CURRENT AFFAIRS — 24 November 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Tuesday, 24 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- **Banbasa (Champawat)**: foundation of new **Integrated Check Post** on India–Nepal border.
- **Dharchula–Darchula** motorable bridge over the **Mahakali** inaugurated.
- India–Nepal: **8 MoUs**, **6 projects**, package of **NPR 240 billion**.
- **Science City** for **Srinagar (Garhwal)**, to be developed with **UCOST**.
- Honorarium hike for **70,000+** Anganwadi, ASHA & Bhojan Mata workers from **1 Dec 2026**.
- Uttarakhand's small-hydro potential **1,664 MW** — **4th** in India.
- HPV vaccination crosses **1 crore** doses; **Uttarakhand 90.17%** coverage.
- **COP31 (Antalya)** ends without fossil-fuel consensus; India **28th** in **CCPI 2027**.
- PUC validity for new **BS-VI** private vehicles now **3 years**.
- Ethanol blending hits **19.99%** in **ESY 2025-26**; grain share **73.52%**.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

India–Nepal summit: Banbasa ICP and Dharchula–Darchula bridge put Uttarakhand's border on the connectivity map

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — India and its neighbours; **border geography of Uttarakhand** (Champawat, Pithoragarh). Prelims: **Mahakali** river, ICPs, India–Nepal projects.
Context	Nepal PM **Balendra Shah** held talks with PM **Narendra Modi** in New Delhi on **23 Nov 2026** during his **22–23 Nov** visit — his first bilateral visit abroad since taking office in **March 2026**. **8 MoUs** were signed and **6 projects** advanced; two directly touch Uttarakhand.
Key Facts	• Foundation stone for a new **Integrated Check Post (ICP) at Banbasa** (Champawat); ICP at **Dodhara Chandani** also progressing. • New **motorable bridge Dharchula (India)–Darchula (Nepal)** inaugurated (Pithoragarh). • Other projects: **Saryu–Kamala Express** (Ayodhya–Janakpur), foundation of **669 MW Lower Arun** HEP, **Phase II Motihari–Amlekhgunj pipeline**, petroleum terminal at **Jhapa**. • MoUs include **ISRO** satellite communication via the **South Asia Satellite**, police training, good governance and traditional medicine; package of **NPR 240 billion (~USD 1.62 billion)**. • Same day, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** launched projects worth **₹176 crore** at **Banbasa**, adding that the border **dry port** will soon be dedicated.
Way Fwd	Fast-track the Banbasa ICP and dry port alongside **Vibrant Villages** works; build joint flood-warning on the **Mahakali–Sharda**.
Concept	The **Mahakali (Kali)** river marks the India–Nepal boundary along Uttarakhand under the **Treaty of Sugauli (1816)**. Uttarakhand borders **Nepal** (Pithoragarh, Champawat, Udham Singh Nagar) and **China (Tibet)**. India–Nepal **Treaty of Peace and Friendship, 1950**; **Mahakali Treaty, 1996** (Pancheshwar).

Science City for Srinagar (Garhwal) announced at Baikunth Chaturdashi Mela

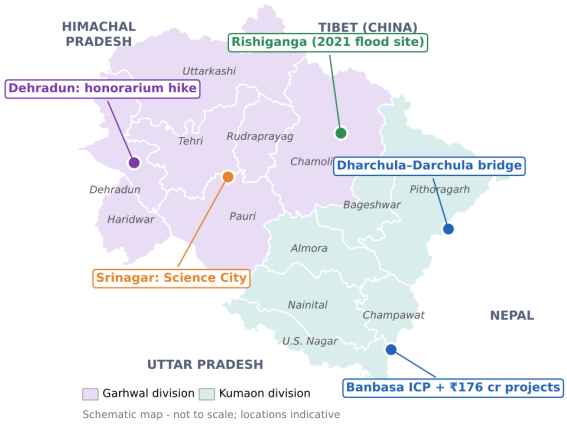
UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Culture & Science-Tech — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand **fairs & festivals**, state S&T institutions, hill infrastructure. Prelims: **Panch Prayag**, Kamleshwar temple, UCOST.
Context	On **23 Nov 2026** CM Dhami inaugurated the **Baikunth Chaturdashi Fair & Development Exhibition** at **Srinagar (Pauri Garhwal)**, announcing a **Science City** to be developed with **UCOST** and a **Srinagar–Dehradun helicopter service** soon.
Key Facts	• **NIT Uttarakhand** campus worth about **₹650 crore** under way at Srinagar. • Sewer line project of about **₹200 crore**; **critical care block** at Base Hospital (~**₹25 crore**). • Ghats at **Vishnuprayag, Nandprayag, Karnaprayag, Rudraprayag, Devprayag**; modern ghats near **Dhari Devi** temple. • **Mandi–Chauras–Jakhni** pumped drinking-water scheme (~**₹37 crore**); paramedical and nursing colleges planned. • **Kotdwar–Pauri–Srinagar** road being widened to two lanes; **Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail** line progressing.
Way Fwd	Link the Science City with NIT and HNB Garhwal University for hill STEM outreach; keep construction eco-sensitive in the **Alaknanda** valley.
Concept	**Baikunth Chaturdashi** (Kartik Shukla Chaturdashi) fair is held at **Kamleshwar Mahadev temple**, Srinagar, known for the night-long **'khada diya'** vigil. **Panch Prayag** on the Alaknanda: Vishnuprayag (**Dhauliganga**), Nandprayag (**Nandakini**), Karnaprayag (**Pindar**), Rudraprayag (**Mandakini**), Devprayag (**Bhagirathi** → Ganga). **UCOST** = Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology.

Srinagar (Garhwal): works cited on 23 Nov 2026 (approx.)



Uttarakhand: today's news locations (13 districts)

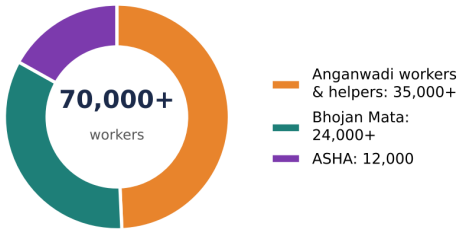


Honorarium hike for 70,000+ Anganwadi, ASHA and Bhojan Mata workers from 1 December

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

Syllabus Linkage	Welfare of **frontline women workers**; nutrition, health and mid-day meal delivery in Uttarakhand. Prelims: scheme–ministry linkages.
Context	On **23 Nov 2026** CM Dhami confirmed that the honorarium of **Anganwadi workers & helpers, ASHA workers and Bhojan Mata** workers will rise from **1 December 2026**. The hike was first announced on **9 Nov** (State Foundation Day) at **Bhararisain, Gairsain**.
Key Facts	• Beneficiaries: over **35,000** Anganwadi workers/helpers, **12,000** ASHAs and over **24,000** Bhojan Matas — **70,000+** in all. • Unions met the CM at Dehradun on **22 Nov**; role-wise amounts are yet to be notified. • Most beneficiaries are **women** serving remote hill hamlets.
Way Fwd	Notify revised rates quickly and index them to inflation; tie them to better **Poshan** and mid-day meal outcomes in remote blocks.
Concept	**Anganwadi** services run under **Saksham Anganwadi & Poshan 2.0** (Ministry of Women & Child Development); **ASHA** under the **National Health Mission** (NRHM launched **2005**); **Bhojan Mata** cook meals under **PM POSHAN**. Uttarakhand was formed on **9 Nov 2000** as the **27th** state; **Gairsain (Bhararisain)** is the summer capital.

Honorarium hike from 1 Dec 2026 — who benefits

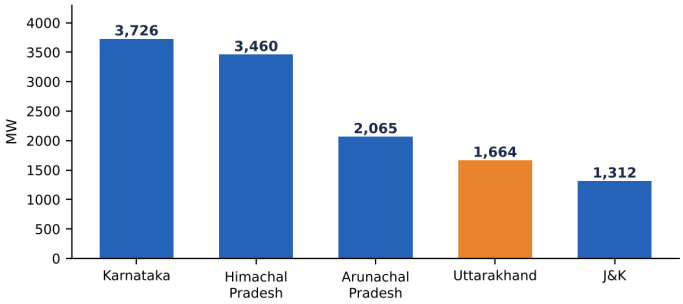


Small Hydro scheme: Uttarakhand holds India's 4th-largest small-hydro potential

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Energy resources of Uttarakhand**, renewable energy schemes, Himalayan hazards. Prelims: SHP size classes, CFA rates.
Context	A Union backgrounder (**22 Nov 2026**) on the **Small Hydro Power (SHP) Development Scheme**, FY **2026-27 to 2030-31**, puts Uttarakhand's SHP potential at **1,664 MW** — 4th in India.
Key Facts	• Outlay **₹2,584.60 crore**; target about **1,500 MW** of new capacity; around **₹15,000 crore** investment expected. • **Small hydro = up to 25 MW** (Ministry of New & Renewable Energy); bigger projects fall under the Ministry of Power. • National potential about **21,134 MW** at **7,133 sites**; only about a quarter harnessed. • Central aid: NE states and **international border districts** — **₹3.6 crore/MW or 30%** (cap **₹30 crore**); others **₹2.4 crore/MW or 20%** (cap **₹20 crore**).
Way Fwd	Prefer run-of-river SHPs with **GLOF/debris-flow safety audits**; promote community micro-hydel for remote villages.
Concept	Size classes: **micro ≤100 kW**, **mini 101 kW–2 MW**, **small 2–25 MW**. On **7 Feb 2021** the Rishiganga flood (Chamoli) destroyed the **13.2 MW Rishiganga** project and hit **Tapovan-Vishnugad**. Top SHP states: **Karnataka**, **Himachal**, **Arunachal**, **Uttarakhand**.

Small hydro potential — top 5 states (MW)



SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

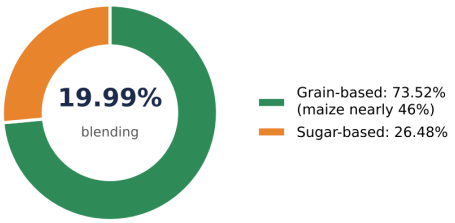
Ethanol blending in petrol, Ethanol Supply Year 2025-26

19.99%

1,134.36 crore litres blended (provisional, to **31 Oct 2026**) against a requirement of **1,050 crore litres**. **Grain-based** ethanol supplied **73.52%** (maize nearly **46%**), **sugar-based 26.48%**; about **32.45 lakh tonnes** of sugar diverted. The **20%** target (E20) is effectively met.

Why it matters: higher blending cuts crude imports and emissions and creates demand for **maize**, but raises food-vs-fuel and water-use concerns.

Ethanol supply mix, ESY 2025-26



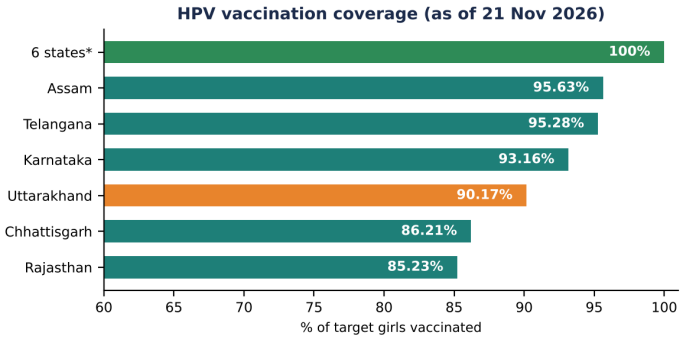
SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

HPV drive crosses 1 crore doses; Uttarakhand at 90.17% coverage

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

Syllabus Linkage	Health policy, **women's health**, immunisation; Uttarakhand health indicators. Prelims: HPV, WHO 90-70-90.
Context	The Union Health Ministry said on **21 Nov 2026** that over **1 crore** single-dose HPV vaccinations were given to **14-year-old girls** in under nine months since the **February 2026** launch — nearly **87%** of the annual target.
Key Facts	• Target cohort about **1.2 crore** girls (RGI 2021 projections); free, voluntary and with parental consent. • **100% coverage**: Gujarat, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, Madhya Pradesh and Bihar. • **Uttarakhand 90.17%** — behind Assam (95.63%), Telangana (95.28%) and Karnataka (93.16%) but ahead of Chhattisgarh (86.21%). • Largest numbers: **UP 29.33 lakh+**, **Bihar 13.70 lakh+**, **Gujarat 7.75 lakh+**.
Way Fwd	Close last-mile gaps in hill blocks through school sessions and **U-WIN** tracking; pair with adult cervical screening.

Concept	**HPV (Human Papillomavirus)** causes most **cervical cancer**. WHO elimination targets **90-70-90** by **2030**: 90% girls vaccinated by 15, 70% women screened, 90% treated. India's **Universal Immunisation Programme** began in **1985**.

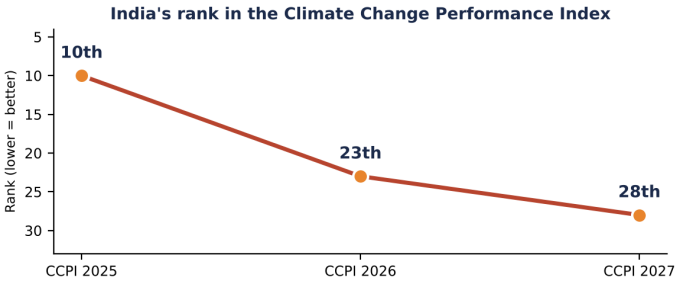


*Gujarat, UP, Andhra Pradesh, Mizoram, MP, Bihar

COP31 at Antalya ends without fossil-fuel consensus; India slips to 28th in CCPI 2027

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Environment & IR)

Syllabus Linkage	Climate change negotiations, **UNFCCC**, India's NDC; environment indices. Prelims: COP hosts, CCPI publishers.
Context	**COP31** at **Antalya, Türkiye** (**9–20 Nov 2026**) closed after overtime without an overarching consensus on fossil-fuel language. The **Climate Change Performance Index (CCPI) 2027**, released at COP31, ranked India **28th**.
Key Facts	• Adopted a standalone **Climate Finance Work Programme**, pushed by India and developing countries. • Separate agenda items on **tripling adaptation finance** and **climate-related trade measures** were dropped. • **CCPI 2027** (Germanwatch & NewClimate Institute; **64 countries + EU**): India **28th**, score **60.85** ('medium'), down from **23rd** (2026) and **10th** (2025). • Denmark is the top-ranked country; Saudi Arabia, Russia and the USA are at the bottom (**65th–67th**).
Way Fwd	Push for predictable public adaptation finance; speed up renewables plus storage to reverse the CCPI slide.
Concept	**UNFCCC** opened for signature at **Rio, 1992**; **Paris Agreement 2015** — **Art. 9.1** obliges developed countries to provide finance. COP29 (Baku) set **USD 300 bn/yr by 2035**. India's NDC: **45%** cut in emission intensity of GDP by **2030** (2005 base); **net zero by 2070**.



Parliament stays unprorogued for a record 100+ days after the Monsoon Session

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	**Parliament — sessions, summoning and prorogation**; parliamentary accountability. Prelims: Articles 83, 85, 107.
Context	Parliament was **adjourned sine die on 13 Aug 2026** but has **not been prorogued**; by **23 Nov 2026** the gap crossed **100 days**, the longest unprorogued spell on record. The Winter Session is expected in early December.
Key Facts	• **Adjournment sine die** is by the Presiding Officers; **prorogation** is ordered by the **President** under **Art. 85(2)(a)**. • **Art. 85(1)**: the gap between two sessions cannot exceed **six months**. • Bills pending in the Houses **do not lapse** on prorogation (**Art. 107(3)**); they lapse on **dissolution** of the Lok Sabha (**Art. 107(5)**), with exceptions. • **NCRWC (2002)** suggested at least **120** sitting days a year for the Lok Sabha and **100** for the Rajya Sabha.
Way Fwd	Adopt a fixed parliamentary calendar and a statutory minimum of sitting days to strengthen executive accountability.
Concept	The President **summons** and **prorogues** the Houses and can **dissolve** the Lok Sabha (**Art. 85**). Three customary sessions: **Budget, Monsoon, Winter**. Lok Sabha term: **5 years** (**Art. 83(2)**). Uttarakhand Assembly: **70** seats.

PUC certificate validity rationalised: 3 years for newer BS-VI private vehicles

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance; Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	Delegated legislation, **Motor Vehicles Act**, air-pollution governance. Prelims: BS norms, CMVR.
Context	The Ministry of Road Transport & Highways notified the **Central Motor Vehicles (Sixteenth Amendment) Rules, 2026** (reported **19 Nov 2026**) under the **Motor Vehicles Act, 1988**, linking PUC validity to emission norm and vehicle age.
Key Facts	• **BS-I/II/III: 3 months**; **BS-IV: 6 months**. • **BS-VI private** vehicles up to 6 years: **3 years**; BS-VI transport vehicles: **2 years**. • BS-VI vehicles **over 6 to 10 years: 1 year**; over 10 years: **6 months**. • Renewal within **10 days** before expiry counts from the old expiry date; existing certificates switch at first renewal.
Way Fwd	Link PUC data with VAHAN in real time; add remote-sensing checks in hill towns that see **Char Dham** traffic surges.
Concept	**Bharat Stage (BS)** norms follow **Euro norms**; India leapfrogged from **BS-IV to BS-VI** on **1 April 2020**. The **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** are framed under the **MV Act, 1988** (amended **2019**).

India's first indigenous H5N1 bird-flu vaccine for poultry

SCI-TECH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Agriculture)

Syllabus Linkage	Biotechnology, animal health, **One Health**; livestock economy. Prelims: H5N1, ICAR institutes.
Context	Union Agriculture Minister **Shivraj Singh Chouhan** dedicated India's first indigenous **inactivated H5N1** vaccine for chickens, developed by **ICAR-NIHSAD, Bhopal**, on **20 Nov 2026**.
Key Facts	• Developed against **clade 2.3.2.1a** of H5N1 avian influenza. • Gives protection for up to **6 months**; meant for **layer and breeder** flocks. • **ICAR-NIHSAD** = National Institute of High Security Animal Diseases, **Bhopal**.

Way Fwd	Vaccinate under strict surveillance so infection is not masked; strengthen **One Health** links between animal and human health agencies.
Concept	**H5N1** is a **highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI)** and **zoonotic**. An **inactivated** vaccine uses killed virus. **ICAR** was set up on **16 July 1929**; it works under **DARE**, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1	**Lower Arun HEP** (Nepal) — **669 MW**; foundation laid on **23 Nov 2026**.
2	**Saryu–Kamala Express** links **Ayodhya** (UP) with **Janakpur** (Nepal).
3	**Gurpurab** today (**24 Nov**) — birth of **Guru Nanak Dev** (**1469**, Talwandi).
4	**Igas Bagwal** (Budhi Diwali) fell on **20 Nov 2026** — Kartik Shukla Ekadashi.
5	**Devprayag**: Alaknanda + Bhagirathi form the **Ganga**.
6	**Qaumi Ekta Week**: **19–25 November**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following pairs (Prayag – river joining the Alaknanda):
1. Nandprayag – Nandakini
2. Karnaprayag – Mandakini
3. Rudraprayag – Pindar
4. Vishnuprayag – Dhauliganga

How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?
(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) Only three
(d) All four

Answer: (b) — Pairs 1 and 4 are correct. The **Pindar** joins at **Karnaprayag** and the **Mandakini** at **Rudraprayag**, so pairs 2 and 3 are wrong.

Q2. Which of the following India–Nepal projects advanced on 23 November 2026 directly link Uttarakhand with Nepal?
1. Integrated Check Post at Banbasa
2. Dharchula–Darchula motorable bridge
3. Petroleum terminal at Jhapa

Select the correct answer:
(a) 1 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2 and 3 only
(d) 1, 2 and 3

Answer: (b) — **Banbasa** (Champawat) and **Dharchula** (Pithoragarh) are on Uttarakhand's Mahakali border. **Jhapa** is in eastern Nepal, linked to the **Siliguri–Jhapa** pipeline, not Uttarakhand.

Mains Practice (GS): Cross-border infrastructure such as Integrated Check Posts and bridges on the Mahakali can turn Uttarakhand's border districts from peripheries into gateways. Discuss, with challenges. (150 words)

Hint: Use the **Banbasa ICP** and **Dharchula–Darchula bridge**; trade, tourism and pilgrimage, the open border, **Vibrant Villages**, palayan; challenges — floods, Kalapani dispute sensitivities, security, fragile terrain; way forward.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Banbasa ICP + Dharchula–Darchula bridge (Mahakali) | Science City @ Srinagar (UCOST) | Honorarium hike from 1 Dec | UK small hydro 1,664 MW (4th) | HPV: UK 90.17% | CCPI: India 28th | Ethanol 19.99%

Compiled & simplified by the **StudyForGS.com** Research Team
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