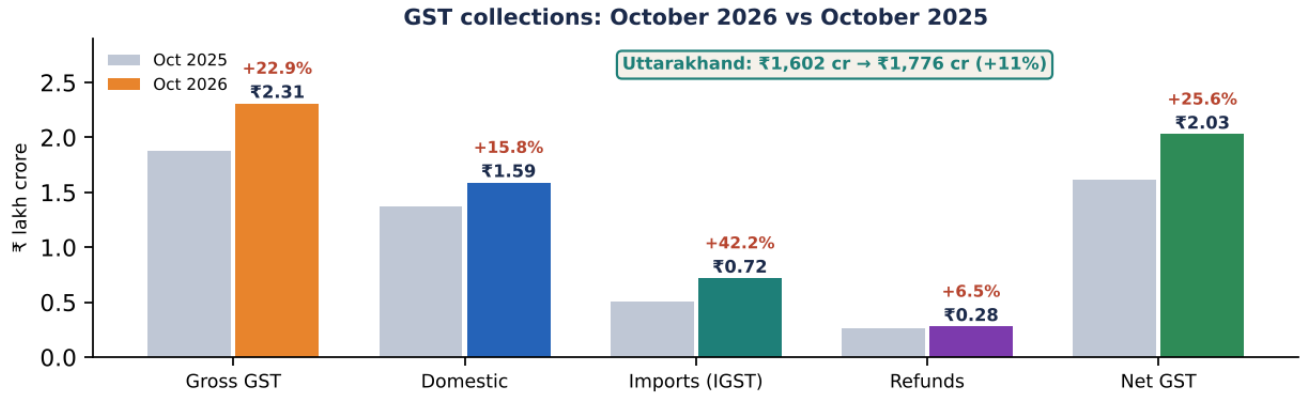
Syllabus Linkage	Youth & sports policy, rural development; Prelims: **Khel Mahakumbh**, state sports institutions.
Context	Flagging off the **Run for Unity** (Sardar Patel Jayanti, **31 Oct**) in Dehradun, the CM announced a sports push; **Khel Mahakumbh 2026** closed with **3.17 lakh** players.
Key Facts	■ **CM Sports Club** in **every gram panchayat**. ■ CM Championship Trophy: sports **32 → 50** (traditional games added); CM Cup prize **₹5 lakh → ₹10 lakh**. ■ **Amwala (Dehradun)**: mini stadium + **Agniveer training centre**; **PRD** honorarium to be raised.
Way Fwd	Link clubs with **Sports University, Haldwani** for talent scouting under **Mission Olympic 2036**.
Concept	**National Unity Day** (31 Oct) marks **Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel**'s birth anniversary. Uttarakhand hosted the **38th National Games (2025)**.

Uttarakhand Apple Push - at a glance



SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Gross GST collections, October 2026	**₹2,31,290 crore (+22.9% YoY)**	Highest growth in **four years** on festive demand; **imports +42.2%**, net GST **₹2.03 lakh crore (+25.6%)**. Uttarakhand: **₹1,776 cr (+11%)**; Maharashtra tops with **₹35,150 cr**.

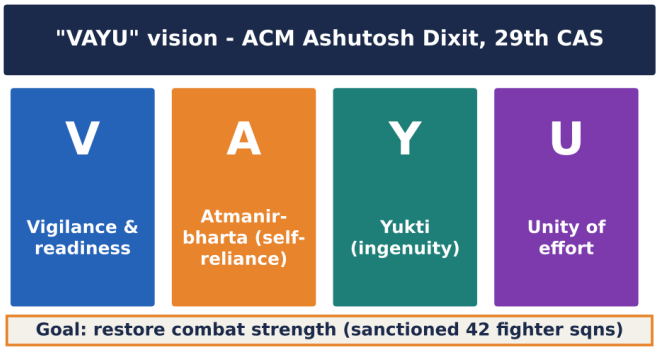


SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD: Polity, Economy, Sci-Tech, Defence & IR

Ashutosh Dixit takes over as 29th IAF chief; unveils "VAYU"

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Internal Security & Defence)

Syllabus Linkage	Defence preparedness, appointments; Prelims: **CAS, squadron strength, Tejas**.
Context	**Air Chief Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** took charge on **31 Oct 2026** as the **29th Chief of the Air Staff**, succeeding **ACM A.P. Singh**; restoring combat strength is his top priority.
Key Facts	■ **VAYU**: **V**igilance, **A**tmanirbharta, **Y**ukti (ingenuity), **U**nity of effort. ■ Commissioned **6 Dec 1986** (fighter stream); **3,500+** flying hours; experimental test pilot. ■ Sanctioned strength **42 fighter squadrons**; IAF operates well below it.
Way Fwd	Speed up **Tejas Mk-1A** deliveries, finalise MRFA and push **theatre commands**.
Concept	The **President** is Supreme Commander (**Art. 53(2)**); service chiefs are appointed by the **ACC**. IAF's Central Air Command covers **Uttarakhand**.



GSLV-F18 launches NVS-03 to revive NavIC

SCI-TECH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science & Technology)

Syllabus Linkage	Space technology, strategic autonomy; Prelims: **NavIC/IRNSS, GSLV, atomic clocks**.
Context	ISRO's **GSLV-F18** lifted off from **Sriharikota** at **11:51 pm on 30 Oct** with **NVS-03**, urgently needed as ageing satellites had degraded NavIC.
Key Facts	■ Mass **2,232 kg**; mission life **12 years**. ■ Carries an **indigenous atomic clock** built by **SAC, Ahmedabad**. ■ New **L1 signal** compatible with ordinary **smartphones**; NVS-04 and NVS-05 to follow.
Way Fwd	Mandate **NavIC-enabled chips** in phones & vehicles; build on-orbit spares for resilience.
Concept	**NavIC** (IRNSS) is a **regional** system covering India + about **1,500 km**; needs at least **4** working satellites for a position fix. **NVS-01** was launched in **2023**.

SC: no oral mentioning by senior advocates from 2 November

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

Syllabus Linkage	Judiciary, judicial reforms; Prelims: **Art. 145**, master of the roster, Supreme Court rules.
Context	A circular of **27 Oct** under **CJI Surya Kant** takes effect today: **no senior counsel** may orally mention matters before any bench; **junior advocates** are encouraged instead.
Key Facts	■ Live-streaming of **mentions before the CJI's court** has been stopped (**28 Oct**). ■ The CJI also asked **High Courts** why litigants rush to the SC for **early hearings**. ■ Aim: equal access to the court and opportunities for **young lawyers**.
Way Fwd	Uniform, **e-filing based urgent listing** with clear criteria across SC and HCs.
Concept	**Art. 145** lets the SC frame its own rules (with President's approval). The **CJI is master of the roster** (allocates cases to benches).

US clears $2.1 bn Patriot interceptor sale to Ukraine

IR **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)**

Syllabus Linkage	Global conflicts, air-defence systems; Prelims: **Patriot, S-400, Iron Dome**.
Context	Washington approved a proposed sale of **500 PAC-3 MSE** interceptors worth about **$2.1 billion** to Ukraine; **Canada, Germany and Norway** are expected to help fund it.
Key Facts	■ Approval only; **delivery not yet confirmed**. ■ **PAC-3 MSE** uses **hit-to-kill** technology against missiles and aircraft. ■ Shows growing **European burden-sharing** in the war.
Way Fwd	India should keep diversifying air defence (**S-400 + Akash + Project Kusha**) under **strategic autonomy**.
Concept	US arms exports go through **Foreign Military Sales (FMS)** with Congressional notification. India's equivalent long-range shield: **S-400 Triumf** (from Russia).

Digi Yatra goes international: trials at 7 airports

SCI-TECH **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Science-Tech)**

Syllabus Linkage	e-Governance, digital public infrastructure, data privacy; Prelims: **facial recognition, e-passport**.
Context	From **1 Nov to Dec 2026**, **Indian e-passport holders** on overseas flights can use **Digi Yatra** at **Delhi, Mumbai, Bengaluru, Hyderabad, Chennai, Cochin and Amritsar**.
Key Facts	■ Credential built by scanning the passport **chip via NFC** + selfie; stored in the phone **wallet**. ■ **26.5 million+** users and **110 million+** journeys so far. ■ Goal: interoperability with **IATA One ID** and **ICAO PKD**; wider rollout in **2027**.
Way Fwd	Align with the **DPDP Act, 2023**: purpose limitation, consent and deletion of biometric data.
Concept	**Digi Yatra** began in **Dec 2022**; run by the not-for-profit **Digi Yatra Foundation** (AAI + airport operators). Data stays **decentralised on the user's device**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

104 health helpline of Uttarakhand is shut **1-9 Nov**; relaunch **10 Nov** with new software (NHM).	**Gorkha Dashain-Deepawali Mahotsav** (Dehradun): CM recalls the **India-Nepal** border via **Pithoragarh, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar**.
Char Dham Yatra 2026 crossed **56.89 lakh** pilgrims (to 7 Oct), beating the **2023 record of 56.13 lakh**.	**Diwali** falls on **8 Nov 2026**; **Kedarnath & Yamunotri** customarily close on **Bhai Dooj**.
Uttarakhand Foundation Day: 9 Nov (formed **2000** as the **27th state**).	**Assam** posted the fastest GST growth among major states in October (**+47%**).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC Pattern)

Q1. With reference to the Kishau Multipurpose Project, consider: 1. It is on the Tons river along the Uttarakhand–Himachal Pradesh border. 2. Six states are partners in it. 3. The Tons is a tributary of the Ganga joining at Devprayag. Which are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b) — The Tons is the **largest tributary of the Yamuna** (joins near **Kalsi**), not the Ganga; at Devprayag the **Bhagirathi and Alaknanda** meet.

Q2. Consider the following about NavIC: 1. It is a global navigation system like GPS. 2. NVS-03 carries an indigenous atomic clock. 3. It was launched on GSLV-F18. Which are correct?
(a) 1 and 2 only (b) 2 and 3 only (c) 1 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3

Ans: (b) — NavIC is a **regional** system (India + ~**1,500 km**); NVS-03 (**2,232 kg**) carries a **SAC-built atomic clock** and flew on **GSLV-F18**.

Mains Practice Question
Recurring helicopter accidents and trekking tragedies expose gaps in Uttarakhand's mountain-safety governance. Examine the causes and suggest an integrated framework. (250 words)

Hint: Causes: **valley weather, terrain, traffic density**, weak oversight; cite **Joshimath (2026), Gaurikund (2025), Kedartal**. Framework: **AWS + radar**, DGCA-supervised control room, trek registration/GPS, SDRF capacity, **Sendai Framework** linkage.

ONE-LINE REVISION: **Joshimath crash (6 dead) + Kedartal (8 missing)** = mountain-safety test; **₹805 cr** approvals; **Kishau (Tons, 232.6 m)**; **GST ₹2.31 lakh cr (+22.9%)**; **ACM Ashutosh Dixit — 29th CAS, VAYU**; **NVS-03 on GSLV-F18**.

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