CURRENT AFFAIRS — 6 November 2026

Friday, 6 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

- Uttarakhand **DA raised 60% → 63%**, effective **1 July 2026**; arrears for Jul–Oct in cash.
- **Kedartal trek avalanche** (Uttarkashi): **6 bodies** recovered, **2 missing**; team of **13** left Gangotri on **27 Oct**.
- **Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail** (125 km): trial run Rishikesh–Byasi targeted **June 2028**; full line **Dec 2029**.
- **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman 2026**: **15** awardees incl. late **Maj Gen B.C. Khanduri** (posthumous); to be conferred on **9 Nov**.
- **WIHG** study: Himalayan **marmot faeces** from **Rimkhim (Dhauliganga valley)** act as a climate-vegetation proxy.
- Union Cabinet (**4 Nov**): **₹14,500 cr VGF** for **92 GWh** grid-scale storage — **60 GWh pumped storage**.
- **Agnipath** revised: willing Agniveers (**75%**) get **+2 years**; **25%** still absorbed for 15 years.
- **850 Fast Track Special Courts** continued till **31 Mar 2031**; **VISTAR** (₹4,371.10 cr) to modernise statistics.
- **Pralay** quasi-ballistic missile (**150–500 km**) cleared user trials off **Odisha** on **5 Nov**.
- India extends **US$500 mn LoC to Guyana** at **CHOGM**, St John's (Antigua & Barbuda).

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

Uttarakhand raises Dearness Allowance to 63% ahead of Diwali

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy & state finances; **Pay Commission**, **DA/DR**, committed expenditure.
Context	Chief Minister **Pushkar Singh Dhami** approved a **3-percentage-point** DA hike for state employees on **5 Nov 2026**, matching the Centre's hike for **7th CPC** employees.
Key Facts	■ DA rises from **60% to 63%**, effective **1 July 2026**. ■ Arrears for **1 Jul–31 Oct 2026** to be paid in **cash**. ■ Covers state staff, **local bodies**, **aided institutions**, state universities and **UGC pay-scale** staff. ■ Earlier hike (May 2026) took DA from **58% to 60%**.
Way Fwd	Balance employee welfare with **fiscal prudence** — salaries, pensions and interest already absorb a large share of revenue receipts.
Concept	**DA** = cost-of-living adjustment linked to **AICPI-IW** (Labour Bureau); revised **twice a year** (Jan & Jul). States usually mirror central rates.

Uttarakhand — Today's News Locations



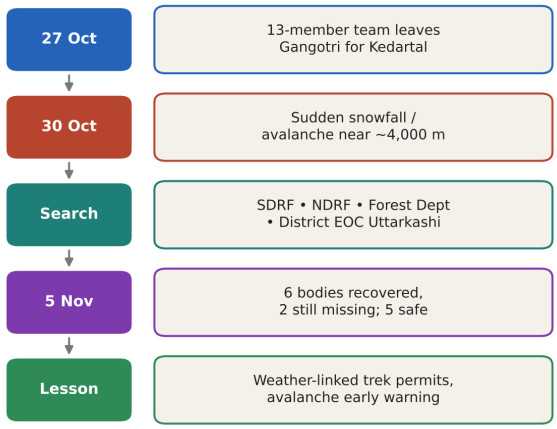
Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

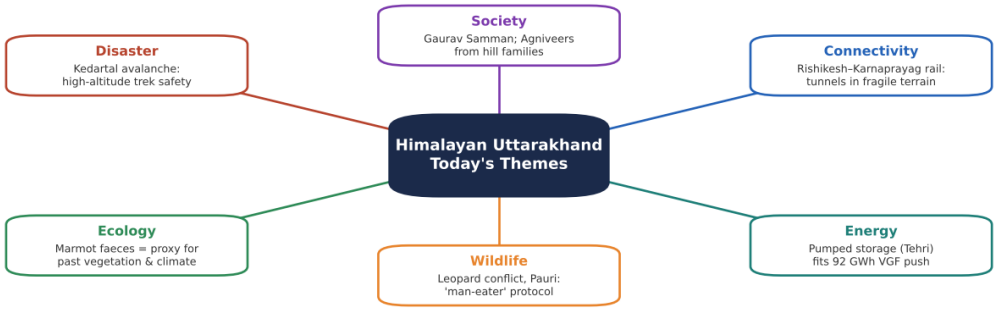
Kedartal trek avalanche: toll rises to six, two still missing

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

Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management in Uttarakhand; **avalanches**, high-altitude trekking regulation; **SDRF/NDRF** roles.
Context	A **13-member** trekking team left **Gangotri** on **27 Oct** for **Kedartal** (Uttarkashi) and was hit by sudden snowfall and an **avalanche** near **~4,000 m**. By **5 Nov**, six bodies had been recovered.
Key Facts	■ **8 dead** (7 trekkers + 1 guide): **6 bodies recovered**, **4 identified**, **2 missing**; **5 members safe**. ■ Victims include **5 women from West Bengal** and **2 from Uttar Pradesh**. ■ Search by **SDRF, NDRF, Forest Dept** and the **District EOC Uttarkashi**; bad weather repeatedly halted operations. ■ **Kedartal** (**~4,750 m**) is a glacial lake below **Thalay Sagar** peak, in the **Gangotri National Park** area.
Way Fwd	Weather-linked **trek permits**, mandatory **GPS trackers**, registered guides and **avalanche early-warning** for the post-monsoon window.
Concept	**Avalanche** = rapid flow of snow down a slope; triggered by fresh snow loading and wind slabs. **SDRF** (Uttarakhand, 2013) is a state force; **NDRF** under the **DM Act, 2005**.

Kedartal Trek Tragedy — Timeline & Response





Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail line: trial run targeted for June 2028

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

Syllabus Linkage	Infrastructure in Uttarakhand; **Char Dham connectivity**; Himalayan tunnelling and environmental concerns.
Context	Latest progress figures show the **125 km** broad-gauge line from **Virbhadra (Rishikesh)** to **Sawai (Karnaprayag)** will see its first trial on **Rishikesh–Byasi** by **June 2028**.
Key Facts	■ **~104 km** in main tunnels; total tunnel network **~213 km** incl. escape tunnels. ■ Longest tunnel: **Devprayag–Janasu (~14.58 km)**, bored by **TBM**. ■ **12 new stations**; passes through **Tehri, Pauri, Rudraprayag, Chamoli**. ■ Cost revised from **₹16,216 cr** to **₹37,119 cr**; executed by **RVNL**; full commissioning by **Dec 2029**.
Way Fwd	Strict **slope-stability monitoring**, fair rehabilitation for **5,709 affected families**, and integration with Char Dham road network.
Concept	Rail spine of the proposed **Char Dham rail** plan; **Alaknanda** valley route via **Devprayag** (Alaknanda + Bhagirathi confluence → **Ganga**).

Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman 2026: 15 achievers named

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims (Culture & Awards — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand awards and personalities; **folk music (Jagar)**, sports, environment.
Context	The state released the list of **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman 2026** awardees on **4 Nov**; awards will be given on **State Foundation Day, 9 Nov**, at **Parade Ground, Dehradun**.
Key Facts	■ Posthumous: **Maj Gen (Retd) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri** (ex-CM). ■ Film: **Himani Shivpuri**; Medicine: **Dr Jeevan Singh Titiyal**; Environment: **Suresh Bhai**. ■ Folk music: **Hema Negi Karasi** (**Jagar** singer) and **Reshma Shah**. ■ Sports: **Ekta Bisht**, **Vandana Katariya**, **Ankita Dhyani**, **Nikita Chand**, **Kapil Pokhriya**.
Way Fwd	Use awardees as **brand ambassadors** for sports, folk culture and environmental causes in hill districts.
Concept	Uttarakhand formed on **9 Nov 2000** as the **27th state** (Uttaranchal; renamed **2007**). **Jagar** = ritual folk singing invoking local deities.



Marmot droppings reveal Himalayan climate clues — WIHG-led study

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

Syllabus Linkage	Himalayan ecology; **palaeoclimate proxies**; research institutes of Uttarakhand.
Context	A study led by **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (Dehradun)** with **BSIP Lucknow**, published in a **peer-reviewed journal**, analysed **Himalayan marmot** faeces from Ladakh and Uttarakhand.
Key Facts	■ **45 samples**: **25** from **Pensila Pass (Ladakh)**, **20** from **Rimkhim, Dhauliganga valley** (~3,600–4,000 m). ■ Pollen of **Artemisia, Poaceae, Cyperaceae, Ephedra** — mostly **alpine steppe**. ■ **Sporormiella** fungal spores linked to small herbivores too. ■ Marmots live between **treeline and glacier line (4,200–5,200 m)**.
Way Fwd	Build **modern-analogue datasets** to read past climate; monitor alpine species as **early indicators of warming**.
Concept	**Proxy data** (pollen, tree rings, ice cores) reconstruct past climate. **WIHG** is an autonomous institute under **DST**.

'Man-eater' leopard captured in Khirsu block, Pauri

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Society — Uttarakhand)

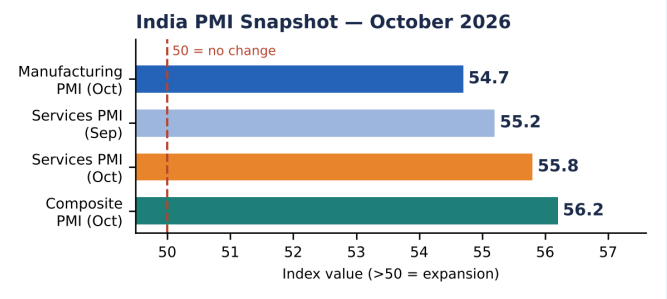
Syllabus Linkage	**Human–wildlife conflict** in Uttarakhand; **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**; hill-area migration.
Context	The Forest Department caged an **~8-year-old leopard** in **Taruli village (Khirsu block, Pauri)** on **5 Nov**; it had killed a **48-year-old woman** on **9 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ Leopard had been declared a **man-eater**; shooting order only as **last resort**. ■ Animal shifted to **Nagdev range** for health check. ■ Another fatal attack on a **4-year-old child** reported near **Khandyuseen, Pauri**. ■ **Pauri** is among the worst-hit districts — conflict linked to **abandoned farmland** and bushes near villages.
Way Fwd	Clear **bushes near habitations**, solar lighting, rapid-response teams and quick **ex-gratia**; revive farming to cut **palayan**.
Concept	Leopard — **Schedule I**, WPA 1972; IUCN **Vulnerable**. **Sec 11** lets the Chief Wildlife Warden declare an animal dangerous to human life.

SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

55.8

India Services PMI — October 2026

Up from **55.2** in September — fastest services expansion in **four months**; **composite PMI 56.2**; input-cost inflation slowest in **6+ years**. PMI **above 50** = expansion.



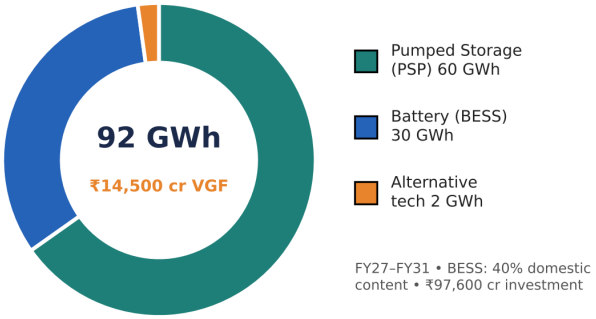
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Defence, Environment, IR

Cabinet clears ₹14,500 crore VGF for 92 GWh grid-scale energy storage

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Energy)

Syllabus Linkage	Energy security, **renewable integration**, **pumped storage** (relevant to Uttarakhand hydropower).
Context	On **4 Nov 2026** the Union Cabinet approved a **Viability Gap Funding** scheme for grid-scale storage for **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹14,500 cr**; capacity **92 GWh** (~**170%** of present grid storage). ■ Mix: **60 GWh PSP**, **30 GWh BESS**, **2 GWh** alternative tech. ■ BESS must have **40% domestic content**; allocation via **tariff-based competitive bidding**. ■ Expected investment **₹97,600 cr**; supports **411 GWh** need by **2031-32**.
Way Fwd	Uttarakhand can tap PSP potential (e.g. **Tehri PSP, 1,000 MW**) with strict ecological safeguards.
Concept	**VGF** = one-time capital grant that makes a socially desirable but commercially unviable project bankable. **PSP** pumps water uphill in surplus hours, generates at peak.

Grid-Scale Energy Storage VGF — Capacity Mix

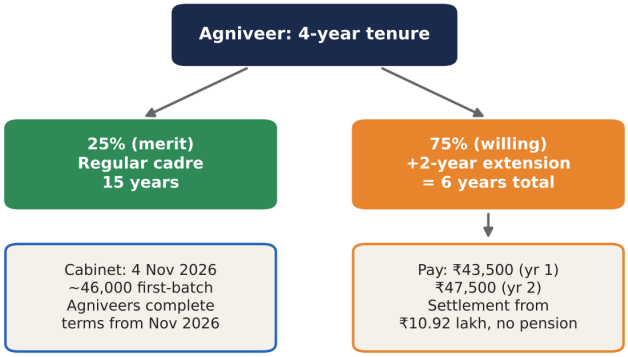


Agnipath revised: two-year extension for willing Agniveers

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity, Governance & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	Defence reforms; **Agnipath (2022)**; ex-servicemen welfare — key for **Uttarakhand** (high armed-forces enrolment).
Context	The Union Cabinet on **4 Nov 2026** let Agniveers who are not absorbed after **4 years** serve **2 more years**, as about **46,000** first-batch Agniveers near completion.
Key Facts	■ **25%** selected on merit still absorbed into regular cadre for **15 years**. ■ Remaining **75%** (if willing) get **+2 years → 6-year** tenure. ■ Pay in extension: **₹43,500** (yr 1), **₹47,500** (yr 2); settlement from **₹10.92 lakh**; **no pension**. ■ Navy batch exits **Nov**, IAF **Dec**, Army **Jan**.
Way Fwd	Pair extension with **skilling, state police quotas** and lateral placement for hill youth.
Concept	**Agnipath** launched **14 June 2022**; age **17.5–21** (relaxed to 23 in first year); **Seva Nidhi** = tax-free corpus.

Agnipath — Revised Pathway (Nov 2026)



Cabinet extends Fast Track Special Courts; clears VISTAR for statistics

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Judiciary, **POCSO**, women & child safety; **statistical system** reform.
Context	On **4 Nov 2026** the Cabinet continued the **FTSC** scheme (incl. **e-POCSO courts**) and approved **VISTAR** under **MoSPI**.
Key Facts	■ FTSC: **850 courts** (from **779**), **1 Apr 2026 – 31 Mar 2031**, centrally sponsored with **Nirbhaya Fund** support. ■ FTSC scheme first launched on **2 Oct 2019**. ■ **VISTAR**: **₹4,371.10 cr**, FY27–FY31; includes the **8th Economic Census**. ■ New indicators: **Index of Services Production**, **Index of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises**.
Way Fwd	Fill **judicial vacancies**, set up child-friendly courtrooms; release data with **district-level** granularity.
Concept	**POCSO Act, 2012** — trial to be completed within **1 year**. **NSO** under MoSPI; the **7th Economic Census** was in **2019**.

Pralay quasi-ballistic missile clears user evaluation trial

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims (Science-Tech & Defence)

Syllabus Linkage	Indigenous missiles; **DRDO**; **Atmanirbhar** defence production.
Context	**DRDO** flight-tested **Pralay** from **Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island (Odisha)** at **11:10 hrs** on **5 Nov 2026**; all objectives met, induction termed **imminent**.
Key Facts	■ Range **150–500 km**; payload **500–1,000 kg**, multiple conventional warhead types. ■ **Solid-propellant**, surface-to-surface; tracked by **ITR Chandipur**. ■ Led by **Research Centre Imarat (Hyderabad)**; produced by **Bharat Dynamics Ltd**. ■ First flight: **22 Dec 2021**.
Way Fwd	Fast-track induction and integrate into a **rocket-missile force** for the northern and western borders.
Concept	**Quasi-ballistic** = flies a low, depressed trajectory and can **manoeuvre** in flight, making interception harder than for pure ballistic missiles.

2026 Antarctic ozone hole ranks seventh largest

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	Ozone depletion; **Montreal Protocol** & **Kigali Amendment**; climate change.
Context	Satellite measurements released on **4 Nov** show the ozone hole peaked at **27.1 mn sq km** on **18 Sep 2026** — **7th largest** in **48 years**, due to a strong **polar vortex**.
Key Facts	■ Seasonal average (7 Sep–13 Oct): about **25 mn sq km**. ■ Minimum ozone **105 DU** on **17 Oct** (record low **92 DU**, Oct 2006). ■ Record area: **9 Sep 2000**; 2026 peak ≈ **90%** of it. ■ Stratospheric chlorine about **one-third below** its 1980s peak.
Way Fwd	Strict compliance with **HFC phase-down** under Kigali; curb rogue **CFC-11** emissions.
Concept	**Montreal Protocol (1987)** — only UN treaty with **universal ratification**; **16 Sep** = World Ozone Day. **Dobson Unit** measures total column ozone.

India extends US$500 million Line of Credit to Guyana at CHOGM

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	India–Caribbean ties; **development partnership**; **Lines of Credit**, **DPI** diplomacy.
Context	EAM **S. Jaishankar** met Guyana's President **Irfaan Ali** on the sidelines of **CHOGM** in **St John's, Antigua and Barbuda**, and announced the LoC on **5 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ LoC of **US$500 mn** for **roads, health and defence**. ■ **3 pacts**: **Digital Public Infrastructure** (UPI-like payments), **Quick Impact Projects**, **MSE** manufacturing units. ■ Fulfils commitments from PM's **Nov 2024** visit (**CARICOM–India Summit**). ■ Guyana — oil-rich, ~**40%** population of **Indian origin**.
Way Fwd	Leverage DPI and energy ties to deepen presence in the **Global South**.
Concept	**Line of Credit** = soft loan, typically via **EXIM Bank** under **IDEAS**. **Commonwealth** has **56** members.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **59 new BS-6 buses** added to the Uttarakhand Transport Corporation fleet (**1,276** buses in all).
2. Uttarakhand **State Foundation Day**: **9 November** (formed **2000**, 27th state).
3. **Critical minerals**: Cabinet approves **₹2,814 cr** capex support for **lithium & nickel** processing.
4. **World Tsunami Awareness Day**: **5 Nov** — theme '**Be Tsunami Ready: Resilience Starts With You**'.
5. **QS Asia Rankings 2027**: **IIT Delhi** best Indian institution at **66th**.
6. **US midterms (3 Nov)**: Democrats win control of **both chambers** of Congress.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER — UKPSC Pattern

Q1. With reference to the Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail project, consider the following statements:
1. Its longest tunnel lies between Devprayag and Janasu.
2. The line passes through Tehri, Pauri, Rudraprayag and Chamoli districts.
3. Karnaprayag lies at the confluence of the Alaknanda and the Bhagirathi.
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) — The **Devprayag–Janasu** tunnel (~**14.58 km**) is the longest, and the line passes through **4 districts**. Karnaprayag is the confluence of the **Alaknanda and Pindar**; the Alaknanda–Bhagirathi confluence is **Devprayag**.

Q2. Under the Viability Gap Funding scheme approved in November 2026 for grid-scale energy storage, which technology has the largest capacity share?

(a) Battery Energy Storage Systems
(b) Pumped Storage Plants
(c) Green hydrogen storage
(d) Compressed air storage

Answer: (b) — Of **92 GWh**, **60 GWh** is **pumped storage**, **30 GWh** BESS and **2 GWh** alternative technologies.

MAINS PRACTICE: High-altitude trekking is a growing part of Uttarakhand's tourism economy, but events like the Kedartal avalanche expose serious safety gaps. Suggest a regulatory and disaster-preparedness framework for adventure tourism in the state. (125 words)

Hint: Intro with the **Kedartal** case → gaps (weather warnings, permits, guides, communication) → framework: **weather-linked permits**, licensed operators, **GPS trackers/satellite phones**, SDRF high-altitude units, insurance → conclude with **sustainable tourism** and local livelihoods.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Revise: **DA 63%** • **Kedartal: 6 dead** • **Rail trial Jun 2028** • **Gaurav Samman on 9 Nov** • **92 GWh storage (60 PSP)** • **Agniveer +2 yrs** • **Pralay 150–500 km** • **Ozone hole 7th largest**

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