

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Seva Sankalp Abhiyan runs 17 Sep-17 Oct across all 13 districts

■ Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh pilgrims; 60 lakh season target

■ EPFO wage ceiling raised ₹15,000 → ₹25,000 (effective today)

■ India Q1 FY27 GDP grows 7.8%, beating RBI's 7% forecast

■ UCC Uttarakhand: 4.7 lakh+ marriages registered online
- Nainital HC pulls up state on encroachment & teacher transfers

■ Homestay scheme offers up to ₹15 lakh to curb 'palayan'

■ GEP: Uttarakhand runs India's first Gross Environment Product

■ State of India's Environment 2026 report released

■ Nanda Devi Mela / Nanda Ashtami falls on 19 September

SECTION A • UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

schemes • policy • disaster • ecology

CM Dharami launches month-long 'Seva Sankalp Abhiyan'

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

Syllabus Linkage	State governance & schemes; welfare delivery; Uttarakhand-specific GS component.
Context	Marking PM Modi's birthday, the Chief Minister flagged off the Seva Sankalp Abhiyan , a month-long (17 Sep-17 Oct 2026) citizen-outreach drive linked to the Viksit Bharat 2047 goal.
Key Facts	- Runs 17 September to 17 October 2026 across all 13 districts. 11 major programmes planned around service, participation, dialogue and innovation. - Targets students, youth, women, beneficiaries and public representatives. - Aim: showcase scheme benefits and real-life beneficiary impact stories.
Way Fwd	Effective last-mile delivery and grievance redress will decide the drive's real impact.
Concept	Viksit Bharat 2047 : vision to make India a developed nation by the centenary of independence ; 'saturation' approach seeks 100% scheme coverage of eligible beneficiaries.

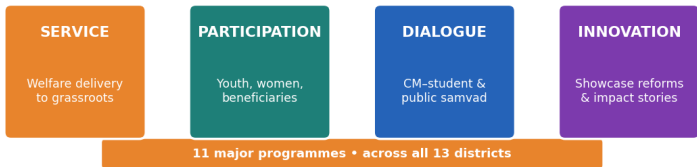
Nainital High Court raps state on encroachment, teacher transfers

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Judiciary & High Courts; PIL; urban drainage/encroachment; administrative accountability.
Context	The High Court of Uttarakhand (Nainital) took a strict view on storm-water drain encroachments and on the difficult-to-easy transfer policy for teachers, seeking the government's stand.
Key Facts	- Court sought a clear status report on drain encroachment removal. - Directed the Education Director to respond on teacher transfer grievances. - Nainital is the seat of the Uttarakhand High Court (est. 2000). - Reflects growing use of judicial oversight over hill-town civic issues.
Way Fwd	Time-bound compliance and transparent transfer norms can reduce repeat litigation.
Concept	High Court powers flow from Articles 226/227 (writs & superintendence); a PIL lets courts act on public-interest grievances.

SEVA SANKALP ABHIYAN (17 Sep - 17 Oct 2026)

Goal: VIKSIT BHARAT 2047 — citizen participation & outreach



Char Dham Yatra 2026 crosses 50 lakh pilgrims as phase-2 begins

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

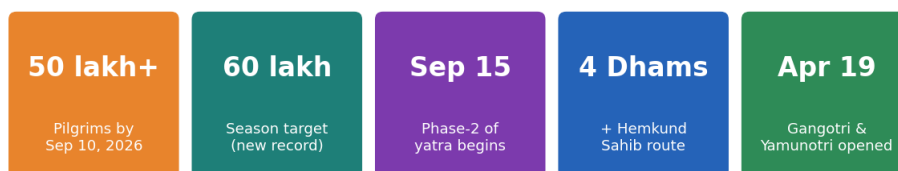
Syllabus Linkage	Pilgrimage tourism; crowd & disaster management; Himalayan geography of Uttarakhand.
Context	The second phase of the 2026 Char Dham Yatra began on 15 September , with pilgrim footfall crossing 50 lakh by 10 September and a season target of ~60 lakh .
Key Facts	♦ Gangotri & Yamunotri opened 19 Apr; Kedarnath 22 Apr; Badrinath 23 Apr. ♦ Yatra routes kept operational; repairs on in landslide-hit stretches. ♦ Traffic surge and congestion expected in vulnerable zones post-Sep 15. ♦ Char Dham lies in the eco-sensitive Higher Himalaya, prone to GLOF/landslides.
Way Fwd	Carrying-capacity caps, real-time crowd tech and slope-safety audits are the sustainable path.
Concept	Carrying capacity : maximum visitors an ecosystem can sustain without degradation — key to sustainable Himalayan tourism .

UCC Uttarakhand: 4.7 lakh+ marriages registered online

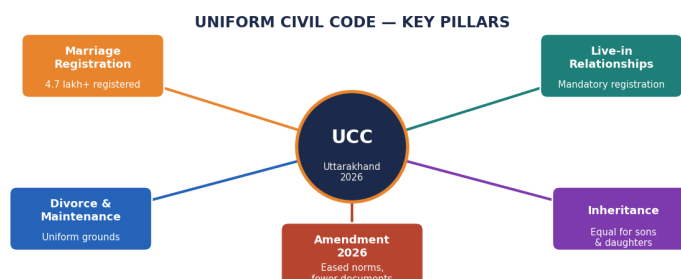
POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Social Justice — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Uniform Civil Code; Article 44 (DPSP); marriage, live-in, inheritance law; state legislation.
Context	Uttarakhand — the first state to implement a UCC (from 27 Jan 2025) — has registered over 4.7 lakh marriages online; UCC Amendment 2026 further eased marriage and live-in norms.
Key Facts	♦ First state in independent India to enforce a Uniform Civil Code. ♦ Online portal enables marriage, divorce, live-in & will registration. ♦ UCC Amendment 2026 eased documentation and live-in registration rules. ♦ UCC flows from Article 44 — a Directive Principle of State Policy.
Way Fwd	Privacy safeguards for live-in data and awareness in rural areas remain the key challenges.
Concept	Article 44 (DPSP) : State shall endeavour to secure a Uniform Civil Code ; DPSPs are non-justiciable but fundamental to governance.

CHAR DHAM YATRA 2026 — PILGRIM FOOTFALL & CROWD MANAGEMENT



Routes kept operational; repair underway in landslide-affected zones • traffic surge expected post Sep 15



UTTARAKHAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT — RESPONSE CHAIN



State nodal agency: USDMA • Response force: SDRF • Himalayan state in seismic Zone IV-V

Homestay scheme offers up to ₹15 lakh to curb hill 'palayan'

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

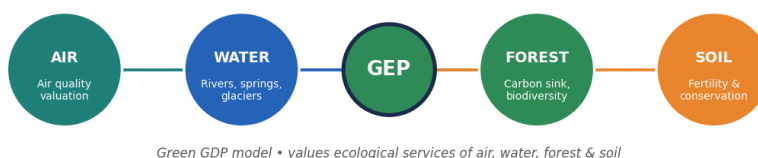
Syllabus Linkage	Rural tourism; out-migration (palayan); livelihoods; hill-area development economics.
Context	To fight out-migration ('palayan') , the state's homestay scheme offers subsidy/incentives up to ₹15 lakh to help residents run rural tourism ventures in their villages.
Key Facts	◆ Incentives support construction & upgrade of village homestays. ◆ Aim: jobs, rural revival and reverse migration in hill districts. ◆ Complements Uttarakhand's push for year-round, off-season tourism. ◆ Migration ('palayan') has emptied many 'ghost villages' in the hills.
Way Fwd	Skill training, marketing linkages and easy credit will decide the scheme's uptake.
Concept	Palayan (out-migration) : large-scale movement from hill villages to plains/cities for jobs; the Rural Development & Migration Commission tracks it in Uttarakhand.

Uttarakhand runs India's first Gross Environment Product (GEP)

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Green accounting; ecosystem services valuation; Himalayan ecology; sustainable development.
Context	Uttarakhand pioneered India's first Gross Environment Product (GEP) — a 'green GDP' that assigns economic value to the state's air, water, forest and soil services.
Key Facts	◆ GEP values four components: air, water, forest and soil. ◆ First-of-its-kind environmental valuation by any Indian state. ◆ Links ecology with economy for evidence-based green policy. ◆ Reinforces Uttarakhand's identity as a Himalayan ecological state.
Way Fwd	Periodic GEP updates can guide payments for ecosystem services and green budgeting.
Concept	Ecosystem services : benefits nature provides (provisioning, regulating, cultural, supporting); GEP is a tool of green/natural-capital accounting .

GROSS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT (GEP) — INDIA'S FIRST, UTTARAKHAND



SECTION B • DATA POINT OF THE DAY

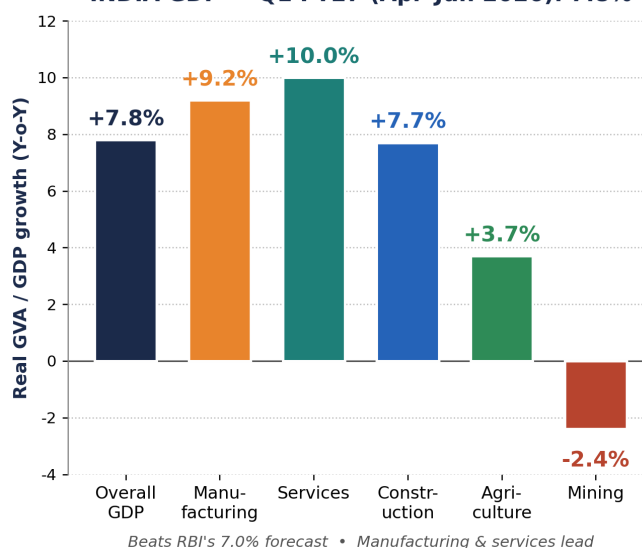
one number that matters

7.8%

India GDP Growth — Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026)

India's real GDP grew **7.8%** in Q1 FY27, beating the **RBI's 7% forecast**. Growth was led by **manufacturing (+9.2%)** and **services (+10%)**, while **mining contracted 2.4%** — signalling resilient momentum despite global headwinds.

INDIA GDP — Q1 FY27 (Apr-Jun 2026): 7.8%



SECTION C • NATIONAL & WORLD

polity • economy • sci-tech • IR

Cabinet raises EPFO wage ceiling to ₹25,000

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Social security; EPFO/EPF; labour welfare; fiscal cost of welfare schemes.
Context	The Union Cabinet raised the mandatory EPFO wage ceiling from ₹15,000 to ₹25,000 per month — effective 17 September 2026 (Vishwakarma Jayanti) — the first revision since 2014 .
Key Facts	◆ Ceiling hiked ₹15,000 → ₹25,000; last revised in 2014. ◆ Set to cover an extra ~51 lakh employees under EPF/EPF. ◆ Estimated annual cost to government: about ₹11,339 crore. ◆ Widens formal-sector social security and pension base.
Way Fwd	Higher take-home vs. higher retirement corpus is the trade-off employees must weigh.
Concept	EPFO administers EPF, EPS-1995 & EDLI ; the wage ceiling is the salary limit up to which EPF membership is mandatory .

State of India's Environment 2026 report released

REPORT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Reports)

Syllabus Linkage	Environment reports & indices; climate change; pollution; sustainable development.
Context	The annual State of India's Environment 2026 report was released, compiling data on climate, pollution, forests, water and biodiversity — a key source for environment questions.
Key Facts	◆ Tracks air & water pollution, forest cover and climate trends. ◆ Flags rising extreme weather and Himalayan disaster risk. ◆ A widely-cited data compendium for policy and exams. ◆ Complements the Environmental Performance Index (EPI) debate.
Way Fwd	Better data granularity and enforcement, not just reporting, will drive outcomes.
Concept	Such State of Environment reports track SDGs (esp. 13-Climate, 14-Life below water, 15-Life on land) and inform India's climate policy.

EPFO WAGE CEILING HIKE — EFFECTIVE 17 SEP 2026 (VISHWAKARMA JAYANTI)



Mining amendment reignites fiscal-federalism debate

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity — Centre-State Relations)

Syllabus Linkage	Fiscal federalism; Union-State powers; Seventh Schedule; taxation of mineral rights.
Context	A proposed mining law amendment (Section 9D) would restrict state levies on mineral rights , reviving tension after the 2024 Supreme Court ruling upholding states' power to tax mineral lands.
Key Facts	◆ 2024 SC verdict affirmed states can tax mineral-bearing land. ◆ Amendment may cap levies via Entry 50, List II limits. ◆ Mineral-rich states like Odisha, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand most affected. ◆ Touches core of Union vs. State financial autonomy.
Way Fwd	A consultative Centre-State framework via the GST Council model could balance interests.
Concept	Seventh Schedule : divides powers into Union, State & Concurrent Lists ; fiscal federalism governs revenue-sharing between Centre and states.

India lodges protest after Pakistan warship collision at sea

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

Syllabus Linkage	India's maritime security; India-Pakistan CBMs; naval diplomacy; Arabian Sea.
Context	An Indian Navy warship and Pakistan's PNS Hunain had a collision in the North Arabian Sea ; India lodged a diplomatic protest citing violation of a 1991 India-Pakistan military agreement .
Key Facts	◆ Incident occurred in the North Arabian Sea; only minor damage, no casualties. ◆ India cited breach of a 1991 bilateral military agreement clause. ◆ Both sides lodged counter-protests through diplomatic channels. ◆ Highlights need for stronger maritime confidence-building measures.
Way Fwd	Reviving hotlines and incident-at-sea protocols can prevent escalation.
Concept	CBMs (Confidence-Building Measures) : steps between rivals to reduce risk of accidental conflict, e.g. hotlines and prior notification of exercises.

SECTION D • PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

quick revision facts

1. Seva Sankalp Abhiyan: runs 17 Sep-17 Oct 2026 in Uttarakhand.	2. Char Dham Yatra 2026: crossed 50 lakh pilgrims; target 60 lakh .
3. EPFO wage ceiling: raised to ₹25,000 (from ₹15,000), effective 17 Sep.	4. India Q1 FY27 GDP: 7.8% , above RBI's 7% forecast.
5. UCC Uttarakhand: first state to implement; 4.7 lakh+ marriages registered.	6. GEP: Uttarakhand launched India's first Gross Environment Product .

SECTION E • PRACTICE CORNER

test yourself

Q1. Consider the following about the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in India:

1. Uttarakhand was the first state in independent India to implement a UCC.
2. The UCC is explicitly mentioned as a Fundamental Right in Part III of the Constitution.
3. Article 44 relates to the Uniform Civil Code.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

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

Answer: B — Uttarakhand was the first state to implement a UCC (2025). Article 44 (a DPSP, not a Fundamental Right) deals with the UCC, so statement 2 is wrong.

Q2. With reference to the Gross Environment Product (GEP), which was in the news, consider the following:

1. It is India's first initiative of its kind, launched by Uttarakhand.
2. It assigns economic value to ecological services such as air, water, forest and soil.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only (b) 2 only (c) Both 1 and 2 (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Answer: C — GEP, launched by Uttarakhand, is India's first 'green GDP' that values ecosystem services of air, water, forest and soil. Both statements are correct.

Mains Practice: Pilgrimage tourism is both an economic opportunity and an ecological challenge for Uttarakhand. In the light of the Char Dham Yatra, discuss the measures needed to balance faith, livelihoods and Himalayan sustainability. (150 words)

Hint: Cover: record footfall & revenue/jobs; fragile Higher-Himalaya ecology (GLOF, landslides, carrying capacity); crowd-management tech; infrastructure vs. eco-sensitive zones; homestay-led local livelihoods; disaster preparedness (USDMA/SDRF).

★ **QUICK REVISION:** Remember today: Seva Sankalp Abhiyan (17 Sep-17 Oct) • Char Dham 50 lakh+ • EPFO ceiling ₹25,000 • India GDP 7.8% • UCC 4.7 lakh marriages • GEP = India's first green GDP.

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