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(CONSOLIDATION)

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State's first signature bridge will be on Badrinath Highway

Why in News?

On December 3, 2023, Tanuj Kambuj, Executive Engineer, National Highway Construction Division, NLD, Srinagar Garhwal, said that the work of the state's first signature bridge at Narkota on Badrinath Highway is being done rapidly.

Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that the first curved bridge of Uttarakhand state is being built at Narkota on Rishikesh-Badrinath Highway. A 110 meter long bridge is being constructed at a cost of Rs 64 crore under the All Weather Road Project.
- The target has been set to operate vehicles from this signature bridge by May 2024.
- A curved motor bridge is being constructed at Narkota Gadere on Rishikesh-Badrinath Highway. For its safety, there will be safety cables on both sides as well as on the upper side. The design of this signature bridge will be its main attraction.



Central Government approves Recovery and Reconstruction Plan for reconstruction of Joshimath

Why in News?

On November 30, 2023, the high-level committee headed by Union Home Minister Amit Shah approved the Recovery and Reconstruction Plan of Rs 1658.17 crore for the reconstruction of Joshimath affected by landslides.

Key Points

- It may be noted that Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama had requested Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union Home Minister Shah to approve the proposal.
- Under the scheme, central assistance of Rs 1079.96 crore will be provided from the Recovery and Reconstruction Window of the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF).
- The state government will provide Rs 126.41 crore from the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and Rs 451.80 crore from the state budget for relief. This includes the cost of land acquisition of Rs 91.82 crore for rehabilitation.
- The state government has made a budgetary provision of Rs 1000 crore for the rehabilitation and reconstruction plan of Joshimath in the financial year 2023-24.
- The state had sought a package of Rs 2942.99 crore from the Central Government for the reconstruction and rehabilitation plan of Joshimath. This includes construction of 150 prefabricated houses, site development work, interim relief, compensation for damage to residential & commercial infrastructure, compensation for land belonging to families living in vulnerable areas, permanent rehabilitation of affected people and acquisition & development.

Major decisions of the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama

Why in News?

In the cabinet meeting chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama on December 4, 2023, many other important decisions were taken along with approving the 'Mukhyamantri Gram Sampark Yojana' to connect 3177 villages with population less than 250 with main roads.

Key Points

- The Cabinet has given permission to the Secondary Education Department to hire assistant teachers and

Note:

lecturers on a per-inspection basis. 1500 to 2000 such teachers can be hired.

- The Cabinet has decided to provide benefits to 35088 daughters who were deprived of the benefits of 'Kanyadhan Yojana' despite their applications from 2009 to 2016-17. They will get the amount at the rate of Rs 15,000. The government will spend Rs 52 crore 63 lakh on this.
- 559 excellent schools will be established in the state to provide modern and quality education to the students. Such a school will be selected as an excellent school, which is within 15 km. More and more government high schools & government inter colleges should operate within the periphery. Amount of Rs 240 crore will be spent on this.
- An incentive policy has been approved for construction of helipads on private land where government land is not available. Under the policy, 50 percent grant will be given on construction of the helipad. Land can also be given on lease.
- The Cabinet has approved the policy of Virtual Registry. Under this, online registration can now be done sitting at home. The person will not need to come to the office.
- The Cabinet has approved the structure of 950-950 posts for operation of 100-100 MBBS trainee capacity in the medical colleges under construction at Pithoragarh and Haridwar.
- Now, on making a driving licence in the state, the transport department will collect a user charge of Rs 100 from the applicant. This will make getting the licence somewhat expensive. The Cabinet has approved this proposal.



State government approved the first Uttarakhand helipad and heliport policy

Why in News?

On December 4, 2023, the Uttarakhand State Government approved the first Uttarakhand Helipad and Heliport Policy to increase air connectivity in the state. This will boost tourism as well as ease emergency medical care and rescue & relief operations during disasters.

Key Points

- There are many places across the state where helipads or heliports can be developed, but government land is not available here. For this, the government has approved the policy of building helipads and heliports on private land.
- In the policy, two options have been given to the land owner for giving land for helipad and heliport -
 - First, the landowner can lease the land to Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) for 15 years, wherein UCADA will develop the helipad under DGCA norms. For this, the exchanged land owner will be given a rent of Rs 100 per square meter per year. Apart from this, 50 percent of the revenue received from operation and management will be paid.
 - Secondly, the land owner himself can develop a helipad and heliport. For this, after taking license from DGCA, a fee will be charged from those using the helipad. The government will provide 50 percent subsidy on the total capital expenditure.



- The policy mandates a minimum of 1,000 square metres of land for a helipad and 4,000 square metres of land for a heliport. It is estimated that Rs 10 to 20

Note:

lakh will be spent on the construction of the helipad and Rs 2 to 3 crore will be spent on the construction of the heliport. If the landowner himself builds a helipad and heliport, the government will give subsidy on it, which will be paid in two installments.

State's first Girls Sports College to be built in Lohaghat

Why In News?

On December 5, 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said at a ceremony held at Maharana Pratap Sports in Dehradun that the State's first Girls Sports College will be built in Lohaghat, for which approval has been given for the transfer of 500 drains of land.

Key Points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama felicitated the medal winners of the 37th National Games at the ceremony and Sports Minister Rekha Arya handed over the flag of the Indian Olympic Association to the Chief Minister for hosting the 38th National Games, which was installed at the National Sports Secretariat Raipur.
- The Chief Minister said that the players of the state are performing better in National and International competitions. In the 36th National Games in Gujarat, the players of the state won 18 medals, while in the 37th National Games in Goa this year, players won 24 medals.



- The Chief Minister said that a budget of Rs 10 crore has been arranged for opening gyms in villages, while the government is going to make rules regarding five percent sports quota for admission to professional courses in universities.

- He said that arrangements have also been made to provide grants for construction of sports infrastructure facilities through private sports fields. The process of four percent sports quota in government jobs for sportspersons is in the final stages.

Incident Response System will work in Uttarakhand to prevent disaster

Why in News?

On December 5, 2023, Disaster Management Secretary Dr. Ranjit Sinha said in a press conference that the Incident Response System (IRS) is being prepared to quickly rescue people and provide relief in disasters.

Key Points

- Dr. Ranjit Sinha said that Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) has started its exercise. It is being established under the rules of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA).
- USDMA has issued a tender for this. Incident Response Team (IRT) will also be formed from block to district and state level. These teams will also work according to the disaster.
- IRS guidelines have been prepared. Software is being made to implement this. After this, relief and rescue work can be done in a better way in disaster management.
- It should be noted that every year disasters in the state prove to be a challenge for the government. Be it the recent Silkyara tunnel accident or a disaster like the Joshimath landslide before that. To overcome these, the IRS system is now being prepared under the rules of NDMA. With this, immediate prevention and solution can be done according to the intensity or risk of the disaster.
- There will be three sections of IRS. There will be an operation section. The second will be the planning section and the third will be the logistics section. With the coordination of all three, disaster relief work can be done more quickly.
- After receiving the initial warning, the Responsible Officer (RO) will activate the Incident Response Team

Note:

(IRT) of the concerned area. The local IRT will operate in the event of a disaster without any warning. If necessary, he will contact the RO for assistance.

- IRT will be pre-defined at all levels, i.e. State, District, Sub-Division and Tehsil, Block. If the disaster is complex and beyond the control of the local IRT, the higher level IRT will be informed. After this, the high level IRT will take over the responsibility of rescue from this entire disaster.



MoUs worth more than Rs 40 thousand crore signed in Energy Conclave

Why in News?

MoUs worth more than Rs 40 thousand crore were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami in the Energy Conclave held at the Secretariat under the Destination Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit on December 5, 2023.

Key Points

- Representatives of various companies reached the Energy Conclave at the Secretariat under the Destination Uttarakhand Global Investors Summit. About 33 companies have signed these agreements for investment in the fields of solar energy, hydroelectric energy and gas based energy in the state.
- MoUs worth Rs. 40,423 crore were signed in the presence of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami. Out of these, grounding of Rs. 21,522 crore has been done, while new MOUs worth Rs. 18901 crore have been made.

- Chief Minister Dhami said that there are immense possibilities for work in the energy sector in the state. The government is continuously making efforts to increase investment. Based on the suggestions of people associated with the industrial world, 27 new policies have been made and many policies have been simplified.
- The companies present on this occasion gave proposals to build solar power projects, hydro power projects, pump storage plants, CNG plants, solar parks. THDC-UJVNL joint venture has signed the maximum MoU worth Rs. 16370 crore. Whereas GMR has signed MoUs worth Rs. 10,800 crore, UJVNL Rs. 3220 crore, Evolve Energy Rs. 1184 crore and Kundan Group and Bhilangana Hydro Power have signed MoUs worth Rs. 1000-1000 crore.



Uttarakhand is the 1st state in the country to get maximum 18 GI tags in a single day

Why in News?

On December 4, 2023, Uttarakhand became the 1st state in the country to get GI certificates for a maximum of 18 products in a single day. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami distributed GI certificates in a program organized at Chief Sevak Sadan located at the Chief Minister's residence.

Key Points

- Till now, a total of 27 products of Uttarakhand have received GI tag.

Note:

- The 18 products of the state which have received GI (geographical Indication) certificates include Uttarakhand Chola, Jhangora, Mandua, Red Rice, Almora Lakhori Chilli, Berinag Tea, Burans Sharbat, Ramnagar (Nainital) litchi, Ramgarh Aadu, Malta, Pahari Tor, Gahath, Kalah Bhatt, Bichhubati Fabric, Nainital Mangbatti, Rangoli Pichoda, Chamoli Raman Masks and Kitai Wood Carving.
- It may be noted that 9 products of Uttarakhand - Tejpat, Basmati rice, Aipan art, Munsiyari white kidney beans, Ringal craft, Thulma, Bhotiya dan, Chura oil and copper products have already received GI certificate.
- For the 1st time in the 20-year journey from the enactment of the GI law in 2003 to 2023, GI certificates have been issued to 18 products of a state simultaneously in a single day.
- The Chief Minister has expressed hope that the export of GI tagged products from Uttarakhand will increase rapidly.
- The Chief Minister said that with the aim of promoting local products in all the 13 districts of the state, work on the 'One District, Two Products' scheme is going on at a fast pace.
- The main objective of the scheme is to identify the local products in all the districts and develop traditional industries accordingly. Due to this, self-employment opportunities are increasing for local farmers & craftsmen and local products of every district are getting world class recognition.
- Describing this as an important achievement, Agriculture and Horticulture Minister Ganesh Joshi said that a state level GI Tag Mahotsav will be organised in Dehradun from January 12 to 18, 2024.



Now 697 gram panchayats of Uttarakhand will be directly connected to the PMO

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on December 6, 2023, 697 gram panchayats of Uttarakhand will be able to connect directly with the Prime Minister's Office.

Key Points

- For this, after being set up under BharatNet, UPCL is providing electricity connections. So far, connections have been given to more than 200 gram panchayats.
- Under the BharatNet scheme, optical fibre cables were laid to these villages, but due to lack of electricity connection, internet services were not available here.
- After internet services start running, the facility to apply for central and state government schemes will be available in the Gram Panchayat only.
- The youth will also get the opportunity to apply for government jobs and various schemes here.



Now permanent education numbers will be issued to school children in Uttarakhand like Aadhaar

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on December 6, 2023, a permanent education number will be issued to school children in Uttarakhand like Aadhaar.

Note:

Key Points

- Currently, children in class 9 and class 11 have to register in school.
- But, after the UDAYS portal is updated, a permanent education number will be issued to the child from class one itself, which will remain valid till class 12th.
- To ensure that wrong or fake TCs of children are not issued by any school in future, TCs will be issued to children only on the basis of Permanent Education Number (PEN).
- Data of not only children but also schools and teachers will have to be made available in the portal.
- After uploading the data of teachers in the portal, a teacher will be able to teach in only one school. Whereas, all the information related to the students will be uploaded by the school itself on this portal.



GyroCopter Safari will start soon in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On December 10, 2023, Manish Saini, CEO of Rajas Aero Sports and Adventure Limited (RAAAPL) said that GyroCopter Safari will be launched in Uttarakhand soon.

Key Points

- Manish Saini said that RAAAPL had started Air Safari in Rishikesh in 2013-14. This was India's first air safari.
- He informed that Gyrocopter service is also being started in the state this month, which will be the first Gyrocopter safari in India and South Asia.

- It is worth mentioning that Rajas Aerosports and Adventure Limited (RAAAPL) is a private limited Indian non-government company, which was incorporated in India on May 30, 2013 & its registered office is in Pauri Garhwal, Uttarakhand.
- It is engaged in the business of providing corporate arts entertainment and entertainment services. Presently Rajas Aerosports is operating Himalayan Darshan helicopter service from George Everest, Mussoorie.

10 private universities, 3 new medical colleges will open in the State

Why in News?

On December 9, 2023, Uttarakhand Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, while addressing investors at the Global Investors Conference, said that 10 new private universities and 3 new medical colleges will be opened in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- The Education Minister said that the government will provide all basic facilities for new schools and universities. Investors in the state have to select land for schools and universities themselves. The government will provide facilities of electricity, water and roads. A 25 percent subsidy will also be given.
- He asked investors to invest in the hill districts like Pithoragarh, Almora, Pauri etc.
- He said that the target of the state government is that by 2024, five lakh children from other states should come to study in Uttarakhand, while one lakh foreign children should come and study here.
- It may be noted that in the Global Investors Conference, an agreement was signed for investment of Rs 9000 crore in education and secondary education. This included about 17 private higher educational institutions and 4 secondary schools.
- The MoU was signed between Apollo Group, Sabarmati Institute Gujarat, Saloni University, Doon Modern Education Society, New Foundation, Shivalik Hill Foundation, DIT University, Gondwana Research

Note:

Foundation, Right Park Foundation, Green Field School, Jan Kalyan Education, Guru Nanak Trust Roorkee, Uttarakhand Uthan Samiti etc.



IMA Passing Out Parade 2023: 343 Cadets from India & 29 from Overseas passed out

Why in News?

343 Indian cadets and 29 foreign cadets from 12 from overseas passed out in the passing out parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), Dehradun on December 9, 2023. Sri Lanka's Chief of Defense Staff General Shavendra Silva took the salute at the parade.

Key Points

- In the passing out parade at the Indian Military Academy (IMA), 372 cadets from India and abroad joined the main stream of their armies by becoming officers. Of these, the Indian Army got 343 officers.
- Since the establishment of IMA, 65,234 local and foreign cadets have passed out from here & become military officers in the army of their respective countries. These also include 2,914 military officers from the armies of 34 overseas.



- It is worth mentioning that a large number of young officers from Uttarakhand come out in the passing

out parade (POP) held in IMM. Despite being much smaller in population than other states, Uttarakhand ranks 1st in the country in producing officers.

- This time Uttar Pradesh has become the state giving the maximum number of cadets in POP. 68 cadets from Uttar Pradesh will pass out and become officers. At the same time, Uttarakhand is in 2nd place this time. 42 cadets from Uttarakhand passed out.
- Last time cadets from 20 states participated in POP, but this time cadets from 27 states participated in POP.
- The following cadets received various awards/medals in the passing out parade-
 - Sword of Honor and Gold Medal- Gaurav Yadav (Avalar, Rajasthan)
 - Silver Medal- Saurabh Badhani (Gwaldam Chamoli, Uttarakhand)
 - Bronze Medal- Alok Singh (Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh)
 - Silver Medal (TGC)- Ajay Pant (Ranikhet Almora, Uttarakhand)
 - Best Foreign Cadet- Shailesh Bhatta (Nepal) Chief of Army Staff Banner, Kohima Company
- Other countries including India got officers - India-343, Bhutan-9, Maldives-4, Sri Lanka-4, Mauritius-3, Nepal-2, Myanmar-1, Bangladesh-1, Tajikistan-1, Uzbekistan-1, Sudan-1, Turkmenistan-1, Kyrgyzstan-1.



Tehri Lake Development Project will be completed at a cost of Rs 7708 crore

Why in News?

On December 11, 2023, Tourism, Endowments and Culture Minister Satpal Maharaj said in the review

Note:

meeting that the Tehri Lake Development Project will be completed at a cost of Rs 7708 crore.

Key Points

- While reviewing the works of the Tourism and Culture Department in the auditorium of Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council, the Tourism Minister said that the 42 km area of Tehri Lake will be developed from a tourism point of view.
- Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council is preparing the DPR of this project. The construction of the project will boost tourism and will also directly benefit 84 thousand people of 173 villages of Tehri district.
- Minister Satpal Maharaj said that with the construction of the proposed ring road, it will be easy for tourists coming from the country and the world to reach Tehri. Organisation of water sports and adventure sports will be encouraged throughout the year in the lake. This will also increase the government's revenue.
- He said that currently work is being done for the feasibility survey of the project. DPR is being prepared by the department to develop the area from Kothi to Dobra Chanti bridge in the project.



Unity Mall will be built in Jwalapur, one shop each from all the States will be included

Why In News?

On December 12, 2023, Uttarakhand Finance Minister Premchand Aggarwal said that Unity Mall will be built in Jwalapur, Haridwar at a cost of Rs 164 crore, in which all the states of the country will have one shop each.

Key Points

- Finance Minister Premchand Aggarwal said that Haridwar Roorkee Development Authority will soon build this Unity Mall in Jwalapur on Haridwar-Delhi Highway.
- He said that with the opening of Unity Mall, the tourists and devotees coming to Haridwar will be able to get the famous handicrafts & traditional clothes of not only Uttarakhand but any state of the country under one roof while returning home.
- He said that a place has been identified for the mall near Ranipur Jhal. Starting from DPR, the design has also been finalized.
- With the opening of Unity Mall, traditional products of Uttarakhand will also get a new identity. An open cinema hall will also be built in the multi-storey mall, in which short plays or films can be watched from any floor.



Mini Gas Agency Scheme

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on December 14, 2023, Uttarakhand Rural Development Department has started 'Mini Gas Agency Scheme' to refill the LPG cylinders in remote hilly areas of the state when they run out.

Key Points

- After the launch of Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana in the state, gas cylinders have reached every home, but especially in the hilly areas, one still has to wait a long time or go many kilometres to get the

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cylinder refilled. To overcome this problem, the Rural Development Department has started the Mini Gas Agency Scheme.

- Additional Secretary and Rural Development Department Commissioner Anand Swaroop said that Kimini Gas Agency will be operated by women associated with self-help groups; they have been named 'Eandhan Sakhi'.
- This scheme has been started in four districts as a pilot project. Soon the scheme will start in other districts also. Till now, a total of 61 Fuel Sakhis including 40 women from Uttarkashi, 16 from Tehri and five from Haridwar have been prepared.
- Women will be given training to operate a mini gas agency by HP Company. For this, the government has signed an agreement with HP company. In the coming days, similar agreements will be signed with other oil companies also.
- Five filled gas cylinders will be available at all times in the Mini Gas Agency. Eandhan Sakhi will get a commission of up to Rs 20 on every cylinder from the company. Commission will also be given by the company on burner, stove, its service, gas pipe, giving new connections, DBC connection. One thousand rupees will be given separately for spreading publicity in every village.
- Rural Development Department Commissioner Anand Swaroop said that this scheme has two objectives. First, to increase the income of women of self-help groups and second, to provide gas easily to remote areas.

Players who perform better in state level competition will get direct entry in national games

Why in News?

In the meeting held on December 14, 2023 regarding the state level competition, Special Principal Secretary Amit Sinha said that the players who perform excellently in the state level competition to be held before the National Games in the state next year will get direct entry in the National Games. Whether they are affiliated with any association or not.

Key Points

- Special Principal Secretary Amit Sinha said that as per the rules, players will get a chance to participate in state level competitions through the Federation. If a player performs brilliantly, he will get direct entry into the national games.
- Those who are champions will get a chance in the state level competition to be held before the National Games. Along with this, players who perform better in the state level competition will be selected.
- Players who have stood first, second, third & fourth in various competitions will also be selected and given an opportunity to play.
- The Special Principal Secretary said that Uttarakhand is hosting the National Games, in view of which any player from the state who plays better will be able to participate in the competition.
- According to department officials, the State Olympic Games will be held in January and February. These games will be organised in various districts including Dehradun. Players will be selected on this basis.

Asian Development Bank approved a loan of \$200 million to strengthen the state's electricity system & power transmission network

Why in News?

On December 14, 2023, the Asian Development Bank in New Delhi signed a loan agreement with the government approving a loan of \$ 200 million (about Rs 1660 crore) for strengthening the electricity system and power transmission network in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- The loan MoU was signed by Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary, Department of Economics, Ministry of Finance and Hoyun Jeong, Deputy Resident Mission Director of ADB in India, in New Delhi.
- Juhi Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of Economic Department, said that this will facilitate in strengthening the infrastructure of the power system

Note:

of Uttarakhand, development of network capabilities of the power system, renovation of load centres and seamless integration of energy. Electricity will be available 24 hours to the residents of the state.

- ADB Deputy Resident Director Hoyun Jeong said that under this plan, 537 km underground cable system, modernization of power network, capacity development of substations and power distribution process will also be made more effective.
- Under the MoU, Power Transmission Corporation of Uttarakhand Limited (Pitkul) will strengthen the power transmission network with an investment of about Rs 850 crore. At the same time, Uttarakhand Power Corporation Limited (UPCL) will underground the power line of Dehradun city for about Rs 750 crore.
- Apart from 11 KV, UPCL will also underground 33 KV power lines at some places and 537 km of main roads and associated supporting roads. At the same time, along with building new sub-stations, Pitkul will also build power lines.

Country's first Himalayan Air Safari started from Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On December 16, 2023, the country's first Himalayan Air Safari was launched from Uttarakhand. Uttarakhand has become the first state in the country to start Gyrocopter Adventure.

Key Points

- It may be noted that a successful trial of the flight of Gyrocopter was conducted at Bairagi Camp in Haridwar, in which DM Haridwar Dheeraj Singh Garbyal flew.
- This is a unique initiative to promote adventure tourism in the state. The Tourism Department has received DGCA approval for air safari through gyrocopter.
- Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council in collaboration with Rajas Aero Sports and Adventures Pvt. Ltd. will start air safari through Gyrocopter in the state. With a single seat aerocopter, tourists can enjoy

the thrill in the air and also admire the Himalayas and natural beauty from close.

- Additional Chief Executive Officer of Tourism Development Council, Ashwini Pundir said that tourists will be able to easily reach the untouched tourist places of the state with the help of Gyrocopter. You can also enjoy the aerial view of the Himalayas, mountain ranges and rivers.
- Single seater aerocopter has been purchased from Germany. This will promote adventure tourism. A Gyrocopter trial was conducted in Haridwar on Saturday.



Uttarakhand got the best state award in Adventure Tourism

Why in News?

Uttarakhand was awarded the Best State in Adventure Tourism award by the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI) in an event organized in Kevadiya, Gujarat on December 18, 2023.

Key Points

- It may be noted that in view of new initiatives and encouragement in adventure tourism, Uttarakhand has been given the best state award. Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve received this award in the program.
- On this occasion, Secretary Sachin Kurve said that in the last one year, Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council has done remarkable work towards developing the state as the leading adventure tourism state of the country.

Note:

- The Paragliding Acro Festival was organised for the first time in Tehri Lake. In which 54 pilots from 26 countries participated. Apart from this, Aero Safari with Gyrocopter has been started in the country from Uttarakhand.
- The Secretary said that apart from Ganga, exemption in operator fee has been given for river rafting and kayaking in Sharda, Alaknanda, Tons & Bhagirathi rivers. This will provide new employment opportunities.
- He said that rules for adventure tourism like river rafting and kayaking, aero sports, trekking, and vote parasailing are being prepared.
- Apart from pilgrimage, the state government is focusing on adventure tourism to promote tourism activities in the state. Uttarakhand has a lot of potential in river rafting, paragliding, aero sports, mountaineering and trekking.
- The state government is moving towards making the state an adventure tourism destination. For this, a provision of 100 percent subsidy for adventure activities and services was made in the new tourism policy.



Uttarakhand got the award for Best State in Adventure Tourism

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on December 19, 2023, Uttarakhand has been awarded the best state award in adventure tourism.

Key Points

- This award was presented to Uttarakhand by the Adventure Tour Operators Association of India (ATOAI).

- This award program was held in Kevadiya, Gujarat where Uttarakhand Secretary Tourism Sachin Kurve received the award.
- Secretary Tourism Sachin Kurve said that for the first time a Paragliding Acro Festival was organised in Tehri Lake, in which 54 pilots from 26 countries participated.
- Secretary Tourism Sachin Kurve said that Aero Safari with Gyrocopter has been started in the country from Uttarakhand.
- It should be noted that Uttarakhand has a lot of potential in river rafting, paragliding, aero sports, mountaineering, trekking etc.



Tribal areas with population more than 100 will be connected by roads in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on December 20, 2023, under the Prime Minister's Tribal Justice Maha Abhiyan (PM Janman), such tribal areas of Uttarakhand, whose population is more than 100, will be connected by roads.

Note:

Key Points

- Under this campaign, Uttarakhand has so far got four roads and eight bridges.
- Chief Executive Officer of PM Gram Sadak Yojana, Karmendra Singh said that under this scheme, in the 1st phase in Uttarakhand, Hasanpur of Dehradun district, Jaspur Chamaria of Haridwar, Kherwadi of Champawat and Chhipaltara settlements of Pithoragarh were selected to be connected by road routes.
- In Uttarakhand, URRDA (Uttarakhand Rural Road Development Agency), the nodal agency of Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana, has been given the responsibility of construction of roads and bridges.
- Karmendra Singh said that under this scheme, roads ranging from 2 km to 13 km will be built.
- It should be noted that 5 tribes live in Uttarakhand, Bhotia, Tharu, Jaunsari, Boxa and Raji. They were declared a Scheduled Tribe in the year 1967. Of these, the Boxa and Raji are particularly vulnerable tribal groups (PVTGs).
- It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi had announced this campaign from Khunti, Jharkhand on the occasion of Tribal Pride Day on November 15, 2023.



Five Thousand Mini Anganwadi Centers will be Upgraded

Why In News?

Recently, Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister of Uttarakhand, Rekha Arya, said in a review meeting with departmental officials in the assembly auditorium that five thousand mini Anganwadi centers of the state will be upgraded. This will provide employment to five thousand women.

**Key Points**

- Minister Rekha Arya said that under the Ekal Mahila Yojana, a proposal of 75 percent subsidy for self-employment to widows, destitute, unmarried, divorced, abandoned, disaster and acid attack affected women will be brought in the cabinet.
- He said that under the announcement of the Chief Minister, single women have to be linked to self-employment to make them self-reliant. Its proposal has been sent to the Finance Department.
- The departmental minister said that the government will provide roofs to needy women. Work will be done on a scheme to provide roofs to disaster affected and roofless women.
- All the meritorious girls of the state will be honored on National Girl Child Day on January 24, 2024. In this regard, instructions have been given to the officials of the department to prepare the list of girls.



Note:

Key Points

Details

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Summary

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