CURRENT AFFAIRS — 28 October 2026

Wednesday, 28 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

- Supplementary budget **₹7,844.18 cr** → UK budget now **₹1,19,547.39 cr**
- Local bodies' share of state tax: **10.5% → 12.5%** (6th SFC)
- **9 Bills + 2 Ordinances** tabled at Gairsain session
- Fire NOC mandatory; violators' buildings can be **sealed**
- Char Dham 2026: record **60 lakh+** darshans
- Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line **~80%** complete
- Cyclone **Arnab** (VSCS) landfall near **Narsapur**, AP
- **ESTIC 2026** opens; **₹1 lakh cr RDI Fund** in focus
- SC: life sentences run **concurrently**, not consecutively
- Liechtenstein's **first state visit** to India; **TEPA** momentum

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL: Budget, Legislation, Disaster Safety, Pilgrimage & Border Tourism

₹7,844.18 crore Supplementary Budget tabled at Gairsain; State budget crosses ₹1.19 lakh crore

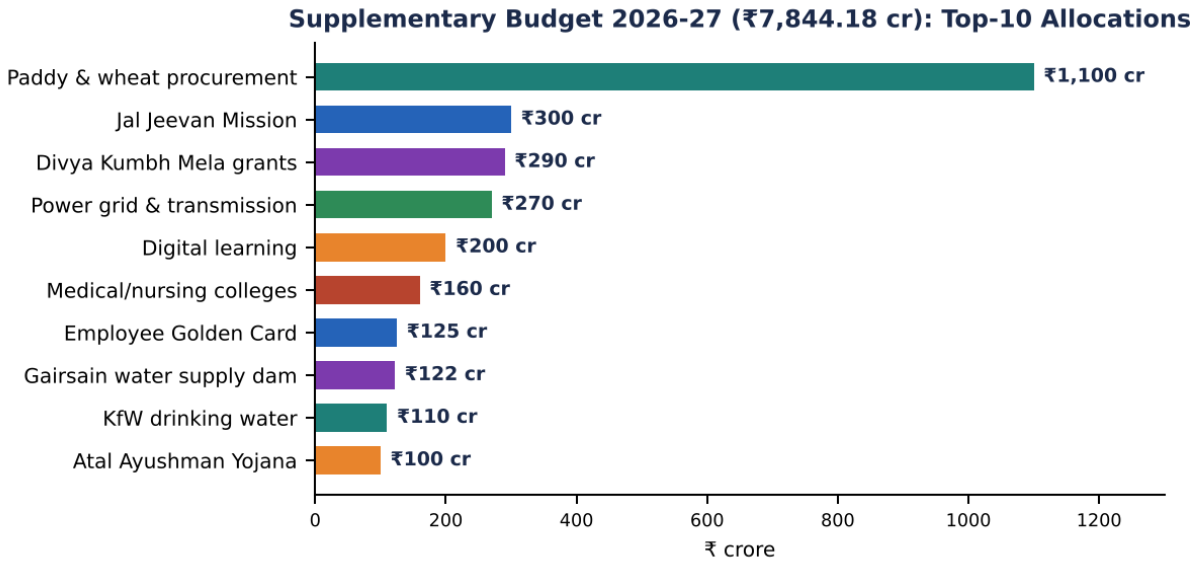
UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand)**

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy & state finances; Budget process — **Art. 202–205**; State Finance Commission (**Art. 243-I / 243-Y**)
Context	On **27 Oct 2026**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** presented supplementary demands of **₹7,844.18 cr** in the Assembly at **Bhararisain (Gairsain, Chamoli)** — the third session of 2026; the Appropriation (Supplementary) Bill is slated for passage on **28 Oct**.
Key Facts	■ Budget rises from **₹1,11,703.21 cr** to **₹1,19,547.39 cr**; **Capital ₹4,164.32 cr** vs **Revenue ₹3,679.86 cr** ■ Local bodies' share of state tax revenue raised from **10.5% to 12.5%** per the **6th State Finance Commission**; **₹721 cr** for rural & urban local bodies ■ Biggest head: **₹1,100 cr** for paddy-wheat procurement; **Jal Jeevan Mission ₹300 cr**; **Divya Kumbh Mela ₹290 cr**; **Nanda Raj Jat Yatra ₹20 cr** ■ **Joshimath** (land subsidence) **₹48 cr**; new **State Data Centre ₹40 cr**; **Gairsain water-supply dam ₹122 cr**
Way Fwd	Higher capex share is positive; the state must keep the deficit within the new **3% of GSDP** FRBM cap and release devolved funds to panchayats on time.
Concept	**Supplementary grant (Art. 205)**: extra spending beyond the original budget, passed via an **Appropriation Bill (Art. 204)**. **Gairsain** was declared Uttarakhand's **summer capital in 2020**.

Gairsain session: 9 Bills incl. Irrigation & Drainage Bill and FRBM cap; UCC-linked Civil Law amendment

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

Syllabus Linkage	State legislature & law-making; **Uniform Civil Code (Art. 44)**; fiscal federalism; ease of living (**Jan Vishwas**)
Context	Parliamentary Affairs Minister **Subodh Uniyal** tabled **9 Bills and 2 Ordinances** (GST, Minority Education) on **27 Oct**. The House paid tribute to former CM **B.C. Khanduri** and ex-minister **Hira Singh Bisht**.
Key Facts	■ **Irrigation & Drainage Bill, 2026** to replace the colonial **Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873** ■ **FRBM (Amendment) Bill**: fiscal deficit **≤3% of GSDP** and debt **≤30% of GSDP** for **2026-27 to 2030-31** ■ **Civil Law (Amendment) Bill** + cabinet-approved **Civil Code (Amendment) Rules, 2026** align the **UCC** framework ■ Others: **Jan Vishwas (2nd Amdt)**, **Investment & Infrastructure (Amdt)**, **GST (Amdt)**, **Private Universities (2nd Amdt)**
Way Fwd	Replacing **1873-era** irrigation law with a modern, hill-sensitive water code and decriminalising minor offences can improve governance; Bills need committee scrutiny.
Concept	Uttarakhand became the **first state after Independence** to enforce a **UCC** — Act of **2024**, in force from **27 Jan 2025**. **Ordinances** by the Governor fall under **Art. 213**.

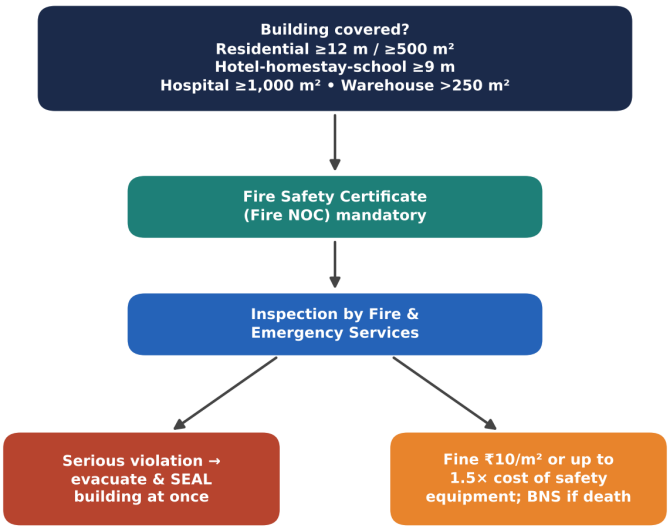


New Fire & Emergency Services Bill, 2026: mandatory Fire NOC, instant sealing of unsafe buildings

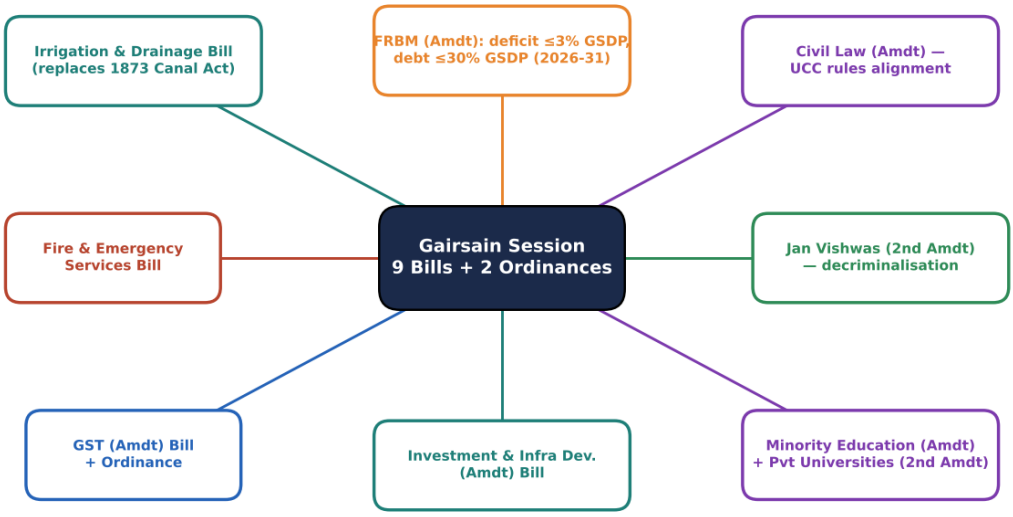
UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Disaster Management & Governance)**

Syllabus Linkage	Disaster management in Uttarakhand; urban governance (**12th Schedule — fire services**); tourism-safety (homestays)
Context	Introduced on **27 Oct 2026**, the Bill will **repeal the 2016 Fire Services Act** and create a stricter fire-safety certification regime covering homes, hotels, homestays, hospitals and warehouses.
Key Facts	■ **Fire NOC** mandatory: residential **≥12 m** or **≥500 m²**; hotels/**homestays**/schools **≥9 m**; hospitals **≥1,000 m²**; warehouses **>250 m²** ■ Fire department may **evacuate and seal** a building on serious violation ■ Fine of **₹10 per m²** or up to **1.5×** the cost of required safety equipment ■ Death/serious injury due to negligence → action under **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS)**; false fire reports punishable
Way Fwd	Pair enforcement with **fire stations in hill towns**, trained volunteers (**Aapda Mitra**) and online NOC to avoid harassment of small homestay owners.
Concept	**Fire services** are listed in the **12th Schedule (Art. 243W)** for municipalities. Disaster governance rests on the **DM Act, 2005** — **NDMA** (PM), **SDMA** (CM), **DDMA** (DM).

Uttarakhand Fire & Emergency Services Bill, 2026



Repeals the 2016 Fire Services Act



Char Dham Yatra 2026: record 60 lakh+ darshans (season opened 19 Apr) — winter closure schedule



Char Dham Yatra 2026 sets record with 60 lakh+ darshans; winter closure from 10 Nov

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

Syllabus Linkage	Religious tourism of Uttarakhand; **Panch Kedar / Panch Badri**; carrying capacity & crowd management
Context	With the yatra (opened **19 Apr**) in its final phase, darshans at the four Dhams plus **Hemkund Sahib** crossed **60 lakh** — a new record, with the yatra running uninterrupted through the monsoon.
Key Facts	■ **Badrinath ~20.71 lakh**, **Kedarnath ~17.66 lakh**, **Yamunotri ~9.46 lakh**, **Gangotri ~8.38 lakh**, **Hemkund ~3.91 lakh** ■ Closing: **Gangotri 10 Nov (12:05 PM)**; **Kedarnath & Yamunotri 11 Nov**; **Badrinath 16 Nov (9:37 PM)** ■ **Rudranath (Chaturth Kedar)** already closed for winter ■ CM: new **master plans** for **Kedarnath & Badrinath**; **Manaskhand** corridor progressing
Way Fwd	Promote **winter yatra** to the gaddi-sthals and enforce **carrying-capacity** limits, as record footfall strains fragile slopes.
Concept	Winter seats: **Kedarnath → Ukhimath (Omkareshwar)**, **Badrinath → Pandukeshwar/Joshimath**, **Gangotri → Mukhba**, **Yamunotri → Kharsali**. Rivers: **Alaknanda** (Badrinath), **Mandakini** (Kedarnath).

Adi Kailash Ultra Run 2.0 held in Dharchula's high Himalaya to boost border tourism

UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims (Uttarakhand — Sports, Tourism & Border Areas)**

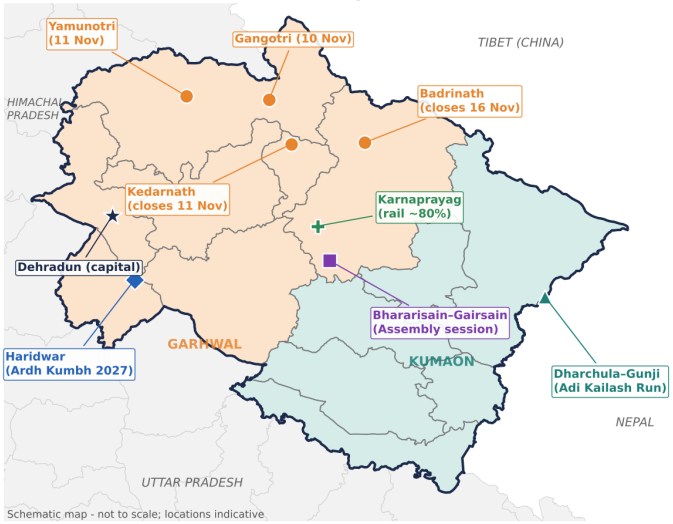
Syllabus Linkage	Adventure tourism; border-area development (**Vibrant Villages Programme**); geography of **Vyas valley**
Context	The second edition of the high-altitude run was held from **24–26 Oct 2026** from **Dharchula (Pithoragarh)**, with about **1,100 athletes** racing in the Gunji–Adi Kailash region.
Key Facts	■ Organised by the **district administration** with **Army, ITBP, SSB and BRO** support ■ Medical, hydration points and help desk at **Chhiyalekh**; route via **Gunji** ■ Cabinet (22 Oct) cleared the new **Uttarakhand Adventure Tourism Corporation Ltd** ■ Promotes winter/shoulder-season tourism in **Vyas, Darma valleys**
Way Fwd	Build homestay capacity and waste management in fragile high-altitude villages before scaling events.
Concept	**Adi Kailash (Chhota Kailash)** and **Om Parvat** lie in the **Vyas valley** near **Lipulekh Pass** (India–China–Nepal trijunction area); **Gunji** is a **Vibrant Villages** focus village.

CM's roadmap at Gairsain: 30+ policies, Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail ~80% complete

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

Syllabus Linkage	Infrastructure & connectivity in hill states; **palayan** (out-migration); industrial & IT policy of Uttarakhand
Context	Briefing the media at Gairsain on **27 Oct**, CM Dhami said the state has brought **30+ policies** for jobs and industry and is prioritising **IT innovation and digitalisation**.
Key Facts	■ **₹10,000 cr+** invested in infrastructure in the last **3 years** ■ **Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line** about **80%** complete ■ Work on **Char Dham all-weather road** and **Kedarnath & Hemkund** connectivity projects; **Sharda, Golju, Haridwar–Ganga** corridors ■ Separately, CM launched **67 schemes worth ₹284 cr** in **Pithoragarh**
Way Fwd	Connectivity must be matched with **slope-stability audits**, local hiring and hill-industry incentives to actually reverse **palayan**.
Concept	The **~125 km** Rishikesh–Karnaprayag line runs mostly through **tunnels**; it links **Devprayag, Srinagar, Rudraprayag, Gauchar, Karnaprayag** — key for Char Dham and border connectivity.

Uttarakhand — Today's News Locations



SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

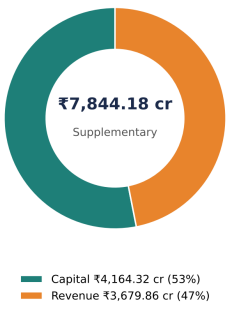
Uttarakhand Budget 2026-27 after supplementary demands

₹1,19,547.39 crore

Up from **₹1,11,703.21 cr** (+**₹7,844.18 cr**, **~7%**); capital share of the supplementary outlay **53%** (**₹4,164.32 cr**).

Why it matters: Supplementary grants under **Art. 205** signal mid-year spending priorities — here **food procurement, water, Kumbh infrastructure and local-body devolution**.

Capital vs Revenue Split



SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD

Very Severe Cyclonic Storm 'Arnab' makes landfall near Narsapur on Andhra coast

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Management)

Syllabus Linkage	Tropical cyclones, **IMD classification**, early warning; disaster management
Context	On **28 Oct 2026**, **VSCS Arnab** from the **Bay of Bengal** began crossing the Andhra Pradesh–**Yanam** coast; its centre lay ~**30 km east of Narsapur** (16.4°N, 82°E).
Key Facts	■ Sustained winds up to **135 km/h**, gusting to **150 km/h** ■ Heavy rain in **Kakinada, Konaseema, Visakhapatnam, Anakapalli, West Godavari** ■ Sea-water inundation in Kakinada; **no casualties** reported in early updates ■ **Yanam** is part of the **UT of Puducherry**, enclaved in Andhra Pradesh
Way Fwd	Strengthen **impact-based forecasting**, mangrove shelterbelts and cyclone shelters; lessons apply to Uttarakhand's **cloudburst early warning**.
Concept	**IMD scale**: Cyclonic Storm **62–88**, Severe **89–117**, **Very Severe 118–166 km/h**, Extremely Severe 167–221, Super Cyclone **≥222**. Names come from the **WMO/ESCAP Panel (13 countries)** list.

SC: Multiple life sentences in a single trial cannot run consecutively

POLITY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Judiciary; criminal justice reforms (**BNSS, 2023**); **Art. 21** — fair sentencing
Context	In **Raju Shantaram Koli v. State of Maharashtra** (**27 Oct 2026**), a bench of Justices **K.V. Viswanathan** and **Arun Palli** ordered two life terms to run **concurrently**.
Key Facts	■ Relied on the **Constitution Bench** ruling in **Muthuramalingam v. State (2016)** ■ Trial court (2013) had ordered the two life terms to run **consecutively**; HC had upheld it ■ Fines, default sentences and **set-off (s. 428 CrPC)** left intact ■ Life imprisonment means imprisonment for the **remainder of natural life** (unless remitted)
Way Fwd	Codify the rule expressly in the **BNSS** sentencing provisions to ensure uniformity across trial courts.
Concept	**Concurrent** sentences run together; **consecutive** run one after another. Term sentences may be consecutive, but a life term cannot be stacked — **Gopal Vinayak Godse (1961)** held life = whole life.

PM inaugurates ESTIC 2026; push to take research 'beyond laboratories'

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

Syllabus Linkage	S&T policy, R&D funding (**ANRF, RDI Fund**), emerging technologies — AI, quantum, semiconductors
Context	PM **Narendra Modi** opened the 3-day **Emerging Science, Technology and Innovation Conclave** at **Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi** on **27 Oct**, asking for **measurable outcomes within 3 years**.
Key Facts	■ **5,000+** delegates; **12 thematic domains** incl. quantum, generative AI, semiconductors, **Deep Ocean Mission** ■ Focus on the **₹1 lakh crore RDI Fund** and **ANRF** to move deep-tech up technology-readiness levels ■ Startups grew from **~400 (2014)** to **2.3 lakh+** (as stated by MoS **Jitendra Singh**) ■ Plenaries by Nobel laureates **Joachim Frank** (cryo-EM) and **Richard J. Roberts** (split genes)
Way Fwd	Raise **GERD** (around **0.7% of GDP**) with more private R&D; states like Uttarakhand can link **UCOST** and IIT Roorkee to the RDI pipeline.
Concept	**ANRF** was set up under the **ANRF Act, 2023**, replacing **SERB**; the **RDI Scheme** offers long-term, low-cost finance for private-sector research.

Liechtenstein's first-ever State Visit to India; leaders hail India–EFTA TEPA

IR UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

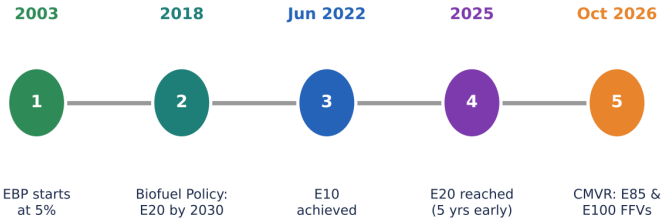
Syllabus Linkage	India–Europe relations; trade agreements (**TEPA**); multilateral reform (**UN**)
Context	PM Modi held talks with **Hereditary Prince Alois** of Liechtenstein in New Delhi on **27 Oct**; the royal couple visited **Mumbai, Vadodara** and **Rajghat**.
Key Facts	■ First **state visit** from Liechtenstein to India ■ Focus: trade-investment, **innovation, S&T, skills, financial services** ■ Both back **reform of multilateral institutions incl. the UN** ■ **TEPA** with **EFTA** (Iceland, **Liechtenstein**, Norway, Switzerland) in force since **1 Oct 2025** — **$100 bn** investment, **10 lakh jobs** pledge over 15 years
Way Fwd	Use TEPA's investment chapter to attract **precision-manufacturing** and fintech investment into Indian states, incl. Uttarakhand's industrial hubs.
Concept	**Liechtenstein**: capital **Vaduz**; a **doubly landlocked** constitutional monarchy (with **Uzbekistan**, the only two) between Switzerland and Austria; uses the **Swiss franc**.

CMVR amended for E85 & E100: regulatory path opens for flex-fuel vehicles

ECONOMY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy, Energy & Environment)**

Syllabus Linkage	Energy security; **National Policy on Biofuels, 2018**; green mobility; farm incomes
Context	**MoRTH** amended the **Central Motor Vehicles Rules, 1989** (announced **26 Oct**) so emission certification now covers **E85 and E100**, the next step after achieving **E20**.
Key Facts	■ Applies only to vehicles **designed and certified** for these fuels; **E20-compatible ≠ E85-ready** ■ **E20** reached in **2025**, ~5 years ahead of the **2030** target; **E10** in **June 2022** ■ Ethanol has **~one-third less energy** per litre than petrol → lower mileage ■ India imports **>85%** of its crude oil; **PM JI-VAN Yojana (2019)** backs 2G ethanol
Way Fwd	Balance **food vs fuel** and water use of sugarcane; diversify to **maize, surplus rice and crop residue** with E100 dispensing infrastructure.
Concept	**Flex-fuel vehicle (FFV)**: engine runs on any petrol–ethanol mix up to E85/E100. India co-founded the **Global Biofuels Alliance** at the **G20 New Delhi Summit (2023)**.

India's Ethanol Blending Journey



>85% of crude oil imported → biofuels = energy security

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **61st CIML meeting** (governing body of **OIML**, est. **1955**, HQ **Paris**) hosted in **New Delhi, 26–28 Oct** — first time in India

2. **12th BRICS Parliamentary Forum** held at **Samvidhan Sadan**, New Delhi (**26–27 Oct**); theme: **Strengthening Parliaments for People-Centric Development**

3. **Lula da Silva** won Brazil's presidential runoff (**25 Oct**) — a historic **fourth term**

4. Uttarakhand Cabinet (**22 Oct**): free-coaching family-income limit for SC/ST students raised **₹2 lakh → ₹8 lakh**

5. **Jal Sanchay Jan Bhagidari**: **1.55 crore+** recharge structures; merged with **Jal Shakti Abhiyan: Catch the Rain** from **1 June 2026**

6. Uttarakhand Board: **5% passing-marks relaxation** for students with disabilities (pass at **28%**)

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. With reference to Uttarakhand's Supplementary Budget 2026-27, consider the following statements: 1. It was presented at Bhararisain (Gairsain). 2. It raises the state's annual budget to over ₹1.19 lakh crore. 3. Revenue expenditure forms the larger part of the supplementary outlay. 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) — Capital expenditure (**₹4,164.32 cr**) exceeds revenue expenditure (**₹3,679.86 cr**), so statement 3 is wrong; the budget rose to **₹1,19,547.39 cr**.

Q2. Consider the following pairs (Shrine : Winter seat): 1. Kedarnath : Ukhimath 2. Badrinath : Mukhba 3. Gangotri : Kharsali. How many of the pairs given above are correctly matched?

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

Answer: (a) — Only **Kedarnath–Ukhimath** is correct. Badrinath's winter seat is **Pandukeshwar/Joshimath**; Gangotri's is **Mukhba**; **Kharsali** is Yamunotri's.

Mains Practice: The rapid growth of homestays and high-rise buildings in Uttarakhand's hill towns has raised fire-safety risks. Examine the key provisions of the Uttarakhand Fire and Emergency Services Bill, 2026 and suggest measures for its effective enforcement in hill areas. (150 words)

Hint: Intro: tourism boom + narrow roads. Body: **Fire NOC thresholds**, **sealing powers**, **₹10/m² / 1.5× fines**, **BNS** liability; challenges — terrain, few fire stations, small owners. Way forward: mini fire tenders, **Aapda Mitra**, online NOC, insurance link. Conclude with **DM Act 2005** & SDG 11.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Supp. Budget **₹7,844.18 cr** → UK budget **₹1,19,547.39 cr** | Fire Bill: **NOC + sealing** | Char Dham **60 lakh+** | Cyclone **Arnab** (VSCS) at **Narsapur** | SC: life terms run **concurrently**

Compiled & simplified by the StudyForGS.com Research Team
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