CURRENT AFFAIRS — 6 OCTOBER 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

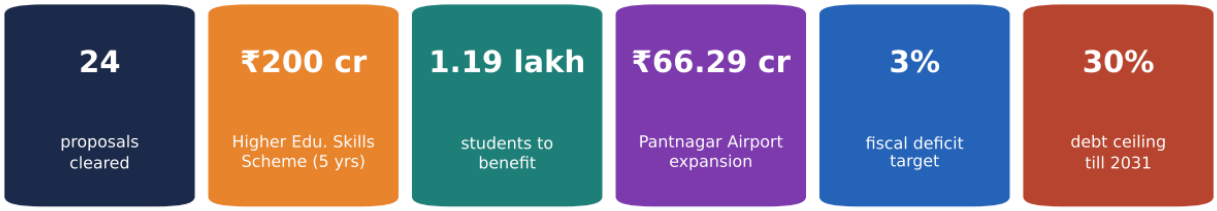
Tuesday, 6 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Uttarakhand cabinet met at **Banbasa** in the CM's own constituency **Champawat**; **24 proposals** cleared.
- **CM Higher Education Skills Enhancement Scheme 2026**: **₹200 crore** over **5 years**, ~**1.19 lakh** students.
- State fiscal targets: deficit **3%** of GSDP, debt ceiling **30%** till **2031**.
- **Mountain Guardian 2026** (India–UAE): **Chaubatia**, **5–18 Oct**, **92** troops.
- Yellow alert in **8 districts**; snow above **4,200 m**; Mana village snow-clad.
- Char Dham 2026: **53,23,401** pilgrims (to 28 Sep) vs ~**46 lakh** last year.
- Wildlife-attack death compensation raised from **₹6 lakh** to **₹10 lakh**.
- SC strength now **37** of sanctioned **38** after **3** HC Chief Justices elevated (Art. **124(2)**).
- India–Switzerland: **5 agreements**; TEPA target **$100 bn** FDI, **10 lakh** jobs in **15 years**.
- Nobel Medicine 2026: **Deisseroth, Hegemann, Nagel** — **optogenetics**.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — Governance, Security, Disaster, Tourism & Ecology

Banbasa Cabinet (4 Oct 2026) — Numbers to Remember



Dhami Cabinet at Banbasa: ₹200-cr Skill Scheme, New Fiscal Targets, 1873 Irrigation Law Repealed

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

Syllabus Linkage	State governance, **state finances (FRBM)**, education & skilling; Prelims: **Champawat district**, Indo-Nepal border towns.
Context	Chaired by CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** at **NHPC Banbasa (Champawat)** on **4 Oct 2026** — away from Dehradun, near the **Indo-Nepal border** — the meeting cleared **24 proposals**; decisions were detailed over 5–6 Oct.
Key Facts	■ **CM Higher Education Skills Enhancement Scheme 2026**: **₹200 crore** over **5 years**, ~**1.19 lakh** students (skill diplomas). ■ Fiscal responsibility targets revised: **3%** annual fiscal deficit, **30%** debt ceiling up to **2031**. ■ **1873 irrigation law repealed**; new **Uttarakhand Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026**. ■ **₹66.29 crore** to Tarai Development Corporation for **Pantnagar Airport** expansion; **92%** of asset-monetisation proceeds to return to parent agencies. ■ Private university norms eased (land **10 acres → 20,000 sq m**); poultry-feed subsidy via **DBT**; Sub-Registrar office at **Narendranagar**.
Way Fwd	Link skill diplomas to hill-district employers and tourism/wellness sectors; publish a medium-term fiscal plan to stay within the **30%** debt cap.
Concept	**FRBM framework**: states legislate fiscal-deficit and debt limits; the **Finance Commission** recommends a glide path. **DBT** transfers benefits straight to bank accounts, cutting leakages.

India–UAE Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026' Opens at Chaubatia

DEFENCE — UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (IR & Security — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	India's defence diplomacy; Prelims: **exercises & locations**, Uttarakhand military towns (**Ranikhet-Chaubatia**, Almora).
Context	The bilateral mountain-warfare exercise began on **5 Oct 2026** at the **Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia** (near Ranikhet, **Almora district**) and runs till **18 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ **92** personnel in all, equal strength from both sides; includes **women officers** in specialist roles. ■ India: a **Bhairav Battalion**; UAE: a **Mountain Infantry Battalion**. ■ Drills: joint planning, firing, surveillance, **drone employment**, rock-climbing and integrated field exercise. ■ Aim: **interoperability** for operations in high-altitude terrain with restricted mobility.
Way Fwd	Build on the India–UAE **Comprehensive Strategic Partnership** with defence-industrial tie-ups; showcase Uttarakhand as a hub for foreign mountain training.
Concept	**Bhairav Battalions** are new agile light-commando units of the Army. **Chaubatia** is known for its government orchard (**apple** research) near the **Kumaon Regiment** centre, Ranikhet.



Western Disturbance After Monsoon Exit: Yellow Alert in 8 Districts, Snow on High Peaks

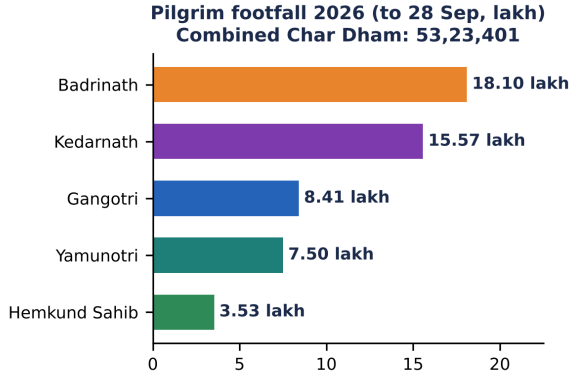
UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Management — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Climate of Uttarakhand, **western disturbances**, landslides & avalanches; Prelims: border passes, **Adi Kailash-Jolingkong**, Mana.
Context	After the monsoon withdrew on **3 Oct**, an active western disturbance has brought rain and snow; a yellow alert runs till **11 Oct**. **Mana** village (Chamoli) is snow-clad.
Key Facts	■ Yellow alert: **Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri, Pauri, Almora, Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar**. ■ Gusty winds **30–40 km/h**; snowfall likely above **4,200 m**. ■ **Mangti nullah** landslide (night of **1–2 Oct**, Dharchula, **Pithoragarh**) stranded **350+** Adi Kailash pilgrims. ■ Disaster Management Dept on **24×7 alert** in **Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Uttarkashi** for the Yatra.
Way Fwd	Tie **Inner Line Permit** issue to real-time route status; expand automatic weather stations and early-warning sirens on high-altitude pilgrim routes.
Concept	**Western disturbances** are extra-tropical storms from the **Mediterranean**, carried by **subtropical westerly jets**; they give winter rain/snow to the NW Himalaya and aid **rabi** crops.

Char Dham Crosses 53 Lakh Pilgrims; 20-Event Tourism Calendar for Year-Round Travel

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

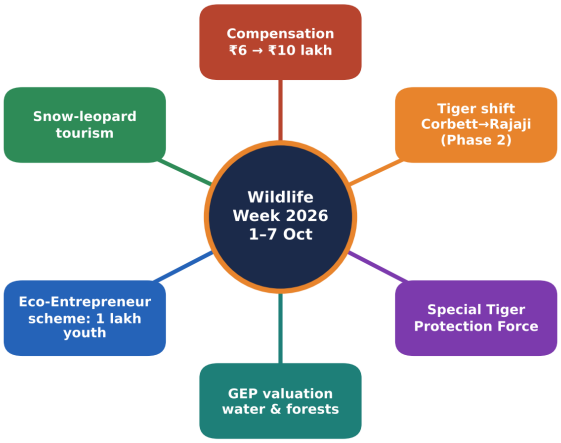
Syllabus Linkage	Tourism economy, pilgrimage & carrying capacity; Prelims: **shrines & districts**, Auli, Munsiyari, Dayara, Kausani.
Context	State figures put the 2026 Char Dham footfall at **53,23,401** (to **28 Sep**), with about **1.5 months** of the season left; the Tourism Board has also approved a **2026-27** calendar.
Key Facts	■ **Badrinath 18.10 lakh** (record), **Kedarnath 15.57 lakh**, **Gangotri 8.41 lakh** (highest ever), **Yamunotri 7.5 lakh**. ■ **Hemkund Sahib**: **3,52,765** devotees; last year's corresponding total ~**46 lakh**. ■ Calendar: **20 events**, **₹21.35 crore**; new — **Himalayan Car Rally** (19–21 Nov), **ATOAI convention** at **Kausani** (13–16 Dec). ■ **Weddings in Uttarakhand Conclave** at **Ramnagar** (15–20 Dec); winter carnivals at **Munsiyari, Auli, Dayara** (Feb 2027).
Way Fwd	Enforce **carrying-capacity** caps and staggered slots at Kedarnath/Yamunotri; use winter & wedding tourism to spread income to hill villages and curb **palayan**.
Concept	**Char Dham**: Yamunotri & Gangotri (**Uttarkashi**), Kedarnath (**Rudraprayag**), Badrinath (**Chamoli**). **Hemkund Sahib** is a Sikh shrine near the **Valley of Flowers** (Chamoli).



Wildlife Week 2026: Compensation Hiked to ₹10 Lakh, Corbett-Rajaji Tiger Shift Phase 2

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

Syllabus Linkage	Human–wildlife conflict, protected areas, **GEP**; Prelims: **Corbett** (first NP, 1936), **Rajaji**, FRI Dehradun.
Context	Wildlife Week (**1–7 Oct**) was opened by the CM at **FRI Dehradun** with the theme of connected habitats; the **Corbett Festival** opens today (**6 Oct**).
Key Facts	■ Ex-gratia for death in wildlife attack: **₹6 lakh → ₹10 lakh**; injury treatment borne by the state. ■ **18** persons who showed courage in conflict situations got **₹51,000** each. ■ **Phase 2** of tiger translocation from **Corbett to Rajaji**; **Special Tiger Protection Force** for both reserves. ■ **CM Young Eco-Entrepreneur** scheme (target **1 lakh** youth); snow-leopard tourism; **GEP** valuation of water & forests.
Way Fwd	Secure **wildlife corridors** (e.g., Rajaji–Corbett via Lansdowne forests), early-warning for leopard/bear zones, and quick compensation through DBT.
Concept	**Gross Environment Product (GEP)**: Uttarakhand was the first state to adopt it, valuing air, water, soil & forest gains. **Rajaji TR** sits at the junction of **Shivaliks** and **Ganga**.

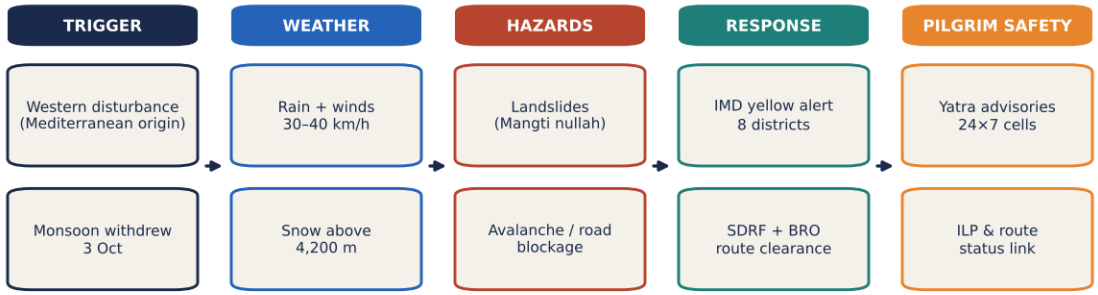


332 Recruits Get Appointment Letters; Resident Doctors' Stipend Raised to Over ₹1 Lakh

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Sector & Governance — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Health human resources, **ESI scheme**, wellness economy; Prelims: AYUSH & yoga capital (**Rishikesh**).
Context	On **6 Oct 2026**, CM Dhami handed appointment letters to **332** selected candidates (ESI health services) in **Dehradun**, pitching the state as a **wellness hub**.
Key Facts	■ **35,000+** government appointments in the last **5 years** (CM's statement). ■ Senior & junior resident stipend raised from ~**₹75,000** to **over ₹1 lakh** per month. ■ Wellness push built on **yoga, Ayurveda** and Himalayan **medicinal herbs**. ■ **Seva Sankalp Abhiyan** for community service, launched on the PM's birthday (**17 Sep**).
Way Fwd	Use stipend parity and hill-posting incentives to fill specialist gaps in remote PHCs/CHCs; certify herbal value chains for wellness exports.
Concept	**ESI scheme** (ESI Act, **1948**) gives medical and cash benefits to insured workers via ESIC. **Rishikesh** is called the **Yoga Capital of the World**.

Post-Monsoon Western Disturbance — Hazard & Response Chain (Uttarakhand)



SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Gross GST collection, September 2026

₹2,03,521 crore (+14.7% YoY)

Third straight month above **₹2 lakh crore**; IGST **₹1,20,396 cr**, SGST **₹45,363 cr**, CGST **₹37,762 cr**; net GST **₹1,76,520 cr** (+18.1%); H1 FY27 total **₹12,46,278 cr** (+11.6%). **Why it matters:** buoyant GST boosts the **SGST** share and central devolution that hill states like **Uttarakhand** rely on.

SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, IR, Economy, Sci-Tech, Environment

Three High Court Chief Justices Elevated; Supreme Court Now at 37 of 38

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Judiciary — appointment of judges, **collegium**; Prelims: **Art. 124(2), 217, 223**.
Context	The Centre notified on **5 Oct 2026** the elevation of three Chief Justices recommended by the collegium on **28 Sep**, taking the bench to **37** against a sanctioned **38**.
Key Facts	■ **Justice D.K. Upadhyaya** (CJ, **Delhi HC**); **Justice Sunita Agarwal** (CJ, **Gujarat HC**); **Justice Aparesh Kumar Singh** (CJ, **Telangana HC**). ■ Acting CJs named under **Art. 223**: N.W. Sambre (Delhi), M.R. Pathak (Gujarat), P. Sam Koshy (Telangana). ■ Same day, SC: an elector on the roll **cannot be deleted without notice**, except a dead voter. ■ SC refused to suspend the **CEC** ex parte, but issued notice on pleas against ECI decisions.
Way Fwd	Finalise the **Memorandum of Procedure** for transparent, time-bound appointments and better gender and regional diversity on the bench.
Concept	**Collegium** (CJI + 4 senior-most judges) evolved through the **Second (1993)** and **Third (1998) Judges Cases**; the **NJAC** was struck down in **2015**.

India–Switzerland Sign 5 Agreements During President Parmelin's State Visit

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

Syllabus Linkage	India's bilateral relations, trade agreements; Prelims: **EFTA members**, **TEPA**.
Context	PM Modi and Swiss President **Guy Parmelin** held talks at **Hyderabad House** on **5 Oct 2026** during a three-day state visit.
Key Facts	■ Pacts: **Migration & Mobility Partnership**, **Young Professionals** exchange, transport technologies, DST–**Swiss National Science Foundation** LoI, innovation & tech transfer. ■ **TEPA** with EFTA in force since **Oct 2025**: **$100 bn** investment and **1 million** direct jobs over **15 years**. ■ New areas flagged: defence production, military exchanges and **nuclear energy**.
Way Fwd	Operationalise TEPA investment desks; leverage Swiss strengths in precision engineering, pharma and **mountain tourism/hydro** relevant to Himalayan states.

India–Switzerland Sign 5 Agreements During President Parmelin's State Visit

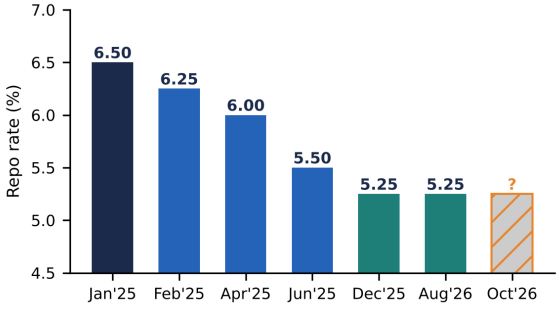
Concept	**EFTA** = **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein**. **TEPA** is India's first FTA with a **binding investment-promotion** commitment.

RBI MPC Meets 5–7 Oct; Analysts Split on First Hike Since 2023

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, inflation targeting; Prelims: **repo rate, MPC composition, CPI base year**.
Context	The Monetary Policy Committee began its meeting on **5 Oct**; the decision is due on **7 Oct, 10:00 AM**. The repo rate has stayed at **5.25%** for **four** reviews.
Key Facts	■ A market poll: **35 of 61** economists expect a **25 bps** hike to **5.50%** — first since **Feb 2023**. ■ 2025 easing cycle cut rates by a cumulative **125 bps**; stance **neutral** since August. ■ CPI (Aug 2026, base **2024**): **4.82%**; food **5.95%**; rural **5.23%** vs urban **4.31%**. ■ **GST Council** also meets on **7 Oct** (process reforms).
Way Fwd	Balance rupee stability and food-price risks against growth; clear forward guidance can limit EMI shocks for borrowers.
Concept	**MPC** (Sec **45ZB**, RBI Act): **6 members**, Governor has casting vote; target **CPI 4% ± 2%**. **Repo** = rate at which RBI lends to banks.

RBI repo rate: −125 bps in 2025, on hold in 2026
Oct'26 decision due 7 Oct

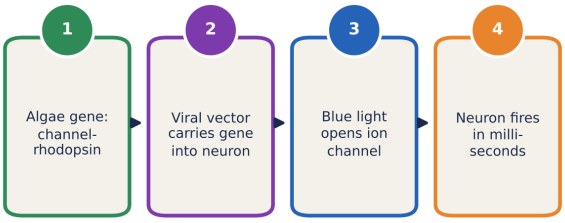


Nobel Prize in Medicine 2026 for Light-Gated Ion Channels & Optogenetics

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

Syllabus Linkage	Biotechnology & neuroscience; Prelims: **awards**, **channelrhodopsin**, applications.
Context	The **Karolinska Institutet** announced on **5 Oct 2026** the prize to three scientists "for their discoveries of **light-gated ion channels** and **optogenetics**".
Key Facts	■ **Karl Deisseroth** (Stanford, USA), **Peter Hegemann** (Humboldt Univ., Berlin), **Georg Nagel** (Univ. of Würzburg). ■ **Channelrhodopsins** from green **algae** open ion channels when hit by **blue light**. ■ Inserted into neurons, they switch cells on/off in **milliseconds**; key **2005** study. ■ Uses: brain-circuit mapping, vision restoration in **retinitis pigmentosa**.
Way Fwd	India can scale neuroscience under **BioE3** and national brain-research programmes, with ethical guardrails for gene-based therapies.
Concept	**Optogenetics** = genetics + optics: light-sensitive proteins delivered by **viral vectors** let researchers control specific neurons. Remaining 2026 Nobels: Chemistry **7 Oct**, Peace **9 Oct** (Oslo), Economics **12 Oct**.

How Optogenetics Works (Nobel Medicine 2026)



Deisseroth • Hegemann • Nagel

Great Nicobar Project: SC Declines Centre's Plea, Asks Calcutta HC to Decide Promptly

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment, Tribal Rights & Polity)

Syllabus Linkage	Development vs ecology, **Forest Rights Act 2006**, PVTGs; Prelims: **Shompen**, **Galathea Bay**.
Context	On **5 Oct 2026** the Supreme Court refused to entertain the Centre's challenge to the maintainability of a PIL before the **Calcutta HC**, noting that preserving **culture** is a protected right.
Key Facts	■ **₹81,000 crore** project: transshipment port, township, power plant, dual-use airport. ■ PIL alleges **FRA 2006** violations — rights not settled before forest diversion. ■ Affected: **Nicobarese** and **Shompen** (a **PVTG**). ■ **Galathea Bay**: nesting site of **leatherback turtles**; coral reefs at risk.
Way Fwd	Complete **Gram Sabha** consent and independent ecological audit; a lesson for Himalayan mega-projects too — **carrying capacity** first.
Concept	**FRA 2006** recognises individual & community forest rights; **Gram Sabha** consent is needed for diversion (**Niyamgiri case, 2013**). India has **75 PVTGs**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Agniveer** rally at **Bengal Engineer Group & Centre, Roorkee**: **5–23 Oct 2026**, run by ARO **Lansdowne** for Garhwal & Kumaon districts.	2. **Global Innovation Index 2026** (WIPO, 1 Oct): India **38th**; **1st** in ICT services exports.
3. **Corbett Festival** opens **6 Oct**; Corbett = India's first national park (**1936**, Hailey NP).	4. **Hemkund Sahib** (Chamoli, ~**4,632 m**): **3,52,765** devotees this season.
5. **Pantnagar Airport** (Udham Singh Nagar) expansion gets **₹66.29 crore**.	6. Nobel Chemistry **7 Oct**, Literature **8 Oct**, Peace **9 Oct**, Economics **12 Oct**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER — UKPSC Pattern

Q1. With reference to Exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026', consider the following statements: 1. It is a bilateral exercise between India and the UAE. 2. It is being held at Chaubatia in Pithoragarh district. 3. The Indian contingent is drawn from a Bhairav Battalion. 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) — **Chaubatia** is near Ranikhet in **Almora** district, not Pithoragarh; the exercise is India–UAE with a **Bhairav Battalion**.

Q2. Consider the following statements: 1. Judges of the Supreme Court are appointed by the President under Article 124(2). 2. An acting Chief Justice of a High Court is appointed under Article 223. 3. The sanctioned strength of the Supreme Court, including the CJI, is 34. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — Sanctioned strength now stands at **38** (working **37** after the 5 Oct notification); Articles **124(2)** and **223** are correctly matched.

Mains Practice (GS): Record Char Dham footfall is coinciding with sharper weather extremes in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. Examine the challenges this poses and suggest a framework for sustainable pilgrimage management. (125 words)

Hint: Intro with **53 lakh+** data; challenges — **carrying capacity**, landslide-prone roads, waste, GLOF/WD risk; framework — registration caps, slot booking, early warning, **ILP** linkage, winter/alternate circuits (tourism calendar), local livelihoods; conclude with **GEP** & Sendai Framework.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Banbasa cabinet → **₹200 cr** skills, **3%** deficit, **30%** debt (2031) | **Mountain Guardian** → Chaubatia (Almora), 5–18 Oct | SC → **37/38** | Repo **5.25%**, decision **7 Oct** | Nobel Medicine → **optogenetics**.

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