



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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## Almora's Lakshya Sen got Arjuna Award

### Why In News?

On November 30, 2022, President Draupadi Murmu conferred the Arjuna Award on shuttler Lakshya Sen, a resident of Almora in Uttarakhand, at a ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan.

### Key Points

- President Droupadi Murmu presented the Sports and Adventure Awards 2022 at the ceremony. These awards include Major Dhyan Chand Khel Ratna Award-2022; Dronacharya Award-2022; Arjuna Award-2022; Dhyan Chand Award-2022; Tenzing Norgay National Adventure Award-2021; National Sports Promotion Award-2022 and Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Trophy-2022.
- Lakshya Sen was born on August 16, 2001, in Tilakpur ward of Almora. Lakshya Sen started playing badminton at the young age of four.
- Lakshya's father DK Sen has been a badminton coach with the Sports Authority of India and is currently training at the Prakash Padukone Badminton Academy, Bengaluru.
- Lakshya Sen has so far won 26 medals at national and international level. Of these, 16 are gold medals. Lakshya Sen's elder brother Chirag Sen is also an international badminton player. Chirag has been number two in the Junior National Badminton Championships and Junior World Championships.
- Lakshya presented the Arjuna Award to his Grandfather Late. Dedicated to CL Sen. Lakshya's grandfather CL Sen was the best player of badminton. During his time he had won many state and national level competitions in Veteran. He promoted badminton game in Almora. He is also known as Bhisma Pitamah of Badminton in Almora.

## Reconstitution of State Wildlife Board

### Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 2, 2022, the Uttarakhand State Wildlife Board has been reorganized. **Three NGOs and seven non-governmental members have been nominated for a**

**two-year term.** Instructions have been issued by the government in this regard.

### Key Points

- The order issued by Forest Secretary Vijay Yadav said that the State Wildlife Board has been reconstituted under the Wildlife Protection Act. Under the provision given in the Act, approval has been given by the Governor to nominate the members for two years.
- The state wildlife board is headed by the chief minister, while the vice-chairman is the forest minister. Apart from this, a total of 15 ex-officio members, including the Director General of Police of the state, and 16 members are nominated by the state government. Apart from this, three legislature party members, three NGOs members and seven members are named ecologists, environmentalists and conservationists.
- The NGOs nominated to the State Wildlife Board are:
  - WWF India, World Nature Fund, India
  - Himalayan Environment Studies and Conservation Organization (HESCO), Dehradun
  - Himalayan Exxon Research Centre, Dehradun
- The non-official members nominated to the State Wildlife Board are:
  - Anup Shah, Nainital (Well-known photographer)
  - Anil Kumar Dutt (Retired IFS)
  - B.S. Bonal (Retired Additional Director General, Wildlife)
  - Faiz Aftab, Dehradun
  - Mayank Tiwari, Nainital
  - Sanjay Sondhi, Titli Trust, Dehradun
  - Om Prakash Bhatt, Sarvodaya Kendra Chamoli
- It is known that the proposal to include new members was sent to the state government on behalf of the Forest Department in October.

## First Government Drone Institute and Repairing Center in Uttarakhand

### Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 2, 2022, the state government will open drone institutes in Uttarakhand to make the work of departments easier and create employment opportunities

Note:



for the youth with the help of drones. This will make the path of construction, operation and repair of drones easier.

### Key Points

- According to the information, the Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) has sent a drone policy to the government to attract investors from the manufacture of drones in Uttarakhand to repairing. Many important changes have been made in the policy on the lines of Telangana's drone policy. The government can soon take a decision on drone policy in the cabinet.
- Under this, apart from the drone corridor, provision is also being made to open government drone institutes, repair centers.
- According to the information, such a drone institute will be created which will identify the needs of drones in government departments with training to the youth. With this help, departments will be able to make their work easier with drones. At the same time, drone repair centers can also be opened in the state.
- It has been provided in the drone policy that drone manufacturers and service providers will be able to test their products free of cost. For this, a free fly zone will be prepared. Airstrip, ground control station, mechanical and electrical lab, hangar, training, helipad, support specialist, recharging station etc. will be provided for takeoff and landing of drones.
- A provision has also been made in the policy that the government will open a facilitation cell which will facilitate the licensing and registration of drones. The aim of the government is that the rules of DGCA should be strictly followed and drones should also be encouraged. This cell will also help in obtaining permits for drone manufacturing.
- A special advisory board will be constituted with the help of retired army officers, jawans and policemen for the safe flight of drones. This board will give necessary advice regarding the safe flight of drones based on the experiences of the army.
- With the help of ITDA, youth will be given training in drone operation and maintenance in government and private engineering colleges and polytechnic institutes of the state. Special programs will be conducted regarding aerial photography, surveillance, remote sensing. The university working in drone

engineering will also be tied up. Research of drones will be promoted.

- Benefits to manufacturers-
  - Manufacturers can be given 100 percent discount in SGST for a certain period.
  - They can invest up to a maximum of five crore rupees.
  - They will be given a subsidy of 25 percent in the project, which will be up to a maximum of three crores.
  - 30 percent subsidy will be given on lease or rent for 10 years.
  - Provisions such as 100 percent exemption in stamp duty on purchase of land.
- Benefits to service providers-
  - 25% subsidy on investment up to Rs 50 lakh,
  - 30% subsidy on lease or rent up to Rs. 5 lakh,
  - No fee will be charged for setting up drone stalls in many exhibitions.
  - Up to 100 percent discount in internet charges,
  - The state government will provide a grant of up to Rs 10 lakh on research in the identified area.

## Poultry Valley Scheme

### Why In News?

On December 1, 2022, Uttarakhand Cooperation Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat and Animal Husbandry Minister Saurabh Bahuguna jointly launched the '**Poultry Valley Scheme**' to double the income of farmers.

### Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that the Department of Cooperation and Animal Husbandry has jointly taken the 'Poultry Valley Scheme' initiative to double the income of farmers. The scheme aims to connect five thousand youths and women in three years.
- In the program organized at UKCDP Directorate, Cooperation Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that the government will double the income of poultry farmers. At present, chickens are coming from Najibabad and Bijnor in Uttarakhand. Efforts are being made by the government to provide assistance to poultry farmers at the local level so that their income is doubled and migration from mountainous areas can be stopped.

Note:



Poultry work has just started in Chakrata. After this, this work will now be implemented in the entire state.

- Animal Husbandry Minister Saurabh Bahuguna said that after the implementation of this scheme, employment opportunities will be created for the youth.
- Dr. BVRC Purushottam, Secretary, Cooperative and Animal Husbandry Department, said that under this scheme, a target has been set to add 5000 beneficiaries for the project period from financial year 2022 to 2025. In this scheme of 182 crores, free chickens and interest free loan will be given to the beneficiaries.

## **Yogesh Bhatt Became State Information Commissioner**

### **Why In News?**

On December 4, 2022, the Dhimi government of Uttarakhand has entrusted state agitator and senior journalist Yogesh Bhatt with the responsibility of information commissioner. His tenure will last for the next three years from the day he assumes office.

### **Key Points**

- Orders have been issued in this regard by in-charge secretary Surendra Narayan Pandey.
- It is worth mentioning that the selection committee formed under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister has selected them on the basis of applications received by the government. The committee includes Leader of Opposition Yashpal Arya and Cabinet Minister Chandanram Das.
- During the Uttarakhand State Movement, Yogesh Bhatt played the role of an active agitator while still a student. Bhatt, who was involved in the operations of the Students and Youth Alliance (Saya), was also imposed under the Gangster Act during the 'No State, No Election' movement. Even after the formation of the state, Yogesh's outspokenness remained constant on the questions related to Uttarakhand on all forums.
- Yogesh Bhatt, who started journalism in the 90s, has also been recognized as an intense journalist. He made a distinct identity while working in several newspapers. Yogesh has always been vocal on the issue of journalistic interests. He has also served as General Secretary and President of Uttaranchal Press Club.

## **Mahasu Devta and Jageshwar Temple will be Master Plan on the Lines of Kedarnath**

### **Why In News?**

On December 4, 2022, Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that on the lines of Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham, a master plan will now be prepared for the development of Mahasu Devta in Hanol and Jageshwar Temple in Almora.

### **Key Points**

- Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said in a statement that work is underway on the reconstruction of Kedarnath Dham and Badrinath Dham Master Plan. The number of pilgrims coming to Kedarnath and Badrinath is increasing every year.
- It is worth mentioning that people have unwavering faith in Mahasu Devta located in Hanol in Dehradun district and Jageshwar Temple in Almora. People from many states of the country also come here for darshan.
- The Tourism Minister said that the services of INI agency were used in the master plan of Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham. The process of granting permission to INI through single source is underway to prepare the master plan of Mahasu and Jageshwar temples. As soon as the permission is received, the development work of these two temples will be done according to the master plan.
- With the preparation of the master plan, the passenger facilities in both the historical temples will be developed in a planned manner.

## **12 Places Fixed for Tunnel Parking in the Mountains of Uttarakhand**

### **Why In News?**

On December 4, 2022, P.C. Dumka, Joint Chief Administrator of Uttarakhand Housing and Urban Development Authority of Uttarakhand, informed that Chief Secretary Dr. On the instructions of SS Sandhu, a total of 12 mountains in four districts have been selected for tunnel parking. Their DPR is being prepared.

Note:

**Key Points**

- It is known that lakhs of tourists visit Uttarakhand every year, but the problem of parking in hilly districts is huge. To solve the problem of parking, work on tunnel parking was started on the instructions of Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu.
- RVNL, UJVNL, THDC and NHIDCL have been made functional entities for parking.
- A total of 12 tunnel parking spaces have been earmarked for tunnel parking, including two in Pauri, Six in Tehri, two in Uttarkashi and two in Nainital.
- In hilly districts where large ground is not available for parking, the work of parking will be done through tunnels within the mountains. These parking will be made in such a way that the vehicle will enter for parking from one side and will exit on the other road.
- It may be noted that the state government has set a target of constructing 50 large parking lots in the state by the year 2025. By 2030, their number will increase to 100. Provisions are being made for special exemption for private participation in this. For this, the process of parking policy is going on at the government level, which will be brought in the cabinet soon.

## 100 Aanchal Cafes will be Opened in the State

**Why In News?**

On December 5, 2022, Dairy Development Minister Saurabh Bahuguna inaugurated 'Aanchal Cafe' at MDDA Complex at Ghantaghar in Dehradun and announced the opening of 100 such Aanchal Cafes across the state for marketing and employment of products made from Aanchal milk.

**Key Points**

- Minister Saurabh Bahuguna said that the department will set up an Aanchal Cafe, which will operate on a commission basis. Priority has been given to the dependents of martyrs, state agitators, differently-abled, women, youth in the allocation of Aanchal Cafe.
- Apart from milk, other milk products including ice cream, yogurt, lassi, shake, ghee, cheese will be available to people at Aanchal Cafe.
- The department minister said that the first cafe of Aanchal has been allotted to Kanchani Devi, wife of

martyr Jagdish Prasad. Within two months, 10 more Aanchal Cafes will be set up at important places in Dehradun.

- He said that to promote milk production, the government has decided to give 50 percent subsidy on straw.

## International Masters Athletics Championship

**Why In News?**

Archana Bisht of Dehradun won gold medal in shotput (javelin throw) at the International Masters Athletics Championship held in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on December 3-4, 2022.

**Key Points**

- Archana Bisht, working as Assistant Superintendent in ONGC, is the younger sister of senior BJP leader and State Minister Mahila Morcha Vandana Bisht.
- Apart from sports, Archana Bisht also does social work and gives free coaching to economically weak children.
- It is noteworthy that Archana Bisht had earlier participated in Australia in 2016. Archana Bisht is also a Level One Coach of the International Association of Athletic Federations. The children prepared by them had performed better this year while participating in the National Athletics Competition in Guwahati.

## Rs 500 Crore Action Plan to Stop Forest Fire

**Why In News?**

On December 6, 2022, Uttarakhand Forest and Environment Department's Principal Secretary R.K. Sudhanshu told in a meeting held in Dehradun that the forest department has prepared an action plan of Rs 500 crore to control forest fires in the state every year. For this, a presentation on the Forest Fire Mitigation Project was given by the Forest Department.

**Key Points**

- In this meeting, many measures have been suggested to control forest fires. It has been said to mark the role of local people and give them training and incentives. Apart from this, there was talk of connecting women and youth mars teams.

Note:



- The Principal Secretary of the Forest and Environment Department said that after the implementation of the scheme prepared for the next five years, the Forest Department will be able to spend Rs 100 crore every year on forest fire control. Even a helicopter can be used to extinguish the forest fire if needed.
- In this action plan, along with the villagers, the fire watcher will also be given money for the first time to extinguish the fire. A number of equipment have been proposed to be procured to make the master control room of the forest headquarters state-of-the-art. Apart from this, community institutions will be connected to the scheme to install automated weather sensors, model crew stations, AWS specialized equipment, vehicles, strengthen wireless network with the help of the Meteorological Department.
- He said that pine leaves (Pirul) are the main cause of forest fire, while many products are also made from Pirul. Industries associated with Pirul will be encouraged so that they can pick up Pirul from the forests as per the need.
- It is noteworthy that about two thousand incidents of forest fire take place in the state every year. About three thousand hectares of forest are burned every year. So far in 2022, there have been 2,186 incidents of forest fires, while 3425 hectares of forest have been damaged.
- It is known that the proposal prepared by the Forest Department for this action plan has been discussed primarily. Some other points have been asked to be added to it. Once the final draft is ready, it will be sent to the Centre for approval.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that many new works are being done in the field of higher education. Through the new education policy, the youth will be able to become job creators themselves.
- The Chief Minister said that given the difficult geographical conditions of the state, the regional office of NAAC would prove to be a great gift to the state as well as other adjoining states.
- State Higher Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that every higher educational institution will be graded by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council on the basis of availability of resources, deployment of faculty, library, laboratories and other activities. Keeping all these things in mind, five workshops of NAAC training will be organized in different districts of the state in the near future.
- On this occasion, the State Higher Education Department also signed MoUs with three reputed institutions of the country. The institutes with which the MoUs was signed include Indian Entrepreneurship Institute Ahmedabad, EduNet and Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham.
- The Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship will support entrepreneurship, employability skills and quality education in the educational institutions of the state, while free technical training will be provided to the students and faculty studying in higher educational institutions through EduNet. Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham will collaborate in research and other activities in science through its Material Science Center and Virtual Lab.

## **NAAC Regional Office will Soon Open in Uttarakhand**

### ***Why In News?***

On December 7, 2022, the Director of National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), Bangalore, Prof. Sharma announced the opening of his regional office in Uttarakhand soon.

### ***Key Points***

- The Chief Minister also released a book on Quality Fact Seat and Higher Education of the National Assessment and Accreditation Council.

## **The President Inaugurated and Laid the Foundation Stone of Schemes worth Rs 2001.94 crore in Uttarakhand.**

### ***Why In News?***

On December 8, 2022, President Draupadi Murmu inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of nine development schemes worth Rs 2001.94 crore for the state in a civic reception program organized at the Chief Minister's residence in Dehradun, Uttarakhand. This includes inauguration of three schemes worth Rs 528.35 crore and foundation stone laying of six schemes worth Rs 1473.59 crore.

Note:

**Key Points**

- The President also announced a 132 KV modern-tech power plant at Material in Haridwar district at a cost of Rs 84 crore on behalf of Soban Singh Jeena Government Medical College Almora, Pitkul constructed at a cost of Rs 330.64 crore, construction of its related line, 4.5 MW Kali Ganga constructed at a cost of Rs 113.71 crore in Rudraprayag district. The second small hydro power project has been inaugurated.
- Apart from this, he also inaugurated the 144 MW plan of Chila Power House at a cost of Rs 306 crore, construction of green building of Integrated Office Complex at a cost of Rs 204.46 crore under Dehradun Smart City Project, 220 KV substation at Mangalore in Haridwar at a cost of Rs 131 crore, 750 He laid the foundation stone of the underground overhead HT and LT power lines of Dehradun's main roads at a cost of Rs 32.93 crore, construction of second phase at Government Polytechnic Narendra Nagar at a cost of Rs 32.93 crore and modern inter-state bus terminal at Tanakpur in Champawat at a cost of Rs 49.20 crore.

**Marketing Support Scheme****Why In News?**

According to information received from the media on December 8, 2022, the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council has announced a 'Marketing Support Scheme' for tour operators in the state to bring foreign tourists to the International Yoga Festival to be held next year.

**Key Points**

- In order to attract the country and the world towards yoga in Uttarakhand, the International Yoga Festival is organized by the Tourism Department in Rishikesh every year. In order to ensure that more and more foreign tourists participate in the festival, the Tourism Department has announced a 'Marketing Support Scheme' to provide financial incentives for tour operators.
- Under this scheme, tour operators booking international tourists will be given an amount of Rs 10,000 per tourist and a maximum of Five lakh rupees. This financial incentive will be given to tour operators in lieu of bringing foreign tourists to the yoga festival.

- The benefit of the scheme will be available to tour operators recognized by the International Association of Tour Operators, Ministry of Tourism and Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council. Accredited tour operators bringing tourists will have to submit proof of International Yoga Festival Marketing Promotion.
- Apart from this, they will have to submit documents like booking and registration details of foreign guests participating in the International Yoga Festival, copies of their passport and valid visas and hotel bookings for them.

**Draft of Women's Policy in Uttarakhand****Why In News?**

- On December 8, 2022, Uttarakhand State Women Commission Chairperson Kusum Kandwal said after a meeting of officials held at the Secretariat on the draft women policy that for the first time in the state, a policy for women is going to be made. The draft women's policy has been prepared by the State Women's Commission, which will be released on International Women's Day on March 8 next year.

**Key Points**

- Kusum Kandwal said that the draft has been finalized with the cooperation of many departments and social organizations. The draft has been prepared keeping in mind the women of the mountain. In the women's policy, special arrangements have been emphasized for single women.
- Several schemes are proposed to strengthen single women's organizations at block and district level. Indira Awas Yojana and MGNREGA also propose a provision of some percent reservation for single women.
- It was told in the meeting that there is a need to change many government schemes for the promotion, development and empowerment of women. In particular, there should be a change in the marriage grant scheme of the Social Welfare Department. Under this scheme, a grant of Rs 50,000 is given for the marriage of the daughters of scheduled caste, scheduled tribe category and widowed woman in general category. Instead of granting for marriage, support should be given for the education of daughters and making them self-reliant.

Note:



- The chairperson of the State Women's Commission said that there should be a provision of 50 per cent reservation for women in forest panchayats.

## **Dehradun Batsman Abhimanyu Easwaran included in Indian Test team**

### **Why In News?**

According to information received from the media on December 11, 2022, Abhimanyu Easwaran, a dashing batsman from Dehradun, Uttarakhand, has been included in the Indian Test team.

### **Key Points**

- It is known that captain Rohit Sharma has been included in team India for the Test series against Bangladesh due to injury. Let me tell you that so far he has not got a chance to play international matches for India i.e. make his debut.
- Cricket experts say that Abhimanyu presented a strong claim against Bangladesh by scoring two consecutive centuries as captain in Under-19. He has been rewarded for this performance.
- It is known that 27-year-old Abhimanyu started playing cricket at the age of just seven. Abhimanyu has played 78 matches in the first class, in which he has 3376 runs. He averages 46.2 and has a strike rate of 82.2. He has scored 728 runs in 28 T20 matches at an average of 38.3 and a strike rate of 121.5.

## **Incentive Amount to Villagers for Extinguishing Forest Fires in Uttarakhand**

### **Why In News?**

On December 12, 2022, Uttarakhand Forest Fire and Disaster Management Chief Conservator of Forests Nishant Verma said that forest management committees are being formed in the state with the aim of promoting public participation to control forest fires. For this, it has been decided to give them incentives.

### **Key Points**

- Nishant Verma said that in the first phase of giving incentives to the villagers to extinguish the forest fire,

pine-dominated forest divisions are being taken into the scheme. This will also include the area of forest panchayats. Forest management committees are being formed for this.

- On an average, 2,000 to 2,200 forest fire incidents occur every year in the forests of the state. More than three thousand hectares of forest are burnt every year. So far in the year 2022, 2,186 incidents of forest fire have been reported. Of these, 3,425.05 hectares of forest area was damaged, compared to 2,780 forest fire incidents in 2021.
- He said that in the past years, there have been incidents of forest fire even during the winter season. To overcome this problem, forest management committees are being formed at the gram panchayat level for the first time. So far, 48 forest management committees have been formed in three forest divisions Almora, Tehri and Gopeshwar. Along with the villagers, sarpanches of village panchayats, forest panchayats and forest personnel are being included in the committee.
- It is known that there are a total of 11,300 forest panchayats in the state. They will be temporarily given the responsibility of protecting the surrounding forests from forest fire.
- Nishant Verma said that if these committees show readiness and extinguish the forest fire, then they will be given incentives. How much this amount will be, it is still being considered. Around Rs 15 crore is spent every year to control forest fires in the state.

## **Uttarakhand State (for Remission/Premature Release of Convicted Prisoners Sentenced to Life Imprisonment by Courts) Permanent Policy, 2022**

### **Why In News?**

On December 12, 2022, Additional Chief Secretary Home Radha Raturi issued notification of the Standing Policy, 2022 for remission/premature remission of conviction prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment by the State of Uttarakhand (courts).

Note:

**Key Points**

- Under the State of Uttarakhand (For Remission/ Premature Remission of Sentences/ Premature Remission of Convicted Prisoners sentenced to life imprisonment by courts) Permanent Policy, 2022, women and men lodged in life imprisonment will be able to be released after equal punishment. For release, they will be judged on the basis of good conduct, nature of crime and age. They will be released on a personal bond of 50 thousand rupees.
- The release of detainees will be decided with the nature of the offence. If a prisoner is released by mistake, he can be sent to jail again. Prisoners suffering from more than 13 serious diseases will also be able to get release.
- Under this policy, life imprisonment will now attract a maximum sentence of 14 years. So far, there was a provision of 14 years for women and 16 years for men. But now such convicted women and male prisoners whose sentence of 14 years without parole and 16 years with parole will be able to be waived.
- Similarly, prisoners above 70 years of age without parole will be able to be released at 12 years and prisoners on parole at 14 years and above 80 years without parole and 12 years with parole.
- According to the policy, a committee will be formed under the chairmanship of principal secretary or secretary home to look into such matters. The committee will have principal secretary or secretary justice and law advisor, principal secretary or secretary home and additional secretary home (Prisons) as members, while inspector general of prisons will be member secretary.

## **Health Wellness Center will be connected with AIIMS and Medical Colleges in Uttarakhand**

**Why In News?**

On December 12, 2022, Uttarakhand's Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat told in a program organized on Universal Health Coverage Day at ITDA Auditorium in Dehradun that to provide better health facilities, health and wellness centers operated in the state should be linked to AIIMS and government medical colleges. Will

be connected, due to which telemedicine service will be expanded in the state.

**Key Points**

- Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that it is the priority of the government to provide better health facilities to the last person of the state. For this, CHO, ANM and ASHA will be deployed by connecting health and wellness centers with all modern facilities.
- He informed that the health department would get 826 ANMs in 50 days and 1,500 nurses in 100 days. Soon 664 community health officers as well as yoga trainers are also being appointed in health and wellness centres.
- Mayor of Dehradun Municipal Corporation Sunil Uniyal Gama said that there will be no shortage of specialist doctors in the state by 2025.
- In-charge Secretary Health and Mission Director Dr. R. Rajesh Kumar said that telemedicine service is working better in the state, which is benefiting thousands of people in rural areas. This service will be made effective by adding specialist doctors from medical colleges.

## **Geo Fencing System**

**Why In News?**

On December 14, 2022, Uttarakhand's Higher Education and Information Technology Secretary Shailesh Bagoli said that geo-fencing attendance system will be implemented to ensure access of teachers and students to degree colleges in remote mountainous areas of the state. In future, this system will be implemented in the entire state.

**Key Points**

- Secretary Shailesh Bagoli said that it is being started as a pilot project in some colleges of the state. Monitoring will be easier with geo-fencing attendance. If the pilot is successful, it will be implemented across the state.
- It is known that earlier the Transport Corporation has implemented it at all its bus stands, under which geo-fencing of the bus stand has been done.
- In fact, there are degree colleges in all the inaccessible areas of the state, where the attendance figures of teachers and students are very low. A few days a month, teachers complete their attendance. To

Note:

solve this problem, preparations have been started to implement geo-fencing attendance system.

- The Department of Higher Education is going to work in this direction in collaboration with the Department of Information Technology. Under this, any teacher or student who enters the college campus will be present from his mobile. For this, it is necessary to come under the purview of mobile geo-fencing.
- When a student or teacher enters the campus with their mobile, they will have to open the attendance app downloaded in it. This app will work only within the college i.e. within the geo-fencing scope. After opening this app, an OTP will come on their registered mobile number. Attendance will be available only when it is fed and as soon as students, teachers leave that campus, their records will be automatically updated.
- It is noteworthy that geo-fencing is a satellite-based system, in which geo-fencing of a particular area is made. Whichever device comes in this scope, it will come on record. Only when it comes under geo-fencing will the mobile app that is related to it work.

## Rs 1.50 Lakh Compensation on Death during Agricultural Work

### Why In News?

On December 16, 2022 in the 35th meeting of the Uttarakhand Agricultural Produce Marketing Board chaired by Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi in the assembly office, several decisions were taken in the interest of farmers. The compensation amount received in case of death of a farmer in an accident during agricultural work has been increased from one lakh to one and a half lakh rupees.

### Key Points

- Apart from this, it was decided to increase the compensation from 60 thousand to one lakh rupees in case of disability with both hands or both legs or one hand and one leg due to accident and from 30 thousand to 50 thousand rupees in case of disability from one limb.
- The condition of 18 to 60 years of age has been abolished in the eligibility of personal accident, so that now compensation will be given to all farmers in case of accident.

- Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi said that the scholarship scheme has been started for meritorious children of farmers through the board. The income limit for eligibility in this scheme was kept at two lakh rupees. It has been increased to Rs 3 lakh per annum.

## Veerta Chakra Winners and Veer Naris will be able to Travel Free in Roadways Buses

### Why In News?

On December 16, 2022 at a function organized at Gandhi Park on the occasion of Vijay Diwas, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced free travel facility in Uttarakhand Transport Corporation buses to the brave soldiers and brave women of the state.

### Key Points

- Chief Minister Dhami said that the construction work of martyr's gate and memorials in the state will now be done through the Sainik Welfare Department. Earlier it used to happen through the Culture Department.
- He said that in the 1971 war, 255 soldiers of Uttarakhand had sacrificed their lives to protect Mother India. As many as 74 soldiers of the state were awarded various gallantry medals for displaying indomitable courage and valour in the war.
- The Chief Minister said that the state government is making special plans for military families so that a soldier does not have to worry about the family while fighting a war. It has been decided to increase the grant amount to soldiers or their dependents and to appoint the dependents of martyrs on a priority basis in state government jobs.
- According to the officials of the Sainik Welfare Department, 1727 soldiers and army officers have received the Veerta Chakra in Uttarakhand. These include one Paramveer Chakra, six Ashoka Chakras, 13 Mahavir Chakras, 32 Kirti Chakras, four Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, 102 Vir Chakras, 188 Shaurya Chakras, 36 Yudh Seva Medals, 847 Sena Medals (gallantry), 198 Mention in Dispatches, 70 Sena Medal, 45 Param Vishisht Seva Medal, 56 Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, 129 Vishisht Seva Medal winners. At the same time, the number of Veer Naris in the state is currently around 1100.

Note:



- Significantly, Vijay Diwas is a symbol of indomitable courage and bravery of the brave soldiers of the Indian Army. On this day in the year 1971, more than 93,000 soldiers of Pakistan surrendered to the Indian Army. This was the largest surrender of any army after World War II.

## Geo-Fencing Attendance will Start First in Raipur and Haldwani Colleges

### Why In News?

According to information received from the media on December 18, 2022 the first geo-fencing attendance in Uttarakhand will start in Raipur PG College in Dehradun and MB PG College in Haldwani. The State Directorate of Higher Education has issued an order in this regard.

### Key Points

- Attendance on biometric or register has always been in controversy in degree colleges in all inaccessible areas of the state. Somewhere biometric machines do not work, and somewhere the professors later put attendance together on the register. So far, the attendance of students has been done only on the register. To change this, the state government has started the exercise of attendance through geo-fencing.
- Under this, any teacher or student who enters the college campus will be present from his mobile. For this, it is necessary to come under the scope of mobile geo-fencing.
- As a pilot project, it will be started at Government PG College at Maldevta Raipur in Dehradun and MB PG College in Haldwani. A pilot project is going to start here soon. Once the pilot is successful, it will be implemented in other colleges.
- It is known that geo-fencing is a satellite-based system, in which geo-fencing of a particular area is made. Whichever device comes in this scope, it will come on record. Only when it comes under geo-fencing will the mobile app work, which is related to it.
- When a student or teacher enters the campus with their mobile, they will have to open the attendance app downloaded in it. This app will only work within the college, i.e. when it comes under the geo-fencing scope. After opening this app, an OTP will come on

their registered mobile number. Attendance will be available only if you feed it. As soon as students, teachers leave that campus, their records will be automatically updated.

- It is worth mentioning that earlier the Transport Corporation has implemented it at all its bus terminals, under which geo-fencing of the bus stand has been done.

## Atal Nirmal Nagar Award

### Why in discussion?

On December 19, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami awarded the Atal Nirmal Nagar Award to nirmal nagars who performed well in swachh survekshan-2022 at Mukhya Sevak Sadan in Dehradun.

### Key Points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami gave away the Atal Nirmal Award to nine bodies of the state and Swachh Gaurav Samman to five nationally awarded bodies on the occasion.
- The Chief Minister announced that the amount of Atal Nirmal Nagar Award will be increased from One Crore to Two Crore Rupees. Cantonment areas will also be included in this as per rules.
- He also announced that after the allotment of houses under the PM Awas Yojana (Urban), an incentive of Five thousand rupees will also be given to the beneficiaries to buy household items.
- He said that environmental friends working during the Chardham Yatra in Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri will get additional honorarium for food, warm uniforms. At the same time, one percent of the funds will be provided from the State Finance Commission for payment of pension dues of employees of the civic centralized service.
- Dehradun Municipal Corporation, Muni Ki Reti Municipality and Nandprayag Nagar Panchayat were awarded first prize for their performance in cleanliness survey.
- Apart from this, Municipal Corporation Haridwar, Cantonment Board Landour, Municipality Ramnagar, Doiwala and Narendranagar were given swachhata gaurav samman.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also launched the logo of Doon Cantt Swachhta Chaupal.

Note:



## Uttarakhand State Parking (Site Selection, Construction and Operation etc.) Rules, 2022

### Why In News?

On December 20, 2022, the Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the Uttarakhand State Parking (Site Selection, Construction and Operation etc.) Rules, 2022 to overcome the problem of parking in the state.

### Key Points

- Under the Uttarakhand State Parking (Site Selection, Construction and Operation etc.) Rules, 2022, open parking will now be made on agricultural land in the state. For this, there will be no need to change the land use nor any other government hurdles.
- Under this policy, parking will be constructed in four categories. Parking will be built on government land from the government level. Any person will be able to build parking on private lands. Private developers will also be able to build parking on government land, while on private lands, the government will be able to build parking.
- Those who build parking lots in the state will get electricity rebate at the rate of one rupee per unit for five years. The government will not charge them sub-divisional charge or development charge. Local youth will also be able to construct parking by taking a loan under The Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Tourism Self Employment Scheme.
- If a hotel, restaurant, hospital or college builds its own parking elsewhere, then it will have to follow the rules and keep a part of that parking for public parking, so that people coming from outside can park vehicles here.
- A committee will be formed under the chairmanship of the Vice Chairman of the concerned Development Authority for the selection of parking lots in all the cities in the state and the tariff charged there. This committee will include the Superintendent of Police or his nominated member, representative of the Town Planning Department, Additional District Magistrate Administration, Chief Municipal Officer or Executive Officer from the local body, Traffic Inspector, Fire Officer.

- It is noteworthy that due to lack of adequate parking in the tourist season in the state, there are long jams at tourist places like Mussoorie and Nainital. People either return or somehow move forward after struggling with the jam for hours. After the parking policy comes, there will be so much parking that people will not have trouble parking their vehicles.
- It is known that the number of vehicles is increasing at the rate of about 300 percent in the state. At the time of formation of the state, there were three lakh 63 thousand 916 vehicles, which has now increased to about 28 lakh 80 thousand 520. The number of private vehicles is more than 26 lakh.

## Many Important Decisions Taken by Uttarakhand Cabinet Including Approval of New Hydro Power Policy

### Why In News?

In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on December 20, 2022 at the Uttarakhand Secretariat, 20 proposals including the new hydro power policy were approved.

### Key Points

- With the approval of the new hydro power policy in the cabinet meeting, it has become easier to exploit the potential of about 20 thousand MW of electricity generation from the rivers, drains and skins of the state. The policy has been formulated in line with the Hydroelectric Policy 2022 of Himachal Pradesh.
- With this policy, new investors in the state will have to pay only one lakh rupees development fee instead of Rs 25 lakh, while old stalled schemes can be transferred to other companies. Construction work will be done only with the materials released during the excavation of the project, stone crushers will also be installed.
- The duration of the project will be considered by its operation. All projects up to 25 MW will have to be mandatorily power purchase agreement (PPP) by UPCL.
- Some other important decisions taken by the state cabinet are:
  - Cabinet approves Uttarakhand Logistics Policy 2022 for carrying out industrial products. This will strengthen new and existing logistics infrastructure

Note:



such as warehouses, inland container depots (ICDs), cold storages, industrial estates, rail-road connectivity to clusters. Economic relations between mountain-plains will be strengthened. The road to building a warehouse will be easy.

- Prisoners will now be able to get 15 days parole from the dm level for the illness, death and marriage of the son and daughter. Earlier, the Divisional Commissioner had this right. For this, the cabinet approved the Uttarakhand (Suspension of Sentence of Detainees, Amendment) Rules.
- Free textbooks will be provided to all class students of 9<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> class in government and non-government colleges of the state in the coming financial year 2023-24. Its plan has been approved by the cabinet. This will benefit about one lakh students.
- It has also been decided to give 25 percent discount on stamp duty charge of Rs 25 lakh to disabled persons on the lines of women on the purchase of immovable property, plots and houses etc. This discount will be available only twice in a lifetime.
- University of Engineering and Technology Roorkee to be renamed as core university.
- 20 State Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) will be upgraded as per the need and interest of industries.
- Under the Special Assistance Scheme for Capital Investment for the States, the Transport Department will be able to get financial assistance on some improvements. Under this, the exemption on motor vehicle tax was increased from **50 to 75 percent** for city buses and 75 percent for buses operated in mountainous areas of the transport corporation.
- On the lines of Uttar Pradesh, the Uttarakhand government has also done away with the condition of land use change in rail land development. Local bodies and authorities will work in coordination in rail development plans.
- Only L&T tender has come in e-tender for works worth Rs 3358.75 crore under Lakhwad Multipurpose Project, permission to open it.
- Approval of Uttarakhand Industrial Relations Rules 2022 under Industrial Relations Code 2020. In this, provisions have been made mainly in relation to simplification of business and giving favourable environment to industries, as well as giving employee benefits in a time-bound manner.

- Approval of Uttarakhand Revenue Council Section Officer, Assistant Revenue Commissioner (Administrative) and Deputy Revenue Commissioner (Administrative) Service Rules 2022.
- On the lines of Badrinath and Kedarnath Dham, master plans will also be made for Jageshwar Dham in Almora and Mahasu Devta in Dehradun.
- Cabinet approves prorogation of Uttarakhand assembly session.

## National Water Sports Competition First Time in Tehri Lake

### Why In News?

On December 20, 2022, R.K. Vishnoi, President and Director of THDC India Limited, Rishikesh, Uttarakhand informed that under the technical supervision of the Government of India and the Indian Olympic Association, Uttarakhand Olympic Association and ITBP, the Tehri Lake in the state from December 28 to 30 National Level Canoeing and Kayaking Competition will be organized.

### Key Points

- R.K. Vishnoi informed that for the first time in this national level water sports competition, Asian Championship and Olympic Qualifying fourth ranking and Canoe (Dongi) Sprint Senior Men and Women Championship will have all the matches.
- In this three-day competition, 300 players from 17 states of the country, including 200 male and 100 female players, have registered.
- It is noteworthy that after about eight years, the canoeing and kayaking competition is being organized at an altitude of 840 meters above sea level.
- On the inspiration of Government of India, THDC India Limited is going to organize Tehri Water Sports Cup to promote Canoeing and Kayaking.
- Vishnoi said that holding of national level water sports competition in Uttarakhand will increase the interest of tourists and sportspersons. Tehri Lake has immense possibilities of water sports.
- If water sports activities will increase in Tehri Lake and rivers, then surely the youth will get employment. THDCIL is also working on a plan to train youth for water sports players and related jobs after the competition.

Note:

- AN Tripathi, Additional General Manager, Corporate Communications Department, THDCIL, said that earlier a canoeing and kayaking competition was organized at the same height in Kashmir. In Himachal too such competitions are held in high altitude areas.

## **Roof Gardening Promotion Scheme**

### **Why In News?**

On December 20, 2022, Uttarakhand Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Ganesh Joshi told in the Manthan auditorium of forest headquarters of Dehradun that there is immense potential for roof gardening in urban areas of the state. On the same lines, the government is going to operate a roof gardening scheme to promote vegetable production in urban areas.

### **Key Points**

- Minister Ganesh Joshi said that the cultivable land in urban areas is continuously decreasing. Due to this, people living in urban areas will be encouraged to produce organic vegetables through roof gardening on the roofs of the house.
- The government has selected Dehradun as a pilot project for roof gardening. Soon this scheme will be implemented across the state.
- To promote roof gardening, Roof Gardening Week will be celebrated in the state from December 25, 2022 to January 2, 2023.
- He said that people are not getting chemical-free vegetables due to the use of chemical fertilizers and pesticides, but with roof gardening, people can produce vegetables organically for their needs on the roofs of their house. It will also be beneficial in terms of health.
- State Horticulture Director Dr. H.S. Baweja said that Uttarakhand is the second state in the country after Delhi, where it has been decided to run Roof Gardening Scheme.
- Dehradun Chief Horticulture Officer Meenakshi Joshi said that in addition to various types of vegetable production, vertical gardening and hydroponics (soilless farming) can also be availed in roof gardening.

## **Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022**

### **Why In News?**

On December 22, 2022, Uttarakhand's Additional Secretary Legislative Mahesh Kaushiba told that the Governor has approved the Uttarakhand Religion Freedom Amendment Bill 2022. After getting the seal of the Raj Bhavan, the Act has now become effective in the state.

### **Key Points**

- Confirming the Governor's assent to the bill, Additional Secretary Mahesh Kaushiba said that now the amendment law has come into effect in the state. This anti-conversion law is stricter than Uttar Pradesh.
- The Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill, 2022 was approved at a meeting of the Uttarakhand Cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on November 16, 2022.
- Under the amendment law, now there will be a punishment of up to 10 years for forcible or luring or fraudulent conversion in the state. In the new law, a fine of 50 thousand rupees has been provided.
- In case of mass conversion, the punishment will now be three to ten years, earlier the maximum punishment was three years. Also, the victims will be able to get a reimbursement of five lakh rupees through the court.
- The law of conversion in the state will now come under the category of cognizable and non-bailable offence. Earlier it was a non-cognizable offence.

## **One Thousand Villages to be built as a Solar Villages in the State**

### **Why in News?**

On December 22, 2022, Uttarakhand Energy Secretary R. Meenakshi Sundaram said that a New Solar Energy Policy is being formulated in the State, which will be implemented on the occasion of Makar Sankranti on January 14. Under this, one thousand villages will be declared as Solar Villages.

Note:

**Key Points**

- Energy Secretary R. Meenakshi Sundaram said that the State Government will generate electricity in the villages most prone to sunlight in the State. Teams of Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA) are identifying villages in every district where sunlight lasts the maximum time. Marking of 1000 such villages has been started.
- The Government will give special concessions to those who set up Solar Projects in whichever villages will be declared as Solar Villages. A Special Action Plan will also be made to take the power generation in those villages to the grid.
- This will pave the way for generating more than 2000 MW of electricity.

## 600 Experts from around the World Associated with Tunnel Construction to gather in Dehradun

**Why in News?**

On December 22, 2022, Uttarakhand Public Works Department Principal Secretary RK Sudhanshu said that an International Seminar will be held in Dehradun from April 17 to 21 next year to explore the possibilities of Tunnel Construction in the Himalayan region, in which more than 600 experts from 148 countries related to Tunnel Construction and its design and technology will participate.

**Key Points**

- Public Works Department Principal Secretary RK Sudhanshu said that in the proposed International Seminar in Dehradun, Experts will discuss the Advanced Design, construction and operation of the tunnel.
- The Seminar will be attended by the Indian Road Congress along with the Union Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and Permanent International Association of Road Congress (PIRC), International Tunneling and Underground Space Association (ITA).
- Engineers, Experts and Experts from 148 countries will be invited to the Seminar.
- The Seminar will meet on April 17 and 18. The Seminar will be held from April 19 to 20. On April

21, representatives of various countries will make technical visits.

- He said that this event will give Uttarakhand recognition at the global level. At the same time, the participants will be taken to major tourist places along with the tunnels being built under the Rishikesh-Karnaprayag Rail Line and All Weather Road Project.
- During the Seminar, an exhibition of machines being used in tunnel construction in other countries of the World will also be held.
- Significantly, most of the land of Uttarakhand State is mountainous. With the construction of tunnels in the State, efforts are being made to make the movement comfortable and accessible in the mountainous region and reduce the travel time. The State will get information about the latest technology of tunnel construction.
- At present, the Railway Development Corporation is 125 km between Rishikesh and Karnaprayag. A Long Railway Line is being built. It is 105 km long. Tunnels are being built in length. It is very beneficial in terms of Tourism and Economic Development.
- Union Road Transport and Highways Minister Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone of Mussoorie tunnel in March.

## Outstanding District Magistrate Award

**Why In News?**

In a program organized on Good Governance Day in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on December 25, 2022, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) honored five District Magistrates of the state with the Outstanding District Magistrate Award 2022 for various notable works including the successful management of the Chardham Yatra.

**Key Points**

- In this programme, Haridwar District Magistrate Vinay Shankar Pandey was felicitated for the smooth management of the Kanwar Yatra that started after the Covid lockdown, Nainital District Magistrate Shri Dhiraj Singh Garbiyal for employment schemes in the tourism sector, Pauri District Magistrate Dr. Ashish Chauhan for Bedu products, Rudraprayag District Magistrate Mayur Dixit was awarded for promotion

Note:



of tourism and Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana for successful management of Chardham Yatra.

- Governor Lt Gen Gurmeet Singh said that the district administration is the most important step for better implementation of the schemes of the government. The District Magistrates who were awarded have played an important role in solving the problems of the public with awareness and honesty.
- The Governor said that the objective of good governance is to ensure inclusive and all-round development. To ensure top to bottom and bottom to top governance flow, there is a need for a direct, emotional connect between the administration and the public.
- Secretary to the Governor, Dr. Ranjit Kumar Sinha said that earlier there was no arrangement to reward the District Magistrates separately. The Governor has decided to reward the District Magistrates for their excellent efforts.
- Administration Secretary Vinod Kumar Suman said that applications were invited from the districts for the Outstanding District Magistrate Award-2022. The District Magistrates made presentations before the High-Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary. District Magistrates were selected for the award after the approval of the Governor and the Chief Minister.
- Due to these achievements, district magistrates were awarded-
  - Haridwar District Magistrate Vinay Shankar Pandey made smooth management of the Kanwar Yatra, which started after the Kovid lockdown. Haridwar was also awarded the best place in Ganga Town by the President due to the campaign to clean the ghats.
  - Nainital District Magistrate Dhiraj Garbiyal achieved achievements in many fields by doing new experiments with collective public participation. He is also credited with his efforts towards apple production and implementing employment-oriented schemes in the field of tourism in the district.
  - When Pauri District Magistrate Dr Ashish Chauhan was earlier posted in Pithoragarh district, the Prime Minister appreciated his efforts with the Women Self Help Group for bedu products in his 'Mann Ki Baat' program.
  - Rudraprayag District Magistrate Mayur Dixit is being praised for promoting tourism, expanding health services in far-flung areas and running the

reconstruction of the present grand Kedarpuri at the right pace.

- Chamoli District Magistrate Himanshu Khurana successfully managed the yatra to Badrinath Dham and Hemkund Sahib. He also played an important role in the timely and smooth completion of the construction works of Badrinath Dham Master Plan.

## **'Life Time Achievement Award'**

### **Why In News?**

On December 26, 2022 Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama felicitated astrologers at the conclusion of the 5th Amar Ujala-Graphic Era Jyotish Mahakumbh-2022 in Dehradun. Under this, Acharya Pt. Indu Prakash has been awarded the 'Lifetime Achievement Award' for her outstanding work in the field of disciplines.

### **Key Points**

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama informed that earlier this honor has been given to celebrity astrologer Bejan Daruwala, Pt. K.A Dubey Padmesh, architect Pt Satish Sharma and Acharya Ajay Bhambi.
- It is known that the Two-day Amar Ujala-Graphic Era Jyotish Mahakumbh-2022 was inaugurated on December 25.

## **Tourists Will Now Be Able to See the Himalayas by Helicopter**

### **Why In News?**

On December 25, 2022, Uttarakhand's Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve said that it has been decided to promote aero tourism in the state to attract tourists from across the country and the world and to promote adventure tourism activities. With aero tourism, tourists will now be able to visit the Himalayas by helicopter.

### **Key Points**

- Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve said that the tourism department has started Himalaya Darshan service from George Everest in Mussoorie as a pilot project to promote aerotourism, in which tourists can enjoy the beauty of the Himalayas by helicopter.

Note:



- On the same lines, preparations are on to start Himalaya Darshan service from Pithoragarh's Tanakpur and Bairagi Camp Rishikesh. For this, Bairagi Camp and Tanakpur have been selected, where tourists will be able to see the Himalayas through helicopter.
- He informed that for Himalaya Darshan service, the fare is being fixed at Rs 5,000 per passenger for 40-minute tour package and Rs 10,000 per passenger for one-and-a-half-hour tour package. For this, talks are going on with helicopter companies and the scheme will be started soon.

## Clean Politician Award-2022

### Why In News?

On December 27, 2022, State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was honored with the 'Clean Politician Samman, 2022' by the Nityanand Swami Jan Seva Samiti in a program organized on the 94th birthday of the first Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Late Nityanand Swami.

### Key Points

- On this occasion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also honored persons associated with music, education, industry, medicine and cultural wealth.
- He told that as the first Chief Minister, Nityanand Swami proved the idea of Antyodaya through his works and did unprecedented work towards the all-round development of the state.
- In the program, the Chief Minister honored Padma Shri Basanti Bisht, Jitendra Joshi, Harendra Kumar Garg, Dr. DM Kala, Prem Higwal. Uttarakhand Gaurav Samman was given to Ruskin Bond and Prasoon Joshi. In his absence, his representatives received this honor.

## AIIMS Delhi and IIT Roorkee's 'SwasthGarbh' app to ensure safe motherhood

### Why In News?

On December 27, 2022, Professor K.K. Pant of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee informed that researchers from IIT Roorkee have created a 'SwasthGarbh' smartphone app. This app has been prepared with the help of AIIMS, New Delhi.

### Key Points

- Professor K.K. Pant said that the 'SwasthGarbh' smartphone app will help pregnant women to provide prenatal and real-time (instant) medical care. This is especially beneficial for women in areas where medical services are not easily available. This is the first app for pregnancy, which ensures immediate doctor's advice.
- He said that it is clinically proven as well as reliable. The app can be downloaded from Google Play Store. Both patients and doctors can take advantage of the app free of cost.
- Deepak Sharma and Prof. Sahil Sharma, a research scholar in the Department of BioSciences and Bio-Engineering, IIT Roorkee. Deepak Sharma, Professor, Delhi AIIMS. Vatsala Dadhwal and Prof. In collaboration with Aparna Sharma, the 'SwasthGarbha' app has been prepared.
- The app covers all aspects related to pregnancy, such as keeping a record of every clinical test and taking medicines on time.
- Prof. K.K. Pant said that a research paper highlighting the benefits of the 'SwasthGarbh' app has been published in the prestigious 'Peer-Reviewed IEEE Journal of Biomedical and Health Informatics'.
- Deepak Sharma, professor in the Department of BioSciences and Bio-Engineering, IIT Roorkee, said that the high infant mortality rate is a matter of serious concern. In view of this, the developed SwasthGarbh Mobile App will provide real-time medical assistance to all pregnant women and improve the state of mother-child health during pregnancy. Along with this, it will help in taking forward the Prime Minister's Self-Reliant Healthy India Mission.
- Dean (Research) at AIIMS, Delhi. Rama Chaudhary said that the 'SwasthGarbh' app will be very useful in the possible solution to common problems of pregnancy. By delivering the 'SwasthGarbh' app from house to house, the life of the mother and baby can be easily saved in pregnancy.
- Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, AIIMS, Delhi. Vatsala Dadhwal said that communication between pregnant women doctors through the app will give better pregnancy results. The pilot study has shown that this app is also being used by doctors along with pregnant women.

Note:

- He said that a clinical assessment of 150 pregnant women was done about the usefulness of the app. This made it clear that the app has increased the quality of prenatal care and reduced problems. Women registered on the app saw an increase in the secondary number of visits to the hospital for antenatal advice and also showed better compliance with the World Health Organization guidelines.
- It is known that after the arrival of the Covid-19 endemic, the importance of telemedicine in healthcare has increased. Currently, more than one billion people are using smartphones all over the world. In such a situation, there is immense potential to change the medical world and provide better healthcare in the SwasthGarbh app.

## Central Government Will Buy Manduwa of Uttarakhand

### Why In News?

On December 29, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami informed that the **central government will procure coarse grains (Manduwa) produced in the hilly districts of Uttarakhand**. The Uttarakhand government had sent a proposal to the Union Food and Public Distribution Department to procure Manduwa for the crop year 2022-23, which has been approved by the central government.

### Key Points

- The Chief Minister said that this decision will greatly benefit the farmers of the hill districts of the state. In the first phase, 9600 metric tonnes of Manduwa will be procured. This will cost the government Rs 45 crore.
- The minimum support price of Manduwa in the state is fixed at Rs 3574 per quintal. For this, instructions have been given to the Food Civil Supplies Department, Mandi Council, Cooperative Societies, Women and Child Development Department and Education Department to work in coordination.
- Manduwa is rich in nutrition. Now the central government will be able to buy Manduwa from farmers and provide it to children as well as others through mid-day meal and public distribution system. This will not only increase the income of the farmers of the state, but will also provide nutritious food to school children and the needy.

- He said that in the first phase, Manduwa procurement scheme will be implemented at the fixed minimum support price from the farmers of two districts Almora and Pauri under the pilot scheme in the hilly areas of the state. The Manduwa purchased will be distributed through public distribution system in Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar, Dehradun and Nainital.
- The scheme will be operated as follows-
  - About eight lakh families of the four districts will benefit from the National Food Security Scheme.
  - One kg of Manduwa per card per month will be given free of cost.
  - The purchase will be done at 20 purchase centers operating in Almora district and 11 centers in Pauri.
  - It will be distributed to the beneficiaries through the Public Distribution System.
- It is noteworthy that Manduwa grown in the mountainous region of Uttarakhand is a treasure trove of nutrition. It has an important place in the traditional crops here. Despite 85 per cent of the total cultivable land of the state being unirrigated, it can be easily cultivated here. Manduwa is beneficial for people suffering from heart and diabetes disease. Due to the presence of adequate nutrients in it, it is also helpful in protecting against malnutrition.

## State Level Sports Mahakumbh

### Why In News?

On December 29, 2022, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the **State Level Sports Mahakumbh at Maharana Pratap Sports College, Dehradun**.

### Key Points

- In the inaugural program of the State Level Sports Mahakumbh, the winners and participants of international competitions were felicitated. The Chief Minister handed over cheques ranging from Rs 2 crore to Rs 33,000 to the players.
- The objective of the Khel Mahakumbh is to prepare the players for the upcoming 38th National Games. Uttarakhand will host the 38th National Games. This will give an opportunity to the youth of the state to showcase their talent.

Note:

- On the occasion of Khel Mahakumbh, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami also inaugurated the newly constructed shooting range at a cost of Rs 31.18 crore for organizing the Shooting Competition of National Games at Maharana Pratap Sports College campus.
- Speaking on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that the winning players of Nyaya Panchayat level of the state will also get incentives now. So far, only commendation certificates were given to these players.
- He said that the first prize winner of Nyaya Panchayat level will be given Rs 300, second prize Rs 200 and third prize Rs 150. Apart from this, the incentive amount given to sportspersons at the development block, district and state level has also been increased by 40-50 percent. At the block level, the winning player will now be given Rs 500 instead of Rs 300. At the same time, the second place winner will be given an incentive of Rs 400 instead of 200 and the third place will get Rs 300 instead of Rs 150.
- Similarly, at the district level, the first winner will be given Rs 800 instead of Rs 700, the second will get Rs 600 instead of Rs 500 and the third will get Rs 300 to 400. At the state level, the first player will be given Rs 1,500 instead of Rs 1,000, the second player will get Rs 1,000 instead of Rs 600 and the third player will get Rs 700 instead of Rs 400.
- He informed that so far the amount given to the players for food in sports competitions organized by the Sports and Youth Welfare Department has been increased from Rs 150 to Rs 225.

## Uttarakhand Sets New Record in Chardham and Kanwar Yatra

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on December 30, 2022, the year 2022 proved to be good for Uttarakhand in the field of pilgrimage and tourism. Chardham and Kanwar Yatras, which resumed after Corona, were at their peak. Two new records were also set.

### Key Points

- According to the information, the Kanwar Mela took place two years after the Corona period and 3 crore 82 lakh devotees took a dip in the Ganges. Haridwar's business received a booster dose from the record rush of devotees. The Chardham Yatra also put Haridwar's hotel and travelers business on track.
- The entire economy of Haridwar is dependent on devotees. During the Corona period, the salaries of the employees of businessmen in Haridwar were forced to pay electricity and water bills and school fees of children. The havoc of Corona subsided, but the number of devotees did not increase due to the restrictions, but the Kanwar Mela held from July 14 to July 27 gave a booster dose to the Haridwar business.
- Over 3.82 crore devotees from several states of north India took a dip in the River Ganga and left for their destinations carrying Ganga water. No untoward incident took place at the fair even after the historic crowd. The police and the fair administration conducted the fair well.
- Two years after the Corona period, the Chardham Yatra, which went on without restrictions, has set a new record this year. For the first time, more than 46 lakh pilgrims visited the four shrines. The CharDham Yatra came to an end this year with the closure of the portals of Badrinath Dham on November 19.
- Significantly, this time 17 lakh 60 thousand 646 devotees reached Badrinath Dham. At the same time, a record number of pilgrims reached Gangotri Dham. This time 624451 pilgrims reached the dham, while 485635 pilgrims reached Yamunotri Dham for darshan. This year, a record number of more than 15 lakh pilgrims have reached Kedarnath Yatra, while the yatra has earned a turnover of Rs 211 crore.
- As many as 281 pilgrims also died due to various reasons during the Chardham Yatra amid claims by the government of better healthcare facilities. During the yatra period, the health department had started health screening at nine places on the yatra routes.



Note:



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**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

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