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(CONSOLIDATION)

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Tehri's Shrutika selected for Commonwealth Youth Award

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on July 31, 2023, Tehri's Shrutika Silswal has been selected for the Commonwealth Youth Award. He has been selected out of a total of 50 youths from Commonwealth countries, which includes four Indians. He will be given this award in London in September.



Key Points:

- According to information, these awards are given to young people in Commonwealth countries who have done remarkable work in the field of social enterprise, environment, innovation and human rights.
- A total of 50 people, including four Indians, have been named in the list for the Commonwealth Youth Awards. These people, in the age group of 15 to 29 years, are involved in initiatives to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- India's Akshay Makar has been selected for SDG 13 Climate Change, Soumya Dabrial for SDG 5 Gender Equality, Kaushal Shetty for SDG 11 Sustainable Cities & Communities and Shrutika Silswal for SDG 4 Quality Education.
- It is known that Shrutika Silswal is working with the Simple Foundation on the improvement of education in Tehri Garhwal. She is the Associate Director of the Foundation. This organization helps the children of government schools.
- Presently she is running her project in five schools. His dream is on qualitative improvement in government schools across the country. For this, he has created some projects, which make children emotionally strong.
- Originally a resident of Kakhilbheldar in Tehri, Shrutika has earlier received the 'Teacher for India' and 'Dalai Lama Fellowship'.
- Shrutika's father Vinod Silswal is a teacher at MIT College Dhalwala, while her mother Meenakshi is a teacher at GIC Nagani, Chamba.
- Shrutika is hurt by the exodus from the mountains for education after Covid and does not want anyone to leave their home & go to another city for primary education.

- Out of 50 youths selected for the Commonwealth Youth Awards, 20 will be selected as winners. These youth will attend the prize distribution ceremony in London on 14 September. Each winner will be awarded a trophy, certificate etc.
- Usually, 20 names are selected, from which five regional winners are chosen, but this year the names of 50 youths have been included to mark the completion of 50 years of the Commonwealth Youth Programme.



3 tunnels will be built on China border

Why in News?

On August 2, 2023, Uttarakhand Public Works Secretary Pankaj Pandey informed that the State Government has sent a proposal to the Central Government to link the two ITBP posts in two different valleys along the Indo-China border and to provide smooth transport to the people of the border areas.

Key Points:

- With this, the distance between Jolingkang in Pithoragarh and Lapthal in Chamoli will be reduced from 490 km to 42 km. For this, 3 tunnels of about 57 km and 20 km of road are proposed to be made. Now a decision has to be taken by the Central Government on this project of strategic importance.
- At present there is no such direct route in the India-China border, which directly connects ITBP post Jolingkang in Pithoragarh to ITBP post in Lapthal in Chamoli. The distance of 490 km can be reduced by constructing three tunnels of 57 km each at these two strategically important posts.

Note:



- It is also important from the point of view of people living in border areas, the army, SSB & ITBP and tourism.
- In its proposal sent to the Centre by the state government, the project has been described as important for the economic development of the state, promotion of tourism and to prevent migration along with maintaining human activities in the border areas.
- **The 1st tunnel will be of five km:**
 - The journey from Jaulingkang (Beas Valley) to Beadag (Darma Valley) in the Pithoragarh district is covered via the Shimla Pass, which is covered with snow almost throughout the year. It is very difficult to construct a road at this place.
 - The five-km tunnel between Jaulingkang will connect the route from Tawaghat to Bedang built by BRO and CPWD with a 20-km road from Vedang to Go and Sipu. It will reduce the distance between Jaulingkang and Bedang by 161 km.
- **The 2nd tunnel will be 22 km long:** It is also difficult to construct a motorway from Sipu to Tola, which is covered with snow throughout the year. With the construction of a tunnel of about 22 km in length between Sipu to Tola, Darma Valley and Johar Valley will be connected to each other.
- **The 3rd tunnel will be 30 km long:** The walkway from Milam in Pithoragarh to Laphthal in Chamoli is also covered with snow throughout the year. It is difficult to construct a road in this part also. With the construction of the 30 km tunnel from Milam to Laphthal, Johar Valley of Pithoragarh and Laphthal of Chamoli will be connected by road.

memory of the world's famous international band group Beatles. Tourists from all over the world come to Chaurasi Kutia, but this place has not yet been developed in terms of tourism.

- Now the government has planned to develop it as International Heritage Tourism Destination. Since Chaurasi Kutia is in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve area, permission will also be taken from the Ministry of Environment and Forests.
- It is worth mentioning that in the year 1961, Maharishi Mahesh Yogi had built Chaurasi Kutia Ashram in 7.5 hectares of forest land in the Rajaji Tiger Reserve area. He had taken the forest land on lease for about 40 years. During this, he had constructed 140 domed cottages and 84 small meditation yoga cottages and others in the ashram.
- In the year 1968, four members of England's famous Beatles group John Lennon, Paul McCartney, George Harrison and Ringo Starr came to Chaurasi Kutia to meditate. These people used to meditate in cottage number nine.
- He stayed here for about four months. In these four months, he composed the tune of 40 songs here, which foreigners still listen to with fascination. Maharishi Mahesh Yogi left this cottage in the year 1989 and went to Holland due to the expiry of the lease of forest land. In the year 2000, the forest department took over this ashram.

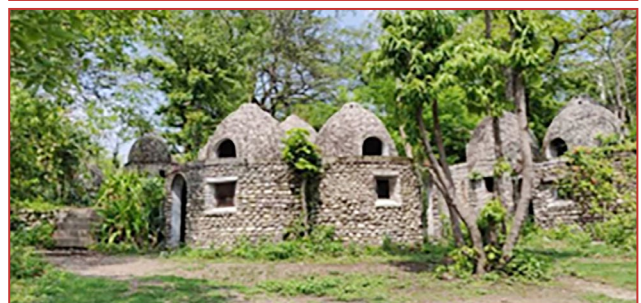
'Chaurasi Kutiya' to be developed as a Heritage Tourist Destination

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on August 3, 2023, Chaurasi Kutia, a historical site located at Swargashram in Rishikesh, will be developed as a heritage tourist destination. For this, HCP Design Management Company will prepare the master plan.

Key Points:

- It is known that Maharishi Mahesh Yogi's Tapasthali Chaurasi Kutia in Tirthanagari is associated with the



Note:

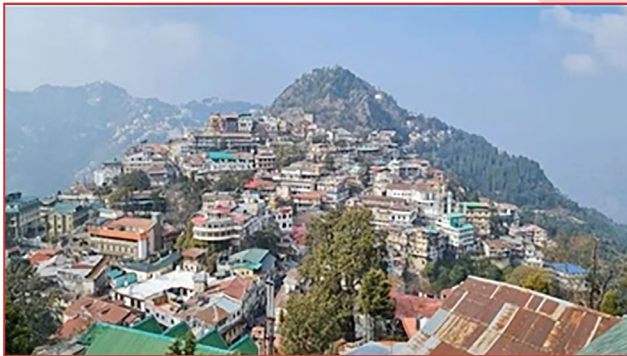
For the 1st time in 200 years, Mussoorie gets a Complete Tehsil Status

Why in News?

On August 3, 2023, the Uttarakhand cabinet approved the proposal to make Mussoorie, the queen of mountains, a tehsil. After the formation of Tehsil, the people of the city will get a lot of convenience and the administrative system of the city will be strengthened.

Key Points:

- Historian Jayaprakash Uttarakhandi said that Mussoorie never had a complete tehsil in two hundred years of its establishment. During the British period, the commissionerate was operated from Meerut. From 1840, the city magistrate was posted.
- The facilities which were available in England at that time, all those facilities were made available by the British in Mussoorie. To improve the arrangements, the British formed the Mussoorie City Board in 1850. Now the government has given Tehsil status to Mussoorie.
- Mussoorie, the queen of hill stations, is famous for its natural beauty, social life and entertainment. Mussoorie, 38 km from Dehradun, is an attractive hill station with its green hills and diverse flora & fauna.



Haridwar-Rishikesh Ganga Corridor to be built on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath, Mahakal

Why in News?

On August 3, 2023, the Uttarakhand cabinet approved the proposal to build the Haridwar-Rishikesh Ganga

Corridor on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath, Mahakal. Along with this, the cabinet has also approved the selection of the planning company for making the master plan of the Ganga corridor.

Key Points:

- Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu informed that Haridwar and Rishikesh cities are being redeveloped. For this Haridwar-Rishikesh Ganga Corridor project will be prepared.
- Devipura to Bhupatwala (Doodhadhari Chowk) in Haridwar, 1.5-kilometre radius from Har Ki Pauri, Kankhal area (Daksh Mandir and Sanyas Road), Bhupatwala to Saptarishi Ashram (Bharat Mata Mandir area) and entire area of Tapovan in Rishikesh, Core area near railway station, area near ISBT and area near Triveni Ghat etc. have been included in this project.
- A target has been set to complete the Ganga Corridor work within two and a half years, for which the government will set up the Haridwar, Rishikesh Redevelopment Company Limited. The High Power Steering Committee will be constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary for administrative, financial and technical approval of the project and monitoring of the project.



Uttarakhand's First Apple Policy Proposal Ready

Why in News?

On August 6, 2023, Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Ganesh Joshi informed that the proposal for the first apple policy has been prepared to promote apple production & marketing in the state.

Note:

Key Points:

- In this policy, the government will encourage farmers to plant new apple orchards in five thousand hectare areas. Farmers can prepare apple orchards on 0.2 to 20 hectares of land.
- Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Ganesh Joshi said that suggestions will also be taken from the farmers of the state on this policy. Which will be included in the policy. Only after this the proposal of the policy will be placed in the cabinet.
- It is known that except for Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar districts, apples are produced in the hilly areas of remaining 11 districts, but till now Uttarakhand, Himachal and Jammu & Kashmir are lagging behind in apple production.
- Uttarkashi is the leader in apple production in the state. About 62 thousand metric tonnes of apples are produced in a total area of 25785 hectares.
- For the first time, the emphasis is on increasing the production of the state government by implementing the apple policy. Farmers who have less land will also be encouraged to cultivate apples.
- Under the policy, the government will provide apple trees of advanced varieties for planting apple orchards from 0.2 hectare to 20 hectare. Apart from this, companies will be encouraged to provide apple saplings and technical know-how.



Honorarium of Six Lakh Rupees Per Month to Super Specialist Doctors of Heart Disease

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on August 7, 2023, to overcome the shortage of

cardiologists in Uttarakhand, the Central Government has approved to give a higher package (Honorarium of Six lakh rupees per month) to cardiologist super specialist doctor on contract under the National Health Mission.

Key Points:

- To overcome the shortage of specialist and super specialist doctors in the hilly districts, the state government has implemented the ‘You Quote We Pay’ formula. Under this, the specialist of various diseases has been fixed as an honorarium up to a maximum of four lakh rupees per month.
- Specialist and super specialist doctors are being recruited on contract under the ‘‘You Quote We Pay’’ formula. The application process for the third phase has been started. The interview will be held on August 22. Under the formula, doctors posted in hilly areas will be given higher honorarium.
- Health Secretary Dr. R. Rajesh Kumar said that a cath lab has been set up in Srinagar Medical College in Pauri Garhwal, where super specialist cardiologist doctors will be deployed.

Sridev Suman University will adopt Five Science Consciousness Centers of USRK

Why in News?

On August 6, 2023, an MoU was signed between Uttarakhand Science Education and Research Center (USERK) & Sridev Suman Uttarakhand University located at Badshahi Thoal in Tehri Garhwal for science education, research, innovation & development of scientific interest among students.

Key Points:

- Director of USERK Prof. Anita Rawat and Vice Chancellor of the University Prof. NK Joshi have signed this MoU.
- On the basis of this agreement, both the institutes will work to standardize science education and scientific research in the state.
- Sridev Suman University will adopt at least five centers out of more than 200 Science Consciousness Centers operated by USERK and conduct various scientific activities in them. The school will provide various facilities to the students from its university.

Note:

- Sridev Suman Uttarakhand University Vice Chancellor Prof. Joshi said that with this agreement, while the students studying in the university will get full benefit of the scientific activities of USERK, other students will also benefit from this effort of both the institutions.



14 Women and 35 Anganwadi Workers Received Awards in Tilu Rauteli State Level Award 2022-23

Why in News?

On August 8, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami awarded the Teelu Rauteli State Level Award to 14 Heroines and 35 Anganwadi workers of the state in a program organized at IRDT Auditorium, Survey Chowk, Dehradun.

Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the Heroines of the State have brought laurels to the state and the country by performing excellently in various fields. The state government is determined to respect and empower them.

Awarded to:

- Nivedita Karki of Pithoragarh, who left her board exams to pursue her dream of boxing and won gold medal in Sweden and Mansi Negi of Chamoli, who won bronze in 20-kilometer race event in China, received Teelu Rauteli state level award among 14 heroines.
- Para athlete Garima Joshi of Almora in sports disability category, state level para player Mohini Koranga of Bageshwar, Shambhavi Murari of Champawat in the field of arts and yoga, Amisha Chauhan of Dehradun in mountaineering disability category, state level player of Taekwondo in sports Haridwar's Divya Bhardwaj got this award.
- Apart from these, Manju Pandey of Nainital in the field of literature and education, Nutan Pant of Pauri in the field of women's employment, Preeti of Rudraprayag in environment, Himani of Tehri in sports, Neelima Rai of Udham Singh Nagar in the field of sports and adventure. Mamta of Uttarkashi and Kamla Arora of Nainital received the Teelu Rauteli Award.
- The state government has increased the amount of award given in the name of the state's heroine Teelu Rauteli by Rs 20,000. Now it has increased from 31 thousand to 51 thousand rupees.
- At the same time, the amount of state level Anganwadi worker award has been increased by Rs 30 thousand. Now it has increased from Rs 21 thousand to Rs 51 thousand.
- The amount of respect to all the heroines and workers has been deposited in their account online.



Note:

39 Prisoners lodged in Uttarakhand jails will get 'Freedom'

Why in News?

On August 9, 2023, according to the information received from the media, Uttarakhand's DIG Jail Dhadiram Maurya issued orders to all the jails of the state to release 39 prisoners lodged in jails on the 76th anniversary of Independence Day.



Key Points:

- It is known that the government had issued an order in this regard on August 4 last.
- Prisoners are being released from jails across the country on the programs of Amrit Mahotsav of Independence. In the same sequence, the Uttarakhand government had held discussions regarding the remission of punishment for well-behaved prisoners of the state.
- These prisoners will be handed over to their families on the occasion of Independence Day.
- All these prisoners have been convicted of various crimes. Apart from these, consideration is going on to release six foreign-origin prisoners in the state. All these prisoners are lodged in different jails.

Government-issued notification of MSME Policy

Why in News?

On August 10, 2023, after the approval of the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. General Gurmeet Singh (Sr.), the government issued a notification of the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Policy (MSME) to increase industrial investment in the state.

Key Points:

- In the Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises Policy, the state government has increased the subsidy to encourage investment and employment in new industries in the hilly areas.
- According to the policy, the government will give a five percent additional subsidy to women, scheduled castes, tribes and disabled people for investing in new industries.

- Apart from this, a 50 percent exemption will be given in market fees for setting up agro-based processing industries in hilly areas for five years.
- Subsidy will be given from Rs 50 lakh to Rs 4 crore on investment in the mountains, while the maximum subsidy will be Rs 1.50 crore in the plains.
- In the policy, industries owned by women, SCST, Divyang will get five percent additional subsidy. They will be given a subsidy of five lakh rupees for micro category industry, 10 lakh rupees for small category and 15 lakh rupees for medium category industry.
- Processing industries based on agricultural products will be given 50 percent exemption in mandi fee per year for five years in the A and B category areas identified in the policy.
- Apart from this, financial assistance of maximum one lakh rupees will be given to the industries for getting national and international quality certificate, trade mark, quality marking, patent.
- An authorized committee will be constituted at the state and district level for financial incentives to be given to the industries. In this, the director general of industries will be the chairman of the state level committee. The district level committee will be headed by the concerned district magistrate.
- Apart from this, a high-level committee will be constituted at the government level, which will be headed by the Industries Secretary.

Sridev Suman University bans on PG again, ranks 1st in the country to implement this rule

Why in News?

On August 10, 2023, according to the information received from the media, Sridev Suman University, located in Tehri Garhwal (Badshahithaul), Uttarakhand, has banned the re-admission of PG students from this year, who have done PG course from the university in the past. This university has become the first university in the state and country to implement this rule.

Key Points:

- University registrar KR Bhate said that many students, once after completing PG studies, take admission in PG again for the student union elections. This decision has been taken only to stop such students. However, he could not clarify how it would be identified.

Note:

- Recently Sridev Suman University has started M.A., M.Sc., M.Com. Admission rules 2023 have been issued for admission in the first semester.
- According to its point number 1.15 (a), after studying in the university as an enrolled student of Sridev Suman University, a student who has passed PG examination in one subject will not be allowed admission in M.A., M.Sc., M.Com. in any other subject under any circumstances.
- It is known that in the new education policy, where the government has given freedom to all the students to choose the main subjects as well as the subjects of their choice, if there is a gap during studies, then again with the help of Academic Credit Bank, Sridev Suman University has done the opposite. After doing PG once, there is a ban on other PGs.
- For example, if a student does M.A. in Hindi and after completing that course, M.A. History or M.A. If he wants to do Political Science then he will not get admission in Sridev Suman University. For this he has to go to some other university.
- It is worth noting that such a rule is not applicable in any university of the state and country including Garhwal Central University, which prevents a student from doing PG from one university again in another subject.



CM made 13 Big Announcements on the Occasion of Independence Day

Why is News?

On August 15, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama made 13 major announcements for the state in a program organized at Parade Ground in Dehradun on the occasion of 77th Independence Day.

Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also honored the families of the freedom fighters.
- **Announcements made by the Chief Minister:**
 - A 'Mineral Processing Portal' will be created for the general public to get building construction materials directly to their homes through online booking throughout the year. This will stop the black marketing of minerals on one hand and on the other hand people will be able to get cheap minerals easily.
 - For the safety of pregnant women in remote areas, 'Mukhyamantri Jachcha-Bachha Suraksha Yojana' will be started. Under this, a system will be developed for airlifting pregnant women in adverse circumstances. A plan is being made to link this system with 108 ambulance services.
 - In government schools, books of their subjects will be made available free of cost to the students of classes 1 to 12 in both Hindi and English mediums.
 - Cases against youths involved in the Agniveer scheme protests, who are preparing for various competitive exams or studying in schools and colleges, will be withdrawn.
 - Major intersections and roads in the state will be named after freedom fighters, martyrs, litterateurs and great personalities of the state.
 - 'Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana' will be started in the state to encourage single, destitute, abandoned and widowed women to create employment at their place of residence and to strengthen their economic condition.

Note:

- With the aim of developing the cities of the hilly region, under the Mukhyamantri Parvatiya Nagar Vikas Yojana, one city each in both the mandals will be developed as a model city.
- To ensure proper education and balanced nutrition for the working class children, the number of mobile schools and mobile Anganwadi centers will be increased.
- A detailed action plan will be prepared to give Haripur its historical and mythological form to the ancient city situated on the banks of river Yamuna in Vikas Nagar area.
- For the promotion of tribal culture in the state, the National Tribal Cultural Program competition will be organized soon.
- A request will be made to the Central Government to increase the number of Eklavya schools in tribal areas of frontier villages.
- Appointment will be provided on the basis of the waiting list on the vacant posts due to the successful candidates in more than one competitive examination. This waiting list will be valid for a certain period of time and will remain effective.
- Unity Mall will be established to promote cottage industries and self-employment in the state and to sell their products.



Policemen honoured with 'Chief Minister's Meritorious Service Medal'

Why is News?

On August 15, 2023, on the occasion of Independence Day, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami honored four police officers of the state police with the 'Chief Minister Meritorious Service Medal' at the main event organized at the parade ground in Dehradun.

Key Points:

- Apart from these, the Chief Minister gave the Meritorious Service Medal to one officer and the Meritorious Service Medal to one and honored the police officers with medals.
- Chief Minister's Meritorious Service Medal for Distinguished Work:
 - Bhadane Visakha Ashok, SP Rudraprayag
 - Rekha Yadav, SP Crime, Haridwar
 - Amit Srivastava, Second Assistant Governor
 - Sarita Dobal, SP City Dehradun
 - Service Honor Marks on the basis of service for meritorious service:
 - Harish Verma, Deputy Commandant, 46th Battalion PAC
 - Meritorious Service Medal for Distinguished Service:
 - Renu Lohani, ASP, Vigilance

SI Bhagwan Singh of Uttarakhand got Union Home Minister's Medal

Why is News?

On August 15, 2023, on the occasion of Independence Day, the Sub-Inspector of Uttarakhand Police Bhagwan Singh Mehar was awarded the Union Home Minister's Medal for awarding the death penalty to honour killings.

Key Points:

- He was given this medal in the Medal for Excellence in Investigation category of the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

Note:

- It is known that on May 18, 2018, two real brothers Kuldeep & Arun and cousin Rahul had brutally murdered their sister Preeti by cutting them with an axe & shovel after going against their relatives in Khanpur, Haridwar.
- In this regard, on the Tahrir of Brijmohan, the husband of the deceased, an indictment was registered in the police station Khanpur, which was discussed by the sub-inspector Bhagwan Singh Mahar, who was then posted as the head of the police station, Khanpur.
- Sub-Inspector Bhagwan Singh Mahar, while discussing at a quick pace, the charge sheet against the accused was sent to the Hon'ble Court on August 13, 2018.
- On the basis of the evidence collected by them, the witnesses presented on time, scientific evidence and solid pleading, the accused Kuldeep, Arun and Rahul were sentenced to death by the Honorable Additional Sessions Judge, Laksar, Haridwar for the crime of the rarest of the rare category of section 302 Bhabvi and was punished with a fine.



The Governor inaugurated the Clap Project

Why is News?

On August 16, 2023, the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Saini) launched the School Education Department's Continuous Learning Access Project (CLAP) at Raj Bhavan, Dehradun, under which children will be able to access the latest knowledge through e-learning vehicle.

Key Points:

- Along with this, the Governor flagged off the mobile e-learning vehicle under this project.
- The clap has been prepared by the Education Department under the guidance of NCERT and in collaboration with computer manufacturer HP. This mobile e-learning vehicle has 120 internet enabled laptops in which the learning material is protected.
- This vehicle will provide 'digital content' in online and offline mode to students from primary to class-12 in government schools in remote rural areas.
- Learning channels, Disha and e-Pathshala based on NCERT syllabus are available in the vehicle. Students will be able to do self-evaluation along with learning in it.
- At present, this vehicle will be operated on the basis of a route chart in the schools of district Tehri.
- On this occasion, the Governor said that with the special efforts of NCERT, the digital vehicle with e-content will prove useful in introducing children to new teaching methods and curriculum.
- This vehicle will take the light of knowledge to the students of remote areas through technology. The e-education vehicle will help in achieving its educational objectives by visiting remote schools of the state.
- On this occasion, Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that last year the state's ranking in the field of education was at 35th position, which has reached 17th position this year. The effort of the state government is to bring the state in the top 10 ranking.



Note:

Global Investors Summit: Target to bring Investment of Rs 2.5 lakh crore from the summit

Why is News?

On August 17, 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while presiding over the Chief Minister's Advisory Group meeting regarding the proposed Global Investors Summit in December, said that the state government has set an investment target of Rs 2.5 lakh crore for the summit.

Key Points:

- The Chief Minister said that to achieve this goal, the process of putting an investment of about Rs 25,000 crore on the ground will be completed before the summit. Investment in hilly areas is being encouraged. This will also stop migration due to an increase in the means of employment in the mountains.
- The Chief Minister said that the file of permission from many departments will not stop for those setting up industries in the state. The time limit will be fixed for giving all permissions to the investors.
- Action plans were discussed in the meeting to promote industrial investment & employment in the state and to increase the economy of the state. Suggestions were taken from people associated with the industrial world for what better efforts can be made to increase investment in the state.
- The Chief Minister said that along with the peace system, better human resources are also available for investment in Uttarakhand. He urged the investors to specify the areas in which skilled manpower is needed. Complete arrangements will be made by the government to provide training to the youth in such areas.
- CM said that work on Amritsar-Kolkata Industrial Corridor is going to start soon. The construction of this corridor will provide facilities to the industries.
- State of the Art Integrated Container Depot has been set up to promote exports. The government has implemented the logistics policy. This will help in the development of infrastructure.

- Investors gave many suggestions regarding the Investors Summit, including creating a land bank for investment, promoting herbal cultivation, surveying the industries operating in the state, setting up a research centre in Uttarakhand, suggested to work on the investment plan in the state in the form of contemplation and spirituality.



Kartik Swami Temple to be Connected by Ropeway

Why is News?

On August 20, 2023, Uttarakhand's Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve said that a ropeway will be constructed for easy and accessible access to the Kartik Swami Temple, for which a pre-feasibility survey has been done. Facilities will also be provided on the pedestrian path of Kartik Swami.

Key Points:

- It is known that the only temple of Lord Kartikeya in North India is situated on Kraunch mountain in Rudraprayag district, which is called Kartik Swami. To make it easier for devotees to reach this temple, it will be connected by a ropeway.
- A 1.4 km long ropeway will be built from Kanakchauri, the base point of the temple, to Kartik Swami, for which pre-feasibility survey has also been done. According to officials, the final DPR for ropeway construction will also be prepared by September.
- Devotees reach Kartik Swami Temple throughout the year to have darshan of Lord Kartikeya, revered as the deity of more than 360 villages of Chamoli and Rudraprayag districts. To reach the temple, devotees have to walk about 4 km from Kanchauri. The climb has to be decided, but now an action plan has been made to connect the temple with the ropeway.

Note:

- The length of the ropeway to be built from Kanakchauri to the temple will be 1.4 km. With the construction of a ropeway, Kartik Swami temple can be reached from Kanakchauri within 10 minutes.
- Shatrughan Singh Negi, President of the Kartik Swami Temple Committee, said that the availability of facilities till the temple will boost employment along with pilgrimage.
- Chandrapuri-Bajbadu-Kartik Swami 10 km to make the journey to Lord Kartikeya's temple Kartik Swami easy-accessible. The road has also been approved. The survey of the route will be done soon by the Ukhimath Division of the Public Works Department.



The Secret of the Inscriptions of Jageshwar and Badrinath will soon be Revealed

Why in News?

On August 20, 2023, K.B. Sharma, Assistant Superintending Archaeologist of Dehradun Circle, Uttarakhand, said that the secret of ancient inscriptions of world famous Jageshwar Dham in Almora and Badrinath in Chamoli will soon be revealed. For this, the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) has sent a letter to the Epigraphy Branch, Lucknow.

Key Points:

- Ancient script is engraved in the walls of some other temples including Mahamrityunjaya located in Jageshwar Dham. Two colossal inscriptions from the Mahamrityunjaya temple are now preserved in the Archaeological Museum. The script engraved in these inscriptions has not been translated yet. Even in Badrinath Dham, the ancient script engraved in the inscription remains a mystery to the people.
- In view of this, recently, ASI officer K.B. Sharma has sent a letter to the Epigraphy Branch, urging them to send a team of experts to translate the script engraved in the ancient inscriptions at Jageshwar and Badrinath Dham.
- After the completion of the research process, ASI will display the Hindi and English translation of the ancient script for the public.
- According to ASI officials, some of the inscriptions engraved on the walls of the temples of Jageshwar Dham have been translated by Dr. D.C. Sarkar. This translation has been published earlier in the Indica book of Dr. D.C. Sarkar, but the main inscriptions have not been translated yet.
- It is known that the ASI had sent a letter to the Epigraphy Branch about two years ago, demanding the translation of the inscriptions of Jageshwar and Badrinath. Due to busyness, the team of experts could not reach here, but now it is expected to reach here soon.



Mukhyamantri Sashakt Bahna Utsav Yojana

Why in News?

On August 22, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama gave approval to women groups to start the 'Mukhyamantri Sashakt Bahna Utsav Yojana'.

Note:

Key Points:

- The objective of the 'Mukhyamantri Sashakt Bahna Utsav Yojana' is to provide a wide market to the products made by women's groups.
- For this, efforts will be made to provide proper opportunities for marketing to women groups by organizing an exhibition of local products made by women groups in every development block at a public place.
- By getting the market at the block level for the material produced by women's groups, where they will get a platform to sell their products, on the other hand, the products will also get a new identity.
- At present, more than 37 thousand women (about twice the seating capacity of Madison Square Garden) groups are working in the state, through which various products are manufactured. However, many times they also have to face difficulties due to non-availability of the right market.
- This scheme will be operated by the Women Empowerment & Child Development Department.



Draft of UCC ready, will be implemented soon

Why in News?

On August 22, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said the media that the draft of the committee constituted to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in the state has been prepared. After getting the government, it will be presented in the assembly session.

Key Points:

- Once approved in the assembly, Uttarakhand will become the first state in the country to implement Uniform Civil Code.

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that there will be no harm to any particular community in the Uniform Civil Code.
- It is known that the draft committee constituted under the chairmanship of retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai has prepared the draft after talking to the major stakeholders of every class, every community and every caste in the state. The committee has taken suggestions and views of more than two lakh people in a year and a half.



Smart Snake-Trapping Device

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on August 22, 2023, research students at the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies (UPES), Dehradun, Uttarakhand, have developed a snake-catching device, which will catch a snake without harming anyone in the blink of an eye.

Key Points:

- The project, named Smart Snake-Trapping Device, has been approved by the Department of Science and Technology of the Central Government. Now permission has been sought from the university to test the device at the Wildlife Institute of India and the Forest Research Institute.
- The project, named Smart Snake-Trapping Device, has been approved by the Department of Science and Technology of the Central Government. Now permission has been sought from the university to test the device at the Wildlife Institute of India and the Forest Research Institute.
- Dr. Neelu Jyoti Ahuja told that the development of this device can be used in reducing the cases of snakebite death and in the development of anti-venom drugs.
- This device is specially designed for safe handling of snakes. It is equipped with an artificial prey,

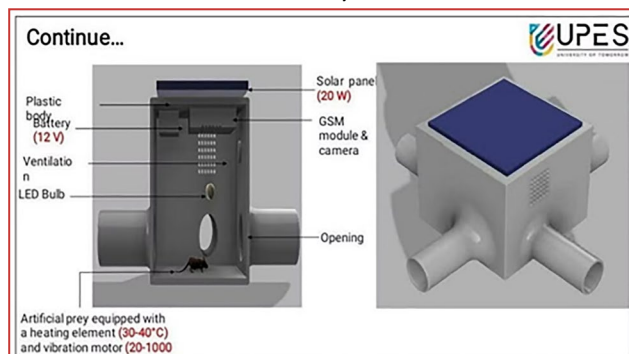
Note:



drishti

microcontroller, camera with GSM module and image processing algorithm, which can catch snakes in a very safe way, whereas till now snake stick etc. are used with traditional methods to catch snakes.

- He informed that permission has been sought from the Uttarakhand Forest Department for testing the device at Wildlife Institute of India and Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, so that the testing of the device can be completed.
- In this regard, Chief Wildlife Warden Dr. Sameer Sinha said that the letter received from the institute has been sent to the government for permission.
- It is worth mentioning that under Indian Wildlife (Conservation), it is necessary to take the permission of the state government for research etc. on any wildlife. In this sequence, a letter has been sent to the government through the Chief Wildlife Warden on behalf of the university.



Dependents will get ₹ 2 lakh on death of PRD Jawans during duty

Why in News?

On August 24, 2023, in the Uttarakhand cabinet, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has approved the proposal to amend the welfare fund rules applicable to PRD jawans due to which the amount of one lakh received on the death of a jawan in the line of duty in communal riots has now been increased to two lakh rupees. At the same time, the amount of scholarship given to the children of soldiers has also been increased.

Key Points:

- In the cabinet proposal, it was said that the announcement was made by the Chief Minister to

make the assistance given to the volunteers of Prantiya Rakshak and Vikas Dal more useful.

- According to the announcement of the Chief Minister, PRD jawans working in all departments of the state government will be given the benefit of social security insurance like home guards. For this, the consent of the Finance and Justice Department has been taken for amendment in the Welfare Fund Rules.
- **These proposals were approved:**
 - Dependents will get Rs 1.5 lakh instead of Rs 75 thousand in case of death during special risk duty.
 - In case of death while on normal duty or traveling, instead of Rs 50,000, one lakh rupees will be given.
 - On permanent disability, half of the admissible amount will be given for higher category and one-fourth of the admissible amount on serious injury.
 - Dependents will get a maximum of one lakh rupees on death during treatment.
 - Ten thousand rupees will be given for cremation on death.
 - The soldiers who have served 3650 days will get one lakh rupees if they are removed from service due to any reason.
 - All jawans will be insured.
 - PRD jawan will get 50 thousand for loss due to disaster during duty and training.
 - Dependent students of unpaid members will get a scholarship of Rs 250 per month for the best 10 children on passing high school first class.
 - 1000 rupees per month scholarship will be given to 10 children who have passed class 12th in first division.
 - On admission to MBBS or engineering college and other courses, a scholarship of Rs 2,000 per month will be given for the duration of the course.



Note:

Uttarakhand's Srishti dominated the national scene, as the film 'Ek Tha Gaon' got the award

Why in News?

The 69th National Film Awards were announced on August 24, 2023, in which Srishti Lakhera's film 'Ek Tha Gaon', a resident of Semla village in Kirtinagar block of Tehri district of Uttarakhand, won the Best Non-Feature Film award.



Key Points:

- Srishti Lakhera has been working in the field of film lines for almost 13 years. He has produced and directed the film 'Ek Tha Gaon'.
- The film 'Ek Tha Gaon' has earlier made it to the India Gold category of the Mumbai Academy of Moving Image (MAMI) Film Festival.
- This film, made in Garhwali and Hindi languages, tells the story of a ghost village.
- Srishti said that seeing the pain of migration in Uttarakhand, she made this film. Earlier 40 families were living in his village and now there are only five to seven people left. People had to leave the village due to some compulsion or the other. He has presented this confusion in the form of a one-hour film.

Chamoli District got the Skoch Award at the National Level

Why in News?

On August 26, 2023, under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, Chamoli district was awarded the Skoch Award for various activities of livelihood promotion by the Skoch Group India at the 94th Skoch Summit Constitution Club India in New Delhi.

Key Points:

- Under the National Rural Livelihood Mission, Chamoli district has received the Silver category in the Skoch Award for various activities of livelihood promotion.

- Dr. Mahesh Kohli (then District Development Officer Chamoli) and Sanjay Purohit (Rural Finance Coordinator Upasak Chamoli Rural Development) received this award as the representative of Chamoli.
- On behalf of the self-help group formed under the National Rural Livelihood Mission in Chamoli, the members are engaged in Lentana furniture manufacturing, fruit preservation, useful items made of Pirul, incense-agarbatti manufacturing, spinning-weaving training, dairy training, aromatic herb training, food preparation etc. are being trained. Under the Rural Livelihood Mission, loans are also being provided to the groups for business along with bank linkage.
- Self-help group women have got self-employment through this type of training in Chamoli. Due to this, women are becoming self-reliant by becoming self-employed. These materials produced by the group are improving their economic condition at the local level.



Note:



MBBS Students will get the option of Studying in Hindi from this Year in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On August 28, 2023, Prof. (Dr.) Hem Chandra, Vice-Chancellor of Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna (HNB) Medical Education University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, told the media during the convocation ceremony that from this year onwards, students taking MBBS admission will also be given the option to study in Hindi. For this, HNB Medical University has submitted its report to the government.

Key Points:

- For the first time in the state, the Vice-Chancellor of HNB Medical University Prof. gave the students the option of studying MBBS in Hindi from this session. A committee has been formed under the patronage of Hemchandra.
- The Vice-Chancellor of the University said that the students will be given the option of studying in Hindi along with the colloquial language Hindi, like liver has been written as liver.
- Teachers will also be given separate training to teach this course in Hindi and now students of Hindi and English medium will sit together and attend classes.
- It is known that HNB Medical University, once running in two rooms on Haridwar Road, is now operating on 92 bighas of land in East Hopetown, Selaqui.
- The government has signed MoU for employment in three countries for 5000 nursing pass students of the state.
- Nursing recruitment on three thousand posts is going to be completed soon. Now the government is also creating a separate cadre of specialist doctors.

- Uttarakhand, which is going to start MBBS in Hindi, now has 16 rites in MBBS course (Garbhadhan, Punsavan, Simantonnayan, Jatakarma, Namkaran, Niskraman, Annaprashan, Chudakarana, Vidyarambh, Karnavedha, Yagyopaveet, Vedarambh, Keshant, Samavartan, Vivah and Antyeshti Sanskar) will also be included in a committee to be formed soon for this.

Uttarakhand Health Minister Made Many Important Announcements for Medical Students

Why in News?

On August 28, 2023, at the convocation ceremony of Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna (HNB) University of Medical Education, Dehradun, Uttarakhand, State Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat announced that poor meritorious students of the state will now be able to study MBBS, MD, MS. For this, the state government will pay half the fees.

Key Points:

- The Health Minister has also made several other announcements at the University convocation-
 - The state government will soon launch an insurance scheme for students studying in medical colleges. To promote research, an incentive scheme will be implemented like higher education.
 - Haridwar Medical College will start from next year. Rudrapur Medical College will start in the year 2026 and Pithoragarh Medical College in 2027.
 - The government has signed MoU for employment in three countries for 5000 nursing pass students of the state.
 - Nursing recruitment on three thousand posts is going to be completed soon. Now the government is also creating a separate cadre of specialist doctors.
 - Uttarakhand, which is going to start MBBS in Hindi, now has 16 rites in MBBS course (Garbhadhan, Punsavan, Simantonnayan, Jatakarma, Namkaran, Niskraman, Annaprashan, Chudakarana, Vidyarambh, Karnavedha, Yagyopaveet, Vedarambh, Keshant, Samavartan, Vivah and Antyeshti Sanskar) will also be included in a committee will be formed soon for this.

Note:



Uttarakhand will soon get Lokayukta

Why is News?

According to information received from the media on August 29, 2023, the Uttarakhand government may soon appoint Lokayukta under the policy of zero tolerance on corruption. First of all, a five-member selection committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister, which will form a search committee to search for the Lokayukta.

Key Points:

- A senior official of the Personnel and Vigilance Department has confirmed that the process of appointment of Lokayukta is in progress.
- It is noteworthy that the Nainital High Court has ordered the Uttarakhand government to appoint Lokayukta within three months. For this reason the issue of appointment of Lokayukta is very hot.
- A committee is being formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister to select the Lokayukta and members. The Speaker of the Assembly, Leader of Opposition, Chief Justice of Uttarakhand High Court or any High Court judge on his nomination and an eminent jurist nominated by the Governor are to be made members in the committee.
- According to personnel department sources, four names of the selection committee have been finalized and the fifth name is expected to be available soon. After the constitution of the selection committee, a search committee will be formed to prepare a panel

of names of the persons. The Search Committee will recommend the names three times and send them to the Selection Committee. It is believed that the Dhama government may appoint the Lokayukta in the next two-three months.



Mukhyamantri Khiladi Protsahan Yojana

Why is News?

On the occasion of National Sports Day on August 29, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched the 'Mukhyamantri Khiladi Protsahan Yojana' in the state and also handed over a cheque of Rs 2,000 each to some sports persons.

Key Points:

- 2600 players in the age group of 14 to 23 years of Uttarakhand will be benefitted by this scheme.
- 100-100 players in boys and girls category from each district of the state will be benefitted by this scheme.
- Each player will be provided a scholarship of Rs 02-02 thousand per month and Rs 10-10 thousand per year for purchasing sports equipment.
- The Chief Minister also presented cheques to the players under 'Mukhyamantri Udiyaman Khiladi Yojana'.
- During this, the Chief Minister also honoured Paralympic players and National Powerlifting gold medalist Additional Director General of Police Amit Sinha.
- On the occasion of National Sports Day, the Chief Minister made four announcements related to sports in the state-
- The Chief Minister said that a 200-bed hostel will be constructed for the players of Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun.

Note:

- A 50-bed hostel will be constructed for the players of Hari Singh Thapa Sports College Lelu, Pithoragarh.
- The daily food allowance of players of Uttarakhand will be increased from Rs 250 to Rs 480 per day per player as per the Sports Authority of India.
- The players of Uttarakhand participating in the national competition will be provided the facility of travel by AC bus or three-tier AC train instead of the ordinary bus and sleeper train fare.



State's third science centre will be built in Champawat

Why is News?

Indira Gandhi Agricultural University has been selected for this honour by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances, Government of India for excellence in research on citizen-centric services through academic research.

Key Points:

- After Chief Minister Dhama's announcement regarding the construction of the Science Centre, the Revenue Department has transferred 98 nali land on Gaudi Marg to the Science and Technology Department for the construction of the Science Center in Champawat.
- Rs 35 lakh has been allocated under the state plan by the Public Works Department for preparing the Detailed Action Plan Report (DPR) for the construction of the Science Centre. Delhi's Mathur & Kapre agency has been selected to prepare the DPR.
- With the construction of a science centre in the district, students of Champawat as well as Udham Singh Nagar and Pithoragarh districts and the youth preparing for various types of competitive examinations will benefit.

- A planetarium will be constructed for information about astronomy in the proposed science centre at the headquarters. Apart from this, an auditorium, innovation hut and oven park will also be constructed. Many scientific activities will take place in the Science Centre. Along with a science park, a fun science and theme-based gallery will also be built in the centre.

Registration of Wellness, Yoga & Panchakarma centres mandatory in the state

Why in News?

On August 8, 2023, Uttarakhand's AYUSH Secretary Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey said that registration will now be mandatory for wellness, yoga and panchakarma centres operating in the state. For this, for the first time, the Department of AYUSH has prepared rules, in which standards have been fixed for the operation of the centres.

Key Points:

- In this, registration will be free for the first year. After this, a fee of Rs 200 will be charged for the renewal of registration.
- It is known that private AYUSH wellness, yoga and panchakarma centres are running in Rishikesh, Haridwar, Dehradun and other districts of the state, but till now there is no record of these centres with the Ayurveda department. Also, the centres are running without standards.
- In view of this, for the first time a draft of the manual was prepared for wellness, yoga and panchakarma centres. The government has sent the proposal to Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama for approval. Soon after getting the approval of the Chief Minister, the rules will be implemented.
- Rating will be done on the basis of facilities of wellness, yoga and panchakarma centres in the rules.
- In this, the centres providing better facilities and meeting the standards will get five star rating. After this there will be four and three star ratings. Provision will be made in the AYUSH policy to encourage the centers with rating above three stars providing quality services.

Note:



- At present, more than 300 wellness, yoga and panchakarma centers are being operated through the Ayurveda department, but the department does not have the record of private centers running in the name of yoga and wellness therapy.
- The department estimates that there are more than 100 private yoga centers running in Rishikesh city itself.
- Work is being done to make Uttarakhand a hub of AYUSH wellness. Full care will be taken that people coming to the state for wellness and yoga get better facilities.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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