CURRENT AFFAIRS — 12 OCTOBER 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Monday, 12 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Dhami Cabinet meets in **Haridwar** (12 Oct) — **2nd** district-level Cabinet after **Banbasa**.
- Assembly session due before **30 Oct** (**Art 174**); **Gairsain** likely venue.
- **M4.2** quake at **Uttarkashi** (10 Oct, **11 km** deep) after **M4.9** in **Chamoli** (6 Oct).
- Char Dham 2026 record: **56.89 lakh** pilgrims (2023: **56.13 lakh**).
- **Hemkund Sahib** & **Lokpal Laxman** temple closed on **10 Oct**; **3,84,573** devotees.
- **₹61.42 crore** sanctioned for **18 Kumbh 2027** works in Haridwar.
- SC: no detention of peaceful protesters except by law; curbs must meet **Art 19(2)**.
- **Katchatheevu**: India won't reopen the **1974/1976** pacts with Sri Lanka.
- **TRISHNA** (ISRO–CNES) thermal satellite launch due in **12-16 months**.
- **PMDDKY** at one year: **100** districts, **36** schemes, **₹24,000 cr**/year.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

State governance • disaster & ecology • tourism • state economy

Dhami Cabinet meets in Haridwar under 'Cabinet in every district' model; Assembly session due before 30 Oct

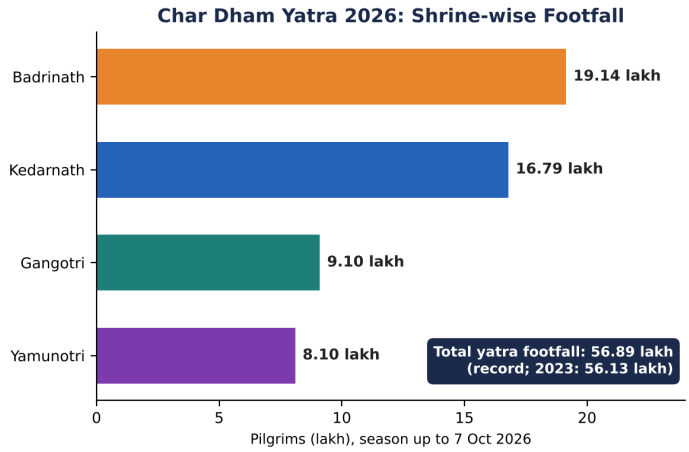
UTTARAKHAND | UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	State polity: Council of Ministers, Legislature sessions (**Art 174**), Gairsain as summer capital. Prelims pointer: **Gairsain (Bharadisain)** declared **summer capital in 2020**.
Context	The state Cabinet met on **12 Oct 2026** at the **Kendriya Mela Niyantran Bhawan (CCR), Haridwar**, after a **Ganga puja at Har Ki Pauri**. It is the **second district-level Cabinet** after **Banbasa (Champawat) on 4 Oct**, with Kumbh 2027, health, housing and urban development on the agenda.
Key Facts	■ Agenda: proposals of **health, housing & urban development**; a possible **separate cadre for specialist doctors**. ■ Session must be convened **before 30 Oct** — **Art 174** bars a gap of over **six months** between sessions. ■ **Gairsain (Chamoli)** is being considered as venue for a session around **21-24 Oct**. ■ Banbasa meet (4 Oct) cleared **24 proposals**, incl. **FRBM (Amendment) Bill 2026** (fiscal-deficit cap **3% of GSDP**) and **CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026** (**₹200 crore**, ~**1.19 lakh** students).
Way Fwd	Rotating Cabinet meetings bring governance closer to hill districts; pair them with time-bound follow-up of decisions and a regular Gairsain session calendar.
Concept	**Council of Ministers (Art 163-164)** is collectively responsible to the Assembly. **Art 174**: Governor summons/prorogues the House; max **6-month** gap. Uttarakhand Assembly is **unicameral** with **70** elected seats.

Char Dham Yatra 2026 sets all-time record of 56.89 lakh pilgrims; Hemkund Sahib closes for winter

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy & culture: religious tourism, carrying capacity, pilgrimage management. Prelims pointer: shrine–river–district pairs.
Context	As per state tourism data, **56.89 lakh** pilgrims visited till **7 Oct 2026**, beating the **2023 record of 56.13 lakh**. The portals of **Hemkund Sahib** and the **Lokpal Laxman temple** (Chamoli) closed on **10 Oct** after **3,84,573** devotees this season.
Key Facts	■ Shrine-wise: **Badrinath 19.14 lakh**, **Kedarnath 16.79 lakh**, **Gangotri 9.10 lakh**, **Yamunotri 8.10 lakh**. ■ Snowfall at **Kedarnath** on 11 Oct; the yatra was halted for about **3 hours** and then resumed. ■ Badrinath's closing date is customarily fixed on **Vijayadashami** (**20 Oct 2026**). ■ Hemkund Sahib (~**4,600 m**) opened on **23 May 2026**; it lies near the **Valley of Flowers** (UNESCO site).
Way Fwd	Use registration data for slot-based darshan, carrying-capacity caps on fragile routes (Kedarnath, Yamunotri) and promote the winter yatra to spread footfall.
Concept	Char Dham: **Yamunotri** (Yamuna, Uttarkashi), **Gangotri** (Bhagirathi, Uttarkashi), **Kedarnath** (Mandakini, Rudraprayag; **Jyotirlinga**), **Badrinath** (Alaknanda, Chamoli). **Carrying capacity** = maximum visitors an area can sustain without degradation.



Twin tremors in four days: M4.2 at Uttarkashi after M4.9 in Chamoli put Himalayan seismic risk in focus

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

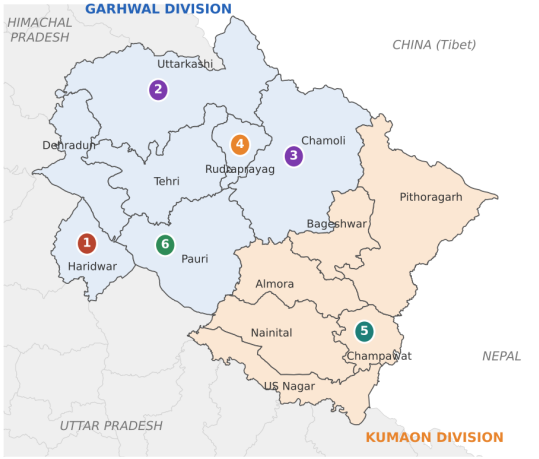
Syllabus Linkage	Geography of Uttarakhand & disaster management: Himalayan tectonics, seismic zones, SDMA/SDRF. Prelims pointer: thrust system **MCT – MBT – HFT**.
Context	An **M4.2** quake struck **2 km NW of Uttarkashi** at **8:07 pm on 10 Oct**, depth **11 km**, causing panic in the **Yamunotri valley**; no damage was reported. It followed an **M4.9** quake in **Chamoli** on **6 Oct** (depth ~**13 km**), felt as far as **Delhi-NCR**.
Key Facts	■ Both recorded by the **National Center for Seismology (NCS)** under the **Ministry of Earth Sciences**. ■ **Shallow-focus** quakes (< **70 km**) cause stronger surface shaking. ■ Past big events: **Uttarkashi 1991 (M6.8)** and **Chamoli 1999 (M6.6)**. ■ BIS revised zonation (**IS 1893: 2025**) puts the Himalayan arc in the new highest-hazard **Zone VI**. ■ **Uttarakhand SDRF** (raised **2013**) was congratulated by the CM on its **ISO 9001:2015** certification.
Way Fwd	Enforce earthquake-resistant codes in hill towns, retrofit schools and hospitals, widen the state's quake early-warning network and hold regular mock drills.
Concept	**Focus (hypocentre)** = point of rupture underground; **epicentre** = point on the surface above it. **Magnitude** (energy released) vs **intensity** (damage, **MMI** scale). Himalaya formed by **Indian–Eurasian plate collision**.

Western Disturbance brings early snow: rain-snow advisory for hill districts till 17 Oct

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

Syllabus Linkage	Climate of Uttarakhand: western disturbances, high-altitude hazards. Prelims pointer: WDs originate over the **Mediterranean**.
Context	The weather office forecasts rain in **Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Nainital and Pithoragarh** on **12-13 Oct**, with **snowfall above 3,800 m**; unsettled weather continues till **17 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ Snow already reported at **Kedarnath** and **Hemkund** on **10-11 Oct**. ■ **14 Oct**: light-to-moderate rain likely in all districts; snow in high reaches. ■ **16-17 Oct**: rain/snow likely in **Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh**. ■ Cold to intensify in the hills; plains to get relief from humidity.
Way Fwd	Send route-wise alerts via the yatra registration system, keep snow-clearance teams at passes and pre-position relief stock at high-altitude halts.
Concept	**Western Disturbances**: extra-tropical low-pressure systems carried by the **subtropical westerly jet**; they bring **winter rain/snow** to NW India and are vital for **rabi crops** and glacier mass.

Uttarakhand: Today's News Locations



Earthquake Response Chain in Uttarakhand (after twin tremors of 6 & 10 Oct 2026)

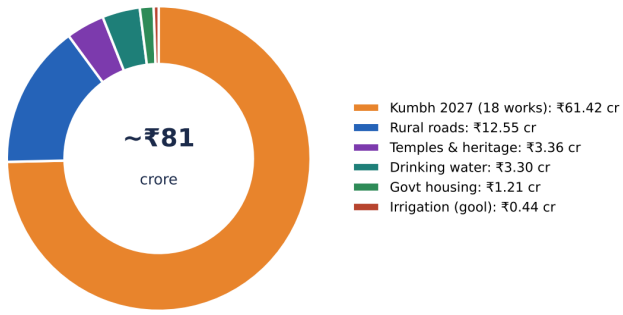


CM sanctions ~₹81 crore: ₹61.42 crore for Kumbh 2027 works plus rural roads, gools and heritage sites

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy & culture: infrastructure, Kumbh Mela, traditional irrigation, heritage sites. Prelims pointer: **Kanvashram** & **Emperor Bharat**.
Context	On **11 Oct 2026** the CM approved about **₹81 crore** across **8 districts**, led by **₹61.42 crore** for **18 Kumbh Mela 2027** projects in **Haridwar** under the Centre's infrastructure grant.
Key Facts	■ **₹9.94 crore** for **20 km** of internal rural roads in **Tanakpur & Banbasa** (Champawat). ■ **₹3.30 crore** for the Saneh drinking-water scheme (tube well + lifting reservoir), **Kotdwar**. ■ **₹44.13 lakh** for a field irrigation channel (**gool**) at Tauk Bhaura, **Pithoragarh**. ■ Heritage: **Kanvashram** (Pauri) — statue of **Emperor Bharat**; **Bhaunadevi Shaktipeeth** (Almora); **Guru Gorakhnath** fairground (Pithoragarh).
Way Fwd	Make Kumbh works disaster-resilient and finish them well before the mela; geo-tag road and gool projects for transparent monitoring.
Concept	**Kumbh Mela** is on UNESCO's **Intangible Cultural Heritage** list (**2017**). **Kanvashram** on the **Malini river** is linked to **Shakuntala–Dushyant** and the birth of **Bharat**. **Gools** are gravity-fed traditional canals of hill farming.

CM's Development Sanctions (11 Oct 2026)



Approx. values; some works sanctioned in instalments

Day of the Girl Child: smartphones for 149 meritorious girls; women's 30% horizontal quota highlighted

SOCIETY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Social justice & state schemes: women's empowerment, education, reservation. Prelims pointer: **horizontal vs vertical reservation**.
Context	On **11 Oct**, the CM gave **smartphones to 149 meritorious girl students** at the **Balika Shiksha Protsahan** programme in Dehradun and highlighted the state's **30% horizontal reservation** for women in government jobs.
Key Facts	■ **International Day of the Girl Child**: **11 October**, declared by the **UNGA in 2011**, first observed in **2012**. ■ Uttarakhand gives **30% horizontal reservation** to **domiciled women** in state services (law of **2022**). ■ Also on 11 Oct: **15 PMAY housing projects** near completion; **12,856 families** to get homes.
Way Fwd	Link digital devices with skilling and career counselling, and track girls' transition to higher education in hill districts.
Concept	**Vertical reservation** (SC/ST/OBC/EWS) vs **horizontal reservation** (women, PwD, ex-servicemen) that cuts across vertical categories (**Indra Sawhney, 1992**; **Anil Kumar Gupta, 1995**). **Art 15(3)** allows special provisions for women.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

56.89 lakh

Char Dham Yatra 2026 footfall (till 7 Oct)

All-time record, ahead of **56.13 lakh (2023)**; **Badrinath** leads with **19.14 lakh**, followed by **Kedarnath (16.79 lakh)**. Tourism is a key driver of Uttarakhand's **tertiary-sector-led GSDP** — and of pressure on fragile Himalayan routes.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD Polity • IR • defence • sci-tech • economy

Katchatheevu: India tells SC it won't reopen 1974/1976 maritime pacts; Sri Lanka welcomes assurance

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	IR: India–Sri Lanka relations, maritime boundary, fishermen issue. Prelims pointer: Katchatheevu lies in the **Palk Strait**.
Context	India's **Attorney General R. Venkataramani** told the Supreme Court on **6 Oct** that New Delhi has **no plan to reopen** the **1974 and 1976** agreements. On **11 Oct**, President **Anura Kumara Dissanayake** welcomed this and said Sri Lankan soil **will not be used against India**.
Key Facts	■ The **1974** pact fixed the boundary in the **Palk Strait**, placing Katchatheevu (~**285 acres**) on Sri Lanka's side. ■ The **1976** pact covered the **Gulf of Mannar & Bay of Bengal**; fishing rights were curtailed. ■ Fishermen's concerns to be handled via **diplomatic channels**; next hearing in **Feb 2027**. ■ The island's annual **St Anthony's church festival** draws Indian pilgrims.
Way Fwd	Revive joint working group talks, support Tamil Nadu fishers' shift to deep-sea fishing and phase out bottom trawling to defuse the conflict.
Concept	Treaty-making is a Union power (**Entry 14, Union List**; **Art 73**, **Art 253**). **Berubari Union case (1960)**: ceding Indian territory needs a constitutional amendment under **Art 368** — a key argument in the pending petitions.

Defence roundup: INDRA-2026 with Russia from 13 Oct, Tarang Shakti-2026 concludes, NGOPV 'Shreyas' launched

DEFENCE UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Security & International Relations)

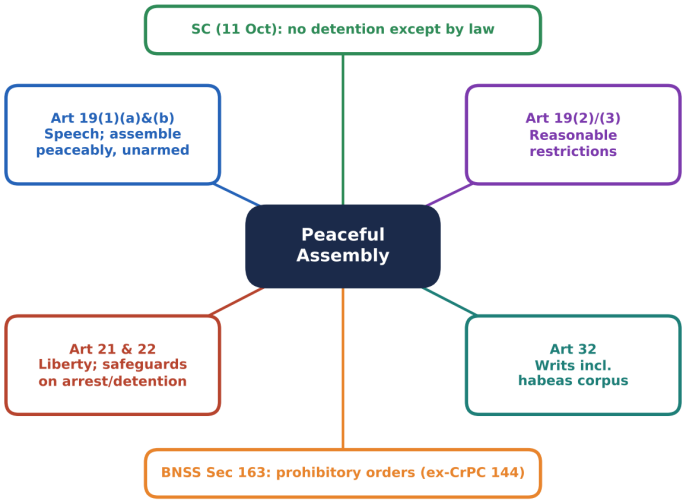
Syllabus Linkage	Security, defence indigenisation, bilateral exercises. Prelims pointer: exercise–country pairs (**INDRA = Russia**).
Context	**INS Sahyadri** reached **Vladivostok** on **11 Oct** for **INDRA-2026** (**13-18 Oct**); the IAF's multinational **Exercise Tarang Shakti-2026** at **Jodhpur** concludes on **12 Oct**; GRSE launched next-generation OPV **'Shreyas' (Yard 3040)** on **10 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ INDRA: India–Russia naval exercise with **harbour + sea** phases; linked to the **MAHASAGAR** vision. ■ Tarang Shakti-2026 is the **2nd edition** (1st in **2024**), **26 Sep–12 Oct**, with partner **F-35s, Rafales, F-16s**. ■ NGOPV class: **11 ships** — **7 at Goa Shipyard**, **4 at GRSE**; about **3,000 t**. ■ INS Sahyadri is an indigenous **Shivalik-class (Project-17)** stealth frigate.
Way Fwd	Use exercises to deepen interoperability and keep indigenous shipbuilding on schedule under Aatmanirbhar Bharat.
Concept	**MAHASAGAR** = Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (**2025**), successor to **SAGAR (2015)**. OPVs patrol the **EEZ (200 nm)** under **UNCLOS**.

Supreme Court special sitting: no detention of peaceful protesters except by procedure established by law

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian Polity: Fundamental Rights (**Art 19, 21, 22, 32**), BNSS 2023, judicial review. Prelims pointer: **Art 19(1)(b)** — assemble peaceably and without arms.
Context	At a **special Sunday sitting on 11 Oct 2026**, a bench of **Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana** issued directions on Delhi protests over alleged electoral-roll irregularities, after reports of mass detentions and Metro/internet curbs.
Key Facts	■ Peaceful protesters **not to be detained** except under the **procedure established by law**. ■ Normal **Metro & rail services** and **internet** to be restored; curbs only if justified under **Art 19(2)**. ■ Assemblies allowed outside areas under **Sec 163 BNSS** orders; lawyers and journalists not to be obstructed. ■ Notice to the Centre on a contempt plea; **habeas corpus** petitions listed for **13 Oct**.
Way Fwd	Balance public order and free assembly through designated protest sites, proportionate restrictions and prompt judicial oversight of detentions.
Concept	**Art 19(1)(b)**: right to assemble peaceably and without arms; restricted under **Art 19(3)** (sovereignty, public order). **Proportionality test** (**Anuradha Bhasin, 2020**) applies to internet shutdowns. **Habeas corpus** = 'produce the body'.

Right to Protest: Constitutional Map



TRISHNA: ISRO–CNES thermal-infrared satellite in advanced stage, launch due in 12-16 months

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

Syllabus Linkage	Space technology, remote sensing for water & agriculture. Prelims pointer: Indo-French missions **Megha-Tropiques (2011)**, **SARAL (2013)**.
Context	ISRO says **TRISHNA** (**Thermal Infra-Red Imaging Satellite for High-resolution Natural resource Assessment**) is at an **advanced stage of realisation**, with launch expected in **12-16 months**, as announced at a **'TRISHNA – Water for Tomorrow'** workshop.
Key Facts	■ Joint mission of **ISRO** and France's space agency **CNES**; the **3rd** joint Earth-observation satellite. ■ Measures **land-surface temperature** and **evapotranspiration** at high resolution (~**57 m**). ■ Uses: **crop water stress**, irrigation planning, **urban heat islands**, snow and glaciers. ■ Took about a **decade** from concept to realisation.
Way Fwd	Feed TRISHNA data into state irrigation and drought dashboards; it can aid snow and glacier monitoring in Uttarakhand's high Himalaya.
Concept	**Thermal infrared** (~**8-14 µm**) senses emitted heat, not reflected light. **Evapotranspiration** = evaporation + plant transpiration — key to water budgeting.

Indo-French Earth-Observation Missions



ISRO + CNES partnership; TRISHNA is the 3rd joint EO satellite

IMF–World Bank Annual Meetings open in Bangkok (12-18 Oct); World Economic Outlook due

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & International Institutions)

Syllabus Linkage	International institutions and global economy. Prelims pointer: **Bretton Woods Conference (1944)**.
Context	The **2026 Annual Meetings** opened on **12 Oct** at the **Queen Sirikit National Convention Center, Bangkok** — back in Thailand after **over 35 years**. Themes: AI and development, private capital, jobs and climate finance.
Key Facts	■ Host theme: **'Thailand's New Horizons: Empowering People, Building Resilience'**. ■ **Development Committee** on **15 Oct**; **IMFC plenary** on **17 Oct**. ■ The IMF's flagship **World Economic Outlook** is scheduled for release on **13 Oct**. ■ Meetings are held in **Washington DC two years out of three**; every third year in a member country.
Way Fwd	India should press for IMF **quota reform** and a bigger voice for emerging economies while showcasing its digital public infrastructure.
Concept	**IMF** → macro stability, BoP support, **SDRs**; **World Bank (IBRD + IDA)** → development finance. **WEO, GFSR, Fiscal Monitor** are IMF reports; **Global Economic Prospects** is the World Bank's.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana completes one year: 100 districts, 36 schemes converged

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian economy: agriculture, convergence schemes, aspirational districts. Prelims pointer: modelled on the **Aspirational Districts Programme (2018)**.
Context	Launched on **11 Oct 2025**, the scheme marks one year; all **100** low-productivity districts have prepared **District Agriculture Plans**, now under implementation. The CM is scheduled to meet the Union Agriculture Minister in Delhi on state farm schemes.
Key Facts	■ Cabinet approval on **16 July 2025** for **6 years** from **2025-26**; outlay **₹24,000 crore a year**. ■ Converges **36 schemes** of **11 ministries/departments**, plus state and private-sector schemes. ■ District selection: low productivity, low **cropping intensity**, low credit disbursement. ■ Targets **1.7 crore farmers**: crop diversification, irrigation, storage and credit.
Way Fwd	Hill districts need tailored plans — millets, horticulture, polyhouses and cold chains — rather than plains-style intensification.
Concept	**Cropping intensity** = (gross cropped area ÷ net sown area) × 100. **Convergence** pools funds of many schemes into one outcome-based district plan.

PM Dhan-Dhaanya Krishi Yojana at One Year (launched 11 Oct 2025)



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE Uttarakhand + national quick facts

Kunjapuri Fair	**Kunjapuri** (Tehri) nine-day tourism-development fair opened by the CM; Kunjapuri is a **Siddhpeeth** near **Narendra Nagar**.
DPC Elections	**District Planning Committee** elections in all districts except **Haridwar** on **16 Oct** — DPCs flow from **Art 243ZD** (**74th Amendment**).
BRICS Games	**BRICS Traditional & Indigenous Sports Demonstration Games** opened in **Ahmedabad** on **12 Oct** under India's **BRICS chairship** (non-competitive).
NHRC Day	**NHRC** foundation day — set up on **12 Oct 1993** under the **Protection of Human Rights Act, 1993**.
Mizoram Census	**Mizoram** to count refugees separately in **Census 2027**: **38,213** registered, incl. **29,575** from **Myanmar**.
Pakistan (KP)	**Pakistan** declared an emergency in **Khyber Pakhtunkhwa** under **Arts 232 & 234** of its Constitution — compare India's **Art 356**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER UKPSC-pattern questions

Q1. With reference to recent seismic activity in Uttarakhand, consider the following statements:
1. The 1991 Uttarkashi earthquake was of higher magnitude than the 1999 Chamoli earthquake.
2. The revised seismic zonation code (IS 1893: 2025) places the Himalayan arc in Zone VI.
3. The Uttarkashi earthquake of 10 October 2026 was a deep-focus earthquake (focal depth over 300 km).
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) — Uttarkashi 1991 was **M6.8** vs Chamoli 1999 **M6.6**; IS 1893: 2025 created **Zone VI** for the Himalayan arc. The 10 Oct quake was **shallow (11 km)**, so statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. Katchatheevu, recently in the news, is located in which of the following water bodies, and under which agreement was it recognised as part of Sri Lanka?

(a) Gulf of Mannar — 1964 agreement
(b) Palk Strait — 1974 agreement
(c) Gulf of Kutch — 1976 agreement
(d) Lakshadweep Sea — 1986 agreement

Answer: (b) — The **1974 India–Sri Lanka agreement** demarcated the boundary in the **Palk Strait**, placing Katchatheevu on Sri Lanka's side; the **1976** pact covered the Gulf of Mannar and Bay of Bengal.

Mains Practice: Record pilgrim inflows and repeated tremors in 2026 highlight the tension between religious tourism and Himalayan fragility in Uttarakhand. Discuss a carrying-capacity based framework for managing the Char Dham Yatra. (UKPSC GS, 200 words)
Hint: Intro with **56.89 lakh** record & **M4.2/M4.9** quakes → issues: crowding, landslides, waste, seismic Zone VI → framework: shrine-wise caps, slot booking, early warning, green transport, winter yatra → conclude with sustainable tourism & local livelihoods.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Haridwar Cabinet (2nd district meet; Art 174 deadline 30 Oct) | Quakes: Chamoli M4.9 → Uttarkashi M4.2 | Char Dham 56.89 lakh record | SC: Art 19(2) + BNSS 163 | Katchatheevu 1974/76 | TRISHNA = 3rd Indo-French EO | PMDDKY: 100 districts

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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