CURRENT AFFAIRS — 30 SEPTEMBER 2026

Wednesday, 30 September 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

- **180 trekkers** stranded on **10 treks** after early snowfall; **1,500** Kedarnath pilgrims rescued near **Gaurikund**.
- Char Dham footfall crosses **53.23 lakh**; **Gangotri** logs its **highest-ever 8.41 lakh**.
- **SARRA** to revive **54 historical naulas & dharas** with cement-free stone masonry.
- Rajya Sabha poll for **1 Uttarakhand seat** on **16 October**; nominations close **6 October**.
- **Garhwal Rifles** leads India at **KAZIND-2026**; **Yudh Abhyas** concludes at **Auli**.
- **120th All India Kisan Mela** at **GBPUAT Pantnagar** on **3–6 October**.
- India's net FDI hits **US$ 7.35 bn** in **July 2026** — a **5-year high**.
- First **PRAMAAN** forest certificates issued under **IFWCS**; run by **IIFM Bhopal**.
- **Sagarmala Finance** opens **India's first blue bond** (**10-year**, **AA+**).
- India finishes **10th** at **WorldSkills Shanghai 2026** with **6 silvers**.

SECTION A — UTTARAKHAND SPECIAL state policy • disaster & ecology • tourism • agriculture

Uttarakhand High-Altitude Rescue — 26–30 Sept 2026



Early Snowfall Strands 180 Trekkers on 10 High-Altitude Routes; 1,500 Kedarnath Pilgrims Rescued

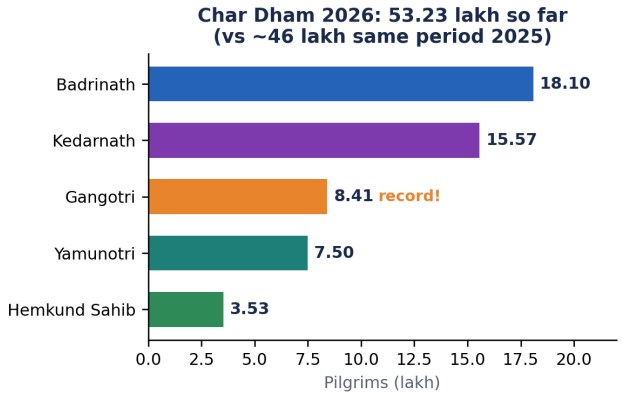
UTTARAKHAND — UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Disaster Management — Uttarakhand)

Syllabus Linkage	**Disaster management** and physical geography of Uttarakhand; Prelims pointers: **Kalindi Khal**, **Auden's Col**, **Pindari Glacier**, **SDRF**.
Context	Heavy rain and unseasonal **snowfall** on **26–28 September** trapped trekkers across the Garhwal and Kumaon Himalaya. CM **Pushkar Singh Dhami** ordered full use of **helicopters** and standby **heli-ambulances**; evacuation continued on **29–30 September**.
Key Facts	● **180 trekkers** on **10 routes**: **137** on **9 treks** in **Uttarkashi** and **43** at **Khati-Pindari Glacier** (**Bageshwar**). ● About **1,500 pilgrims** evacuated from the **Chhirbasa** landslide zone near **Gaurikund** on the Kedarnath route amid rockfall. ● **19** trekkers airlifted from **Kalindi Khal** and **29** from **Auden's Col** to **Harsil helipad**; **8 helicopters** deployed. ● **SDRF, NDRF and DDRF** coordinated; **no casualties** reported; foreign climbers were also stranded at **Tapovan** base camp.
Way Fwd	Mandatory **trek registration with GPS tracking**, weather-linked closure of passes and **IMD nowcast** alerts to trek operators.
Concept	**SDRF Uttarakhand** was raised after the **2013 Kedarnath disaster**; the **DM Act, 2005** created the **NDMA–SDMA–DDMA** tiers. **Kalindi Khal (~5,900 m)** links **Gangotri** with **Badrinath**.

Char Dham Yatra Crosses 53 Lakh Pilgrims; Gangotri Logs Highest-Ever Footfall

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Tourism and economy of Uttarakhand**; Prelims pointers: shrine–district–river pairs, **Hemkund Sahib**.
Context	Official yatra data show the 2026 season has already overtaken last year with about **1.5 months** still left before the shrines close for winter. The **second phase** of the yatra began on **15 September** after the monsoon.
Key Facts	● Total **53,23,401** pilgrims against about **46 lakh** in the same period last year. ● **Badrinath 18.10 lakh**, **Kedarnath 15.57 lakh**, **Gangotri 8.41 lakh** (record), **Yamunotri 7.5 lakh**. ● **Hemkund Sahib**: **3,52,765** devotees, above **3 lakh** for the first time in several years; portals close on **10 October**.
Way Fwd	Enforce **carrying capacity**, real-time **crowd dashboards** and slot-based darshan to protect fragile valleys.
Concept	**Gangotri** and **Yamunotri** — **Uttarkashi**; **Kedarnath** — **Rudraprayag** (Mandakini); **Badrinath** — **Chamoli** (Alaknanda). **Hemkund Sahib** is in **Chamoli**, near the **Valley of Flowers**.



SARRA to Revive 54 Historical Naulas and Dharas Across Uttarakhand

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Water resources and ecology of Uttarakhand**; Prelims pointers: **naula**, **dhara**, **SARRA**, spring-shed management.
Context	The **Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA)** has begun restoring **54 traditional water sources** after a state-level technical workshop in **Dehradun** on **23 September**, attended by engineers from all **13 districts**.
Key Facts	● Restoration uses **cement-free stone masonry** and **corbelling** — 'zero-cement' engineering that resists **seismic** damage. ● Teams trained in **geo-tagging**, **GIS mapping** and **contour trenches** in **recharge zones**. ● Work will run with **village panchayats**, linking water heritage (**'Jal Mandir'** architecture) with modern hydrogeology.
Way Fwd	Map every spring-shed, shield **recharge zones** from construction and give **van panchayats** a maintenance role.
Concept	A **naula** is a stepped stone reservoir that collects groundwater seepage; a **dhara** is a spout-fed spring. A **NITI Aayog (2018)** study found that nearly **half of Himalayan springs** are drying or declining.

Rajya Sabha Poll for One Uttarakhand Seat on 16 October

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Indian Polity** — Parliament; Prelims pointers: **Article 80**, indirect election, Uttarakhand's **3 Rajya Sabha** and **5 Lok Sabha** seats.
Context	The Election Commission has notified biennial polls for **11 Rajya Sabha seats** — **10** from **Uttar Pradesh** and **1** from **Uttarakhand** — as the term of **Naresh Bansal** ends in **November 2026**. The ruling party's state core group has begun shortlisting names.
Key Facts	● Notification **29 September**; last date for nominations **6 October**; scrutiny **7 October**; withdrawal **9 October**. ● Polling and counting on **16 October**; electors are the **70 elected MLAs** of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly. ● A by-election for **1 West Bengal** seat will be held alongside.
Way Fwd	Timely polls ensure **continuity of representation**; the **open-ballot** rule for party MLAs curbs cross-voting.
Concept	Rajya Sabha members are chosen by elected MLAs through **proportional representation by single transferable vote** (**Art. 80(4)**); the House is **permanent**, with **one-third** members retiring every **2 years** (term **6 years**).

Garhwal Rifles Leads India at KAZIND-2026; Yudh Abhyas Concludes at Auli

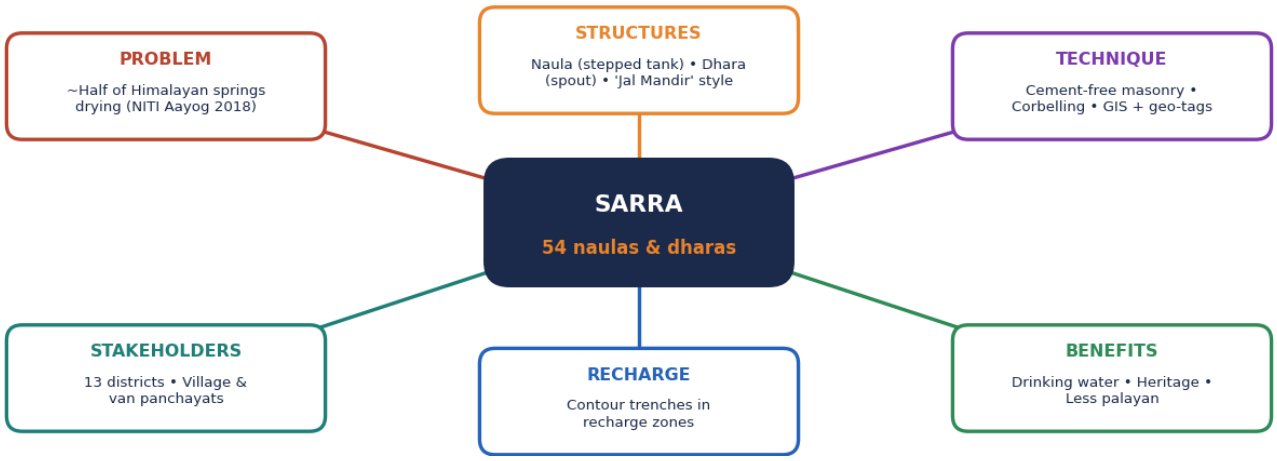
UTTARAKHAND **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (International Relations & Defence)**

Syllabus Linkage	**IR and defence** with an Uttarakhand link; Prelims pointers: exercise–country pairs, regimental centres.
Context	The **9th edition** of the India–Kazakhstan exercise **KAZIND** began at **Oskemen (Ust-Kamenogorsk)** on **28 September**, with the Indian contingent drawn from a **Garhwal Rifles** battalion. The same day, the **22nd India–US Yudh Abhyas** ended at **Auli** and **Mahajan Field Firing Range**.
Key Facts	● KAZIND: **28 September – 11 October**; **60** Indian personnel; focus on **counter-terrorism** in semi-urban and mountainous terrain. ● Drills include **air mobility**, **UAS/counter-UAS**, raids, cordon-and-search and a **Joint Command Post**. ● **Yudh Abhyas 2026** (22nd edition) was hosted at **Auli (Chamoli)** — high-altitude training with the US Army.
Way Fwd	Develop Uttarakhand's high-altitude ranges as a hub for **mountain-warfare diplomacy** with partner armies.
Concept	**Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre** — **Lansdowne** (Pauri Garhwal); **Kumaon Regiment Centre** — **Ranikhet** (Almora). KAZIND supports India's **Connect Central Asia** policy.

Pantnagar to Host 120th All India Kisan Mela from 3 October

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

Syllabus Linkage	**Agriculture of Uttarakhand**; Prelims pointers: **GBPUAT Pantnagar**, Green Revolution, hill farming.
Context	The **120th All India Kisan Mela & Agri-Industrial Exhibition** will be held at **G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar (Udham Singh Nagar)** on **3–6 October 2026**, showcasing **smart farming**, **agri-drones** and livestock care.
Key Facts	● The fair is held **twice a year**; the **119th** edition was held on **13–16 March 2026**. ● Focus on **drone spraying**, precision farming, improved **seed** varieties and **animal husbandry** for plains and hill farmers. ● Stalls from agri-industries, state departments and **KVKs**, with direct seed sale to farmers.
Way Fwd	Take demos to **hill clusters** (millets such as **mandua** and **jhangora**) to curb farm abandonment and **palayan**.
Concept	**GBPUAT** (est. **1960**) is **India's first agricultural university**, built on the US **land-grant model**, and is hailed as a **harbinger of the Green Revolution**.



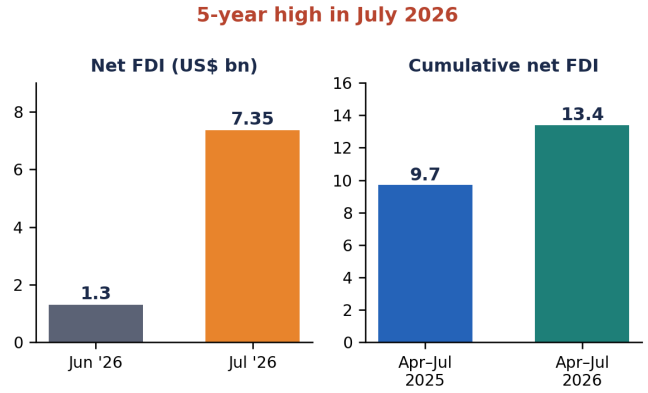
SECTION B — DATA POINT OF THE DAY

India's net FDI inflow — July 2026

US$ 7.35 billion

5-year high — the highest since **May 2021 (US$ 8.80 bn)** and up **64%** year-on-year. Gross inflows were **US$ 14.58 bn**; **April–July 2026** net FDI stood at **US$ 13.4 bn** against **US$ 9.7 bn** a year ago. **Mauritius, UAE and US** supplied about **70%** of equity inflows.

Concept: Net FDI = gross inflows − repatriation/disinvestment − **outward FDI** by Indian firms.

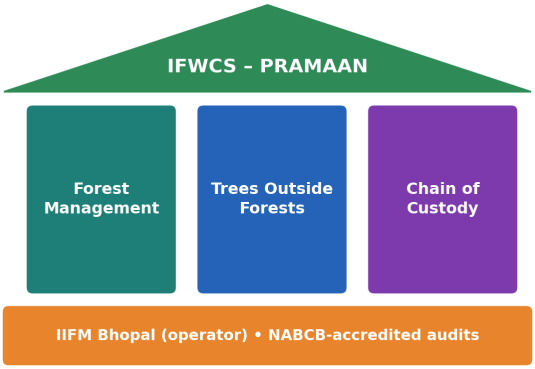


SECTION C — NATIONAL & WORLD environment • economy • defence • society

India Issues First PRAMAAN Certificates for Sustainable Forestry

ENVIRONMENT UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Environment)

Syllabus Linkage	**Environment and ecology**; Prelims pointers: **IFWCS**, **IIFM Bhopal**, **EUDR**, chain of custody.
Context	Union Environment Minister **Bhupender Yadav** handed over India's first certificates under the **Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme (IFWCS)**, branded **PRAMAAN**, on **29 September** to the **Andhra Pradesh Forest Development Corporation** and a **bamboo farmer from Odisha**.
Key Facts	● APFDC plantations covering **33,000 hectares** certified for sustainable management. ● IFWCS was launched by **MoEFCC** in **December 2023**; operating agency: **IIFM, Bhopal**. ● Third-party audits by **NABCB-accredited** bodies; standards cover **forest management**, **trees outside forests** and **chain of custody**. ● Helps exporters comply with the **EU Deforestation Regulation (EUDR)**.
Way Fwd	Uttarakhand (forest cover about **45%**) can certify **van panchayat** and farm-forestry timber for premium markets.
Concept	**Forest certification** verifies that wood comes from legally and sustainably managed sources; IFWCS standards align with the **National Working Plan Code, 2023**.



Sagarmala Finance Launches India's First Blue Bond

ECONOMY UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Geography & Economy of India)

Syllabus Linkage	**Indian economy** — sustainable finance; Prelims pointers: **blue vs green bonds**, **Sagarmala**.
Context	**Sagarmala Finance Corporation Ltd (SMFCL)**, the maritime-sector NBFC under the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**, opened India's **first blue bond** issue on **28 September**.
Key Facts	● Size **₹600 crore**, including a **₹500 crore green-shoe** option; tenor **10 years**. ● Rated **AA+** by **ICRA** and **CARE**. ● Proceeds for **maritime lending**, **greenfield ports** and **coastal road** networks, to be used within **FY 2026-27**.
Way Fwd	Build a **blue taxonomy** and impact reporting so ocean projects attract long-term ESG capital.

Concept	A **blue bond** is debt that finances **ocean and marine** projects; **Seychelles** issued the world's first sovereign blue bond in **2018**. India's first **sovereign green bonds** came in **January 2023**.

Pashudhan Bima Portal Launched for Digital Livestock Insurance

ECONOMY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Economy — Agriculture & Allied)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Agriculture and allied sectors** — animal husbandry; Prelims pointers: **National Livestock Mission**.
Context	Union Minister **Rajiv Ranjan Singh** launched the **Pashudhan Bima Portal** in **New Delhi**, a digital platform for **livestock insurance** under the **National Livestock Mission (NLM)**.
Key Facts	● End-to-end online enrolment, premium payment and **claims** tracking. ● Available in **11 regional languages** plus **Hindi** and **English**. ● Aims to cut paperwork and speed up settlement for **small and marginal** livestock keepers.
Way Fwd	Uttarakhand should onboard hill herders via **CSCs** and link **Pashu Aadhaar** ear-tag IDs to claims.
Concept	The **NLM** (2014-15, revamped in 2021-22) covers breed development, **feed and fodder** and **risk management**, including livestock insurance with a **premium subsidy**.

HAL Signs ₹2,491-Crore MoU with SkyPulse for 30 Civil Helicopters

DEFENCE **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Science-Tech & Defence)**

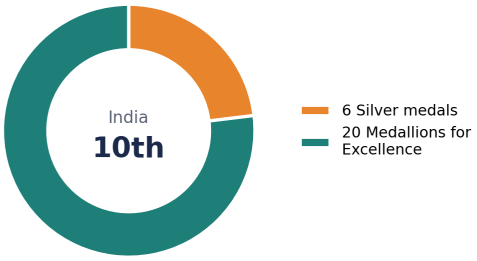
Syllabus Linkage	**Science-tech and defence production**; Prelims pointers: **HAL**, **UDAN**, **HEMS**.
Context	**Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd (HAL)** signed an MoU with **SkyPulse** for **30 single- and twin-engine helicopters** worth **₹2,491 crore**, to be inducted from **FY 2027-28**.
Key Facts	● **Phase 1 (2027–29): 10** helicopters; **Phase 2 (2030 onwards): 20**. ● Uses: **HEMS** (air ambulance), **disaster response**, **search and rescue**, tourism, **UDAN** routes and charters. ● Package includes **MRO**, training and spares support.
Way Fwd	Hill states such as Uttarakhand can pair such fleets with heliports for **Char Dham** and **golden-hour** medical evacuation.
Concept	**HAL** (Bengaluru, founded **1940**) is a **Maharatna** defence PSU. **UDAN** (**2016**) is the **Regional Connectivity Scheme** for affordable flying.

India Ranks 10th at WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 with 6 Silver Medals

SOCIETY **UKPSC: Prelims + Mains (Social Justice & Human Resource Development)**

Syllabus Linkage	**Human resource development**; Prelims pointers: **WorldSkills**, **Skill India**.
Context	At the **48th WorldSkills Competition** in **Shanghai (22–27 September)**, India fielded its **largest-ever** team of **70 competitors** in **63 skills** and finished **10th**; host **China** topped the table.
Key Facts	● **6 silver medals** and **20 Medallions for Excellence**. ● Silvers in **Bakery** (Smriti Nambiar — **Best of Nation**), **Dental Prosthetics**, **Digital Interactive Media Design**, **Industrial Design Technology**, **Logistics** and **Retail Sales**. ● Over **1,400** competitors from about **70 countries**; next edition in **Aichi, Japan (2028)**.
Way Fwd	Scale **ITI–industry** training and state skill contests (including Uttarakhand) to turn medals into jobs.
Concept	**WorldSkills International** holds the 'Skills Olympics' every **2 years**; India's participation is steered by **MSDE** through **NSDC**.

WorldSkills Shanghai 2026 — 26 awards



HAL – SkyPulse Civil Helicopter MoU



SECTION D — PRELIMS RAPID-FIRE

1. **Hemkund Sahib** portals close for winter on **10 October** after fresh snowfall.	**2.** **Dehradun** logged a September night low of **18.4°C**, the coldest such night in about **14 years**.
3. **Bharat Renewable Energy Summit 2026**: **2–5 November** at **Bharat Mandapam**, New Delhi.	**4.** **Tarang Shakti 2026** (2nd edition) multinational air exercise at **AFS Jodhpur** until **12 October**.
5. **Exercise Varuna** (**24th** edition, India–France navies) under way at **Toulon**.	**6.** **30 September** — **International Translation Day** (feast of **St. Jerome**).

SECTION E — PRACTICE CORNER

Q1. Consider the following pairs (Shrine — District): 1. Gangotri — Uttarkashi; 2. Kedarnath — Chamoli; 3. Badrinath — Chamoli; 4. Yamunotri — Tehri Garhwal. Which of the pairs given above are correctly matched?
(a) 1 and 3 only (b) 1, 2 and 3 only (c) 2 and 4 only (d) 1, 2, 3 and 4
Answer: (a) — **Kedarnath** is in **Rudraprayag** and **Yamunotri** in **Uttarkashi**; Gangotri (Uttarkashi) and Badrinath (Chamoli) are correctly matched.

Q2. With reference to PRAMAAN certification, consider the following statements: 1. It is issued under the Indian Forest and Wood Certification Scheme. 2. The Indian Institute of Forest Management, Bhopal, is its operating agency. 3. It relies on self-declaration by growers without any third-party audit. Which of the statements given above are correct?
(a) 1 only (b) 1 and 2 only (c) 2 and 3 only (d) 1, 2 and 3
Answer: (b) — PRAMAAN uses **independent third-party audits** by **NABCB-accredited** bodies, so statement 3 is wrong; statements 1 and 2 are correct.

MAINS PRACTICE
Record pilgrim footfall and growing high-altitude trekking are raising disaster exposure in Uttarakhand's upper Himalaya. Discuss the challenges and suggest a risk-management framework. (125 words, 8 marks)

Hint: Intro: **180 trekkers** and **1,500 pilgrims** stranded (**Sept 2026**). Body: fragile geology, erratic weather, **carrying capacity**, weak tracking, last-mile rescue gaps. Framework: registration with **GPS**, **IMD nowcasts**, pre-positioned **SDRF/ITBP**, **heli-ambulances**, footfall caps in line with the **Sendai Framework**. Conclude with safe, sustainable tourism.

Revise: **180 trekkers / 1,500 pilgrims** rescued • Char Dham **53.23 lakh** • **SARRA – 54 naulas** • RS poll **16 Oct** • **KAZIND – Garhwal Rifles** • Net FDI **US$ 7.35 bn** • **PRAMAAN – IIFM** • First blue bond **– SMFCL**.

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