

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- 18th India-Mongolia exercise Nomadic Elephant begins at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
- UCC (Amendment) 2026 tightens live-in, marriage & divorce registration in Uttarakhand
- Char Dham Yatra 2026 autumn phase resumes; homestay scheme revised for community tourism
- Uttarakhand remains India's first state to launch Gross Environment Product (GEP)
- Nanda Devi Raj Jat — the 12-yearly 'Himalayan Mahakumbh' — in focus for 2026
- India-New Zealand FTA to come into force on 20 October 2026
- Make in India completes 12 years; non-petroleum exports up to \$388.3 bn
- RBI absorbs ₹71,971 crore via VRRR auction at 5.24% cut-off
- MoD signs ₹810.79 crore deal for 160 SAT-SAAW weapons for the IAF
- Great Indian Bustard: fewer than 150 birds left in the wild

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL

Exercise Nomadic Elephant begins at Pithoragarh

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

Syllabus Linkage	Security & defence; India's bilateral exercises; Uttarakhand's strategic border geography (Prelims: match exercise-country).
Context	The 18th edition of the India-Mongolia joint military exercise Nomadic Elephant commenced at Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand , deepening counter-insurgency cooperation between the two armies.
Key Facts	■ Venue: Pithoragarh, a strategic border district of Uttarakhand adjoining Nepal and Tibet (China). ■ About 45 personnel from each side; focus on counter-insurgency & counter-terrorism under a UN mandate. ■ Drills cover drone operations, cybersecurity and cordon-and-search. ■ Nomadic Elephant is an annual exercise; complements naval Exercise Varuna (with France) also in the news.
Way Fwd	Hosting such drills in the hills builds high-altitude readiness and India-Mongolia strategic ties in the Indo-Pacific.
Concept	Uttarakhand shares international borders with Nepal and China (Tibet) ; Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi are border districts. Other India exercises: Yudh Abhyas (US), Garuda Shakti (Indonesia), Maitree (Thailand).

UCC (Amendment) 2026 tightens marriage & live-in rules

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

Syllabus Linkage	Polity, governance & social justice; Uttarakhand as India's first UCC state; personal-law reform (Prelims + Mains GS-II).
Context	Uttarakhand's Uniform Civil Code (UCC) framework was further tightened through a 2026 amendment , sharpening the registration and penalty regime for marriage, divorce and live-in relationships .
Key Facts	■ Uttarakhand is India's first state to implement a UCC (rules notified 2025). ■ Misrepresentation of identity made a ground for marriage annulment. ■ Registrar General empowered to cancel registrations of marriage, divorce, live-in & succession. ■ Aligned with Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, 2023 and Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, 2023.
Way Fwd	A tighter code aims at uniformity and gender justice; states like Gujarat are studying the Uttarakhand model.
Concept	Article 44 (DPSP) urges the State to secure a Uniform Civil Code . UCC applies one set of personal laws (marriage, divorce, succession) across communities; tribal areas are exempted in Uttarakhand's law.

Nanda Devi Raj Jat — the 'Himalayan Mahakumbh'

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand art, culture, fairs & festivals; folk traditions; GI heritage (Prelims static + Mains GS-I).
Context	Uttarakhand's grandest religious pilgrimage, the Nanda Devi Raj Jat , remained a focus for 2026 as preparations and its cultural significance drew attention.
Key Facts	■ Held roughly once every 12 years; called the 'Himalayan Mahakumbh'. ■ Dedicated to goddess Nanda Devi, patron deity of the Garhwal-Kumaon hills. ■ A long trek culminating near Roopkund/Homkund in Chamoli district. ■ A four-horned ram (chau-singhya khadu) traditionally leads the procession.
Way Fwd	Documenting and safeguarding such intangible heritage supports cultural tourism and identity in the hills.
Concept	Uttarakhand folk culture spans Kumaoni, Garhwali and Jaunsari traditions; other fairs: Kumbh (Haridwar) , Nanda Devi Mela (Almora) , Uttarayani .

Char Dham Yatra autumn phase & tourism push

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand geography, pilgrimage economy, crowd & disaster management; state tourism policy (Prelims map + Mains GS-I/III).
Context	With the monsoon easing, the post-monsoon (autumn) phase of the Char Dham Yatra 2026 drew fresh pilgrim footfall, keeping crowd-management and hill-road safety in focus.
Key Facts	- Char Dham = Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, Badrinath. - Yatra runs in phases, pausing at monsoon peak and resuming in Sep-Nov before winter closure. Homestay scheme revised to promote community-based tourism with capital subsidy. - Tourism is pitched as a tool against 'palayan' (out-migration) from hill villages.
Way Fwd	Balancing high pilgrim volumes with fragile Himalayan carrying capacity needs registration caps and green infrastructure.
Concept	The four shrines lie in Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag and Chamoli districts; Kedarnath (Mandakini) & Badrinath (Alaknanda) sit in the upper Ganga basin , an eco-sensitive, disaster-prone zone.

CHAR DHAM YATRA & HILL TOURISM — AT A GLANCE



Gross Environment Product (GEP): the 'Green GDP'

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

Syllabus Linkage	Environment & ecology; sustainable development; Himalayan conservation; Uttarakhand's green initiatives (Prelims + Mains GS-III).
Context	Uttarakhand's status as the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product (GEP) index stayed relevant as the state pushed green-accounting and ecosystem valuation.
Key Facts	- GEP values ecosystem services — air, water, soil and forests — alongside economic output. - Often called a 'Green GDP' metric for measuring ecological health. - Uttarakhand's forest cover is among the highest in India (over 45% of geographical area). - Complements the idea of payment for ecosystem services for hill states.
Way Fwd	Linking GEP to central finance/green bonds could reward Himalayan states for conserving natural capital.
Concept	Related ideas: Green GDP, Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES), Natural Capital Accounting , and India's target of net-zero by 2070 .

GROSS ENVIRONMENT PRODUCT (GEP) — HIMALAYAN ECOLOGY MIND-MAP



Disaster management & GLOF preparedness in the hills**ENVIRONMENT** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Mgmt — Uttarakhand)**Syllabus Linkage** Himalayan hazards, GLOF, landslides & cloudbursts; disaster institutions (Prelims + Mains GS-III).**Context** Recurring **landslides, cloudbursts and flash floods** in the 2026 monsoon kept Uttarakhand's **disaster preparedness** — including **GLOF (glacial lake outburst flood)** risk — high on the agenda.**Key Facts**

- Uttarakhand lies in **seismic zones IV & V** — highly earthquake-prone.
- **GLOF** occurs when a **glacial lake** bursts, sending sudden downstream floods.
- Response chain: **NDMA - SDMA - DDMA**, with **SDRF/NDRF** rescue.
- Lessons from the **2013 Kedarnath** and **2021 Chamoli** disasters drive early-warning systems.

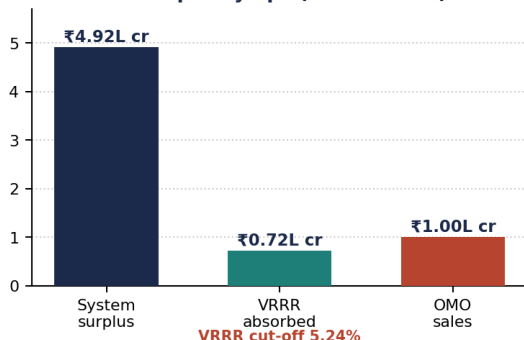
Way Fwd Glacial-lake monitoring, slope stabilisation and strict eco-sensitive-zone rules can cut Himalayan disaster losses.**Concept** Framework: **Disaster Management Act, 2005** created **NDMA** (PM-chaired) and state/district authorities; India follows the **Sendai Framework** for disaster risk reduction.**UTTARAKHAND DISASTER MANAGEMENT CHAIN***GLOF / cloudburst / landslide / flash-flood response cycle***Concept: Disaster Management Act 2005 → NDMA - SDMA - DDMA three-tier structure****SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY****Uttarakhand State Budget FY 2026-27****₹1.11 lakh crore**The state cabinet cleared a budget of about **₹1.11 lakh crore** for **FY 2026-27**, alongside **28 proposals**, with capital spending on roads, power and **disaster resilience**, and a hill focus on migration, tourism and horticulture.**DATA POINT — UTTARAKHAND STATE BUDGET FY 2026-27****SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD**

India-New Zealand FTA to take effect 20 Oct 2026**IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations & Economy)**

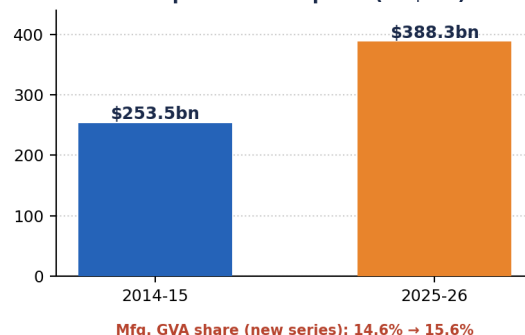
Syllabus Linkage	India's trade agreements & foreign policy; economy (Prelims + Mains GS-II/III).
Context	India and New Zealand finalised a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) set to come into force on 20 October 2026 , opening market access on both sides.
Key Facts	- India secured 100% duty-free access for its exports to New Zealand. - Bilateral trade target: double to ₹35,000 crore within five years. - Follows the first Indian PM visit to New Zealand in 40 years. - Adds to India's FTA network (UAE, Australia, EFTA, UK).
Way Fwd	FTAs must balance market access with safeguards for farmers, dairy and MSMEs.
Concept	An FTA cuts tariffs/quotas between partners; deeper forms include CEPA/CECA . Trade terms link to WTO rules and India's export-diversification goals.

INDIA-NEW ZEALAND FTA**RBI absorbs surplus liquidity via VRRR auction****ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy — Banking & Monetary Policy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Monetary policy, RBI instruments, liquidity management (Prelims + Mains GS-III).
Context	To mop up excess cash in the banking system, the RBI conducted a Variable Rate Reverse Repo (VRRR) auction, absorbing nearly ₹72,000 crore .
Key Facts	- VRRR absorbed ₹71,971 crore (notified ₹75,000 crore) at a 5.24% cut-off. - System surplus liquidity stood around ₹4.92 lakh crore. - Also planned OMO sales totalling about ₹1 lakh crore in September. - Aim: keep short-term rates aligned with the repo rate.
Way Fwd	Fine-tuning liquidity helps the RBI anchor inflation while supporting growth.
Concept	VRRR withdraws liquidity; VRR injects it. Key tools: repo, reverse repo, CRR, SLR, OMO ; the MPC sets the policy repo rate.

RBI liquidity ops (₹ lakh crore)**Make in India completes 12 years****ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)**

Syllabus Linkage	Indian economy, manufacturing, PLI & industrial policy (Prelims + Mains GS-III).
Context	The Make in India initiative, launched in September 2014 , marked 12 years , prompting a review of its manufacturing and export record.
Key Facts	- Original target: raise manufacturing to 25% of GDP. - Non-petroleum exports rose from \$253.5 bn (2014-15) to \$388.3 bn (2025-26). - Manufacturing GVA share (new series): 14.6% → 15.6%. PLI investment reached about ₹2.4 lakh crore by March 2026.
Way Fwd	Deeper gains need job-rich, export-oriented manufacturing and higher global export share.
Concept	Linked schemes: PLI, PM Gati Shakti, National Logistics Policy, Startup India ; measures like GVA and FDI track industrial health.

**Make in India @ 12
Non-petroleum exports (US\$ bn)****Global human brain-cell atlas published****SCI-TECH UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science & Technology)**

Syllabus Linkage	Science & tech, biotechnology & neuroscience; health research (Prelims + Mains GS-III).
Context	An international consortium published a detailed human brain-cell atlas , mapping how gene activity in the brain changes across the human lifespan.
Key Facts	- Focus: the dorsolateral prefrontal cortex, key to reasoning and decision-making. - Analysed nuclei from over 6.3 million brain cells. - Insights into neurodevelopment, ageing and neuropsychiatric conditions. - Indian researchers were part of the global effort.
Way Fwd	Such atlases can guide new treatments for Alzheimer's, schizophrenia and other disorders.
Concept	Builds on Human Genome Project and single-cell genomics; relates to India's schemes like the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems .

MoD signs ₹810.79 crore deal for SAT-SAAW**DEFENCE** UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Defence & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	Defence indigenisation, Aatmanirbhar Bharat (Prelims + Mains GS-III).
Context	The Ministry of Defence signed a contract worth ₹810.79 crore for precision-strike weapons for the Indian Air Force , boosting indigenous defence production.
Key Facts	- Deal for 160 SAT-SAAW (Satellite-guided Smart Anti-Airfield Weapons). - Contract value: ₹810.79 crore, signed 23 September 2026. - Strengthens the IAF's precision-strike capability. - Part of the Aatmanirbhar Bharat defence push.
Way Fwd	Indigenous munitions cut import dependence and build a domestic defence base.
Concept	Related: DRDO, DAP-2020, defence corridors (UP & Tamil Nadu), positive indigenisation lists ; India remains a major arms importer.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

► Great Indian Bustard : fewer than 150 individuals left in the wild (critically endangered).	► INS Trishul at Toulon, France for the 24th Exercise Varuna with the French Navy.
► Asian Games 2026 (Aichi-Nagoya, Japan): India's women's cricket team won gold , beating Sri Lanka.	► Ayushman Bharat (PM-JAY) completed 8 years (launched 23 Sept 2018).
► Uttarakhand = India's first state to launch Gross Environment Product (GEP) .	► BIS (est. 1 April 1987) expanded its mandatory quality-mark list for electronics.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. The India-Mongolia joint military exercise 'Nomadic Elephant', in the news recently, was held at which location in Uttarakhand?

(A) Auli, Chamoli (B) Pithoragarh (C) Ranikhet, Almora (D) Chakrata, Dehradun

Ans: B. The 18th edition of Exercise Nomadic Elephant between India and Mongolia commenced at Pithoragarh, a strategic border district of Uttarakhand.

Q2. Consider the following about Uttarakhand:

- It is India's first state to implement a Uniform Civil Code.
- It is India's first state to launch a Gross Environment Product (GEP) index.

Which of the statements is/are correct?

(A) 1 only (B) 2 only (C) Both 1 and 2 (D) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: C. Uttarakhand is both the first Indian state to implement a UCC (rules notified 2025) and the first to launch a GEP (Green GDP) index. Hence both statements are correct.

Mains Practice: Uttarakhand's Himalayan geography makes it highly vulnerable to disasters such as landslides, cloudbursts and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). Examine the causes of this vulnerability and suggest measures to strengthen disaster preparedness in the state. (150 words)

Hint: Cover fragile young-fold geology, seismic zones IV-V, unplanned construction & tourism, climate change and glacial retreat; then NDMA-SDMA-DDMA framework, GLOF monitoring, early-warning systems, eco-sensitive-zone rules and carrying-capacity limits.

★ **QUICK REVISION:** Remember today: **Nomadic Elephant @ Pithoragarh • UCC Amendment 2026 • India-NZ FTA (20 Oct 2026) • GEP = Uttarakhand's Green GDP • RBI VRRR ₹71,971 cr.**

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