CURRENT AFFAIRS — 9 OCTOBER 2026

Friday, 9 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

- Statewide **EEW siren test** at **11 AM**: **112 sirens**, **169 sensors**, alerts on **Bhudev app**.
- **M 4.9** quake hit **Chamoli** on **6 Oct** (depth **13 km**); tremors felt in Delhi-NCR.
- Banbasa Cabinet: fiscal deficit cap **3% of GSDP**, debt ceiling **30% of GSDP**.
- **₹200 crore** higher-education skill scheme for **1.19 lakh** students.
- **Dinesh Arya** (BJP) set for **unopposed** Rajya Sabha win from Uttarakhand.
- **Vishwanath–Shakti Temple Corridor** announced for **Uttarkashi**.
- **29,000+ MSME units**, **1.27 lakh jobs** — Uttarakhand Industrial Summit, **Haridwar**.
- RBI hikes repo **25 bps to 5.50%** — first hike since **Feb 2023**.
- Nobel: Literature to **Anne Carson**; Physics to **Francis Halzen** (IceCube).
- EAM in **Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia**; **2 MoUs** signed in Accra.

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

Uttarakhand tests earthquake early-warning sirens statewide; M 4.9 quake had jolted Chamoli

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

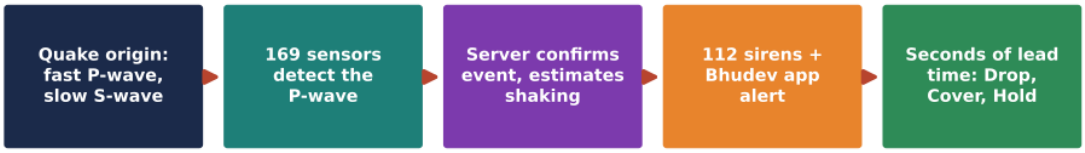
Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management; physical geography of Uttarakhand (**seismic Zones IV–V**). Prelims pointers: **Bhudev app**, **USDMA**, **IIT Roorkee**, **NCS**, P- and S-waves.
Context	On **9 October 2026** at **11 AM**, the state sounded its **earthquake early-warning (EEW) sirens** as a **test**, with a test alert on the **Bhudev** app. It follows a **M 4.9** quake (NCS) in **Chamoli** on **6 October** at about **10:23 PM**, felt up to **Delhi-NCR**.
Key Facts	▪ Network: **112 sirens** and **169 sensors** installed; plan to **double** both at **5–10 km** spacing (proposal with **IIT Roorkee**). ▪ **Bhudev app** sends a vibrating, beeping alert — keep it **updated** with **location access** on. ▪ EEW exploits the gap between fast **P-waves** and destructive **S-waves**, giving **seconds** of lead time. ▪ Chamoli epicentre ~**50 km south of Joshimath**, depth **13 km**; **no casualties** reported. ▪ Disaster Management Secretary **Vinod Kumar Suman**: the siren test is **not a real alert** — no panic.
Way Fwd	Densify sensors in **Zone V** districts, link sirens to **schools and hospitals**, hold regular **mock drills** and enforce **seismic building codes** in hill towns.
Concept	**Seismic zoning (BIS IS 1893)**: Uttarakhand lies in the high-hazard **Zones IV-V**; the **Main Central Thrust (MCT)** and **Main Boundary Thrust (MBT)** cross the state. **USDMA** functions under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**; **NCS** (MoES) is the nodal agency for quake monitoring.

Banbasa Cabinet: fiscal deficit capped at 3% of GSDP; new Irrigation Bill to replace 1873 canal law

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

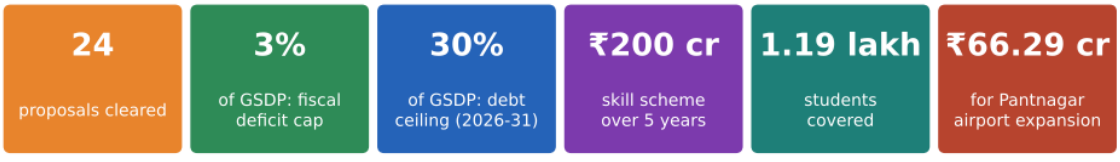
Syllabus Linkage	State finances, fiscal federalism, local bodies. Prelims pointers: **FRBM**, **GSDP**, **State Finance Commission (Art. 243-I/243-Y)**.
Context	In its **first-ever meeting in Champawat district** (NHPC guest house, **Banbasa**, **4 Oct 2026**), the **Dhami Cabinet** cleared **24 proposals**, led by new fiscal rules and a modern irrigation law.
Key Facts	▪ **Uttarakhand FRBM (Amendment) Bill, 2026**: fiscal deficit cap **3% of GSDP** (2026–31); cumulative **debt ceiling 30% of GSDP** (2026-27 to 2030-31); relaxation for **disasters and security emergencies**. ▪ **Uttarakhand Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026** to replace the **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873**. ▪ **Sixth State Finance Commission** report on PRIs and ULBs to be tabled in the next Assembly session. ▪ Public agencies to keep **92%** of proceeds from **asset monetisation** (Investment & Infrastructure Act amended). ▪ Poultry-feed subsidy moves from **e-Rupee (CBDC)** to **DBT** in Aadhaar-seeded accounts.
Way Fwd	Pair the fiscal cap with **own-tax buoyancy** and a **disaster-risk fiscal buffer**, since calamity costs recur in hill districts.
Concept	**FRBM Act, 2003** (Centre) set the template; states enacted their own fiscal responsibility laws on the **12th Finance Commission's** advice. The **State Finance Commission** is constituted by the **Governor every 5 years** under **Art. 243-I** (Panchayats) and **Art. 243-Y** (Municipalities).

How Uttarakhand's Earthquake Early-Warning (EEW) chain works



Statewide test: 9 Oct 2026, 11 AM • Network to be doubled with IIT Roorkee • Test alert ≠ real quake

Banbasa Cabinet (4 Oct 2026) — decisions in numbers



₹200 crore skill scheme for 1.19 lakh students; land rights, PAN checks and university norms revised

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice, Education & Governance)**

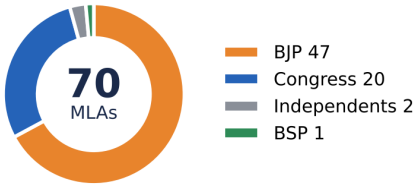
Syllabus Linkage	Human resource development, employment and state welfare schemes; land reforms in Uttarakhand. Prelims: scheme name, outlay, beneficiaries.
Context	The Banbasa Cabinet also launched the **Mukhyamantri Uchcha Shiksha Kaushal Samvardhan Yojana, 2026** to make graduates **job- and enterprise-ready**, alongside decisions on land rights, property registration and private universities.
Key Facts	▪ Outlay **≈₹200 crore over 5 years**; **~1.19 lakh students** of government and private universities and affiliated colleges. ▪ **Mandatory PAN verification** in property sale and purchase to curb **fake PAN** use. ▪ Private university norms: minimum built-up area **2,500 sq m (hills)** and **20,000 sq m (plains)**. ▪ **Bhumidhari (ownership) rights** for eligible Class-3/4 lessees; transferable rights in **Lalkuan** (Nainital); Class-4 land in **Jaunsar-Bawar** regularised at **2004 circle rates** for one year. ▪ New **Sub-Registrar office at Narendranagar** (Tehri) for **133 revenue villages**; **₹66.29 crore** for **Pantnagar** greenfield airport expansion.
Way Fwd	Link skilling to **local growth sectors** — tourism, horticulture, AYUSH and IT — so that it checks **palayan** from hill districts.
Concept	**Bhumidhari** = ownership with transferable rights under the **UP Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950** (as adapted in Uttarakhand). **Jaunsar-Bawar** (Dehradun) is the tribal homeland of the **Jaunsari** community, a **Scheduled Tribe** area.

Rajya Sabha: BJP's Dinesh Arya set for unopposed win from Uttarakhand

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

Syllabus Linkage	Parliament — composition and election of the Rajya Sabha; Uttarakhand's representation. Prelims: **Art. 80**, **Fourth Schedule**, **STV**.
Context	BJP's **Dinesh Arya** filed his nomination on **6 Oct** for the seat held by **Naresh Bansal** (term ends **25 Nov 2026**). With **no Congress candidate**, he is set to be **declared elected unopposed** after the withdrawal window; polling, if needed, was fixed for **16 Oct**.
Key Facts	▪ Uttarakhand has **3 Rajya Sabha** and **5 Lok Sabha** seats. ▪ Assembly strength **70**: **BJP 47, Congress 20, BSP 1, Independents 2**. ▪ RS members are elected by **elected MLAs** through **STV (single transferable vote)** with an **open ballot**. ▪ If candidates equal vacancies, the **Returning Officer** declares them elected (**Sec. 53(2), RP Act, 1951**).
Way Fwd	Parties should balance **Kumaon–Garhwal** and social representation; open ballot plus the **Tenth Schedule** keep RS polls clean.
Concept	**Art. 80**: RS maximum **250** (238 elected + **12 nominated**); seats allotted by the **Fourth Schedule**; members serve **6 years**, with **one-third retiring every 2 years** — the RS is a **permanent House**.

Uttarakhand Assembly — RS electors

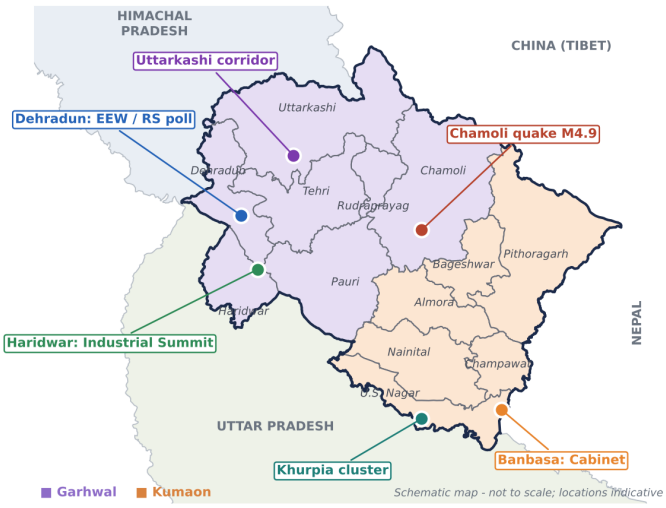


Uttarkashi: CM announces Vishwanath–Shakti Temple Corridor

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

Syllabus Linkage	Religious heritage and pilgrimage tourism of Uttarakhand; eco-sensitive zones. Prelims: **Kashi Vishwanath (Uttarkashi)**, **Shakti temple trishul**, **Bhagirathi ESZ**.
Context	On **7 Oct 2026** in **Uttarkashi**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** announced a corridor linking the **Kashi Vishwanath Temple** and the **Shakti Temple**, and said a proposal for a **Kendriya Vidyalaya at Bhatwari** will be sent to the Centre.
Key Facts	▪ Uttarkashi, on the **Bhagirathi**, is called the **"Kashi of the North"**; gateway to **Gangotri** and **Yamunotri**. ▪ The **Shakti Temple** houses a giant ancient **metal trishul (trident)** bearing an inscription. ▪ CM flagged off the **Seva Jyoti Kalash Yatra** and cited **Lakhpati Didi** for SHG women's incomes. ▪ CM claimed **44% reverse migration** — the state's marker of progress against **palayan**.
Way Fwd	Design the corridor within **Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone** rules and town **carrying capacity**, with disaster-safe construction.
Concept	**Bhagirathi ESZ** — about **100 km from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi**, notified by MoEFCC in **2012** under the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**. Temple-corridor model: **Kashi Vishwanath Dham** (Varanasi), **Mahakal Lok** (Ujjain).

Uttarakhand: today's news locations

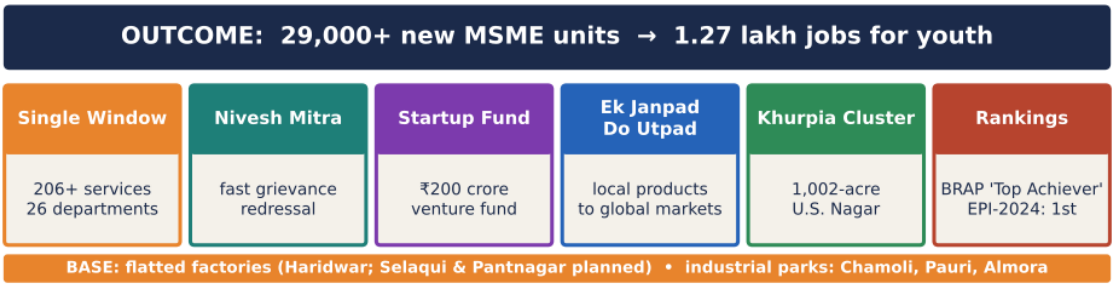


SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

29,000+
MSME units
1.27 lakh
jobs created

Uttarakhand MSME push — new units set up and jobs created

Shared by CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** at the **7th Uttarakhand Industrial Summit & Expo-2026** in **Haridwar** (8 Oct). Backed by a **single-window** system (**206+ services, 26 departments**), **Nivesh Mitra**, a **₹200 crore** startup venture fund, **Ek Janpad Do Utpad**, and a **1,002-acre** integrated manufacturing cluster at **Khurpia** (Udham Singh Nagar). The state is a **'Top Achiever'** in the **Business Reform Action Plan** and ranked **first in its category** in the **Export Preparedness Index 2024**.

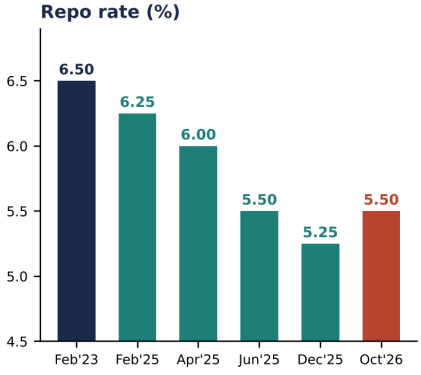


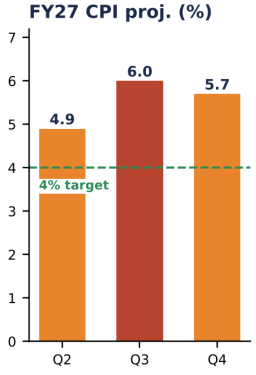
SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD — polity, economy, sci-tech & IR

RBI hikes repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50% — first hike in over three years

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

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, inflation and banking. Prelims pointers: **MPC**, **repo / SDF / MSF**, **inflation targeting**.
Context	On **7 Oct 2026**, the six-member **MPC** under Governor **Sanjay Malhotra unanimously** raised the repo rate from **5.25% to 5.50%** and shifted its stance from **neutral** to **"calibrated tightening"**, citing crude oil, food prices and rupee pressure.
Key Facts	▪ First hike since **Feb 2023** (to 6.5%); follows **125 bps of cuts in 2025**. ▪ FY27 projections: **real GDP 7.1%**; **CPI 5.2%** (up from 5.0%) — Q3 **6.0%**, Q4 **5.7%**. ▪ Risks: re-escalating **West Asia conflict**, volatile **crude**, **weak monsoon / El Niño** hurting **rabi**. ▪ Governor: next move can only be a **hike or pause**; retail CPI was **4.82% in Aug 2026** (base **2024=100**).
Way Fwd	Back monetary tightening with **food-supply management** and **fuel-tax buffers**, so imported inflation is fought on several fronts.
Concept	**MPC** — statutory body under the **RBI Act, 1934 (Sec. 45ZB, inserted 2016)**: 6 members (3 RBI + 3 Centre-appointed); target **CPI 4% ± 2%**. **Repo** = rate at which RBI lends to banks; **SDF** is the floor and **MSF** the ceiling of the **LAF corridor**.

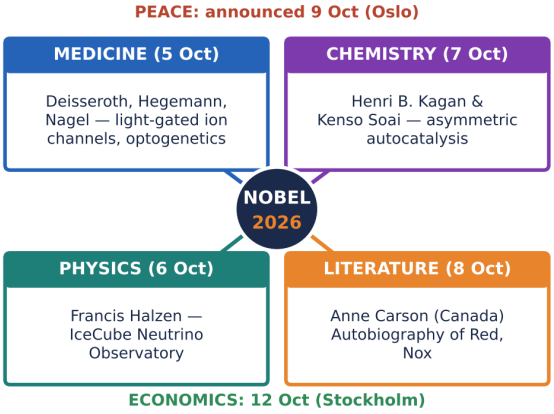




Nobel Prizes 2026: optogenetics, cosmic neutrinos, mirror-image chemistry and Anne Carson

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

Syllabus Linkage	Science and technology developments; awards and honours. Prelims: laureates, fields, **IceCube**, **chirality**, **optogenetics**.
Context	The Nobel week (**5–12 Oct**) has named four sets of laureates; the **Peace Prize** is announced today (**9 Oct**) in **Oslo** and the **Economics** prize on **12 Oct**.
Key Facts	▪ **Medicine**: **Karl Deisseroth, Peter Hegemann, Georg Nagel** — **light-gated ion channels and optogenetics**. ▪ **Physics**: **Francis Halzen** — **IceCube Neutrino Observatory** (South Pole) and high-energy cosmic neutrinos. ▪ **Chemistry**: **Henri B. Kagan and Kenso Soai** — **non-linear effects and asymmetric autocatalysis**. ▪ **Literature**: Canadian poet-classicist **Anne Carson** (*Autobiography of Red*, *Nox*).
Way Fwd	For India: sustain funding for the **India-based Neutrino Observatory (INO)** and neuroscience tools such as **optogenetics**.
Concept	Prizes under **Alfred Nobel's will (1895)**, first awarded **1901**; Peace by the **Norwegian Nobel Committee** (Oslo), others in **Stockholm**; **Economics** prize instituted **1968** by Sveriges Riksbank. **Chirality** = mirror-image (left/right-handed) molecules.



Jaishankar's Africa outreach: Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Ethiopia (6–10 Oct)

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

Syllabus Linkage	India and its relations with Africa; regional groupings. Prelims: **African Union**, **ECOWAS**, **ITEC**, capitals.
Context	EAM **S. Jaishankar** is on a five-day tour: **Accra** (2 MoUs), **Abidjan** (defence and counter-terror talks) and **Addis Ababa**, where he chairs a **Regional Heads of Mission conference**.
Key Facts	▪ Ghana: met President **John Dramani Mahama**; MoUs **ZSI-University of Ghana** and **ICAR-CSIR-Crops Research Institute**. ▪ India–Ghana ties are a **Comprehensive Partnership** (upgraded during the PM's **2025 visit**). ▪ Côte d'Ivoire: talks with Defence Minister **Téné Birahima Ouattara** on **anti-terrorism and training**. ▪ Outreach to the **African Union** (HQ **Addis Ababa**; **G20 member since 2023** under India's presidency) and **ECOWAS**.
Way Fwd	Turn goodwill into **lines of credit, pharma and digital public infrastructure** partnerships across West Africa and the Horn.
Concept	**South-South Cooperation**; **India-Africa Forum Summit** (first **2008**, New Delhi); **ITEC** (1964) for capacity building. **ECOWAS** = Economic Community of West African States (1975).

World Post Day (9 Oct) opens National Postal Week

SOCIETY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Important Days)**

Syllabus Linkage	Important days; financial inclusion and last-mile service delivery. Prelims: **UPU**, **IPPB**, **PIN code**.
Context	India marks **World Post Day** with the 2026 theme **"One Postal Network, Infinite Possibilities"**; **National Postal Week** runs **9–15 Oct**, showcasing India Post's role in **financial inclusion** and digital services.
Key Facts	▪ Marks the founding of the **Universal Postal Union (UPU)** in **Bern, 1874**; day declared at the **1969 Tokyo** Congress. ▪ India joined the UPU on **1 July 1876**; **PIN code** introduced on **15 Aug 1972**. ▪ Showcase: **N-Gen Post Offices**, **Jan Sewa Connect Post Offices**, **Dak Sewa** and **Dak Mitra** apps. ▪ **India Post Payments Bank (IPPB)** launched **2018**; runs alongside **Special Campaign 6.0** (2–31 Oct).
Way Fwd	Use post offices as last-mile hubs for **DBT, insurance, e-commerce and passports** in remote hill and border villages.
Concept	**UPU** — UN specialised agency since **1948**, HQ **Bern** (Switzerland). India's **National Postal Day** is **10 Oct**.

10th India Mobile Congress opens on theme 'Scale Without Boundaries'

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

Syllabus Linkage	Telecom, digital infrastructure and cyber security. Prelims: **IMC**, **D2M**, **DoT**, **6G**.
Context	PM **Narendra Modi** inaugurated **IMC 2026** on **8 Oct** at **Yashobhoomi, New Delhi** (7–10 Oct), organised by **DoT** and **COAI**, stressing affordable tech for the **Global South** and tech-led action against **cyber fraud**.
Key Facts	▪ **1.5 lakh+** attendees from **100+ countries**; **500+** exhibitors; **600 startups**. ▪ Nine anchor sectors incl. **5G/6G, AI networks, semiconductors, satellite (non-terrestrial) networks, quantum communication**. ▪ Indigenous chip for **Direct-to-Mobile (D2M)** — live TV on phones **without SIM or data**. ▪ Alongside: **NCCDFI 2026** cyber-security conference by **NIELIT** (9–10 Oct).
Way Fwd	Advance **Bharat 6G** goals, settle **satcom spectrum** rules and scale **Sanchar Saathi** against fraud calls.
Concept	**D2M** = broadcasting video directly to handsets over terrestrial spectrum (like FM radio for TV). **Bharat 6G Vision (2023)** targets 6G leadership by **2030**; **TRAI** set up in **1997**.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Fact	Answer
Cabinet's first meeting in Champawat district	**Banbasa** (NHPC guest house), **4 Oct**
Chamoli quake, 6 Oct (NCS)	**M 4.9**, depth **13 km**, ~**50 km S of Joshimath**
Law replaced by new Irrigation & Drainage Bill	**Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873**
RBI repo rate / stance	**5.50%** / **"calibrated tightening"**; FY27 CPI **5.2%**
IMC 2026 theme (10th edition)	**"Scale Without Boundaries"**, Yashobhoomi
Nobel Chemistry 2026	**Henri B. Kagan & Kenso Soai** — asymmetric autocatalysis

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC pattern)

Q1. With reference to the Uttarakhand Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management (Amendment) Bill, 2026, consider the following statements: 1. It caps the annual fiscal deficit at 3% of GSDP for 2026–31. 2. It sets a cumulative debt ceiling of 30% of GSDP. 3. It allows no relaxation of the limits under any circumstances. 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 Bill caps the fiscal deficit at **3% of GSDP** and debt at **30% of GSDP**, but permits **relaxation for disasters and security emergencies**, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. The 'Bhudev' mobile application, recently in news in Uttarakhand, is related to:

(a) Digitisation of land records **(b)** Earthquake early warning **(c)** Char Dham Yatra registration **(d)** Forest fire alerts

Answer: (b) — **Bhudev**, developed with **IIT Roorkee** for **USDMA**, delivers **earthquake early-warning** alerts; it carried today's test alert alongside **112 sirens**.

Mains Practice (GS): Uttarakhand lies in one of India's most seismically active belts. Discuss the role of earthquake early-warning systems in disaster risk reduction and suggest measures to make hill settlements earthquake-resilient. (250 words)

Hint: Intro: **MCT/MBT**, **Zones IV–V**, Chamoli M 4.9 (6 Oct). Body: how EEW works (**P- vs S-waves**), state network (**112 sirens, 169 sensors, Bhudev**), limits (seconds of lead time, blind zone near epicentre). Measures: **building codes**, retrofitting schools/hospitals, **mock drills**, land-use zoning, **Sendai Framework**. Conclude: warning + preparedness + resilient construction.

ONE-LINE REVISION: EEW test: **112 sirens / 169 sensors** + **Bhudev** | Chamoli **M 4.9** | FRBM: **3%** deficit, **30%** debt | **₹200 cr** skill scheme | Repo **5.50%** | Nobel: **Carson, Halzen, Kagan–Soai**

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