

# September 2021

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# **Eight New Government Colleges**

### Why in News

- > On September 4, 2021, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the establishment of eight new government colleges in different parts of the state.
  - O Also said that seven degree colleges will be upgraded to PG colleges.

### **Key Points**

- > The Chief Minister made these announcements on the occasion of inauguration of Science Block at Government Post Graduate (PG) College, Raipur Maldevta.
- These new colleges will be opened in Dehradun city, Haridwar city (Bhupatwala), Haldwani city, Gadarpur Udham Singh Nagar, Danyan in Almora, Kaljikhal and Khirsu in Pauri and Deval in Chamoli.
- Government colleges of Munsiyari (Pithoragarh), Gairsain (Chamoli), Kapkot (Bageshwar), Someshwar, Halduchaud (Nainital), Laksar (Haridwar) and Thalisain (Pauri) will be upgraded to PG colleges.
- Apart from this, he also announced the construction of a video conferencing hall and modern lecture hall in all the government colleges of the state.

# Uttarakhand **Governor Resigns**

### Why in News

On September 8, 2021, Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya resigned from the post, two years before her term. She submitted his resignation to President Ram Nath Kovind.

### **Key Points**

- Governor Baby Rani Maurya completed her three years as the state's governor on August 28 last month, with two years left in her term.
- Baby Rani Maurya, 64, was sworn in as the Governor of Uttarakhand in August 2018 after her predecessor Krishan Kant Paul completed five years in office.
- > She has previously worked in various positions. She was the Mayor of Agra in Uttar Pradesh from 1995

to 2000, while she was a member of the State Social Welfare Board in 2001 and a member of the National Commission for Women in 2002.

# Himalaya Day

### Why in News

On the occasion of Himalaya Day (September 9, 2021) a webinar was organized in Uttarakhand.

### **Key Points**

- > In this webinar, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced an incentive amount for the purchase of private electric two wheelers and four wheelers to reduce vehicular air pollution in Uttarakhand, which will be provided by the Pollution Control Board.
- Under this an incentive of 10 percent of the value of the vehicle or Rs 7500 (whichever is less) will be payable for the first 5000 two wheelers that are being used personally while an incentive of 5 percent of the vehicle value or Rs 50000 (whichever is less) will be payable for 1,000 four wheelers.
- The incentive amount will be made available directly to the bank and financial institutions or dealer through **DBT** in the form of back-ended subsidy.
- Similarly, for the charging station to be set up for the charging of electric vehicles, all persons/institutions will be allowed, having sufficient space with the permission of the local municipal body.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister announced to start the 'Sunderlal Bahuguna Nature Conservation Award' in the memory of late Sunderlal Bahuguna, a renowned environmentalist.
- The book 'Himalaya Divas' by Himalaya United Mission (WE) was also released in the webinar.

# Reservation for Upper Castes in the Appointment of Assistant Engineers

### Why in News

Recently, the Jharkhand High Court has ordered to continue the reservation by setting aside the order of the single bench to give 10% reservation to the upper castes in the appointment of assistant engineers.



### **Key Points:**

- The court of Justice R Mukhopadhyay and Justice Rajesh Shankar, while delivering the verdict on the appeal petition of the government, said that the time rule applies from the day the appointment process starts.
- > The earlier vacancies are also filled under the new rule. The court upheld the decision of the government and directed JPSC to continue with the recruitment process.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that the court had reserved the judgment after the completion of the hearing on July 23.
- ➤ It is to be known that JPSC had released advertisements in 2019 for the recruitment of 634 posts of Assistant Engineers. Vacancies from the year 2015 to 2019 were included in this appointment and 10% reservation was being given to the upper castes.
- This order of the government was challenged in the single bench by Ranjit Kumar Singh and others. It was said that this appointment includes vacancies from 2015 to 2019. In such a situation, the benefit of ten percent reservation cannot be given to the upper castes, because the government has decided to give reservation to the upper castes in the year 2019.
- Significantly, on February 23, 2019 the government decided to give 10 percent reservation to the upper castes, on January 21, 2020 the single bench canceled the appointment process, then on March 6, the government appealed against the order of the single bench and on September 10, the division bench Judgment pronounced.

# State's first PNB Digital Bank

### Why in News

Recently, Professor Ravi Kant, Director, All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Rishikesh and RD Sevak, Zonal Manager of PNB Dehradun, launched the state's first PNB Digital Bank (Ease Outlet).

### **Key Points**

- All banking facilities will be available in a digital bank operating without an employee. The digital bank will work 24 hours even on state and weekly holidays.
- > AIIMS Director Professor Ravikant said that the benefit

- of PNB's digital bank set up in the institute would be available to the patients, attendants as well as the local people.
- RD Sevak, Zonal Manager of PNB said that PNB's digital bank is a big initiative in the midst of the Corona era. Now people will be able to take advantage of banking service while avoiding overcrowding.

### Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh

### Why in News

On September 15, 2021, Chief Justice of the High Court Justice Raghvendra Singh Chouhan administered the oath of office and secrecy to retired Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh as the Governor of Uttarakhand at the Raj Bhavan in Uttarakhand.

### **Key Points**

- Gurmeet Singh has become the eighth governor of Uttarakhand.
- ➤ It is noteworthy that Baby Rani Maurya, the 7<sup>th</sup> Governor of Uttarakhand, resigned from her office on September 8, 2021.
- The first Sikh governor of Uttarakhand was Surjit Singh Barnala, followed by Gurmeet Singh as the second Sikh governor.
- Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh is also the **first Governor** of Uttarakhand **with military background.**
- Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh's native village is Jalal (Amritsar).

# First Case of LSD Virus in Uttarakhand

### Why in News

 On September 14, 2021, four cows of the Kashipur block of Uttarakhand were found positive with LSD (Lumpy Skin Disease) virus in a report given by Indian Veterinary Research Institute.

### **Key Points**

- > It is noteworthy that earlier cases of LSD disease were seen in the year 2012 in West Bengal and Maharashtra.
- LSD is a viral disease of animals, due to the infection of which lumps are formed everywhere in the animal's body. Its virus spreads in animals through flies,



- mosquitoes, animal-to-animal contact and animal
- In this disease, the animal mortality rate is low, but the milk production capacity of the animals declines.
- According to the Department of Animal Husbandry, the lumpy skin virus was first detected in Zimbabwe's milch animals in 1929.

# **Ropeway Construction**

### Why in News

Recently, a MoU was signed between the Department of Tourism, Government of Uttarakhand and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. With this, Uttarakhand has become the first **state** in the **country** to sign a contract with the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India for the construction of a ropeway.

### **Key Points**

- In the presence of Chief Secretary dr. SS Sandhu, Yugal Kishore Pant, Additional Secretary Tourism and Additional Chief Executive Officer, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council and Prakash Gaur, Chief Executive Officer, NHLML, Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways signed the MoU on behalf of Uttarakhand Tourism.
- Its main objective is to facilitate easy access to more tourists and devotees to various religious and adventure tourist destinations in Uttarakhand and to make tourist movement available throughout the year.
- The Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways, Government of India has been made the nodal department for ropeway construction in Uttarakhand.
- For the construction of the ropeway, work will be started by preparing the **DPR on behalf of the National** Highways Authority of India (NHAI).
- Kedarnath Ropeway, Nainital Ropeway, Hemkund Sahib Ropeway, Panchkoti to New Tehri, Auli to Gaursu, Munsiyari to Khalia Top and Rishikesh to Neelkanth in the first phase by the National Highway Logistics Management Limited (NHLML) under the control of the Ministry of Road, Transport and Highways. The process of DPR formation and construction of seven ropeways till **Mahadev** will be done in collaboration with the state government.

Earlier, the tourism department has taken action to build and operate the Mussoorie, Purnagiri and Surkanda Devi ropeways on PPE mode. Out of this, the operation of Surkanda Devi Ropeway will be started by the end of this year.

### State's First e-Sewa Kendra

### Why in News

> On September 16, 2021, Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court Raghvendra Singh Chouhan inaugurated the state's first e-Sewa Kendra in the High Court premises in Nainital.

### **Key Points**

- The registrar General Dhananjay Chaturvedi informed that **people can now easily know** about the **facilities** available digitally under the e-Courts program. The litigants and defendants will also be informed about the updated status of cases, leaves of judges and dates of hearing.
- Apart from this, other important information will also be available in the e-Sewa Kendra. People can also get free legal services through the center from District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), State Legal Services Authority (SLSA) and Supreme Court Legal Services Committee.
- He revealed that this **e-Sewa Kendra** is the first service center in the state and the **next center** will be opened in **Almora**. Considering the importance of such centers in the present times, more will be established in all the district courts in future.

### Nanda Devi Festival

### Why in News

> On September 17, 2021 the 119th Nanda Devi Festival concluded with the immersion of the idols of **Goddess** Nanda and Sunanda.

### **Key Points**

- > The festival was jointly **organized by Shri Ram Sewak** Sabha and Nainital District Administration.
- In this festival, a large number of devotees pay obeisance to the deities at Naina Devi Temple. Apart from religious rituals, various cultural performances were also organized during the festival.



- On the last day of the festival a cultural group from Almora performed outside the Naina Devi temple. Other performances including devotional songs were also telecasted live.
- The deities were taken out in a ceremonial procession across the city, after which the idols were immersed in the lake.
- On the last day of the festival, members of the Anjuman-e-Baltistan Shia community offered water to the devotees who came to worship the goddess.

### **ATM Van of Cooperative Banks**

### Why in News

On September 17, 2021, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off mobile ATM vans of cooperative banks at his residence. Apart from providing cash withdrawal facilities in different districts of the state, these vans will also help the tourists visiting the state.

### **Key Points**

- On this occasion, five ATM mobile vans were flagged off from the Chief Minister's residence, while the remaining five were flagged off from District Cooperative Bank Headquarters to their destination.
- Cooperative Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that mobile ATM van facility of cooperative banks is being made available in every district in collaboration with National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).
- ➤ He said that from these ATM mobiles, any person can withdraw cash from any bank account.
- > It is noteworthy that the mobile ATM van had made a significant contribution in helping the people of the state during the pandemic.

### **Literacy Vehicles**

### Why in News

On September 20, 2021, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami flagged off 5 financial literacy vehicles with ATMs of Uttarakhand Gramin Bank financed by NABARD.

### **Key Points**

> These vehicles will be used to make the **people of the** 

# state financially literate and promote tax digitization through ATMs.

- Rural Bank Mobile ATM Van will also provide financial literacy awareness along with transactions through ATMs to the residents of remote areas of the state.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand also released the ninth annual report of Uttarakhand Gramin Bank.
- All the above mentioned efforts will prove to be effective in making Financial Inclusion and Digital India Mission more powerful.
- It is noteworthy that in collaboration with NABARD, a financial literacy vehicle provided earlier is being used in Almora district.

# **India-Nepal Joint Exercise**

### Why in News

> On September 20, 2021, the 15th Indo-Nepal joint battalion level military training exercise 'Surya Kiran' began in Pithoragarh. The exercise will conclude on October 3, 2021.

### **Key Points**

- Earlier on Saturday, a contingent of Nepalese army reached Pithoragarh, which was accorded a traditional military welcome.
- The General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the North India Region, Lt Gen S.S. Mahal addressed the gathering and encouraged contingents to train and strengthen mutual trust, interoperability, and share best practices.
- Around 650 defense personnel from both the armies are participating in the event. In the exercise, an infantry battalion each of the Indian Army and the Nepalese Army will train together to develop interoperability and share their experience in counter-insurgency operations and disaster relief operations.

# Hand Holding Support Program in Wood Art Training

### Why in News

On September 21, 2021, Garhwal District Magistrate Dr. Vijay Kumar Jogdande inaugurated the hand holding support program under the Wood Art Training



**Program** approved by the Government of India in **Pauri Garhwal district by lighting the lamp.** 

### **Key Points**

- On this occasion, District Magistrate and Chief Development Officer Prashant Kumar Arya and other dignitaries distributed certificates and kits to the participants. Simultaneously, the District Magistrate inspected the crafts and models of the temples made by handicrafts and inquired about their work.
- A total of 20 participants participated in the training program organized under the aegis of **Uttarakhand Handloom Council** and learned the nuances of handicrafts after completing the training.
- District Magistrate Dr. Jogdande said that for the first time in the district handicraft art is being displayed, which is an important effort in this area.
- He directed the concerned officers to disseminate the ancient religious places and temples of the district by making them out of wood and to give handicraft products as a symbol instead of bouquets to the dignitaries participating in the programs organized in the district.

# Uttarakhand Waives Fee on ABY, AAUY Cards

### Why in News

- Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced a fee waiver for making Ayushman cards in the state on the third anniversary of the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (Ayushman Bharat Yojana-ABY) (September 23, 2021).
  - o Till now 30 rupees were charged for making the card.

### **Key Points**

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami made this announcement in the 'Arogya Manthan-3.0' organized to commemorate the completion of three years of the world's largest health scheme 'Ayushman Bharat Yojana'.
- He also fixed a time limit of seven days for settlement of claims of hospitals under the scheme. He said that the Uttarakhand government has covered all the families of the state under the Atal Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana (AAUY).

- The Chief Minister said that so far 3.5 lakh people have been treated under the scheme and Rs 460 crore has been spent on it.
- Health Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that a total of 102 government and 113 private hospitals are empanelled under the scheme. He directed that display boards regarding the scheme should be installed in each empanelled hospital.
- > He said that the state government is working on a scheme which will make it mandatory for all private hospitals to be empanelled for these schemes. He said that camps would be organized at the block level to bring all the missing families under the scheme.

# Eye Collection Center in Dehradun

### Why in News

Recently, the Union Health Ministry has permitted Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital (GCEH), Dehradun to start an eye collection center under the National Program for Control of Blindness.

### **Key Points**

- State Health Services Director General (DG) Dr. Tripti Bahuguna has directed the hospital authorities to start the center before November 1 this year.
- Gandhi Shatabdi Eye Hospital (GCEH) will be the first center in the state to provide this facility.
- Dr. Saroj Naithani, Director, National Health Mission in the state said that necessary infrastructure and facilities would be developed for the center in GCEH. People living in the surrounding areas of Dehradun, especially in the Garhwal division will get the benefit of eye transplant.
- The GCEH would act only as an eye collection center and the collected eyeballs would be kept in the eye banks of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh or Himalayan Hospital Jollygrant, Dehradun.

### Tehri Dam

### Why in News

On September 24, 2021, Tehri Dam reservoir was filled for the first time to a height of 830 meters.



### **Key Points**

- ➢ It is worth mentioning that under the Tehri Hydroelectric Project, till now it is filled up to 828 meters, but in the month of August itself, after getting permission from the government, the water level was increased. With this, the Tehri Hydro Project will be able to generate electricity at its full capacity.
- > It is noteworthy that ecologists have been raising concerns about the potential for disasters due to the construction of dams in the Himalayan region. In such a situation, given the sensitivity of the Himalayan ecology, the rise in the water level of the dams can pose a serious crisis, such as the recent rupture of the Nanda Devi Glacier caused a disaster situation in the area of Tapovan-Vishnugarh project.
- The Tehri Dam and Hydroelectric Project constructed on Bhagirathi River is being operated by Tehri Hydro Power Development Corporation India Limited.
- Power generation by this project was started in 2006. Tehri Hydroelectric Complex (2400 MW) has three components
  - o Tehri Dam & Hydroelectric Project (1000 MW)
  - o Koteshwar Dam & Hydroelectric Project (400 MW)
  - o Tehri Pumped Storage Plant (1000 MW)

# Luxury Van 'Caravans' for Tourists

### Why in News

On September 24, 2021, Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj inaugurated a special van 'Caravan' equipped with high comfort facilities for the people and tourists of Uttarakhand to travel to remote places of Uttarakhand.

### **Key Points**

- Maharaj said that this camping vehicle will provide all the facilities like home for the tourists who are fond of traveling. This vehicle has facilities like LCD TV, satellite TV, GPRS navigation system, washroom, pantry, microwave and other facilities.
- With this vehicle one can travel anywhere by road. It will directly benefit both the tourists and the people of Uttarakhand.
- The minister said that the caravan has been included

in the Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Tourism Self Employment Scheme. These are also included under MSME under Tourism Plan 2018 wherein local people can buy 'Caravans'.

# **International Apple Festival**

### Why in News

On September 24, 2021, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami along with Agriculture Minister Subodh Uniyal inaugurated the first-ever 'International Apple Festival' organized in the state under Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav.

### **Key Points**

- > This International Apple Festival will be organized in Dehradun from September 24 to 26.
- Apple growers from Himachal, Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand and other states participated in the festival. About 50 apple varieties from across the country were included in this festival.
- The main objective of the festival is to promote apple production in the state and identify the apples of Uttarakhand to the international market so that the branding of Uttarakhand apples can be done from national to international market.
- On this occasion, Dhami announced the status of covid warriors to horticulture farmers/workers, and also announced doubling of the budget for the state government-run Mission Apple.

# Financial Assistance Scheme for Covid-19 Affected

### Why in News

On September 26, 2021, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Pushkar Singh Dhami, duly launched the Financial Assistance Scheme for the transport businessmen (drivers / conductors / cleaners) affected by Covid-19.

### **Key Points**

Under this scheme, an amount of Rs 2000 per month will be provided to 103235 drivers/conductors/cleaners of the entire state for 6 months.



- In the first phase of the scheme, 36,100 transport businessmen (which includes 34,635 drivers, 930 operators and 535 cleaners) will be given financial assistance of Rs 2000 per month through DBT.
- For the successful implementation of this scheme, a portal has been created by the Transport Department, through which transport businessmen can apply online.

# Chief Minister Women **Empowerment Scheme**

### Why in News

> On September 26, 2021, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the launch of 'Mukhyamantri Nari Sashaktikaran Yojana' (Chief Minister Women Empowerment Scheme) to make women self-reliant.

### **Key Points**

- Under this scheme, loans will be made available to the women of Uttarakhand for self-employment. This will make women financially independent.
- Under this, a subsidy of 30 percent or up to Rs 1 lakh will be provided in the loan given to women.
- Unmarried, divorced, handicapped women will be able to get the benefit of this scheme.
- For the implementation of this scheme, a committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of the General Manager, District Industries Center in urban areas and Block Development Officer in rural areas.

# Workshop on 'Responsible Tourism'

#### Why in News

> The Uttarakhand Space Application Centre (USAC) along with the Himalayan Knowledge Network (HKN) conducted a one-day workshop on Responsible Tourism on the occasion of World Tourism Day on September 27, 2021.

### **Key Points**

> The officials from various departments like tourism and forest along with Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and Garhwal and

- **Kumaon Universities**, among others, participated in the workshop.
- While addressing the participants in the workshop, director of USAC MPS Bisht said Uttarakhand has so much potential in tourism. There is a need to bring responsible tourism across the State and develop Bugyals and spiritual circuits among others. Such initiatives will also generate employment opportunities for locals.
- HKN Nodal Officer Gajendra Singh said that there are over 145 universities, 2,000 professors and 500 scientists involved in research in the Himalayan region. The information sharing in most of the organisations is guite limited and HKN has been founded to tackle this matter.
- It is worth mentioning that Uttarakhand Space Applications Center (USAC) is the nodal agency in the state of Uttarakhand for space-technology related activities and has the right to employ spacetechnology for the benefit of the state and its people. It was formed in 2005 as an autonomous organization under the Department of Science and Technology, Government of Uttarakhand.

### 'Uttarakhand Adventure Fest'

### Why in News

With the aim of promoting adventure sports, a twoday 'Uttarakhand Adventure Fest' was organized in Uttarakhand on 26-27 September, 2021.

### **Key Points**

- Inaugurating this fest on 26 September, Forest and Environment Minister Harak Singh Rawat also launched the 'Single Window System' for mountaineering related services in Uttarakhand.
  - This portal will ensure ease of access for the tourists visiting the state.
- > This adventure fest was **organized by Uttarakhand** Tourism Development Board (UTDB) in association with FICCI FLO.
- The Chief Minister made various announcements on the occasion. He said that all the proposals regarding tourism industries would be taken up especially by the tourism department instead of the industries department.



- > The project will be taken up by the Urban Development Department and the Housing Department to establish a multi-level car-lift space especially for the tourist places of Uttarakhand.
- He announced the formation of Tourism Facilitation and Investment Cell in the state and a dedicated Eco-tourism wing under the Ministry of Tourism to explore ways to develop the tourism industry of Uttarakhand as a sustainable, eco-friendly industry.
- Along with this, he announced to hand over the Pandit Nain Singh Surveyor Mountaineering Training Institute to the tourism department. At present, the Sports Department runs the Nain Singh Surveyor Mountaineering Training Institute.
- > The Forest Minister said that Uttarakhand has immense potential for thrill-seeking 'adventure tourism', which can create immense excitement among tourists in India and globally. He said that in November this year an Investment Conference on Adventure Action would also be organized at Ramnagar in Kumaon.
- Various stalls of local cuisine along with workshops on rafting, paragliding, mountain biking, hot air balloon, camping, ice-skating, kayaking were the center of attraction in this fest.

# Three New Food Testing Laboratories in Uttarakhand

### Why in News

On September 28, 2021, Uttarakhand Chief Secretary S.S. Sandhu ordered the opening of three new food testing laboratories in Uttarakhand. He also directed to set up one mobile food testing lab each in Garhwal and Kumaon region.

### **Key Points**

Note:

- These laboratories will be set up at Dehradun, Haridwar and Haldwani.
- At present there is only one food testing laboratory in the state, which is located at Rudrapur.
- The Chief Secretary also directed to start portal based surveillance, conduct regular campaigns and take strict action against those involved in illegal business to check adulteration of food items in the state.

He said that short video clips should be made to spread awareness among the people. Along with this, he also directed people associated with hotel business to adopt cleanliness ratings.

# Country's First Naturally Grown Fernatum (Conservation Zone)

### Why in News

Recently the country's first naturally grown fernatum (conservation zone) has been created in the Kalika forest range in Ranikhet of Almora district. Efforts will be made by the department to make it an Asian level study site so that researchers can get to know about these fern species of the Jurassic era.

### **Key Points**

- The new fernatum was recently opened on Dalmoti Road of Kalika Forest Research Center by Sanjeev Chaturvedi, Chief Conservator of Forests (Research), Uttarakhand.
- He informed that fern species are very beneficial medicinally and they need to be protected. For their protection, Fernatum has been prepared in one hectare area in Kalika.
- According to Sanjeev Chaturvedi, the fernatum has a stock of species found in the high, middle and lower Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand and soon this fernatum will be made the largest naturally grown area of its kind in Asia.
- > There are currently 103 different types of ferns. 95 percent of these species are from Uttarakhand.
- Among the many fern species found in Fernatum, Hansraj is a typical fern species of Uttarakhand. It is rich in medicinal properties and its roots are used to combat the effects of snakebites. There are 10 species in Kalika.
- Chaturvedi informed that a conservation center has been set up for fern species in green and shed houses in Kerala, but in Kalika, the country's first ferntum has grown naturally according to the local climate. It will be made the nodal center for the study of fern species.





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