CURRENT AFFAIRS — 12 November 2026

Thursday, 12 November 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

- **Rudrapur** = **No. 1 Clean Himalayan City**; **Kashipur** = first Swachh City of Uttarakhand (Swachh Survekshan 2025-26).
- **Kedarnath** closed **11 Nov, 8:30 am**; winter seat **Omkareshwar, Ukhimath**.
- Kedarnath **19.13 lakh** + Yamunotri **8.84 lakh** = **27.97 lakh** pilgrims in 2026.
- **Badrinath** to close **16 Nov, 9:37 pm**; panch puja begins **12 Nov**.
- 26th Foundation Day held at **Bharadisain, Gairsain** — **13 announcements**.
- **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman** for late **Gopal Babu Goswami** & late **Chandra Singh Rahi**.
- Haridwar to get first **trash boom interceptor** on the **Ganga** before **Ardh Kumbh 2027**.
- **Stand-Up India** extended to **31 Mar 2031**; **₹4,111 crore** guarantee corpus.
- **Rabi 2026-27** P&K subsidy **₹62,370 crore** (**+64%**).
- **COP31** at **Antalya, Turkey** (9-20 Nov); India pushes **Art. 9.1** climate finance.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — Schemes, Policy, Pilgrimage, Urban & Ecology

26th Uttarakhand Foundation Day at Gairsain: 13 Welfare Announcements

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand state formation, welfare schemes, governance; Prelims: **9 Nov 2000**, **27th state**, **Gairsain** = summer capital.
Context	On **9 Nov 2026** CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** marked the **26th Foundation Day** at the Assembly complex, **Bharadisain (Gairsain, Chamoli)**, and made **13 announcements** for frontline workers, statehood activists, women and villages.
Key Facts	■ Higher honorarium from **1 Dec** for **Anganwadi** workers/helpers, **ASHA**, **Bhojan Matas** and **guest teachers**. ■ **Lakhpati Didis** to get an incentive in **two instalments**; extra aid for **wildlife-attack injuries** (e.g., plastic surgery). ■ **Two digital libraries** per district; off-grid revenue villages to join the **main grid**; late-payment **surcharge waiver** on power bills for small consumers. ■ **Cabinet committee** on statehood-activist demands; easier **land purchase** for migrants (**pravasi**) investing in the state. ■ State economy grew from about **₹2.55 lakh crore (2022)** to **₹3.82 lakh crore**; budget now over **₹1.11 lakh crore**.
Way Fwd	Time-bound notification and DBT-based payment of honoraria; link digital libraries with **reverse-migration** and skilling goals.
Concept	**Uttarakhand** was carved out of UP on **9 Nov 2000** as India's **27th state**; **Gairsain** was declared the **summer capital** in **2020**. **ASHA** = Accredited Social Health Activist (NHM).

Haridwar to Install Ganga's First Trash Boom Interceptor Before Ardh Kumbh 2027

ENVIRONMENT — UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	River pollution, Namami Gange, mass-gathering waste management; Prelims: Kumbh 2027 dates.
Context	**Haridwar Municipal Corporation** has floated a tender for a floating **trash boom interceptor** at **Amrapur Ghat** and **Jatwara Ghat** to trap flowers, cloth and plastics ahead of the **Ardh Kumbh (14 Jan–20 Apr 2027)**.
Key Facts	■ Floating barrier diverts waste to the bank and onto a **conveyor belt**. ■ Technology already used at state **hydropower projects** to keep debris out of tunnels — **first use on the Ganga**. ■ Earlier, **100+ tonnes** of waste removed during an **18-day Ganga Canal closure**; **13,000+** volunteers took part.
Way Fwd	Pair interceptors with source segregation at ghats and **flower-waste recycling** (incense/compost) livelihoods.
Concept	**Kumbh** rotates among **Haridwar, Prayagraj, Ujjain, Nashik**; **Ardh Kumbh** every **6 years** (Haridwar, Prayagraj). **Namami Gange** launched **2014**; Ganga declared **National River** in **2008**.

Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman for Folk Icons Gopal Babu Goswami & Chandra Singh Rahi

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

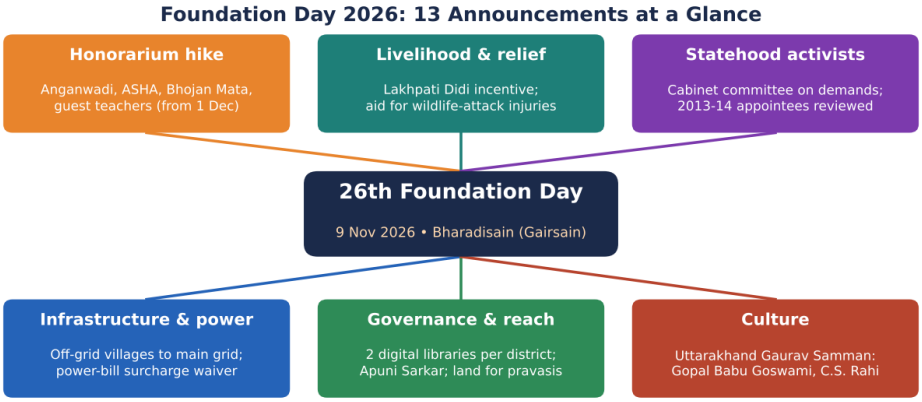
Syllabus Linkage	Folk music, Kumaoni-Garhwali culture, state awards; Prelims: awardees, regions, award institution year.
Context	On Foundation Day the CM announced the **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman** for the late **Gopal Babu Goswami** and the late **Chandra Singh Rahi** for their work on **folk culture and regional languages**; Goswami's family was honoured at the venue.
Key Facts	■ **Gopal Babu Goswami** — iconic **Kumaoni** folk singer, popularly called the voice of Kumaon. ■ **Chandra Singh Rahi** — **Garhwali** folk singer and collector of folk songs and instruments. ■ **Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman** was instituted in **2021** on the state's **21st** Foundation Day. ■ Honour recognises preservation of **Kumaoni and Garhwali** dialects and music.
Way Fwd	Digitise folk archives; add folk music modules in schools under **NEP 2020** local-language focus.
Concept	Key folk forms: **Jagar** (spirit-invocation ballads), **Jhoda-Chanchari** (Kumaon group dance), **Thadya-Chaunfula** (Garhwal), **Pandav Nritya**; instruments **Dhol-Damau**, **Hudka**, **Ransingha**.

Uttarakhand: Today's News Locations



1 Gairsain (Bharadisain): Foundation Day
2 Kedarnath 3 Yamunotri 4 Gangotri
5 Badrinath (closes 16 Nov)
6 Rudrapur 7 Kashipur: Swachh awards
8 Haridwar: Ganga trash boom
9 Rishikesh: Silver Jubilee Parks

Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative





Char Dham 2026: Kedarnath & Yamunotri Close for Winter After 27.97 Lakh Visits

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

Syllabus Linkage	Pilgrimage tourism, carrying capacity, disaster-sensitive yatra management; Prelims: shrines, rivers, winter seats.
Context	The portals of **Kedarnath (8:30 am)** and **Yamunotri (10:28 am)** closed on **11 Nov 2026** (Bhai Dooj); **Gangotri** closed on **10 Nov**. **Badrinath** will close on **16 Nov (9:37 pm)**, with panch puja from **12 Nov**.
Key Facts	■ Footfall: **Kedarnath 19.13 lakh**, **Yamunotri 8.84 lakh** — together **27.97 lakh**. ■ Winter seats: Kedarnath → **Omkareshwar temple, Ukhimath** (doli reaches **13 Nov**); Yamunotri → **Kharsali**; Gangotri → **Mukhba**. ■ Badrinath → **Pandukeshwar & Joshimath**; **Madmaheshwar** also closes **16 Nov**; **Tungnath** closed **6 Nov**. ■ By **28 Sep** the yatra had crossed **53.2 lakh** visits, with record highs at **Badrinath** and **Gangotri**.
Way Fwd	Promote **winter Char Dham (shitkalin yatra)** to winter seats to spread tourism income; enforce **carrying-capacity** limits.
Concept	**Kedarnath** — Mandakini, **Rudraprayag**; **Badrinath** — Alaknanda, **Chamoli**; **Gangotri** (Bhagirathi) & **Yamunotri** (Yamuna) — **Uttarkashi**. **Badrinath & Kedarnath** are managed by **BKTC** (Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee).

Swachh Survekshan 2025-26: Rudrapur Is India's No. 1 Clean Himalayan City

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

Syllabus Linkage	Urban governance, solid-waste management, SBM-Urban; Prelims: category winners, Uttarakhand cities.
Context	President **Droupadi Murmu** presented the **10th Swachh Survekshan (2025-26)** awards at **Vigyan Bhawan** on **11 Nov 2026**. **Rudrapur (Udham Singh Nagar)** topped the **Clean Himalayan Cities** category.
Key Facts	■ Clean Himalayan Cities: **1. Rudrapur**, 2. **Jammu**, 3. **Shopian**. ■ **Kashipur** won the **First Swachh City of Uttarakhand** award. ■ Super Swachh League: **Navi Mumbai**, Surat, Vijayawada; million-plus: **Greater Visakhapatnam**; coastal: **Puri**. ■ Theme: **"Swachhata Ki Nayi Pehel – Badhayein Haath, Karein Safai Saath"**; survey grew from **73 ULBs (2016)** to **4,000+ cities**.
Way Fwd	Replicate Rudrapur's model in hill towns facing tourist waste; strengthen **decentralised composting** and legacy-waste remediation.
Concept	**Swachh Survekshan** is run by **MoHUA** under **Swachh Bharat Mission-Urban** (launched **2 Oct 2014**); first survey in **2016**. SBM-U 2.0 targets **Garbage-Free Cities**.

Devbhoomi Silver Jubilee Parks: Urban Uttarakhand's Sanitation Scorecard

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

Syllabus Linkage	Urban development, AMRUT, PMAY-U, waste management in hill states.
Context	On **10 Nov 2026** at **Rishikesh** the CM inaugurated **Devbhoomi Silver Jubilee Parks** in **9 urban local bodies** across **4 districts** (Dehradun, Haridwar, U.S. Nagar, Uttarkashi) and projects worth **₹36 crore+**.
Key Facts	■ All **108 ULBs** are **ODF**; **Rishikesh & Haridwar** hold **Water Plus** certification. ■ **90%+** urban waste processed scientifically; **60,000 kg+** plastic collected on Char Dham routes via **Digital Deposit Refund System**. ■ **₹1,375 crore** sanitation plan for **107 ULBs** incl. **27** sewage/faecal-sludge plants. ■ **AMRUT-1**: **148 of 151** projects done; **PMAY-U**: **62,000+** houses sanctioned.
Way Fwd	Extend **Water Plus** to other pilgrimage towns; use **UPYOG** platform for property-tax and licence services statewide.
Concept	**ODF+ / ODF++ / Water Plus** are progressive SBM-U protocols; **Water Plus** = all used water treated before release. **AMRUT** launched **June 2015**.

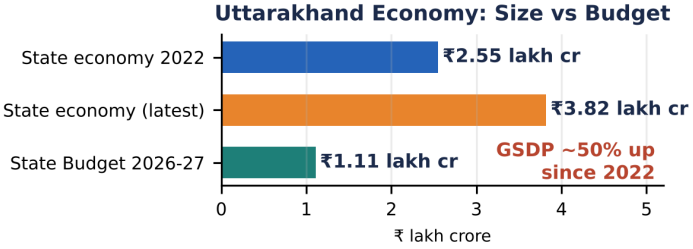
SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

Uttarakhand's economy (GSDP) since 2022

₹2.55 lakh crore → ₹3.82 lakh crore (~50% rise)

Cited at the 26th Foundation Day; the state budget for **2026-27** is about **₹1.11 lakh crore**. Growth is concentrated in the **plains districts** — the core of the **palayan** (migration) debate.



SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD — Polity, Economy, Culture, IR

Cabinet Extends Stand-Up India Till 2031 With ₹4,111-Crore Guarantee Corpus

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Social Justice)

Syllabus Linkage	Inclusive growth, credit for SC/ST and women entrepreneurs; Prelims: loan range, guarantee cover.
Context	On **11 Nov 2026** the Union Cabinet extended the **Stand-Up India Scheme** for five years to **31 Mar 2031**, targeting **2.5 lakh** more women and SC/ST entrepreneurs.
Key Facts	■ Bank loans **above ₹10 lakh up to ₹1 crore** for **greenfield** units in manufacturing, services, trading and **agri-allied** activities. ■ **85%** credit guarantee; standard fee **0.5%**, no extra risk premium; loan covers up to **85%** of project cost. ■ Goal: at least **two loans per bank branch** — one **woman**, one **SC/ST** borrower. ■ Since **April 2016**, **2.75 lakh+** loans facilitated.
Way Fwd	Hand-holding via district **Lead Banks**; promote use in hill-state agri-allied units (apiculture, aroma, dairy).
Concept	Launched **5 Apr 2016**; guarantees via **NCGTC** (Credit Guarantee Fund for Stand-Up India). Related: **PM MUDRA** (up to **₹20 lakh** Tarun Plus).

Stand-Up India 2026-31: Key Numbers

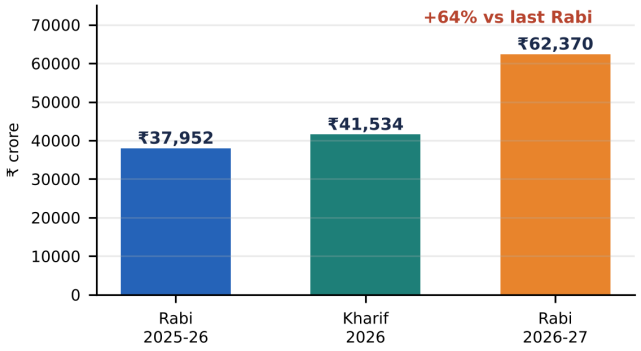


Rabi 2026-27 Fertiliser Subsidy Jumps 64% to ₹62,370 Crore

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Agricultural inputs, subsidies, fiscal deficit; Prelims: NBS, DAP, period of Rabi season.
Context	The Cabinet approved **Nutrient Based Subsidy (NBS)** rates for **P&K fertilisers** (incl. **DAP** and NPKS) for **1 Oct 2026–31 Mar 2027**, costing **₹62,370 crore**.
Key Facts	■ Up **64%** (+**₹24,418 crore**) over **₹37,952 crore** for Rabi 2025-26; Kharif 2026 was **₹41,534 crore**. ■ Driver: West Asia conflict and **Strait of Hormuz** shipping curbs; **DAP** rose from about **$580 to $770/tonne**. ■ India sourced nearly **two-thirds** of nitrogenous fertiliser imports from the **Gulf**.
Way Fwd	Diversify import sources, scale **nano-urea/nano-DAP** and **soil-health-card** based balanced use.
Concept	**NBS** (since **2010**) fixes subsidy per kg of **N, P, K, S**; **urea** remains under a fixed MRP regime. Ideal **NPK ratio 4:2:1**.

NBS Subsidy on P&K Fertilisers (₹ crore)



SC Clarifies OBC Creamy-Layer Ruling: Salary Alone Is Not the Test

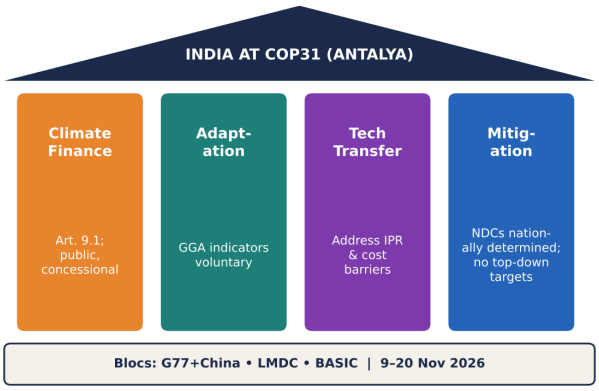
POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Reservation, Articles 15-16, judicial review; Prelims: Indra Sawhney, creamy-layer ceiling.
Context	On **6 Nov 2026** a bench of Justices **P.S. Narasimha** and **R. Mahadevan** clarified its **11 Mar 2026** judgment (**Union of India v. Rohith Nathan**) that parental **salary alone** cannot decide OBC creamy-layer status.
Key Facts	■ The judgment does **not reopen** concluded selections, appointments or seniority. ■ Selections after **11 Mar 2026** follow the **1993 DoPT OM** as interpreted by the Court. ■ Applies to OBC candidates of **CSE 2025**, as service allocation was not complete. ■ Children of government **teachers and clerical staff** expected to gain; post **equivalence** for PSU staff matters.
Way Fwd	Centre to notify **post-equivalence** norms for PSUs/private sector and periodically revise the **₹8 lakh** ceiling.
Concept	**Indra Sawhney (1992)** upheld **27% OBC quota** with **creamy-layer** exclusion and a **50%** cap; income ceiling **₹8 lakh/yr** since **2017**. Arts **15(4), 16(4)**.

₹3,230-Crore Yuge Yugeen Bharat Museum Cleared for North & South Blocks

SOCIETY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (History & Culture)

Syllabus Linkage	Indian heritage, museums, cultural policy; Prelims: location, themes.
Context	The Cabinet approved the **Yuge Yugeen Bharat National Museum** at **₹3,230 crore** through **adaptive reuse** of the **North and South Block** complex, New Delhi.
Key Facts	■ Built-up area about **1,78,509 sq m**; about **1.8 million** objects identified. ■ First gallery (**Adornment**) in North Block in late **2027**; phases **FY 2026-27 to 2030-31**. ■ Themes: Mathematics & Astronomy, Languages & Scripts, Faith, **Bharat Connects** (trade & ideas).
Way Fwd	Include regional galleries — e.g., **Himalayan** and **Uttarakhand** heritage (Katyuri temples, Pahari painting).
Concept	The museum was announced on **18 May 2023** (International Museum Day). **Pahari/Garhwal school** of painting — **Mola Ram**; **Katyuri** dynasty built **Jageshwar & Baijnath** temples.



COP31 in Antalya: India Presses for Finance, Adaptation & Tech Transfer

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Climate negotiations, UNFCCC, Paris Agreement; Prelims: host, presidency, blocs.
Context	**COP31** is under way in **Antalya, Turkey (9-20 Nov 2026)**, with a **World Leaders' Summit (11-12 Nov)**. Turkey hosts while Australia's **Chris Bowen** is **President of Negotiations**.
Key Facts	■ India seeks a **Climate Finance Work Programme** and finance under **Paris Art. 9.1** — public and concessional. ■ **Global Goal on Adaptation** indicators must be **voluntary**, not a condition for finance. ■ UNEP **Adaptation Gap Report 2026**: developing countries face **$305 bn/yr** adaptation needs by **2035**. ■ India works with **G77+China, LMDC** and **BASIC**; side event **LeadIT 3.0** with **Sweden**.
Way Fwd	Push adaptation finance for **Himalayan** states facing **GLOF**, landslides and glacier retreat.
Concept	**CBDR-RC** principle (Rio 1992); **Art. 9.1** obliges developed nations to provide finance; **NCQG** of **$300 bn/yr by 2035** agreed at **COP29 (Baku)**.

Visa Overhaul: Categories Cut From 13 to 9, Tourist Visa Becomes Visitor Visa

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Governance reforms, tourism, ease of travel; Prelims: visa types.
Context	The **Ministry of Home Affairs** is simplifying the visa regime by amending the **Visa Manual, 2019** — fewer categories and **65-70%** shorter forms; core security checks stay.
Key Facts	■ Main categories **13 → 9**; sub-categories **49 → 23**. ■ **Tourist Visa** renamed **Visitor Visa** — V-1 (**30 days**), V-2 (1/5/10 years, incl. **mountaineering**). ■ New **Production Investment Business Visa** for foreign technical experts; **M-3** for **AYUSH** treatment.
Way Fwd	Market Uttarakhand's **mountaineering, yoga (Rishikesh)** and **AYUSH wellness** to foreign visitors under the new categories.
Concept	Visa and entry fall under **Union List** (Entry 19: admission into India); governed by the **Immigration and Foreigners Act, 2025**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman instituted in **2021**.	**2. Gairsain** — summer capital of Uttarakhand (**2020**), district **Chamoli**.
3. Naseem Al Bahr (15th edition) — India–**Oman** naval exercise; **INS Surat** at **Muscat**.	**4. IMNEX-26** (8th edition) — India–**Myanmar** naval exercise at **Visakhapatnam**.
5. Diwali air: **375 of 551** stations logged PM2.5 peaks of **250 µg/m³+**; WHO 24-hr guideline **15 µg/m³**.	**6.** Centre bans export of **lithium-ion battery waste (black mass)**; legacy-landfill deadline moved to **Dec 2027**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS MCQs

Q1. With reference to the Char Dham shrines and their winter seats, which pair is correctly matched?

(A) Kedarnath — Mukhba
(B) Yamunotri — Kharsali
(C) Gangotri — Ukhimath
(D) Badrinath — Guptkashi

Answer: (B) — Yamunotri's winter seat is **Kharsali**; Kedarnath → **Ukhimath**, Gangotri → **Mukhba**, Badrinath → **Pandukeshwar/Joshimath**.

Q2. Consider the Stand-Up India Scheme as extended in Nov 2026: 1. It supports loans above ₹10 lakh and up to ₹1 crore. 2. It covers only manufacturing units. 3. It has been extended till 31 March 2031. Which statements are correct?

(A) 1 and 2 only
(B) 2 and 3 only
(C) 1 and 3 only
(D) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (C) — It covers **manufacturing, services, trading and agri-allied** activities, so statement 2 is wrong; loan range **₹10 lakh–₹1 crore** and extension to **2031** are correct.

MAINS PRACTICE

"Record pilgrim footfall in the Char Dham is both an economic opportunity and an ecological risk for Uttarakhand." Discuss, suggesting a sustainable pilgrimage model. (UKPSC Mains, 200 words)

Hint: Use **27.97 lakh** Kedarnath-Yamunotri figures; cover livelihoods and **homestays** vs **carrying capacity**, waste (**Digital Deposit Refund System**), disaster risk (**2013 Kedarnath**), and **winter yatra** to winter seats.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Rudrapur = No. 1 Clean Himalayan City • Kedarnath closed 11 Nov (19.13 lakh) • Badrinath closes 16 Nov • Stand-Up India till 2031 • Rabi NBS ₹62,370 cr • COP31 Antalya.

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