CURRENT AFFAIRS — 7 OCTOBER 2026

Wednesday, 7 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

- **Char Dham Yatra 2026** crosses **56.18 lakh** pilgrims — beats **2023** record of **56.13 lakh**.
- **M4.9** quake in **Chamoli** (6 Oct, 10:23 PM), depth **13 km**, ~**50 km** S of **Joshimath**.
- Dhami Cabinet's first-ever meeting at **Banbasa (Champawat)** cleared **24** proposals.
- **₹200 crore** CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026 for **1.19 lakh** students.
- CM announces **Vishwanath-Shakti Temple Corridor** in **Uttarkashi**.
- **Devtal** near **Mana Pass** snow-covered; yellow alert in **8** districts.
- Phase-2: **5 tigers** from **Corbett** to **Rajaji's western zone** (total **10**).
- Cabinet sets up **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)** as an **SPV**.
- Cabinet approves **₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund** for direct equity in SMEs.
- **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** to be **29th Chief of the Air Staff** from **31 Oct 2026**.

SECTION A • UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — schemes, policy, disaster & ecology

Char Dham Yatra 2026 breaks all-time record: 56.18 lakh pilgrims

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Uttarakhand tourism & pilgrimage economy**; disaster management; Prelims: location of the **four Dhams** and their rivers.
Context	As of **7 October 2026**, the number of pilgrims visiting the Char Dham crossed **56,18,497**, surpassing the previous record of **56.13 lakh** set in **2023** — with weeks of the season still left before winter closure.
Key Facts	■ New record: **56.18 lakh** pilgrims vs **56.13 lakh** in **2023**. ■ **Yamunotri** crossed **6.68 lakh** pilgrims for the **first time** this season (23 Aug figure). ■ Four Dhams: **Yamunotri** & **Gangotri** (Uttarkashi), **Kedarnath** (Rudraprayag), **Badrinath** (Chamoli). ■ Registration-based crowd management and **digital monitoring** under the state's 2026 Yatra action plan. ■ Portals close for winter after **Vijayadashami**-announced dates; deities shift to **winter seats**.
Way Fwd	Link pilgrim caps to **scientific carrying-capacity** studies, spread footfall through **winter Char Dham** circuits and strengthen **slope-stability** monitoring on yatra routes.
Concept	**Carrying capacity** = maximum visitors an area can sustain without ecological or infrastructural damage. Rivers: **Yamuna** (Yamunotri), **Bhagirathi** (Gangotri), **Mandakini** (Kedarnath), **Alaknanda** (Badrinath).

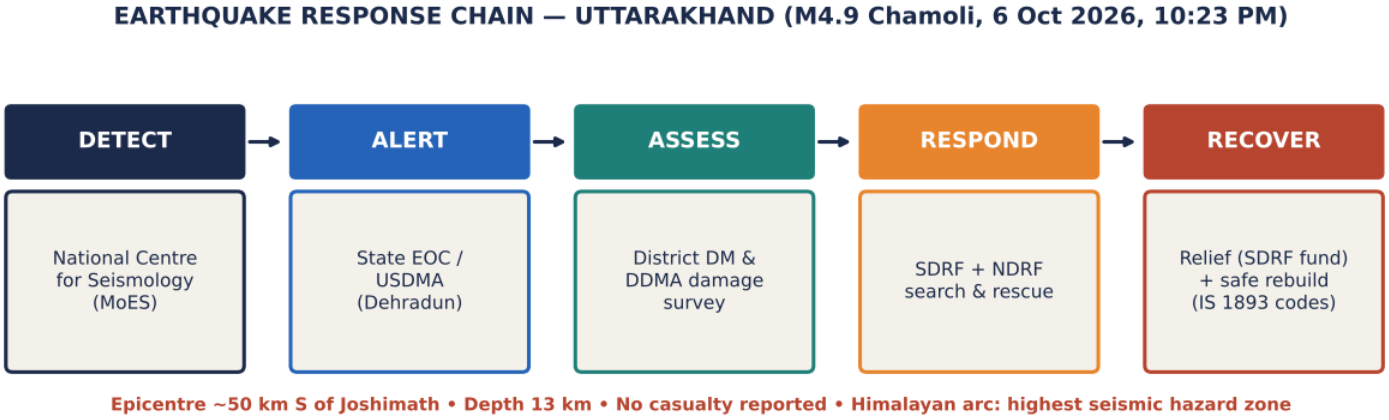
CHAR DHAM YATRA 2026 — RECORD SEASON

56.18 lakh pilgrims till 7 Oct 2026	**56.13 lakh** earlier record (2023)
6.68 lakh Yamunotri — first-ever high	**4 Dhams** Yamunotri • Gangotri Kedarnath • Badrinath

M4.9 earthquake jolts Chamoli; tremors felt up to Delhi-NCR

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

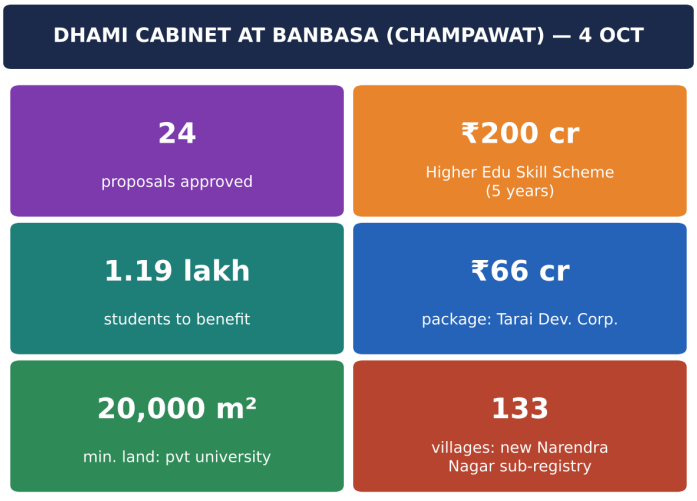
Syllabus Linkage	**Disaster management** in Uttarakhand; physical geography of the Himalaya; Prelims: **seismic zones**, **NCS**, **USDMA/SDRF**.
Context	A **magnitude 4.9** earthquake struck **Chamoli** district at **10:23 PM on 6 October 2026**, with its epicentre about **50 km south of Joshimath** at a depth of **13 km**. Tremors were felt from **Garhwal to Kumaon** and in **Delhi-NCR**.
Key Facts	■ Magnitude **4.9** as per the **National Centre for Seismology (NCS)** under **MoES**. ■ **Shallow focus** (**13 km**) — such quakes are felt widely even at moderate magnitude. ■ No casualty or major damage was reported. ■ Tremors also felt in **Himachal**, **Haryana**, **Punjab**, **Chandigarh** and **western UP**. ■ Chamoli lies close to the **Main Central Thrust (MCT)** — a major Himalayan fault.
Way Fwd	Enforce **earthquake-resistant building codes (IS 1893)** in hill towns, expand the state's **earthquake early-warning** network and run **school & village mock drills**.
Concept	**Focus (hypocentre)** = point of rupture inside the Earth; **epicentre** = point directly above it on the surface. Himalayan thrusts from north to south: **MCT → MBT → HFT**. The Himalaya lies in India's **highest seismic hazard zone**.



Dhami Cabinet meets at Banbasa: ₹200 crore skill scheme among 24 decisions

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

Syllabus Linkage	**State government schemes**; higher education & skilling; land administration; Prelims: **Champawat district**, **Banbasa** on the **Sharda (Mahakali)** river.
Context	In its **first-ever meeting at Banbasa (Champawat)** on **4 October 2026**, the state Cabinet chaired by **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami** approved **24 proposals**, led by a new skill scheme for college students.
Key Facts	■ **CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026**: **₹200 crore** over **5 years**; ~**1.19 lakh** students of govt & private universities/colleges. ■ Private universities: **₹5 crore** guarantee fund removed; minimum land now **20,000 sq m** (earlier **10 acres**). ■ **₹66 crore** special package for **Tarai Development Corporation Ltd**. ■ Land regularisation in **Lalkuan (Nainital)** and **Jaunsar-Bawar (Dehradun)** extended by **1 year** at **2004** circle rate. ■ New **sub-registrar office** at **Narendra Nagar (Tehri)** for **133** revenue villages; new **DG post** for Animal Husbandry, Dairy & Fisheries.
Way Fwd	Tie the skill scheme to **local job clusters** (tourism, horticulture, IT) and track **placement outcomes** to curb **palayan** of educated youth.
Concept	**Cabinet** is collectively responsible to the **Legislative Assembly** (**Article 164(2)**). Banbasa hosts the **Sharda barrage** on the **India–Nepal border**; **Champawat** is the CM's assembly constituency.



Vishwanath-Shakti Temple Corridor announced for Uttarkashi

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Culture & heritage of Uttarakhand**; religious tourism; hill-area development & **migration (palayan)**.
Context	On **7 October 2026**, **CM Dhami** announced a **Vishwanath-Shakti Temple Corridor** in **Uttarkashi** at a **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Sabha**, and said a proposal for a **Kendriya Vidyalaya** at **Bhatwari** will be sent to the Centre.
Key Facts	■ Corridor to link the **Kashi Vishwanath temple** and the **Shakti temple** of Uttarkashi. ■ CM also flagged off a **Seva Jyoti Kalash Yatra**. ■ CM claimed about **44% reverse migration** in the state. ■ Uttarkashi lies on the **Bhagirathi**; known as the '**Kashi of the North**'.
Way Fwd	Corridor design must respect the **Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone** norms and the town's high **seismic vulnerability**.
Concept	**Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone** (Gaumukh–Uttarkashi, notified **2012**). The **Shakti temple** houses a giant ancient **trishul**. **Palayan Nivaran Aayog** (Migration Commission) set up in **2017**, HQ **Pauri**.

Early snowfall blankets Devtal near Mana Pass; yellow alert in 8 districts

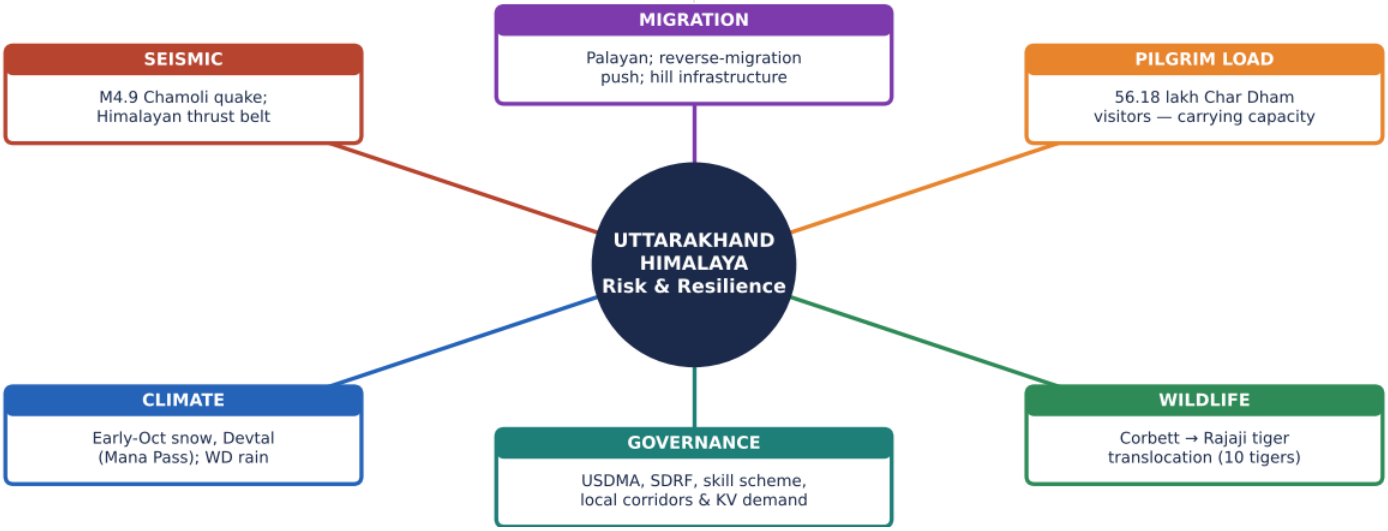
ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Environment — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	**Climate of Uttarakhand**; **Western Disturbances**; Himalayan passes & lakes; Prelims: **Mana Pass**, **Devtal**.
Context	Continuous rain and early-October snowfall covered **Devtal** lake near **Mana Pass (Chamoli)** in snow, briefly blocking movement on iced roads. A **yellow alert** was issued for **8 districts** on **7 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Yellow alert: **Almora, Nainital, Champawat, Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar**. ■ **Nainital** recorded max **19°C** and min **14°C**. ■ **Mana Pass** links **Chamoli** with **Tibet**; **Mana** is the '**First Indian Village**'. ■ Early snow raises risk for late-season **Badrinath** & **Hemkund** pilgrims.
Way Fwd	Issue **impact-based forecasts** for yatra routes, pre-position **snow-clearance** machinery and keep **GLOF** and **avalanche** monitoring active in high valleys.
Concept	**Western Disturbances** = extra-tropical storms from the **Mediterranean** carried by the **subtropical westerly jet**; they bring winter rain and snow to the Himalaya. IMD colour code: **Green → Yellow → Orange → Red**.

Corbett-to-Rajaji tiger translocation enters phase 2 as Wildlife Week ends

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Protected areas of Uttarakhand**; wildlife conservation; **human-wildlife conflict**; Prelims: **Corbett**, **Rajaji**, **NTCA**.
Context	**Corbett Tiger Reserve** marked **Wildlife Week (1-7 October)** with the theme '**Connecting Habitats, Thriving Wildlife**', while the second phase of shifting **5 tigers** to **Rajaji Tiger Reserve** is underway with **NTCA** approval.
Key Facts	■ Phase 2: **5 tigers** (**1 male, 4 females**) to Rajaji's **western zone**; phase 1 went to the **eastern zone**. ■ Total translocated after phase 2: **10 tigers**. ■ Tigers to be **radio-collared** and **soft-released** after **3-4 days** in enclosures; **3 months** of tracking. ■ Selection prioritises tigers near villages to cut **conflict risk**. ■ **Corbett Festival** held **6-8 October** at Ramnagar.
Way Fwd	Secure the **Rajaji–Corbett corridor** (Chilla–Motichur, Lansdowne), boost **prey base** in the western zone and involve **Van Gujjar** and village communities.
Concept	**Corbett** = India's **first national park** (**1936**, as **Hailey NP**); **Project Tiger** launched here in **1973**. **Rajaji** declared a **Tiger Reserve** in **2015**. **NTCA** is a statutory body under the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** (2006 amendment).



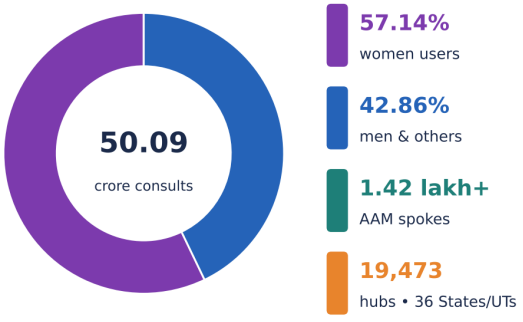
SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

ESANJEEVANI TELECONSULTATIONS (CUMULATIVE)

50.09 crore

India's national telemedicine platform, built by **C-DAC**, crossed **50 crore** consultations — **57.14%** by **women**, via **1.42 lakh+** Ayushman Arogya Mandir spokes and **19,473** hubs across **36 States/UTs**; it won **Gold** at the **National Awards for e-Governance 2026**.

eSANJEEVANI — WHO USES INDIA'S TELEMEDICINE?



SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — polity, economy, IR, defence

Cabinet approves Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Infrastructure)

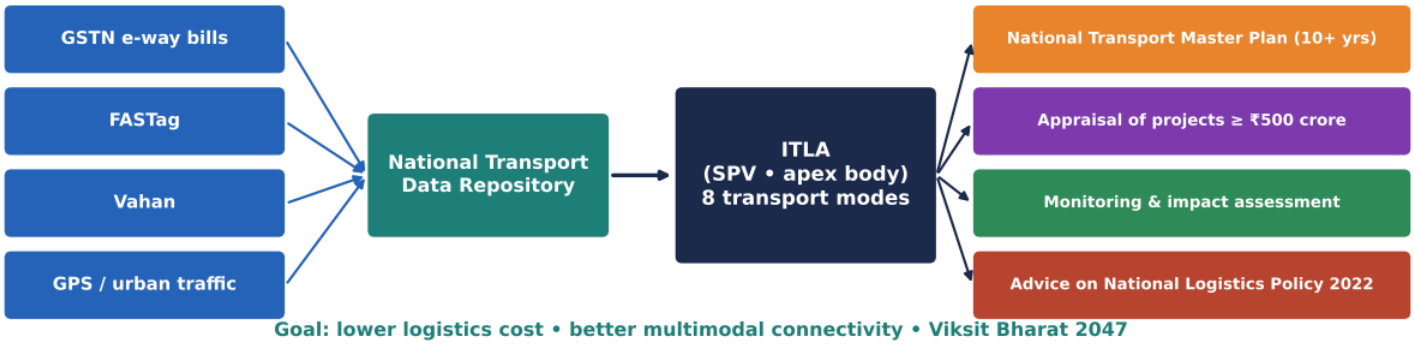
Syllabus Linkage	**Infrastructure & logistics**; planning institutions; Prelims: **PM Gati Shakti**, **National Logistics Policy 2022**, **LPI**.
Context	On **6 October 2026**, the **Union Cabinet** chaired by **PM Narendra Modi** approved setting up the **ITLA** as a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV)** — an apex body for integrated transport and logistics planning across modes.
Key Facts	■ Covers **8 domains**: roads, railways, ports, civil aviation, inland waterways, coastal shipping, urban mobility, logistics. ■ Will prepare a **National Transport Master Plan** with a **10+ year** horizon. ■ Technical appraisal & monitoring of central projects costing **₹500 crore or more**. ■ **National Transport Data Repository (NTDR)** using **GSTN e-way bills, FASTag, Vahan, GPS**. ■ India ranked **38th of 139** in the **World Bank LPI 2023**.
Way Fwd	Define its **legal mandate** and coordination with the **PM Gati Shakti Network Planning Group** to avoid overlap; prioritise **hill-state logistics** like ropeways in Uttarakhand.
Concept	**SPV** = a legal entity created for a specific purpose with ring-fenced finances. **National Logistics Policy (2022)** aims to cut logistics cost and reach **top-25 in LPI by 2030**.

₹10,000 crore SME Growth Fund cleared for direct equity in SMEs

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	**MSME sector**, financing & industrial policy; Prelims: **MSME classification**, **AIF**, **SEBI**.
Context	The **Union Cabinet** on **6 October 2026** approved a **₹10,000 crore** commitment for an **SME Growth Fund**, announced in the **Union Budget 2026-27**, to provide **patient growth equity** to high-potential SMEs.
Key Facts	■ To be structured as an **Alternative Investment Fund (AIF)** under **SEBI** rules. ■ Targets the **'missing middle'** — firms between startups and bank-dependent MSMEs. ■ Majority focus on **manufacturing SMEs** in **Tier-II/III** industrial clusters. ■ Uses: capacity expansion, technology, **exports**, global value chain integration. ■ MSME limits (from **1 April 2025**): Medium = investment **₹125 crore**, turnover **₹500 crore**.
Way Fwd	Publish clear **eligibility norms**, crowd in **private co-investment**, and ensure hill-state clusters (e.g. **Sidcul Pantnagar, Haridwar**) get access.
Concept	**MSME classification** (revised 2025): Micro **₹2.5 cr / ₹10 cr**, Small **₹25 cr / ₹100 cr**, Medium **₹125 cr / ₹500 cr** (investment / turnover). **AIF** = privately pooled fund regulated by **SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012**.

INTEGRATED TRANSPORT & LOGISTICS AUTHORITY (ITLA) — HOW IT WORKS



Swiss President's State Visit: 5 outcomes; TEPA turns one

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

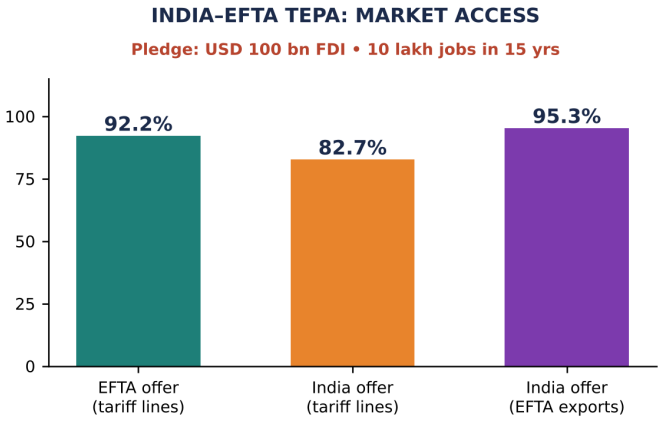
Syllabus Linkage	**India's bilateral relations** & trade agreements; Prelims: **EFTA members**, **TEPA**.
Context	**Swiss President Guy Parmelin**'s **three-day State Visit** (from **5 October 2026**) marked the **first anniversary** of the **India-EFTA Trade and Economic Partnership Agreement (TEPA)**.
Key Facts	■ **Migration & Mobility Partnership**: multiple-entry visas up to **5 years**. ■ **Young Professionals Scheme**: **300** persons/year per country, extendable to **500**. ■ MoUs on **transport technologies** (EVs, **ropeways**), research (**DST-SNSF**) and tech transfer. ■ TEPA: EFTA pledged **USD 100 billion** investment and **1 million** direct jobs in **15 years**. ■ Bilateral trade **USD 24.4 billion** (2024-25).
Way Fwd	Use Swiss **ropeway & mountain-engineering** expertise for Himalayan states like Uttarakhand and monitor delivery of the **investment pledge**.

Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit named next Chief of the Air Staff

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims (Defence & Appointments)

Syllabus Linkage	**Defence & security**; important appointments; Prelims: **IAF leadership**, operations.
Context	The Government on **6 October 2026** appointed **Vice Chief Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** as the next **Chief of the Air Staff**. He takes over on **31 October 2026** from **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**.
Key Facts	■ Will be the **29th** Chief of the Air Staff; tenure till **31 December 2028**. ■ Commissioned in the **fighter stream** on **6 December 1986**; **NDA** alumnus. ■ Over **3,500** flying hours on **Mirage-2000, MiG, Jaguar, Tejas** and others. ■ Took part in operations including **Op Safed Sagar**, **Op Rakshak** and **Op Sindoor**.
Way Fwd	Priorities: restoring **fighter squadron strength**, induction of **Tejas Mk1A**, and **theatre command** integration.

Concept	**EFTA** (1960) members: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein**. TEPA signed **10 March 2024**, in force **1 October 2025** — India's first FTA with a **binding investment commitment**.



Concept	Service chiefs are appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**; the **President** is the **Supreme Commander** (**Article 53(2)**). **Op Safed Sagar** = IAF's role in **Kargil, 1999**.

First indigenous Fleet Support Ship 'Surya' launched at Visakhapatnam

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	**Indigenisation in defence**, **Aatmanirbhar Bharat**; maritime security; Prelims: **HSL**, fleet tankers.
Context	**Raksha Mantri Rajnath Singh** launched **FSS-1 'Surya'**, the first of **five** Fleet Support Ships for the **Indian Navy**, at **Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (HSL), Visakhapatnam** on **6 October 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Five-ship programme worth about **₹19,000 crore**; **keel of FSS-5** also laid. ■ Displacement about **43,500 tonnes**; about **82%** indigenous content. ■ Can carry fuel, water, ammunition for **replenishment at sea**; has a **helicopter deck**. ■ Launched **18 months** after steel-cutting; HSL can now build ships up to **45,000 DWT**.
Way Fwd	Timely delivery will extend the Navy's **blue-water reach** in the **Indian Ocean Region** and support **MAHASAGAR** outreach.
Concept	**Fleet Support Ship** = 'floating petrol pump' that extends a fleet's endurance. **Launch** = hull floated into water; **commissioning** = formal induction into service. **DWT** = deadweight tonnage (cargo-carrying capacity).

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Mussoorie Sharadotsav revived after **12 years**, with **40** cultural teams.	India's first **WASH social bond**: **NABKISAN** raised **₹180 crore** at **8.10%**.
Banbasa (Champawat) lies on the **Sharda/Mahakali** river at the **India–Nepal** border.	First **3D-printed PMAY-G** houses: **177** units in **Guntur** (Andhra Pradesh).
National Supercomputing Mission: **40 of 50** systems, **68 petaflops** deployed (launched **2015**).	**HAL Koraput** delivered its **2,000th aero-engine**.

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs (UKPSC pattern)

Q1. With reference to tiger conservation in Uttarakhand, consider the following statements:
1. Project Tiger was launched in 1973 at Corbett National Park.
2. Rajaji was declared a Tiger Reserve in 2015.
3. The second phase of Corbett-to-Rajaji translocation shifts tigers to Rajaji's eastern zone.
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. Phase 2 sends **5 tigers** to Rajaji's **western zone**; phase 1 went to the eastern zone.

Q2. Which one of the following is NOT a member of the European Free Trade Association (EFTA), with which India's TEPA came into force in 2025?
(a) Iceland **(b)** Liechtenstein **(c)** Austria **(d)** Norway

Answer: (c) — EFTA has four members: **Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein**. **Austria** left EFTA when it joined the **EU in 1995**.

MAINS PRACTICE

The record footfall of the Char Dham Yatra and recurring seismic and weather shocks in the Garhwal Himalaya call for a 'carrying-capacity first' pilgrimage policy. Discuss with reference to Uttarakhand. (200 words)

Hint: Intro: **56.18 lakh** pilgrims (record) + **M4.9 Chamoli** quake + early snow. Body: ecological fragility (**MCT**, landslides, **2013 Kedarnath**), economic gains, carrying-capacity studies, registration caps, winter yatra, **USDMA/SDRF** readiness, safe construction. Conclude: balance faith, livelihood and the Himalaya.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Char Dham **56.18 lakh** (record) | Chamoli quake **M4.9**, **13 km** deep | Banbasa Cabinet: **24** decisions, **₹200 cr** skill scheme | ITLA = **SPV**, projects **≥ ₹500 cr** | Next IAF chief: **Ashutosh Dixit** (**29th**).

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team

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