CURRENT AFFAIRS — 5 OCTOBER 2026

Monday, 5 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

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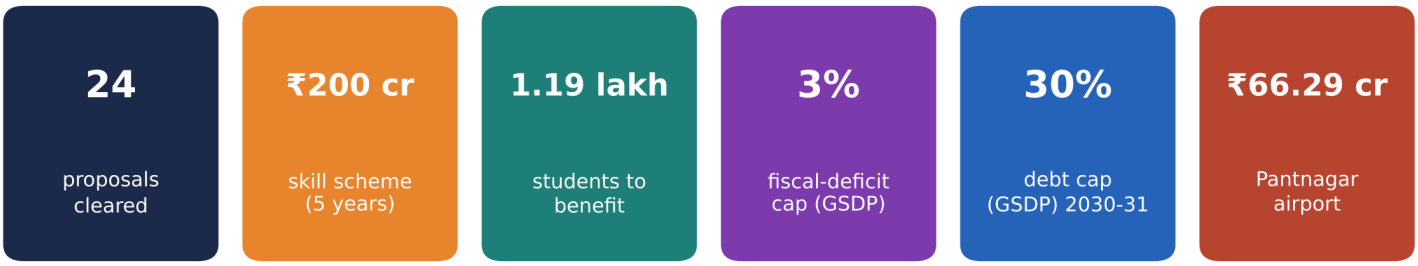
DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Uttarakhand Cabinet met at **Banbasa (Champawat)** on **4 Oct** — **24 proposals** cleared.
- **CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme 2026**: **₹200 crore**, **5 years**, **1.19 lakh** students.
- Amended **FRBM** caps: fiscal deficit **3%** and debt **30% of GSDP** till **2030-31**.
- Hill **Senior Resident** stipend raised to **₹1,10,000** (plains **₹1,05,000**).
- **Northern India Canal & Drainage Act, 1873** to give way to **Uttarakhand Irrigation & Drainage Bill, 2026**.
- Rajya Sabha poll **16 Oct**: BJP's **Dinesh Arya**; **Naresh Bansal** retires **25 Nov**.
- **67 climbers** heli-rescued in **Gangotri Himalaya**; **Gaumukh–Tapovan** & **Kedartal** treks shut.
- RBI **MPC** meets **5–7 Oct**; repo **5.25%**; CPI (Aug) **4.82%**.
- **Dibrugarh → Narayanganj**: first international cargo since Independence via **NW-2**.
- Asian Games: India **4th, 85 medals (21 gold)**; **2 GIBs** released at **Desert NP**.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL: State Cabinet, Finance, Health, Polity & Disaster

UTTARAKHAND CABINET @ BANBASA (CHAMPAWAT) — 4 OCT 2026 — KEY NUMBERS



Dhami Cabinet meets at Banbasa near Nepal border: ₹200-crore skill scheme for students, easier private-university norms

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand governance & State schemes; skill development; Prelims pointers — **Champawat**, **Banbasa**, **Bagwal of Devidhura**, **Pantnagar airport**.
Context	On **4 October 2026**, the Cabinet under CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** met at the **NHPC complex, Banbasa (Champawat)** — its **first meeting in Champawat district**, close to the **India–Nepal border** — and cleared **24 proposals**. The CM said Cabinet meetings will now **rotate across districts**.
Key Facts	■ **CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme 2026**: **₹200 crore** over **5 years**; skill/diploma courses for about **1.19 lakh** college students. ■ Private universities: minimum built-up area set at **2,500 sq m in hills** and **20,000 sq m in plains**; the **₹5-crore guarantee fund** condition removed. ■ **₹66.29 crore** released to the **Seeds & Tarai Development Corporation** for **Pantnagar greenfield airport** expansion. ■ **PAN verification** added to property registration; new **Sub-Registrar office at Narendranagar (Tehri)** for **133 revenue villages**. ■ New **Director General** post for **Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries**; ministers were presented the **Farra-Chhantoli** bamboo shield of the **Bagwal** tradition.
Way Fwd	District-rotation of Cabinet meetings must be backed by **time-bound follow-up** so border and hill districts see faster delivery; the skill scheme should be tied to **local employers and tourism-hospitality needs**.
Concept	**Bagwal** — a ritual stone/fruit-throwing fair at **Maa Barahi Devi temple, Devidhura (Champawat)** on **Raksha Bandhan (Shravan Purnima)**. **Banbasa** lies on the **Sharda (Mahakali) river**, which marks the **India–Nepal boundary**; its waters are governed by the **Mahakali Treaty (1996)**.

Fiscal discipline: Uttarakhand caps fiscal deficit at 3% and debt at 30% of GSDP till 2030-31

ECONOMY — **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy & State finances; Prelims pointers — **FRBM Act 2005**, **GSDP**, **fiscal deficit**, **State Finance Commission**.
Context	The Cabinet approved amendments to the **Uttarakhand Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) Act, 2005**, fixing fresh targets for **1 April 2026 – 31 March 2031**, and accepted the report of the **Sixth State Finance Commission**.
Key Facts	■ Annual **fiscal deficit** ceiling: **3% of GSDP** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**. ■ Maximum **outstanding debt**: **30% of GSDP** up to **2030-31**. ■ **Escape clause** for **natural disasters** — vital for a disaster-prone Himalayan State. ■ **Sixth State Finance Commission** report approved for devolution to **local bodies** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**.
Way Fwd	Pair the caps with stronger **own-tax revenue** (tourism, mining, power) and **outcome budgeting** so that capital spending in hill districts is not squeezed.
Concept	**Fiscal deficit** = total expenditure − (revenue receipts + non-debt capital receipts). **State Finance Commission** — constituted every **5 years** under **Art. 243-I** (Panchayats) and **Art. 243-Y** (Municipalities). **Art. 293** governs borrowing by States.

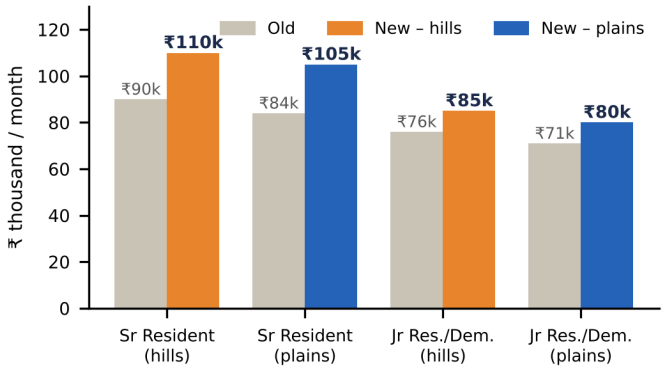
Hill-first health push: bigger stipend hike for doctors in Uttarakhand's hill medical colleges

HEALTH — **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Health — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Health infrastructure in hill areas; migration (**palayan**); Prelims pointers — Government medical colleges of Uttarakhand, hill vs plains incentives.
Context	With several departments in government medical colleges working at **less than half** their required strength, the Cabinet revised stipends for **Senior Residents, Junior Residents and Demonstrators** — with a **larger raise in hill areas**.

Key Facts	■ **Senior Resident (hills)**: ₹90,000 → ₹1,10,000 (+₹20,000); plains ₹84,000 → ₹1,05,000. ■ **Junior Resident / Demonstrator (hills)**: ₹76,000 → ₹85,000; plains ₹71,000 → ₹80,000. ■ A **₹5,000 hill differential** is kept at every level to draw doctors to the mountains.
Way Fwd	Combine pay with **housing, career credits and telemedicine** support; enforce **bonded service** for State-subsidised medical seats.
Concept	**Palayan** — Uttarakhand's **Migration Prevention Commission (set up 2017, HQ Pauri)** links hill out-migration to gaps in **health, education and jobs**. **Public health** is a **State List** subject (**Entry 6, List II**).

Doctors' stipend: old vs new (hills get more)



Colonial law out: Uttarakhand Irrigation & Drainage Bill 2026 to replace the 1873 Canal Act; forest-clearance unit set up

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

Syllabus Linkage	State legislation, water resources and forest governance; Prelims pointers — **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873**, **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**, **Jaunsar-Bawar**.
Context	The Cabinet approved repeal of the **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873** in Uttarakhand and cleared the **Uttarakhand Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026** for the **Assembly**, along with changes in forest-land and land-rights administration.
Key Facts	■ New Bill replaces a **153-year-old** colonial law on canals, water rates and drainage. ■ **Project Management Unit** with **6 technical posts** plus nodal officers to speed up **forest-land transfer** cases. ■ **Chief Conservators of Kumaon and Garhwal** made heads of department in place of the **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve** director, for quicker emergency response. ■ **Lalkuan (Nainital)** lessees get **transferable landholder rights**; Class-4 land regularisation in **Jaunsar-Bawar** at **2004 circle rates**.
Way Fwd	Rules under the new law should promote **participatory irrigation (water-user associations)** and protect traditional **guls and naulas** of the hills.
Concept	**Water** is a **State subject (Entry 17, List II)**, subject to **Entry 56, List I** (inter-State rivers). **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve** (**1988**) is in the **UNESCO MAB network since 2004**; its core includes **Nanda Devi NP** and **Valley of Flowers NP**.

Rajya Sabha poll on 16 October: BJP names Dinesh Arya for Uttarakhand's seat

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

Syllabus Linkage	Indian Polity — Parliament, Rajya Sabha elections; Prelims pointers — Uttarakhand's seats in Parliament, **Art. 80**, **STV**.
Context	On **4 October**, BJP named party worker **Dinesh Arya** for the Uttarakhand Rajya Sabha seat falling vacant as **Naresh Bansal's** term ends on **25 November 2026**. Polling for **12 seats** is due on **16 October**.
Key Facts	■ Nominations close **6 Oct**; scrutiny **7 Oct**; withdrawal **9 Oct**; poll & counting **16 Oct** (**9 am–4 pm**). ■ The **12 seats**: **10 Uttar Pradesh**, **1 Uttarakhand**, **1 West Bengal (bye-election)**. ■ Uttarakhand has **3 Rajya Sabha** and **5 Lok Sabha** seats; Assembly strength **70**. ■ BJP's Assembly majority makes it **comfortably placed** to retain the seat.
Way Fwd	Parties can use Rajya Sabha nominations to bring in **domain experts** and voices from **under-represented hill regions**, in keeping with the House's federal role.
Concept	**Art. 80**: Rajya Sabha members from States are elected by **elected MLAs** through **proportional representation by single transferable vote**, with **open ballot** since **2003**. It is a **permanent House**; **one-third retire every 2 years**; term **6 years** (**Art. 83**).

Rajya Sabha poll — Uttarakhand (1 seat)

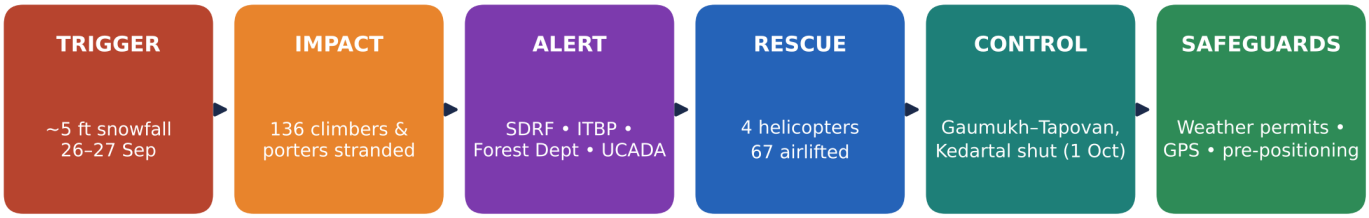


Gangotri Himalaya snow-trap: 67 climbers heli-rescued at ~20,000 ft; Gaumukh–Tapovan and Kedartal treks shut

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

Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management in Uttarakhand; Himalayan geography; adventure tourism; Prelims pointers — **Gangotri NP**, **Gaumukh**, **Kedartal**, **UCADA**, **SDRF**.
Context	Unseasonal **heavy snowfall (~5 ft)** on **26–27 September** stranded **136** climbers and porters high in the Gangotri Himalaya (**Uttarkashi**). The park administration has kept the **Gaumukh–Tapovan** and **Kedartal** treks closed until trails are repaired.
Key Facts	■ **67 mountaineers** airlifted by **4 UCADA helicopters** from **Oden's Col, Kalindi Pass, Satopanth, Jogin-I** and **Vasukital** — called the **first successful heli-rescue at ~20,000 ft**. ■ **ITBP, SDRF** and the **Forest Department** ran ground operations; **121 trekkers** on the Gaumukh–Tapovan route were brought back earlier. ■ Trek ban ordered on **1 October** by the **Gangotri National Park** administration; reopening only after a **safety assessment**.
Way Fwd	Weather-linked **permits**, **GPS tracking** of expeditions and **pre-positioned high-altitude rescue teams** during the **Sep-Oct** window.
Concept	**Gangotri National Park** (**1989**, Uttarkashi) — habitat of the **snow leopard**; **Gaumukh**, the snout of the **Gangotri glacier**, is the source of the **Bhagirathi**. Uttarakhand raised its **SDRF** after the **2013 Kedarnath disaster**; the **Disaster Management Act, 2005** provides the legal frame.

GANGOTRI HIMALAYA HIGH-ALTITUDE RESCUE — HOW THE RESPONSE UNFOLDED



Evacuated from: Oden's Col (29) • Kalindi Pass (19) • Jogin-I (8) • Satopanth (8) • Vasukital porters (3)
Earlier: 121 trekkers brought back from the Gaumukh–Tapovan route

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

3% of GSDP

Uttarakhand's new fiscal-deficit ceiling (amended FRBM targets, 2026-27 to 2030-31)

Outstanding-debt ceiling fixed at **30% of GSDP** up to **2030-31**, with an **escape clause for natural disasters**; approved by the State Cabinet at **Banbasa** on **4 Oct 2026**.

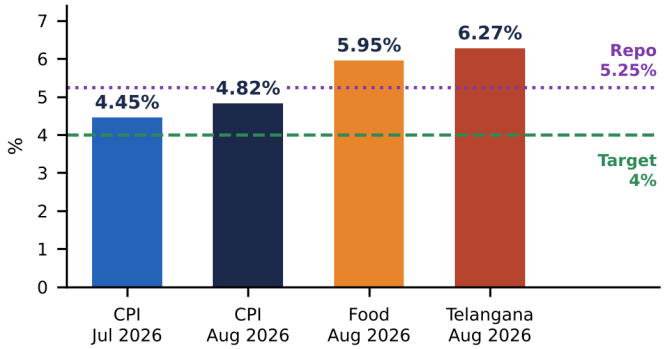
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD: Economy, IR, Environment, Sci-Tech & Sports

RBI's MPC begins 3-day meet today; first rate hike since Feb 2023 in focus as CPI rises to 4.82%

ECONOMY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, inflation and banking; Prelims pointers — **repo rate**, **MPC composition**, **CPI base year**.
Context	The **Monetary Policy Committee** meets on **5–7 October 2026**; Governor **Sanjay Malhotra** will announce the decision on **7 October (10 am)**. With retail inflation climbing, many economists expect a **25 bps hike** from **5.25%**.
Key Facts	■ Current **repo rate 5.25%**, stance **neutral** (unchanged in **August 2026**). ■ **CPI inflation** rose to **4.82% in August 2026** from **4.45% in July**; **food inflation 5.95%**. ■ Highest State inflation in August: **Telangana 6.27%**; the CPI series now uses **base year 2024**. ■ A hike would be the **first since February 2023**.
Way Fwd	Calibrate tightening so that **growth** is not hurt; **supply-side** steps on food (buffer stocks, timely imports) remain key.
Concept	**MPC** — statutory body under **Section 45ZB, RBI Act 1934** (inserted **2016**); **6 members** (3 from RBI + 3 nominated by the Centre); the Governor has a **casting vote**. **Inflation target: 4% ± 2%** (CPI-Combined).

Inflation check before the MPC (5–7 Oct)



First international cargo voyage from Dibrugarh since Independence: 540 t of Assam methanol sails to Bangladesh via NW-2

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

Syllabus Linkage	India–Bangladesh relations, inland waterways, Act East; Prelims pointers — **NW-2**, **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**, **IWAI**.
Context	Union Minister **Sarbananda Sonowal** flagged off the voyage from **Bogibeel terminal, Dibrugarh** on **5 October 2026**, carrying methanol made by **Assam Petro-Chemicals Ltd (Namrup)** to **Narayanganj** near **Dhaka**.
Key Facts	■ **540 tonnes** of methanol in **27 containers** (**20 t** each). ■ Route: **~908 km** on **National Waterway-2 (Brahmaputra)**, then the **Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route**; journey **~10 days**. ■ **First cargo** from Dibrugarh to a **foreign port since Independence**; run with the **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)**.
Way Fwd	**Scheduled sailings**, river-information systems and **fairway depth** maintenance can make the route commercially viable and cut logistics costs for the North-East.
Concept	**NW-2**: Brahmaputra, **Sadiya–Dhubri (891 km)**. **NW-1**: Ganga–Bhagirathi–Hooghly (**Haldia–Prayagraj**). India–Bangladesh **Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade (PIWTT)** dates back to **1972**.

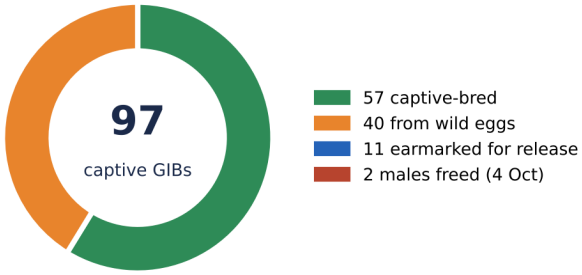
Two captive-bred Great Indian Bustards released into the wild at Desert National Park, Jaisalmer

ENVIRONMENT **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)**

Syllabus Linkage	Biodiversity conservation and endangered species; Prelims pointers — **GIB status**, **Desert NP**, **WII Dehradun**.
Context	Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** released **two male** captive-bred **Great Indian Bustards** at **Desert National Park, Sam (Jaisalmer)** on **4 October 2026** — a milestone for the GIB **conservation breeding programme**.

Key Facts	■ Captive stock: **97 birds** at the **Sam** and **Ramdevra** centres — **40** from wild-collected eggs, **57 captive-bred**. ■ **11 birds** earmarked for release; **24 chicks (2025)** and **29 chicks (2026)** produced. ■ **'Jumpstart' approach** (captive eggs placed in wild nests) yielded **8 chicks — 6 in Rajasthan, 2 in Gujarat**. ■ About **200 sq km** of fenced grassland enclosures; technical support from the **Wildlife Institute of India (Dehradun)**.
Way Fwd	**Undergrounding / bird-diverters** on power lines in priority habitat and **community grassland protection** are essential for the released birds to survive.
Concept	**GIB (Ardeotis nigriceps)** — **IUCN Critically Endangered**; **Schedule I, Wild Life (Protection) Act 1972**; **State bird of Rajasthan**. The **Wildlife Institute of India** is headquartered in **Dehradun** — a frequent UKPSC link.

Great Indian Bustard captive stock



India demonstrates its first 5.56-km free-space quantum key distribution link in Gujarat

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

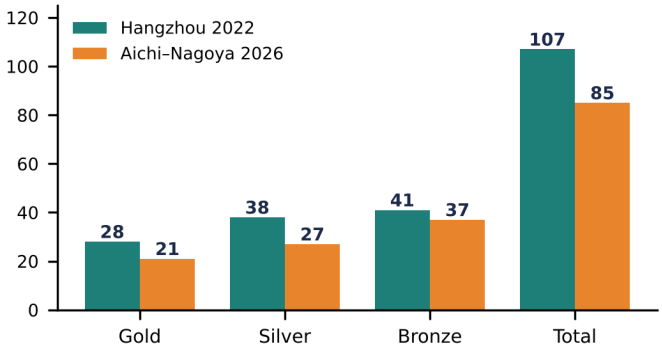
Syllabus Linkage	Emerging technologies and cyber security; Prelims pointers — **QKD**, **post-quantum cryptography**, **National Quantum Mission**.
Context	A field trial between **BISAG-N** and **IIT Gandhinagar** set up India's **first free-space (through-air) QKD link** over **5.56 km**, built with Bengaluru start-up **QNu Labs**; results were announced on **3 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Secure key rate **230–260 bits/s**; **Quantum Bit Error Rate below 5%**. ■ Keys integrated with BISAG-N's **'Vedic Kavach' post-quantum cryptography** platform — a **dual-layer** security design. ■ Free-space links are a stepping stone to **satellite-based QKD**.
Way Fwd	Scale up to **inter-city and satellite links** under the **National Quantum Mission** and set standards for **quantum-safe** government networks.
Concept	**QKD** uses quantum states of photons; any eavesdropping disturbs them (**no-cloning theorem**), e.g. the **BB84 protocol**. **National Quantum Mission** (approved **2023**): **₹6,003.65 crore** for **2023-24 to 2030-31**.

Asian Games 2026 close: India 4th with 85 medals (21 gold) at Aichi–Nagoya

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims (Sports & Current Events)

Syllabus Linkage	Current events of national importance — sports; Prelims pointers — host cities, medal tally, historic firsts.
Context	The **20th Asian Games** at **Aichi–Nagoya, Japan** (**19 Sep – 4 Oct 2026**) ended with India **4th — 21 gold, 27 silver, 37 bronze (85)** — its **second-best** haul after **Hangzhou 2022 (107)**.
Key Facts	■ India edged **Uzbekistan** (also **21 gold**) on **silver count** (**27 vs 25**). ■ Top three: **China (169 gold, 341 total)**, **Japan (83 gold)**, **South Korea (39 gold)**. ■ Firsts: **Kumkum Anil Mohod** — women's **individual recurve archery gold**; **Pranavi Urs** — women's **golf gold**. ■ India won **both men's and women's** golds in **hockey** and **cricket**.
Way Fwd	Sustain **TOPS / Khelo India** pipelines; Uttarakhand can use its **38th National Games (2025)** venues and altitude for **high-altitude training**.
Concept	The Asian Games are run by the **Olympic Council of Asia (OCA)**; the first edition was held in **New Delhi (1951)**, and India hosted again in **1982**. Next: **Doha 2030**. Uttarakhand hosted the **38th National Games** in **Jan–Feb 2025**.

India at the Asian Games: 2022 vs 2026 (rank 4)



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick Fact
Mussoorie carrying capacity	Uttarakhand High Court (**1 Oct**) gave the **Chief Secretary 9 months** to frame a carrying-capacity-based plan; tourists rose from **~8.5 lakh (2000)** to **~30 lakh (2019)**.
State Finance Commission	Uttarakhand's **Sixth SFC** report covers **2026-27 to 2030-31**; SFCs are mandated by **Art. 243-I and 243-Y**.
Bagwal fair	Held at **Devidhura (Champawat)** on **Raksha Bandhan**; **Farra-Chhantoli** is its bamboo shield.
Pantnagar Airport	**₹66.29 crore** released for **greenfield expansion** in **Udham Singh Nagar** district.
NW-2	**Brahmaputra**, **Sadiya–Dhubri**, **891 km**; Dibrugarh's **Bogibeel** terminal lies on it.
Next Asian Games	**Doha, Qatar (2030)**, then **Riyadh, Saudi Arabia (2034)**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC PATTERN)

Q1. With reference to the Uttarakhand Cabinet meeting held on 4 October 2026, consider the following statements: 1. It was held at Banbasa in Champawat district. 2. The amended FRBM targets cap the State's fiscal deficit at 3% of GSDP till 2030-31. 3. The Chief Minister Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme has an outlay of ₹500 crore. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — Statements 1 and 2 are correct. The skill scheme's outlay is **₹200 crore** over **5 years** (about **1.19 lakh** students), not ₹500 crore.

Q2. Consider the following pairs (Protected area — State): 1. Gangotri National Park — Uttarakhand 2. Desert National Park — Gujarat 3. Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve — Uttarakhand. How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b) — **Desert National Park** is in **Jaisalmer–Barmer, Rajasthan**, where the GIBs were released on **4 Oct 2026**. Pairs 1 and 3 are correct.

MAINS PRACTICE: Out-migration ('palayan') from Uttarakhand's hill districts is closely linked to gaps in health care, higher education and livelihoods. Evaluate how recent State measures — higher stipends for hill-posted doctors, skill schemes for college students and district-level Cabinet meetings — can address this challenge. (150 words)

Hint: Intro: scale of **palayan** (Migration Prevention Commission findings, ghost villages). Body: **₹5,000 hill differential** in stipends; **₹200-crore skill scheme** for **1.19 lakh** students; decentralised governance via **Banbasa** meeting; limits — infrastructure, connectivity, jobs. Conclude with an **integrated hill-development** approach (homestays, horticulture, telemedicine).

ONE-LINE REVISION: Uttarakhand: Banbasa Cabinet → **₹200-cr skill scheme**, FRBM **3% / 30%**, hill doctors **₹1.10 lakh**, **1873 Canal Act** out; RS poll **16 Oct** (Dinesh Arya); **67** heli-rescued in Gangotri. Nation: MPC (**5.25%**, CPI **4.82%**), **NW-2** cargo to Bangladesh, **2 GIBs** freed, Asian Games **85 medals**.

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