CURRENT AFFAIRS — 13 October 2026

Tuesday, 13 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

- UK Cabinet met in **Haridwar** (12 Oct) - **13 decisions** approved
- **Floodplain Zoning Rules 2026** operationalise the **2012 Act**
- Ex-Agniveer **Reservation Rules 2026** for Group C uniformed posts
- Char Dham Yatra 2026: **56+ lakh** pilgrims - **all-time record**
- **Haridwar Kumbh 2027** logo, website & anthem unveiled
- **315 PMGSY road** proposals to link **610 habitations** sought
- **Mountain Guardian 2026** (India-UAE) at **Chaubatia**, 5-18 Oct
- CPI inflation **5.54%** (Sep) vs **4.83%** (Aug); food **7.74%**
- Economics Nobel 2026: **Robert E. Hall** & **Michael Woodford**
- **Living Planet Index 2026**: **73%** average decline (1970-2022)

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

Cabinet notifies Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules 2026

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

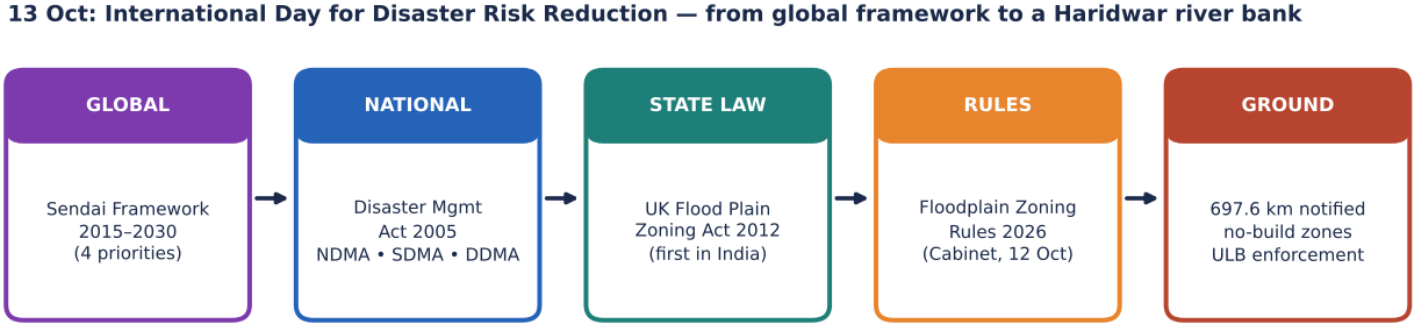
Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand geography; **disaster management**; river systems; land-use regulation. Prelims: **2012 Act**, notified river stretches.
Context	At its meeting in **Haridwar** on **12 Oct 2026**, the Cabinet chaired by CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** approved the **Floodplain Zoning Rules 2026** to regulate land use along flood-prone rivers — a day before the **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 Oct)**.
Key Facts	■ Rules give procedures & standards for the **Uttarakhand Flood Plain Zoning Act, 2012** — the State calls itself the **first** to enact such a law. ■ Aim: curb **unauthorised construction** & **encroachment**, keep natural flood flow, protect lives & critical infrastructure. ■ About **697.6 km** of riverine stretches already finally notified — incl. **Alaknanda 197.35 km**, **Bhagirathi 133.35 km**, **Mandakini 76.9 km**. ■ Zones are based on the magnitude of floods of the last **25 to 100 years**; studies done for **1,175.54 km** across **18 river basins**.
Way Fwd	Mark **past flood levels** on the ground, make urban local bodies enforce zoning, and audit riverside construction publicly.
Concept	**Floodplain zoning** = a **non-structural** flood measure (vs dams/embankments). Links: **DM Act 2005**, **Sendai Framework 2015-2030**, 2013 **Kedarnath** disaster.

Haridwar Cabinet: ex-Agniveer rules, Child Bravery Award & two new Bills

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

Syllabus Linkage	State administration, **reservation**, ease of doing business, State legislature. Prelims: **Jan Vishwas**, **Model Fire Service Bill 2019**.
Context	The **13-point** Cabinet agenda at Haridwar (**12 Oct**) mixed welfare for ex-soldiers, new legislation for the coming Assembly session and asset-monetisation reform.
Key Facts	■ **Ex-Agniveer Horizontal Reservation Rules 2026** for direct recruitment to **Group C uniformed posts**, with recruitment relaxations (builds on the **10%** horizontal quota of **2025**). ■ New **CM State Child Bravery Award** scheme approved. ■ Bills for the Assembly: **Uttarakhand Fire & Emergency Services Bill 2026** and the **2nd Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill 2026** (decriminalising minor offences). ■ **92%** of proceeds from disinvestment/monetisation of assets to go to the owning public agency; society for **Madan Mohan Malaviya Oriental Research Institute**, **Rishikul** (Haridwar).
Way Fwd	Time-bound notification of rules, skill bridging for ex-Agniveers, and fire-service staffing norms for hill towns.
Concept	**Horizontal reservation** cuts across vertical (SC/ST/OBC) categories — **Indra Sawhney (1992)**. **Agnipath** (2022): **4-year** tenure, up to **25%** retained.

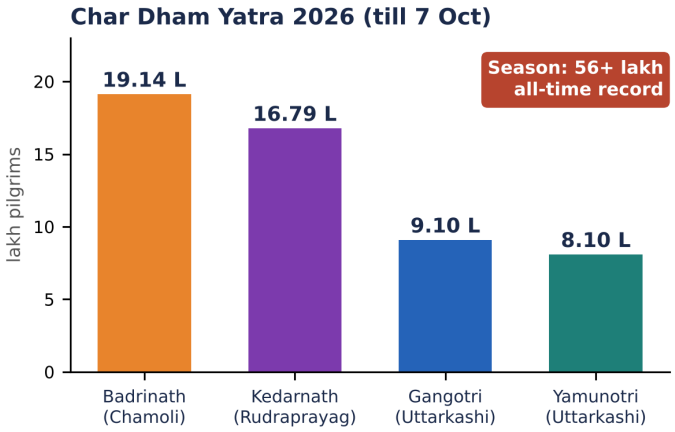




Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 56 lakh — an all-time record

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

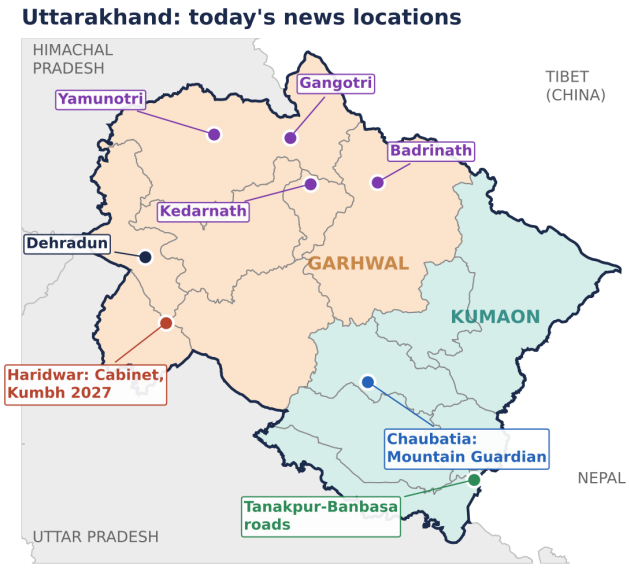
Syllabus Linkage	Tourism economy, **pilgrimage & crowd management**, carrying capacity. Prelims: dham locations, rivers, districts.
Context	State tourism data show the 2026 season has drawn **over 56 lakh** pilgrims by **7 Oct**, beating the **2023** record, with weeks still left before the winter closing of the shrines.
Key Facts	■ **Badrinath 19.14 lakh** (Chamoli, Alaknanda) and **Kedarnath 16.79 lakh** (Rudraprayag, Mandakini) lead. ■ **Gangotri 9.10 lakh** (Uttarkashi, Bhagirathi), **Yamunotri 8.10 lakh** (Uttarkashi, Yamuna). ■ Badrinath closing date is customarily fixed on **Vijayadashami**; Kedarnath & Yamunotri close around **Bhai Dooj**. ■ Ropeways approved for **Kedarnath** and **Hemkund Sahib** to ease trek congestion.
Way Fwd	Scientific **carrying-capacity** studies, slot-based registration and waste management on trek routes.
Concept	**Panch Prayag** on the Alaknanda: **Vishnuprayag, Nandprayag, Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag, Devprayag** (Alaknanda + Bhagirathi = **Ganga**).



Haridwar Kumbh 2027 gets official logo, website and anthem

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

Syllabus Linkage	Fairs & festivals of Uttarakhand; **religious tourism**; heritage. Prelims: Kumbh cycle, Haridwar landmarks.
Context	On **12 Oct 2026**, CM Dhami unveiled the official **logo, website and theme song** of the Haridwar Kumbh Mela 2027 at the Mela Control Building, Haridwar.
Key Facts	■ Logo shows **Maa Ganga**, **Har Ki Pauri**, the **Dhanush bridge**, **trishul & damru**, and the **Mansa Devi & Chandi Devi** hills. ■ Design by **Madhu Sharma** (Vikasnagar), chosen from **13** shortlisted entries; anthem by Haridwar singer **Raghav Raja**. ■ On **11 Oct**, **₹61.42 crore** was sanctioned for **18** Kumbh infrastructure works. ■ Kumbh is on UNESCO's **Intangible Cultural Heritage** list (**2017**).
Way Fwd	Crowd-flow modelling, **Ganga** cleanliness and digital pilgrim services well before the bathing dates.
Concept	Kumbh sites: **Haridwar** (Ganga), **Prayagraj** (Sangam), **Nashik** (Godavari), **Ujjain** (Shipra). Haridwar hosts Kumbh every **12 years**, Ardh Kumbh every **6**.



Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

CM seeks Centre's nod for 315 PMGSY roads to link 610 habitations

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

Syllabus Linkage	Rural infrastructure, **hill-area development**, **palayan** (out-migration). Prelims: PMGSY features.
Context	In New Delhi on **12 Oct**, CM Dhami met Union Rural Development Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** for quick approval of pending road proposals under **PMGSY**.
Key Facts	■ **315 road** proposals sent to the Centre to connect **610 habitations**. ■ Union Minister assured early action on approvals. ■ Separately, **₹9.94 crore** was sanctioned for **20 km** of internal roads in **Tanakpur & Banbasa** (Champawat).
Way Fwd	Slope-stable, climate-resilient road design and maintenance funds to stop **ghost villages** emptying further.
Concept	**PMGSY** launched **25 Dec 2000**; **PMGSY-IV (2024-29)** targets **25,000** unconnected habitations; hill states use a lower population threshold.

Mountain Guardian 2026: India-UAE drill at Chaubatia

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

Syllabus Linkage	India's defence diplomacy; **Uttarakhand military heritage**. Prelims: exercise names, venues, partners.
Context	The **3rd edition** of the India-UAE joint exercise runs **5-18 Oct 2026** at the **Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia** (Ranikhet, **Almora**), in mountain terrain.
Key Facts	■ **92** personnel: **46** Indian Army (incl. a **Bhairav Battalion**) + **46** UAE Land Forces. ■ Drills: joint planning, **drone operations**, surveillance grids, firing, integrated field exercise. ■ **Women officers** of both armies in specialist roles. ■ Other India-UAE exercise: **Desert Cyclone** (desert terrain).
Way Fwd	Use the Chaubatia node to grow Uttarakhand as a hub of **mountain-warfare diplomacy**.
Concept	**Chaubatia** lies near **Ranikhet**, home of the **Kumaon Regimental Centre**; Uttarakhand has also hosted **Yudh Abhyas** (India-US) at **Auli** (2022).

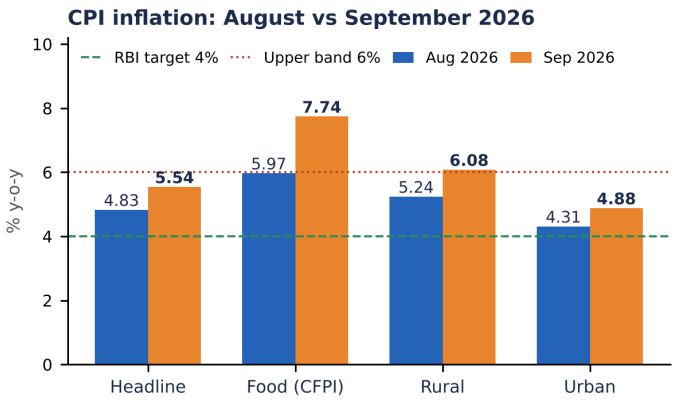
SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

CPI RETAIL INFLATION, SEPTEMBER 2026

5.54%

Up from **4.83%** in August — highest in the new CPI series; **food 7.74%**, **rural 6.08%**, **urban 4.88%**, **onion 108.09%**. Came days after the **RBI MPC** raised the **repo rate by 25 bps to 5.50%** (stance: **calibrated tightening**).

UKPSC link: Indian economy — inflation, monetary policy; hill-state household budgets feel food & fuel price spikes first.



SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Economics Nobel 2026 to Robert E. Hall and Michael Woodford

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, **inflation targeting**, awards. Prelims: laureates, MPC structure.
Context	Announced on **12 Oct 2026** for "the **microeconomic foundations of macroeconomic stabilisation**" — the basis of modern central-bank practice.
Key Facts	■ **Hall** (Stanford): consumption follows a **random walk**; **hand-to-mouth** households spend income as it comes. ■ **Woodford** (Columbia): expected future rates drive inflation; **Interest and Prices (2003)** underpins **New Keynesian** models & **forward guidance**. ■ Prize: **12 million SEK**; instituted **1968**, first given **1969**. ■ Indian-origin laureates: **Amartya Sen (1998)**, **Abhijit Banerjee (2019)**.
Way Fwd	RBI's clear **forward guidance** matters more as inflation rises above the **4%** target.
Concept	**MPC** created by **2016** amendment to the **RBI Act 1934**: **6 members**, CPI target **4% ± 2%**.

SC: price caps must go beyond cancer drugs

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Social Justice)

Syllabus Linkage	**Right to health** (Art. 21), drug regulation. Prelims: **DPCO 2013**, **NPPA**, **NLEM**.
Context	The Centre told the Supreme Court it will cap **trade margins at 30%** on **non-scheduled cancer drugs**; the Bench called it inadequate and gave time till **27 Oct** to work out wider modalities.
Key Facts	■ Bench flagged mark-ups up to **1,000%** — "**broad daylight dacoity**". ■ Made-in-India stent of about **₹5,000** sold for over **₹25,000**. ■ **NLEM 2022** lists **384** medicines; non-scheduled MRP may rise max **10%** a year. ■ **Para 19** of DPCO lets government fix prices in extraordinary cases.
Way Fwd	Rational margin caps on essential drugs & devices plus wider **Jan Aushadhi** reach.
Concept	**DPCO 2013** issued under the **Essential Commodities Act 1955**; **NPPA** set up **1997**.

Living Planet Index 2026: 73% average fall in wildlife

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	Biodiversity, reports & indices. Prelims: what LPI does and does **not** measure.
Context	The **2026 Living Planet Report** (theme **"Science of Hope"**) shows an average **73%** decline in monitored vertebrate populations between **1970 and 2022**.
Key Facts	■ Covers **35,803** vertebrate populations; compiled with the **Zoological Society of London**. ■ It is a **weighted geometric mean** — not the share of animals lost. ■ Steepest falls: **Latin America-Caribbean 95%**, **Africa 80%**; **Asia 49%**. ■ **50%** of populations declining, **43%** increasing, **7%** stable.
Way Fwd	Meet **30x30** under the **Kunming-Montreal Framework**; protect Himalayan habitats such as **Nanda Devi** and **Corbett**.
Concept	**Kunming-Montreal GBF** (Dec **2022**): **23 targets**; India's laws: **WPA 1972**, **Biological Diversity Act 2002** (amended **2023**).

Jantar Mantar de-notified as Delhi's protest site

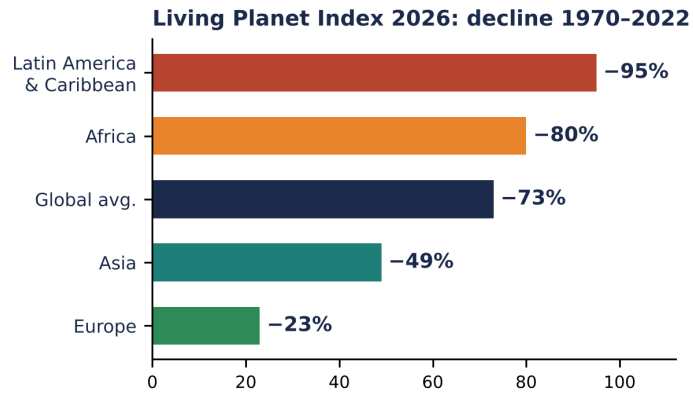
POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**Fundamental Rights** — Art. **19(1)(a), (b)** and reasonable restrictions. Prelims: case law.
Context	On **12 Oct 2026**, Delhi Police de-notified **Jantar Mantar** as a designated protest site on an **MHA** committee's advice; **Ramlila Maidan**, **Burari** and **CBD Ground** suggested instead.
Key Facts	■ Old rules: apply **10 days** ahead; cap of **1,000** people. ■ **Art. 19(3)** permits reasonable restrictions on assembly. ■ **Mazdoor Kisan Shakti Sangathan (2018)**: earmarked sites allowed, no blanket ban. ■ **Sec. 163, BNSS 2023** = prohibitory orders (old Sec. 144 CrPC).
Way Fwd	Content-neutral, accessible protest venues balancing dissent with public order.
Concept	**Himmat Lal K. Shah (1972)**: prior permission valid, but assembly cannot be banned on every street.

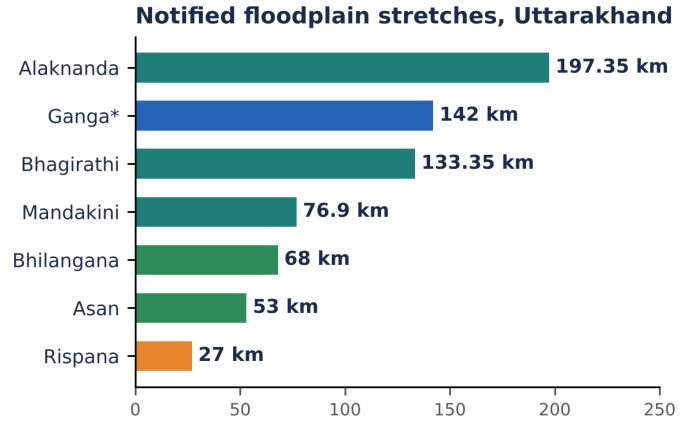
JOSH Teams launched to speed up TB elimination

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

Syllabus Linkage	Public health schemes, youth volunteering. Prelims: **TB Mukt Bharat**, **Ni-kshay Poshan**.
Context	The Union Health Ministry launched **JOSH (Joint Squad for Health)** teams under the **TB Mukt Bharat Abhiyaan**, pairing **MY Bharat** volunteers with **NCC** cadets.
Key Facts	■ Each team: **5 volunteers + 5 cadets**, led by a Class-I officer. ■ **6,347** squads; Phase 1 in **55 districts** of **11** States/UTs. ■ **67,933** panchayats recognised **TB Mukt** in 2026. ■ **Ni-kshay Poshan**: **₹1,000**/month (raised from ₹500 in 2024).
Way Fwd	Confidentiality training, independent verification of TB-free status, nutrition support in hill districts.
Concept	**NTEP** replaced **RNTCP** in **2020**; India now aims to end TB **before 2030** (SDG 3.3).



35,803 monitored vertebrate populations; weighted geometric mean



Total notified ≈ 697.6 km | *Devprayag–Rishikesh | Act: 2012, Rules: 2026

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Fact	Answer	Fact	Answer
Uttarakhand SDRF certification	**ISO 9001:2015**	First fully literate UT under ULLAS (2024)	**Ladakh**; now **Lakshadweep** joins
Venue of 12 Oct UK Cabinet meeting	**Haridwar**	ISRO-CNES thermal imaging satellite	**TRISHNA** (launch in 12-16 months)
New UK award scheme for children	**CM State Child Bravery Award**	13 October observed as	**Intl. Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC PATTERN)

Q1. Consider the following statements about Exercise Mountain Guardian 2026:
1. It is a joint military exercise between India and the UAE.
2. It is being held at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia, Uttarakhand.
3. It is the first edition of the exercise.
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) — Mountain Guardian 2026 (5-18 Oct) is the **3rd edition** of the **India-UAE** exercise, held at **Chaubatia** (Almora). Statement 3 is wrong.

Q2. With reference to floodplain zoning in Uttarakhand, consider the following statements:
1. The Uttarakhand Flood Plain Zoning Act was enacted in 2012.
2. The Mandakini stretch from Kedarnath to Rudraprayag has been notified.
3. The Floodplain Zoning Rules 2026 have been framed under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — The Rules 2026 operationalise the State's own **Flood Plain Zoning Act, 2012**, not the DM Act 2005. The **Mandakini (Kedarnath-Rudraprayag, 76.9 km)** stretch is notified.

Mains Practice: "Floodplain zoning is a low-cost but under-used tool of disaster risk reduction in the Himalaya." Discuss in the context of Uttarakhand's Floodplain Zoning Rules 2026. (125 words / 8 marks)

Hint: Intro: **2012 Act** + **Rules 2026**, 2013 Kedarnath lesson. Body: **non-structural** vs structural measures; notified stretches (**697.6 km**); urban enforcement gaps (**108 ULBs**, >30% riverside); link to **Sendai Framework**. Conclude: mark flood lines, empower ULBs, use GIS monitoring.

Revise: **Floodplain Act 2012 → Rules 2026** | Char Dham **56+ lakh** | Kumbh 2027 logo | Mountain Guardian @ **Chaubatia** | CPI **5.54%**, repo **5.50%** | Nobel: **Hall & Woodford** | LPI **73%**

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