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Preparing to Abolish the Transfer Rights of Teachers by Making Rules in Place of Transfer Act

Why In News?

On January 31, 2023, the Education Minister of Uttarakhand, Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat told that in the Uttarakhand Education Department, preparations are being made to abolish the transfer rights of teachers by making rules instead of the Act.

Key points

- Education Minister Dhan Singh Rawat said that the draft of the rules being made on the lines of Haryana is to be placed before the Secretary Committee by the government, in which it is clearly written that transfer will not be considered as the right of the teacher.
- It is noteworthy that transparent transfers in the education department have been a challenge for the governments since the formation of the state. Many questions have been raised on the state government regarding arbitrary transfers. This is the reason that the government abolished the transfer the year 2012 for the transfer of teachers and policy made in the year 2017 made the Transfer Act in, for all the departments along with the Education Department 2018 which was implemented from the year, but the government is going to make rules again.
- In the draft prepared by the Education Department, schools have been divided into two zones for the transfer of teachers (mountainous and plain). The draft clarifies that an online process will be adopted for transfers, in which mandatory transfers will be made to the vacant posts available in the order of preference based on the coefficients of teachers. Based on request, transfers of special category teachers will be done.
- Raghuvir Pundir, state president of the Junior High School Teachers Association, said that the Act is expected to transfer schools from inaccessible to accessible areas. If the Act is replaced by rules, only the preferred teachers who circumambulate officials and ministers will be able to transfer to convenient schools.

The Tableau of Manaskhand of Uttarakhand was Awarded for Getting the First Position in the Country

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on January 31, 2023, the Union Minister of State for Defence Ajay Bhatt gave the award to Uttarakhand's tableau Manaskhand for getting the first place in the parade organized on the Republic Day in New Delhi on the path of duty. Director General Information Banshidhar Tiwari received the award on behalf of the state.

Key points

- State Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama told that if the tableau of Uttarakhand gets the first place in the country, the people of the country and abroad will get acquainted with the folk culture of Uttarakhand along with Manaskhand.
- On this occasion, Director General Information Banshidhar Tiwari said that after the guidance of the Chief Minister, a tableau based on Manaskhand was proposed.
- He said that on behalf of the Uttarakhand state, a group of 18 artistes had presented their tableau in Manaskhand on the path of duty. Jhanki's theme song 'Jai Ho Kumaon, Jai Ho Garhwal' was written by the famous Janakavi of Pithoragarh, Janardan Upreti. It was composed by Saurabh Maithani and colleagues. This Theme Song was Produced by Pahadi Dagdia, Dehradun.
- The Director General of Information said that on the lines of Shri Kedarnath and Shri Badrinath, work is also being done on the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission scheme for the mythological temples of Kumaon on the instructions of the Chief Minister. With this, these major temples must be developed. In the first phase, more than two dozen temples have been included in this.
- These include Jageshwar Mahadev, Chitai Golju Temple, Suryadev Temple, Nanda Devi Temple, Kasardevi Temple, Jhankar Sam Temple, Patal Bhuvaneshwar, Haat kalika Temple, Mostamanu Temple, Berinag Temple, Malenath Temple, Thal Kedar Temple, Bagnath Mahadev, Baijnath Temple, Kot Bhramari

Note:

Temple, Patal Rudreshwar. Cave, Goljyu temple, Nikat Goralchaud Maidan, Purnagiri Temple, Varahi Devi Temple, Devidhura, Reetha Meetha Sahib, Nainadevi Temple, Garjiyadevi Temple, Kainchidham, Chaiti (Bal Sundari) Temple, Atariya Devi Temple and Nanakmatta Sahib are prominently included.

Every City of Uttarakhand will Become Smart with UIDF

Why In News?

On February 2, 2023, Additional Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand Anand Vardhan said that the Central Government has announced the creation of Urban Infrastructure Development Fund (UIDF) in the general budget, so that after Dehradun Smart City, every city of the state will now become smart.

Key points

- Additional Chief Secretary Anand Vardhan said that with the formation of UIDF, infrastructure development schemes like NABARD will be able to get loans at minimum interest rates.
- Till now, loans from the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) were available at the lowest rates for developing rural infrastructure. In urban areas, developing infrastructure proved to be quite expensive amid the pressure of increasing population and the need for resources. Loans had to be taken from agencies at expensive interest rates, which was also a challenging task.
- Anand Vardhan said that the UIDF for tier-2 and tier-3 cities will be operated under the National Housing Bank (NHB).
- UIDF will transform urban areas and overcome the challenges of rapid infrastructure development.

Three-Day Vasantotsav begins in Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On March 3, 2023, Uttarakhand Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd) and Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated the three-day Vasantotsav at the Raj Bhavan complex in Dehradun.

Key points

- Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) launched toll free farmers helpline number 18003135685 on behalf of Horticulture Department to solve the problems of farmers.
- He released a book titled 'Dry Floral Commercial' handbook of the Horticulture Department and a short film on Nakshatra Vatika. At the same time, the Postal Department released the special postal cover of Timru selected for this year and inaugurated the postage stamp exhibition.
- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that Vasantotsav gives the message of connecting with nature and encourages people to protect the environment. Through this festival, the products of Uttarakhand agriculture and horticulture will be promoted.
- In the cultural evening organized at Raj Bhavan, school children along with culture department presented mesmerizing programs and dances. Cultural artists presented folk dances like Jhumelo, Chhapeli, Chanchari, Tandi, Harul etc.
- 698 participants in cut flower (Traditional) competition, 191 participants in cut flower (non-traditional) category, 22 in potted plant category (private nursery), 42 in loose flower category, 17 in potted plant (non-floral) category, 13 in cactus and seclant category, 27 in hanging pot category, 22 in spot on photography, 17 in lawn category, 8 participants participated in fresh petal rangoli and 946 participants in painting competition.
- In the cultural evening organized at Raj Bhavan, school children along with culture department presented mesmerizing programs and dances. Cultural artists presented folk dances like Jhumelo, Chhapeli, Chanchari, Tandi, Harul etc.
- During the Vasantotsav organized at Raj Bhavan from March 3 to 5, many types of competitions will also be organized along with the flower exhibition.



Note:

Rudraprayag and Tehri Most Landslide Affected Districts

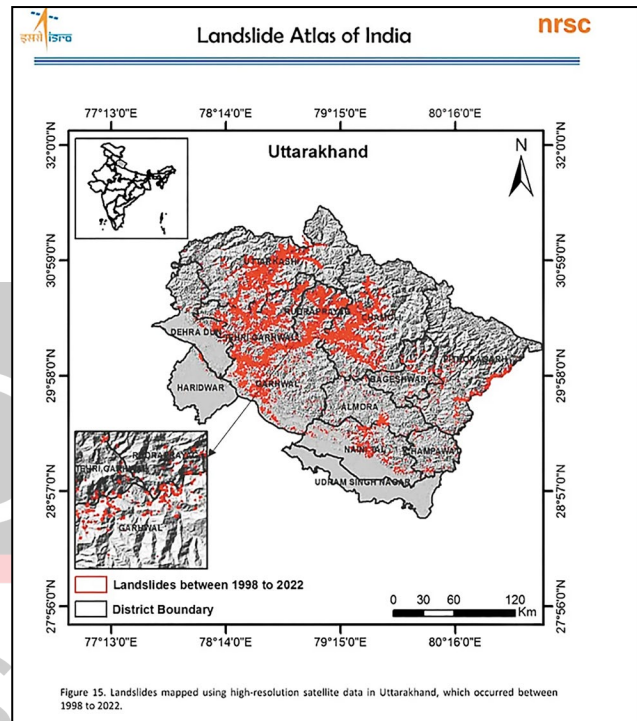
Why In News?

On March 6, 2023, Dr. D.P. Doval, former scientist at Wadia Himalayan Ground Science Institute, said that the recently released landslide map report of the National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC's) of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) revealed that Uttarakhand has revealed that Uttarakhand K Rudraprayag and Tehri districts are the most affected districts of landslides in the country.

Key points

- It is known that the city of Joshimath of Chamoli district is in the grip of the danger of landslides these days. Scientists are interacting with its technical investigation and sensing the danger. However, the reports of pictures taken from the satellite are showing that Uttarkashi is at 21st position in the country. Pauri is the 23rd of Garhwal and 29th ranking of Dehradun district.
- Rudraprayag is the highest landslide density district in the country. That is, this district is in danger of the most social and economic damage to this district. The same situation is also in Tehri district. Both the districts are geographically smaller than other districts. In this sense, landslide density has also appeared large.
- Rudraprayag is the district with the highest landslide density in the country. That is, this district is most at risk of social and economic damage from landslides. The same is the case with Tehri district. Both these districts are geographically smaller than the other districts. In this sense also, the landslide density has appeared large.
- According to the atlas, Rudraprayag and Tehri are the first two districts most risky in terms of landslides in the country. So, the least sensitive districts are Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar are also in the state.
- NRSC's landslide risk analysis includes 11 districts of Himachal in 147 districts. Mandi district is the biggest threat from landslides in Himachal. The rank of this district in the state is 16th.
- Among the Himalayan states, 14 districts of Jammu and Kashmir are included in the list of landslide risk districts. Among them, Rajouri is the fourth most landslide-affected district in the country and Poonch is the sixth most landslide-affected district.

- There are a total of 10 districts in Kerala in the list of 147 sensitive districts, where landslides are threatened. The list of 10 most landslides risk districts include three districts in Kerala.
- Former scientist Dr. D.P. Doval said that the entire Himalayan region is sensitive to landslides. Detailed studies should be done based on this report of NRAC. What is the actual loss from landslides? How many populations is he affecting? With this, policy regulators can decide what kind of plan they must make.
- The most affected district of Uttarakhand (In red)-



Cath Lab will open in All Medical Colleges of Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On March 7, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the setting up of Cath Labs in all government medical colleges of the state at a program organized at main Seva Sadan in Dehradun on Jan Aushadhi Diwas.

Key points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that complete arrangements for MRI and CT scan will be made in

Note:

all the districts and medical colleges and hospitals of the state. With this, the shortage of technicians will be met.

- In the program, the Chief Minister felicitated Dr. Puneet Dhamija, who did excellent work in the field of Jan Aushadhi in 2022-23, Mukul Agarwal, who did excellent work as Jan Aushadhi Mitra, and Kusum Goyal, who did excellent work in the field of Jan Aushadhi Jyoti. awarded to.
- On this occasion, State Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat told that the government is giving assistance of five lakh rupees in all the Jan Aushadhi Kendra's being opened in the state. 225 Jan Aushadhi Kendra's have been opened and the state has yet achieved the target of opening 400 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.
- He informed that all 670 Nyay Panchayats opened in co-operative societies in one Jan Aushadhi Kendra will be of the state.
- The Chief Minister said that at present Jan Aushadhi Yojana has become a powerful medium of both service and employment. This scheme has benefited not only men but also women. There are more than one thousand Jan Aushadhi Kendra's across the country, which are run only by women. This scheme is also emphasizing the self-reliance of daughters.
- So far, 70 health and wellness centers have been established in the state with the help of the central government under the Ayushman Yojana. Along with all the services related to Yoga, Ayurveda, Panchakarma, facilities like lab testing and Jan-Aushadhi Kendra have also been added to these centers for the medical facilities of the general public.



Chief Minister Single Women Empowerment Self Employment Scheme

Why In News?

On March 7, 2023, Uttarakhand's Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya said that the Chief Minister has announced 'Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Sashakt Swarozgar Yojana' to make single women self-reliant and empowered, to give them self-employment in the village itself.

Key points

- Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya said that women from minimum 25 years to maximum 45 years will be eligible for 'Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Sashakt Swarozgar Yojana' and Uttarakhand native, permanent resident, single, widow, abandoned, divorced, Crime and acid victim's women will also be eligible for this scheme.
- The objective of this scheme is to strengthen the economic status of women and improve their standard of living by providing them social security. For this, a corpus fund of Rs 50 lakh has been created, which will be proposed in the Cabinet to increase it.
- Minister Rekha Arya said that the monthly income of the eligible woman should not exceed Rs 6000 per month. Apart from this, she should not be working in any organized service, non-government, government undertaking etc. They do not receive state, family pension. However, widows, disabled etc. women who get pension from welfare schemes will also be eligible for the scheme.
- Under the 'Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Sashakt Swarozgar Yojana', women will be given 50 percent subsidy on projects ranging from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh. Before the start of the project, 50 percent loan and 25 percent grant money will be given as the first instalment, while the repayment instalment of 50 percent loan will start three months after the start of work on the project.
- The Minister for Women Empowerment and Child Development informed that after successful repayment of 12 months, loans at the rate of one percent interest for 25 percent subsidy will be given in the form of second instalment.

Note:

- Single women can start horticulture, agriculture, poultry, sheep, goat, animal husbandry, fisheries, horticulture, fruit, food processing and other businesses for self-employment.

Inauguration of Famous Maa Purnagiri Fair

Why In News?

On March 9, 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the three-month-long famous Maa Purnagiri Mela.

Key points

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said at the function held at Thuligad, the birthplace of Maa Purnagiri, that 50 lakh devotees reach for darshan during the six-month long Chardham Yatra. During the three-month fair period, 35 lakh devotees visit Purnagiri Dham.
- Maa Purnagiri Temple is situated at an altitude of about 3000 meters on the top of Annapurna Chhoti in the mountainous region of Tanakpur in Champawat district of Uttarakhand. The temple is considered a Shaktipeeth and is one of the 108 Siddhapeeths. It is believed that the navel of Sati Mata had fallen at this place.

38th National Games will Be Held in Uttarakhand

Why In News?

On March 12, 2023, Uttarakhand Olympic Association General Secretary D.K. Singh said that in the meeting of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA) chaired by P.T. Usha in Haldwani, it has been decided that in the year 2024, the 38th National Games will be held in Uttarakhand.

Key points

- It is known that Chhattisgarh had also claimed to host the National Games, but the IOA has hosted Uttarakhand.
- Apart from the development of sports in the country, other key points were also discussed in the meeting of the Indian Olympic Association. The National Games

were also discussed during which it was decided that the September-October National Games will be held in Goa in 37th this year.

- The IOA has immediately nominated IOA Joint Secretary Alaknanda Ashok to test its preparations for the National Games in Uttarakhand.
- It is known that after Kerala in 2015, Goa and Uttarakhand were to organize these games, in both these states, these games were postponed from but due to incomplete preparation 2018. The 36th National Games were allotted to Goa, 37th Chhattisgarh, while the 38th National Games to Uttarakhand in 2014 were allotted, but Goa withdrew from holding the 36th Games and the National Games continued to slip due to incomplete preparations in Chhattisgarh and Uttarakhand.
- It is known that in view of the continuous delay in the National Games, the then President of IOA, Haldwani resident Rajeev Mehta, after talking to the Government of India and the Government of Gujarat, got the National Games organized in Gujarat in September 2022 in a very short time.

Brave Women of Uttarakhand and Soldiers who Received Gallantry Awards will be Able to Travel Free of Cost in Roadways Buses

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on March 11, 2023, in the order issued by Uttarakhand's Military Welfare Secretary Deependra Kumar Chaudhary, it has been said that 1130 brave women of the state and 1727 soldiers and ex-servicemen who have received gallantry awards will be sent to Uttarakhand Transport Corporation buses. Will be able to travel for free.

Key points

- In the order issued by the Secretary of Military Welfare, Dipendra Kumar Chowdhary, it has been told that the expenses incurred on free travel in the buses of the Transport Corporation of Indian soldiers and their women who have received gallantry awards, will be paid and reimbursed by the Department of Military

Note:

Welfare as per the rules. Will be done on behalf of the Transport Corporation.

- It has been said in the order given to the Director of the State's Military Welfare and Rehabilitation Department that a proposal should be prepared and made available to the government in time for making budget arrangements through new demand in the income and expenditure of the Military Welfare Department.
- Significantly, the highest number of 203 brave women (war widows) are in Pithoragarh district in the state. In this, 185 brave women are the wives of martyred soldiers, 17 JCOs and one martyred army officer.
- Apart from this, 82 in Almora, 97 in Bageshwar, 32 in Champawat, 115 in Chamoli, 143 in Dehradun, 13 in Haridwar, 150 in Lansdowne, 69 in Nainital, 70 in Pauri, 43 in Rudraprayag, 63 in Tehri, 40 in Udham Singh Nagar. There are 10 Veer Naris in Uttarkashi.
- There is no dearth of brave soldiers in the state who displayed indomitable courage for the security of the country. 1727 soldiers and ex-servicemen have received various gallantry awards like Mahavir Chakra, Vir Chakra, Kirti Chakra, Shaurya Chakra, Sena Medal etc. in the state.

IIT Roorkee Discovered Unique Antibacterial Molecule

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on March 11, 2023, researchers at IIT Roorkee, Uttarakhand have discovered an antibacterial molecule that, when used with drugs, will not only prevent infections caused by Staphylococcus aureus and Pseudomonas aeruginosa bacteria, rather, it will also end drug resistance.

Key points

- The institute has named this molecule as IITR 00693. The findings of this research by IIT Roorkee have been published in the prestigious American Chemical Society Journal ACS Infectious Diseases.
- The research team includes Ashish Kothari and Balram Umar from Rishikesh AIIMS, besides Varsha Gupta from Government Medical College and Hospital, Chandigarh. Mehak Saini and Amit Gaurav from IIT Roorkee are also part of the team.

- Professor Ranjana Pathania, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering, IIT Roorkee, who led the research team, told that they are now working to develop the molecule as a behavioural therapeutic agent. Its clinical trial can be started soon.
- This new molecule of IIT will also have an effective effect on Gram-positive and negative bacteria. Apart from lung, intestine, joint and skin infections, this molecule will also give better results when given with other antibacterial medicines in infections spreading in the burning state.
- This new molecule will soon eliminate resistance to the drug during the treatment of deadly infections in delicate parts of the body and skin.

Uttarakhand Solar Energy Policy- 2023

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on March 13, 2023, the cabinet meeting held in Chamoli district of Uttarakhand approved the new solar energy policy (Uttarakhand Solar Energy Policy - 2023).

Key points

- In the Uttarakhand State Solar Energy Policy-2023, the government has expressed the expectation that by December 2027, 2500, MW of electricity will be generated in the state from this project. These will create new employment opportunities in the field of solar energy and will also increase the livelihood opportunities of the villagers.
- Under the new solar energy policy, solar power projects can also be installed on government or private land for private use or third-party sale.
- Solar power projects can also be set up outside the state from the level of UPCL. This provision has been made because IT is mandatory for UPCL to buy a certain percentage of its purchased electricity from solar power projects.
- The new policy also guarantees employment for local youth. It has been told that whoever takes government land on lease and installs his solar project, he will have to provide employment to 70 percent of the local youth. UREDA will issue this condition in its tender.

Note:

- The policy also provides that UPCL will prepare a green tariff proposal for solar energy, which will be sent to the Regulatory Commission. The regulatory commission can give consumers the option to choose green tariffs.
- Apart from this, feed in tariff can encourage those who give solar energy to the grid in peak hours. Virtual Net Metering (VNM) and Group Net Metering (GNM) can be used for easy access and monitoring.
- The responsibilities of UREDA have also been increased in the new policy. Under this, UREDA will have to set up a solar policy cell, under which solar projects will be passed through a single window. UREDA will have to be made a landbank and make a list of all government lands and buildings where solar power projects can be set up. Similarly, such private land will also have to be identified on which a private person can set up his project on lease.
- Benefits of the New Policy:
 - Solar energy projects will be installed through a single window portal.
 - Land use conversion fee, court fee, registration, land use approval, external development fee, investigation fee and infrastructure development fee will be exempted.
 - Whatever project will be taken up, UPCL will have to compulsorily buy power from it. This will reduce the risk of investors.
 - Consumers generating additional power through feed in tariffs will get compensation. At the same time, Deendayal Upadhyay Home Stay Development and Self Employment Scheme will also benefit from this.
 - There will be free access for our own use and for collective use and exemption from SGST and electricity charges.

Air Force's Three-Day Exercise Begins in Chinyalisour

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on March 13, 2023, a three-day exercise of the Air Force started at Chinyalisour airport in Uttarkashi district of Uttarakhand along the India-China border.

Key points

- Sources associated with the Air Force said that the landing and take-off of the Air Force's multi-purpose aircraft AN-32 will be practiced here in a three-day long exercise. Although the Air Force has successfully landed and taken-off AN-32 aircraft here earlier also. This is the first exercise of this year.
- Significantly, the Chinyalisour airport in Uttarkashi district along the India-China border is very important from a strategic point of view. This is the reason that the Indian Air Force wants to make this airport its Advance Landing Ground (ALG) and exercises its aircraft here from time to time.
- It is noteworthy that the full name of the AN-32 aircraft of the Air Force is Antonov-32. These were bought by the Air Force from the Soviet Union. It is a twin-engine military transport aircraft capable of operating in temperatures of 55 °C and altitudes of up to 14,500 feet, carrying five crew members including pilot, co-pilot, gunner, navigator and engineer and 50 people. This aircraft equipped with GPS also has radar and modern navigation system.

Cabinet Approves Vehicle Purchase Policy 2023

Why In News?

On February 15, 2023, Uttarakhand's Transport Secretary Arvind Singh Hyanki said that the cabinet has approved the policy 2023 to buy government vehicles for the state's special, very special dignitaries and different categories of officers.

Key points

- Transport Secretary Arvind Singh Hyanki said that up to Rs 35 lakh up to e-vehicles and general vehicles Rs 25 lakh can now be purchased for Uttarakhand ministers. This has 31 vehicles before March also made it easier to buy 1500 in the state.
- The Transport Secretary said that apart from the new prices of purchase of vehicles, the rates of reimbursement of rent for using private vehicles and fares for outsourced vehicles have also been increased.
- In reimbursement of rent of private vehicles, the rate of rent for B class has been increased from Rs 23,000 to Rs 41,272 per month, for C class from Rs 20,000 to

Note:

Rs 38,544, for D class from Rs 17,000 to Rs 33,007, for E class from Rs 17,000 to Rs 27,430 per month has been decided.

- For hired vehicles also, the fare for B class will be increased from Rs 41,100 to Rs 48,498, for C class from Rs 37,740 to Rs 44,533, for D-E class from Rs 27,000 to Rs 31,860.
- Prices increased in various categories-
 - Category A- Minister, Chief Secretary, High Court Judge, Chairman of Commissions, Additional Chief Secretary, Chief Conservator of Forests (Half), DGP, Principal Secretary and equivalent – 15 lakh (Old rate), 25 lakh (New rate), 35 lakh (Price Range for E-Vehicles).
 - Category B- Secretary, HOD, Divisional Commissioner, IG, Chief Forest Conservator, District Panchayat President, Municipal Corporation President and equivalent – 12 lakh (Old rate), 20 lakh (New rate), 25 lakh (Price limit of E-Vehicle).
 - Category C – Additional Secretary, Additional Head of Department, DIG, Additional PCCF, DM, SSP – 08 Lakh (Old Rate), 18 Lakh (New Rate), 20 Lakh (Price Limit of E-Vehicle).
 - Category D – Development Authority Vice President, CDO, Circle-Divisional Level Officer, Municipality President and equivalent – 06 lakh (Old rate), 14 lakh (New rate), 16 lakh (Price limit of E-Vehicle).
 - **Category E-** Nagar Panchayat President, District Level Officer, other authorized officers whose vehicle is allowed - 06 lakh (old rate) 10 lakh (new rate) 12 lakh (Price limit of E-Vehicle).

Two International Suspension Bridges Built on Kali River Started

Why In News?

On February 16, 2023, Reena Joshi, DM of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand and Dirghraj Upadhyay, CDO, Nepal, Dharchula., jointly inaugurated two international suspension bridges built on the Kali River in the international border between India and Nepal, bordering Tehsil Dharchula.

Key points

- These bridges will benefit the population of more than 10 thousands of the two countries. Business

activities between the two countries will also increase and bread-daughter relations will be strengthened.

- The length of suspension bridge built at Gasku on Kali River is about 140 meters and the length of Malghatya suspension bridge built at Jaikot is about 135 meters. The load capacity of both the bridges is 42 tonnes.
- The construction of bridges at both the places will benefit the population of more than 10,000 villages of India including Jaikot, Pangla, Gasku and Mal, Rapla, Dumling, Susarpani and many other villages of Nepal.
- Due to lack of bridges at these places, people of both the countries had to travel long distances on marriages and other auspicious occasions. During the rains, the people of Nepal used to cross the Kali River through strings, drums and tubes. The risk will be reduced by building a bridge.
- Significantly, with the construction of both the bridges, the number of bridges between India and Nepal on Kali River in Pithoragarh district has increased to 11. At present Jhulaghat, Daura, Dwalisera, Jauljibi, Baluwakot, Dharchula, Tigdam Rongti Nala, Badu-Jumma, Malghatya Jaikot, Gasku-Mal, Sita Pul is included.

Joint Military Exercise of Indo-Uzbek Armies will be held in Pithoragarh

Why In News?

According to the information received from the army on February 16, 2023, the joint military exercise (DUSTLIK) of the armies of India and Uzbekistan in the Pithoragarh military area of Uttarakhand will start from February 20, which will continue till March 5. In this, 45-45 soldiers of both the countries will participate.

Key points

- According to the information, during this joint military exercise, the soldiers of both countries will share their skills and experience. Military troops of both countries will practice counter-terrorism operations in mountainous, rural or urban areas.
- This joint exercise will strengthen the military relations between the two countries. 90 soldiers from both countries will participate in this joint exercise.

Note:

- Earlier, in the year 2019, a joint military exercise of Soldiers of India and Kazakhstan was held in Pithoragarh, while in the year 2021, the soldiers of India and Nepal were held.

State Government Approved Startup Revised Policy

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on February 16, 2023, the Uttarakhand government has approved the startup revised policy. In this policy, the government has set a target of creating one thousand startups within the next five years, besides increasing the incentives and financial assistance given to startups.

Key points

- According to the information, the state government will create a venture fund of Rs 200 crore to promote startups. With this, young entrepreneurs will be able to get funds at the government level to start business on innovative ideas. So far, only venture investors used to provide financial support to startups.
- The prize money given to the innovation idea winning in the Grand Challenge Award has been increased from Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh. Apart from this, if a startup company is registered in the purchase preference policy, then government departments can purchase up to Rs 10 lakh directly from the startup. The accredited startups will also be given the facility of free incubation for one year.
- per trademark to get the track mark of the startup company The government will provide an assistance of Rs 10,000 's product. Apart from this, financial assistance ranging Rs 1 from to 5 lakhs will be given for patenting two products. An assistance of Rs 10,000 has been provided in the policy for designing the products.
- In the policy, the government has provided for one-time seed funding up to Rs 10 lakh for recognized startups. Innovation startups from women, Scheduled Castes Scheduled Tribes, Disabled, rural areas will get an amount of Rs 12.5 lakh.
- In the new policy, innovation entrepreneurship will be promoted at the district level along with schools and colleges. With this, the government will encourage new innovative ideas.

Cabinet Approves 'Uttarakhand Millet Mission' Scheme

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on February 16, 2023, the Uttarakhand cabinet has approved the 'Uttarakhand Millet Mission' scheme to promote the state's traditional grain Manduwa, Jhangora.

Key points

- According to the information, the government has given the green signal to the 'Uttarakhand Millet Mission' for the first time to promote coarse grains. Under the Antyodaya Yojana, one kg of Manduwa will be available for one rupee on every ration card. Apart from this, Jhangora will also be given in the mid-day meal.
- This scheme will be started in Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and Nainital districts.
- Manduwa (Koda) crore has been made to promote the production and marketing of A provision of Rs 73 in the scheme. Out of this amount, 53 crores will be given to the Agriculture Department and 20 crores to the cooperative societies.
- Under the scheme, mandua will be purchased from farmers through cooperative societies at Rs 35.78 per kg.
- Significantly, the Central Government has announced Shri Anna Yojana in the budget. This will promote coarse grains.

Proposed National Skiing Championship Cancelled from 23 to 26 in Auli

Why In News?

On February 16, 2023, Praveen Sharma, secretary of the Ski and Snow Board Association of Uttarakhand, said that the proposed National Skiing Championship from February 23 to 26 at Auli in Chamoli district has been cancelled due to lack of snow.

Key points

- Praveen Sharma said that in this regard, the Ski and Snow Board Uttarakhand has informed all the concerned units of Ski and Snow Board India.

Note:

- Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj said that the state government had made all preparations for the National Skiing Championship, but due to lack of weather and less snowfall, the games had to be cancelled.
- It is known that till last year, the world-famous tourist center Auli used to be covered with snow and the crowd of tourists used to remain in Auli, but this time there was little or no snowfall in the New Year too. However, on New Year's Eve locals were speculating that snowfall would increase in Auli and there would be a National Skiing Competition, but that did not happen.
- Significantly, Auli is a major ski destination of India. Originally developed as a paramilitary base, the skiing slope of Auli is popular among tourists and professionals alike. In winter, Auli organizes many snow adventure events.
- Situated at an altitude of about 2,800 meters and surrounded by oak and coniferous forests, Auli offers panoramic views of some of India's highest peaks, including Nanda Devi 23rd highest peak (7,816 meters), the second highest peak in the country and the in the world.
- It is also the gateway to Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Park, including Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara. Popular trekking destinations like Gorsan Bugyal, Pangarchulla Summit and Tapovan can be reached through Auli.
- Apart from Auli, there are many other skiing destinations in Uttarakhand like Dayara Bugyal, Munsiyari and Mundali.

Forest Department to issue SOP for Quick Response Team

Why in News?

On February 19, 2023, Uttarakhand's Chief Wildlife Warden Dr. Sameer Sinha said that the forest department of the state will issue standard operating procedure (SOP) for the first time for QRT (Quick Response Team). Its blueprint is being prepared.

Key Points

- Chief Wildlife Warden Dr. Sameer Sinha said that under the standard operating procedure for QRT, rules and

regulations will be set for the employees joining QRT. Along with this, an action plan is also being prepared to reduce the damage to crops by wildlife.

- It is noteworthy that QRT plays an important role in reducing human-wildlife conflict in the state. But no SOP has been issued yet. There are no rules and regulations for the employees involved in the team.
- Dr. Sameer Sinha said that THE SOP will be issued by including all the points like what safety equipment will be given to the team, what will be the number of members in the team, what will be their scope of work. Along with this, they are also proposed to be given regular training.
- He said that an exercise is also being done by the Forest Department to form a Village Level Primary Response Team (PRT) in collaboration with the local community to reduce human-wildlife conflict.

Indo-Uzbekistan Joint Military Exercise 'DUSTLIK' Begins in Pithoragarh

Why in News?

On February 20, 2023, the 4th edition of joint military exercise 'DUSTLIK' between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army commenced today in Foreign Training Node, Pithoragarh (Uttarakhand).

Key Points

- 45 Soldiers each from Uzbekistan and Indian Army are participating in this exercise which is aimed at promoting positive relations between both the armies. The Indian Army contingent comprises of troops from an Infantry Battalion from the Garhwal Rifles Regiment.
- The first edition of the exercise was held in Uzbekistan in November 2019 .
- The 14 days long joint exercise would focus on joint counter-terrorist operations in mountainous and semi-urban scenario under UN mandate and will include field training exercises, combat discussions, lectures, demonstrations and culminate with a validation exercise.
- Both sides will jointly train, plan and execute a series of tactical drills for neutralisation of likely threats,

Note:



while learning to exploit new generation equipment and technology for conducting joint operations.

- The bonhomie, esprit-de-corps and goodwill generated during the exercise will go a long way in further strengthening the bonds between both armies by enabling understanding of each other's organisation and methodology of conducting various operations.

State Government Approves Four New Policies

Why in News?

On February 20, 2023, Uttarakhand Industries Minister Chandan Ram Das told in a review meeting of departmental schemes in the Vidhan Sabha office in Dehradun that the role of MSMEs is important in providing employment in the state. In view of this, the state government has approved four new policies.

Key Points

- In this meeting, the Minister of Industries told that the government will give exemption on capital investment within 10 years to the industries with investment of more than 200 crores in the state.
- Apart from this, a budget provision of Rs 40 crore will be made for startup schemes. The government will provide all possible help to the new entrepreneurs.
- Under Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana, Mudra and Swanidhi Yojana, Mukhyamantri Nano Yojana, Pradhan Mantri Rojgar Srujan Yojana, the target of providing 100 per cent employment was achieved.
- Industries Minister Chandan Ram Das instructed the officers to revise the standards of the Chief Minister's Nano Self Employment Scheme. To create a private industrial sector, the investor should have his own land, in which the government will give grants to develop infrastructure.
- He said that grants will be given for the construction of logistics park, warehouse, cold store, truck terminal in the private industrial area.
- Financial assistance will be given by the government to restart 350 plastic industries in the state and do new business as a plastic alternative.
- It is known that due to the ban on single-use plastic, 350 plastic industries manufacturing in Uttarakhand were closed.

Tourism Police Structure will be Ready in Uttarakhand on the Lines of Goa-Kerala

Why In News?

On February 21, 2023, Uttarakhand police spokesperson and ADG V.K. Murugesan said that tourism police will soon be formed in the state on the lines of Goa and Kerala. A new syllabus will be prepared for this.

Key points

- Police spokesperson and ADG V. Murugesan said that Uttarakhand is a tourist state. There are many cities here where crores of people come for tourism and pilgrimage throughout the year. The need for tourism police is being emphasized to communicate with them and overcome problems.
- He said that the guidelines were issued by the Ministry of Tourism last year. In this, all the states were asked to form a strong tourism police in their states.
- V. Murugesan told that for this Uttarakhand Police is studying the structure of Kerala and Goa Police, on the lines of which Tourism Police is to be formed in Uttarakhand as well. Soon a proposal will be sent to the government for the structure of tourism police. It will be decided only after consultation with the government that how big the structure will be.
- He said that the training module of police officers and employees will also be decided in a similar way that it will boost tourism in Uttarakhand.
- The tourism police will be given permanent postings in the cities where tourists visit throughout the year. These police personnel will be trained like a tourist guide.
- Police spokesman and ADG said that the police will not only help the tourists under law and order, but they will be helped like guides. For this, the policemen will also be given information about the history, geography of the state. They will be told closely about the important places, temples, etc. here.

'Chief Minister Utthan' and 'Gyankosh Yojana'

Why In News?

On February 20, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that students in the state will

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now get free coaching for many competitive exams including IAS-PCS. For the preparation of these exams, it has been announced to start 'Chief Minister Utthan' and 'Gyankosh Yojana'.

Key points

- The Chief Minister said that under the Mukhyamantri Utthan Yojana, students in the state IPS will be given coaching for competitive examinations like IAS, PCS, NDA, CDS, Medical and Engineering. This will facilitate students who are unable to prepare for these examinations due to financial constraints.
- He said that these students will be provided facilities like online study material, offline classes, examination related courses, question banks etc.
- Establishment of a rich library in every district using departmental hostels, ashram method schools and departmental establishments under the 'Gyankosh Yojana', the libraries will be able to be used by youth, students, teachers and community members preparing for competitive exams.
- A contact centre will be set up in libraries listing qualified experienced and professional lecturers, who will address the thematic problem related to competitive examinations and will be reviewed by the expert committee by the expert committee to list experts for the use of libraries, arrangement of books, infrastructure etc.

Two Soldiers of Uttarakhand Got Prime Minister's Jeevan Raksha Medal

Why In News?

According to information received from the media on February 22, 2023, two constables of Uttarakhand Police Faizan Ali and Rajesh Kunwar have been awarded the Prime Minister's Defence Police Medal. The medal was presented to him by Madhya Pradesh Governor Mangubhai Patel.

Key points

- In the year 2019, the two constables had rescued six members of a family trapped in a house in Raipur when a parked car caught fire.

- State DGP Ashok Kumar said that the All-India Police Duty Meet was organized in Madhya Pradesh's Bhopal from 13 to 17 February. It was during this program itself that the medal was announced for both the soldiers.
- It is noteworthy that on the night of July 5, 2019, a car caught fire at a house in Dashmesh Vihar Colony under Raipur police station area of Dehradun. On information, Constable Faizan Ali and Constable Rajesh Kunwar, appointed on Cheetah duty, immediately reached there. Constables Faizan and Rajesh saved the lives of six people with their presence of mind without caring for their lives.

'Unmanned Traffic Management Software'

Why In News?

On February 22, 2023, Uttarakhand Police Communication ADG Amit Sinha said that every drone flying in the state will now be in front of the eyes of the police. For this, the police are now preparing unmanned traffic management (UTM) software.

Key points

- Amit Sinha, ADG Police Communications, said an agreement is being signed with a Delhi-based company to develop unmanned traffic management (UTM) software. It will be mandatory for every drone operator to register on this software. The police will test this software next week.
- The Delhi-based company is developing UTM software for the police. Every drone will be registered on it. This will tell the live location from take-off to route and landing. If a drone is being flown without registration, it will also be jammed with a jammer. It will also be mandatory for those flying cargo drones to amateur drones to register on this software.
- It is worth noting that the who, where and why drones are flying drones in the state so far police do not have any mechanism to keep an eye on, while small cargo drones are also being flown in many parts of the state. Medicines, blood samples and all kinds of materials are being transported to far-flung areas. In such a situation, some anti-social elements can also take advantage of it.

Note:

- At present, the DGCA has made unique identification number (UIN) mandatory for drones. Now the UIN number of each drone is released. The police will feed this number into their software. Through this, the police will be able to know his location. This police software will work on the basis of no permission no take-off.
- Until last year, incoming drones did not have UIN. It had RID (remote identification). Along with registering the RID, the police will install special chips in these drones. This chip will be installed to tell the location.

Environmental Approval for Five Years Mining Work in Four Rivers of Uttarakhand

Why In News?

According to information received from media sources on February 23, 2023, on the request of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, the Union Ministry of Environment and Forests has approved renovation of four major rivers of Uttarakhand for the next five years.

Key points

- In Uttarakhand, environmental approval has been received for mining work for the next five years in the four major rivers of Kumaon division, Gaula, Sharda, Dabka and Kosi. This will not only provide mining material from the rivers, but also provide employment to 50,000 local people and laborers associated with this business.
- Significantly, when Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami was in Delhi recently, he had raised this issue with the Union Minister. According to the Chief Minister, it is very important for the development of very important infrastructure like civil construction works, expansion of road and rail network, which is necessary religiously and strategically. Availability of RBM will be ensured from these rivers.
- **Gaula River**
 - The Gaula River, known as the Gold Mine in Kumaon, is a Himalayan River that flows through India. The source of this river is Paharpani and the end point is Kichha. The length of this river is about 103 km.
 - The Gaula River originates from the Sattal Lake in Uttarakhand. It flows through Kathgodam, Haldwani and Shahi. It then merges with the Ramganga River, a tributary of the Ganga.

- The Gaula catchment has been affected by several landslides as a result of soil erosion and deforestation. Also, there has been a decrease in the water of the springs and overall rainfall over the years, which has reduced its flow. After hitting the ground near Haldwani, the Gaula riverbed is facing soil erosion due to excessive excavation.
- **Sharda River**
 - Sharda River is a Himalayan River also known as 'Kali River', 'Kutiyangdi' or 'Mahakali River'. It flows through Uttarakhand.
 - The traditional source of the Sharda River is Limpiyadhura in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand, at an altitude of 3,600 m (about 11,800 ft) above sea level.
 - The length of this river is 252 km, and the basin area is 18,140 sq km. Kali River is the mainstream of Mahakali River.
- **Koshi River**
 - Koshi River, also known as Kosi or Kaushiki, is one of the major and holy rivers of North India. This river is mentioned by the name of Kaushiki in the Manaskhand of Skandpuran.
 - It is an important river of the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. It is a tributary of Ramganga. Kair and Sheesham forests are found on the banks of the river.
 - The length of Koshi river is 168 km and its drainage area is spread over an area of about 346 sq km.
- **Dabka River**
 - Dabka River is a stream in Uttarakhand and its height is 1,100 meters.
 - Flowing east of the Kosi River, this river emerges from the west of a place called Garampani in Nainital and flows out of the state near Bajpur, flowing through Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar.

Contract Signed for Construction of Yamunotri Ropeway

Why In News?

On February 23, 2023, in the presence of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj, a contract was signed between the tourism

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department of the state and the private construction company 'SRM Engineering and FIL Industry Private Limited' for the Yamunotri ropeway project.

Key points

- Proposed 3.38 km from Jankichatti (Kharsali) to Yamunotri Dham. Clearance has already been received from the Forest Ministry for the construction of long ropeway. The ropeway will be operated on PPP mode. About 167 crore rupees will be spent on this ropeway.
- Due to the construction of this ropeway, the devotees going to Yamunotri Dham will get six km. You will not have to climb on foot. You can reach Yamunotri in just 15 to 20 minutes by ropeway. It takes about three hours for the devotees to reach Yamunotri Dham situated at a height of about 11 thousand feet through the Jankichatti (Kharsali) pedestrian route.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that after the completion of the rope-way project, Yamunotri Dham will be connected to its winter residence Kharsali, and the devotees will be able to reach Maa Yamuna easily and take advantage of pollution-free natural beauty. Along with providing facilities to the devotees, the employment resources of the people will increase at the local level as well.
- State Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve said that this 3.38 km long ropeway to be built on PPP mode will be of monocable detachable type, which will be constructed according to European standards on the lines of France and Switzerland.
- The tourism secretary said that the passenger capacity of this ropeway would be to carry about 500 people in an hour while eight passengers would be able to go in one coach at a time. The lower terminal of the ropeway will be built on 1.787 hectares of land at Kharsali while the upper terminal will be built on 0.99 hectares of land at Yamunotr

On the Lines of Anganwadi Workers, Now Food Mothers will also Get Honor Money

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on February 24, 2023, on the lines of Anganwadi workers of Uttarakhand, now preparations are on to give honorarium to the food mothers working in government

schools of the state on retirement at the age of 60 years. Its proposal has been prepared by the department and sent to the government.

Key points

- A corpus fund of Rs 5 crore will be created to give honorarium to food mothers working in government schools on retirement at the age of 60 years, with the interest of which, on an average, 600 food mothers who retire every year will be given honorarium of Rs 10 to 25 thousand. Will go
- It is noteworthy that on the retirement of Anganwadi workers working under the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development, an amount of Rs 30,000 is given from the Women's Welfare Fund, whereas on the retirement of mothers preparing mid-day meals for children in government schools. They don't get anything.
- The proposal prepared by the department to give honor money to food mothers on retirement is of two types.
- In the first proposal, it has been told that a contribution of Rs 144 should be taken from the food mothers every month or it should be deposited on behalf of the government, by doing this they will get an amount ranging from Rs 8654 to Rs 51923 after leaving the service.
- Under the second proposal, food mothers will be given an amount ranging from Rs 10,000 to Rs 25,000 when they retire in 60 years.
- It is worth mentioning that in the state, food mothers are being given an honorarium of Rs 3000 every month. In this, 900 rupees are given by the central government and 2100 rupees are given by the state government.
- According to the departmental officials, a proposal has been sent to the Central Government to increase the honorarium from Rs.3000 to Rs.5000.

The Responsibility of Assessing the Energy Needs of Uttarakhand is Now given to the American Organization

Why In News?

According to the information received from the media on February 26, 2023, the Uttarakhand government has

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entrusted the responsibility of estimating the energy needs by the year 2025 to the American organization Mackenzie.

Key points

- The state government has decided that the energy needs of 2025 also need to be met to make the state better. Therefore, McKenzie has been given the responsibility of assessing the total need for electricity in every region.
- The state government is trying to make the state the best state by 2025. Energy is also an important part of this because hydropower projects are not getting relatively electricity.
- The US institution Mackenzie will report to the government on all aspects of the state, looking at the requirements of electricity. The organization will also suggest how energy needs can be met.
- The government has also decided that all the departments will tell how much electricity will be consumed in the coming time and how much electricity they will save. A meeting has also been held with stakeholders to see what measures can be taken to save electricity.
- The focus of the government is to create options like solar energy in the departments, so that they generate their own electricity and use it themselves.

Preparation to give 50 Percent Subsidy on Schemes to Make Single Women Self-Reliant

Why In News?

On February 26, 2023, Uttarakhand's Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya said that the state government is preparing to give 50 percent subsidy on schemes up to one lakh rupees to make single women self-reliant. Its proposal is being prepared by the department.

Key points

- Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya said that it can be announced on Women's Day (March 8).

- To make single women self-reliant, giving 50 percent subsidy on schemes up to one lakh rupees will encourage self-employment in various sectors including animal husbandry, fisheries, computer training, spice industry, millets.
- Rekha Arya said that women of the state up to 45 years of age, whose husband has died or are unmarried and are financially weak. Such women will get its benefit. For this, a condition has also been kept that the monthly income of women should not exceed Rs.6,000.
- According to departmental officials, according to a report of the Social Welfare Department, the number of single women in the state is three and a half lakhs. This also includes women over the age of 45.
- It is known that the number of economically weaker women in the state can be between one and a half to two lakh.

Har-ki-Pauri Corridor on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath

Why In News?

On February 26, 2023, Vinay Shankar Pandey, District Magistrate of Haridwar, the religious city of Uttarakhand state, said that on the lines of Kashi Vishwanath Corridor, Haridwar's Har-ki-Pauri Corridor will also be developed, whose construction work is expected to start in 2024. For this, the Cabinet has given constitutional approval.

Key points

- District Magistrate Vinay Shankar Pandey said that the work of the corridor will run in five different projects.
- He said that RFP (Request for Proposal) has been formed to develop the corridor. The mechanized body is finalising the works of the corridor. Soon a consultant will be appointed to develop the corridor and the design and planning of the corridor will be done by the consultant. After this, the DPR of the corridor will be made.
- Vinay Shankar Pandey told that after the preparation of the DPR of the Har-ki-Pauri corridor and before developing the corridor, discussions will be held with Shriganga Sabhavyapar Mandal, sadhus, akhadas, media and social workers in Haridwar. Work will start after consultation.

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- The District Magistrate said that the main purpose of making the corridor is to make Haridwar beautiful, not to devastate the people. Encroachments will be demolished to develop the corridor.
- He said that there are three routes to reach Har-ki-Pauri. People reach Har-ki-Pauri via Bhimgoda, Upper Road and Motibazar. Work will be done to improve both the condition and direction of these routes.
- There are plans to develop Har-ki-Pauri, Kankhal, Satikund, Sanyas Road, Bhupatwala area, Bharat Mata Mandir area, Mansa Devi temple, Chandi Devi temple etc. for the corridor.
- A lot of work will be done in the Har-ki-Pauri area. Electrical and water evacuation will be done underground. Fountains and landscapes will be built in place.

Country's First Government Mother Milk Bank will be Made for Orphan Children in the State

Why In News?

On February 27, 2023, Uttarakhand Health Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat announced the creation of the country's first government mother milk bank for Orphan

children in the state at Amar Ujala's Emerging Leaders of Garhwal program.

Key points

- The health minister said that under the scheme, lactating women will be able to donate milk in this bank. Initially, such a bank will be created in the state. He said that this will be the first and separate milk bank of its kind in the country.
- Through this milk bank, milk will be made available to those new-borns whose mother dies during delivery.
- Dr. Rawat said that to reduce infant mortality rate in the state, the government is focusing on institutional delivery of pregnant women. Due to the efforts of the government, where Uttarakhand was ranked 32nd in the country in infant mortality rate, it has come down to 26th position today. Efforts are on to reduce it further.
- The government has decided for free transportation of pregnant women to hospitals. Eja Boi Shagun scheme is also being run, under which Rs 2,000 is given to pregnant women. Rs 1500 is being given to the mothers for food and Rs 500 for the naming ceremony of the child.
- He said that another plan is being prepared by the government to reduce infant mortality rate. Under this, pregnant women will be kept in home stay 15 days in advance. For this, arrangements will be made in hotels, hospitals etc.

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Key Points

Details

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Summary

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