CURRENT AFFAIRS — 23 NOVEMBER 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Monday, 23 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

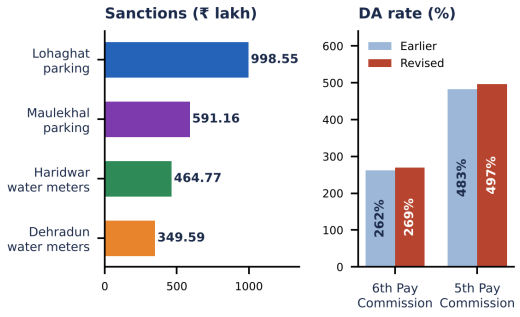
- **₹155.96 crore** sanctioned for development works; **₹100 crore** for **Chakbandi**; DA raised.
- **Baikunth Chaturdashi Mela** at **Kamleshwar Mahadev**, Srinagar (Pauri Garhwal) — **23 Nov**.
- IMD: **dry weather** in all districts till **28 Nov**; post-monsoon rain still **+40%**.
- **CM Helpline 1905** — complaints handled from **Level-1 to Level-4** officers.
- **10,000 fish seeds** released into the **Ganga** at **Amrapur Ghat, Haridwar**.
- **Char Dham + Hemkund Sahib 2026**: **65.65 lakh** pilgrims (**+29%**).
- Nepal PM **Balendra Shah**'s state visit — **Saryu-Kamala Express**, **Banbasa** land port.
- **COP31 (Antalya)** ends without cover deal; **COP32 → Addis Ababa**.
- **Ganga Waters Treaty (1996)** expires **12 Dec 2026**; **91st** Joint Committee meet in Dhaka.
- New bases: **GDP & IIP 2022-23**, **CPI 2024** — MoSPI data users' meet, Mumbai.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL: schemes, policy, culture, ecology

CM Dhami sanctions ₹155.96 crore for development works and ₹100 crore for voluntary Chakbandi; DA raised

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — Economy & Geography of Uttarakhand: rural infrastructure, **land reforms**, **migration (palayan)**, state finances. Prelims: district-wise projects, land consolidation.
Context	In decisions made public on **22 November 2026**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** approved **₹155.96 crore** for development works across districts, released **₹100 crore** from the **State Contingency Fund** for voluntary **Chakbandi (land consolidation)** and approved a **dearness allowance (DA)** hike for state employees.
Key Facts	■ **Lohaghat (Champawat)**: multi-level parking — **₹998.55 lakh**; **Maulekhal bazaar (Almora)**: parking — **₹591.16 lakh**. ■ Domestic **water meters**: **₹814.36 lakh** — **Haridwar ₹464.77 lakh**, **Dehradun ₹349.59 lakh**. ■ Old **Class-B bridges** on motor roads in **Pithoragarh & Uttarkashi** to be upgraded to **Class-A**; rural and link roads to be rebuilt in **Tehri, Pauri Garhwal & Udham Singh Nagar**. ■ **₹100 crore** for voluntary Chakbandi in **FY 2026-27**; the **Voluntary/Partial Land Consolidation Incentive Policy, 2026** targets **275 villages** in **11 hill districts** over **5 years**. ■ **DA**: 6th Pay Commission scale **262% → 269%**, 5th Pay Commission scale **483% → 497%**; **178** police personnel moved from **NPS to the Old Pension Scheme**.
Way Fwd	Time-bound execution with geo-tagged monitoring; pair Chakbandi with irrigation, horticulture clusters and digital land records so that small hill farms become viable.
Concept	**Chakbandi** = consolidation of scattered holdings into compact plots; fragmented terraced holdings are a key driver of **palayan**. The **Contingency Fund of the State** is created under **Article 267(2)**; advances are recouped later through legislative appropriation.



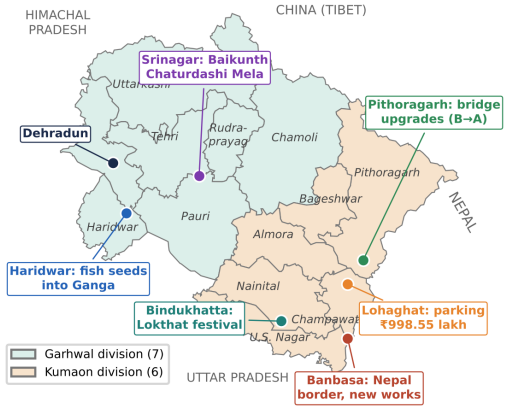
Total sanctioned ₹155.96 cr; Chakbandi ₹100 cr separate. Source: state government decisions

Baikunth Chaturdashi Mela at Srinagar (Garhwal) and Lokthat festival: CM's three-district tour today

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — Art & Culture of Uttarakhand: **fairs, festivals, temples**. Prelims: fair–place matching, Garhwal history.
Context	On **23 November 2026** (**Kartik Shukla Chaturdashi**), CM Dhami's schedule covers the **Baikunth Chaturdashi Mela** and development exhibition at **Srinagar (Pauri Garhwal)**, the **Lokthat cultural festival** at **Bindukhatta (Nainital)** and development works at **Banbasa (Champawat)**.
Key Facts	■ The mela centres on the **Kamleshwar Mahadev Temple**, Srinagar, on the bank of the **Alaknanda**; organised by the **Srinagar Municipal Corporation**. ■ Ritual of **'Khada Diya'**: couples, mostly childless, stand through the night holding a lit lamp and pray to **Shiva** for a child. ■ Belief: on this day **Shiva gave the Sudarshan Chakra to Vishnu**; dying on this day is believed to open the gates of **Vaikuntha**. ■ Programmes include a **Dhwaja Yatra**, folk songs and children's cultural events. ■ **Banbasa** lies on the **Sharda** at the **Nepal border** — linked to today's India–Nepal talks (Section C).
Way Fwd	Showcase such fairs in a state festival calendar for winter tourism, with crowd-safety SOPs and stalls for local artisans.
Concept	**Srinagar (Garhwal)** was the capital of the **Panwar (Parmar) rulers of Garhwal** till the **Gorkha invasion (1803–04)**; after **1815** the Garhwal capital moved to **Tehri**. Other Kartik-season fair: **Jauljibi (Pithoragarh, from 14 Nov)** at the **Kali–Gori** confluence.

Uttarakhand: today's news locations (13 districts)

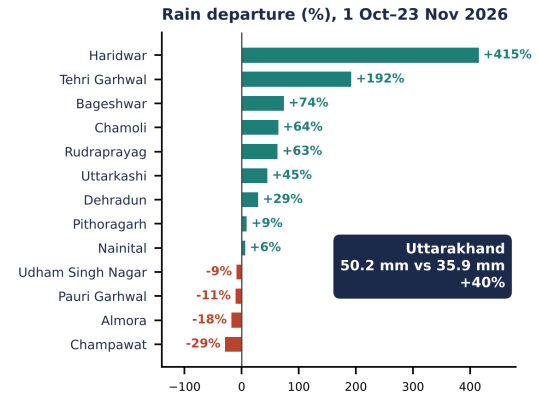


Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

Dry spell across Uttarakhand till 28 November; post-monsoon rainfall still 40% above normal

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — Climate of Uttarakhand, **disaster management** (forest fires, drought). Prelims: **Western Disturbances**, post-monsoon rain.
Context	The **Meteorological Centre, Dehradun** forecasts **dry weather in all districts** of Uttarakhand from **22 to 28 November 2026**, with shallow-to-moderate **fog** in hill valleys on **22–24 Nov**. November has been largely rain-free, but October rain keeps the season in surplus.
Key Facts	■ Post-monsoon rainfall (**1 Oct – 23 Nov 2026**): **50.2 mm** against a normal of **35.9 mm** — **+40%**. ■ Highest surplus: **Haridwar +415%**, **Tehri Garhwal +192%**, **Bageshwar +74%**; deficit: **Champawat −29%**, **Almora −18%**, **Pauri Garhwal −11%**, **Udham Singh Nagar −9%**. ■ **Dehradun** minimum **12.1 °C** (**+2.1 °C**); mainly clear skies with maxima of **25–26 °C** forecast till **28 Nov**. ■ A prolonged dry spell lowers soil moisture for **rabi** sowing and raises the risk of off-season **forest fires** in **chir pine** belts.
Way Fwd	Advance fire-line clearing and pine-needle collection; issue crop advisories for rain-fed hill farms; track Western Disturbance forecasts for snow.
Concept	**Western Disturbances** are extra-tropical storms from the **Mediterranean** region carried by the **subtropical westerly jet**; they bring most winter rain and snow to the western Himalaya. Uttarakhand's official **forest-fire season**: **15 February – 15 June**.



Source: official IMD district rainfall data

CM Helpline 1905 projected as a tool of good governance

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — Governance, **e-governance**, citizen charters and **grievance redressal** in Uttarakhand.
Context	On **23 November 2026**, CM Dhami said the **CM Helpline 1905** lets citizens raise problems **without visiting government offices**, so that the government hears people directly and complaints are **redressed quickly**.
Key Facts	■ Toll-free number **1905** and the **'CM Helpline 1905' mobile app**. ■ Complaints move through officers from **Level-1 to Level-4**; the CM monitors the system personally. ■ A revamped format of the helpline was launched at the **Secretariat, Dehradun** in **2023**. ■ Complements the **'Apuni Sarkar'** portal for doorstep delivery of services.
Way Fwd	Judge success by citizen satisfaction rather than closures; publish district dashboards and act against 'formal closure' without real resolution.
Concept	**Uttarakhand Right to Service Act, 2011** mandates time-bound delivery of notified services with appeals and penalties. At the Centre, **CPGRAMS** is run by **DARPG**.

World Fisheries Day: CM releases 10,000 fish seeds into the Ganga at Haridwar

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — **Biodiversity** of Uttarakhand, rivers, **fisheries** & allied sectors. Prelims: state symbols.
Context	Marking **World Fisheries Day**, CM Dhami released **10,000 fish seeds** into the **Ganga** at **Amrapur Ghat, Haridwar** on **22 November 2026**, in a programme of the state **Fisheries Department** to promote **aquatic biodiversity**.
Key Facts	■ **World Fisheries Day** is observed on **21 November** every year. ■ Restocking rivers with fish seed (**river ranching**) helps revive native stocks and the river food chain. ■ The CM appealed to people to keep rivers clean, prevent **water pollution** and protect **aquatic habitats**.
Way Fwd	Scale ranching of native species such as **mahseer** with hatchery support; curb illegal fishing and riverbed mining that destroy breeding grounds.
Concept	**Golden Mahseer (Tor putitora)** is Uttarakhand's **state fish**. **PM Matsya Sampada Yojana (2020)** funds fisheries development; **Namami Gange (2014)** is the flagship Ganga-rejuvenation mission.

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

65.65 lakh

Char Dham + Hemkund Sahib 2026 — total pilgrims

65,65,197 pilgrims at the five shrines, **+29%** over **51,07,346** in 2025: **Badrinath 23,49,345**, **Kedarnath 19,33,138**, **Gangotri 10,07,177**, **Yamunotri 8,84,841**, **Hemkund Sahib 3,90,696**. Health-related deaths rose to **288** (from **159**). The yatra ended with Badrinath's closure on **16 Nov 2026**; deities are now at their **winter seats**.

65,65,197	23,49,345	19,33,138	10,07,177	8,84,841	3,90,696
Total, 5 shrines (+29% vs 2025)	Badrinath	Kedarnath	Gangotri	Yamunotri	Hemkund Sahib

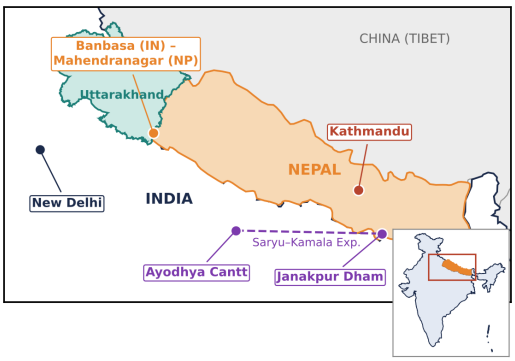
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD (UKPSC-relevant)

Nepal PM Balendra Shah's state visit: talks with PM Modi; Banbasa land port and air routes on the agenda

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations & Uttarakhand Border Areas)

Syllabus Linkage	GS — **India and its neighbours**; Uttarakhand's international border, trade and connectivity.
Context	Nepal PM **Balendra (Balen) Shah**, on a **two-day state visit (22–23 Nov 2026)** — his first visit to India since taking office in **March 2026** — held delegation-level talks with PM **Narendra Modi** at **Hyderabad House**, New Delhi, on **23 November**.
Key Facts	■ Agenda: **hydropower, railways, roads, air connectivity, trade & investment**; Nepal sought a package reported at **US$2 billion**, partly for recovery after the **26 August floods**. ■ **Saryu-Kamala Express**: new weekly train **Ayodhya Cantt (UP) – Janakpur Dham (Nepal)**, to be flagged off virtually. ■ Nepal seeks **additional air-entry routes**; India seeks reciprocal **overflight access**. ■ Projects on the table include the **Banbasa–Dodhara Chandani integrated check post (Champawat, Uttarakhand)**. ■ Delegation includes Foreign Minister **Shishir Khanal** and Finance Minister **Swarnim Wagle**, with a **52-member** business delegation.
Way Fwd	Fast-track Banbasa–Mahendranagar connectivity, joint flood early-warning on the Mahakali, and steady progress on power trade and pending boundary issues.
Concept	**India–Nepal Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950** underpins the open border. The **Mahakali Treaty (1996)** covers the **Sharda and Tanakpur barrages** and the **Pancheshwar** project. Uttarakhand's Nepal-border districts: **Pithoragarh, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar**; the **Kali (Mahakali)** forms much of the boundary.

India–Nepal: places in today's talks



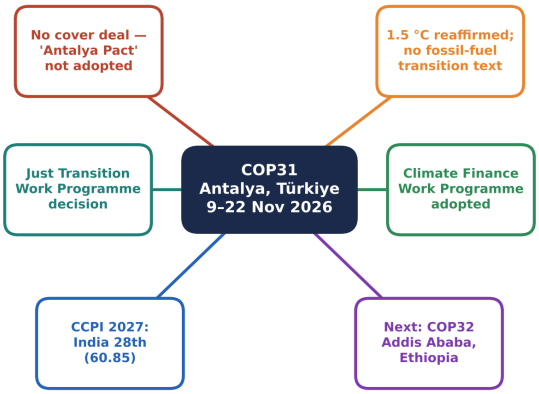
Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

COP31 at Antalya ends without an overarching deal as fossil-fuel language blocks consensus

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & Ecology)

Syllabus Linkage	GS — **Climate change**, international conventions (**UNFCCC, Paris Agreement**); Himalayan ecosystem.
Context	**COP31**, held at **Antalya, Türkiye** from **9 November**, closed on **22 November 2026** after about **48 hours of overtime** without an overarching deal; COP31 President **Murat Kurum** said there was no agreement on the cover text.
Key Facts	■ The draft **'Antalya Pact'** reaffirmed the **1.5 °C** goal but did not endorse a **transition away from fossil fuels**; the **EU** rejected the text. ■ UN climate chief **Simon Stiell** noted that key decisions were still made, incl. on **just transition**; a **Climate Finance Work Programme** was also adopted. ■ **CCPI 2027**, released at COP31: **India 28th** (score **60.85**, 'medium'), down from **23rd**. ■ Next: **COP32** at **Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**.
Way Fwd	India should press for predictable adaptation finance and keep Himalayan risks — **GLOFs**, glacier retreat and cloudbursts — on the global agenda.
Concept	**UNFCCC** was adopted in **1992** (Rio Earth Summit); the **COP** is its supreme decision-making body. The **Paris Agreement (2015)** set the **well-below 2 °C / 1.5 °C** goal, implemented through **NDCs**.

COP31 outcomes at a glance



MoSPI holds Data Users Conference in Mumbai on the new GDP, CPI and IIP series

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

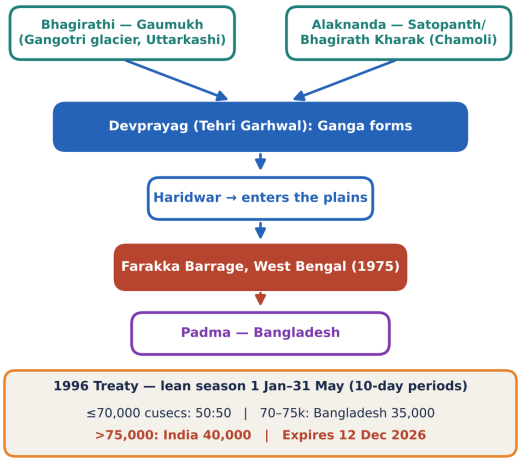
Syllabus Linkage	GS — Indian economy: **national income**, **inflation** and **industrial output** measurement.
Context	The **Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI)** is holding a **Data Users Conference** on the **new series of GDP, CPI and IIP** in **Mumbai** on **23 November 2026**; speakers include MoSPI Secretary **Saurabh Garg** and RBI Deputy Governor **Poonam Gupta**.
Key Facts	■ **GDP**: new base year **2022-23** (released **27 Feb 2026**); uses **double deflation** for manufacturing, **Supply-Use Tables** and **GST data** for quarterly estimates. ■ **CPI**: new base year **2024** (released **12 Feb 2026**), weights from **HCES 2023-24**; **358 items** (**308 goods + 50 services**); **12 online markets** added. ■ **IIP**: new base year **2022-23**, aligned with GDP and **WPI/PPI**; adds **minor & rare-earth minerals**, gas supply and water/waste services.
Way Fwd	Release back-series and linking factors early so that growth and inflation trends stay comparable for policy-makers and markets.
Concept	A **base year** is the reference year for an index. **RBI's inflation target** is **CPI 4% ± 2%** under **flexible inflation targeting** (RBI Act amended in **2016**). Previous bases: GDP & IIP **2011-12**, CPI **2012**.

Ganga Waters Treaty nears expiry: India–Bangladesh Joint Committee meets in Dhaka

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — India's neighbourhood, **river-water sharing**; Ganga basin (the river rises in Uttarakhand).
Context	The **91st meeting** of the **India–Bangladesh Joint Committee** on the **Ganga (Ganges) Water Sharing Treaty** concludes in **Dhaka** on **23 Nov 2026**. The **30-year treaty**, signed on **12 December 1996**, **expires on 12 December 2026**.
Key Facts	■ Indian team led by **Sharad Chandra**, Commissioner (Flood Management), **Ministry of Jal Shakti**; renewal is **not within the committee's mandate** — it rests with political leaders. ■ Water is shared at **Farakka Barrage** in the lean season (**1 January – 31 May**) in **10-day periods**. ■ Flow **≤70,000 cusecs**: **50:50**; **70,000–75,000**: Bangladesh gets **35,000 cusecs**; **>75,000**: India gets **40,000 cusecs**, the balance to the other side. ■ The two countries share **54 transboundary rivers**; this is their only formal water-sharing treaty — **Teesta** remains unresolved.
Way Fwd	Renew with a climate-resilient formula, real-time joint flow data and consultation with West Bengal and Bihar.
Concept	The **Ganga** forms at **Devprayag (Tehri Garhwal)** from the **Bhagirathi** (rising at **Gaumukh, Gangotri glacier**, Uttarkashi) and the **Alaknanda** (from the **Satopanth–Bhagirath Kharak** glaciers, Chamoli). **Farakka Barrage** (West Bengal) was commissioned in **1975**.

Ganga: from Uttarakhand to Farakka



Amit Shah opens NDRF 12th Battalion campus at Hollongi; releases Arunachal Cooperation Vision 2047

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance, Disaster Management & Border Development)

Syllabus Linkage	GS — **Disaster-management institutions**; **border-area development** (Vibrant Villages — relevant to Uttarakhand's border blocks).
Context	On **22 November 2026**, Union Home & Cooperation Minister **Amit Shah** inaugurated the **12th Battalion campus of the NDRF** at **Hollongi** near Itanagar and released the **Arunachal Pradesh Cooperation Vision Document 2047**.
Key Facts	■ Four initiatives worth **₹5,610 crore+**: **Mission Shikshit Arunachal Phase II (₹1,500 cr)**, CM's State **Power (₹2,000 cr)** and **Rural Road (₹2,000 cr)** programmes, **199 Vibrant Villages projects (₹110.95 cr)** in **11 border districts**. ■ The Hollongi campus has an **Olympic-size pool and diving tank** and will train **SDRFs of all 8 north-eastern states**. ■ **NDRF** has carried out **11,000+** rescue and relief missions, incl. in **Japan, Nepal, Turkey and Sri Lanka**.
Way Fwd	Build similar regional training hubs in Himalayan states like Uttarakhand and link cooperatives with Vibrant Villages to check border-village out-migration.
Concept	**NDRF** is constituted under **Section 44 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005** (raised in **2006**); **NDMA** is chaired by the **PM**. The **Vibrant Villages Programme** (approved **2023**) covers northern border villages of **Arunachal, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal and Ladakh**; **Mana (Chamoli)** is called India's **'first village'**.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

Topic	Quick fact
Kantar BrandZ India 2026	**Airtel** No. 1 (**US$43.2 bn**) — first telecom brand on top since the list began in **2014**; Top-100 worth **US$460.3 bn**.
Kedarnath closure	Portals closed on **11 Nov 2026**; season footfall **19,33,138**.
Banbasa land port	Being built by **LPAI** at **Gudmi, Banbasa (Champawat)**; first phase over **₹500 crore**.
Exercise Mitra Shakti	**12th edition**, India–Sri Lanka, at **Maduru Oya**, **13–26 Nov 2026**.
Sri Sathya Sai Baba	Birth centenary on **23 Nov 2026** (born **1926**, **Puttaparthi**, Andhra Pradesh).
Char Dham winter seats	Badrinath — **Pandukeshwar & Jyotirmath**; Kedarnath — **Ukhimath**; Gangotri — **Mukhba**; Yamunotri — **Kharsali**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC pattern)

Q1. Which of the following districts of Uttarakhand share an international border with Nepal?

(a) Pithoragarh, Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar
(b) Pithoragarh, Champawat and Nainital
(c) Uttarkashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh
(d) Champawat, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar

Answer: (a) — The **Kali (Mahakali)** forms the boundary along **Pithoragarh** and **Champawat**, and the Terai stretch near **Khatima** (**Udham Singh Nagar**) also touches Nepal. Nainital has no international border; Uttarkashi and Chamoli border **China (Tibet)**. **Banbasa**, on today's agenda, is in Champawat.

Q2. Consider the following statements about the new statistical series discussed at MoSPI's Data Users Conference:
1. The new CPI series has 2024 as its base year.
2. The new GDP series has 2022-23 as its base year.
3. The new IIP series retains 2011-12 as its base year.
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) — **CPI** base = **2024**; **GDP** base = **2022-23**; the **IIP** has also moved to **2022-23** (from 2011-12), so statement 3 is wrong.

Mains Practice (GS): Land fragmentation is both a cause and a consequence of out-migration from Uttarakhand's hills. Examine how voluntary Chakbandi can revive hill agriculture and suggest complementary measures. (150 words)

Hint: Define **Chakbandi**; cite the **Voluntary/Partial Land Consolidation Incentive Policy, 2026** (**275 villages, 11 hill districts, 5 years**) and the **₹100 crore** release; challenges — terrain, consent, disputes, outdated records; complements — irrigation, horticulture clusters, digital land records, roads; link to reversing **palayan**.

ONE-LINE REVISION: ₹155.96 cr works + ₹100 cr Chakbandi | Kamleshwar Mahadev – Srinagar | Dry till 28 Nov | Ganga treaty ends 12 Dec 2026 | GDP/IIP 2022-23, CPI 2024 | COP32 → Addis Ababa

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