



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

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## Different Cities will be Settled in Uttarakhand on the Lines of Mohali

### Why In News?

On September 30, 2022, Additional Chief Secretary, Urban Development and Housing, Uttarakhand, Anandvardhan informed about the setting up of separate cities in Uttarakhand on the lines of Mohali, a sub-city of Chandigarh.

### Key Points

- The Uttarakhand Housing and Development Council has invited applications from private developers regarding the setting up of separate cities in the state. This township can be developed in three categories.
  - Neighborhood- It will be a small township. This township can be developed only on six hectares to 20 hectares in plain areas and three hectares to ten hectares in mountainous areas.
  - Township- This township can be developed on 20 to 40 hectares of land in plain areas and 10 to 20 hectares of land in mountainous areas.
  - Special Township- This township will be developed on more than 40 hectares of land in plain areas and more than 20 hectares in mountainous areas.
- The purpose of this scheme of the Uttarakhand government is to reduce the burden of old cities and people get state-of-the-art facilities in new cities. All townships will be monitored by the Uttarakhand Housing and Development Council.
- The government has constituted a task force to implement the scheme. The applications received will be surveyed. Experts will tell whether a township can be developed on the land concerned. After this, the master plan of that place will be prepared. The developer will have to provide basic facilities like roads, electricity, water at that place.
- Developers will get support from the council in all government works, from land use change to master plan, registration with RERA, although government fees will have to be deposited.
- The cities that will be built on the lines of Mohali will have complete facilities from schools, colleges to hospitals and playgrounds.

- Just as Mohali has been divided into sectors, the cities of Uttarakhand can also be divided into sectors. In this, separate space will be reserved for special sectors, such as IT companies or other employment companies.

## Ranipokhari Jakhan bridge at Doiwala

### Why In News?

On September 30, 2022, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the bridge over the important Ranipokhari Jakhan river on Rishikesh-Bhaniawala motor road and Sheetla river in Lumberpur Langha motorway under Vidhansabha Vikasnagar in a program organized in Doiwala.

### Key Points

- Significantly, after the bridge collapsed in 2021 last year, the process of building a new bridge was started in January 2022. The working organization Himalayan Construction completed the construction of the bridge on 6th July.
- Chief Minister Dhami said that this is an important bridge connecting Rishikesh, Garhwal etc. with the capital. Apart from the local public, the bridge will also facilitate the tourists.
- 15 km of Bhaniyawala Marg motorway under Doiwala development block of the district from Central Road Infrastructure Fund. A girder bridge of 280 meters span has been constructed. The sanctioned cost for Ranipokhari bridge was Rs 16.18 crore.
- Chief Minister Dhami said that work on Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line and Delhi-Dehradun elevated road is going on at a fast pace. After the completion of the elevated road project, the distance between Delhi and Dehradun will be completed in two hours.
- The Chief Minister said that on the lines of Chardham road project, Manaskhand Corridor has also been decided as the flagship project of the state and work has been started on it. The journey from the all-weather road has now become smooth and safe.

Note:

## Dehradun Municipal Corporation Ranked 69<sup>th</sup> in the Country in Swachh Survekshan-2022

### Why In News?

On October 2, 2022, Dehradun Mayor Sunil Uniyal Gama, while giving information about the results of Swachh Survekshan 2022, informed that the Dehradun Municipal Corporation has secured the 69th rank in the country, performing better than last time in the bodies of Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- Mayor Sunil Uniyal Gama said that the performance of Municipal Corporation Dehradun in cleanliness ranking is improving year after year. Despite very limited resources, Dehradun Municipal Corporation is also in the first place among the cities of Uttarakhand, jumping 13 points compared to the last time.
- It is known that in the year 2021, Dehradun had the 82nd rank across the country. This time he did better by jumping 13 points. Dehradun Municipal Corporation is consistently performing better since the year 2019. Dehradun Municipal Corporation was ranked 384th in the country in 2019, 124th in the year 2020, 84th in 2021 and 69th in the year 2022.
- Dehradun Municipal Corporation remained the only city in the country to have a Garage Free City in the Himalayan states. Doon city is the only city in the entire Himalayan states, which has been included in the Garage City cities across the country. Dehradun has got three stars in this.

## Himalayan Darshan Service

### Why in News?

On October 3, 2022, State Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj duly inaugurated the Himalaya Darshan Seva from George Everest in Mussoorie. Himalaya Darshan Seva has been launched after a one-week trial.

### Key Points

- The tourism minister said that with this Heli service, tourists will get to see the Himalayas from close

quarters. At the same time, the economy of the state will also increase, and new employment opportunities will be created.

- He said that soon the George Everest Museum in the memory of the great surveyor George Everest would be ready in Mussoorie. In this museum the statues of late Nain Singh Rawat and Radhanath Sikandar, the pioneers of Indian cartography, along with their achievements will be kept.
- The tourism minister said that many other attractive activities related to air sports are also being started from George Everest. For this, the tourism department has also signed a contract with a reputed company for the trial.
- He said that an attractive photography and videography contest has been inaugurated for tourism lovers on World Tourism Day. Under this, photos and videos are being invited online in five different categories. Through this contest, prizes worth more than Rs 25 lakh will be given to nature tourism lovers.

## Information Ministry Honored Nivrutti Yadav

### Why In News?

On October 5, 2022, Nivrutti Yadav of Uttarakhand was honored by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting for adopting Sain, the native village of the country's first CDS General Bipin Rawat, and doing better work for the society.

### Key Points

- At present, Nivrutti Yadav Dr. Harivansh Rai is also the founder of the Bachchan Foundation. This organization is working to provide better education to the children of the village as well as connecting the villagers with self-employment. For this, sewing centers and many other training institutes have been opened for women in Sain village.
- In view of these works of the organization, Nivrutti Yadav was honored by the Union Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. Defense Minister Rajnath Singh, Maharashtra Chief Minister Eknath Shinde, Deputy Chief Minister Devendra Fadnavis and Garhwal MP Tirath Singh Rawat have given him the award.

Note:

- At the same time, Nivritti Yadav was also given the responsibility as a member of the advisory panel of Mumbai region by Ravindra Bhakar, Chief Executive Officer of the Central Board of Film Certification. Nivritti Yadav is also associated with Prime Minister Narendra Modi's ambitious Adarsh Gram Project-2014.

## **Uttarakhand to Formulate Trekking Policy to Protect Trekkers**

### **Why In News?**

On October 6, 2022, Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj informed that a trekking policy is being prepared through the Tourism Department for the safety of trekkers and trekking tourists climbing high peaks in the state.

### **Key Points**

- Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that special care will be taken for the safety of trekkers and trekking tourists in the state in the trekking policy.
- Under the policy, satellite phones will be provided by the government to the leader of the mountaineering team, so that the location can be easily detected in case the mountaineering team is caught in any difficulty or disappearance.
- Apart from this, provisions are being made in the policy to give licenses to porters on the basis of training and experience.
- There is no policy in the state for trekking. Trekking tourists leave on the track route without any notice. In case of an accident, the government and administration also do not have any details of the tracking team.
- In the year 2003-04, the guidelines for mountaineering were made, which was applicable only for professional trekkers. At present, the special focus of the government is on promoting adventure tourism, due to which tourists from outside areas are coming to Uttarakhand for trekking.
- It is worth mentioning that every year in addition to professional trekkers from all over the country and the world, tourists interested in adventure tourism come for trekking. There have been many incidents with mountaineering teams. Now the government

is formulating a policy for the safety of tourists and trekkers coming for trekking.

## **Atal Awas Yojana will be operated on the lines of 'PM Awas Yojana' in Uttarakhand**

### **Why In News?**

On October 10, 2022, Uttarakhand Social Welfare Minister Chandan Ramdas instructed the officials to operate the 'Atal Awas Yojana' for Scheduled Castes under the Social Welfare Department in the state on the lines of 'Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)'.

### **Key Points**

- Social Welfare Minister Chandan Ram Das said that in this scheme, the financial assistance of Rs 38,000 per beneficiary for the construction of the building was very less, while there is a provision to give an amount of Rs 1.30 lakh in the Prime Minister's Housing Scheme.
- He said that now this subject of preparing a proposal to operate the Atal Awas Yojana on the same lines will be placed in the next cabinet meeting.
- The Cabinet Minister informed that the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana- Rural is currently benefiting only those people who have been registered five years ago. In view of all this, it has been decided to re-operate the Atal Awas Yojana to provide relief to the poor.
- It is known that there are five corporations and as many boards under the State Social Welfare Department. Out of the loan given by the corporations, about Rs 20 crore is to be recovered. In view of this, a 'one-time resolution scheme' is now being brought, so that the corporations can get at least the principal back along with relief to the concerned persons.

## **Rehabilitation Policy will Soon be Made for Destitute Children in Uttarakhand**

### **Why In News?**

On October 10, 2022, Uttarakhand's Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya informed that for the first time in the state, the Street Children (Destitute) Rehabilitation Policy will be implemented from November 9.

Note:

**Key Points**

- The Minister for Empowerment and Child Development said that the proposal has been prepared by the government, which is set to be implemented on the occasion of the state foundation day (November 9).
- He said that a proposal for rehabilitation policy has been prepared to connect orphans and children roaming destitute on the streets in the state with the mainstream of education.
- It is noteworthy that the Minister of Women Empowerment and Child Development has prepared a draft of this policy. Suggestions were sought from the district magistrates and concerned officials of all the districts to finalize the policy.
- Departmental officials have informed that there are three types of children living on the streets. One is the children who live alone. Others live with their parents. The third is the children who stay on the road all day and go to the slums as the day progresses. Such children are not in school or in the family. Most of the children are from states outside Uttarakhand.
- He said that such children are especially in Dehradun, Haridwar, Udham Singh Nagar and Nainital districts. Arrangements are being made to build shelter homes for these children in the policy.
- Officials say that at present, shelter homes are running in Dehradun, Haridwar and Haldwani, which will be increased according to the need.
- Regarding the policy, some district magistrates have also proposed that these children should be kept in the shelter home during the day, while in the evening they should leave with their families.
- In this policy, along with the education of these children, there is also a preparation to connect them with skill development.

## **Farmers' Database will be Made in Uttarakhand**

**Why In News?**

On October 11, 2022, in a meeting held under the chairmanship of Rajiv Chawla, Chief Knowledge Officer of the Central Government at Dehradun Secretariat of Uttarakhand state regarding land records of farmers in the state, the state officials were instructed to prepare a database of farmers.

**Key Points**

- Giving detailed information about the Agri Stack portal developed by the Central Government, Chawla said that a database of farmers will be prepared in the state to give the benefits of various schemes to the farmers without any paper process.
- For this, every farmer will be provided with a unique identity. Also, giving a presentation regarding the improvement of land records of all the farmers of the state for the portal, he said that the three main pillars of the Agri Stack portal are farmer database, land-referenced village map and crop survey data.
- He told the meeting that there is no separate database of farmers in Uttarakhand. This data of farmers is available only on the online PM Kisan portal of PM Kisan Yojana.
- Under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, the data of all eligible beneficiaries will be integrated into the departmental database. This will be about 80 to 85 percent of the total farmers. The revenue department online-write-off record will record details of the area of all seasonal crops sown in the land owned by each farmer.
- The Agriculture Department will update and use this data. With this time series data, possible estimates of crops can be prepared every month in the future. The information received crop-wise will be used to get crop loans, PM Kisan Samman Nidhi, PM Fasal Bima Yojana and crop marketing benefits from Kisan Credit Card. This will make verified information available online to the farmer.
- It was informed in the meeting that the Revenue Department has tendered to make the maps of villages online in the state. In the first phase, maps of two districts - Almora and Pauri - will be made online, maps of the remaining districts will be made online in two years.
- For crop survey data, the process of inviting proposals from the Department of Agriculture for Dehradun and Champawat districts is in progress. Various departmental dashboards will be prepared using artificial intelligence and machine learning using land revenue data, soil profiling data of Dehradun and Champawat. For other districts, the Revenue Department will get the work of crop survey done in a phased manner after providing the geo-referenced village maps.

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## CM Dharami inaugurates FDA building and State Drug Testing Laboratory

### Why In News?

On October 12, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dharami inaugurated the newly constructed FDA Building and State Drug Testing Laboratory of Food Safety and Drug Administration Department at Danda Lakhond, Sahastradhara Road.

### Key Points

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister informed that a big initiative is being taken towards strengthening the Drug Control Organization and State Drug Testing Laboratory for the pharma sector of the state. Keeping in mind the all-round development of this sector, the FDA has been approved at a cost of Rs 6.56 crore. The building has been constructed.
- Apart from this, FDA at a cost of Rs.13.22 crores. State Drug Testing Laboratory has also been established in the building to check the quality of drug samples. The laboratory is equipped with state-of-the-art equipment keeping in mind the current requirements.
- The Chief Minister said that it is the endeavor of the State Government to give maximum impetus to the manufacturing of medicines in the State and the possibilities of expansion in this field. As a result of this, the units of drug manufacturing are continuously increasing in the state. About 300 pharmaceutical companies are functioning in the state. All these units are providing employment to thousands of people through their production.
- He said that Uttarakhand has many natural resources. Uttarakhand is not only the land of AYUSH, Yoga, religion

Note:

and culture, apart from this, it is also becoming the land of industries.

- The Chief Minister said that all possible help would be given by the State Government to the pharmaceutical companies. In the year 2025, when Uttarakhand will celebrate the silver jubilee of the state's establishment, attention will be given to what the pharma sector can contribute to making Uttarakhand an excellent state.
- State Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that continuous efforts are being made to promote pharmaceutical companies in Uttarakhand. Online process is being adopted to ensure that pharmaceutical companies do not face any problem in getting license.
- A target has been set to make the state tuberculosis free by the year 2024. Uttarakhand is one of the best states in blood donation and institutional delivery.

## Government's Approval for New Ropeway to be Built in Uttarakhand

### Why In News?

On October 13, 2022, R.K Sudhanshu, Principal Secretary, Forest and Public Distribution, Uttarakhand informed that the National Board of Wild Animals has approved the construction of ropeway in Kedarnath Sanctuary area.

### Key Points

- R.K Sudhanshu said that this project with an expenditure of one thousand crore rupees for Kedarnath has been approved by the National Board of Wild Animals. Once the ropeway is built, the number of tourists in the state is expected to increase.
- He said that along with the approval for the construction of ropeway in Kedarnath Sanctuary area, Kedarnath's foot track and Hemkund Sahib ropeway project have also got green signal by the board.
- These projects will be constructed under the Parvatmala project of the central government, for which a total of 26 hectares of land will be acquired.
- After the ropeway for Kedarnath is built, the journey from Sonprayag to Kedarnath will be completed in just 30 minutes. The ropeway will have a capacity to carry five thousand passengers per hour.

## National Education Policy-2020 launched in Uttarakhand

### Why In News?

On October 16, 2022, Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the National Education Policy-2020 for the academic session 2022-23 in higher education at the Mukhya Sevak Sadan at the Chief Minister's residence in the state.

### Key Points

- Union Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan said that Uttarakhand has launched the National Education Policy 2020 for the first time in the country.
- It is known that Uttarakhand was the first to start it in elementary education from Bal Vatika.
- He said that Devbhoomi Uttarakhand is the land of scholars. Many ideas will come from this Devbhoomi for better implementation of the new education policy. Now efforts will have to be made that in the coming time, 100 percent children should enter Bal Vatikas.
- He informed that the National Education Policy 2020 has been made keeping in mind all aspects of human life. Apart from education, special attention has also been paid to the skill development of children, their personality development, linguistic development and moral values.
- The Union Education Minister said that under the National Education Policy, children are being linked to formal education for 3 years, under which Bal Vatika was started.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that positive steps have been taken by the Higher Education Department in an effective and phased manner towards the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020 in the state.
- The New Education Policy is a policy designed under the leadership and guidance of the Prime Minister to open new dimensions of building a new, modern, strong and self-reliant India of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, which has been prepared by the renowned academicians of the country and it is a powerful medium to fulfill the new hopes and new needs of new India.

Note:



- State School Education and Higher Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that under nep 2020, admissions have been started in higher educational institutions from the current academic session. For this, courses have been prepared according to the new policy.
- The Departmental Minister informed that for the implementation of the new policy, a State Level Task Force was constituted as well as Screening Committee and Curriculum Design Committee, whose curriculum was prepared after several rounds of meetings at various levels and suggestions received from the public domain. Gone. This course is approved by BOS, Academic Council and Executive Committee of all universities.
- He said that under the new policy, students would get the benefit of choice based credit system and now they would be able to choose their favorite subject and university.
- Dr. Rawat informed that the new courses will be research, innovation and entrepreneurship based. It has advanced courses like robotics. Courses such as Indian Knowledge Tradition, Communication Skills, Environment, Management Paradise of Bhagavad Gita, Yoga, Vivekananda Studies, Personal Development, Ramcharitmanas, Traditional Knowledge, Vedic Science and Vedic Mathematics are also kept in each semester of 6 semesters of the Co-curricular course.

## **Nirbhaya Fund to set up Women's Hostels in 10 Hilly Districts**

### **Why In News?**

On October 17, 2022, Uttarakhand's **Women Empowerment and Child Development Secretary H. C. Semwal** said that in the meeting of the Project Approval Board of Nirbhaya Fund held in New Delhi, the board has given in-principle approval to the suggestion of **construction of women's hostels in 10 hilly districts of Uttarakhand.**

### **Key Point**

- H.C. Semwal said that except Haridwar, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar districts, these hostels in the remaining 10 hilly districts of the state will be

constructed with the Nirbhaya Fund with the aim of providing a safe and protected environment to working women and studying girls.

- It is known that the **Nirbhaya Fund** is being operated by the **Union Ministry of Women and Child Development.**
- Semwal informed the meeting that 2522 women and girls have been given self-defense related training from Nirbhaya Fund in five districts of the state - Bageshwar, Almora, Nainital, Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar. At the same time, emphasis is also being laid on making a long-term plan for the state.
- The Secretary, Women Empowerment and Child Development said that it is necessary to keep women and child development at the center of **localization of Sustainable Development Goals.** If panchayats become pro-women and child-friendly, it will solve many problems on their own.

## **Jamrani Dam Construction Project Included In Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana**

### **Why in News?**

On October 18, 2022, **Uttarakhand Irrigation Secretary Harichandra Semwal** informed that in a meeting chaired by the **Union Secretary of Water Resources and officials of NITI Aayog and Central Water Commission,** approval was given for inclusion of **Jamrani dam project in Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.**

### **Key Point**

- Irrigation Secretary Harichandra Semwal said that the **Jamrani dam (150.6 meters height) on the Gola river,** 10 km upstream of Kathgodam in Nainital district of Uttarakhand, will be constructed and included in the Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana.
- The Jamrani dam project is targeted to be completed by 2027. Under this, along with additional irrigation of 57065 hectares, there is a provision to provide 42 MCM drinking water to Haldwani city by the year 2055. The project will generate 63 million units of electricity every year.
- The Secretary said that after the approval of investment, construction works including early rehabilitation on Jamrani Dam project will be started.

Note:

- It is to be noted that on June 10, 2022, in-principle approval of Rs 2584.10 crore was given by the **Ministry of Jal Shakti** under the **Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana** for the Jamrani Dam project.
- The irrigation secretary said that in the meeting of the screening committee, it was decided that a proposal will be sent to the Finance Ministry and the Central Government on behalf of the Ministry of Jal Shakti for allocation of funds for the project. In this, the state will have to contribute 10 percent and the central government will have to contribute 90 percent.
- The Irrigation Secretary said that the rehabilitation policy for rehabilitation of project affected people will be kept for cabinet approval soon and the affected villagers will be properly rehabilitated as per the provision of **Rehabilitation and Resettlement Act, 2013**.

## **Pindari Glacier and Bagchi Bugyal named 'Track of the Year'**

### **Why In News?**

On October 19, 2022, **Pindari Glacier in Bageshwar district and Bagchi Bugyal in Chamoli district** were declared 'Track of the Year' by the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council (UTDB)**.

### **Key Point**

- Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that a subsidy of Rs 2,000 will also be given to the tour operators on the total cost of tracking each tracker by the Tourism Department for dispatching the team to both Pindari Glacier and Bagchi Bugyal.
- He said that this trekking program will play an important role in promoting winter trekking destination and winter tourism. Through this track, the winter trekking destination will be promoted and disseminated like Kedarkantha and trekking guide training is also being given by the department to promote trekking.
- It is noteworthy that the Pindari Glacier track will start from Kathgodam in Kumaon, which will pass through Khati, Davyali, Furkiye, Zero Point, Khati followed by Kharkia and culminate at Kathgodam. At the same time, the track of Bagchi Bugyal will start from Rishikesh in Dehradun, which will pass through Ghes, Deolikhet and conclude at the base camp of

Bagchi Bugyal. From here, the trackers will reach Bagchi's top Himani via Dhulamba.

## **PM Lays Foundation Stone of Various Development Projects worth over Rs 3400 Crore in Uttarakhand**

### **Why in News?**

On October 21, 2022, Prime Minister Narendra Modi laid the foundation stone of various development projects worth more than Rs. 3400 crore for the state at a program organized in Mana village of Uttarakhand located on the border.

### **Key points**

- These projects include two road widening projects from Mana to Mana Pass (NH 07) and Joshi math to Malari (NH107B), including two new ropeway projects at Gaurikund-Kedarnath and Govindghat-Hemkund Sahib.
- The Kedarnath ropeway will be around 9.7 km long, connecting Gaurikund with Kedarnath, reducing the travel time between the two places to about 30 minutes from the current 6-7 hours.
- The Hemkund ropeway will connect Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib, which will be around 12.4 km long and reduce the travel time from one day to just 45 minutes. The ropeway will also connect Ghangharia, which is the gateway to the Valley of Flowers National Park. Both these ropeways will be developed at a cumulative cost of about Rs 2430 crore.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Prime Minister said that it will be an eco-friendly mode of transport, which will provide safety and stability to the movement. The development of this critical infrastructure will promote religious tourism, which will accelerate economic development in the region and at the same time create many employment opportunities.
- During the program, he also laid the foundation stone of road widening projects worth about Rs 1000 crore. These include two road widening projects from Mana to Mana Pass and Joshimath to Malari. These will also prove to be strategically beneficial besides providing all-weather road connectivity and boosting connectivity in the border areas.

Note:

- Referring to 'Vocal for Local', the Prime Minister urged the countrymen to make a resolution that wherever they go, spend at least 5 percent of what they spend on travel on buying local products there. This will open the way for livelihood in all these areas.
- The Prime Minister, while stamping that Mana was the first village of the country instead of the last village of India by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, said that earlier the areas which were ignored as the end of the borders of the country, we started from there as the beginning of the prosperity of the country.

## Uttarakhand ranks first in North India Geographical Indication

### Why in news?

On October 24, 2022, Sudhir Chandra Nautiyal, Director of Industries, Uttarakhand, informed that Uttarakhand has secured the first position in the North India Geographical Indication held in Varanasi from October 16 to 21 in collaboration with the Ministry of Commerce and Industry and the Government of Uttar Pradesh.

### Key points

- Seven GI-registered products were exhibited by Uttarakhand at the North India Geographical Indication Festival. Among these GI products, Berinag Tea, Aipan and Pura products were the center of attraction.
- The state's director of industries said that gi registered Kumaon Chura Oil, Munsiyari Rajma, Bhotia Dan, Aipan, Ringal Craft, Copper Products and Thulma, among other products, were displayed by the state.
- He pointed out that Geographical Indication gives legal protection to products with a region characteristic.
- The North India GI Festival has been organised in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh from October 16 to 21, in which 100 GI products were exhibited by 11 states of the north.

## Increase in the Number of Snow Leopards in Uttarakhand

### Why in News

On October 23, 2022, on the occasion of World Snow Leopard Day, the Uttarakhand Forest Department released

data about them. According to the data provided, there are about 121 snow leopards in the state. During an auction in 2016, their number was around 86.

### Key Points

- According to forest department data, the snow leopard clan is increasing in the Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand, which is a good sign in terms of biodiversity. Snow leopard is one of the most beautiful and rare creatures in the world. Efforts were going on in the state for a long time to count snow leopards and preserve this rare creature, successful results of these efforts have also been seen now.
- Chief Wildlife Warden Sameer Sinha said that a survey of 12764.35 sq km of the area available for snow leopards in the state has been conducted. This counting was completed in 2 steps. It included Govind National Park and Wildlife Sanctuary, Kedarnath Wildlife Division, high terrestrial areas of Nanda Devi Biosphere and Trans Himalayan region of Uttarakhand.
- According to this scientific study, the estimated number of snow leopards in Uttarakhand was estimated at 121. Snow leopards live in the Himalayan region of the state with an altitude of 3000 meters. The movements of snow leopards are often seen in camera traps. Snow leopards have also been seen many times in the Nelang Valley of Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand.
- The scientific name of the snow leopard is **Panthera uncia**. The snow leopard serves as an indicator of mountain ecosystem health due to its position as the top predator in the food chain.
- The snow leopard has been listed on the IUCN's Red List of World Conservation Species. It is also listed in Appendix-I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). It is listed in Schedule-I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.
- The Government of India has identified the snow leopard as a major species of high Himalayas. India has been a part of the Global Snow Leopard and Ecosystem Conservation (GSLEP) programme since 2013.
- In October 2020, a community volunteer programme called 'Himalaya Sanrakshak' was launched to protect snow leopards.
- In the year 2019, the First National Protocol on 'Snow Leopard Population Assessment' was also launched, which is very useful for monitoring its population.

Note:

- The 'Snow Leopard Project' was launched in 2009 to promote an inclusive and participatory approach to conservation of snow leopards and their habitat.
- Snow Leopard Conservation Breeding Programme has been launched at Panja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling, West Bengal.
- It is noteworthy that the mountainous landscape of Central Asia has a huge, but fragmentary distribution of snow leopard, covering different parts of the Himalayas, such as Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Sikkim.
- Snow leopards live in high mountainous areas that are at an altitude of 18,000 feet, most such areas are in the Himalayas. China and Mongolia have the highest number of snow leopards. They are also found in Nepal, India, Pakistan and Russia.
- The Bishkek Declaration was adopted during the first Global Forum on Conservation of Snow Leopards on October 23, 2013. The forum was held in Bishkek, the capital of Kyrgyzstan. In 2014, to commemorate the one-year anniversary of the Bishkek Declaration, twelve countries on stage declared **October 23 as International Snow Leopard Day**.

## Two Coffor Dams to Come up Before Jamrani Dam

### Why in News?

According to media information received on October 24, 2022, two coffer dams and two tunnels will be built before the construction of the multi-purpose Jamrani dam. Through two tunnels of 600 meters, the water of the Gaula river will be transported from one end to the other.

### Key Points

- Approval from the Finance Ministry for Jamrani Dam is awaited. The irrigation department has invited advance tenders for the construction of the dam. Works like coffer dam, tunnel, approach road etc. will be done at a cost of Rs 1828 crore.
- It is known that the construction of multi-purpose **Jamrani dam project on Gola river in Nainital district of Uttarakhand** is proposed. Construction of Gola Barrage in the first phase of the project, 244 km. Reconstruction of the canal and construction of

Damuwa and Amritpuri colony have been completed. In the second phase, the construction of the main dam is being considered.

- Concretisation work is to be done within a radius of 20 lakh cubic meters in jamrani dam area. For this, two diversion tunnels and two coffer dams are to be built. The water of the river will be transported from one end to the other through two tunnels of 600 meters. The irrigation department has prepared this complete blueprint. This tunnel will pass through the middle of the hill.
- It is worth mentioning that **coffer dam is such a permanent structure, which is built to make a large aquatic area waterless, so that construction work can be done there**. Through this, **the flow of the river is diverted alternately through the tunnel**. Usually two coffer dams are built- upstream and downstream coffer dams. These dams are built when the structure is to be constructed in the river bed. After completion of the construction of the dam and related structures the downstream coffer is removed and the upstream coffer dam is filled with water.

## Proposal to Rename Lansdowne as 'Kalo ka danda'

### Why in News?

Recently, the **132-year-old Lansdowne Cantonment** in Uttarakhand's Pauri district has sent a proposal to the Ministry of Defense to name Lansdowne as 'Kalo ka danda /Kalaun Ka Danda (mountain surrounded by dark clouds)'

### Key Points

- The Army Headquarters of the Ministry of Defence has sought proposals from sub-area Uttarakhand to change the names of roads, schools, institutions, cities and suburbs of cantonment areas during the British era.
- The Defence Ministry has also asked them to suggest what names can be placed in place of british-era names. Under this, Lansdowne Cantonment has sent a proposal to name it 'Kalo Ka Danda'. Earlier it was called 'Kalaun Ka Danda'. The locals have been demanding its name for years. Several letters have also been sent to the Defence Ministry in this regard.

Note:

- The Garhwal Regiment was established in 1886. On May 5, 1887, the platoon of the first Garhwal Regiment formed in Almora under the leadership of author Colonel Merwing reached Lansdowne on November 4, 1887. At that time Lansdowne was called 'Kalo Ka Danda'. On September 21, 1890, **it was named Lansdowne after the then Viceroy Lord Lansdowne.**

## Draft Ordinance on Women's Horizontal Reservation

### *Why in News?*

On October 27, 2022, Uttarakhand Personnel and Vigilance Secretary Shailesh Bagauli told the media that a draft ordinance has been prepared for horizontal reservation of women in the state. The draft will be sent to the legislative department next week, from where it will be sent to Raj Bhavan for the governor's approval.

### *Key Points*

- Secretary Shailesh Bagauli said that a draft ordinance has been prepared to give **30 percent horizontal reservation in government jobs to women of Uttarakhand.** After the approval of the Governor, the law of women horizontal reservation will be made in the state.
- It is known that the state government decided to bring an ordinance after the Nainital High Court stayed the government order of women horizontal reservation. It was agreed to bring an ordinance in the state cabinet meeting recently to restore horizontal reservation.
- According to Shailesh Bagauli, efforts have also started at the government level to restore 10 percent horizontal reservation to the state agitators in state government jobs. Discussions are underway with the Department of Justice in this regard. The proposal will be sent to the Department of Justice after preparing a solid legal basis in support of horizontal reservation.
- The high court had set aside the mandate of horizontal reservation of state agitators on a petition.
- On the request of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh returned the state agitator horizontal reservation bill pending for several years at Raj Bhavan. After the bill returned, the government was asked to immediately bring an ordinance or bill for horizontal reservation.

## Centre Hands Over 45.33 Acres of HMT Land to Uttarakhand

### *Why in News?*

On October 27, 2022, the Union Ministry of Heavy Industries transferred the much-awaited 45.33 acres of land of HMT located at Haldwani in Nainital to the Uttarakhand government. The ministry has issued land transfer orders.

### *Key Points*

- According to the order, 45.33 acres of land of HMT at Ranibagh and Haldwani has been transferred to the Uttarakhand government at a reserve price of Rs 72 crore two lakh 10 thousand. There is a very high cost of land at market rate.
- Significantly, the state government had been requesting the central government to get the land for many years. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had also requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi to transfer the land. The issue was also raised in a meeting with Union Heavy Industries Minister Mahendra Nath Pandey in August.
- The state government can construct mini SIDCUL on HMT land. A large number of entrepreneurs are willing to invest in the state, but arranging land for industries is a big challenge before the government.

## Defence Minister Virtually Inaugurates Four Motor Bridges in Chamoli-Uttarkashi

### *Why in News?*

On October 28, 2022, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurated four motor bridges in Chamoli, the frontier region of Uttarakhand, and Nelang Valley in Uttarkashi.

### *Key Points*

- The Defense Minister inaugurated three bridges on the Karnprayag-Gwaldam highway and one at Nelong at Kulsari in the state. With the construction of these

Note:

bridges, the movement of the army will be facilitated up to the India-China border and apart from this, large vehicles of the army will be able to go to the border easily.

- It is worth mentioning that the construction of all three bridges on the Karnprayag-Gwaldam highway in the state has been done by BRO's 66 RCC Command Gauchar. The length of the bridge on the highway at Kulsari is 50 meters, the length of the Kuseri bridge at Tharali is 40 meters and the length of the bridge at Lolti is 35 meters.
- Brigadier Rajiv Srivastava, chief engineer of shivalik project in Uttarakhand, said that the Border Roads Organization has constructed these three bridges in just one and a half years.
- The construction work on the strategically important Pagal Nala in Nelang Valley, a border area of Uttarkashi district of the state, has been completed and now the Nelang Valley road will not be closed due to heavy rains and landslides.
- Major Naman Narula of BRO said that this bridge is capable of carrying the army's highest weight tanks and equipment. In the technical parlance of the Army, its load carrying capacity is 70R.
- Four more bridges are being constructed in landslide-affected areas in Nelang valley so that the strategically important road is not closed due to landslides during the rains. All these bridges are of 50 to 65 meters span. The cost of each bridge is Rs.6 to 7 crore and the construction of one of these bridges is likely to be completed by next year. All these bridges are coming up within a radius of 25 km between Bhairavghati and Nelang Valley.
- Along with these bridges, Rajnath Singh also inaugurated 72 other projects in the country through video conferencing from Leh Valley.

## Nanda Devi Gallantry Award

### *Why In News?*

- On October 30, 2022, the selection committee constituted under the chairmanship of Uttarakhand Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan announced the 'Nanda Devi Gallantry Award' to 10 women from the state for displaying bravery and courage.

### *Key Points*

- It is noteworthy that every year women who have done excellent work in different fields are honored by Shri Nanda Devi Rajajat Purva Peethika Samiti.
- This year, women working in the inaccessible areas of the mountainous region, who have made an incomparable contribution in the field of valor and courage, will be honored. They will be honored at a function to be held at Prakash Pant Bhawan auditorium of the state assembly on November 1.
- These women include Flying Officer Nidhi Bisht from Pauri in the state, Anita Tamta from Bageshwar, Kalavati Badal from Dharchula in Pithoragarh, Tara Joshi from Champawat, Tara Takuli from Kapkot, Tara Pangti, Geeta Devi Pangti from Pithoragarh, Asha Devi from Bageshwar, from Chamba. Nivedita Panwar, Sita Devi Burfal from Pithoragarh has been selected for the honor.

## Names of all Symbols of Slavery will be Changed in Uttarakhand

### *Why In News?*

On October 29, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced that the names of all symbols of colonialism, that is, slavery, would be changed in the state.

### *Key Points*

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has directed that all symbols of colonialism in the state will be renamed and renamed.
- He said that the roads and cities in Uttarakhand whose names are of British era will be changed.
- It is known that after prime minister Narendra Modi came to power, all the symbols of colonialism are being changed in the country and on the lines of these, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath has also changed the names of many places in his state.
- It is worth noting that a few days ago, Prime Minister Modi had inaugurated the 'Kartavya Path' along with unveiling the statue of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in the national capital Delhi. The Kartavya Path' was earlier called 'Rajpath'.



Note:



**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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