CURRENT AFFAIRS — 19 October 2026

Monday, 19 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

- **Dr Dhal Singh Bisen** sworn in as Uttarakhand Governor at **Lok Bhavan, Dehradun**; succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd)**.
- Human-wildlife conflict: **14-member district committees** under the **DM**; **55 deaths, 407 injuries** (Jan–Sep 2026).
- **₹24,000 crore** more investment to be grounded; **₹1.01 lakh crore** of **₹3.56 lakh crore** GIS-2023 MoUs already grounded.
- **Rudranath** (4th Kedar, Chamoli) closed for winter; winter seat **Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar**.
- Char Dham Yatra 2026 set a **record of 56.18 lakh** pilgrims (state government figure, early October).
- **Gagli war** of Jaunsar-Bawar (**Udpalta & Kuroli**) — a Dussehra mock battle of atonement, no Ravana dahan.
- India approves accession to **SIOFA** (signed **2006**, in force **2012**); was a **CNCP since 2022**.
- Ramsar sites reach **103**: **Sukhna Lake** (Chandigarh) + **Sauj Jheel** (Mainpuri, UP).
- India–Mauritius DTAA: **Principal Purpose Test (Art. 27B)** notified on **13 Oct 2026**.
- **INS Samarthak** — first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel, commissioned at **Karwar**; **>75%** indigenous content.

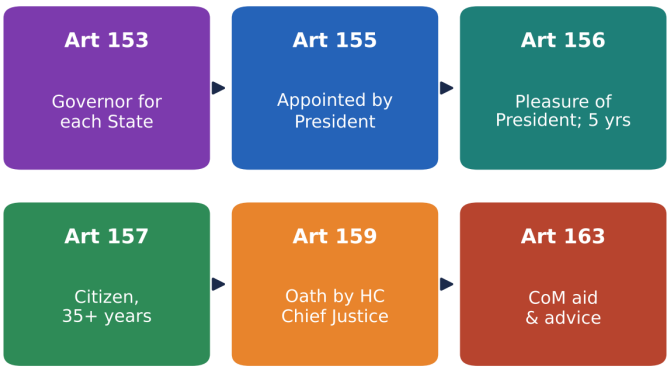
SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL state polity • ecology • economy • culture

Dr Dhal Singh Bisen takes oath as Uttarakhand's new Governor

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

Syllabus Linkage	Polity — State Executive (**Arts. 153–167**); Uttarakhand administration. Prelims: Governor's appointment, oath, qualifications.
Context	Appointed by **President Droupadi Murmu** on **12 Oct 2026**, **Dr Dhal Singh Bisen** took the oath at **Lok Bhavan, Dehradun** on **19 Oct 2026**, in the presence of **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami**. He becomes the state's **9th Governor**.
Key Facts	■ Succeeds **Lt Gen Gurmit Singh (Retd)**; part of a reshuffle naming Governors for **Karnataka, Odisha, Sikkim** too. ■ Former **Balaghat (MP) Lok Sabha MP** (17th LS, **2019–24**); **4-time MLA**; MP Cabinet Minister (**2003–05**: forests, transport, mines). ■ An **Ayurvedic practitioner** by profession. ■ Priorities stated: **education, health, agriculture, tourism, environment, employment**.
Way Fwd	Constructive **Raj Bhavan–government** coordination on pending Bills and hill-development priorities ahead of the **2027 Assembly polls**.
Concept	**Art. 155**: appointed by President by warrant; **Art. 156**: holds office during President's pleasure (**5 yrs**); **Art. 157**: citizen, **35+ yrs**; **Art. 159**: oath by **Chief Justice of the High Court**; **Art. 200**: assent to Bills.

Governor — constitutional checklist

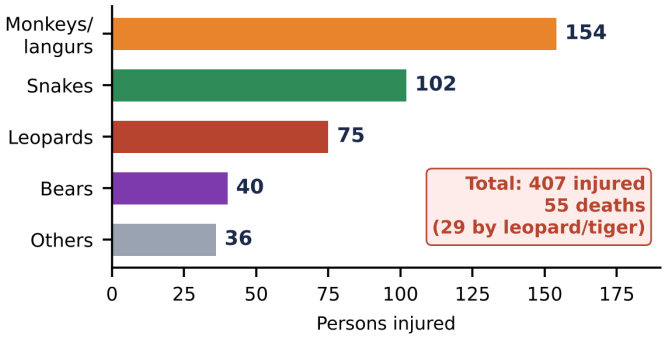


District committees under DMs to curb human-wildlife conflict

ENVIRONMENT **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Disaster Mgmt — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Environment — **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972**; Uttarakhand forests & wildlife; disaster management. Prelims: Schedule-I species, institutions.
Context	On state orders, **PCCF (Wildlife) Neena Grewal** directed all DFOs to form **14-member committees** in every district, chaired by the **District Magistrate**, as attacks by **leopards, bears, monkeys and snakes** keep rising.
Key Facts	■ **Nodal DFO = member-secretary**; members from police, agriculture, horticulture, education, animal husbandry, energy, **UREDA** + **2 gram pradhans** of sensitive areas. ■ Tasks: **village-level hotspot mapping**, **QRTs**, e-surveillance, **early-warning systems**, a **mitigation cell in every division**; meet **at least once in 3 months**. ■ **Jan–Sep 2026**: **55 deaths, 407 injuries**; **29 deaths** by leopard/tiger (**17 by leopards**). ■ Injuries: **monkeys/langurs 154**, **snakes 102**, **leopards 75**, **bears 40**.
Way Fwd	Pair committees with **solar fencing**, crop advisories (crops wildlife avoids), waste management near villages and **fast ex-gratia** payments.
Concept	**Leopard & tiger = Schedule I** (WPA 1972, as amended **2022**); **Sec. 11** lets the **Chief Wildlife Warden** permit action against animals dangerous to human life. **~71%** of Uttarakhand's area is recorded forest.

Wildlife-attack injuries in Uttarakhand (Jan–Sep 2026)



₹24,000 crore more investment readied for grounding in Uttarakhand

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

Syllabus Linkage	Economy of Uttarakhand — industrial policy, investment, employment; **Global Investors Summit (Dec 2023)**.
Context	**Industries Secretary Vinay Shankar Pandey** said proposals worth **₹24,000 crore** will be grounded at the **4th ground-breaking ceremony** soon, and rejected social-media claims on summit data, saying all figures are **public on official portals**.
Key Facts	■ GIS-2023 (Dehradun): MoUs worth **₹3.56 lakh crore**; **₹1.01 lakh crore+** already grounded (**~28%**). ■ Heavy industry concentrated in **Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar** and parts of **Nainital**. ■ **'Nivesh Mitra'** facilitators appointed; data on single-window portals. ■ Policy aim: balance **ecology & economy** while maximising **employment**.
Way Fwd	Push **hill-district** units (food processing, AYUSH, IT, tourism) to check **palayan**, with transparent project-wise tracking.
Concept	**MoU vs grounding**: an MoU is intent; **grounding** = project actually begins on the ground. Industrial estates are run by **SIDCUL** (e.g., **Pantnagar, Haridwar, Sitarganj**).

Jaunsar-Bawar's 'Gagli war': a Dussehra of atonement, not Ravana dahan

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

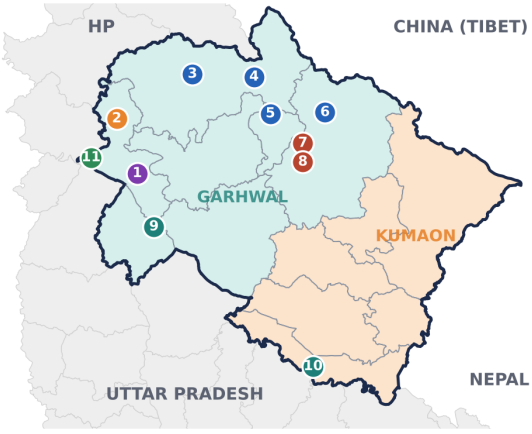
Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand culture — **Jaunsari** traditions, fairs & festivals, folk dances; tribal communities of the state.
Context	As India burns Ravana effigies on **Vijayadashami (20 Oct)**, villagers of **Udpalta and Kuroli** in Jaunsar-Bawar (**Dehradun district**) prepare for the centuries-old **Gagli war** — a mock battle held as **repentance**.
Key Facts	■ Legend of two girls, **Rani and Munni**, who died in a well; villagers seek to lift the resulting curse, on the advice of a **mali** (attendant) of deity **Mahasu**. ■ Straw effigies are immersed in a well at **Kyani Danda**; then a ~1-hour fight with **arbi (colocasia) stalks & leaves**. ■ **No winner, no loser**; ends in embraces and folk dances — **Harul, Tandi, Raso, Jhenta**. ■ Linked locally to the **Painta** festival.
Way Fwd	Document such living traditions for **ICH listing** and promote responsible **cultural tourism** in Jaunsar-Bawar.
Concept	**Jaunsari** is one of Uttarakhand's **5 notified STs** (with **Bhotia, Tharu, Buksa, Raji**); **Mahasu Devta** temple is at **Hanol**; Jaunsaris got **ST status in 1967**.

Rudranath closes for winter as record Char Dham season winds down

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

Syllabus Linkage	Culture & tourism of Uttarakhand — **Panch Kedar**, Char Dham, winter seats; pilgrimage & crowd management.
Context	The doors of **Rudranath**, the **4th Kedar** in **Chamoli**, closed for winter on **18 Oct**; the deity's **doli** moves to its winter seat, **Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar**. The 2026 Char Dham Yatra has already logged a **record 56.18 lakh** pilgrims.
Key Facts	■ Rudranath (**~3,600 m**) — Shiva worshipped as **'mukh' (face)**; reopened on **18 May 2026**. ■ Panch Kedar: **Kedarnath → Madhyamaheshwar → Tungnath → Rudranath → Kalpeshwar** (Kalpeshwar open **all year**). ■ **Badrinath** closing date is traditionally fixed on **Vijayadashami**; **Kedarnath** closes on **Bhai Dooj**. ■ Winter seats: Kedarnath — **Omkareshwar, Ukhimath**; Badrinath — **Pandukeshwar/Jyotirmath**.
Way Fwd	Promote **winter Char Dham yatra** to the seats of worship, and use **carrying-capacity** based registration next season.
Concept	**Panch Kedar** legend: the Pandavas sought Shiva, who appeared as a bull; parts emerged at five places — hump (Kedarnath), navel (Madhyamaheshwar), arms (Tungnath), face (Rudranath), hair (Kalpeshwar).

Uttarakhand — today's news locations



1 Dehradun: Governor's oath (Lok Bhavan)
2 Jaunsar-Bawar: Gagli war
3 Yamunotri
4 Gangotri
5 Kedarnath
6 Badrinath
7 Rudranath (closed 18 Oct)
8 Gopeshwar: Gopinath (winter seat)
9 Haridwar: industrial hub
10 Rudrapur: industrial hub
11 Asan: Ramsar site

Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY Uttarakhand economy

DATA POINT OF THE DAY

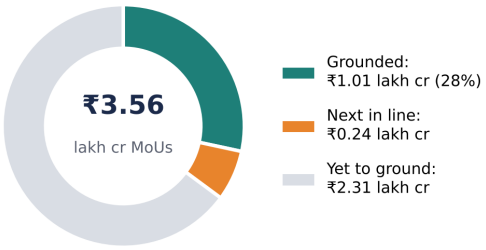
Uttarakhand GIS-2023: MoUs grounded so far

₹1.01 lakh crore of ₹3.56 lakh crore (~28%)

State Industries Department figures (18–19 Oct 2026): another **₹24,000 crore** is lined up for the **4th ground-breaking ceremony**; if grounded, the total would rise to about **₹1.25 lakh crore (~35%)**.

Why it matters: Grounding converts summit MoUs into **jobs** — key to checking **palayan** from hill districts and to raising Uttarakhand's **GSDP**.

Uttarakhand GIS-2023: MoUs vs grounding



SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD polity • economy • environment • IR • defence

56.18 lakh	5	14	₹24,000 cr	103	>75%
Char Dham pilgrims 2026 (record)	Panch Kedar — Rudranath is 4th	Members in each DM-led HWC panel	Next investment grounding	India's Ramsar sites	Indigenous content — INS Samarthak

India's Ramsar sites reach 103 with Sukhna Lake and Sauj Jheel

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

Syllabus Linkage	Environment — wetlands, **Ramsar Convention**, biodiversity hotspots. Prelims: state-wise Ramsar count.
Context	**Sukhna Lake** (Chandigarh) and **Sauj Jheel** (Mainpuri, UP) were designated **Wetlands of International Importance**, taking India's tally to **103**, as announced by **Union Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav**.
Key Facts	■ **Sukhna**: artificial lake (**1958**) at the **Shivalik** foothills; bird habitat, groundwater recharge. ■ **Sauj Jheel**: **Kishni tehsil, Mainpuri**; **Ganga floodplain** wetland; an **Important Bird Area**. ■ UP now has **14** sites — **second only to Tamil Nadu**. ■ Uttarakhand's only Ramsar site: **Asan Conservation Reserve** (Dehradun, **2020**).
Way Fwd	Notify more Himalayan wetlands and enforce the **Wetlands (C&M) Rules, 2017** against urban encroachment.
Concept	**Ramsar Convention** signed **1971** at Ramsar (**Iran**); India joined in **1982** (first sites **Chilika, Keoladeo**); **Montreux Record** lists threatened sites; **World Wetlands Day = 2 Feb**.

Principal Purpose Test now part of India–Mauritius tax treaty

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Economy — taxation, **FDI**, **DTAA**, anti-avoidance (**GAAR, BEPS**).
Context	The Finance Ministry notified (**13 Oct 2026**) the **2024 Protocol** to the India–Mauritius **DTAA**, inserting a **Principal Purpose Test** to stop **treaty shopping**.
Key Facts	■ Protocol signed **March 2024, Port Louis**; in force **10 Aug 2026**; notified under **Sec. 159(1), Income Tax Act, 2025**. ■ PPT = new **Article 27B**: benefits denied if obtaining them was **one of the principal purposes**. ■ **2016 Protocol** grandfathering (investments **before 1 April 2017**) not expressly repealed. ■ Mauritius has long been among India's **top FDI sources**.
Way Fwd	Issue clear **CBDT guidance** on applying PPT so genuine investors get **tax certainty**.
Concept	**DTAA** avoids double taxation of the same income; **PPT** comes from **OECD BEPS Action 6** and the **MLI** (India signed **2017**); domestic **GAAR** is in force since **1 April 2017**.

India to accede to the Southern Indian Ocean Fisheries Agreement

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

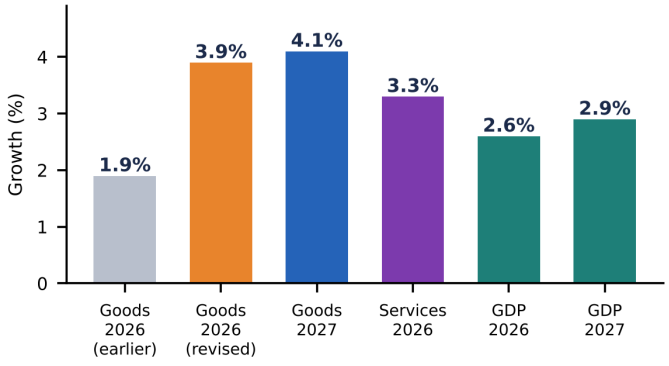
Syllabus Linkage	IR — regional groupings, **Indian Ocean** governance; Economy — **Blue Economy**, fisheries.
Context	The Centre on **14 Oct 2026** approved India's accession to **SIOFA** via the **Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying**, upgrading India from a **Cooperating Non-Contracting Party (since 2022)** to a full party.
Key Facts	■ SIOFA signed in **Rome, 7 July 2006**; in force **June 2012**; **10** existing parties incl. **Australia, China, Japan, Korea**. ■ Covers **non-highly-migratory** high-seas stocks — fish, molluscs, crustaceans. ■ Indian vessels may target **squid, toothfish, alfonsino**. ■ Gives India a **vote** in conservation & quota decisions.
Way Fwd	Build a **deep-sea fishing fleet** and port infrastructure so Indian fishers actually use the new high-seas access.
Concept	**RFMOs** manage high-seas fish stocks under **UNCLOS 1982** and the **UN Fish Stocks Agreement 1995**; tuna is handled separately by the **IOTC** (Seychelles), of which India is a member.

WTO lifts 2026 world merchandise trade growth forecast to 3.9%

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

Syllabus Linkage	Economy — international trade, **WTO**, global institutions & reports.
Context	The **WTO's** October trade outlook more than doubled its 2026 forecast for **merchandise trade volume growth** to **3.9%** (from **1.9%**), driven by the **AI investment boom**.
Key Facts	■ **AI-related goods** drove **47%** of merchandise trade growth in **H1 2026**; AI investment up **67%** y-o-y. ■ **2027** merchandise trade forecast: **4.1%**; services trade **3.3%** in 2026. ■ World GDP: **2.6%** (2026), **2.9%** (2027). ■ Middle-East tensions flagged as a **downside risk**.
Way Fwd	India should plug into **AI/electronics value chains** via PLI and semiconductor missions to ride the trade upturn.
Concept	**WTO** — est. **1 Jan 1995** (Marrakesh Agreement), HQ **Geneva**, **166 members**; DG **Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala**; succeeded **GATT (1947)**.

WTO outlook (Oct 2026): AI boom lifts trade



INS Samarthak: Navy commissions first indigenous Multi-Purpose Vessel

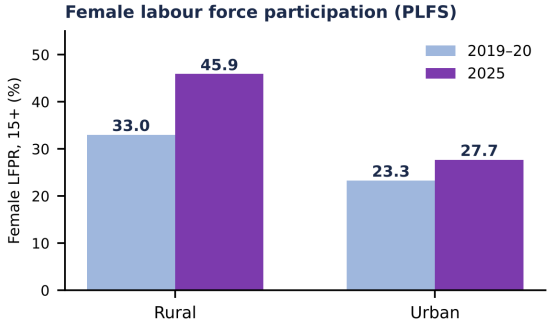
DEFENCE **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Security)**

Syllabus Linkage	Security & S&T — **indigenisation in defence**, Make in India, naval capability.
Context	**Vice-President C. P. Radhakrishnan** commissioned **INS Samarthak**, lead ship of its class, at **INS Kadamba, Karwar (Karnataka)** on **16 Oct 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Built by **L&T, Kattupalli (Tamil Nadu)**; **~107 m** long; **>75%** indigenous content. ■ **First of four** MPVs; an **auxiliary** platform, not a frontline warship. ■ Roles: **weapon/sensor trials**, towing, surveillance, training, **unmanned systems**, **HADR**. ■ Boosts **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** in shipbuilding.
Way Fwd	Expand private-yard participation to cut delivery timelines for the Navy's **auxiliary fleet**.
Concept	**Commissioning** = formal induction into service (ship gets 'INS' prefix); **HADR** = Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief; **INS Kadamba** (Karwar) is part of **Project Seabird**.

Female labour force participation jumps in rural India, urban lags

REPORT **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Economy & society — **employment**, women's empowerment, **PLFS** indicators.
Context	An analysis of **PLFS 2025** data shows female LFPR (**15+**) rose from about **30% to 40%** since **2019–20**, with a much steeper rise in **rural** areas than in towns.
Key Facts	■ **Rural**: **33.0% → 45.9%**; **Urban**: **23.3% → 27.7%**. ■ Biggest gains: **Arunachal Pradesh**; declines in **Lakshadweep**. ■ **Uttarakhand**: urban gains **above** national average, rural gains **below**. ■ Rise partly reflects unpaid **self-employment** in agriculture.
Way Fwd	Create urban jobs with **childcare, safe transport and skilling** to convert participation into quality work.
Concept	**PLFS** by **NSO (MoSPI)** since **2017**; **LFPR** = (employed + seeking work) ÷ population; **WPR** = employed ÷ population; **UR** = unemployed ÷ labour force.



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE Uttarakhand + National

Topic	Quick fact
Uttarakhand — Sports	**Bhagirathi Bisht** (Chamoli, Uttarakhand) won **bronze** at the **Delhi Half Marathon** (18 Oct).
Uttarakhand — Cabinet	Uttarakhand Cabinet (**Banbasa, 4 Oct**): **CM Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026** — **₹200 crore**, **~1.19 lakh** students.
Polity — Census	**Census (Amendment) Rules, 2026**: **private-sector employees & teachers** can now be enumerators (amends **Rule 3, Census Rules 1990**).
Economy — Standards	**BIS Silver Refinery Scheme** launched on **World Standards Day (14 Oct)**; hallmark purities **999.9 / 999.5 / 999.0**.
S&T — Oceanography	**T. M. Balakrishnan Nair** (Director, **INCOIS**) elected Chair of **IOCINDIO** (UNESCO-IOC, Indian Ocean).
S&T — Space	**Aditya-L1 (VELC)** + ESA's **Proba-3 (ASPIICS)** jointly studied **coronal mass ejections** near the Sun.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER UKPSC pattern

Q1. With reference to the Governor of a State, consider the following statements:
1. The oath of office is administered by the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.
2. A person must have completed 35 years of age to be appointed Governor.
3. The Governor can be removed only by impeachment for violation of the Constitution.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

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

Answer: (a) — **Art. 159** (oath by HC Chief Justice) and **Art. 157** (35 years) are correct. There is **no impeachment** for a Governor — he holds office **during the pleasure of the President (Art. 156)**.

Q2. Gopinath Temple at Gopeshwar serves as the winter seat of which of the following Panch Kedar shrines?

(a) Tungnath **(b)** Rudranath **(c)** Madhyamaheshwar **(d)** Kalpeshwar

Answer: (b) — **Rudranath** (4th Kedar, face of Shiva) is worshipped at **Gopinath Temple, Gopeshwar** in winter. Tungnath — **Makkumath**; Madhyamaheshwar — **Ukhimath**; Kalpeshwar stays **open all year**.

Mains Practice (GS — Environment & Governance):
Human-wildlife conflict in Uttarakhand has become as much a governance challenge as an ecological one. Examine its causes and evaluate the newly ordered district-level committee approach. (250 words)

Hint: Intro with **55 deaths/407 injuries (Jan–Sep 2026)**. Causes: habitat fragmentation, **palayan** & abandoned farms (lantana, bushes), garbage, monkey menace, leopard adaptation near villages. Evaluate: DM-led **14-member** convergence, hotspot mapping, QRTs, early warning — but needs funds, trained staff, quick compensation, community participation. Conclude with **coexistence** model.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Bisen = **9th Governor** (oath **Art. 159**) | HWC: **14-member DM-led** committees, **55 deaths** | GIS: **₹1.01 of ₹3.56 lakh cr** grounded | Rudranath → **Gopinath, Gopeshwar** | Ramsar **103** | SIOFA **2006/2012** | PPT **Art. 27B**

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