CURRENT AFFAIRS — 29 October 2026

Thursday, 29 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

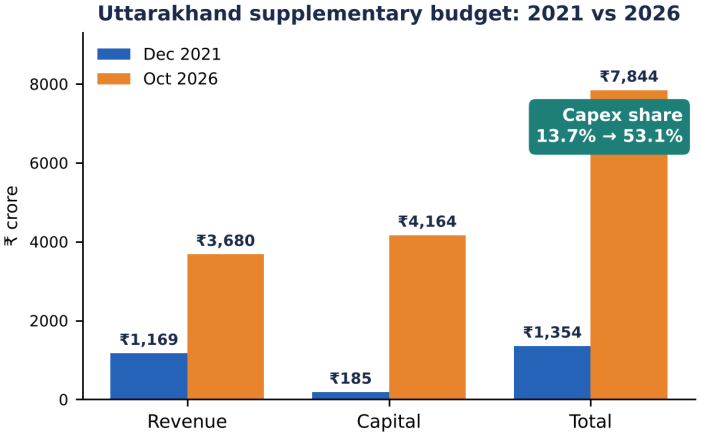
- Uttarakhand supplementary budget **₹7,844.18 cr**; capex share **53.1%**.
- State budget 2026-27 now **₹1,19,547.39 cr** (was ₹1,11,703.21 cr).
- Local bodies' share in state tax raised **10.5% → 12.5%** (6th SFC).
- New **Fire Services & Emergency Services Bill, 2026** replaces 2016 Act.
- CM laid/inaugurated **12 projects (₹231.91 cr)** at Gairsain.
- Kedarnath: **18.53 lakh** pilgrims; kapat close **11 Nov** (Bhai Dooj).
- **PM-VGSY**: ₹7,395.55 cr for **2.55 lakh** Panchayats (2026-31).
- **CMPS**: ₹10,000 cr; container output to **7.5 lakh TEU**.
- India-Mexico sign **ToR for PTA** in Mexico City.
- **NVS-03** on **GSLV-F18** on 30 Oct to restore NavIC.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL: State Finance, Legislation, Disaster & Tourism

Gairsain session passes ₹7,844.18 crore supplementary budget; capex gets the lion's share

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

Syllabus Linkage	Uttarakhand economy, state finances & budgeting; Prelims: **Gairsain** = summer capital, **State Finance Commission** (Art. **243-I/243-Y**).
Context	The Assembly's two-day session at **Bhararisain (Gairsain)** passed the supplementary demands on **28 October** amid Opposition protests and was adjourned **sine die**.
Key Facts	■ Supplementary: **₹7,844.18 cr** = revenue **₹3,679.86 cr** + capital **₹4,164.32 cr**. ■ Total 2026-27 budget: **₹1,11,703.21 cr → ₹1,19,547.39 cr**. ■ Local bodies' share in state taxes: **10.5% → 12.5%** (6th SFC); **₹721 cr** to ULBs/PRIs. ■ Farmers: **₹1,100 cr** paddy-wheat procurement; **₹290 cr** for **Divya Kumbh**; **₹122 cr** Gairsain water dam. ■ Supplementary size up **5.8x** since Dec 2021; capex share **13.7% → 53.1%**.
Way Fwd	Shift towards **capital spending** must be matched by timely utilisation and debt discipline under the amended **FRBM** law.
Concept	**Supplementary grant (Art. 205)**: sought when sanctioned funds fall short in a year; passed via a fresh **Appropriation Bill** (Art. 204).



Nine Bills cleared: new fire-safety law, minority-education curbs, Jan Vishwas decriminalisation

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

Syllabus Linkage	State legislature & law-making; ease of doing business; disaster safety; Prelims: **voice vote**, **ordinance (Art. 213)**.
Context	Along with the budget, **nine Bills** were passed by **voice vote**; **two ordinances** were also tabled.
Key Facts	■ **Fire Services & Emergency Services Bill, 2026** replaces the **2016** Act; fire NOC mandatory (e.g. hotels/homestays/schools **≥9 m** or **>500 sq m**). ■ Fire-safety lapses: sealing, fine of **₹10/sq m** or up to **1.5x** equipment cost; deaths → action under **BNS**. ■ **Minority Education (Amendment) Bill**: unauthorised religious teaching → sealing, fine up to **₹5 lakh**, receiver, FIR. ■ **Jan Vishwas (Second) Bill**: jail terms cut, fines raised (e.g. Fisheries Act **3 yrs → 2 months**). ■ Others: Irrigation & Drainage, **FRBM**, GST, Private Universities, Civil Laws amendments.
Way Fwd	Bills passed without debate weaken scrutiny; **committee referral** and pre-legislative consultation can improve quality.
Concept	**Jan Vishwas** approach = **decriminalising minor offences** (jail → monetary penalty) to cut compliance burden; Centre's first Act came in **2023**.

₹231.91 crore for Chamoli: Ramganga drinking-water dam and Karnaprayag land-subsidence works

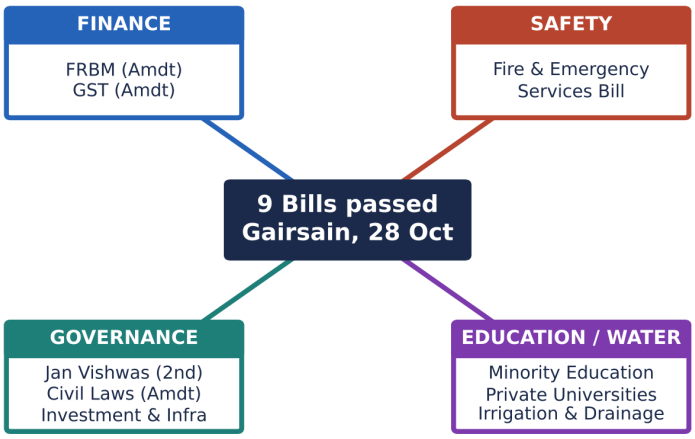
[UTTARAKHAND] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	Hill-area development, disaster risk reduction; Prelims: **Ramganga** origin (Dudhatoli), **Karnaprayag** = Alaknanda-Pindar confluence.
Context	On **28 October**, CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** laid foundation stones for **6** and inaugurated **6** projects at Gairsain in **Chamoli** district.
Key Facts	■ Total **12 projects ₹231.91 cr**: foundation **₹197.87 cr**, inaugurated **₹34.04 cr**. ■ **Ramganga river dam** for Gairsain drinking water: **₹122.69 cr**. ■ **Land-subsidence protection, Bahuguna Nagar (Karnaprayag)**: **₹50.19 cr**. ■ Also: Govt **Polytechnic Gairsain** (₹12.17 cr), fire unit and police station buildings.
Way Fwd	Subsidence-prone towns (Joshimath, Karnaprayag) need **carrying-capacity studies**, drainage plans and strict building bylaws.
Concept	**Land subsidence** = gradual sinking of ground due to loose **moraine/debris** slopes, poor drainage, toe-cutting and load; **Joshimath (2023)** is the key case.

Uttarakhand: today's news locations



Passed by voice vote • 2 ordinances tabled



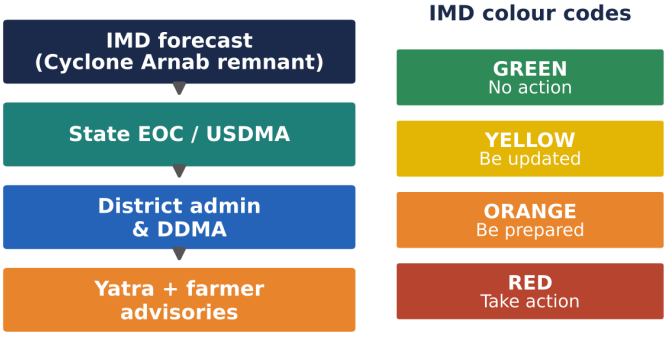
CHAR DHAM YATRA 2026 — KEY NUMBERS

18.53 lakh	56.18 lakh+	11 Nov	19 Apr	Ukhimath
Kedarnath pilgrims (season, till 28 Oct)	Char Dham record (by 7 Oct 2026)	Kedarnath & Yamunotri kapat close (Bhai Dooj)	Yatra 2026 began	Kedarnath winter seat (Kharsali for Yamunotri)

Fresh snow at Kedarnath; season count crosses 18.53 lakh ahead of 11 November closing

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

Syllabus Linkage	Pilgrimage tourism & crowd management; Prelims: **winter seats** — Kedarnath → **Omkareshwar, Ukhimath**; Yamunotri → **Kharsali**.
Context	Kedarnath woke to fresh snowfall on **29 October** with rain in lower **Rudraprayag**; **8,376** devotees had darshan on 28 October.
Key Facts	■ Kedarnath season total: **18,53,032** pilgrims. ■ Kedarnath & **Yamunotri** portals close on **11 November (Bhai Dooj)**. ■ Char Dham crossed **56.18 lakh** by 7 Oct, beating **2023** record (~52 lakh). ■ Yatra began **19 April 2026**; Yamunotri had season's first snow on **25 Oct**.
Way Fwd	Promote **winter Char Dham (seat) yatra** to spread footfall and protect fragile high-altitude ecology.
Concept	**Kedarnath** is one of **12 Jyotirlingas** and first of the **Panch Kedar**, on the **Mandakini** river in Rudraprayag district.



IMD colour codes

30 Oct: YELLOW

100-mile Himalayan Ultra Run from Mana Pass to Auli announced for May 2027

[UTTARAKHAND] **UKPSC: Prelims (Uttarakhand — Tourism & Sports)**

Syllabus Linkage	Adventure tourism, border-village development (**Vibrant Villages**), anti-palayan livelihood; Prelims: passes & places.
Context	At the **Adi Kailash Parikrama Run 2.0** in **Gunji (Pithoragarh)**, the CM announced a **~160 km** endurance ultra run.
Key Facts	■ Route: **Mana Pass (~5,600 m)** → Badrinath → Joshimath → **Auli**. ■ Planned for **first week of May 2027**. ■ Aim: livelihoods for **homestays**, guides, transporters in border areas. ■ First Adi Kailash run (**2025**) drew **700+** runners.
Way Fwd	High-altitude events need **acclimatisation protocols**, medical cover and waste management.
Concept	**Mana Pass** (Chamoli) links India with **Tibet**; **Mana** is called the 'first village of India'.

Cyclone Arnab's remnant effect: yellow alert for thunderstorm and lightning on 30 October

[UTTARAKHAND] **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Management)**

Syllabus Linkage	Climatology, cyclones & western disturbances, disaster management; Prelims: **IMD colour codes**, **USDMA**.
Context	After landfall in **Andhra Pradesh**, **Cyclone Arnab** (Bay of Bengal) is expected to bring light rain to Uttarakhand during **29-31 October**.
Key Facts	■ **IMD yellow alert** for **30 Oct**: thunderstorm, lightning, strong winds. ■ Udham Singh Nagar: max **27-31°C**, min **13-14°C** (G.B. Pant Univ., Pantnagar). ■ Light rain/snow forecast in **Uttarkashi, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh**. ■ Farmers advised to store harvested **paddy** under cover.
Way Fwd	Integrate **impact-based forecasts** with yatra advisories and farm extension through district EOCs.
Concept	**IMD colour codes**: Green (no action) → **Yellow** (be updated) → **Orange** (be prepared) → **Red** (take action).

SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

₹1,19,547.39 crore
Uttarakhand budget 2026-27 after supplementary (₹ crore)

Up **₹7,844.18 cr** from the **₹1,11,703.21 cr** passed in March; **53.1%** of the supplementary is **capital** expenditure.

SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD: Polity, Economy, IR, Defence, Sci-Tech, Health

Cabinet approves PM Viksit Gram Swaraj Yojana (₹7,395.55 crore) for Panchayat governance

[POLITY] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Polity & Governance)

Syllabus Linkage	Local self-government, 73rd Amendment, e-governance; Prelims: **eGramSwaraj**, **AuditOnline**, GPDP.
Context	On **28 October**, the Union Cabinet approved **PM-VGSY** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for **2026-27 to 2030-31**, aligned with the **16th Finance Commission** period.
Key Facts	■ Outlay **₹7,395.55 cr**: Centre **₹4,869.48 cr**, States **₹2,526.07 cr**. ■ Covers **2.55 lakh** Panchayats & traditional local bodies; **~32 lakh** representatives trained. ■ **GPDPs** on eGramSwaraj; **2.55 lakh** online audit plans via AuditOnline. ■ Multilingual **PANCHAM** platform (17 languages); 16th FC grants to RLBs **~₹4.35 lakh cr**.
Way Fwd	Strengthen **own-source revenue** and functional devolution of the **29 subjects** (Eleventh Schedule).
Concept	**73rd Amendment (1992)** added **Part IX** and the **Eleventh Schedule**; Uttarakhand has a **three-tier** PRI system.

PM-VGSY • ₹7,395.55 crore • 2026-27 to 2030-31

GPDP Planning	Awareness Campaigns	Capacity Building	Online Audit
2.55 lakh plans on eGramSwaraj	1 crore+ citizens per episode	~32 lakh represent-atives	2.55 lakh audit plans (AuditOnline)

Centre ₹4,869.48 cr | States ₹2,526.07 cr

India and Mexico sign Terms of Reference to launch Preferential Trade Agreement talks

[IR] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations)

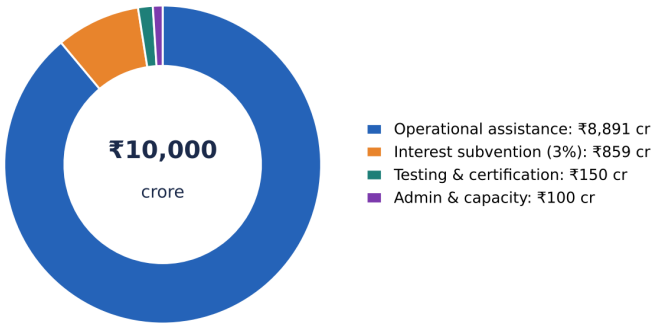
Syllabus Linkage	India's trade agreements and Latin America outreach; Prelims: **PTA vs FTA vs CEPA**.
Context	Commerce Secretary **Rajesh Agrawal** and Mexico's Undersecretary for Foreign Trade signed the **ToR** in **Mexico City** on **28 October**.
Key Facts	■ India's exports to Mexico: **$5.73 bn (FY26)**; autos largest at **$1.92 bn**. ■ Mexico's new tariff regime imposes up to **50%** on many Indian goods. ■ Focus: autos, textiles, footwear, plastics, steel, chemicals, toys.
Way Fwd	Early harvest on autos and pharma can shield exporters while the PTA is negotiated.
Concept	**PTA** cuts tariffs on a **limited list** of goods; an **FTA** eliminates duties on **substantially all** trade.

₹10,000 crore Container Manufacturing Promotion Scheme to build domestic capacity

[ECONOMY] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Indian Economy)

Syllabus Linkage	Industrial policy, logistics, Atmanirbhar Bharat; Prelims: **TEU**, MoPSW, **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**.
Context	The Union Cabinet approved **CMPS** under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** for **FY28-FY40** (3 years set-up + 10 years production support).
Key Facts	■ **₹8,891 cr** operational assistance; **₹859 cr** interest subvention (**3%**); **₹150 cr** testing. ■ Capacity: **~70,000 TEU → 7.5 lakh TEU**; domestic content **70% → 90%**. ■ Port container handling: **24 mn TEU (2024) → 175 mn TEU by 2047**. ■ **~3,000** direct and **50,000+** indirect jobs.
Way Fwd	Pair subsidies with **steel supply** chains and port-land access to compete on cost globally.
Concept	**TEU (Twenty-foot Equivalent Unit)** = standard measure of container capacity; one 40-ft box = **2 TEU**.

CMPS outlay split (FY28-FY40)



Rajnath Singh-Hegseth review 10-year India-US defence framework at Cebu

[DEFENCE] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations & Security)

Syllabus Linkage	India-US ties, Indo-Pacific security; Prelims: **foundational pacts** — LEMOA, COMCASA, BECA.
Context	On the sidelines of the ASEAN defence ministers' meeting with dialogue partners in **Cebu, Philippines**, the two ministers met on **28 October**.
Key Facts	■ Marked **1st anniversary** of the **10-year framework** (signed **Oct 2025**). ■ Rajnath urged **zero tolerance** for terror-sponsoring states. ■ India raised concern over US support for **Pakistan's F-16** fleet. ■ Pacts: **LEMOA (2016)**, **COMCASA (2018)**, **BECA (2020)**.
Way Fwd	Deepen **co-production** (engines, drones) while hedging through strategic autonomy.
Concept	**Major Defence Partner** status was conferred on India by the US in **2016**.

ISRO to launch NVS-03 on GSLV-F18 on 30 October to restore NavIC services

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

Syllabus Linkage	Space technology, satellite navigation; Prelims: **NavIC/IRNSS**, GTO vs GEO, L1/L5/S bands.
Context	**GSLV-F18** (20th GSLV flight) will lift off from the **Second Launch Pad, Sriharikota** at **11:51 pm** on **30 October**.
Key Facts	■ **NVS-03** ~**2,250 kg**; indigenous **atomic clock**; adds **L1** to L5/S signals. ■ GTO: perigee **170 km**, apogee **37,023 km**. ■ Coverage: India + **~1,500 km** beyond borders. ■ **NVS-02** (Jan 2025) stuck after a **valve failure** in orbit-raising.
Way Fwd	Restore a robust **7+ satellite** constellation and push NavIC chips into phones and vehicles.
Concept	**NavIC** = India's regional navigation system; needs at least **4** working satellites for standalone positioning.

NPPA cuts MRP of 543 anti-cancer brands; new prices effective 9 November

[HEALTH] UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Health)

Syllabus Linkage	Health policy, drug pricing, Universal Health Coverage; Prelims: **NPPA (1997)**, **DPCO 2013**, trade margin.
Context	Following **trade-margin rationalisation** on **137** non-scheduled anti-cancer drugs (17 Oct), the regulator released revised MRPs on **28 October**.
Key Facts	■ **543 brands** revised; effective **9 November 2026**. ■ Trade margin capped at **30%**; cuts up to **~70%** on many drugs. ■ Example: one injectable vial **₹14,235 → ₹2,432** (~83% cut). ■ No change for **single-source** (patented) medicines.
Way Fwd	Monitor **availability** after cuts and expand **Jan Aushadhi** and cancer day-care centres in districts.
Concept	**Trade margin** = difference between price to distributor and **MRP**; NPPA uses **Para 19, DPCO 2013** in public interest.

SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. Uttarakhand Speaker: **Ritu Khanduri Bhushan** — first woman Speaker of the state.	**4.** SC: '**Digital arrest is digital dacoity**' — offenders to be dealt with sternly.
2. State declared a holiday for women employees on **Karva Chauth (29 Oct)**.	**5.** High-level team to probe death of a **19-month-old cheetah** at **Kuno NP (MP)**.
3. Union Cabinet: **3% DA/DR** hike from **1 July 2026**; **~1.17 crore** beneficiaries.	**6.** Estimate: India needs **$220 bn** for green-power transition by **FY30**.

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER (UKPSC Pattern)

Q1. With reference to the Uttarakhand supplementary budget passed in October 2026, consider the following statements: 1. The total supplementary outlay is ₹7,844.18 crore. 2. Revenue expenditure forms more than half of the supplementary outlay. 3. The local bodies' share in state tax revenue has been raised to 12.5%. Which of the statements given above is/are correct?
(a) 1 only **(b)** 1 and 3 only **(c)** 2 and 3 only **(d)** 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — Capital expenditure (**₹4,164.32 cr**, **53.1%**) exceeds revenue (**₹3,679.86 cr**), so statement 2 is wrong; the share rose **10.5% → 12.5%** on the 6th SFC's advice.

Q2. The winter seat (gaddi sthal) of Lord Kedarnath, where worship continues after the shrine closes, is located at:
(a) Joshimath **(b)** Kharsali **(c)** Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath **(d)** Mukhba
Answer: (c) — Kedarnath → **Ukhimath**; Badrinath → **Pandukeshwar/Joshimath**; Yamunotri → **Kharsali**; Gangotri → **Mukhba**.

MAINS PRACTICE: Land subsidence in Himalayan towns such as Joshimath and Karnaprayag is as much a governance failure as a geological hazard. Discuss with reference to Uttarakhand and suggest measures. (200 words)
Hint: Geology (**moraine** slopes, seismic **Zone IV/V**) + human drivers (unplanned construction, drainage, tunnelling); cite **₹50.19 cr** Bahuguna Nagar works; suggest **carrying-capacity** studies, bylaws, early-warning and community relocation plans.

ONE-LINE REVISION: Gairsain session: **₹7,844.18 cr** supplementary + **9 Bills**; Kedarnath closes **11 Nov**; PM-VGSY **₹7,395.55 cr**; CMPS **₹10,000 cr**; NVS-03 on **30 Oct**.

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