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Mass Hysteria

Why in News

Recently, there was an incident of some children crying, screaming, rolling on the ground, banging their heads and falling unconscious without any reason from a school in Uttarakhand, which is believed to be a case of 'mass hysteria'.

Key Points

- According to sources, this incident is from Raikholi Junior High School in Bageshwar district of Uttarakhand, in which the crying, insensible girls are said to be of class 8th. This problem was found in a total of 8 children. Among them there were 6 girls and 2 boys.
- Bageshwar Deputy CMO Harish Pokhriyal said that after talking to the children, it was found that they were already nervous and had come to school empty stomach. He said whether this is a case of mass hysteria or not? It will be clear only after thorough investigation. However, according to media reports, cases of such 'mass hysteria' in Uttarakhand have already been seen in schools in Almora, Pithoragarh, Chamoli districts.
- All instances of 'mass hysteria' have been recorded of people suddenly screaming, crying and fainting. In the year 2018, a 9-year-old girl started crying and screaming at a school in Puthan district of Nepal, after seeing 47 children were found crying and screaming in the school. In the same school in the year 2017 and in the year 2016 as well, many children had similar behaviour or symptoms on the same day. This was considered a unique case of repeating 'mass hysteria'.
- Apart from this, the rumor of Monkeyman also took the form of mass hysteria in India's capital Delhi in May 2001. People had stopped leaving the house after sunset. Many people claimed that they were attacked by Monkeyman. Three people were killed, who fell from the roof while running out of fear. Nails and teeth marks were found on people's bodies. After investigating the whole matter, the police had told the monkeyman to be just a rumour. Later studies made it clear that this was 'mass hysteria'.
- According to a report by Healthline, most of the cases of 'mass hysteria' have been seen and heard, some incident has been seen to happen. Like the behavior, actions, or symptoms that people see or hear in others, they often start to do or feel the same themselves.

- Some experts also use the term 'mass hysteria' for a situation that is not a real threat, but is a fear in a group of people about that danger.
- Behind 'mass hysteria' there are things like rumours, actions, thoughts, fears or dangers. Its symptoms are real, even if there is no real danger or health problem behind it. Symptoms of mass hysteria start and end suddenly. Symptoms include chest pain, lethargy, headache, fainting, tremors, partial paralysis, laughing or crying. Even after investigation, the reason for the symptoms or movements seen in it is not known.

Green Signal for Construction of Two Roads Adjacent to China Border

Why In News?

On August 1, 2022, the Chief Wildlife Conservator of Uttarakhand, Dr. Sinha said, the National Board of Wildlife has given permission for transfer of forest land for construction of two border roads of Uttarkashi district along the international border with China.

Key Points

- The meeting of the National Board for Wildlife held at Chandrapur in Maharashtra was 28 km. The proposal to transfer 62.05 hectares of forest land to the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) for these two long roads was given the green signal. Now soon the construction of these roads of strategic importance will start.
- Proposals for ropeway for Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib were also placed in the meeting of National Wildlife Board. Some information was incomplete in the proposals related to these two ropeways. In view of this, these could not be discussed and the board postponed them for the next meeting.
- It is worth mentioning that in the meeting of Uttarakhand State Wildlife Board in the year 2020, 30.29 hectare for two roads falling under Gangotri National Park-Sumla to Thangla (11 km) and Mandi to Sangchokla (17 km) in Uttarkashi district respectively. And the proposal for transfer of 31.26 hectares of forest land was approved. It was sent to the National Board for Wildlife for approval.

Note:



Kisan Protsahan Yojana

Why In News?

Recently, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the launch of 'Kisan Protsahan Yojana (KPY)' in Uttarakhand on the lines of 'Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana' of the Government of India.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister made the announcement during a programme organized by the Department of Cooperation. Though the chief minister did not give the full details of KPY, he said one of the main priorities of the government is to double the income of the farmers.
- It is worth noting that the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, implemented from February 24, 2019, is one of the important schemes of the Government of India. Under this, the government provides financial assistance to small and marginal farmers who have less than 2 hectares (4.9 acres) of land.
- Under this scheme, an amount of Rs.6,000/- per annum (Rs.2,000/- in three months) is provided to all the farmers as minimum income support.
- At the event, the Chief Minister inaugurated the computerization of 108 Multipurpose Primary Agricultural Credit Committees (M PACS) and launched the Charba unit to prepare Total Mix Ration (TMRs) for cattle.
- Speaking on the occasion, Cooperation Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the process of collection and digitization of data of 13 lakh members has been done by the Department of Cooperation. He claimed that Uttarakhand has become the first state to make 108 MPACS online.
- He said the department of cooperation has disbursed over Rs 3700 crore as interest-free loans to 6.41 lakh beneficiaries. The Non-Performing Assets (NPAs) of the co-operative banks have come down and they have now come to profit.
- He said that more than three lakh women have benefited from the ambitious 'Mukhya Mantri Ghasyari Kalyan Yojana (MGKY)'. MGKY will be extended to all hill districts of the state from August 15.

First-time Export of Mangoes, Honey, Rajma from Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On August 5, 2022, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off vehicles loaded with local mango, honey and rajma being sent for the first time for export to the international market through APEDA from the Chief Minister's Camp Office.

Key Points

- A consignment of 1.5 tonnes of mango, 28 tonnes of kidney beans and 80 tonnes of honey produced in the state through Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA) was sent for the international market.
- For the first time from the state, high quality fruits of chaunsa and lame varieties of mango produced by the cultivators of the state are being exported to Dubai.
- High quality honey produced by farmer producer organizations is being exported to the United States of America. Promoting the export of kidney beans, high quality kidney beans produced by the farmers of the state are also being exported to the United States.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister expressed hope that in the coming times there would be a qualitative increase in the international market of local products of Uttarakhand. He said that special attention is being paid to branding, packaging and marketing of the products to provide good market to the producers.
- Dhami said that in order to increase the livelihood of the farmers in the state and to make all the arrangements more effective, an agricultural calendar has also been prepared. Kisan Protsahan Yojana will soon be brought in the state.

1202 Mobile Towers Approved in Uttarakhand

Why In News?

Recently, the Union Ministry of Communications has approved 1202 BSNL mobile towers to expand mobile connectivity in Uttarakhand. The central government will spend Rs. 1 crore on a mobile tower.

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Key Points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, who visited New Delhi on August 6, had put forward the proposal to Union Communications Minister Ashwani Vaishnav at a courtesy call, which was approved by the Union minister.
- The Chief Minister has submitted to the Union Minister a list of all the places where mobile towers need to be installed. The Chief Minister said that due to lack of mobile connectivity, the people of these areas are facing many problems.
- The border districts of Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi will benefit the most from the installation of mobile towers. Apart from these districts, the problem of connectivity will also be solved in other hill districts of the state and rural areas of plain districts.
- According to the proposal, 28 in Almora, 97 in Bageshwar, 123 in Chamoli, 103 in Champawat, 56 in Dehradun, 196 in Pauri, 06 in Haridwar, 60 in Nainital, 245 in Pithoragarh, 20 in Rudraprayag, 114 in Tehri, 05 in US Nagar, 149 in Uttarkashi Mobile towers will be installed.

12 Jyotirlingas of the Country will be Connected with Jyotirling Circuit

Why In News?

On August 6, 2022, Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj in Haridwar informed that preparations are being made by the Tourism Department to build a Jyotirlinga circuit in the state. Through this circuit, devotees will be able to visit all the 12 Jyotirlingas of the country.

Key Points

- The Tourism Minister said that in a short period, devotees will be able to see all the 12 Jyotirlingas of the country through the Jyotirlinga Circuit through charter planes. For this, the benefits of those airports will be taken at the places where there are airports. At the same time, helicopters will also be used in many places.
- The Tourism Minister said that along with the Jyotirlinga circuit, the Nath sect circuit will be made in the state and it will be connected to Gorakhpur. For this, the state government will soon sign an MoU with Uttar Pradesh.

- The Tourism Minister said that there has been a lot of publicity of the Nath sect in the mountains. There are many caves of Guru Gorakhnath here. His connection with Gorakhpur will be established by forming the Nath Circuit.
- In the states where there are Jyotirlingas, the talk of making Jyotirling circuits has also started. This circuit will start from Kedarnath and will be connected to the places where Jyotirlingas are located.

Tilu Rauteli Award

Why In News?

On August 8, 2022, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (SEN) honored 12 women and adolescent girls of the state with the Tilu Rauteli Award, along with the State Level Anganwadi Workers Award to 35 women.

Key Points

- This award is given every year by the Government of Uttarakhand in the name of Veerbala Tilu Rauteli to women who have done remarkable work in various fields.
- It is worth mentioning that the state government had started tilu Rauteli award for women and adolescent girls who have done remarkable work in the field of women empowerment since 2006 on the birth anniversary of Uttarakhand's heroine Tilu Rauteli.
- Under this, the state government gives 31 thousand rupees and citation. Last year, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced to increase the prize money from Rs 31,000 to Rs 51,000, but this time too the prize money has been given only 31 thousand.
- Recently, the maximum number of awards has been fixed by the Women Empowerment and Child Development Department by changing the order. A maximum of 13 women will now get tilu Rauteli award every year in the state. One woman from each district will be selected for this. At the same time, 35 anganwadi workers will also be honored.

Women and adolescent girls honoured with Tilu Rauteli Award in various fields

- **Literary Field** - Dr. Shashi Joshi (District- Almora),
- **Sports** - Deepa Arya (District- Bageshwar), Prema Nautiyal (District- Udham Singh Nagar), Priyanka Prajapati (District- Haridwar),

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- **Social Sector** - Meena Tiwari (District- Chamoli), Lata Nautiyal (District- Uttarkashi)
- **Girl Education and Social Work** - Manju Bala (District- Champawat),
- **Journalism** - Nalini Gosai (District- Dehradun),
- **Education and Sanitation** - Vidya Martolia (District- Nainital),
- **Untamed adventure** - Savitri Devi (District- Pauri),
- **Women Self Help** - Durga Kharayat (District- Pithoragarh),
- **Livelihood Enhancement** - Geeta Rawat (District- Rudraprayag),

The women honored with Anganwadi Workers Award are Sunita Kohli, Kusum Bisht, Janki and Kamala Negi (District- Almora), Hema Sati (District- Bageshwar), Bhaga Devi, Shobha and Abhilasha Devi (District- Chamoli), Anita Rawat (District- Champawat), Archana Rana, Saroj Suyal and Kirtana Sharma (District- Dehradun), Seema Rani, Kamlesh Dhiman, Rachna and Umesh Kumari (District- Haridwar), Jyoti Rawat, Anju Sagar and Geeta Nayal (District- Nainital), Anita Devi, Asha Devi, Meena Devi, Hemlata Bisht and Ginni Dangwal, (District- Pauri), Deepa Pandey and Jyoti Tamta (District- Pithoragarh), Ranjana Awasthi (District- Rudraprayag), Mangala Thapliyal, Uma Bhatt and Savita Semwal, (District- Tehri), Snehlata Malik, Rachna Rani and Meera Devi (District- Udham Singh Nagar), Sumitra and Lakshmi Nautiyal (District- Uttarkashi).

Botanists Developed Six Species of Neem

Why in News?

On August 9, 2022, Dr. Ashok Kumar, senior botanist of Forest Research Institute told that botanists have developed six new species of neem. With this, the economic condition of the farmers will be strengthened along with producing more and more neem in all the states including Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- Dr. Ashok Kumar said that in view of the huge demand for neem and neem oil in many countries of the world including India, six new species of neem have been developed. The new species are much better than the usual ones. The new species developed will lead to higher production of nibouli and oil.

- The new species will produce 18 percent more oil than the normal neem plant. As a result, the demand for oil will be met to a large extent.
- According to the scientists of the institute, the new species will start bearing fruit three years earlier than the normal neem. Common neem plants produce fruits in six years. The amount of oil that will be produced from one kilogram of fruits coming out of the common neem plant, the same amount of oil can be made from only 300 grams of seeds from the new species of neem.
- The amount of Aazadarectin content was found to be much higher than normal in all species. In common neem seeds, where the amount of azadarectin is 1000 ppm, it has been found to be ten thousand ppm in the new species.
- According to the botanists of the institute, at present, only 35 lakh tonnes of nibouli and seven lakh tonnes of oil are being produced in the country, which is very less in line with the demand.
- Neem oil is being used extensively in the production of urea in the country, along with making antiseptic, antifungal, anti-viral and antibacterial medicines, as well as in making cosmetic items.
- Apart from India, the species of Neem is found in countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Nepal, Myanmar, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Thailand and has now reached the continent of Africa, Australia, America.
- In view of the huge demand for neem seeds and oil all over the world including India, neem is being cultivated in several crore hectares in countries like China. Large-scale research is also being done about neem in countries like America, European countries as well as China.
- Neem is one such tree, which is also mentioned in the Vedas. Neem tree is mentioned in the Vedas as a cure for all diseases. It is considered a divine tree in the Vedas.

Ambulances for Animals in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On August 9, 2022, Uttarakhand Animal Husbandry and Milk Development Minister Saurabh Bahuguna informed that for the first time, veterinary ambulances

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would be started for the treatment of animals on the lines of 108 ambulances running for human in the state.

Key Points

- Minister Saurabh Bahuguna informed that the state government is going to provide treatment of sick animals at home to the cattle owners for the first time in order to create new employment opportunities in the animal husbandry business and to solve the problems of the cattle rearers.
- For this, the government has started the process to buy 60 veterinary ambulances in the first phase. By calling on the toll free number, the farmers will get ambulance service to get the sick animal treated at home.
- Agriculture and animal husbandry are the main means of livelihood of the people in the state. 8.5 lakh farmer families are involved in animal husbandry, whose livelihood comes from rearing large animals (cow and buffalo). There are about 27 lakh big animals in the state. Apart from this two lakh families are doing business of small cattle (sheep, goat, pig, horse, mule).
- Till now there is no facility of door-to-door treatment of sick animals in the state. The farmers have to take the sick animal to the veterinary hospital or animal service center for treatment, due to which the farmers have to face a lot of problems. Due to not getting timely treatment of sick animals in inaccessible areas, livestock owners have to suffer financial loss.
- It is worth noting that at present 323 veterinary hospitals are operating for the treatment of animals. Apart from this, there are 770 Animal Service Centres, 682 Artificial Insemination Centres, four Animal Breeding Farms.

Uttarakhand to Implement New Tourism Policy

Why in News?

On August 10, 2022, Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that the government would soon implement a new policy to promote investment in the tourism sector in the state. For this, a draft of a new tourism policy is being prepared by the department.

Key Points

- Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that soon the policy will be finalized and placed in the cabinet for approval after passing it from the Tourism Development

Council. In this policy, the government will give more investment incentives to the investors than MSMEs. This will also give a boost to winter tourism activities in the state in the coming times.

- In the new policy, on the lines of tourism policy of Uttar Pradesh, Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, there will be a provision to give more incentive to the investors in Uttarakhand. Through which investment will be encouraged by the government in infrastructure development for five star hotels, restaurants, adventure tourism.
- So far, on the lines of MSME industries, the government is giving investment incentives of one to 1.5 crores to tourism industries, whereas investors are showing less interest in Uttarakhand due to more incentives to tourism industries in other states due to which the government is going to attract investors by increasing the incentive amount in the new policy.
- In the new tourism policy, the investment incentive amount can be increased from 1.5 crore to two crore. Apart from this, provision will be made for increasing inter subsidy from 15 to 30 percent, exemption in SGST for up to five years, additional grant money for construction of buildings based on local architecture.
- Women entrepreneurs in the tourism sector can get separate incentives. Incentives will be given to those investing in adventure tourism like bungee jumping, paragliding, camping etc.
- Provision will be made to provide additional relief to investors for sewerage system, solar energy in hotel business.
- The state government has received 1116 investment proposals in the tourism sector, with an investment of about Rs 5122 crore. This is likely to provide employment to more than 19 thousand people.
- The government believes that with the formation of the new policy, investment in the tourism sector in the state will accelerate. This will provide employment opportunities to the local people. Along with this, the revenue of the government from the service sector will also increase.
- It is noteworthy that tourism policy was implemented in Uttarakhand in 2019 by giving industry status to tourism. In which incentives were also arranged for tourism industries under MSME, Mega Industrial Policy.
- On the lines of manufacturing industry, tourism industries will get 10 percent or maximum 1.5 crore rupees in hilly areas, 10 percent or maximum one

Note:

crore rupees in plain areas, one rupee per unit in electricity bills. Reimbursement and exemption of electricity duty for five years is given.

Government to Re-create Workers' Board in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On August 10, 2022, Uttarakhand Labor Secretary R. Meenakshi Sundaram informed that the state government is preparing to re-constitute the Uttarakhand Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board.

Key Points

- The Labor Secretary said that due to the dissolution of the Workers' Board, new welfare schemes are not being started for the workers. Since, the decision on these is taken by the board itself, so the government is preparing for the formation of the board again.
- At present, the workers are getting the benefits of old schemes in the board, but no new scheme is being made for their welfare. After the formation of the board again, about 4.5 lakh workers will start getting new gifts.
- It is worth mentioning that in the year 2017, Labor Minister Dr. Harak Singh Rawat was looking after the responsibility of the chairman of the board. On the instructions of the then Chief Minister Trivendra Singh Rawat, in October 2020, the government removed Harak Singh Rawat from the post of chairman and formed a new board under the chairmanship of Shamsher Singh Satyal.
- Satyal was removed by the current Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, re-dissolving the board on September 30, 2021. Since then the Board is being operated with the Labor Secretary as the ex-officio Chairman.

The Friendly Bacteria of The River Ganges are being Extinct

Why in News?

Recently, research by scientists of the Wildlife Institute of India has revealed that the friendly bacteria (micro invertebrates) that make the water of the

Alaknanda and Bhagirathi (the tributaries of the Ganges) healthful are rapidly becoming extinct due to pollution.

Key Points

- Under the supervision of senior scientist Dr. VP Uniyal, Dr. Nikhil Singh and others examined the friendly bacteria (micro invertebrates) at different places in both the rivers. Under the 'National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)', the scientists conducted studies in the Alaknanda river from Mana (Badrinath) to Devprayag and in the Bhagirathi river from Gomukh to Devprayag.
- Research by scientists has shown that in Bhagirathi river from Gomukh to Devprayag, either friendly bacteria are completely missing or their number is very less. The same situation has been found in the Alaknanda river from Mana to Devprayag. The low occurrence of micro invertebrates in both the rivers indicates that the water quality is not good here.
- The friendly bacteria in both the rivers were studied on the parameters of Ephemeroptera, Plecoptera, Trichoptera (EPT). If the EPT index is found to be 20 percent in the water of a river, then it proves that the water quality is fine. If the EPT index is more than 30%, it means that the water quality is very good. However, at many places in both the rivers, the index of EPT has been found to be less than 15 per cent, which is a worrying aspect.
- In the research done by hydrologists in the past, it has come to the fore that a bacteria called Batriaphos is found in the Ganges water, which keeps on eating the undesirable substances produced by chemical reactions inside the Ganges water. This maintains the purity of Gangajal.
- According to scientists, due to the presence of a lot of sulfur in Gangajal, its purity remains and Gangajal does not get spoiled for a long time.
- Scientific research has also revealed that other rivers of the country are able to clean themselves after a flow of fifteen to twenty km and the dirt found in the rivers gets deposited in the foothills of the rivers, but the Ganges cleans itself in the flow of only one km.
- Along with the all-weather road, the debris of the massive development works being carried out on the banks of the rivers is being dumped directly into the rivers. The dirty water coming out of the houses of the cities situated on the banks of the rivers is being discharged into the rivers without treatment.

Note:

- According to scientists, Ganga water has a very high capacity to absorb oxygen from the atmosphere as compared to the water of other rivers. Compared to other rivers, the capacity of digesting dirt in the Ganges is found to be 20 times more.
- It is noteworthy that 140 species of fish including dolphins, 35 species of reptiles and 42 species of mammals are found in the Ganges River. The Bhagirathi, Alaknanda, Mahakali, Karnali, Kosi, Gandak, Sarayu, Yamuna, Son and Mahananda are the main tributaries of the Ganges.

In Devidhura, Bagwal Full of Adventures Played with Fruits and Flowers

Why in News?

On August 12, 2022, in Champawat district of Uttarakhand, the world famous Bagwal fair with fruits and flowers was organized at Kholikhand Dubachaud ground of Devidhura, Dham of Mother Varahi. The warriors of Charkham (Chamyal, Gahadwal, Lamgadiya, Walig) and seven Thok joined the Bagwal.

Key Points

- The famous Bagwal fair, which is held on the day of Rakshabandhan, is also called 'Pathar Maar' fair at 'Maa Varahi Temple' in the famous Devidhura of Champawat district. Lakhs of devotees from all over the country and abroad reach Devidhura to see this fair.
- It is believed that this game of Bagwal in Devidhura has been going on since mythological times. Some consider it to be a traditional festival from the Katyur regime, while others associate it with Kali Kumaon.
- According to popular beliefs, in the mythological period, there was a custom of offering male sacrifices by the people of Char Kham to celebrate their Aaradhya Varahi Devi. To please Mother Varahi, a male sacrifice was performed every year from the people of the four Khams. It is said that one year it was the turn of the male sacrifice of the family of an old lady of Chamiyal Kham. Only the old lady and her grandson were alive in the family. The woman praised Mother Varahi for protecting her grandson. Mother Varahi gave darshan to the old lady and gave instructions to play bugwal between the four holes in the temple premises, since then the practice of bagging started.

- Bagwal fair is held every year on the day of Ashadhi Kauthik (Rakshabandhan) in Kholikhand Dubachaud of Maa Varahi Dham temple in Devidhura of Pati block of Champawat district. Starting from stone, this Bagwal fair is being played with flowers and flowers for the past few years. In addition to the four Khams (Chamyal, Gaharwal, Lamgadiya and Walig) warriors of seven thoks take part in the Bagwal fair, which is held in the presence of lakhs of people.
- Bagwal Varahi is played in the courtyard of the temple, Kholikhand. It is played by young men and elders of all four circles. Lamgadia and Walig Kham's Ranbankures stand on one side, while Gahadwal and Chamyal Kham's Ranbankures stand on the other side.
- It is noteworthy that on July 11, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama had declared the famous Devidhura 'Maa Varahi Bagwal Fair' of Champawat as a state fair.

Chief Minister confers Chief Minister's Meritorious Service Medal to Police Officers

Why in News?

On August 15, 2022, on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Independence, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama awarded Chief Minister Meritorious Service Medal for distinguished work to police officers and employees.

Key Points

- Presented Chief Minister Meritorious Service Medal to Deputy Inspector General of Police Senthil Abudai Krishnaraj S, Sub-Inspector Rekha Danu, Kripal Singh and Chief Constable Ved Prakash Bhatt.
- The Chief Minister also presented the Chief Minister Meritorious Service Medal to the team of STF investigating the rigging of UKSSSC examination under the leadership of Senior Superintendent of Police Ajay Singh, in line with the zero tolerance policy on corruption.
- Senior Superintendent of Police STF Ajay Singh, Sub-Inspector Dilwar Singh, Narottam Bisht, Umesh Kumar and Vipin Bahuguna were awarded Chief Minister Meritorious Service Medal.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister honored the families of freedom fighters and also visited the photo exhibition.

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Gallantry Awards to 13 Brave Women and 12 Army Officers

Why in News?

On August 13, 2022, in a ceremony organized by the Uttarakhand Sub Area Headquarters, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh (Sen.) honored 13 Veer Naris and 12 ex-servicemen and military officers/present Army officers by presenting gallantry awards.

Key Points

- During this, the Governor also visited the exhibition put up by the students and interacted with the soldiers, students, kin of the sacrificed soldiers and ex-servicemen.
- The Governor said that the dedication of the brave women towards nation building can never be forgotten. He said that it is a matter of great fortune that this program is being held at such a place, from where the country got a hero like Somnath Sharma, the first person to get Param Veer Chakra.
- The Governor suggested to the officers of the Sub Area Headquarters that like the Uttarakhand Sainik Welfare Board, they can also prepare a database by collecting the information of ex-servicemen, veterans and relatives of the sacrificers. Various welfare schemes are being run by the Uttarakhand government for the soldiers and brave women of the state.
- Gallantry awards were awarded to Sunita Bisht, Shanti Devi, Chitra Devi, Lakshmi Tomar, Rampyari, Urmila Devi, Anju Devi, Parvati Devi, Vimala Devi, Lata Devi, Sujata Thapa, Kiran, Anita Devi as Veer Naris.
- Ex-servicemen and military officers Pramod Chandra Bhardwaj, Major General Shamsher Singh, Commodore AK Sinha, Honorary Captain Khusing Gurung, Dal Bahadur Limbu, Devi Prasad, Subedar Bagh Singh and Subedar Major Veer Bahadur Pun (the honor was received by his son-in-law Lal Bahadur) were awarded gallantry award.

Uttarakhand's Longest Ropeway

Why In News?

On August 16, 2022, Project Manager of Rail Vikas Nigam K. Omprakash Malgudi informed that Rail Vikas Nigam, engaged in the construction of Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project, has covered 50 km. A long tunnel

has been prepared. Total 125 km. 105 km of long track. The part will be inside the tunnels.

Key Points

- 13 kms to Kedarnath. National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) has been entrusted with the responsibility of construction of the long ropeway to a company under the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.
- He said that the site-specific spectrum study has been prepared by the experts of IIT Roorkee to deal with any disaster like earthquake, flood and fire. It has been tested by reputed experts from abroad.
- For the construction of the ropeway, 11 hectares of land has been acquired from Sonprayag to Kedarnath. The layout of the design of the ropeway to be built with the help of 22 towers has also been prepared by the executive body.
- After permission from the Regional Office of the Ministry of Environment and Forests of the Central Government, Dehradun, a DPR of Rs 945 crore will be sent by the executing agency for the construction of the ropeway. The work of construction of Sonprayag-Kedarnath ropeway will be started from March 2023.
- On the Sonprayag-Kedarnath ropeway, four stations will come up at Gaurikund, Chirbasa, Lincholi and Kedarnath. Two to two and a half thousand passengers will be able to go unilaterally at a time from the ropeway. 13 km from the ropeway from Sonprayag to Kedarnath. The distance will be completed in about 30 to 35 minutes.
- It is noteworthy that in the year 2005, Rambada-Kedarnath ropeway was approved. Then the Uttaranchal Infrastructure Development Company had completed other formalities including land survey. A proposal of Rs 70 crore was sent to the government. At the government level, it was decided to get the ropeway construction done in PPP mode, but no company submitted the tender.

Rishikesh-Karnprayag Rail Project

Why In News?

On August 16, 2022, Project Manager of Rail Vikas Nigam K. Omprakash Malgudi informed that Rail Vikas Nigam, engaged in the construction of Rishikesh

Note:

-Karnprayag rail project, has covered 50 km. A long tunnel has been prepared. Total 125 km. 105 km of long track. The part will be inside the tunnels.

Key Points

- Manager K. Omprakash Malgudi told that 125 km. The lengthy Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project will have 80 gateways in nine packages, out of which about 50 entrances have been completed.
- He said that the site-specific spectrum study has been prepared by the experts of IIT Roorkee to deal with any disaster like earthquake, flood and fire. It has been tested by reputed experts from abroad.
- Poral stabilization has been done to avoid landslides. The tunnels have been designed keeping all the factors in mind. Environment, health and safety have been taken care of in all the packages. The tunnels are being made safe to avoid any kind of disaster.
- There will be a total of 17 tunnels in the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project. 16 Tunnels NATM (New Austrian Tunneling Method) and 1.70 km from Saur (Devprayag) to Janasu. The long tunnel is being constructed with TBM (Tunnel Boring Machine).
- Significantly, the work on the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project started from the year 2019. It is 125 km. It is a long project, in which 105 km. The railway line will be inside the tunnels. This project is being built entirely in the mountainous area from Rishikesh onwards to Karnprayag.
- A total of 17 tunnels are being constructed for this railway line. The length of these tunnels is 6 km. In addition, an evacuation tunnel is also being built parallel to them. In this project, 7 edit tunnels will be built, whose length is 4 km. Will be till

Centre Sends Proposal for Rishikesh Development to German bank

Why in News?

Recently, the central government has sent a proposal of Rs 1600 crore to German bank KfW for the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Project of Yognagri Rishikesh. This project will be funded by a German bank.

Key Points

- On the initiative of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the Finance Ministry has sent a proposal of 160 million euros, i.e. about Rs 1295 crore, to the German funding agency KfW for the integrated development of Rishikesh city.
- The total cost of this project is about 200 million euros (about Rs 1600 crore). The financial ratio of the central government and the state government for the project will be 80:20.
- With the Integrated Urban Infrastructure Development Project in Rishikesh, better basic facilities will be available to the local citizens and tourists in Rishikesh city, which is known as Yoga Nagari in the world.
- It is worth mentioning that lakhs of tourists visit Rishikesh every year. During the Chardham Yatra, the traffic system is badly affected due to the rush of pilgrims. For this, elevated roads will be built in Rishikesh, which will help to get rid of traffic jams.
- Upon completion of this project, there will be an increase in the urban liveability standards of the citizens. The business and livelihood level of the local people will improve. Citizens and tourists will get better drinking water and sanitation facilities. Their livelihood activities will increase.

Mukhyamantri Udayaman Khiladi Yojana

Why In News?

On August 19, 2022, Uttarakhand Sports Minister Rekha Arya told the media that the 'Mukhyamantri Udayaman Khiladi Yojana' will be launched to encourage sportspersons in the age group of 8 to 14 years of the state who have excelled in various sports. Children will be provided Rs. 1500 as sports scholarship.

Key Points

- Sports Minister Rekha Arya said this after a discussion and review meeting with the officials of the Sports Department regarding the preparations for the Upcoming National Sports Day to be held on August 29 at her official residence in Dehradun.
- Minister Rekha Arya told that Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami will launch 'Mukhyamantri Udiyaman Khiladi Yojana' on 29th August, the birthday of great hockey

Note:

player Major Dhyanchand and on the occasion of National Sports Day.

- About four thousand players from across the state will get the benefit of this scheme. Under this, 150 boys from each district and an equal number of girls will get a scholarship of Rs 1500 per month. Selected beneficiaries will get three months incentive amount checks together.

GI Board for Products to be Set up in Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On August 21, 2022, Vinay Kumar, managing director of Uttarakhand Organic Development Council, informed that a blueprint has been prepared for the formation of GI (Geographical Indications) Board to promote the identification and marketing of local products of the state.

Key Points

- Vinay Kumar said that its formation can be given a green signal in the upcoming cabinet board meeting. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had announced the formation of a GI board in the state. The Agriculture Department has prepared a proposal to form a board and sent it to the government.
- The proposed board will have several senior officials as members besides a chairman. The board's job will be to select local products and register GI. By getting the GI tag, fake products will be avoided in the market.
- The board will also have one or two special invitees and experts as members. Officers and employees of agriculture department and Uttarakhand Organic Products Council will work on the board. This will not put any additional expenditure burden on the Government from the constitution of the Board.
- The state government believes that there are more than 100 products in the state that can be given the GI tag. These include cereals, pulses, oilseeds, spices, fruits, vegetables, handicrafts and handloom products, traditional instruments. Getting the GI tag will give these products legal protection.
- It is worth mentioning that so far nine products of the state have received gi tag. These include Tejpat, Basmati Rice, Aipan Art, Munsiyari's White Rajma, Ringal Craft, Thulma, Bhotia Dan, Chura Oil and Tamta.

- Apart from this, the process of GI registration of 14 other products is underway. These include Berinag Tea, Manduva, Jhangora, Gahat, Lal Rice, Kala Bhatt, Malta, Amaranth, Lakhori Chilli, Pahari Tur Dal, Buransh Juice, Sajavati Candle, Kumaoni Pichoda, Kandali (Scorpion Herb) fibers are included.
- It is known that geographical indication is given to the products of a particular region, which has a special geographical importance and place. Due to the same geographical origin, the product has special properties and identity. One cannot copy another product after getting the GI tag.

Critical Care Centers will Open in Seven Districts of Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On August 21, 2022, **Uttarakhand Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that critical care centers will be set up in seven districts** of the state. Detailed project reports of all the centres are being prepared. The budget will be given by the central government to set up these centers.

Key Points

- The health minister said that the construction of each centre is estimated to cost Rs 23.7 crore. For this, an amount of Rs 166 crore will be given by the Central Government from the National Health Mission (NHM).
- He said that the Centre has sanctioned funds for setting up seven critical care centres in Uttarakhand for the current financial year 2022-23 under NHM. These centers will be built in **Champawat, Bageshwar, Nainital, Chamoli, Pauri, Rudraprayag, Uttarkashi districts.**
- DPR is being prepared by selecting 1550 square meters of space for the center around the district hospitals. Construction work will be done through irrigation department in three districts of Bridkul and Garhwal division in three districts of Kumaon division.
- After the construction of the critical care center, the people of the state will get better treatment facility in emergency situations. In these, serious patients suffering from epidemic or any other disease and

Note:

injured in road accidents will be given all medical facilities at one place.

- The critical care center will have facilities for the treatment of all serious diseases, including modern medical equipment for the treatment of heart disease, gynecology, pediatrics, orthopedics and many other diseases. Apart from this, the injured in the epidemic and road accidents will also get all the treatment facilities at one place in case of emergency. All other types of tests including dialysis, oxygen, ECG, ultrasound will be done in the center.

Project Management Unit

Why In News?

On August 23, 2022, Uttarakhand Karmakar Kalyan Board Secretary P.C. Dumka said that a proposal of project management unit (PMU) has been sent to implement the activities of the Workers Board and the best practice of other states. New changes will be implemented soon.

Key Points

- Online cover is being prepared to prevent scams like allocation of bicycles in Uttarakhand Building and Other Construction Workers Welfare Board. In this, where all the schemes of four lakh workers will be online, the accountability of the officials is also being fixed for the action on those applications.
- A Project Management Unit (PMU) is also being set up for better functioning of the board. It will include experts working in the field of labor welfare, who will put better schemes of various states on the ground in Uttarakhand.
- All the schemes of the Karmakar Board are being done completely online. Applications will be online, which will have to be completed within the stipulated time period. Online application will be mandatory for all schemes from bicycle allocation. The files will be tagged green, yellow, red online.
- Every officer will get information about pending files every morning through SMS on mobile. If the labor registration is fixed for 30 days, then the file will appear green for 20 days, yellow between 20 and 30 days and then it will turn red after 30 days, the information of which will also go to the top officials. Action will be taken against those who do not work.

Chief Minister Inaugurated Dehradun-Almora Heli Service

Why In News?

On August 26, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched the Dehradun-Almora Heli service under the 'UDAN scheme' at Jolly Grant Airport, Dehradun.

Key Points

- Chief Executive Officer of Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority, C. Ravi Shankar said that with the introduction of air service from Dehradun to Almora, besides promoting tourism, local people will also be able to travel in less time.
- He said that at present, the Heli service has been allowed to run once a week by the DGCA. It can also be done daily as the number of passengers increases.
- Recently, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama had asked Union Civil Aviation Minister Jyotiraditya Scindia to allow Heli services to operate from Dehradun to Almora.
- The Ministry of Civil Aviation has allowed Pawan Hans to operate a heli service between Dehradun and Almora.
- With this, one will be able to reach Almora from Doon in one and a half hours. It is a journey of 12 to 13 hours by road. The fare for the heli service has been fixed at Rs 7700 per passenger.
- The heli service will run from Jolly Grant Airport to Pantnagar, Haldwani, Almora and Pithoragarh. This route will also be of return.

Chief Minister Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana

Why In News?

On August 29, 2022, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched the Chief Minister Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana' in the state at a program organized at Police Lines Dehradun on National Sports Day.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister also made several other announcements while launching a sports scholarship

Note:



of Rs 1500 per month to sportspersons in the age group of eight to 14 years in the program.

- The Chief Minister said that a total of 3900 boys and girls will benefit from the 'Chief Minister Udyman Khiladi Unnayan Yojana'. After this, scholarships will also be given to players between 14 and 23 years of age. There will be a fresh attempt to implement four per cent reservation for sportspersons in government jobs as before.
- The Chief Minister said that sports development fund will be set up in the state. Under this, eight sports coaches will be appointed in each district. Malkhamb game will be included in the policy. Along with this, the coaches who are contracted in the Sports Department will be given the same honorarium as the contract coaches of the Sports Authority of India.
- Speaking at the event, Sports Minister Rekha Arya said the scholarships received by the sportspersons will depend on their talent. Sports scholarship is not a pension scheme, but it is being given for the encouragement of sportspersons.

Helipad and Heliport will be built at 33 New Tourist Places in the State

Why In News?

On August 29, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu instructed the officials to build helipads and heliports at 33 tourist places to promote tourism in the state.

Key Points

- In the meeting, the Chief Secretary said that apart from Chardham in the state, there is a lot of potential in the tourism sector due to the beauty and climate of the state. He directed to build more and more heliports and helipads in the state keeping in mind the tourists.
- He said that there is a lot of potential for joy rides in the state. Along with this, schemes like Himalaya Darshan should be operated from as many places as possible.

- The Chief Secretary said that while making the master plan of heliport and helipad, planning should be made keeping in view the future prospects and requirements. The traffic plan of these heliports and helipads should be made keeping in mind the traffic of the next 20, 25, 50 years.
- He said that there is more potential for helipad and heliport in Ramnagar. He instructed DM Nainital to work on this on priority. He directed to construct two or more heliports or helipads in tourist places like Mussoorie, Nainital and Haridwar.
- It was informed in the meeting that there is total 83 helipads in the state, out of which 51 are government and 32 are private. Work is underway on 22 helipads.

Uttarakhand will become the First State in the Country to Make a Policy for 5G Network

Why In News?

On August 30, 2022, Amit Sinha, Director, Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA), said that with the amendment in the Right of Way policy to bring 5G networks easily to Uttarakhand, the government will adopt the guidelines of the central government.

Key Points

- Preparations have been started to amend the Right of Way Policy 2018 to make a policy for 5G network in the state. Uttarakhand will be the first state in the country to formulate a policy for 5G network in the state.
- It is worth mentioning that in 2018, the Right of Way Policy 2018 was implemented in the state to ease the way of network connectivity, to install mobile towers to telecom-related activities.
- After the amendment in this policy, the entire work from installing mobile towers to laying its line for 5G network in the state will be easier. For this, the rules of the central government will be adopted.



Note:



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Key Points

Details

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Summary

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