CURRENT AFFAIRS — 16 October 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Friday, 16 October 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Dr Dhal Singh Bisen** (ex-MP, Balaghat) — Uttarakhand's **9th Governor**; succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.)**.
- **Third session of 5th Assembly** at **Bhararisain (Gairsain)** from **27 Oct**; **~₹5,000 cr** supplementary budget.
- **Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026** approved under the **2012 Act** — first cabinet meeting held in **Haridwar**.
- Ex-Agniveers: new rules for **uniformed Group 'C'** posts; **10% horizontal reservation** already in force.
- CM sanctions **₹124.21 cr** for **free textbooks** + **₹9.35 cr** for **Gaulapar (Haldwani)** sports complex.
- Char Dham Yatra 2026 crossed a record **56.18 lakh** pilgrims; snow forecast above **3,500 m**.
- ECI's **SSR** in **17 States/UTs** (incl. Uttarakhand): final rolls on **4 Jan 2027**; qualifying date **1 Jan 2027**.
- SC: Hindu convert to Islam **cannot claim Art. 16(4)** BC benefit on pre-conversion backwardness.
- India's **Ramsar sites = 103**: **Sukhna (Chandigarh)** + **Sauj Jheel (UP)**; Uttarakhand has **Asan**.
- Sept 2026 merchandise exports **$44.4 bn (+23.04%)**; trade deficit **$30.21 bn**.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — State Schemes, Policy, Disaster & Ecology, State Economy

Dr Dhal Singh Bisen named Uttarakhand's 9th Governor; likely to assume charge on 19 October

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

Syllabus Linkage	Polity — **Governor (Art. 153–162)**, state executive; Uttarakhand GK — list of Governors.
Context	President **Droupadi Murmu** on **12 October 2026** appointed former Balaghat MP **Dr Dhal Singh Bisen** as Governor in a **six-state reshuffle**; the state has begun preparations for him to take charge, likely on **19 October**.
Key Facts	■ Succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd.)**, Governor since **15 Sept 2021**; Bisen becomes the state's **9th Governor**. ■ **4-time MLA** in Madhya Pradesh; MP Cabinet Minister **2003–05** (forests, transport, mines); **17th Lok Sabha** MP from **Balaghat**; an **Ayurvedic practitioner**. ■ Same reshuffle: **Kerala** – O.P. Mathur, **Tamil Nadu** – R.V. Arlekar, **Sikkim** – Dushyant Gautam, **Odisha** – Braj Mohan Ram, **Karnataka** – Dr Sudha Yadav. ■ First Governor of Uttarakhand: **Surjit Singh Barnala (2000)**.
Way Fwd	With the **Gairsain session** and **2027 Assembly polls** ahead, a neutral, consultative Raj Bhavan (summoning, **assent under Art. 200**) is vital.
Concept	**Art. 155** – appointed by President by warrant; **Art. 156** – pleasure of President, **5-yr** term; **Art. 157** – citizen, **35 yrs**; **Art. 163** – aid & advice; **Art. 361** – immunity. **Hargovind Pant (1979)**: an independent constitutional office, not Union employment.

Haridwar cabinet: new recruitment rules for ex-Agniveers in uniformed posts; CM State Child Bravery Award approved

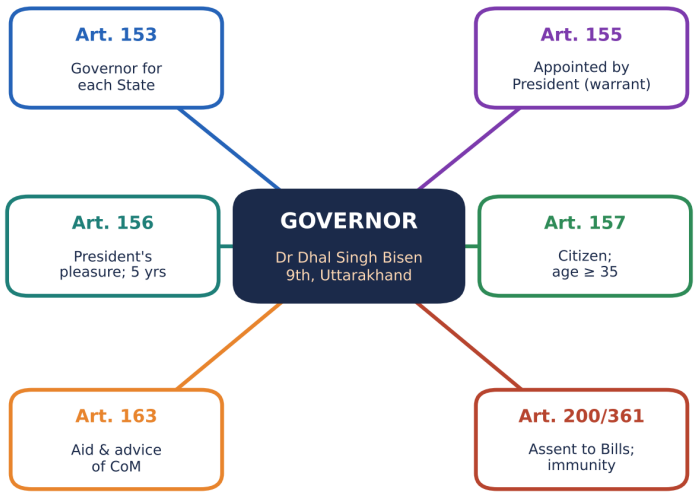
UTTARAKHAND UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Social Justice — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	State welfare schemes; **Agnipath scheme**; reservation concepts; Uttarakhand's military tradition.
Context	The **13-point agenda** at **Haridwar (12 Oct)** — part of the new practice of holding cabinet meetings in **different districts** after **Banbasa (Champawat)** — covered ex-Agniveers, a child bravery award and research institutions.
Key Facts	■ New rules for recruiting **ex-Agniveers** to **uniformed Group 'C'** posts; **10% horizontal reservation** for them already exists. ■ **Chief Minister's State Child Bravery Award** scheme approved. ■ In-principle nod to a society for the **Madan Mohan Malaviya Oriental Research Institute**. ■ Amendment to the schedule of the **Uttarakhand Investment & Infrastructure Development Act**; road-width relaxation for an **affordable housing project** in Haridwar.
Way Fwd	Notify rules quickly so the **first Agniveer batch** benefits after its **4-year** tenure; link the bravery award to schools.
Concept	**Agnipath (June 2022)**: **4-year** tenure for youth aged **17.5–21**; up to **25%** retained as regulars. **Horizontal reservation** cuts across vertical (SC/ST/OBC) categories — **Indra Sawhney (1992)**.

Third session of Fifth Assembly at Gairsain (Bhararisain) from 27 October; ~₹5,000 crore supplementary budget

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

Syllabus Linkage	State Legislature (**Art. 168–212**), budget process (**Art. 202, 205**); Uttarakhand — summer capital **Gairsain**.
Context	The Governor has summoned the **third session of the Fifth Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly** at **Bhararisain, Gairsain (Chamoli)** from **27 October 2026**; a **supplementary budget of about ₹5,000 crore** for **FY 2026-27** is expected.
Key Facts	■ Haridwar cabinet (**12 Oct**) cleared tabling of the **Second Uttarakhand Jan Vishwas (Amendment) Bill, 2026** and the **Uttarakhand Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2026**. ■ Last year's supplementary budget (**FY 2025-26**): **₹5,315 crore**. ■ **Gairsain** was declared the **summer capital** in **2020**; sessions alternate between **Dehradun** and Gairsain. ■ CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** unveiled the **logo, website and theme song** of **Haridwar Kumbh 2027** (logo: **Har Ki Pauri**, Mansa Devi & Chandi Devi hills).
Way Fwd	Use hill sessions for a **hill-area agenda** — palayan, disaster resilience, Kumbh readiness — and build year-round **Gairsain infrastructure**.
Concept	**Art. 205** – supplementary grant when sanctioned sum is insufficient or a new service arises; **Art. 202** – Annual Financial Statement; **Art. 174** – Governor summons House; gap between sessions **≤ 6 months**. **Jan Vishwas** = decriminalising minor offences.



Cabinet approves Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026 to curb construction along rivers

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

Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management — **floods, flash floods, cloudbursts**; land-use regulation; Uttarakhand rivers & vulnerability.
Context	At its **first-ever meeting in Haridwar** on **12 October 2026**, the cabinet approved the **Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026**, laying down procedures to implement the **Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Act, 2012**.
Key Facts	■ Rules set **procedures, standards and operational frameworks** for land use and development in **flood-prone areas**. ■ Aim: stop **unauthorised construction & encroachment** near rivers, keep **natural river flow**, protect lives and **critical infrastructure**. ■ Recurring disasters — e.g., the **Dharali (Uttarkashi) flash flood, Aug 2025** — exposed riverbed construction risk. ■ Same meeting: **215 posts** under **Swajal / State Water & Sanitation Mission** continued.
Way Fwd	Time-bound **floodplain mapping** of all major rivers, zones on **district master plans**, and strict enforcement in urban stretches.
Concept	**Floodplain zoning** is a **non-structural** measure. CWC's **Model Floodplain Zoning Bill (1975)** proposed a prohibited zone (≈ **25-yr flood**) and restricted zone (≈ **100-yr flood**); **Manipur, Rajasthan, J&K, Uttarakhand** are among the few states with laws.

CM sanctions ₹124.21 crore for free textbooks, plus funds for hill roads and Haldwani sports complex

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

Syllabus Linkage	Education & welfare schemes of Uttarakhand; rural infrastructure; sports development.
Context	CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** on **16 October 2026** approved sanctions totalling about **₹138.5 crore** (itemised) for school education, roads and sports, the bulk for **free textbooks and teaching material**.
Key Facts	■ **₹52.21 crore** — free textbooks for **Class 9–12** in government & aided schools (General, OBC, SC, ST). ■ **₹72 crore** — textbooks & teaching material under **Elementary Education** this FY. ■ **₹4.15 crore** — 5-km tiled road in **Dineshpur (Udham Singh Nagar)**; **₹80 lakh** CC road in **Bhautadri GP, Kanalichhina (Pithoragarh)**. ■ **₹9.35 crore** — **Integrated Sports Infrastructure Project**, **Indira Gandhi International Sports Complex, Gaulapar (Haldwani)**; ₹1 crore released.
Way Fwd	Deliver books at session start and maintain village roads — basic services that slow **palayan** from remote blocks.
Concept	**Art. 21A + RTE Act 2009** — free & compulsory education (**6–14 yrs**); Uttarakhand hosted the **38th National Games (2025)**, with Gaulapar as a venue.

Floodplain zoning in Uttarakhand — a non-structural flood-risk tool (schematic)

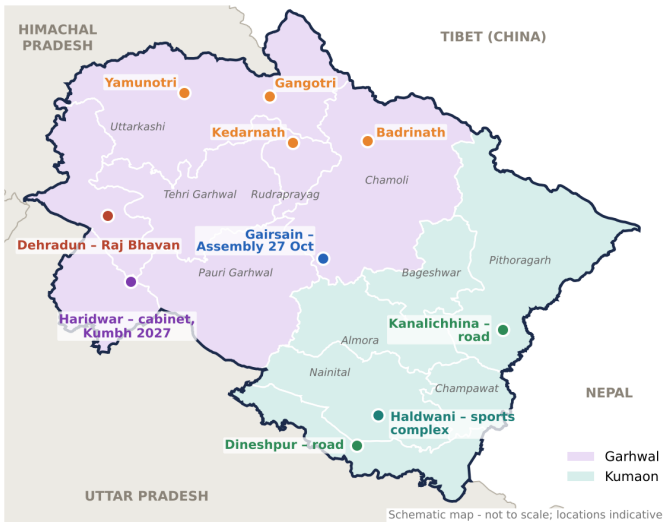


Rain, snow above 3,500 m chill Uttarakhand; Char Dham Yatra 2026 at a record 56.18 lakh pilgrims

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Western Disturbances**, Himalayan weather; pilgrimage tourism & crowd/disaster management.
Context	Rain pulled **Dehradun's maximum to 24.2°C (~5°C below normal)**; the Met Centre forecasts **snow at 3,500 m and above** and **thunderstorms with 40–50 km/h winds** in Dehradun, Tehri, Pauri, Nainital and Champawat as the **Char Dham season** nears its close.
Key Facts	■ Light–moderate rain likely in **Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Almora, Champawat, US Nagar, Bageshwar, Nainital, Pithoragarh**; **Mussoorie** got **8.1 mm**. ■ **Kedarnath helicopter services** were halted on **15 October**. ■ Char Dham footfall crossed an all-time record **56.18 lakh** by **7 October 2026**. ■ Winter seats: **Ukhimath** (Kedarnath), **Jyotirmath/Pandukeshwar** (Badrinath), **Mukhba** (Gangotri), **Kharsali** (Yamunotri).
Way Fwd	Weather-linked **heli and trek advisories**, registration caps, and promotion of the **winter Char Dham (sheetkaal) yatra** to spread tourism.
Concept	**Western Disturbances**: extratropical storms from the **Mediterranean** bringing winter rain/snow to the NW Himalaya. **Yamunotri & Gangotri – Uttarkashi; Kedarnath – Rudraprayag; Badrinath – Chamoli**.

Uttarakhand — today's news locations



56.18 lakh — Char Dham pilgrims (record, 7 Oct)

~₹5,000 cr — Supplementary budget (Gairsain)

₹124.21 cr — Free textbooks & material

₹9.35 cr — Sports complex, Gaulapar

215 — Swajal posts continued

9th — Governor — Dr D.S. Bisen

SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

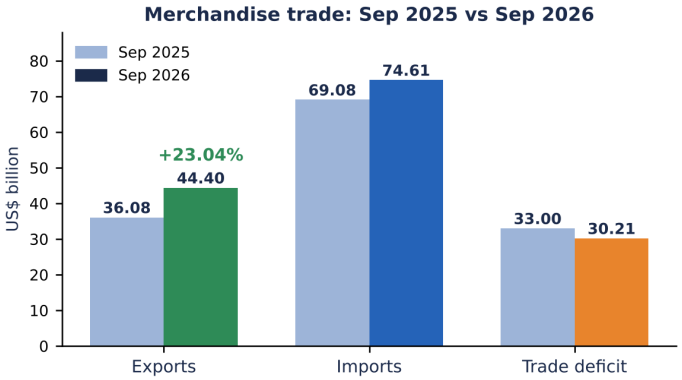
DATA POINT OF THE DAY

India's merchandise exports, September 2026

$44.40 bn (+23.04% YoY)

Imports **$74.61 bn**; merchandise trade deficit narrowed to **$30.21 bn** (from **$33 bn**). Overall (goods + services) exports **$80.75 bn (+10.99%)**; **Jul-Sep 2026** overall exports **$242.6 bn** — highest ever for a Q2. Electronics **+70.44%**, petroleum products **+31.9%**.

Exam angle: surge led by **electronics (PLI)**; watch the **India-US trade deal**. **CAD** = trade + services + remittances + income.



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

ECI orders Special Summary Revision in 17 States/UTs incl. poll-bound Uttarakhand; final rolls on 4 January 2027

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Elections — **Art. 324, 326**; **RP Act 1950**; electoral rolls & ECI.
Context	The **Election Commission** on **15 October 2026** directed **17 States/UTs** — including **Uttarakhand, UP and Punjab**, due for polls in **2027** — to hold the annual **Special Summary Revision (SSR)** with **1 January 2027** as the qualifying date.
Key Facts	■ Unlike the **Special Intensive Revision (SIR)**, SSR needs **no citizenship documents** and no house-to-house enumeration. ■ Transparency: **readable-PDF** rolls for parties; a BLA filing **>30 Form-7** objections triggers ERO/AERO cross-verification. ■ No transfer of **DEO/ERO/AERO** officials without ECI approval during the revision.
Way Fwd	Ensure inclusion of **migrant hill voters** and new 18-year-olds; publicise **Form 6** (add), **Form 7** (delete), **Form 8** (correct).
Concept	**Art. 324** – superintendence of elections; **Art. 326** – adult suffrage at **18** (**61st Amendment, 1988**); **4 qualifying dates** a year (1 Jan, 1 Apr, 1 Jul, 1 Oct) after the **Election Laws (Amendment) Act, 2021**.

SC issues notice to Centre on lifelong immunity for the CEC and Election Commissioners

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Constitutional bodies — **ECI (Art. 324)**; **Art. 14**; **Art. 361**.
Context	The Supreme Court sought the Centre's reply on a plea by the **Association for Democratic Reforms** challenging **Section 16** of the **CEC and Other Election Commissioners Act, 2023**.
Key Facts	■ **Sec. 16** bars civil/criminal proceedings against CEC/ECs for official acts — **even after they demit office**. ■ Broader than **Art. 361** protection for **President & Governors**; no such blanket shield for **judges, CAG, Lokpal, PSCs**. ■ Clause was added by amendment at the **Rajya Sabha** stage; the **1991 Act** had no such provision.
Way Fwd	Limit protection to **good-faith acts**, balancing the Commission's independence with accountability under **Art. 14**.
Concept	**Anoop Baranwal (2023)**: panel of PM, LoP, CJI — the **2023 Act** replaced the CJI with a **Union Cabinet Minister**; CEC removable only like a **SC judge (Art. 324(5))**. Art. 14 test: **intelligible differentia + rational nexus**.

SC: a Hindu who converts to Islam cannot claim the Backward Class Muslim quota on pre-conversion backwardness

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

Syllabus Linkage	Fundamental Rights — **Art. 15(4), 16(4)**; reservation jurisprudence; **Art. 341**.
Context	A Bench of **Justices P.K. Mishra and Shree Chandrashekhar** on **15 October 2026** dismissed Tamil Nadu's appeal and upheld the **Madras HC (25 June)** ruling striking down a **9 March 2024 G.O.** granting BC Muslim status to converts.
Key Facts	■ A convert from the Hindu social order **cannot claim Art. 16(4)** benefit merely on **pre-conversion social backwardness**. ■ The G.O. let converts from **BC, MBC, Denotified Communities & SC** claim status in **7 notified BC Muslim sects** (e.g., **Muslim Lebbai**). ■ **Para 3, Constitution (SC) Order 1950**: SC status only for those professing **Hinduism, Sikhism or Buddhism**.
Way Fwd	The pending question of SC status for **Dalit Christians/Muslims** (**K.G. Balakrishnan Commission, 2022**) needs a data-based resolution.
Concept	**Art. 16(4)** – reservation in posts for backward classes not adequately represented; **Indra Sawhney (1992)** – **50%** ceiling, creamy layer; **Art. 341** – President notifies SCs.

India's UNSC 2028–29 bid faces a rare contested Asia-Pacific race as Tajikistan enters the fray

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	India and the UN; **UNSC reform**; G4; India–Central Asia relations.
Context	India seeks a **non-permanent UNSC seat for 2028–29**; the **UNGA vote is due in June 2027**, and **Tajikistan**, backed by Central Asia and sections of the **57-member OIC**, is in the race.
Key Facts	■ Needs a **two-thirds** majority — about **129 of 193** votes. ■ India won **187/191** votes in **2010** and **184/192** in **2020**; rivals **Kazakhstan** and **Afghanistan** earlier withdrew. ■ Trend: first-time candidate **Kyrgyzstan** reportedly beat the **Philippines** this year.
Way Fwd	Pair the campaign with **Global South** outreach, the **India-Central Asia Summit** track and the **G4** reform agenda.
Concept	**UNSC: 15** members — **5 permanent (veto)** + **10 non-permanent**, elected for **2 years** (5 each year), no immediate re-election; **Art. 23, UN Charter**.

ECI Special Summary Revision 2027 — 17 States/UTs incl. Uttarakhand

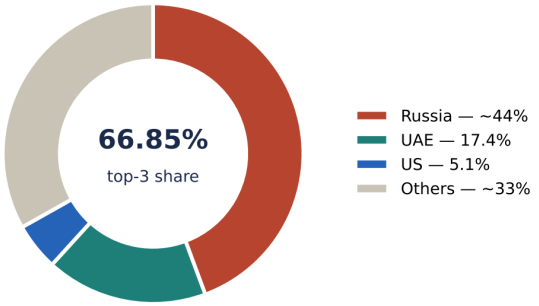


Russia, UAE and US supplied a record 66.85% of India's crude imports in August

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Energy security; external sector; trade policy & sanctions.
Context	India imported **191.2 lakh tonnes** of crude in **August 2026** (**−10.3%** m-o-m, **+3.4%** y-o-y), worth **$12.2 bn**, as a **US law signed in September** allows tariffs up to **100%** on big buyers of Russian energy.
Key Facts	■ **Russia ~44% (84.8 lakh t)**, down from **51% in July**; **UAE 17.4%**; **US 5.1%**. ■ US crude cost **$810.6/t** vs all-source average **$640/t**. ■ Commerce Minister: the **first tranche of the India–US trade deal** is finalised, pending legal vetting.
Way Fwd	Diversify via **term contracts**, expand **Strategic Petroleum Reserves**, and accelerate **ethanol blending**, **green hydrogen** and EVs.
Concept	**ISPRL** SPRs at **Visakhapatnam, Mangaluru, Padur** (**5.33 MMT**); India imports **~85%+** of its crude needs.

India's crude imports by source, Aug 2026 (191.2 lakh t; $12.2 bn)



Ramsar sites rise to 103: Chandigarh's Sukhna Wetland and UP's Sauj Jheel added

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	Wetlands conservation; **Ramsar Convention**; Uttarakhand's **Asan Conservation Reserve**.
Context	On **15 October 2026**, **Sukhna Wetland** — Chandigarh's **first** — and **Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri, UP)** were added, taking India's tally to **103**, up from **26 in 2014**.
Key Facts	■ Sukhna: at the **Shivalik** foothills; **Site No. 2602**; stopover on the **Central Asian Flyway**. ■ Sauj Jheel: part of the **Saman Wetland Complex**, an **Important Bird Area**. ■ **Glaw Lake (Arunachal Pradesh)** became the **101st** site in **Aug 2026**. ■ Uttarakhand's only site: **Asan Conservation Reserve (Dehradun, 2020)** at the **Asan–Yamuna** confluence.
Way Fwd	Use **wetland health cards** and catchment treatment; explore Ramsar nominations for Uttarakhand's **high-altitude lakes**.
Concept	**Ramsar Convention (1971, Iran)**; India joined **1982**; **World Wetlands Day – 2 Feb**; **Montreux Record** (India: **Keoladeo, Loktak**); **Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017**.

SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

FACT	DETAIL
Uttarakhand's 9th Governor	**Dr Dhal Singh Bisen** — former MP, **Balaghat (MP)**
Assembly session venue	**Bhararisain, Gairsain (Chamoli)** — from **27 Oct 2026**
Haridwar Kumbh 2027	Logo, website & theme song launched by **CM Dhami**
New Ramsar sites (103)	**Sukhna (Chandigarh)**, **Sauj Jheel (Mainpuri, UP)**
Defence deals	**₹4,106 crore** — IAF **communication satellite** + Navy **torpedoes**
Unemployment (NSO, Sept)	Overall rate steady at about **5%**; urban joblessness up marginally

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER — UKPSC Pattern

Q1. With reference to the office of the Governor, consider the following statements:
1. The Governor is appointed by the President by warrant under his hand and seal.
2. A person must have completed 30 years of age to be appointed Governor.
3. The Supreme Court has held that the Governor's office is not an employment under the Government of India.
Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (b) — **Art. 155** – appointment by warrant; **Art. 157** requires **35 years**, so statement 2 is wrong; **Hargovind Pant (1979)** held it is an independent constitutional office.

Q2. Consider the following pairs (Dham — Winter seat):
1. Kedarnath — Ukhimath
2. Badrinath — Jyotirmath (Pandukeshwar)
3. Gangotri — Kharsali
Which of the pairs given above is/are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (b) — Gangotri's winter seat is **Mukhba**; **Kharsali** is the winter seat of **Yamunotri**.

MAINS PRACTICE (GS)

Q. Floodplain zoning is a cost-effective non-structural tool for reducing flood losses in Himalayan states. Examine in the context of the Uttarakhand Floodplain Zoning Rules, 2026. (150 words, 10 marks)

Hint: Intro: **2012 Act → 2026 Rules**. Body: structural vs non-structural; prohibited/restricted zones; **Dharali 2025**, urban riverbed encroachment; challenges — mapping, land pressure, enforcement. Conclude: zoning + early warning + **NDMA** guidelines.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bisen = 9th Governor | **Gairsain** session 27 Oct, ~₹5,000 cr supplementary | **Floodplain Rules 2026** under 2012 Act | SSR final roll **4 Jan 2027** | Ramsar = **103** | Sept exports **$44.4 bn (+23.04%)**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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