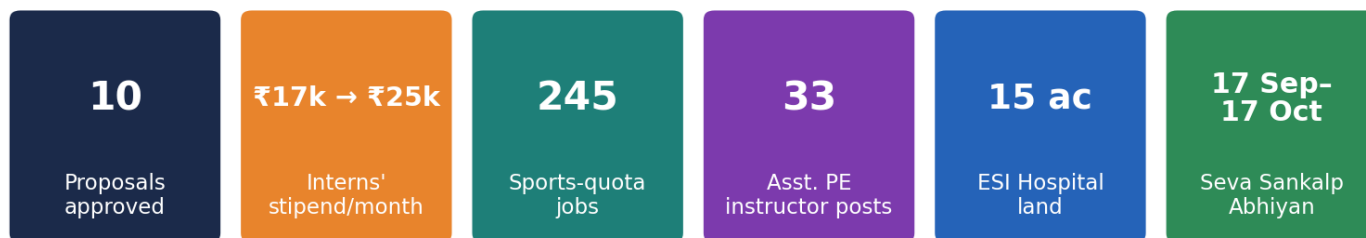


TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Dhami Cabinet clears 10 proposals; interns' stipend raised to ₹25,000/month
- Char Dham Yatra crosses 50 lakh pilgrims; second phase opens 15 September
- 245 sports-quota jobs approved for national & international medal-winners
- Seva Sankalp Abhiyan runs 17 September–17 October (plantation & cleanliness)
- DAC clears ₹1.10 lakh crore defence acquisitions (helicopters, radars, CBRN)
- 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah observed through September under POSHAN 2.0
- Western Dedicated Freight Corridor sections dedicated at Vadodara
- ISRO targets its first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in 2026
- India's forex reserves near \$682 billion (about 11 months of imports)
- Four new Indian sites added to UNESCO Tentative List (national total 73)

A UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — State Schemes, Policy, Disaster & Ecology

Dhami Cabinet — 11 Sep 2026 • 10 Proposals Cleared



Dhami Cabinet clears 10 proposals; medical interns' stipend raised to ₹25,000

UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

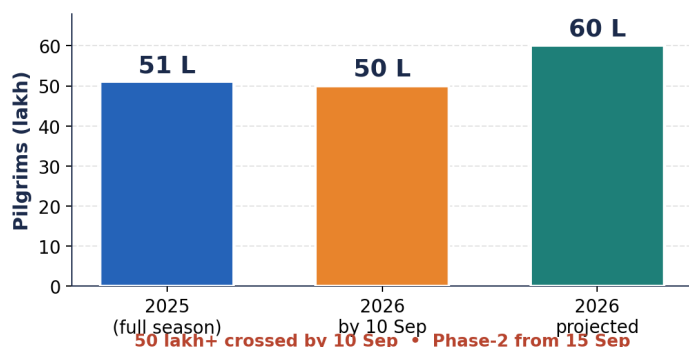
Syllabus	Uttarakhand polity & governance; State Council of Ministers; welfare administration.
Context	The Uttarakhand Cabinet , chaired by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami , approved 10 proposals on 11 September 2026 spanning health, sports, education and administration.
Key Facts	- Medical interns' stipend raised from ₹17,000 to ₹25,000 across 5 government medical colleges. 245 jobs for national/international sports medalists + 33 Assistant Physical Education posts. 15 acres near Salepur allotted for an ESI Hospital. Seva Sankalp Abhiyan to run 17 Sep–17 Oct 2026 (plantation & cleanliness). - Govt advocates' fees revised; Prison Service & Legal Metrology rules amended.
Way Fwd	Timely stipend hikes and sports quotas can curb migration of skilled youth and strengthen hill-area service delivery.
Concept	State Cabinet = Council of Ministers under Art. 163-164 ; collectively responsible to the Vidhan Sabha. ESIC operates under the ESI Act, 1948 .

Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh pilgrims; second phase opens 15 September

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

Syllabus	Uttarakhand pilgrimage economy; crowd & carrying-capacity management; hill tourism.
Context	By 10 September 2026 the four shrines had drawn over 50 lakh pilgrims; the second phase begins 15 September 2026 with the post-monsoon rush.
Key Facts	- Four dhams: Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath (portals opened Apr 2026). 50 lakh+ pilgrims by 10 Sep vs 51 lakh in the whole of the previous year. - Officials project a record ~60 lakh by the season's end in November. - Landslide-prone stretches flagged on Rishikesh-Badrinath and Kedarnath routes.
Way Fwd	Real-time registration caps, traffic staggering and slope stabilisation are key to balancing faith tourism with fragile-mountain safety.
Concept	Carrying capacity = maximum footfall an eco-fragile site can sustain. Char Dham lies in the seismically active Higher Himalaya (Zone IV-V) .

Char Dham Yatra 2026 — Record Footfall



Monsoon disaster management back in focus as Himalayan hazards mount**ENVIRONMENT** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Management — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus	Disaster management in Uttarakhand; Himalayan geomorphology; SDMA/SDRF machinery.
Context	Continuous rain around Rudraprayag pushed the Alaknanda and Mandakini toward warning levels, keeping the state's disaster machinery on alert.
Key Facts	- Recurring hazards: cloudbursts, flash floods, landslides, GLOF, earthquakes, forest fires. - State response led by the USDMA with SDRF; central support via NDRF/NDMA. - Uttarakhand falls largely in seismic Zone IV and V — India's highest risk band. GLOF (Glacial Lake Outburst Flood) risk rises as Himalayan glaciers retreat.
Way Fwd	Early-warning sensors on glacial lakes, slope stabilisation and enforced eco-sensitive-zone norms are essential for climate-resilient hill development.
Concept	NDMA is chaired by the PM under the Disaster Management Act, 2005 ; states run mirror SDMAs under the Chief Minister.

'Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana' pitched as youth-empowerment engine**UTTARAKHAND** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Economy — Uttarakhand)

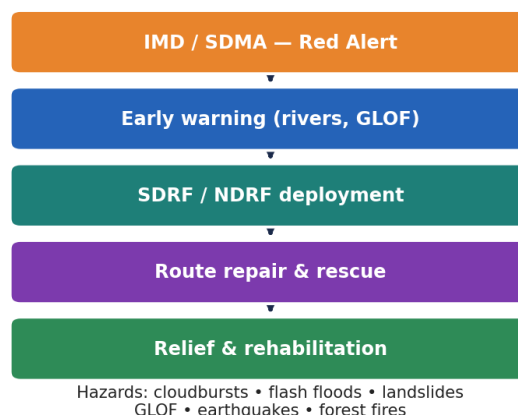
Syllabus	State youth & skilling schemes; employment generation; anti-migration ('palayan') policy.
Context	CM Dharami described the Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana as "a powerful medium to transform the dreams of youth into reality."
Key Facts	- Targets skilling, self-employment and jobs for the state's youth. - Aligns with the fight against palayan (out-migration) from hill districts. - Complements sports-quota jobs and the state's start-up/homestay push.
Way Fwd	Linking skilling to local value chains — tourism, horticulture, homestays — can anchor youth in the hills rather than the plains.
Concept	Palayan (out-migration) is tracked by Uttarakhand's Rural Development & Migration Commission set up in 2017.

IIT Roorkee to host 'Physical AI Lab' for industrial autonomy**SCI-TECH** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science & Technology — Uttarakhand)

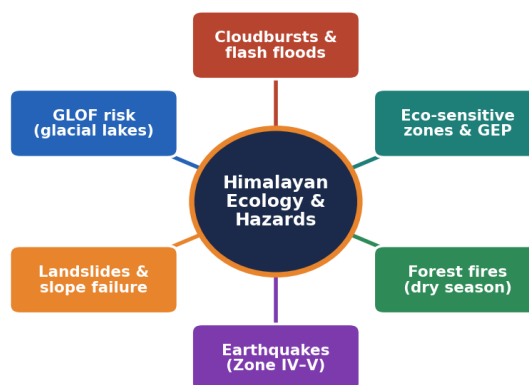
Syllabus	Uttarakhand as a knowledge hub; AI/robotics; industry-academia linkage.
Context	A partnership announced on 8 September 2026 will set up an Avathon Physical AI Lab at IIT Roorkee to advance autonomy for industrial operations.
Key Facts	- Lab to work on Physical AI — AI that senses and acts in the real world (robotics, autonomy). IIT Roorkee is among India's oldest technical institutions (est. 1847). - Strengthens Uttarakhand's positioning as a research & innovation hub.
Way Fwd	Anchoring deep-tech labs in the state can seed high-value jobs and reduce skilled-youth out-migration.
Concept	Physical AI couples machine learning with sensors/actuators so machines perceive and operate autonomously in physical environments.

Disaster-Management Chain

Uttarakhand monsoon response

**Why Uttarakhand is Disaster-Prone**

Prelims + Mains Theme

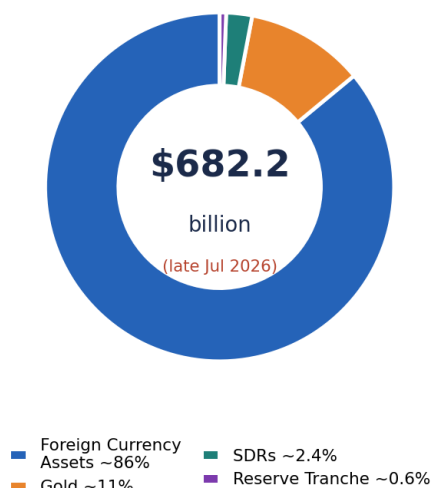
**Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code stays in national spotlight****POLITY** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Social Justice — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus	Uniform Civil Code; Directive Principle (Art. 44); personal-law reform.
Context	Uttarakhand — the first state to enforce a UCC (from 27 January 2025) — continues to refine implementation via the UCC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 .
Key Facts	- UCC unifies rules on marriage, divorce, succession and mandates live-in registration. - Enacted under the Uttarakhand UCC Act, 2024; rules notified in 2025. - Rooted in Article 44 (Directive Principles) urging a common civil code. Scheduled Tribes are kept outside the Code's ambit.
Way Fwd	Smooth portal-based registration and awareness drives will determine whether the model is replicable by other states.
Concept	DPSPs (Part IV) are non-justiciable but 'fundamental in governance'; Art. 44 concerns a Uniform Civil Code.

B DATA POINT OF THE DAY**DATA POINT****India's Foreign Exchange Reserves****≈ \$682.2 billion**

As of late July 2026 — enough to cover about **11 months of imports** and roughly **89%** of external debt; the all-time high was about **\$704.89 billion** (Sep 2024).

India's Forex Reserves — Composition (approx.)



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

Defence Acquisition Council clears ₹1.10 lakh crore in acquisitions

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Defence & Security)

Syllabus	Defence procurement; self-reliance in defence; internal & external security.
Context	The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) accorded Acceptance of Necessity for capital buys worth about ₹1.10 lakh crore for the three services.
Key Facts	- Approvals include CBRN vehicles, helicopters, radars and fighter-jet upgrades. DAC is the apex body headed by the Defence Minister. - Advances the Atmanirbhar Bharat push for indigenous defence manufacturing.
Way Fwd	Faster indigenisation of platforms and munitions is central to reducing import dependence and building deterrence.
Concept	Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is the first DAC approval stage; CBRN = Chemical, Biological, Radiological & Nuclear.

POSHAN 2.0 — 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah Sep 2026 • “Hamari Anganwadi Hamari Jimmedari”

Nutrition Security (PMMVY - 10 yrs)



9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah observed through September under POSHAN 2.0

HEALTH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Social Justice)

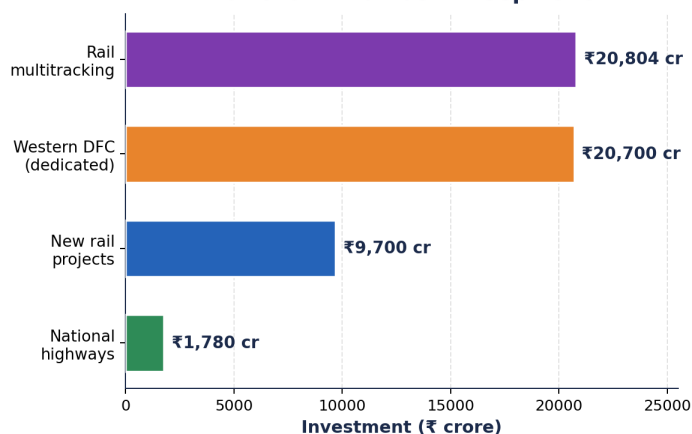
Syllabus	Nutrition & health schemes; women & child development; POSHAN Abhiyaan.
Context	The Ministry of Women & Child Development is observing the 9th Rashtriya Poshan Maah in September 2026 under POSHAN 2.0 .
Key Facts	- Theme centres on “Hamari Anganwadi, Hamari Jimmedari” and dietary diversity. - Focus indicators: stunting, wasting, anaemia (tracked via NFHS). - Marks 10 years of the Pradhan Mantri Matru Vandana Yojana (PMMVY). - Delivered through the Anganwadi network under the ICDS umbrella.
Way Fwd	Convergence of nutrition, sanitation and maternal cash support is key to cutting India's high child-malnutrition burden.
Concept	POSHAN Abhiyaan (launched 2018) targets malnutrition via a jan-andolan; PMMVY is a maternity-benefit cash-transfer scheme.

Western Dedicated Freight Corridor sections dedicated; ₹20,804-crore rail push cleared

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Infrastructure)

Syllabus	Indian economy; transport infrastructure; logistics & PM Gati Shakti.
Context	Completed sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor (WDFC) were dedicated at Vadodara on 8 September 2026 , alongside fresh rail approvals.
Key Facts	- WDFC sections worth about ₹20,700 crore dedicated; part financed with JICA support. - Cabinet cleared 8 rail multitracking projects worth ₹20,804 crore across 9 states. - DFCs are run by DFCCIL, a PSU under the Ministry of Railways. - Lower logistics cost boosts PM Gati Shakti and the National Logistics Policy goals.
Way Fwd	Dedicated freight lines free up passenger capacity and cut India's logistics cost, currently far above the global benchmark.
Concept	Dedicated Freight Corridor = rail lines exclusively for goods trains; PM Gati Shakti is a multimodal infrastructure master plan (2021).

National Infra Push — Sep 2026



Four new Indian sites added to UNESCO Tentative List

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Art & Culture / IR)

Syllabus	World heritage; Indian culture & heritage; UNESCO conventions.
Context	India added four new sites to the UNESCO World Heritage Tentative List in September 2026 , widening its heritage pipeline.
Key Facts	- New entries include the Rangpur-Sivasagar ensemble (Assam) and Shekhawati haveli towns. - India's inscribed tally stands at 73 sites (53 cultural, 3 mixed, 17 natural). - Tentative-list entry is a mandatory first step before formal nomination.
Way Fwd	Heritage recognition boosts cultural tourism and strengthens conservation funding and diplomacy.
Concept	The World Heritage Convention (1972) is administered by UNESCO ; the Tentative List is a prerequisite for nomination.

ISRO eyes first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission in 2026

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

Syllabus	Space technology; India's human-spaceflight programme; indigenous launch vehicles.
Context	ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan confirmed the first uncrewed Gaganyaan mission is targeted for 2026 , backed by a busy launch manifest.
Key Facts	Gaganyaan is India's maiden human-spaceflight programme. - Recent success: GSLV-F17 launched the EOS-05 Earth-observation satellite. - Manifest includes the NVS-03 navigation satellite and further FY2026 missions.
Way Fwd	Uncrewed test flights validate crew-safety systems ahead of India's first indigenous human spaceflight.
Concept	Gaganyaan aims to send a crew to Low Earth Orbit ; NVS satellites augment the NavIC regional navigation system.

D PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Q1. SDRF (State Disaster Response Force) is Uttarakhand's dedicated rescue unit for Himalayan disasters.	Q2. The Char Dham comprises Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath.
Q3. Uttarakhand pioneered accounting for Gross Environment Product (GEP) alongside GSDP.	Q4. DFCCIL operates India's Dedicated Freight Corridors under the Ministry of Railways.
Q5. PMMVY completed 10 years in 2026; POSHAN Abhiyaan was launched in 2018 .	Q6. India's forex reserves are held largely as Foreign Currency Assets by the RBI.

E PRACTICE CORNER — MCQs & Mains

With reference to Uttarakhand's Char Dham Yatra, consider the following:

- Kedarnath and Badrinath lie in the Garhwal Himalaya.
 - The four shrines are all dedicated to Lord Shiva.
 - The Yatra typically runs from the summer months to November.
- Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: A — Kedarnath (Shiva) and Badrinath (Vishnu) are in Garhwal, so statement 2 is wrong (Badrinath is a Vishnu shrine); the Yatra runs roughly April/May to November.

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in the news, is:

- Chaired by the Raksha Mantri (Defence Minister).
- The apex body for capital procurement in the Ministry of Defence.
- Empowered to grant 'Acceptance of Necessity' (AoN).

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 — The DAC is headed by the Defence Minister, is the apex procurement body and grants AoN — all three are correct.

MAINS PRACTICE QUESTION

Uttarakhand's fragile Himalayan geography makes disaster management a governance priority. In this light, examine the institutional mechanisms and preventive measures needed to make the Char Dham Yatra safe and sustainable. (150 words)

Hint: Link carrying capacity, seismic Zone IV-V vulnerability, GLOF/landslide risk, and the USDMA-SDRF-NDRF chain; suggest early-warning tech, registration caps and eco-sensitive-zone norms.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Interns' stipend ₹25,000 • Char Dham 50 lakh+ • Seva Sankalp 17 Sep–17 Oct • DAC ₹1.10 lakh cr • Poshan Maah (POSHAN 2.0) • Forex ≈ \$682 bn • UNESCO total 73.

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team • ▶ **YouTube:** @Study_ForGS ▶ **Telegram:** t.me/studyingeneralstudies