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Content

•	Union Health Minister lays Foundation Stone of Health -Projects in Uttarakhand	3
•	25 Thousand MSME Industries to be Set Up in Uttarakhand	3
•	The Number of Vibrant Villages will Increase in the State	4
•	Outline of Uttarakhand Drone Promotion & Usage Policy-2023 gets presented	4
•	Badrinath will Take the Form of Smart Spiritual Hill Town	5
•	Writers of Folk Languages will get 'Uttarakhand Sahitya Gaurav Samman' every year	5
•	Dimmer Village was selected as the model Sanskrit village	6
•	Re-development plan for Haridwar-Rishikesh, Capital City to be built in Doon	6
•	Chief Minister inaugurated the state's 1st health ATM and 40 True Net machines	7
•	3 proposals for an alternative route from Haridwar to Srinagar were prepared on the banks of the Ganges	8
•	Chamoli Herbs will Now Be Sold Across the Country, Ministry of AYUSH has Registered 48 Cultivators	9
•	Forest Fire in Uttarakhand	9
•	288 Bridges built on State Highways in Uttarakhand will be Upgraded	10
•	District Wise Per Capita Income Figures 2021-22 released	. 10
•	Consensus on the plan to Run Driverless Pod Taxis in Dehradun on the Lines of Singapore	11
•	'A-Help' program started in Uttarakhand	. 12
•	Chief Minister launched Ganga Samagra 'Aviral Ganga Nirmal Ganga' program	. 12
•	Satellite centres for Aromatic Crops will be set up in 5 Districts	. 13
•	Uttarakhand>s 603 Primary, 76 Upper Primary will Become Cluster Excellent Schools ++	. 13
•	6 Engineering Colleges of Garhwal and Kumaon to be Technical University Campus	14
•	Uttarakhand Food Lab gets New Hallmark	. 14
•	River Rafting Fare waived on all rivers except The Ganges	. 14
•	Uttarakhand's Mana is now not the Last but the First Village of the Country	. 15
•	Ayushman Card will now get Free Treatment in Army and Paramilitary Hospitals	. 16
•	Inauguration of SDRF Headquarters and Training Center in Jolly Grant	. 16
•	Now the PCS Exam will be held on the Old Pattern in Uttarakhand	. 17
•	Uttarakhand Transport Minister Chandan Ramdas Passed Away	. 18
•	Governor Launched 'Chardham Saathi' Mobile App	. 18
•	MoU Signed Between AIIMS and Pinnacle Company for Air Ambulance Service	. 19
•	President Approves Appointment of Three New Judges in Uttarakhand High Court	. 19

Union Health Minister lays Foundation Stone of Health -Projects in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On 31 March 2023, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare inaugurated a 500-bed hospital in Dehradun, Uttarakhand and three critical care blocks of 50 beds each laid the foundation stone at Rudraprayag, Nainital and Srinagar through virtual medium from Joshimath at a function organized in Dehradun.

Key Points

- Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya, Union Minister of Health and Family Welfare informed that the work of upgradation and strengthening of medical infrastructure under the 'Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Health Infrastructure Mission' (PM-ABHIM) is in progress and in the wake of the global COVID pandemic, Important work is being done under ECRP-II (Emergency COVID Response Package-II) with the objective of strengthening the medical units of the future keeping in mind the experiences.
- In order to work fast in the health sector of Uttarakhand government, 7 under PM-ABHIM scheme and 7 under ECRP-II i.e. total 14 critical care blocks are being constructed.
- Through these initiatives, better health facilities for emergency care will be easily available to people living in remote mountain areas.
- Critical care blocks at Rudraprayag and Nainital will be constructed under the ECRP-II package. At the same time, it will be constructed in Srinagar under the PM-ABHIM scheme.
- A total of Rs 71.25 crore has been sanctioned for 3 critical care blocks at Pauri in Srinagar, Rudraprayag and Haldwani in Nainital in coordination with the Government of India and the Government of Uttarakhand to ensure the general public's access to health facilities.
- An amount of Rs 23.75 crore has been sanctioned for the construction of each of these critical care blocks. These critical care blocks will be provided with facilities like ICU beds, HDU beds, isolation ward beds, isolation rooms, emergency beds, operation theaters,

labor delivery rooms, combined care laboratories and dialysis rooms.

- To upgrade and strengthen the medical infrastructure in the state, the facility of 500 beds will be expanded in the Doon Medical College with an amount of Rs 120 crore. With this initiative, patients coming from remote areas would be able to get better treatment facilities in the state capital.
- On this occasion, State Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat, underlining the progress made in the health sector of Uttarakhand, said that with more than 80,000 people registered on the 'E-Raktkosh blood donation portal', the people of Uttarakhand have donated the most blood in the country.
- More than 50 lakh ABHA cards have been issued to the people of the state and out of them more than 7 lakh people have availed this free treatment facility.
- Uttarakhand has become the first state in India to cover 100% TB patients under the Ni-Kshaya Mitra initiative in the fight against TB.



25 Thousand MSME Industries to be Set Up in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on 2 April 2023, to promote industrial development and create new employment opportunities in Uttarakhand, the state government has prepared a five-year roadmap, under which 25 thousand micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) are targeted to be established.

Key Points

For an empowered Uttarakhand, American company Mackenzie Global has prepared a roadmap for industrial development in the state. 7500 crore will be invested in the state under the scheme. With this, a target has been set to provide employment to one lakh people.



4 State PCS CA Consolidation APRIL 2023

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- To promote investment, the government's focus will be on ease of doing business, infrastructure development for investment at the district level, cooperation in marketing and branding and encouragement to investors.
- The subsidy has been recommended by McKenzie Global as an incentive to promote investment. In this, it has been recommended to give subsidies up to 75 percent (maximum 75 lakhs), 40 percent (maximum 4 crore) to small-scale industries, and 20 percent (maximum 10 crores) to medium industries to be set up in hilly areas.
- The Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor industrial area is planned to be developed on a thousand acres of land near Prayag Farm in Udham Singh Nagar district of the state which is very close to Pantnagar and Rudrapur. Land will be available for setting up big industries here.

The Number of Vibrant Villages will Increase in the State

Why in News?

On 1 April 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami informed that the Union Home Ministry would include more new frontier villages of Uttarakhand in the coming days under the Vibrant Village Program of the Central Government.

Key Points

- It is known that the Central Government has included Frontier Village Policy, Mana, Malari and Gunji in the Vibrant Village Program. The central government will cooperate for the development of these villages.
- Under the Mukhyamantri Seemant Gaon Vikas Yojana, tourism and economic activities will be increased in border villages.
- It is notable that Prime Minister Narendra Modi has named Mana as the first village.
- The Chief Minister said that it is the endeavour of the State Government that the tourists coming on the Chardham Yatra go to the border villages and spend five per cent of their travel expenses on local products of these villages.

Frontier villages should be developed according to their speciality and their publicity should be done so that more and more tourists reach there. Due to this, the economic situation of the local people will improve and the problem of migration will also reduce.



Outline of Uttarakhand Drone Promotion & Usage Policy-2023 gets presented

Why in News?

On 3 April 2023, the Director of Uttarakhand's Information Technology Development Agency, ITDA, Nitika Khandelwal said that American organization Mackenzie Global has presented the blueprint of Uttarakhand Drone Promotion and Usage Policy-2023 to promote drones in the state.

- With the introduction of Uttarakhand Drone Promotion and Usage Policy-2023, 5000 youths will get employment through drone production and services in the state by the year 2030. A target of one thousand crore investment has been set in this sector.
- Under the Uttarakhand Drone Promotion and Usage Policy-2023, there will be an investment of Rs 500 crore in drone manufacturing and Rs 500 crore in services in this area.
- For the promotion of drones, the State Drone Coordination Cell (SDCC) will be constituted in the state under ITDA. Whereas ITI Kalsi and ITI Kashipur have been selected as centers of excellence for drones through private participation. Here DGCA has given permission to set up a Remote Pilot Training Organization (RPTO).



- Under this proposal of McKenzie Global, private institutions will be encouraged to run drone-related courses and training courses. Drone schools will be set up in government colleges and private universities certified by NAAC.
- It is noteworthy that the Information Technology Development Agency, ITDA, has released the draft drone policy on its website. Suggestions have been sought from the public and stakeholders on this. After taking public suggestions on this policy by ITDA, it will be finalized.

Badrinath will Take the Form of Smart Spiritual Hill Town

Why in News?

On 4 April 2023, Uttarakhand's Tourism Minister Saptal Maharaj said that the state's Badrinath Dham will be developed as a Smart Spiritual Hill Town (Spiritual Hill City).

Key Points

- To develop Badrinath Dham as Smart Spiritual Hill Town (Spiritual Hill City), work has started on the Badrinath Master Plan for Rs 425 crore in the first phase.
- It is known that Kedarnath's reconstruction work under the guidance of Prime Minister Narendra Modi has developed Kedarpur in a grand and divine form. From 21 February till now, 3,49,944 Yatris have been registered for Kedarnath, 2,91,537 for Badrinath, 1,61,149 for Yamunotri and 1,66,310 for Gangotri Dham in Chardham Yatra.
- Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that air services are also being expanded in the state. The work on Char Dham All Weather Road and Rishikesh-Karanprayag Rail Project is going on in full swing. A target has been set to complete the Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib and Sonprayag-Kedarnath ropeways in three years.
- The state government has approved the ropeway project from Kharsali to Yamunotri to be built with an amount of more than Rs 166 crore.
- It is worth mentioning that the government has built Shakta, Shaiva, Vaishnava, Golju, Gurudwara, Hanuman, Nag Devta, Swami Vivekananda, Mahasu

Devta, Narasimha Devta and Navagraha Devta circuits to promote religious tourism. Devotees coming to Chardham Yatra can visit these circuits.



Writers of Folk Languages will get 'Uttarakhand Sahitya Gaurav Samman' every year

Why in News?

On 5 April 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced in the meeting of Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan held in Dehradun that this year, 'Uttarakhand Sahitya Gaurav Samman' will be given for Kumaoni, Garhwali, dialects and dialects of the state, Hindi, Punjabi, Urdu in folk languages and folk literature, epic, block poetry composition, poetry composition and literature and other prose genres.

Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that for the first time after the year 2014, the meeting of the Management Executive Committee of the Institute was held in the secretariat under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Dhami, in which it was told that folk languages and dialects are the identity and pride of the state and a grand ceremony will be organized in the coming May to honour outstanding litterateurs.
- The Chief Minister said that the creators of the state, who are unable to publish their books due to lack of funds, will be given partial grants in the form of financial assistance from the Bhasha Sansthan.
- This will be a multi-faceted plan of the Bhasha Sansthan, in which reading of research papers, exchange of ideas related to language, literary procession, folk language conference etc. will be organized.



6 State PCS CA Consolidation APRIL 2023

- He also directed the organizing of national and international language conferences in every district of the state and established digital and e-library in a primary school of each district.
- During the meeting, approval was also given to organizing literary seminars in the book fair in association with the National Book Trust in the state.
- In the meeting, an agreement was also reached on the publication of literary and research journals by Uttarakhand Bhasha Sansthan. Along with this, approval was given to organize workshops and training programs for the standardization of folk languages.
- There are different speakers and writers of Garhwali, Kumaoni and Jaunsari dialects in different areas of the state, in whose writing there is a difference of words. There is a need for standardization of Garhwali and Kumaoni language spellings. District and statelevel linguistic competitions will be organized by the institute in Uttarakhand.



Dimmer Village was selected as the model Sanskrit village

Why in News?

On April 5, 2023, in Dehradun, Uttarakhand, Dr. Chandi Prasad Ghildiyal, Assistant Director of Education and Sanskrit Education Department, told that the Sanskrit Directorate of the state has set a target of making 13 model Sanskrit villages in 13 districts of the state, under which Chamoli district's Dimmer village has been selected.

Key Points

The Sanskrit language will be taught to women, children and elders in Dimmer village. For this, a Sanskrit-trained person will be selected in the village, who will teach the villagers to speak the Sanskrit language. For this, he will also be given an honorarium of Rs 12,000 per month.

- It is known that Dimmer village is located at a distance of 7 kilometres from Karnaprayag on the Karanprayag-Simli motorway. About 250 Brahmins, 150 Rajputs and 100 Scheduled Caste families live in this village of 500 families. Dimri Brahmins of Dimmar village take care of the worship in Badrinath Dham. Along with this, he also takes care of the worship from Mata Murti to Joshimath Narasimha Temple.
- The Gadu Ghada of Badrinath Dham is also operated from Dimmer Village. Apart from this, after the completion of the pilgrimage to Badrinath Dham, the Rawals of Badrinath also reach the Lakshmi Narayan Temple of Dimmer village for worship. Sanskrit is used more and more in all these religious programs. That's why Dimmer Village has been selected under this scheme.
- Under this, now people from all sections of the village will be taught to speak the Sanskrit language.
 Along with this, Sanskrit Gram Shiksha Samiti will also be formed in the village. The Sanskrit language will be discussed every month by the committee. Its monitoring will be done by the Sanskrit Education Department.
 - It is noteworthy that Sanskrit College has been running in Dimmer Village since 1918. Earlier, the college was run by Dimri Brahmins only. Presently the college is run by Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee.
 - Classes from six to Acharya are conducted here.
 The Dimri families also donated their 30 Nali lands for the operation of the college and there is also a hostel here.
- Significantly, Sanskrit is the second official language of the country. Everyone needs to come forward for its promotion.

Re-development plan for Haridwar-Rishikesh, Capital City to be built in Doon

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on 5 April 2023, the state government is bringing



a re-development plan while preserving the historical heritage of Dharmanagar Haridwar and Yoga City Rishikesh. At the same time, the process of construction of Aerocity in Capital City and Jolly Grant in Raipur has also started moving forward.

Key Points

- McKenzie Global has also recently given a presentation on this change. Under this, there is also a plan to acquire agricultural land and develop a greenfield township on it.
- In Haridwar four areas from Devpura to Bhupatwala (Dudha Dhari Chowk), Har Ki Pauri and the surrounding area are 1.5 km. Daksh Mandir and Sanyas Road in the Kankhal area and the Heritage Master Plan are being prepared from Bhupatwala to Bharat Mata Mandir in Saptarishi Ashram.
- Under this, Bharat Mata Temple, Har Ki Pauri, Mansa Devi, Maya Temple, Narayani Shila Temple, Sati Kund, Daksh Temple, Hanuman Temple and Chandi Devi Temple will be included. While three areas have been identified for this in Rishikesh.
- According to information, the state government is going to build a capital city on 85 hectares of land in Raipur. For this, the Forest Department has also given 60 hectares of land.
- With the making of the capital city in Raipur, the government buildings built on about 200 acres of government land will be vacant. McKenzie Global estimates that this property will be worth 5000 to 6000 crores. With this, a blueprint for large-scale development will be prepared in the cities. At the same time, external development charges will have to be paid for construction in these areas.
- This capital city will be built from Raipur to Thano Road in the north, till Haridwar Road in the south, leaving the Ordnance Factory border in the west till the east of the drain and in the east till the limits of Bhopalpani, Badasi Grant and Kalimati village.
- The Secretariat, Assembly, Directorate, and Project Office will be built on 60 hectares of land. While residential and commercial projects will be constructed on 25 hectares of land near Maharana Pratap Sports College. Private investors will get an exemption here for 30 years.
- The state government is going to build an atrocity near Jolly Grant Airport. Information technology,

medical, hospitality and commercial complexes will be built in this. Here airport related instrument landing, heliport, and night landing facilities can also be found.

- Five to six thousand youths will get employment through this. Every year there will be a business of five to six thousand crores. The residents of the state will be able to get high-quality health facilities.
- It will be built on 100 acres of land. In this, IT City will be built on 50 acres, Medi City on 20 acres, Commercial on 15 acres and the Hospitality project on 15 acres.
- A park will be established here on the lines of foreign countries. Jogging, a cycling track and a hut for meditation will be arranged in the park. Along with this, the idea of landscaping and planting Australian grass is going on. At the same time, flowers and greenery will be seen in the parks in every season.

Chief Minister inaugurated the states 1st health ATM and 40 True Net machines

Why in News?

On 6 April 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated 6 Health ATMs and 40 True Net machines in a program organized at Vishwakarma Bhawan located in the Uttarakhand Secretariat. The first health ATM of the state has been installed in the state secretariat.

Key News

- Through the Health ATM, 72 types of health-related tests will be done within 30 seconds with a single drop of blood.
- In the program, the Chief Minister said that with the installation of a Health ATM, now one will not have to go far for a check-up. Health ATMs will be set up on the Yatra routes to provide better health facilities to the tourists coming from the country and the world during the Chardham Yatra.
- Under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR), Indian Oil Corporation, Yash Bank, JK Tire have given Health ATMs and True Net machines.
- Through Yash Bank, one health ATM has been installed in Secretariat, Vidhan Sabha and Tanakpur Hospital. JK Tire Company has installed one Health



8 State PCS CA Consolidation APRIL 2023

ATM each at Police Line, JLN District Hospital Nainital, Joint Hospital Tanakpur, Community Health Center Jaspur, Sub District Hospital Ranikhet, Almora.

- An MoU was signed between the Health Department and the companies in the presence of the Chief Minister.
- Courtesy Indian Oil Corporation Limited 40 True Net machines will be installed at block level under CSR.
 With this, along with TB, covid will also be tested.
- You can also get yourself tested through the Health ATM. 72 tests including Hemoglobin, TLC & DLC, Blood Sugar, Blood Pressure, Uric Acid, Cholesterol, HbA1-C, Blood Group, Lipid Profile, Triglyceride, Glycoprotein, Pregnancy Test, Kidney Test, Hepatitis, Chikungunya, Malaria, BMC, BMI, temperature, oxygen level, body water content, ECG can be done. This test will be free of cost at these health ATMs.



3 proposals for an alternative route from Haridwar to Srinagar were prepared on the banks of the Ganges

Why in News?

On 6 April 2023, Ashish Chauhan, District Magistrate of Pauri, Uttarakhand, said that on the instructions of the government, three proposals have been prepared for another parallel alternative route across the Ganges on the Badrinath Highway.

Key News

It is to be known that these three options of the alternative routes have been suggested by the Pauri district administration on the instructions of the government. After surveying the route, the report has been submitted to the government.

- A new route of 87 km as the first option has been proposed. Out of this, a 50 km road has already been built, while a new 32 km road has been proposed.
- This route will start from a place called Mala, 26 km ahead of Rishikesh on the Badrinath Highway (NH-58). A bridge of 150-meter span will have to be built here. After this, this route will go from Mala to Srinagar via Singtali, Vyasghat, Devprayag, and Janasu.
- As another option, 95 km of the new road has been proposed. Out of this, about 50 km of road has already built, while 45 km of the new road will have to be constructed.
- This route will start from Phoolchatti. For this, a bridge of 150-meter span will have to be built on the Havel River. This route will go from Phoolchatti to Srinagar via Mala, Singtali, Vyasghat, Devprayag, and Janasu.
- As a third option, a total of 137 km of road has been proposed from Haridwar's Chandighat bridge to
 Srinagar. Out of this, about 50 km of road has already been built, while 56 km of the new road is to be built. Three bridges will have to be built on this route. There will be about 55 km of elevated road from Kali Mandir to Sirasu, and 2 km east-south from Chandighat.
- This route will also go from Chandighat Bridge via Sirasu, Mala, Singtali, Vyasghat, Devprayag, Janasu to Srinagar. In all three options, the entire area falls in the Pauri district.
- There has been a demand for a long time to build a new bridge near Singtali to connect the Singtali area of Pauri Garhwal by road. If the government goes ahead with even one of the three options, apart from Singtali, hundreds of villages like Mala, Sirasu, Vyasghat, Saud, Sirala, Utrasu, Rampur, Roli, Dhanchada and Bilkedar, Chila, Gangabhogpur will be benefited.
- In all three options of the proposed highway, it will also connect two important railway stations Saud (Devprayag) and Janasu (Srinagar) of the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line.
- While the problem of traffic jams in Haridwar-Rishikesh will be solved after the construction of the road, the villages of the Pauri district will be connected by road. Due to the closure of the main road (NH-58) in the event of a disaster, this road will prove to be important from the point of view of travel and strategy.



Chamoli Herbs will Now Be Sold Across the Country, Ministry of AYUSH has Registered 48 Cultivators

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on April 9, 2023, the Union Ministry of AYUSH has registered 48 farmers cultivating herbs in Chamoli district. Now these cultivators will be able to sell herbs in any corner of the country.

Key Points

- It is known that the cultivators of the villages of the high Himalayan regions of Chamoli are doing business of crores of rupees every year by cultivating Kutki and other herbs on a large scale.
- Last year, the farmers of Chamoli district sold Kutki worth about two crore rupees. Farmers are producing Kutki on about 10 hectares of land in Ghes and Van villages of Deval block. The cost of Kutki prepared every three years is Rs 1200 per kg.
- Human healers' company of Srinagar Garhwal buys Kutki from farmers. Garhwal University helps in the cultivation of Kutki.
- It is worth mentioning that the Ministry of AYUSH, Government of India is going to make a documentary on herbal farming in the villages of the Himalayan region. The Ministry of AYUSH gives a 70% subsidy for Kutki cultivation. In this sequence, the Ministry is now making a documentary to connect more and more farmers with the cultivation of herbs, the problems of the farmers.



It is noteworthy that the herb Kutki, which is grown at an altitude of 2700 to 4500 meters in the higher Himalayan regions, is used as a blood purifier, strength, tide and sugar medicine. Kutki is also used in the treatment of Jaundice, hepatitis, allergies, asthma and skin diseases. Apart from this, it is also used as a medicine for arthritis, blood disorders, hiccups and vomiting.

Forest Fire in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to information received from media sources on 10 April 2023, 183.35 hectares of the forest area have been damaged so far in 120 incidents of forest fire in Uttarakhand this season.

- According to the information received, 91.53 hectares of the forest area have been affected in Garhwal in 62 incidents so far. While in Kumaon, 55.30 hectares of forest area has been affected in 44 incidents and 36.52 hectares of forest area has been affected in 14 incidents in wildlife sanctuaries.
- Chief Conservator of Forests, Forest Fire and Disaster Management Department said that with the changing trend of the weather, the temperature is also increasing continuously. Due to this, the risk of increasing incidents of fire in the forests increases.
 - Due to irregular rainfall patterns in the state, incidents of fire have increased in winters also for the last few years. However, the risk of forest fire is highest in summer. The period from March to June is considered highly vulnerable to fire. Especially due to less rainfall and dry environment, forest fires spread rapidly.





288 Bridges built on State Highways in Uttarakhand will be Upgraded

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on 10 April 2023, 288 single-lane bridges built on state highways in Uttarakhand will be upgraded to one and a half lanes. In this regard, orders have been issued by R.K. Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary of the State Public Works Department (PWD).

Key Points

- It is known that last year, on the instructions of the government, the Public Works Department conducted a safety audit of 2518 out of 3262 bridges across the state. In the safety audit conducted in five zones of the state, 36 bridges were found unsafe for traffic.
- Principal Secretary R.K. Sudhanshu said that given the strategic vision and increasing pressure of traffic in the state, the state government has decided to increase the load capacity of the bridges.
- By upgrading these 288 single-lane B loading category bridges of the state to A category, their load capacity will also be increased. A total budget provision of Rs 19.23 crore has been made on these. In the first phase, Rs 12.73 crore has been released for 182 bridges.
- Funds have been released for 12 bridges in Uttarkashi district, 19 bridges in Chamoli district, 10 bridges in Rudraprayag, 25 bridges in Dehradun, 3 bridges in Pauri, 4 bridges in Pithoragarh, 2 bridges in Bageshwar, 7 bridges in Almora, 3 bridges in Champawat, 11 bridges in Nainital and 8 bridges in Udham Singh Nagar.

Total number of sanctioned bridges		
Uttarkashi	13	
Chamoli	38	
Rudraprayag	12	
Dehradun	25	
Pauri	06	
Pithoragarh	09	
Bageshwar	03	

Almora	47
Champawat	10
Nainital	11
Udham Singh Nagar	08
Total	182

District Wise Per Capita Income Figures 2021-22 released

Why in News?

Recently Uttarakhand Directorate of Economics and Statistics has released district wise per capita income figures for the year 2021-22. Earlier, during the budget session of the assembly at Gairsain, the state government had presented the report of the economic survey in the house.

- As per the released statistics Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar and Dehradun districts, which have become industrial cities are at the forefront in terms of per capita income.
- Haridwar has become the district with the highest per capita income in the state while Rudraprayag district of Garhwal division has the lowest per capita income among the remaining 12 districts of the state.
- In the report, the per capita income of the year 2022-23 at the prevailing price was estimated to be Rs 2,33,000. In the year 2021-22, the per capita income of the state was estimated at Rs 2,05,840, but the district-wise per capita income figures could not be prepared. The per capita income of the country at prevailing prices is Rs 1,70,620.



- In the last decade, the graph of prosperity has increased faster in the plain districts than in the hill districts. The highest per capita income of Haridwar district is estimated at Rs 3,62,688. Udham Singh Nagar district is in second place with per capita income of Rs.2,69,070 and Dehradun is in third place with per capita income of Rs.2,35,707.
- Chamoli has the highest per capita income of Rs 1,27,330 among hill districts while Rudraprayag district has the lowest per capita income of Rs 93,160 annually. Bageshwar district of Kumaon division has the lowest per capita income of Rs 98,755.

District wise per capita income (in Rs.)				
District	2011-12 (Base Year)	2021-22 (Present Year)		
Uttarkashi	49584	1,07281		
Chamoli	64,327	1,27,330		
Rudraprayag	46,881	93,160		
Tehri	49,854	1,03,345		
Dehradun	1,06,552	2,35,707		
Pauri	50,476	1,08,640		
Haridwar	1,76,845	3,62,688		
Pithoragarh	52,413	18,678		
Bageshwar	46,457	98,755		
Almora	55,640	1,00844		
Champawat	52,463	1,16,136		
Nainital	94,142	1,90,627		

Consensus on the plan to Run Driverless Pod Taxis in Dehradun on the Lines of Singapore

Why in News?

On April 12, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary S.S. Sandhu said that after Haridwar district, Dehradun will now be the second city in the state where preparations are on to run pod taxis. Here on the lines of Singapore (under Personal Rapid Transit Transport-PRT), a plan has been agreed to run driverless pod taxis.

- In its first phase, as a pilot project, pod taxis will be operated on a six km long route from Panditwari to the railway station. Earlier there was a plan to run a ropeway on this route.
- Uttarakhand Metro Rail Corporation described the use of PRT as useful for such areas of the city where Neo Metro cannot run. PRT system of traffic will be implemented in Doon to get rid of traffic jams and strengthen public transport.
- Under this, pod taxis or vehicles with a capacity of 4-6 passengers will operate on a specially built guideway network.
- It is known that PRT is a type of Automated Guideway Transit (AGT). It is suitable for individual or small group travel. This system is very cheap and its cost is very less as compared to metro, rapid trains.
- It is to be noted that Personal Rapid Transport (PRT) or Pod Taxis are fully automated. It is the size of a car and runs on a steel track. There is no need for a driver to run this taxi. Through this, three to six passengers can be taken at a time.
 - The driverless car running under PRT will not run on the road but on the structure built on the column. It will automatically reach the passengers at the push of a button. It is the most modern transport system in the world.
- It is noteworthy that the first pod taxi in the world was run in the year 1970 at the University of Virginia.
- With the implementation of PRT, there will be reduction in the number of vehicles in the city, smart transport service, relief from congestion & reduction in pollution, easy availability and affordable transport service will be available.





'A-Help' program started in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On 13 April 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the 'A-HELP' (Accredited Agent for Health and Expansion of Livestock Production) program in the state at Survey of India Auditorium, Dehradun.

Key Points

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that under the A-Help scheme envisaged by the Government of India, women have been selected to strengthen livestock related activities in remote rural areas.
- Trained A-HELP workers under 'A-HELP- Accredited Agent for Health and Extension of Livestock Production' program to prevent various infectious diseases in animals, artificial insemination under Rashtriya Gokul Mission (RGM) will make significant contributions in tagging and animal insurance.
- He said that this would be an incomparable example of ensuring inclusion and participation of women power for socio-economic upliftment as per the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.
- Animal Husbandry, Dairying and Fisheries Minister of Uttarakhand Saurabh Bahuguna said that the livestock sector offers a very important opportunity for women but till now it lacked institutional support. This gap will be bridged with the launch of the A-HELP programme.
- This new band of community-based activists, designated as Accredited Agents for the Health and Extension of Livestock Production (A-HELP), is expected to fill the void between local veterinary institutions, livestock owners and provide primary services.
- Under the RGM, livestock breed improvement programs will be organized with the help of a large number of trained A-Help workers who are interested in undergoing artificial insemination after additional training.
- A-Help workers will play an important role in implementing the Pashudhan Bima Yojana as well as other interventions, for which they will be provided

remuneration as per the provisions of the scheme, which will also help them in providing some income and financial security.

- It is noteworthy that the Department of Animal Husbandry and Dairying (DAHD) has launched this new initiative by signing an MoU with the National Rural Livelihood Mission (NRLM) under the Department of Rural Development (DORD), Govt.
- The primary responsibility of A-Help workers is to meet the health care needs of the livestock population in the village.
- This program is being successfully implemented in Madhya Pradesh, Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. More than 500 participants including progressive farmers and animal friends took part in this programme.



Chief Minister launched Ganga Samagra 'Aviral Ganga Nirmal Ganga' program

Why in News?

On 16 April 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the program by participating as a chief guest in the Ganga Samagra Aviral Ganga Nirmal Ganga program organized at Parmarth Niketan.

Key Points

- Under the Aviral Ganga Nirmal Ganga Abhiyan, works are being done to keep Ganga clean, which includes conservation and promotion of water sources along with keeping Ganga clean.
- The central and state governments are continuously working to preserve the original form of the Ganga.



Along with Ganga, work is also being done on its tributaries.

Under the first phase, the water from 132 dirty drains found in the Ganga has been cleaned through STPs, while the proposal for the second phase has been received.

Satellite centres for Aromatic Crops will be set up in 5 Districts

Why in News?

On 17 April 2023, the Director of the Aromatic Plant Center, Selakui, Nripendra Singh Chauhan informed that satellite centres will be opened in five districts to promote the cultivation of aromatic crops in the state and provide technical information to the farmers.

Key Points

- In order to provide all the facilities to the farmers doing Aroma cultivation at their doorstep, a plan is being made by the Aroma Plant Center Selakui to open satellite centres in five districts. With this, along with the technical information about farming, seeds and plants will also be available at the satellite centre.
- With the opening of these centres, the farmers of hilly areas will not have to travel to Dehradun to get information about seeds, plants and aromatic cultivation.
- Till now the farmers had to come to Selakui for training in aromatic cultivation, seeds and saplings at the Aromatic Plant Center. Satellite centres will be set up to provide facilities to the farmers at the district level.
- Tejpat at Khateda in Champawat district, Timur at Bisad in Pithoragarh, Surai at Raithal in Uttarkashi, Parasari in Chamoli and Damask Gulab at Takula in Almora district will be opened.
- It is known that 21,000 farmers are cultivating aromatic crops in an area of about 8,000 hectares in the state. Wild animals, monkeys and lack of irrigation facilities are a big problem in front of the farmers of hilly areas. In view of the increasing demand in the market for oil and perfume prepared from aromatic plants, the government is encouraging farmers to cultivate aromas.

It is worth mentioning that on 22 February 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had inaugurated the first centre of excellence dedicated entirely to aromatic crops at the Aromatic Plant Center, Selakui.

Uttarakhand[,]s 603 Primary, 76 Upper Primary will Become Cluster Excellent Schools ++

Why in News?

In the Uttarakhand cabinet meeting held under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami on April 18, 2023, the proposal to make 603 primary and 76 upper primary schools of the state into cluster excellent schools was approved.

- All the facilities will be made available in these schools falling within the radius of 5 kilometers.
 Equipment like smart class, computer etc. will be made available.
- An adequate number of teachers will be appointed in cluster excellence schools. In view of the increase in the number of students in the schools, additional classrooms will be constructed.
- According to departmental officials, playgrounds will be developed for sports facilities in these schools.
- Transport facilities will be made available for the students of other nearby schools except the cluster school. For this, a fixed amount will be given to the students.
- At the district level, a committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate of the concerned district to decide the arrangements for the students coming to the school, which will ensure the facility of escort of the students coming from the nearby schools in the cluster schools. While the concerned Block Education Officer will prepare an action plan for the local arrangement of transport for the students.



6 Engineering Colleges of Garhwal and Kumaon to be Technical University Campus

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on 19 April 2023, under the Department of Technical Education, the cabinet approved the proposal to operate six engineering colleges and institutes of Garhwal and Kumaon divisions as campus colleges under Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun.

Key Points

- According to the cabinet proposal, Technical Institute Gopeshwar, Women's Technical Institute Dehradun, Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam Technical Institute Tanakpur, Nanhi Pari Frontier Technical Institute Pithoragarh, THDC, IHET New Tehri and Bonn Engineering College, Uttarkashi will be made a campus college of Technical University under certain conditions on the basis of where it is.
- It was said in the cabinet meeting that financial assistance from the state government will not be provided to all self-financed institutions after the campus is built. BOG will continue to function as before in all self-financed institutions.
- It is known that Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Uttarakhand Technical University, Dehradun was established on 27 January 2005 by the Government of Uttarakhand through the Uttarakhand Technical University Act 2005. It is the only affiliated university in the state for technical institutions.



Uttarakhand Technological University

Uttarakhand Food Lab gets New Hallmark

Why in News?

On April 20, 2023, State Food and Drug Analysis Laboratory Commissioner R.S Kathait informed that the Government of India has given NABL (National Accreditation for Board for Testing and Calibration Laboratories) certificate to Rudrapur-based Food and Drug Analysis Laboratory for oil, fat, spices and pulses after milk products.

Key Points

- Now the test report of these food items from the State Food and Drug Analysis Laboratory at Rudrapur will also be valid internationally. Adulterants will also not be able to challenge the food lab report in court.
- The State Food and Drug Analysis Laboratory in Rudrapur, set up in 2010, received the NABL certificate in 2018 only for testing reports of milk products. Due to this, adulteration in other food items did not stop. The problem of adulteration in oil, spices, fats and pulses is high in the state.
- Nishant Tyagi, in charge of the state food and drug analysis laboratory, said the food lab had received a hallmark for NABL certification in the milk test report. Now the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India has also given a NABL certificate for oil, fat, spices and pulses.
- He said that till now the adulterants used to escape despite registering a case by taking advantage of not having an NABL certificate due to failure of food samples, but now the adulterers will not be able to challenge the report of the food lab in the court.
- It is known that the food lab located in Rudrapur tests food samples from all 13 districts of the state. The lab currently can test 3000 food items a year.

River Rafting Fare waived on all rivers except The Ganges

Why in News?

On 23 April 2023, Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve said that to promote river rafting and kayaking activities in the state, the state government has waived the river rafting fee for three years on all rivers except Ganga.



State PCS CA Consolidation APRIL 2023 15

Key Points

- Sachin Kurve said that there is a lot of potential for river rafting under adventure tourism in the state. In view of this, the state government has given an exemption in fees for three years. This will also provide employment to the local people.
- For river rafting on the rivers, a fee is charged by the operators on behalf of the tourism department. Presently more than 526 river rafting guides are registered in the state. Tourists from all over the country and worldwide come to Rishikesh for river rafting in the Ganges. Rafting is done from Kaudiyala to Rishikesh.
- The state government has waived the fee for promoting river rafting on other state rivers and providing employment to the local people. This will encourage water sports activities in Bageshwar, Tanakpur, and Ramnagar region besides Kali, Saryu, Ramganga, Kosi, Tons, Yamuna, and Alaknanda rivers.



Uttarakhand's Mana is now not the Last but the First Village of the Country

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on April 24, 2023, the road organization (BRO) has put up the first village sign board at the entrance of the border village Mana on the Indo-China border in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.

Key points

 Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami shared this photo on social media and wrote that now Mana will not be known as the last but the first village of the country.

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that in October last year, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had addressed the border village of Mana as the first village in the country.
- It is worth mentioning that in the program organized in Mana on October 21, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi had called Mana village the first village of the country instead of the last village of India. Prime Minister Modi had said that every village on the borders will be called the first village of the country.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the border areas of the country are becoming more vibrant today. For this, the Vibrant Village Program has been started.
- The Chief Minister said that vibrant village action plans have been prepared by the district administration in collaboration with gram panchayats. This will give wings to the products of these regions, crops including herbs, apples, rajma as well as the possibilities of development here.
- This scheme will be helpful in preventing migration from the border areas and the border area residents will also be able to participate in the security of the country.
- It is known that Mana village located in Chamoli district at an altitude of 3200 meters in Uttarakhand is located on the banks of Saraswati River. The famous Hindu pilgrimage site Badrinath is about 5 km from here. It's far away.
- Mana village is quite famous for the herbs found here. Eating herbs here provides benefits in many types of diseases. All the herbs found here are beneficial for a person's health.



Mana village - First





Mana village - now

Ayushman Card will now get Free Treatment in Army and Paramilitary Hospitals

Why in News?

On 25 April 2023, Uttarakhand Health Authority Chairman D.K. Kotia said that the central government has listed 21 military and paramilitary hospitals operating in different districts of the state under the Ayushman scheme, under which Ayushman card-holders will now be given military and free treatment facilities will be available in Paramilitary Force hospitals.

Key Points

- It is known that till now the working soldiers, their dependents and ex-servicemen get treatment facilities in these hospitals.
- The central government has included these hospitals in the scheme to provide free treatment facilities to the common people on the Ayushman card.
- 7th Corps ITBP Marathi in Pithoragarh, Unit Hospital 14th Battalion ITBP, Unit Hospital 1st Battalion ITBP in Chamoli, Unit Hospital CTC SSB Sapri, MIC Auli, SSB Hospital Gwaldam, 8th Battalion ITBP Hospital Gauchar, 34th Battalion ITBP Halduchod in Nainital, Group Center CRPF Kathgodam, 34th Battalion ITBP Unit Hospital, ESIC Hospital Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district, Unit Hospital in Pauri, SSB Srinagar, ITBP Hospital in Dehradun have been listed.
- Apart from these, 5th Battalion SSB in Champawat, 36th Battalion ITBP Champawat, ITBP Hospital 35 Corps in Uttarkashi, 12th Battalion ITBP Unit Hospital, BHEL Hospital in Haridwar, 57th Battalion

SSB Sitarganj in Udham Singh Nagar, ITBP Academic Hospital Mussoorie in Dehradun, Unit Hospital in Pithoragarh has been listed.

It is worth mentioning that 50.40 lakh cards have been made under the Ayushman Yojana in the state. There is a facility of free treatment up to Rs 5 lakh on the Ayushman card. So far 7.36 lakh patients have got treatment facilities. In this, the government has spent an amount of 1352 crores.

Inauguration of SDRF Headquarters and Training Center in Jolly Grant

Why in News?

On 24 April 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the SDRF Headquarters and Training Center at Jolly Grant, Dehradun and made several other important announcements during this period.

Key Points

- With the setting up of the SDRF headquarters, relief and rescue operations will be expedited during natural calamities and various accidents in the state. SDRFs of other states will also be given training here.
- With the formation of SDRF, Char Dham Yatra and tourism activities have been secured. SDRF has so far carried out more than 3,000 rescues, 12,000 injured and 2,000 dead bodies. By giving training to 35 thousand trainees of various institutions, 2.5 lakh people have been made aware of disaster relief works.
- State DGP Ashok Kumar said that the first phase of the SDRF headquarters being built in three phases has been completed. In the second phase, the training centre is under construction at a cost of Rs 36 crore.
- Under the World Bank-funded project, the headquarters and training centre of SDRF has been built near the airport at Jolly Grant at a cost of Rs 144 crore.
- The first phase has facilities for reception, office, training block and library, a three-storey training block, demo room, course coordinator, computer lab, lecture room, and library in the first phase.



- There is an electronic charging station, garage and parking for more than a dozen vehicles. There is a canteen facility, fire fighting system, solar system, fencing, watch tower, and residential colony for the police and their families. There is also a petrol pump which will also be useful for the common people.
- > The Chief Minister made these announcements-
 - Risk Allowance: Gazetted officers of SDRF, who conduct rescue operations at a height of 11 thousand feet or more, will get a risk allowance of Rs 1500 and non-gazetted officers & jawans will get a risk allowance of Rs 1000. It will be payable on the lines of paramilitary forces. Presently 12 SDRF officers and jawans are deployed in Kedarnath Dham. Apart from this, from time to time, one has to go to higher Himalayan regions for rescue operations.
 - Sixth Company: Now there will be six companies in SDRF. The new company will be formed soon. One-third of the women employees will be appointed in this.
 - Deputation Period: The time period of deputation in SDRF will be increased from seven years to 10 years.



Now the PCS Exam will be held on the Old Pattern in <u>Uttarakhand</u>

Why in News?

On 26 April 2023, the Uttarakhand government rejected the Uttarakhand Public Service Commission's proposal to implement the UPSC pattern and sent it

back to the commission. The PCS exam pattern will not change. The upcoming PCS exam will be from the old pattern only.

Key Points

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- Additional Secretary Lalit Mohan Rayal has sent a mandate in this regard to the Secretary of the Uttarakhand Public Service Commission.
- Significantly, the State Public Service Commission had recently passed a resolution that since the youth have to prepare separately for the Civil Services Examination and separate for the Uttarakhand PCS, therefore, in the interest of the youth of the state, the Civil Services Examination pattern of UPSC should be implemented in the PCS examination.
- There were mixed reactions from across the state regarding this proposal. Many people said that if the UPSC pattern of the Center is implemented in the state as well, then the path of PCS will become difficult for the youth of the state. There was also a demand that if the UPSC pattern is implemented, then the question papers related to Uttarakhand should be kept separately.
 - Several rounds of meetings were also held between the commission and the officials of the government regarding the PCS exam pattern. Now the government has decided that for the time being only the old pattern will be applicable. The upcoming PCS exam will be on the same pattern. No change is accepted in this.
- The exam will be on this old pattern-
 - **PCS Pre Exam:** General Studies for 150 marks and General Intelligence Test for 150 marks.
 - PCS Main Exam: There are seven papers. 1st - Language (300 marks), 2nd - History of India, National Movement, Society and Culture (200 marks), 3rd - Indian Polity, Social Justice and International Relations (200 marks), 4th
 India and World Geography (200 marks), 5th – Economic and Social Development (200 marks), 6th – General Science and Technology (200 marks) and 7th – General Aptitude and Ethics (200 marks). It is necessary to score at least 35 marks on the language paper in the PCS exam.
 - o Interview: 200 marks.



Uttarakhand Transport Minister Chandan Ramdas Passed Away

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Transport Minister Chandan Ramdas passed away on 26 April 2023. He breathed his last at a hospital in Bageshwar.

Key Points

- Transport Minister Chandan Ramdas had gone to Bageshwar Dham, where his health deteriorated, after which he was admitted to the district hospital in Bageshwar, where he died.
- He is the third cabinet minister in the government of Uttarakhand so far, whose death has been due to one disease or the other. Before him, Kumaon veteran politician Prakash Pant and Haridwar district leader Surendra Rakesh died of cancer. Surendra Rakesh was a minister in the Congress government, while Prakash Pant was a minister in the BJP government.
- The political career of State Transport Welfare Minister Bageshwar MLA Chandan Ramdas started in 1980. In 1997, he became the independent president of the municipality of Bageshwar. Prior to this, he became joint secretary unopposed in the first year of B.A. at M.B. Degree College, Haldwani.
- Chandan Ramdas joined BJP in 2006 on the inspiration of former Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari. He was elected MLA for the fourth consecutive time in 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022. On his death, state mourning has been declared in the state from 26 to 28 April.



Governor Launched 'Chardham Saathi' Mobile App

Why in News?

On April 27, 2023, Uttarakhand Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) launched the 'Chardham Sathi' mobile app of Swami Vivekananda Health Mission Society at Raj Bhavan.

- Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) said that the purpose of this mobile app is to provide health related information to the pilgrims during the Char Dham Yatra.
- This mobile app will be useful for the health facilities of the pilgrims visiting Chardham. Through the mobile app, pilgrims will be able to get information about the nearest Vivekananda Health Mission hospital, services available there and emergency number etc.
- It is worth mentioning that Vivekananda Health Mission is providing free treatment services at Chardham Yatra sites. The Society has established its dispensaries at 11 places in Uttarakhand. So far, this Health Mission Society has provided free health services to lakhs of patients.
- Dr. Anuj Singhal, secretary of this Society, said that ICU-equipped hospitals are being operated by the society at Shri Badrinath Dham, Shri Kedarnath Dham and Gangotri Dham. They have free lab facilities, digital X-ray facilities and pharmacies etc.
- It can be noted that more than 60 cardiologists from all over the country have voluntarily given their consent to render their services in Chardham Yatra Chikitsalayas.









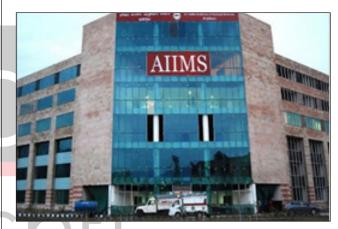
MoU Signed Between AIIMS and Pinnacle Company for Air Ambulance Service

Why in News?

On April 27, 2023, an MoU was signed between AIIMS Rishikesh and Pinnacle Company to operate an air ambulance. Air ambulance service will be operated from AIIMS for emergency and trauma services from May.

Key Points

- Air ambulance service will be started for the first time with the cooperation of the Central and State Governments to take serious patients to AIIMS immediately for emergency and trauma services.
- Dr. Meenu Singh, Director of AIIMS Rishikesh, said that Pinnacle Company will provide service for air ambulances, while Pawan Hans will provide helicopter for air ambulance. The service will be started as soon as the helicopters become available.
- For air ambulance service, 50 trips have been fixed in a month. A team of doctors at AIIMS Rishikesh will decide whether a patient needs an air ambulance immediately for emergency and trauma services or not. The patient's condition will be monitored through telemedicine.



AIIMS Rishikesh

President Approves Appointment of Three New Judges in Uttarakhand High Court

Why in News?

On April 27, 2023, the President approved the appointment of three new judges in the Uttarakhand High Court. These include Senior Advocate Rakesh Thapliyal, Advocate Pankaj Purohit and High Court Registrar General Vivek Bharti Sharma. They will be administered the oath by Chief Justice Vipin Sanghi.



20 State PCS CA Consolidation APRIL 2023

Key Points

- It is known that at present five judges including the Chief Justice were working in the Uttarakhand High Court. Now the number of judges will be eight.
- Originally, senior advocate Rakesh Thapliyal, a resident of Khatasayun Shrikot in Pauri Garhwal, was the Assistant Solicitor General of the Central Government in the Uttarakhand High Court. He has got this responsibility thrice since 2014. After the formation of Uttarakhand High Court, he came to Nainital High Court in 2000. Became the Standing Counsel of the Central Government in 2002 and resigned from this post after 11 months.
- Registrar General Vivek Bharti Sharma is a 2005 Uttarakhand batch Higher Judiciary Service judicial officer. He started practicing in the Delhi High Court in 1990 and was appointed Standing Counsel in the Delhi High Court on behalf of the Government of Delhi. Later he became the Standing Counsel of the Government of India. After getting selected in the Higher Judicial Service, he was Additional District Judge Haridwar, Haldwani, Nainital.
- Vivek Bharti Sharma also became Principal District Judge Pithoragarh and Pauri. He has also served as the Law Advisor to the Governor. He has also been the Chairman of Commercial Taxes Tribunal, Director

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of Ujala Bhowali and District Judge, Haridwar. In April 2022, he was made the Registrar General of the High Court.

- Advocate Pankaj Purohit, a resident of Deval Gwad Chamoli, was registered with the Allahabad Bar Council in 1992. From 1997 he started practicing in Allahabad High Court. After the formation of Uttarakhand state, he started practicing in Uttarakhand High Court. He has been an advocate for Insurance Companies, District Panchayats, Municipalities, State Subordinate Services Selection Commission, Sitapur Eye Hospital etc.
- In May 2017, he became the Deputy Advocate General in the Uttarakhand High Court but left the post after some time.



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Key Points	Details

Summary

Key Points	Details
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Summary