



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

**May
2022**

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Uttarakhand: First State to Implement The New Education Policy

Why in News?

- On May 1, 2022, Uttarakhand's Higher Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that the curriculum has been prepared under the New Education Policy in Higher Education. It will be implemented from the new academic session this year.

Key Points

- The syllabus prepared under the New Education Policy will be sent for cabinet approval after its presentation to the Chief Secretary. Uttarakhand will be the first state to implement it first.
- It may be mentioned that a task force was earlier constituted under the chairmanship of the Minister of Secondary Education for preparation of courses under the new education policy by the state universities. The Higher Education Minister was made its Vice President.
- The annual examination system was implemented due to shortage of faculty in universities and colleges, but now it will be abolished and the semester system will be implemented. A decision in this regard will be taken soon.
- Choice based credit system will be applicable in all the state universities of the state. Under this system, students will have a credit bank, on the basis of this, they will be able to get admission from one college to another.
- Of the curriculum prepared under the new education policy, 70 per cent of the courses will be equally applicable in all universities, while 30 per cent of the courses will be able to be changed by the universities. The course has also been made employable.

Resolution of years-old dispute between Uttar Pradesh-Uttarakhand

Why In News?

- On May 5, 2022, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath and Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar

Singh Dhama held a joint press conference and informed that the 21-year-old dispute of assets between the two states has finally been resolved.

Key Point

- Under the solution, Alaknanda Hotel has been given to the Uttarakhand government and the Bhagirathi hotel has been given to the UP government.
- It may be recalled that the Bhagirathi Tourist Accommodation Home has been constructed on the land given by the Uttarakhand government in lieu of the Alaknanda Hotel.
- Built in Haridwar in 2964 square meters at a cost of Rs 43.26 crore, this Bhagirathi tourist accommodation home has 100 rooms.
- It is worth mentioning that one of the many disputed properties between the two states was the Hotel Alaknanda. To address this, official level talks were initiated by the then Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Trivendra Singh Rawat and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath.

7% reduction in child stunting cases in Uttarakhand

Why In News

- As per the national report of the fifth round of the National Family Health Survey (NFHS-5) released by the Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya recently, Uttarakhand has registered a significant reduction of 7% in stunting.

Key Point

- In the last four years, the level of stunting among children below the age of 5 years in India has come down from 38 to 36 per cent.
- More stunting was found in children in rural areas (37%) than in urban areas (30%) in 2019-21.
- According to the report, stunting among children has been found to be the lowest in Puducherry (20%) and the highest in Meghalaya (47%).
- As per the report, a reduction of 7% has been recorded in stunting in Haryana, Uttarakhand, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh and Sikkim, while Jharkhand, Madhya Pradesh and Manipur have registered a decrease of 6% and Chandigarh and Bihar have registered a decrease of 5%.

Note:



New tariffs for solar power projects released

Why In News?

- Recently, the Uttarakhand Electricity Regulatory Commission has issued a new tariff for solar power projects after two years, refusing to extend the period for setting up of a new project of Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (Ureda) at old rates.

Key Point

- Ureda had received 1472 applications under the **Mukhyamantri Solar Swarozgar Yojana**, out of which 781 projects were issued letter of award by Ureda. Due to the Covid pandemic and then the assembly elections, the establishment of these projects had slowed down.
- The rule was that only those projects which will be set up by March 31, 2022, will be able to sell power to UPCL at the rate of Rs 4.49 per unit.
- Under the scheme, 70% of the project cost will be taken as a loan from the State and District Co-operative Banks at the rate of 8% interest and the remaining amount will be borne by the concerned beneficiary as margin money.
- Under the scheme, the grant will be up to 30% in the border districts of the State and up to 25% in hilly districts and 15% in other districts.
- Under this scheme, eligible persons (permanent residents of the State) will be able to set up solar power plants by taking their private land or land on lease.
- Under this, 10,000 unemployed persons of the state will be provided employment.

Maneri Dam

Why In News

- On May 11, 2022, 7 labourers have been stranded on an island near **Maneri Dam** due to the alternate route being washed away due to rising water level of **Bhagirathi river**, who are being rescued to evacuate them.

Key Point

- Maneri Dam is a **concrete gravity dam located on the Bhagirathi river in Uttarkashi district**. The primary objective of the dam is to divert water and provide water to the 90 MW run-of-the-river Tilloth Power Plant.
- Significantly, the Bhagirathi river is one of the two top streams of the Ganga, which originates from the **Gomukh of the Gangotri Glacier**.
- **This river flows in the form of Ganga, joining Alaknanda in Devprayag.**
- As per the state government data, 16 hydro power projects with a capacity of 1,743 MW on the Bhagirathi river are at various stages of development. is an important hydroelectric project (**HEP**) located on it.

Helang-Marwari bypass cleared by Supreme Court

Why In News

- The Supreme Court has given a green signal to the construction of the proposed Helang-Marwari bypass road on badrinath highway under the Allweather Road project on May 13, 2022. The construction work will begin in July.

Key Point

- With the construction of this bypass route, the distance to Badrinath Dham will be reduced by 30 km. At the same time, the movement of troops in the China border area will become easier.
- The construction of the Helang-Marwari bypass road is proposed 13 km before Joshimath under the Allweather Road project. The route will be constructed for about 5 km in the lower part of Joshimath Nagar.
- It is worth mentioning that the 'Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti' agitated for nearly a year against the route, due to which the construction could not take place. The matter then reached the Supreme Court.
- Citing the ease of movement of troops to the China border area, the Union Transport Ministry has termed

Note:

the construction of the bypass road as necessary, after which the construction of the route has got the green signal from the court.

- The construction of the bypass route will reduce the distance of Badrinath Dham by 30 km. So far, pilgrims have been reaching Marwari via Joshimath from Helang, a distance of 20 km, while the proposed bypass is about 5 km.

New education policy to come into effect in Uttarakhand from July 1

Why In news

- On May 13, 2022, Uttarakhand's Higher Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat told the conference of Junior High School Teachers Association Pauri that the **National Education Policy (NEP)** will come into force in the state from July 1 this year.

Key Point

- With this, Uttarakhand will become the first state in the country to implement the NEP.
- Speaking on the occasion, he said that with the curriculum of primary to secondary classes being prepared under this education policy, the state government is going to create smart classes in 12,000 schools.
- It may be recalled that based on the report of the committee headed by K. Kasturirangan, the new **National Education Policy** brought in the year 2020 aims to transform the Indian education system by removing the loopholes in the 1986 education policy.
- Its main goals are as follows:
 - Increase the **Gross Enrolment Ratio (GER)** to 100% by the year 2030.
 - Public expenditure of 6% of GDP on education sector in collaboration with the Central and State Governments.
 - Increase the 'Gross Enrolment Ratio' in higher educational institutions from 26.3% (year 2018) to 50%.

Sudden Increase in Water Level of Alaknanda Due to Melting of Glaciers

Why in News

- On May 16, 2022, due to the melting of glaciers in the catchment area of Alaknanda river in Chamoli district, the water level of the river suddenly increased, raising concerns about a new disaster in the district.

Key Points

- Considering the seriousness of the situation, an alert has been issued and SDRF teams have been deployed at the ghats along with the removal of people from the ghats.
- It may be recalled that in February last year, a massive flash flood was witnessed in the Dhauli Ganga and Alaknanda rivers due to the breaking of a glacier in the Tapovan-Raini area of Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, causing severe damage to the Rishiganga power project.
- The rapid melting of glaciers at Satopanth and Alkapuri Bank is responsible for the rise in the water level of the Alaknanda River.
- Alaknanda is one of the two main streams of the Ganga. In fact, the Alaknanda and Bhagirathi rivers are jointly known as Ganga after meeting at Devprayag.
- Alaknanda originates from the Satopanth glacier. Its major tributaries include Dhauliganga, Nandakini, Pindar etc.

Himalayan Bird Survey

Why in News?

- As per the preliminary report of the first Himalayan Bird Survey released by Bird Count India recently, Uttarakhand has the highest number of species of Himalayan birds.

Key Points

- According to this report, 171 species of Himalayan birds have been observed in Uttarakhand.
- This census of Himalayan birds has been done by Bird Count India under the e-bird global platform in various Himalayan states.

Note:

- During the census, a number of other birds including monal, the Wall Creeper, Spotted Naticracker and Streak Breasted Shimitter Babbler along with the rare Red Cross Bill have been spotted in Uttarakhand.
- The report contains the following number of bird species in various Himalayan States/UTs/Districts and in them:

| Place | Bird Species |
|------------------------|--------------|
| Uttarakhand | 171 |
| Ladakh | 148 |
| Himachal Pradesh | 125 |
| Jammu and Kashmir | 122 |
| Darjeeling | 49 |
| Arunachal Pradesh | 47 |
| Sikkim | 36 |
| Kalipong (West Bengal) | 08 |

'No to ineligible-Yes to eligible' Campaign

Why in News?

- On May 17, 2022, Uttarakhand Food Minister Rekha Arya reviewed the food department through virtual medium and informed that so far 3167 people have surrendered their ration cards under the 'No to ineligible-Yes to eligible' (Apatra ko Na- Patra ko Haan) campaign of the Food Department.

Key Points

- Under this drive launched by the Department of Food and Civil Supplies against bogus and ineligible ration card holders, maximum 1190 ration cards have been surrendered from Udham Singh Nagar district and the lowest ration cards from Rudraprayag district.
- Food Minister Rekha Arya said that under the National Food Security Mission (NFSA), the more ineligible will be removed from the village from which the names of the eligible persons will be added.
- He has also directed to put up a list of the names of the beneficiaries outside each ration shop and write the standard helpline number-1967 of all the schemes there.

- For Antyodaya and National Food Security Scheme, those whose monthly income is more than Rs.15,000/- are not eligible. They can surrender their cards themselves till May 31.
- After this, from June 1, a massive drive will be launched at the departmental level in which an FIR will be lodged against the person found ineligible and recovery will be made from him.

'Mahadev cave' to be included in Shiva circuit

Why in News?

- Recently, Dinesh Gururani, adventure tourism manager of Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, said that the mythical Mahadev cave near Sipu, a village in Uttarakhand bordering China, will be connected to the Shiva circuit.

Key Points

- According to Gururani, the inclusion of this cave in the Adi Kailash Yatra route by Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam, the last village of the high Himalayan Darma valley of Dharchula, will give a new opportunity to religious tourism.
- According to mythological beliefs (Shiva Purana), Lord Shiva made this cave as his place of penance after Sati got absorbed in the fire.
- The Shiva Circuit has been started by the Tourism Department of Uttarakhand to develop the existing various Shiva temples in the state as centres of religious tourism.
- The circuit starts from Ekeshwar Mahadev Temple at Pauri Garhwal, covering 24 Shiva temples of Uttarakhand and ends at Dandeshwar Temple at Bageshwar.

Uttarakhand's efforts towards issuing Municipal (Muni) Bonds

Why In News

- Recently Dr. Uttarakhand Urban Development Director Lalit Mohan Rayal said that the credit rating of eight municipal corporations of the state will be done on the basis of which these municipal corporations will be able to raise funds by issuing bonds for the development of cities.

Note:



Key Point

- The municipal corporations for which credit rating will be conducted include Dehradun, Haridwar, Roorkee, Kashipur, Rudrapur, Haldwani, Rishikesh and Kotdwar.
- In Uttarakhand, the continuous dependence on the government due to low income and high expenditure in the municipal bodies has affected the development work and hampers the discharge of salaries, pensions and other expenses of the employees. In such a situation, getting the credit rating of the municipal corporations done is a step in the right direction.
- The 15th Finance Commission report on local bodies has also stressed on the need for the governance structure of the city and their financial empowerment.
- **A municipal (muni) bond is a debt security issued by a state, municipality or county to finance its capital expenditure**, including the construction of highways, bridges or schools, etc.
- In order to clarify the regulatory position of municipal bonds and to make them safe for investors, the **Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI)** had issued detailed guidelines for issuance and listing of municipal bonds in March 2015.
- It may be mentioned that **Bangalore Municipal Corporation is the first urban local body to issue municipal bonds in India in the year 1997.**

31 New Helipads to Be Built in Uttarakhand**Why in News?**

- On May 25, 2022, Civil Aviation Secretary Dilip Jawalkar said that preparations are being made to construct new helipads at 31 locations to expand the heli services with a view to attract tourists to the state.

Key Points

- These helipads will be built in Dehradun, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pithoragarh and Almora districts. The cost of constructing the helipad will be borne by the state government itself.
- The state tourism department has directed the district collectors to identify land for helipads near famous tourist spots of their districts so that these lands can be acquired at the earliest and helipads can be constructed and the helipads can be operated here.

- Heli services are being operated from Dehradun to Chinyalisaur, Dehradun to Gauchar, Dehradun to Tehri, Dehradun to Srinagar, Dehradun to Almora and Haldwani to Pithoragarh under the UDAN scheme.
- Heli services are being operated from Dehradun to Kedarnath and from various places in Chamoli districts to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib.
- It is worth mentioning that Uttarakhand is full of natural beauty. Somewhere the high mountains and somewhere the velvet bugyals attract the tourists towards them. Here the natural lakes formed between the remote mountains are the center of attraction of tourists as well as of mythological importance.
- The government's effort is to build helipads around such tourist places so that tourists can reach these places through heli services and they have to walk at least on foot. Along with this, they will also be able to see the beauty of snow-laden hills from the sky.
- The state government plans to start heli services at these places through private heli companies. This will not only give revenue to the government, but it will also facilitate the tourists.
- Uttarakhand is also a disaster-sensitive state. Helicopters are used in relief and rescue operations during disasters. The helipads built at the new locations will also prove to be crucial for relief and rescue operations during the disaster.

Expert Committee to Implement Uniform Civil Code in the state**Why in News?**

- On May 27, 2022, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami informed that a five-member expert committee has been constituted for implementation of the Uniform Civil Code in the state.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the Expert Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Ranjana Prakash Desai a retired judge from Supreme Court.
- The committee also includes retired Delhi High Court judge Pramod Kohli, former state chief secretary Shatrughan Singh, social activist Manu Gaur and Doon University Vice-Chancellor Surekha Dangwal as members.

Note:



- The notification of the state government on the constitution of the committee said that the committee is being constituted to examine all relevant laws governing the individual civil matters of all citizens residing in the state of Uttarakhand and to report on it with an amendment in the draft law or the existing law.
- In addition, an Expert Committee is being constituted with the approval of the Governor for examination and implementation of the Uniform Civil Code and the applicable laws relating to marriage, divorce, right to property, inheritance, adoption and maintenance and protection etc.

First Campus of Visva Bharati University in Ramgarh

Why in News?

- Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami participated in the 162nd birth anniversary celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and performed Bhoomi Pujan for the first campus of Visva Bharati University.

Key Points

- This university is being built in Ramgarh of Nainital district. It is noteworthy that Tagore Hill is situated on Ramgarh hill.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that Guru Rabindranath Tagore had indelible the name of Ramgarh in the world map by writing literature after coming here years ago.
- To build this university, the Chief Minister donated 45 acres of land to a trust named 'Shanti Niketan Trust for Himalaya'.

'Uttarakhand Ratna' award

Why in News?

- On May 9, 2022, in the 44th anniversary of the All-India Conference of Intellectuals, celebrated in Nainital, Prof. N.K. Joshi was awarded the 'Uttarakhand Ratna' award for his remarkable work in the field of higher education.

Key Points

- Pro. Joshi has been awarded this honor in recognition of his outstanding work in the field of higher education, innovation implemented in the university, implementation of innovative, innovative action plans and academic services done with excellence.
- With the efforts of Prof. Joshi, Kumaun University is making a place as the top center of higher education.
- Due to the efforts of Prof. Joshi, Kumaun University has been ranked 58th in Pharmacy Category in the National Institutional Ranking Framework of Higher Education Institutions. The university has been ranked 551-600 in the QD Asia rankings.

Monkey and Langur Census, 2021

Why In News?

- Recently, data on unplanned monkey and langur census has been released by the Uttarakhand government in December 2021.

Key Point

- The census has been conducted by the Uttarakhand Forest Department and wildlife institute of India.
- According to it, the number of monkeys in the state has decreased by 24.55 per cent in 2021 as compared to 2015, while the number of langurs has decreased by 31.14 per cent.
- In the 2021 census, the number of monkeys was recorded at 1,10,481 and the number of langurs at 37,735, compared to 1,46,432 in 2015 and the number of langurs at 54,804.
- As per the census, the distribution of number of monkeys is as under: Haridwar Forest Division > Bageshwar Forest Division > Dehradun Forest Division.
- As per the calculation, the distribution of the number of langurs is as follows: Corbett Ramnagar > Badrinath Forest Division > Corbett Kalagarh.
- The following efforts are being made by the Government to reduce the number of monkeys:
 - Programme of sterilization of monkeys
 - Building monkey enclosures
 - Construction of rescue centres, such as Mini Zoo Rescue Centre, Almora.

Note:

- Two monkey forests will be built in the state; The first in 107 hectares in Haldwani, the second in Haridwar in 25 hectares.

Radha of Mussoorie won the gold medal in 1500 meters race

Why In News?

- In the Khelo India University Games, 2021 held in Bengaluru on May 3, 2022, 23-year-old Radha Singh from Mussoorie, Uttarakhand won the gold medal in the 1500 meters race.

Key Points

- Radha completed this race in 4 minutes 31 seconds and managed to win the gold medal on the basis of her brilliant performance.

- 23-year-old Radha Singh is a player of the excellence wing of Maharana Pratap Sports College. Even before this Radha has won two medals at the national level.
- Radha Singh's coach Anoop Bisht told that Radha got first position in 1500 meters race, while Sunita of Himachal got second and Huidrom Devi of Manipur got third place.
- It is noteworthy that the Khelo India University Games, 2021 was organized in Bangalore from April 24 to May 3, 2022.
- Khelo India Youth Games was started with the goal of encouraging young students to participate and play in various sporting events.
- The first edition of Khelo India Youth Games was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on January 31, 2018. In the year 2019, the name of Khelo India School Games was changed to 'Khelo India Youth Games'.



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Note:



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Key Points

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Summary

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Key Points

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Summary

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