CURRENT AFFAIRS — 26 NOVEMBER 2026

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DAILY CURRENT AFFAIRS FOR UTTARAKHAND PCS

Thursday, 26 November 2026 • Asia/Kolkata (IST) • Uttarakhand + National • UKPSC Prelims & Mains digest

TODAY AT A GLANCE — 10 THINGS TO REMEMBER

- Uttarakhand observes **State Disaster Management Day** on **28 Nov**; drills and training run **25–28 Nov**.
- The Day honours the **Silkyara tunnel** rescue of **41 workers** on **28 Nov 2023**.
- Nainital HC seeks a reply within **2 weeks** on the **Durga Lal Shah Library** construction.
- HC memo of **17 Nov 2026** extends protocol and medical facilities to **former judges**.
- Char Dham 2026 drew a record **65.65 lakh** pilgrims; CM invites visitors for the **winter yatra**.
- **Mangalaur (Haridwar)**: CM announces **6 works**; new **cane price** decision soon.
- **Dehradun Literature Festival** from **27 Nov**; **70 years** of **'The Room on the Roof'**.
- **Samvidhan Divas**: Constitution adopted on **26 Nov 1949**.
- Cabinet clears **₹11,000-crore CIE scheme** for **8 years** (Ministry of Heavy Industries).
- India **3rd** in **Asia Power Index 2026** with a score of **40.5**.

SECTION A | UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL — schemes, policy, disaster & culture

Uttarakhand marks State Disaster Management Day week (25–28 Nov)

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — disaster management and Himalayan hazards of Uttarakhand; Prelims: **Silkyara rescue**, **USDMA**, **SDRF**, glacial-lake early warning.
Context	On the CM's direction, Uttarakhand observes **28 November** every year as **State Disaster Management Day**. From **25 to 28 Nov**, mock drills, awareness and training are being held in schools, offices, development blocks and tehsils across the state.
Key Facts	■ The Day marks the rescue of **41 workers** from the **Silkyara–Barkot tunnel** (Uttarkashi) on **28 Nov 2023**, after **17 days**. ■ Each district holds mock drills at **8–10 locations** — hospitals, schools, offices, power projects, tunnels and crowded places. ■ **USDMA** was formed in **2007** and **SDRF** in **2014**; the main state programme is at the **Secretariat, Dehradun**. ■ An **early warning system** is installed on **Vasudhara glacial lake** (Chamoli); hydro-meteorological sensors now number **525**. ■ **2,339 training programmes** with over **2.69 lakh participants** were held from **2020-21 to 2025-26**.
Way Fwd	Make drills hazard-specific (GLOF, landslide, tunnel, crowd) and train **Aapda Mitra** volunteers in every gram panchayat.
Concept	The **Disaster Management Act, 2005** set up the **NDMA** (chaired by the **PM**), **SDMA** (chaired by the **CM**) and **DDMA**. **28 Nov** is a state day, distinct from the UN **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (13 Oct)**.

Dehradun Literature Festival from 27 Nov; 70 years of 'The Room on the Roof'

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — literature, culture and personalities of Uttarakhand; Prelims: **Ruskin Bond**, awards, cultural events.
Context	The **Dehradun Literature Festival** begins on **27 Nov** at **Doon International School**. Day one features composer **A.R. Rahman** in conversation with filmmaker **Imtiaz Ali**.
Key Facts	■ A **70th-anniversary edition** of **Ruskin Bond's 'The Room on the Roof'** will be released, followed by the **Ruskin Bond Literary Awards**. ■ Environmentalist **Peepal Baba** is among the speakers on day one. ■ Sessions on ecology — **'The Language of Trees'** and **'The Ecology of Development'** — and on Kargil hero **Capt. Vikram Batra**.
Way Fwd	Use such festivals to promote **Garhwali, Kumaoni and Jaunsari** literature and Dehradun as a cultural-tourism hub.
Concept	**Ruskin Bond** (Mussoorie) published **'The Room on the Roof'** in **1956** (**John Llewellyn Rhys Prize**); **Sahitya Akademi Award (1992)**, **Padma Shri (1999)**, **Padma Bhushan (2014)**. Capt. Batra received the **Param Vir Chakra** (posthumous).

Nainital HC: suo motu PIL on library construction; protocol for former judges

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

Syllabus Linkage	GS — judiciary, PIL and accountability in public works; Prelims: **Uttarakhand High Court**, **Article 226**.
Context	On **25 Nov**, a bench of **Acting Chief Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari** and **Justice Subhash Upadhyay** directed the CEO of the state's **Tourism Development Board** to file a reply within **two weeks** on the poor construction of the **Durga Lal Shah Library**, Mall Road, Nainital.
Key Facts	■ The court asked whether the contractor was **blacklisted** and why no action was taken against the engineer and contractor. ■ The Additional CEO said the building has been handed over to the **Nainital Municipal Council**. ■ Separately, an **office memorandum of 17 Nov 2026** extends **protocol, medical, transport and guest-house** facilities to former Chief Justices and judges. ■ Protocol officers will assist at airports and railway stations in **Uttarakhand and New Delhi**; **nodal officers** are designated in **every district**.
Way Fwd	Third-party quality audits and clear blacklisting rules for contracts on heritage buildings.
Concept	The **Uttarakhand High Court** was set up at **Nainital** on **9 Nov 2000** under the **UP Reorganisation Act, 2000**. **Article 226** lets High Courts issue writs; courts may take up a **PIL suo motu**.

Haridwar: CM announces six works for Mangalaur; cane price decision soon

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

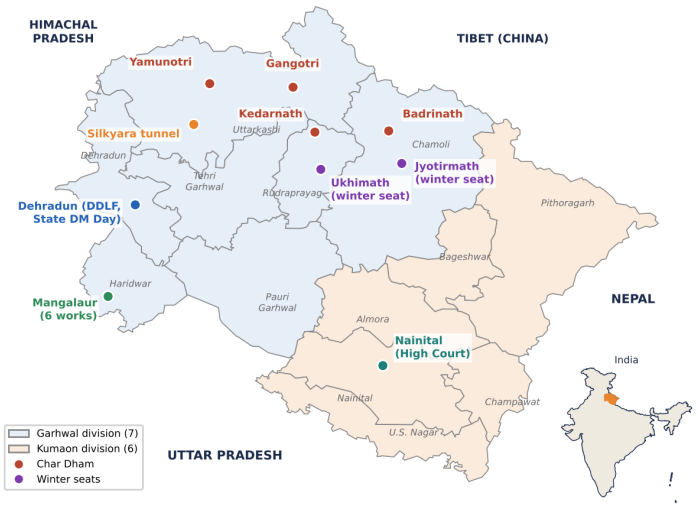
Syllabus Linkage	GS — agriculture of the plains districts, sugarcane pricing, welfare schemes; Prelims: **FRP vs SAP**, **Jal Jeevan Mission**.
Context	At a rally in **Mangalaur (Haridwar district)** on **25 Nov**, the CM announced **six development works** and said a decision on the **new sugarcane price** would come soon; a request to waive **tubewell power bills** will be considered.
Key Facts	■ Works include a **girls' degree college at Libberhedi** and reopening of the long-closed **Gangnahar bridge** there. ■ **27 drinking-water pumping schemes** worth over **₹58 crore** have been approved under **Jal Jeevan Mission**. ■ Farmers get **interest-free crop loans up to ₹3 lakh** and up to **80% subsidy** under the **Farm Machinery Bank** scheme. ■ Over **32,000 Ayushman cards** and over **21,000 toilets** (Swachh Bharat) were cited for the area.
Way Fwd	Timely cane price notification and dues payment; diversify plains farms into horticulture and agro-processing.
Concept	The Centre fixes the **FRP** of sugarcane on **CACP** advice under the **Sugarcane (Control) Order, 1966**; states may announce a higher **SAP**. **Haridwar** and **Udham Singh Nagar** are the state's main cane districts.

Winter Char Dham Yatra: CM invites pilgrims after a record 2026 season

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

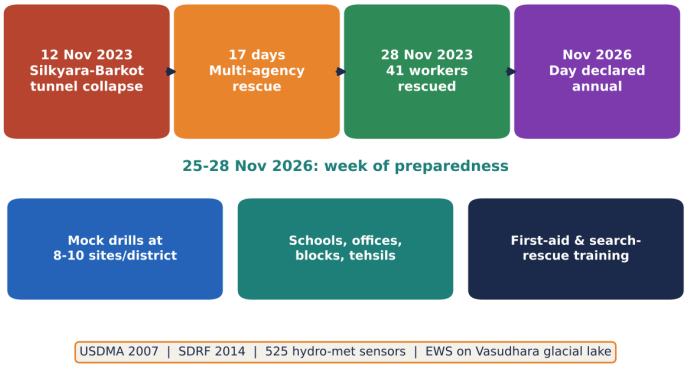
Syllabus Linkage	GS — tourism, pilgrimage economy and crowd management; Prelims: **Char Dham**, **winter seats**, rivers and districts.
Context	On **25 Nov**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** welcomed domestic and foreign visitors for **winter travel**, saying Devbhoomi is ready with **year-round tourism** facilities. The four dhams are closed for winter; worship continues at their **winter seats**.
Key Facts	■ The 2026 season drew a record **65.65 lakh** pilgrims to the Char Dham and **Hemkund Sahib**; **Badrinath** closed on **16 Nov**. ■ Winter seats: **Mukhba** (Gangotri), **Kharsali** (Yamunotri), **Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath** (Kedarnath), **Narasimha Temple, Jyotirmath** (Badrinath). ■ Authorities expect about **1 lakh** winter pilgrims, against about **73,000** in **2025**. ■ **Gangotri** crossed **10 lakh** (**10.07 lakh**) for the first time since the state was formed.
Way Fwd	Spread footfall to winter seats and homestays to ease summer crowding and create local jobs that check **palayan**.
Concept	**Badrinath** (Vishnu, on the **Alaknanda**, Chamoli) and **Kedarnath** (a **Jyotirlinga**, near the **Mandakini**, Rudraprayag); **Gangotri** (**Bhagirathi**) and **Yamunotri** (**Yamuna**) lie in **Uttarkashi**; **Hemkund Sahib** is in **Chamoli**.

Uttarakhand: today's news locations (13 districts)



Schematic map - not to scale; locations indicative

28 Nov: State Disaster Management Day



USDMA 2007 | SDRF 2014 | 525 hydro-met sensors | EWS on Vasudhara glacial lake

SECTION B | DATA POINT OF THE DAY

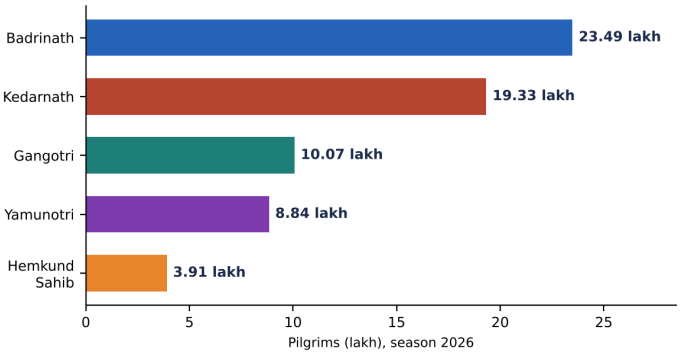
65.65 lakh

Char Dham + Hemkund Sahib pilgrims, Yatra 2026 (record)

Badrinath 23.49 lakh, **Kedarnath 19.33 lakh**, **Gangotri 10.07 lakh** (first time above 10 lakh), **Yamunotri 8.84 lakh**, **Hemkund Sahib 3.91 lakh**; season closed with Badrinath on **16 Nov 2026**.

Why it matters: pilgrimage is a pillar of Uttarakhand's tertiary-sector economy; record crowds test carrying capacity, road safety and disaster preparedness on fragile Himalayan routes.

Yatra 2026: record ~65.65 lakh pilgrims



Source: state government yatra data

SECTION C | NATIONAL & WORLD — polity, economy, infrastructure, IR

Construction & Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) Scheme - approved 25 Nov 2026

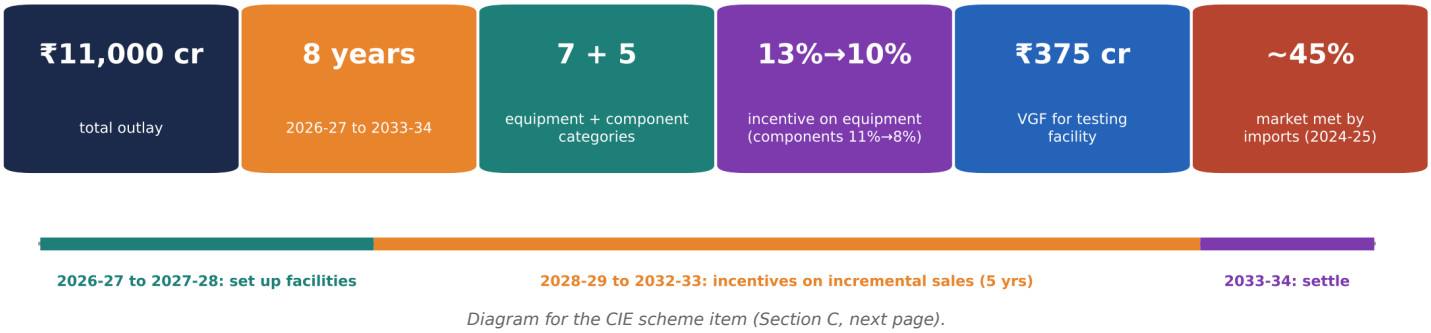


Diagram for the CIE scheme item (Section C, next page).

Constitution Day: PM says the Constitution must resonate beyond Parliament and courts

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

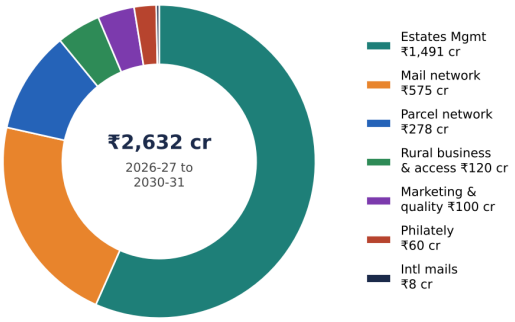
Syllabus Linkage	GS — Indian Constitution: making, amendments, Fundamental Duties; Prelims: **26 Nov 1949**, **101st–103rd Amendments**, **Eighth Schedule**.
Context	**26 Nov** is observed as **Samvidhan Divas**, marking adoption of the Constitution by the **Constituent Assembly** on **26 Nov 1949**. In an article, PM **Narendra Modi** said the Constitution must resonate far beyond Parliament and courts, especially among youth.
Key Facts	■ The PM cited **Granville Austin's** view of the Constitution as 'first and foremost a **social document**'. ■ He highlighted the **101st (GST)**, **102nd (constitutional status to NCBC)** and **103rd (EWS reservation)** Amendments. ■ He noted the Constitution's release in all **22 languages** of the **Eighth Schedule** and the move to the **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita**. ■ He stressed **Kartavya** (duties) and the goal of **Viksit Bharat @2047**.
Way Fwd	Spread constitutional literacy in schools and gram sabhas; link **Fundamental Duties (Art. 51A)** to civic campaigns.
Concept	The Constitution came into force on **26 Jan 1950**; **Samvidhan Divas** has been observed since **2015**. The Assembly took **2 years, 11 months, 18 days**. **Fundamental Duties** were added by the **42nd Amendment (1976)** as **Article 51A**.

₹2,632 crore for India Post: Postal Operations and Estates Management schemes approved

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Governance & Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	GS — public service delivery, financial inclusion, rural infrastructure; Prelims: **Department of Posts**, **IPPB**, **CEPT**.
Context	The Cabinet on **25 Nov** approved two **Department of Posts** schemes worth **₹2,632 crore** for **2026-27 to 2030-31** — the **Postal Operations Scheme (Dak Sanchalan Yojana, ₹1,141 crore)** and continuation of the **Estates Management Scheme (₹1,491 crore)**.
Key Facts	■ Postal operations: **₹575 crore** for **Mail Network Optimisation**, **₹278 crore** for **Parcel Network Optimisation**, **₹120 crore** for rural business and access. ■ Estates: **190 new** departmental buildings, rebuilding **50** dilapidated ones, renovating **2,550 sub-post offices**, restoring **20 heritage** buildings. ■ A permanent campus for the **Centre for Excellence in Postal Technology (CEPT), Bengaluru**. ■ The network has about **1.65 lakh post offices**, of which **1,49,655** are in rural areas.
Way Fwd	Use post offices as rural e-commerce, banking and Aadhaar hubs — vital in hill villages with few bank branches.
Concept	The **Department of Posts** is under the **Ministry of Communications**; **India Post Payments Bank** was launched in **2018**; India has the **world's largest postal network**.

India Post: two schemes approved



Postal Operations Scheme = ₹1,141 cr (all non-Estates segments)

Cabinet clears ₹11,000-crore scheme to make construction & infrastructure equipment in India

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy — Industry & Infrastructure)

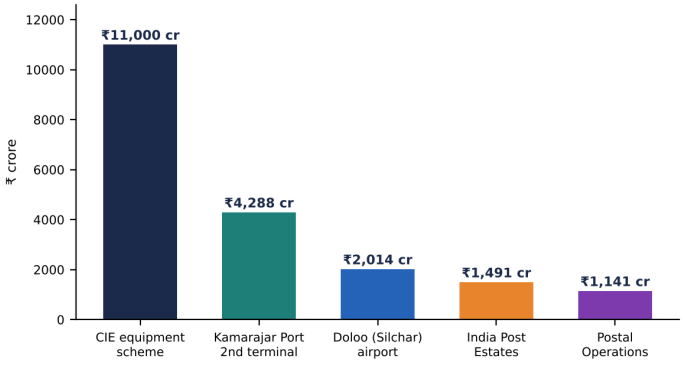
Syllabus Linkage	GS — industrial policy, Make in India, import substitution; Prelims: **CIE scheme**, **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, **VGF**.
Context	On **25 Nov**, the **Union Cabinet** approved the **Construction & Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) scheme** with **₹11,000 crore** over **eight years (2026-27 to 2033-34)**, run by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**. CM Dhami welcomed it as a boost to Atmanirbhar Bharat.
Key Facts	■ Covers **7 equipment** types (cranes incl. ship-to-shore, **tunnel boring machines**, excavators, loaders, off-highway trucks, piling rigs, drilling machines) and **5 components**. ■ **Sales-linked incentives** on incremental sales: **13%→10%** for equipment and **11%→8%** for components, over **5 years**. ■ Up to **₹375 crore** as **viability gap funding** for a dedicated **equipment testing facility**. ■ India's CIE market was about **₹97,500 crore (2024-25)**, the world's **3rd largest**; imports meet about **45%** of it.
Way Fwd	Localise critical components and align demand with **PM Gati Shakti**; hill states gain from cheaper **TBMs** for tunnels.
Concept	An **output-linked incentive** model like **PLI**; **Make in India** began in **2014** and **Atmanirbhar Bharat** in **May 2020**. TBMs are key to Himalayan projects such as the **Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line**.

Cabinet nod for Kamarajar Port's 2nd container terminal and Doloo (Silchar) airport

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy — Infrastructure)

Syllabus Linkage	GS — infrastructure, ports, airports, PPP models; Prelims: **DBFOT**, **TEU**, **Kamarajar (Ennore)**, **Barak Valley**.
Context	On **25 Nov**, the Cabinet also cleared a **₹4,288.26-crore** second container terminal at **Kamarajar Port (Tamil Nadu)** in **PPP-DBFOT** mode and a **₹2,014-crore greenfield airport at Doloo, Silchar (Cachar, Assam)**. The day's five approvals total about **₹19,934 crore**.
Key Facts	■ Terminal: **2 million TEU** a year in two phases (**1.1 + 0.9 million TEU**), **900 m** quay, **18 m** draft, **40-year** concession. ■ It can handle ships up to **24,346 TEU** and **400 m** long; **dredging (₹450 crore)** is borne by **Kamarajar Port Ltd**. ■ Airport by the **Airports Authority of India** from internal resources: **2,705 m × 45 m** runway for **A-320** aircraft. ■ Terminal building for **800 peak-hour passengers** (**400** arriving + **400** departing).
Way Fwd	Speed up land and environment clearances; link ports to freight corridors and the North-East to regional air connectivity.
Concept	**DBFOT** = **Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer**. **Kamarajar (formerly Ennore)** is India's first **corporatised major port**. **Silchar** lies in the **Barak Valley**; **TEU** = twenty-foot equivalent unit.

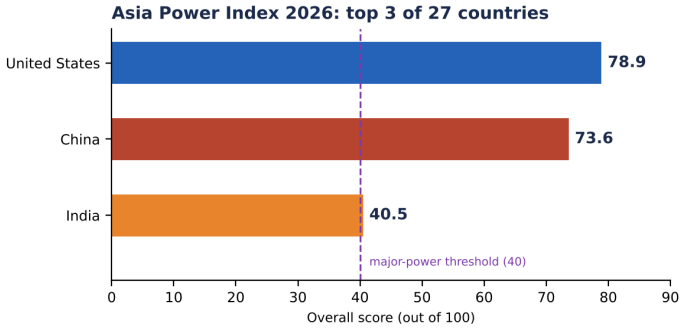
Union Cabinet, 25 Nov 2026: ≈₹19,934 crore cleared



Asia Power Index 2026: India holds 3rd place as a 'major power'

REPORT **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)**

Syllabus Linkage	GS — India's regional power and foreign policy; Prelims: reports and indices — **publisher**, **rank**, **score**.
Context	The **Lowy Institute's** 2026 **Asia Power Index**, released this week, ranks India **3rd** in Asia with a score of **40.5 (+0.5)**, behind the **US (78.9)** and **China (73.6)**; the India–China gap is the narrowest since the index began.
Key Facts	■ The index covers **27 countries** on **131 indicators** across **8 measures**. ■ India's strongest measure is **Future resources (3rd)**; its weakest is **Defence networks (9th)**. ■ India still **yields less power than expected** for its resources (**−3.3**). ■ PM Modi was rated the **second-most effective regional leader**, after Xi Jinping.
Way Fwd	Deepen defence networks (Quad, defence exports to ASEAN such as BrahMos) and economic ties through FTAs.
Concept	The **Lowy Institute** is an Australian think tank (**Sydney**); the index began in **2018**. A score of **40+** marks a **major power**.



SECTION D | PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Kamarajar Port** (formerly **Ennore**), Tamil Nadu — 2nd container terminal to add **2 million TEU**.	**2.** New Silchar airport site: **Doloo**, **Cachar** district, Assam — **₹2,014 crore**.
3. **Silkyara-Barkot tunnel** is part of the **Char Dham all-weather road** in **Uttarkashi**.	**4.** **Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath** (Rudraprayag) — winter seat of **Kedarnath**.
5. **Asia Power Index 2026**: **US 78.9**, **China 73.6**, **India 40.5**.	**6.** **Uttarakhand High Court** — **Nainital**, established **9 Nov 2000**.

SECTION E | PRACTICE CORNER

PRELIMS PRACTICE (UKPSC pattern)

Q1. Consider the following pairs (Char Dham shrine – winter seat):
1. Kedarnath – Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath
2. Gangotri – Kharsali
3. Badrinath – Narasimha Temple, Jyotirmath.
How many of the above pairs are correctly matched?

(a) Only one
(b) Only two
(c) All three
(d) None

Answer: (b) — Pairs 1 and 3 are correct. Gangotri's winter seat is **Mukhba**; **Kharsali** is the winter seat of **Yamunotri**.

Q2. With reference to the Construction & Infrastructure Equipment (CIE) scheme approved on 25 Nov 2026, consider the following statements:
1. It has an outlay of ₹11,000 crore over eight years.
2. It is administered by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.
3. It offers sales-linked incentives on incremental sales.
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) — The scheme (**₹11,000 crore**, **2026-27 to 2033-34**) is run by the **Ministry of Heavy Industries**, not Commerce; it gives **sales-linked incentives** on incremental sales. So 1 and 3 are correct.

MAINS PRACTICE: Uttarakhand now observes 28 November as State Disaster Management Day. Discuss the major hazards the state faces and evaluate how community preparedness and early-warning systems can reduce disaster risk in the Himalaya. (250 words)

Hint: Intro: Silkyara rescue (41 workers, 28 Nov 2023). Hazards: GLOF, landslides, cloudbursts, earthquakes, forest fires. Institutions: USDMA (2007), SDRF (2014), 525 sensors, EWS on Vasudhara lake. Community: mock drills, Aapda Mitra, school safety. Conclude with the Sendai Framework.

ONE-LINE REVISION: 28 Nov = UK Disaster Mgmt Day (Silkyara, 41 rescued) • Winter seats: Mukhba–Kharsali–Ukhimath–Jyotirmath • CIE ₹11,000 cr / 8 yrs • India Post ₹2,632 cr • API 2026: India 3rd (40.5)

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