



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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'Lakhpati Didi' Scheme

Why in News?

- On July 1, 2022, Uttarakhand's Additional Secretary (Rural Development) Anand Swarup informed that under the National Rural Livelihoods Mission (NRLM) of the Ministry of Rural Development, the Central Government has started work on the plan to make 3 lakh women Lakhpati of the state.

Key Points

- Anand Swarup said that under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme, the work of training co-ordinators at the block and district level has been started through the app. After the survey work is done, different works will be assigned to different groups of SGH so that their income can be up to one lakh rupees per year.
- Under the 'Lakhpati Didi' scheme for women belonging to Self Help Groups (SHGs), they will be encouraged to take up micro-enterprises with skill development. With this, 20,000 new self-help groups will be formed in the state in this financial year so that more and more women can get the benefit of the scheme.
- At present, 4 thousand 310 village organizations and 259 cluster level organizations have been formed by organizing 3 lakh 5 thousand women in 39,116 self-help groups in 95 blocks of the state.
- Sustainable, micro enterprises will be encouraged along with skill development to double the income of women associated with these organizations. For this, through the National Institute of Rural Development and the Uttarakhand Institute of Rural Development, women will be made skilled by training them in all new works.
- Till now women associated with SHGs are generally confined to work like pickle, papad, handicraft, vegetable, silk, fruit etc. In the coming days, these women will be made proficient in work like electrician, plumber, tent house, masons, manure making, organic farming, LED bulb making.
- These will be brought under one roof through the NRLM program to market the finished products by the SHGs, so that a chain can be formed by distributing the work to different groups. Under this, it will also be easier for the groups to take bank loans.
- Efforts will be made under the scheme for the state's products to get market at national and international

level also. E-commerce websites like Amazon, Flipkart, Mantra, PayTM Mall and Government e-Market Place (GeM) are also being tied up to get fair market for women's products belonging to Self Help Groups.

- Additional Chief Executive Officer of Aajeevika Mission Pradeep Pandey informed that at present two state level Uttara outlets have been established in the state. One of them is established in Ranipokhari and one in Raipur. Their number will be increased in the coming days.
- Apart from this, 13 district level outlets (Saras Centres), 9 cluster outlets at block level, 33 nano packaging units and 24 growth centres have been established. An outlet has also been made at Jolly Grant airport. Apart from this, 17 temporary outlets have been set up on Chardham Yatra routes. Where finished products are sold on behalf of SHGs.

VRS of Differently-abled and Disabled teachers

Why in News?

- Recently, the Education Minister of Uttarakhand, Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat has directed the officials to constitute a high-level committee to provide VRS to differently-abled and disabled teachers during the conclusion of the two-day Chintan Shivir organized by the education department at Rajawala.

Key Points

- The education minister also said that every official of the education department will adopt a school in his area.
- The Education Minister said that teachers should follow the conduct rules. First put your point in the appropriate forum in front of the department. If the problem is not resolved even after this, the teachers can have their say at the governance level. The court may be the last option for a problem.
- The Education Minister said that for qualitative improvement in education, it is first of all necessary to be disciplined. In order to create discipline in the department, all the officers and employees of the department will have to follow the Service and Conduct Rules. Many personnel go straight to the court without putting their point in the proper forum, which creates problems in departmental work.

Note:

- The minister said that there should be at least 220 days of compulsory classes in schools. Seven percent of the people in the state are still illiterate.
- It is worth mentioning that for the first time a Chintan Shivir has been organized in the education department.

Ghasyari Kalyan Yojana

Why in News?

- On July 4, 2022, in order to implement the Mukhyamantri Ghasyari Kalyan Yojana (**MGKY**) and to expedite the process of computerization of all multi-purpose Primary Agricultural Credit Societies (**MPACS**) in the state, Cooperation Secretary BVRC Purushottam held a review meeting with the department officials at the Integrated Cooperative Development Project Office.

Key Points

- In the meeting, the Secretary said that it has been directed by Cooperation Minister Dhan Singh Rawat that MGKY be expanded in all hill districts of the state.
- Under the scheme, nutritious green fodder silage is provided to farmers and cattle herders through cooperative societies.
- The Secretary also informed that 103 MPACS have gone online to mark the completion of 100 days of Pushkar Singh Dhama government in the state.
- Apart from this, the Secretary, after reviewing the Bakri Ghati villages, said that goat villages would also be established in Almora, Bageshwar, Chamoli, Pauri and Rudraprayag districts, whose size would be spread over an area of one square kilometer.

Effect of Climate Change on Flowers

Why in News?

- Recently, Dr. S.K. Singh said that due to climate change in Uttarakhand, not only the flowers have started blooming before the scheduled time, but their colours are also changing.

Key Points

- According to the scientists of the Botanical Survey of India, 4.5 lac such plants are found in the whole

world, in which flowers bloom. Out of these 40,000 species of flora are found in India. There are 20 thousand species in which flowers bloom on time. The process of blooming of flowers starts only in certain temperature and environment.

- There are some flowers that indicate the arrival of the seasons, but now due to climate change, the time of flower blooming is also seeing a change.
- According to Dr. S.K Singh, Brahma Kamal, the state flower found in the high Himalayan regions of the state, has also started blooming before the scheduled time. At the same time, in the Valley of Flowers, things are coming out about flowers blooming before time.
- Due to climate change and increase in temperature, now the colors of flowers are also changing. According to an article published in the American science journal Current Biology, chemical changes are also being seen in the pigments of flowers. The pigment itself absorbs ultraviolet rays. The maximum effect of ultraviolet rays is being seen on the flowers of high Himalayan regions.
- The research also revealed that the depletion of the ozone layer due to excessive carbon emissions and the arrival of more ultraviolet rays on the earth has also affected the pollen grains of flowers. This has also been a reason for the change in the time and colour of the flowers.

State Level Committee Constituted to Expedite Tourism Projects

Why in News?

- On July 5, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, while announcing the possibility of investment in the hospitality sector, said that a state-level committee would be formed to expedite tourism projects.

Key Points

- The Chief Minister made this announcement during a discussion on the possibility of investment in the hospitality sector in the state by the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council (UTDB) with the aim of promoting the tourism sector and investors in a hotel located on Rajpur Road.

Note:

- This state level committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of secretary R. Meenakshi Sundaram. In this committee, officers of Finance, Housing, Public Works Department, Police, Pollution Control Board and other related departments will be included as members.
- Speaking on the occasion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that there is immense potential for tourism in the state under which the prices of air fuel have been reduced by 18 percent. After three months, there will be another interaction with all tourism investors.
- Secretary R. Meenakshi Sundaram said that the policies formulated by the government for investors will be simplified.
- Tourism Secretary Dilip Jawalkar said that there is immense potential for investment in tourism once tourism gets the status of an industry. The state government aims to invest Rs 5000 crore in the tourism sector in the next 5 years.

Uttarakhand Achieved Leaders Category in Startup Ranking-2021

Why in News?

- In the recently released Startup Ranking of States-2021 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Uttarakhand has secured the Leaders category, while Gujarat and Karnataka have got the ranking of the best performing state.

Key Points

- Uttarakhand has moved up a notch in the startup rankings due to the reforms being done by the government to promote startups. In order to establish the innovation idea as a startup, the facilities are being improved by the government, due to which the state is getting success in the startup ranking of the Centre.
- It is worth mentioning that Uttarakhand was ranked in the emerging category in the ranking of the year 2018 and aspiring in 2019.
- Industry Director Sudhir Chandra Nautiyal said that the startup rankings are continuously improving due to the policies of the government. The government is also providing technical support along with financial incentives to recognized startups.

- The government has recognized 128 startups on innovation ideas in health, information technology, food processing, education and other sectors. Under the state's Startup Policy, 2018, financial incentives are also being provided by the government to startups to set up businesses, including SGST reimbursement, 100 per cent waiver in stamp duty, assistance of Rs 1 to Rs 5 lakh for patenting the product, 10 to 10 to startups. A monthly allowance of up to Rs.15,000 is also being given.
- The government has recognized 13 incubation centers to set innovation ideas in business. Where the startup has the facility of machinery, technical support for preparing the project. With the opening of incubation centers in the state, the state does not have to go to other areas to make startups a project.
- In order to promote startups, the government has implemented the startup policy in the year 2018. Now the government is preparing to amend the policy to enhance facilities to encourage investment in startups and incubation centers.

Harela Festival

Why in News?

- On July 4, 2022, Uttarakhand Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal said in a meeting held at Manthan Auditorium in the Forest Headquarters premises that like previous years, Harela festival would be celebrated across the state with gaiety on July 16 this year too.

Key Points

- The Forest Minister said that this time the plants will be selected according to the geographical and environmental conditions of the area. For this, plants and techniques will be made available by the Forest Department.
- During this, the Forest Department has set a target of planting more than 15 lakh saplings across the state. Under this, for the first time more than 50 percent fruit trees will be planted on this festival.
- Emphasis will be laid on increasing the participation of schools, colleges and forest panchayats on Harela festival. After planting saplings, they should remain alive and in the coming times, efforts will be made for this to benefit the society.

Note:

- With a view to strengthen the forest panchayats, this time fruitful plantation is being promoted, so that in future the livelihood of the people there can be linked to them.
- The Forest Minister said that Police Forest and Mera Van would be developed across the state. Under this, this responsibility will be assigned to schools, colleges and all departments. People will be able to plant saplings in these gardens in the name of themselves, relatives and the deceased. The responsibility of keeping these plants alive and grooming will also be given to the person concerned.

Sports Development Fund

Why in News?

- On July 6, 2022, Sports and Youth Welfare Minister of Uttarakhand Rekha Arya, in a review meeting with the officials of the department, instructed to set up a 'Sports Development Fund'.

Key Points

- She asked the officials to study the policies of Kerala, Haryana and Odisha so that the sports department is financially strong and necessary resources can be made available to the players.
- Under the scheme, funds will be made available from Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and other resources.
- She said chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami will formally launch the 'Sports Scholarship Scheme' on August 29 (Sports Day).
- Under the 'Mukhyamantri Emerging Khiladi Protsahan Yojana', 150 youth (8-14 years age group) of each district will be given a scholarship of Rs 1500 per month. It will help in developing sportsmanship as well as help in nurturing future sportspersons.

Uttarakhand Ranked 24th in 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'

Why in News?

- In the first edition of 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' released on July 5, 2022, Uttarakhand has been ranked 24th in the entire country. Odisha ranks first and Uttar Pradesh second in this index.

Key Points

- Union Minister for Consumer Affairs, Food and Public Distribution, Textiles and Commerce and Industry Piyush Goyal released the first edition of the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA'.
- Among the general category states, Odisha topped the 'State Ranking Index for NFSA' with a score of 0.836, while Uttar Pradesh is second with a score of 0.797 and Andhra Pradesh is third with a score of 0.794.
- Among special category states/UTs, Tripura is at the first position with a score of 0.788, followed by Himachal Pradesh with a score of 0.758 and Sikkim third with a score of 0.710.
- Also in the three Union Territories, where direct benefit transfer (DBT) is cash-driven, Dadra and Nagar Haveli and Daman Diu are at the top spot with a score of 0.802.
- The performance of Uttarakhand in terms of implementation of NFSA not only at the national level, but also in the 14 states of North-East and Himalayas, has lagged far behind. In this list, Tripura is ranked first, Himachal Pradesh second and Sikkim third, while Uttarakhand is at fifth place with a score of 0.637.
- The index seeks to document the status and progress of implementation of NFSA and various reform initiatives across the country after consultation with the States.
- It highlights the reforms undertaken by the States and UTs and creates a cross-learning environment and scale-up reform measures by all the States and UTs.
- The current index is largely focused on NFSA distribution and will include future purchases, PMGKAY distribution.
- The index for ranking of states and UTs is built on three key pillars, covering the end-to-end implementation of nfsa through TPDS. These pillars are- **i)** NFSA- coverage, targeting and provisions of the Act, **ii)** delivery platform, and **iii)** nutritional initiatives.

Start-up Grand Challenge

Why in News?

- On July 6, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami felicitated 10 participants at the 'Start-up Grand Challenge' event organized by the Department of Industry in Dehradun. On this occasion, the Chief Minister also released the Wellness Report prepared by Invest India.

Note:

Key Points

- For the promotion of start-ups, 10 young participants of the state were awarded the Grand Challenge Award for Best Innovation Idea. An amount of 50-50 thousand rupees was given as an award.
- In the program, Chief Minister Dhami increased the incentive amount given as 'Idea Great Challenge' under Start-up Uttarakhand from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh and monthly allowance given to start-ups from Rs 10,000 to Rs. Announced to increase it to 15 thousand rupees.
- Along with this, an announcement was made by Chief Minister Dhami to increase the monthly allowance given to SC, ST, disabled and women from Rs 15 thousand to Rs 20 thousand.

Increase in the Amount of Cow Protection Maintenance

Why in News?

- On July 9, 2022, it was decided to increase the amount of maintenance of protected animals five times during the meeting of the Go Sadan State Grant Selection Committee under the chairmanship of Animal Husbandry Minister Saurabh Bahuguna in the office of the Vidhan Sabha.

Key Points

- In the meeting, the amount received per animal by the recognised cow houses operating in the state has been increased from six rupees to 30 rupees.
- At present there are 39 recognized Gau Sadans operating in the state. In these, about 10,000 animals are being fed. On the lines of Uttar Pradesh, the maintenance amount of protected animals was increased by five times due to increase in the price of straw for animal feed.
- It was decided to provide 90 per cent grant for efficiency improvement activities, equipment, and material to go sadans which feed more than 200 protected animals.
- Along with this, it was decided in the meeting that through Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA), the Go Sadans would be given grant money for Gobar Gas Power Generation Plants and

Solar Lights. Go Sadans will be given 60 percent grant money for the construction of straw stores and cowsheds.

- The Animal Husbandry Minister said that a budget provision of Rs. 3 crore will be given to Uttarakhand Govansh Sanrakshan Nidhi for conducting welfare activities for protected animals.
- The Animal Husbandry Minister said that the government would soon start 'Gram Go Sevak Yojna' as a pilot project for the protection of unclaimed animals in the state. In this, at the village level, the protected animals will be maintained through Gram Go Sevaks.
- It was decided to give a 90 percent grant for efficiency improvement activities, equipment, tools, materials to the Gau Sadans which feed more than 200 protected animals.

Rare Species of Moss Found in Badrinath

Why in News?

- Recently, the Department of Botany and Microbiology (Botany and Microbiology) of HNB Garhwal (Central) University has discovered a rare species of micro-algae (moss) in Narad Kund of Badrinath.

Key Points

- This algae has so far been found only in two countries including the state of Gujarat in India. This species was earlier observed in Gujarat in the year 1980. It was also seen in the US in 1966 and Bangladesh in 1987.
- This microalgae called Pseudobohlinia can become the best alternative to Bio-diesel (biofuel).
- Preeti Singh, who is doing research under the direction of Dr. Dhananjay Kumar, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany and Microbiology, Garhwal University, has discovered this rare species of micro-algae as well as analysed its productivity.
- Preeti Singh had taken samples of algae from the wall of Narad Kund located under Taptakund in Badrinath. The hot water of the hot pool falls in this pool. The temperature of the water is 30 to 40 degrees Celsius.
- After taking samples from the wall, they produced it in the department's laboratory. In the study that lasted for a year, they found four microalgae species

Note:



along with normal algae. Three of these were seen in other places, but one species was found to be completely different.

- Preeti Singh said that not much was known about this algae. A fork-like shape was observed on the outer surface of this algae of about 5 micrometers. This algae spreads rapidly and also contains a good amount of lipids (fats).
- After the discovery of microalgae of rare species, its usefulness in making bio-diesel was researched. In some places in India, bio-diesel making work from algae is going on. Researchers at the University's Algal Lab conducted a comparative study of lipids in about 109 species of algae. Generally, algae contain 25 to 30% lipids. At the same time, Pseudobohlinia found the highest 33% lipids under normal circumstances. The amount of lipids increased significantly when a favorable environment was found, which is much better for making bio-diesel. Lipids are the major source of bio-diesel.
- It is worth mentioning that in view of the limited quantity of petroleum fuel, emphasis is being given to bio-diesel as an alternative. Under the biofuel policy of the central government, the target is to add up to 20 percent of bio-diesel to petroleum fuels, but this target is not being met. If the government insists on the production of microalgae, species like Pseudobohlinia could become a better option.

'Maa Varahi Bagwal Mela' Declared as State Fair

Why in News?

- On July 11, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami declared the famous Devidhura 'Maa Varahi Bagwal Mela' of Champawat as a state fair. He has ordered the Chief Secretary to issue the GO immediately.

Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that some time ago in Champawat, the Chief Minister had announced to give the status of a state fair to the fair. For the first time since the declaration of the State Fair, the fair will be held under the aegis of the State Government this year. At present, the fair is organized at the level of district panchayat.

- The famous Bagwal fair, which is held on the day of Rakshabandhan, is also called 'Pathar Maar' fair at 'Maa Varahi Temple' in the famous Devidhura of Champawat district. Lakhs of devotees from all over the country and abroad reach Devidhura to see this fair.
- It is believed that this game of Bagwal in Devidhura has been going on since the mythological period. Some consider it to be a traditional festival from the Katyur regime, while others associate it with Kali Kumaon.
- According to the popular beliefs, in the mythological period, there was a custom of offering male sacrifices by the people of Char Kham to celebrate their aaradhya Varahi Devi. To please Mother Varahi, a male sacrifice was performed every year from the people of the four Khams. It is said that one year old Chamiyal Kham's turn was the turn of the male sacrifice of the family. Only the old lady and her grandson were alive in the family. The woman praised Mother Varahi for protecting her grandson. Mother Varahi gave darshan to the old lady and gave instructions to play bugle in the temple premises between the four holes, since then the practice of bagging started.
- Bagwal fair is held every year on the day of Ashadhi Kauthik (Rakshabandhan) in Kholikhand Dubachaud of Maa Varahi Dham temple in Devidhura of Pati block of Champawat district. Starting from stone, this Bagwal fair has been played with flowers for the past few years. In addition to the four Khams (Chamyal, Gaharwal, Lamgadiya and Walig) warriors of seven thoks take part in the Bagwal fair in the presence of lakhs of people.
- Bagwal Varahi is played in the courtyard of the temple, Kholikhand. It is played by young men and elders of all four places. The battles of Lamgadiya and Walig Kham are on one side, while on the other side the Ranbankures of Gahadwal and Chamyal Kham are standing.

Planning to Build a Film City in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

- On July 12, 2022, Special Principal Secretary Abhinav Kumar directed to select the land for making a film city in the state to make Uttarakhand the preferred destination for film shooting.

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Key Points

- Secretary Abhinav Kumar, in a review meeting of the Information Department at the auditorium at the Chief Minister's Camp Office, directed to prepare an action plan for infrastructure development related to the film industry and to provide basic facilities related to film shooting and production in the Film City.
- He said that the National Level Film Training Institute should be contacted and as its branch, the Film Training Centre should be opened in the state of Uttarakhand. He directed to start mobile theatres in hilly and marginal areas. He also asked for a subsidy scheme for this.
- He said that if a film based on the dialect of the state of Uttarakhand is selected for a national, international level film festival, a special subsidy scheme should be formulated for the promotion.
- He also directed to start courses related to the genre of film and filmmaking in the state universities. He directed to prepare a proposal for land selection and enumeration for construction of Haldwani Media Centre and to make available the structure of the department as an e-office and most of the facilities on digital platform.

New Education Policy-2020 Implemented in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

- On July 12, 2022, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami implemented the New Education Policy-2020 in Uttarakhand by launching 'Bal Vatika' (Class Before Primary) in the Directorate of Education. The government claims that Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to do so.

Key Points

- 'Bal Vatika' classes were started in Anganwadi centers and schools of all the development blocks of the state. Nursery education in private schools, now children studying in Anganwadi and government schools will be conducted in 'Bal Vatika' class.
- More than 20 thousand Anganwadi centers are being run in the state. In the first phase, under the new National Education Policy, operation of Bal Vatika classes will start in five thousand Anganwadi centers

operating in government primary schools under the Education Department.

- Children in 'Bal Vatika' classes at Anganwadi centres will be taught under the new National Education Policy. The course for this has been prepared. The State Council of Educational Research and Training (SCERT) has prepared hand sheets for Anganwadi workers and teachers and three practice booklets (Health, Dialogue and Creation) for children in the course.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister inaugurated the Directorate of Elementary Education building and laid the foundation stone of SCERT building. He released a book and a career card for the development of entrepreneurship among children, as well as announced the repair of dilapidated Anganwadi centers in the area.
- Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that there are 4,447 Anganwadi centres operating in the primary school premises of the state. In these centres, the students will be prepared for class one by starting classes from pre-primary. The pre-primary has been named 'Bal Vatika' by the education department. A separate course has been prepared for this by the department.
- In Uttarakhand, 20,067 Anganwadi centres have been sanctioned. Out of this, 20 thousand 17 Anganwadi centres are being operated. There are 14,555 Anganwadi workers deployed in these centres. Apart from this, 14,249 helpers and 4,941 Mini-Anganwadi workers are working in Anganwadi centres.

Automatic Weather System Installed in Kedarnath Dham

Why in News?

- On July 12, 2022, District Magistrate of Rudraprayag Mayur Dixit informed that Automatic Weather System (AWS) has been installed at the foothills of Meru-Sumeru Mountain range in Kedarnath.

Key Points

- With AWS accurate information will be given about the weather there, as well as getting the forecast of rain and snowfall will also help in making necessary arrangements.
- Along with this, decisions can be taken in advance regarding the conduct of Kedarnath Yatra on the

Note:

rainy season and other occasions. Apart from this, it will also help in ongoing reconstruction works and helicopter operations.

- Significantly, Kedarnath Temple is a famous Hindu temple located in Rudraprayag district of Uttarakhand. Kedarnath Temple in the lap of the Himalayan Mountains in Uttarakhand is one of the Char Dham and Panch Kedar along with being included in the twelve Jyotirlingas. Due to the unfavorable climate here, this temple opens for darshan only between the months of April to November.

Integrated Akshaya Patra Kitchen

Why in News?

- On July 15, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the 63rd Centralized Mid-Day-Meal Kitchen in association with Akshaya Patra Foundation, The Hans Foundation and Education Department at Sudhawal Dehradun.

Key Points

- On the occasion, the Chief Minister flagged off vehicles to reach mid-day meal to the children of various schools.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that with the collective efforts of the Uttarakhand government, Akshaya Patra Foundation and The Hans Foundation, high quality and nutritious food to children has been introduced. Right now, this mid-day-meal has been started for more than 15,000 children from 120 schools.
- In the future, more than 35,000 children in more than 500 schools will be provided food through centralized kitchens.
- The centralized kitchen, which has been launched in collaboration with Akshaya Patra Foundation, The Hans Foundation and the Department of Education, will serve delicious and nutritious food to school children under the Pradhan Mantri Poshan Karyakram. More than 5 lac children in the State are provided mid-day meals by the Government.
- It may be mentioned that with the joint efforts of Hans Foundation and Akshaya Patra Foundation, the second integrated kitchen has been started in the state, before which the operation of integrated kitchen has been started at Gadarpur.

Ayushman Card for Children Living in Orphanages

Why in News?

- On July 18, 2022, Uttarakhand Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that destitute children living in orphanages in the state will also get free treatment under Ayushman Yojana. The government has decided to make Ayushman cards of such children.

Key Points

- Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that instructions have been given to the state health authority officials to operate the scheme in this regard.
- Under the Ayushman scheme, free health facilities were provided to more than ten thousand sick children from the age of new born to four years. Health programs are being run at the block level to keep them disease free.
- He said that under the scheme, free medical facilities have been provided to more than ten thousand sick children, which include 1,397 boys and 8,700 girls. The government has spent an amount of Rs 32.38 crore on this.
- Dr. Rawat told that everyone from children to the elderly are taking advantage of 'Ayushman Yojana'. The scheme offers free treatment up to Rs.5 lac. So far 47.32 lac Ayushman cards have been made in the state. 868 crore has been spent on the treatment of various diseases of the beneficiaries.
- Cards are being made for the people who have been deprived of making Ayushman cards in the state, so that they can be provided free treatment during health related problems.

'Beyond the Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand'

Why in News?

- On July 19, 2022, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book 'Beyond the Misty Veil, Temple Tales of Uttarakhand' in English on the temples of Uttarakhand by Aradhana Johri (Retd. IAS) at Mukhya Sevak Sadan, Dehradun.

Note:

Key Points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while congratulating the author of the book, Aradhana Johri, said that the book will be known as an authentic introduction to the divine temples of Uttarakhand in the country and abroad. People will get the best information from this book.
- The Chief Minister said that this book, based on the mythological temples of Devbhoomi Uttarakhand, informs about the culture and mythology of the country.
- This book will give a boost to religious tourism in Uttarakhand and people will get to know about the countless temples and folk tales associated with them.
- The author of the book, Aradhana Johri has been the DM of Nainital. During posting in Nainital, she herself went to the temples and tried to give all the information there in the book. The 300-page book has been researched for three years.

India Innovation Index, 2021

Why In News?

- Uttarakhand has been **ranked second in the category** of 10 north-eastern and hill states in the India Innovation Index-2021 released by NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Beri on July 21, 2022.

Key points

- In **Niti Ayog's 3rd India Innovation** Index, states and union territories were classified into the category of 17 major states, 10 north-eastern and hilly states and 9 union territories and city-states for effective comparison of their performance.
- In the category of 17 major states, **Karnataka is at the top spot with 18.01 points**, while Telangana (17.66 points) is second and Haryana (16.35 points) is third. Odisha are 16th with 11.42 points and Chhattisgarh are 17th (last) with 10.97 points.
- **Manipur topped the northeastern and hill states category** with 19.37 points. Uttarakhand (17.67 points) is at the second spot in this category, while Nagaland (11.00 points) is at the bottom.
- Chandigarh (27.88 marks) has topped the union territories and city-states category. In this category, Delhi (27.00 points) is at the second position, while Ladakh (5.91 points) is at the bottom.

- It may be mentioned that the India Innovation Index prepared by NITI Aayog and the Institute of Competitiveness is a medium for evaluation and development of the country's innovation ecosystem. This puts the states and union territories in the order of their innovation performance, so that there is healthy competition between them.
- This Innovation Index has been prepared on the **lines of the Global Innovation Index**. In previous versions, the analysis was done on the basis of 36 indicators, but this time 66 indicators were used. The first and second innovation indices were released in October 2019 and January 2021 respectively.

'Most Film Friendly State (Special Mention)' Award

Why In News?

- The 68th National Film Awards 2020 were announced at the National Media Centre in New Delhi on July 22, 2022. Uttarakhand has received the 'Most Film Friendly State (Special Mention)' award.

Key Points

- Uttarakhand Film Development Council nodal officer K.S. Chouhan informed that so far Uttarakhand has received National Film Award thrice under Best Film Friendly State.
- It is noteworthy that 13 states participated in this category of National Film Award. Madhya Pradesh got the 'Most Film Friendly State' award, while Uttarakhand and Uttar Pradesh were given the 'Most Film Friendly State (Special Mention)' award.
- According to K.S. Chauhan, Uttarakhand continues to be the favourite shooting destination for filmmakers. A conducive environment for shooting films and serials is available here. The natural beauty of Uttarakhand attracts filmmakers to shoot here.
- Attracted by the film policy of Uttarakhand, during the last five years, more than six hundred films and serials have been shot here. A total of 784 film permission certificates have been issued for shooting in Uttarakhand since 2015.
- He said that in the near future, Uttarakhand is going to become a film hub for shooting. Due to this, along with increasing the means of employment in Uttarakhand, there is a huge growth in the tourism sector as well.

Note:



Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan

Why In News?

- On July 24, 2022, Uttarakhand Panchayati Raj Minister Satpal Maharaj informed that the Central Government has sanctioned Rs 135 crore to Uttarakhand for the year 2022-23 under the Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan (RGSA).

Key Points

- He said that the Union Panchayati Raj Minister was requested to sanction funds for the implementation of various schemes in the Panchayats. On this, the Central Government has approved an amount of 135 crores to the state under Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan.
- With this amount, 9 goals of sustainable development of Gram Panchayat will be fulfilled along with training, capacity development, excursions to three-tier Panchayat officials and employees. This will strengthen the three-tier panchayats.
- Minister Satpal Maharaj said that honorarium will be fixed for the kshetra panchayat members. Apart from this, guidelines will be issued for the expenses of panchayat representatives.
- One compactor each in 95 development blocks of the state, parking in district panchayat, construction of 200 panchayat buildings, computerization of 500 gram panchayats, additional rooms will be constructed in 100 panchayat buildings.
- Approval has also been given for one vacuum based cleaning machine in each district of the state for cleanliness. In the action plan of Gram Swaraj Abhiyan, provision has also been made to provide faculty for the already constructed state, district and block level Panchayat Resource Center.

Conserve the Breed of 'Mountain Weasel', the Species of Navale

Why in News?

- On July 25, 2022, Chief Conservator of Forest Research Circle Sanjeev Chaturvedi informed that the Research Advisory Committee (RAC) of the Forest Department has given a green signal to the proposal for conservation in the state of The Mountain Weasel, a species of

navale, which has played an important role in the ecological balance in the high Himalayan region.

Key Points

- Sanjiv Chaturvedi said that the research wing of the department has prepared a five-year action plan for this. Soon the study of **Mountain Weasel** will be started at Badrinath, Harki Doon, Harshil and other places.
- Found at an altitude of more than 3,000 meters in the high Himalayan region, this species of nave is found in Ladakh in India. After Ladakh, it will now be protected in Uttarakhand also.
- Somewhat different from the normally visible navels, mountain weasel is a secluded mammalian creature with a thin body and neck, small legs and small heads. This creature of **the Family Mustelidae** is also beautiful in appearance.
- There are four species of mountain weasel found in Uttarakhand. It is also naturally helpful in regulating the number of species like rats, peaches in the high Himalayan region by hunting them.
- It is worth noting that Mountain Weasel (Mustela Altaica), also known as Pel Weigel, Altai Weigel or Solongoi, lives mainly in high-altitude environments, as well as rocky tundra and grassy woodlands.
- The geographical distribution of this species ranges from Kazakhstan, Tibet and the Himalayas to parts of Asia from Mongolia, northeast China and southern Siberia. However, the most important region for this species is Ladakh, India.

Strict Anti-Copying Law

Why in News?

- On July 25, 2022, Santosh Badoni, secretary, Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission, informed that the commission has passed a proposal for a new anti-copying law. After studying the anti-copying law of Rajasthan and SSC, the Commission will send its draft to the government.

Key Points

- Amidst the paper leak case in the graduate level examination, the Uttarakhand Subordinate Services Selection Commission is enacting a stringent anti-copying law. The law will be stringent on the lines of Rajasthan's anti-copying law which came out in February this year.

Note:



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- So far, after any case of paper leak has come to light, the accused under the Anti-Copying Act of Uttarakhand are booked under Sections 420, 120B of the IPC or under the IT Act if there is hi-tech copying.
- On the lines of Rajasthan's anti-copying law, the members of the copying gang will be fined between 10 lakh and 10 crore rupees. Apart from this, their property can also be attached. At the same time, a provision will also be made for a punishment of five to ten years if the offence of copying is proved.
- If a student/candidate is found guilty of purchasing paper from a copying gang, he will be punished with a fine of One lakh rupees as well as a punishment of up to three years. If the student/candidate is found to be a member of that copying gang, action will be taken against him according to the gang.
- A new provision is also being made by the Commission to prevent copying that if a student/candidate is caught copying, he/she will not be able to appear in any kind of examinations for two years.
- Paper leaks or copying in Uttarakhand subordinate services selection commission examinations on the lines of Rajasthan will be treated as cognizable and non-bailable offence. Copying and paper leak can only be checked by an Additional SP level officer. An anti-cheating cell can also be set up in the investigating agency to prevent copying.

Clean School Award

Why In News?

- On July 25, 2022, Uttarakhand Director General of Education Banshidhar Tiwari informed that 26 schools have been selected at the state level in the 'Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar'. Eight of the selected schools are being sent for National Awards.

Key Points

- Out of 26 schools selected at the state level, 20 schools have come in the overall category, while six schools have been selected in the sub-category. All the 26 best performing schools at the state level will be awarded within this month itself.
- Banshidhar Tiwari said that in the state level overall category, 11 schools have been selected from Garhwal division and 9 schools from Kumaon division.

- PS Basot, Bhikyasain (Almora), Kendriya Vidyalaya Haldwani (Nainital), Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalaya Jaiharikhal (Pauri), Kendriya Vidyalaya ONGC Raipur and Kendriya Vidyalaya Upper Camp, Sahaspur (Dehradun) and Skyward Senior Secondary School, Krishna Nagar, Roorkee (Haridwar) has been elected.
- It is noteworthy that to encourage cleanliness, the Central Government had started 'Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar' from the year 2016-17.
- At the state level, 100 schools were selected in the overall category and 73 in the sub-category for the Swachh Vidyalaya Puraskar 2021-22. The last 26 schools have been selected based on the ranking of the schools.

Uttarakhand will become the First State in the Country to Start Tunnel Parking

Why In News?

- On July 28, 2022, P.C. Dumka, Joint Chief Administrator, Uttarakhand Housing and Urban Development Authority informed that the state government is starting tunnel parking to overcome the problem of parking in the hills.

Key Points

- The state government believes that tunnel parking is not yet anywhere in the country. Uttarakhand will be the first state in the country to conduct such an experiment. This will definitely solve the big problem of parking.
- PC Dumka said that the work on the construction of the tunnel is still in the initial stages. When their DPRs are made, where the kind of approvals that are required will be completed. The tunnel sites that have been marked so far are such that the car will be parked in the tunnel from one side of the road and out on the road on the other side.
- A total of 180 parking spots have been identified across the state, out of which 12 tunnel parking places have been identified in the first phase in Tehri and Pauri districts.
- Apart from NHIDCL, the Cabinet has made THDC, UJVNL and RVNL the functional agencies for construction of tunnel parking.

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- RVNL is already working on Rishikesh-Karanprayag railway line in the mountain. RVNL has also constructed several major tunnels. At the same time, UJVNL and THDC have constructed tunnels for hydro power projects.
- The state government may also face several challenges in building tunnel parking. The first of these is the challenge of environmental clearance. The work can start only after permission from the Union Ministry of Forest Environment. Due to similar permission, many hydro power projects are stuck in the state.
- On the other hand, debris emitted during the construction of these tunnels can also emerge as a big challenge. However, the government argues that tunnels will be constructed following all the rules.
- The same environmentalists believe that tunnel parking will prove to be the script of the great destruction of the mountain. If 558 dams are built in the state, then about 1,500 km. Tunnels will be built. Millions of people will come to the tunnel. Wherever tunnels have been constructed due to the railway line, there have been cracks in the villages above.

Medical Device Park in Haridwar

Why In News?

- On July 28, 2022, Secretary, Industries Department of Uttarakhand, Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey informed that the Central Government has rejected the proposal sent by Uttarakhand for setting up the state's first medical device park in BHEL industrial area of Haridwar.

Key Points

- It is noteworthy that from the time of Trivendra Singh Rawat government, the exercise of setting up a medical device park in Haridwar BHEL industrial area had started. Under the Medical Device Park scheme of the Central Government, the State Industrial Development Corporation (SIDCUL) had selected 100 acres of land and sent the detailed project report to the Central Government.
- The central government had sought proposals from the states to build medical device parks in the state, but in the first phase, four medical device parks are to be set up. Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Kerala have been found suitable by the Centre to set

up medical device parks, while the proposal of other states, including Uttarakhand, has been rejected as inappropriate.

- Under the Medical Device Park Scheme of the Central Government, the budget is given by the Centre for developing the park.
- Secretary Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey said that the land selected for the Medical Device Park will now be developed for setting up other industries.
- Pharmaceutical industries manufacturing surgical and medical equipment were to be established in the proposed Medical Device Park, where they were to be provided with all facilities.
- It is worth mentioning that Uttarakhand is the hub of pharma industry. More than three hundred pharmaceutical companies are manufacturing medicines in Dehradun, Haridwar. Medicines are also being exported from the state.

Two government de-addiction centers to be opened in the state, Devbhoomi

Why in news?

- On July 29, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while chairing a meeting of narco coordination, directed the officials to work in mission mode for drug-free Devbhoomi by 2025 and open two government de-addiction centres in the state.

Key Point

- In the meeting, the Chief Minister directed the officials to make arrangements for proper counselling of children and youth who are taking drugs. A special council should be held at the time of admission in colleges.
- He said special attention should be paid to rehabilitation of children caught taking drugs by not treating them like criminals. Parents-teachers' meetings in colleges should be held regularly.
- The Chief Minister directed Additional Chief Secretary Radha Raturi to regularly review the Drugs Free Devbhoomi campaign and said that the Anti Drugs Task Force should be activated in collaboration with the concerned departments.



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