CURRENT AFFAIRS — 8 October 2026

Thursday, 8 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 final post-SIR roll: **71,58,949** electors; enrolment drive from **8 Oct**.
- Dhami cabinet at **Banbasa (Champawat)** cleared **24** proposals incl. **₹200 cr** skill scheme.
- **Uttarakhand Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026** to replace the **1873** canal law.
- India–UAE **Mountain Guardian 2026** at **Chaubatia** (5–18 Oct), **92** troops.
- Western disturbance: **yellow alert** in **8** districts; snow above **4,200 m**.
- Maiden **Corbett Literature Festival** concludes at **Ramnagar** (6–8 Oct).
- RBI hikes repo by **25 bps** to **5.50%**; stance **'calibrated tightening'**.
- Cabinet clears **₹10,000 cr SME Growth Fund** and **ITLA** for transport planning.
- **57th GST Council** meets today; arrest powers, ITC, refunds on agenda.
- Chemistry Nobel 2026: **Henri Kagan & Kenso Soai** — asymmetric autocatalysis.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

Uttarakhand's Final Electoral Roll after SIR: 71.59 Lakh Electors; Enrolment Drive Begins

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

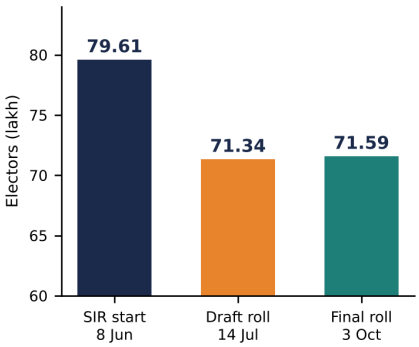
Syllabus Linkage	Indian Polity — **Election Commission (Art. 324)**, electoral rolls (**Art. 325–326**), **RP Act, 1950**; Uttarakhand electoral profile.
Context	The Chief Electoral Officer released data on the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**: the final roll, published on **3 Oct 2026**, has **71,58,949** electors, and a month-long drive to re-enrol eligible left-out voters began on **8 Oct**.
Key Facts	● Electors fell from **79.61 lakh** (SIR start, **8 June 2026**) to **71.59 lakh** — a net drop of **~8 lakh**; over **17 lakh** gross deletions reported across the revision cycle. ● Deletions under **ASDD** (Absent, Shifted, Dead, Duplicate) were highest in the plains — **Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar**. ● Final roll: **37,37,701** men, **34,21,036** women; **72,656** voters aged **18–19** and **1,22,892** aged **80+**. ● **12,543** polling stations; qualifying date **1 July 2026**; draft roll **14 July**. ● BLOs go door-to-door; eligible persons can file **Form 6** for new enrolment.
Way Fwd	Ensure no eligible migrant hill voter is left out; use time-bound grievance redress well before the **2027** Assembly polls.
Concept	**SIR** = fresh house-to-house preparation of rolls (unlike a summary revision). Rolls are prepared by the **ERO** under the **RP Act, 1950**; **Art. 326** gives adult suffrage at **18** (**61st Amendment, 1988**).

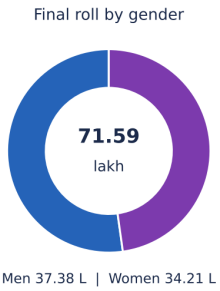
Dhami Cabinet at Banbasa Clears 24 Proposals: ₹200-cr Skill Scheme, New Irrigation Law

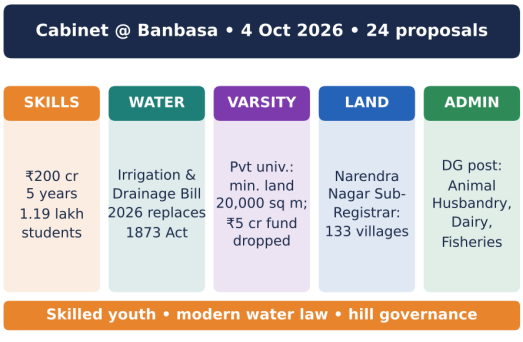
UTTARAKHAND | **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Economy — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand — state schemes, higher education & skilling, irrigation administration, land revenue; colonial-era law reform.
Context	Meeting outside the capital at **Banbasa (Champawat)** on **4 Oct 2026**, the state cabinet approved **24** proposals spanning skilling, universities, land and irrigation; details were released this week.
Key Facts	● **Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026**: **₹200 crore** over **5 years** for **~1.19 lakh** students. ● **Uttarakhand Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026** to replace the colonial **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873**. ● Private universities: minimum land now **20,000 sq m**; the **₹5-crore** guarantee-fund condition dropped. ● New **Sub-Registrar office at Narendra Nagar (Tehri)** for **133** revenue villages; a **DG-level post** to coordinate Animal Husbandry, Dairy and Fisheries. ● Interviews scrapped for some **Group C** posts (e.g., **Deputy Jailor**).
Way Fwd	Link skilling to hill-economy sectors (tourism, horticulture, IT); frame irrigation rules that also revive traditional **guls** and **naulas**.
Concept	**Champawat** district was carved from Pithoragarh in **1997**. **Banbasa** lies on the **Sharda (Mahakali)** at the **Nepal** border — site of the **Banbasa barrage**; the **Mahakali Treaty (1996)** governs water sharing.

Uttarakhand electoral roll during SIR, 2026





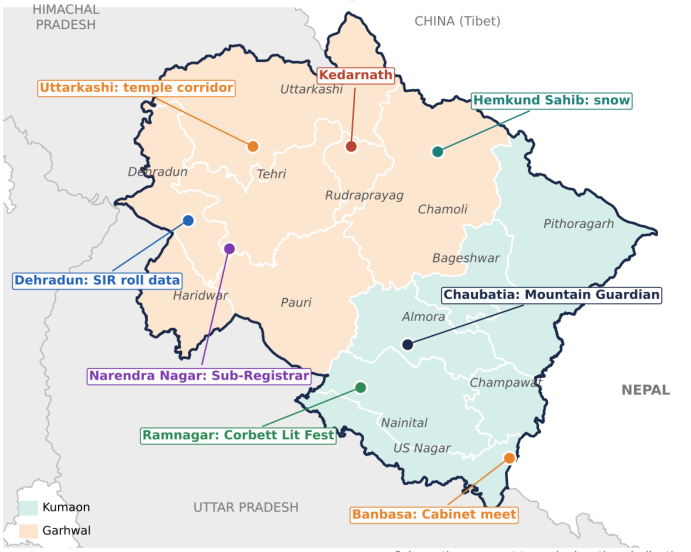


India–UAE 'Mountain Guardian 2026' Underway at Chaubatia

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

Syllabus Linkage	International relations — India–Gulf ties; defence exercises; Uttarakhand — Kumaon cantonments (Ranikhet).
Context	The joint exercise **Mountain Guardian 2026** between the **Indian Army** and **UAE Land Forces** is being held at the **Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia** from **5 to 18 Oct 2026**.
Key Facts	● **92** personnel in equal strength — India from a **Bhairav Battalion**, UAE from a **Mountain Infantry Battalion**. ● Focus: **mountain warfare**, **drone operations**, surveillance grids, rock-climbing and integrated field drills. ● **Women officers and combatants** from both armies take part in specialist roles. ● Chaubatia is near **Ranikhet (Almora)**, home of the **Kumaon Regiment Centre**.
Way Fwd	Build on the **CEPA (2022)** and the strategic partnership to deepen defence-industrial and counter-terror cooperation.
Concept	**Bhairav Battalions** — agile light-commando units raised in **2025**, bridging regular infantry and **Special Forces**. The other India–UAE Army exercise is **Desert Cyclone**.

Uttarakhand: today's news locations



Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

CM Announces Vishwanath-Shakti Temple Corridor in Uttarkashi

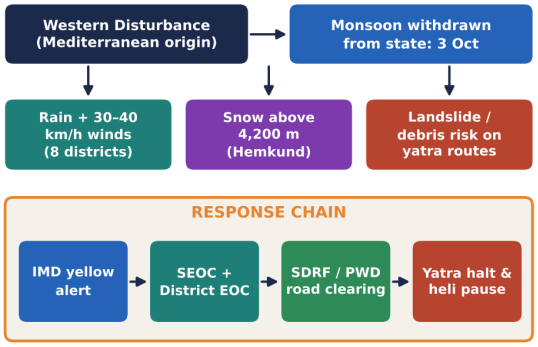
UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (History & Culture; Hill Development)

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand culture — temples and pilgrimage circuits; migration ('palayan') and hill-area development.
Context	On **7 Oct**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** in **Uttarkashi** announced a **Vishwanath-Shakti Temple Corridor** linking the **Kashi Vishwanath** and **Maa Shakti** temples, and a proposal for a **Kendriya Vidyalaya at Bhatwari**.
Key Facts	● Corridor to upgrade pilgrim facilities on the **Gangotri** route; cost and timeline yet to be notified. ● CM claimed **44% reverse migration** in the state and cited the **Lakhpati Didi** scheme. ● The Shakti temple houses a giant ancient **trishul** with inscriptions; Uttarkashi on the **Bhagirathi** is called the '**Kashi of the North**'.
Way Fwd	Plan the corridor within the **Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone** norms (Gaumukh–Uttarkashi, **4,179 sq km**, notified **2012**) and carrying-capacity studies.
Concept	The state **Migration Commission (2017, HQ Pauri)**, now the **Palayan Nivaran Aayog**, tracks out- and reverse migration; temple corridors follow the **Kedarnath–Badrinath master-plan** model.

Post-Monsoon Western Disturbance: Yellow Alert, First Snow on High Peaks

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

Syllabus Linkage	Physical geography — climate of Uttarakhand, western disturbances; disaster management — landslides, pilgrimage safety.
Context	After the **monsoon withdrew** from Uttarakhand on **3 Oct**, an active **western disturbance** has brought rain, gusty winds and snow to high peaks; travellers on **Char Dham** routes were advised caution on **8 Oct**.
Key Facts	● **Yellow alert** in **8 districts** — Dehradun, Haridwar, Tehri, Pauri, Almora, Nainital, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar; winds **30–40 km/h**. ● Snow possible at **4,200 m+**; **Hemkund Sahib (Chamoli, ~4,630 m)** turned white. ● Thunder-clouds forecast on **Rudraprayag–Joshimath** and **Joshimath–Badrinath–Hemkund** routes; debris and road-block risk. ● **Kedarnath** season runs from **22 Apr** to **11 Nov 2026**; helicopter services pause in poor visibility.
Way Fwd	Real-time **SDRF** deployment, slope-stability monitoring and dynamic registration caps on yatra routes; widen the **Doppler radar** network.
Concept	**Western Disturbances** — extra-tropical storms from the **Mediterranean**, carried by the **subtropical westerly jet**; they bring winter rain/snow to NW India, vital for **rabi** crops. Uttarakhand's Doppler radars: **Mukteshwar, Surkanda Devi, Lansdowne**.



Maiden Corbett Literature Festival Concludes as Wildlife Week Ends

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

Syllabus Linkage	Ecology — protected areas of Uttarakhand, human–wildlife interface; culture — Garhwali-Kumaoni folk traditions.
Context	The **first Corbett Literature Festival**, organised by the **state Forest Department, Corbett Tiger Reserve and state Tourism** at **Ramnagar (Nainital)**, ends on **8 Oct** — the last day of the **72nd Wildlife Week (2–8 Oct)**.
Key Facts	● Three days (**6–8 Oct**) of sessions, photo exhibitions and nature walks. ● Themes: forest communities, wildlife rescue, frontline staff (**mahouts, ghasis**), responsible tourism, **Garhwali-Kumaoni folk music**. ● Forest Minister **Subodh Uniyal**: conservation must go hand in hand with better local livelihoods. ● **Corbett NP** — India's **first national park** (**1936**, as **Hailey NP**); **Project Tiger** launched here in **1973**.
Way Fwd	Use such festivals for **eco-tourism** and conflict-mitigation awareness in buffer villages; share tourism revenue with **Van Panchayats**.
Concept	**Art. 51A(g)** — Fundamental Duty to protect wildlife; **Art. 48A** — DPSP on environment. Wildlife Week traces to the **Indian Board for Wild Life (1952)**. Uttarakhand has **6 NPs** and **7 wildlife sanctuaries**.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

71,58,949
electors

Electors in Uttarakhand's final post-SIR roll (3 Oct 2026)

Down ~**8 lakh** from **79.61 lakh** at SIR start; women **34.21 lakh** (~**915** per 1,000 men); **12,543** polling stations.

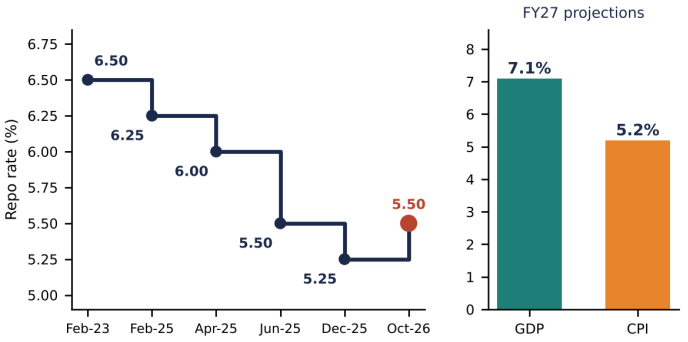
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

RBI Raises Repo Rate to 5.50% — First Hike Since February 2023

ECONOMY | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian economy — monetary policy, inflation targeting, RBI instruments (repo, SDF, MSF).
Context	On **7 Oct 2026**, the **MPC** unanimously raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** and changed its stance from **neutral** to **'calibrated tightening'**, citing crude-price volatility and the **West Asia** conflict.
Key Facts	● **SDF 5.25%**, **MSF/Bank Rate 5.75%** (corridor of **±25 bps**). ● FY27 projections: **GDP 7.1%**, **CPI inflation 5.2%** (Q3 **6.0%**, Q4 **5.7%**). ● Governor **Sanjay Malhotra**: the next move can only be a **hike or a pause**. ● Risks: weak monsoon and strong **El Niño** for rabi; India imports **85%+** of its crude.
Way Fwd	Pair tightening with supply-side steps (fuel taxes, food stocks) to protect growth and **MSME** credit.
Concept	**MPC** — **6** members (3 RBI + 3 external) under **Sec. 45ZB, RBI Act 1934** (2016 amendment); CPI target **4% ± 2%** set by the Centre. A **hike** makes credit costlier to cool demand.

Repo rate path: first hike since Feb 2023



57th GST Council Meets Today: Process Reforms, Arrest Powers on the Table

POLITY | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Economy — Fiscal Federalism)

Syllabus Linkage	Polity — **Art. 279A**, cooperative federalism; economy — indirect taxes.
Context	The **57th GST Council** meeting, chaired by Union Finance Minister **Nirmala Sitharaman**, is being held on **8 Oct 2026** after being rescheduled twice (from **12 Sep** and then **7 Oct**).
Key Facts	● Agenda: simpler **registration, returns and refunds**; faster **input tax credit (ITC)** flow. ● Reported proposals: **decriminalising** GST offences and curbing **arrest powers** of GST officers — several states have reservations. ● Dispute-resolution reforms and easier compliance for **e-commerce** suppliers. ● The **56th** meeting (**Sept 2025**) approved the two-slab **GST 2.0** — **5%** and **18%**, plus **40%** on demerit goods.
Way Fwd	Build consensus that protects states' revenue and taxpayer rights through clear, uniform arrest guidelines.

Cabinet: ₹10,000-cr SME Growth Fund & Integrated Transport and Logistics Authority

ECONOMY | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	Industry/MSME finance, infrastructure and logistics; Uttarakhand link — SIDCUL industrial clusters, hill logistics.
Context	On **6 Oct 2026**, the **Union Cabinet** approved a **₹10,000-crore** commitment to an **SME Growth Fund (SGF)** and set up the **Integrated Transport & Logistics Authority (ITLA)**.
Key Facts	● SGF invests **equity** via an **Alternative Investment Fund**; majority for **manufacturing SMEs**, incl. **Tier-II/III** clusters. ● ITLA: apex **SPV** for a **10-year+ National Transport Master Plan** across road, rail, ports, aviation, waterways and urban mobility. ● Technical appraisal of central projects **≥ ₹500 crore** plus post-implementation impact assessment. ● **National Transport Data Repository** using **e-way bill, FASTag, Vahan, GPS** data. ● MSME limits: small — investment **≤ ₹25 cr**, turnover **≤ ₹100 cr**; medium — **≤ ₹125 cr / ₹500 cr**.
Way Fwd	Avoid overlap with the **PM GatiShakti** National Master Plan; hill states like Uttarakhand should align road and ropeway plans with ITLA's master plan.
Concept	Logistics cost is **~7.8–8.9% of GDP**; India ranked **38th of 139** in the **LPI 2023**. **National Logistics Policy (2022)**. AIFs are regulated under **SEBI (AIF) Regulations, 2012**.



Chemistry Nobel 2026: Mirror-Image Molecules — Kagan & Soai

SCI-TECH | UKPSC: Prelims (General Science & Sci-Tech)

Syllabus Linkage	General science — chirality, catalysis; awards and honours.
Context	The **Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences** on **7 Oct 2026** awarded the Chemistry Nobel to **Henri B. Kagan (France)** and **Kenso Soai (Japan)** for discovering **non-linear effects** and **autocatalysis** in **asymmetric synthesis**.
Key Facts	● Kagan (**1986**): a catalyst of low **enantiomeric purity** can still give a highly pure product — the **non-linear effect**. ● **Soai reaction (1995)**: a chiral product catalyses its own formation, amplifying a tiny imbalance to **>99.5%** of one hand. ● Offers clues to the **origin of homochirality** in life (L-amino acids, D-sugars). ● Earlier asymmetric-catalysis Nobels: **2001** (Knowles, Noyori, Sharpless), **2021** (List, MacMillan).
Way Fwd	Strengthen Indian pharma's capacity in single-enantiomer drugs under the **PLI for bulk drugs**.

Concept	**101st Amendment (2016)** introduced GST. Council = Union FM (chair) + MoS Finance + state FMs; decisions need a **3/4 weighted majority** (Centre **1/3**, states **2/3** of votes).

Project Cheetah Gets a Third MP Home: Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	Biodiversity conservation — species reintroduction, protected areas, IUCN status.
Context	Two cheetahs, **Vyom** and **Neera**, shifted from **Kuno**, were released into **Veerangana Durgavati Tiger Reserve** (Bundelkhand) — MP's **third cheetah site** after **Kuno** and **Gandhi Sagar**.
Key Facts	● Cheetah was declared **extinct in India in 1952**. ● **Project Cheetah** began on **17 Sept 2022** at **Kuno** with **8 Namibian** cheetahs; **12** came from **South Africa** in **2023**. ● **Gandhi Sagar WLS** received cheetahs in **April 2025**. ● VDTR, notified in **2023**, is MP's **7th** tiger reserve, formed from **Nauradehi** and **Durgavati** sanctuaries.
Way Fwd	Prey augmentation, wider genetic base through fresh imports and community buy-in to limit conflict.
Concept	African cheetah — **Vulnerable (IUCN)**; the **Asiatic cheetah** survives only in **Iran** (Critically Endangered). Cheetah is the fastest land animal.

Concept	**Chirality** — a molecule not superimposable on its mirror image (**enantiomers**). The **thalidomide** tragedy (1950s–60s) showed one enantiomer can be harmful.

IAF Day at 94: Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit Named Next Air Chief

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims (Defence & Persons in News)

Syllabus Linkage	Defence — armed forces structure; important days and appointments.
Context	**Indian Air Force Day** is observed on **8 Oct** (IAF raised in **1932**). Vice Chief **Air Marshal Ashutosh Dixit** has been named the **29th Chief of the Air Staff**, effective **31 Oct 2026**.
Key Facts	● Succeeds **Air Chief Marshal Amar Preet Singh**; tenure up to **31 Dec 2028**. ● Commissioned in the **fighter stream** in **Dec 1986**; **3,500+** flying hours. ● IAF raised on **8 Oct 1932** as an auxiliary of the RAF; prefix **'Royal'** dropped in **1950**. ● Motto **'Nabhah Sprisham Deeptam'** — from the **Bhagavad Gita**.
Way Fwd	Close the fighter-squadron gap through faster **Tejas Mk1A** induction and indigenisation.
Concept	Service chiefs are appointed by the **Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC)**; the **President** is Supreme Commander of the armed forces (**Art. 53(2)**).

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Kumaon Regiment Centre** — **Ranikhet (Almora)**; nearby Chaubatia hosts the Army's Foreign Training Node.	4. Uttarakhand **Doppler radars** — **Mukteshwar, Surkanda Devi, Lansdowne**.
2. **Banbasa barrage** — on the **Sharda (Mahakali)**, **India–Nepal** border, Champawat district.	5. **Repo / SDF / MSF** — **5.50% / 5.25% / 5.75%** (from 7 Oct 2026).
3. **Hemkund Sahib** — **~4,630 m**, Chamoli; trek via **Ghangaria**, near the **Valley of Flowers**.	6. **GST Council** — **Art. 279A**, inserted by the **101st Amendment, 2016**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements about Jim Corbett National Park: 1. It was India's first national park, established in 1936 as Hailey National Park. 2. Project Tiger was launched here in 1973. 3. The Ramganga river flows through the park. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (d) — All three are correct: Corbett was set up in **1936** as **Hailey NP**, **Project Tiger** began here in **1973**, and the **Ramganga** flows through it.

Q2. Chaubatia, the venue of the India–UAE exercise 'Mountain Guardian 2026', is located in which district of Uttarakhand?

(a) Pithoragarh **(b)** Almora
(c) Bageshwar **(d)** Nainital

Answer: (b) — Chaubatia lies near **Ranikhet** in **Almora** district — known for the **Kumaon Regiment Centre** and government apple orchards.

MAINS PRACTICE

Post-monsoon western disturbances and a long pilgrimage season heighten disaster risk along Uttarakhand's Char Dham routes. Discuss the challenges and suggest a risk-informed framework for yatra management. (250 words)

Hint: Intro: monsoon withdrawal (**3 Oct**) yet WD-driven rain/snow. Body: landslides, fragile slopes, crowding, heli safety, weak early warning; framework — **carrying capacity**, dynamic registration caps, **Doppler radar** + nowcasts, SDRF pre-positioning, road slope engineering, community alerts. Conclude with **Sendai Framework** priorities.

ONE-LINE REVISION ▸ 71.59 lakh electors | Banbasa cabinet: **24** decisions | **Mountain Guardian** @ Chaubatia | Repo **5.50%** | **57th** GST Council | Nobel: **Kagan & Soai**

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