



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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## Multiple Projects in Tehri

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand inaugurated and laid the foundation stones of 160 projects worth Rs 415 crore in Tehri.

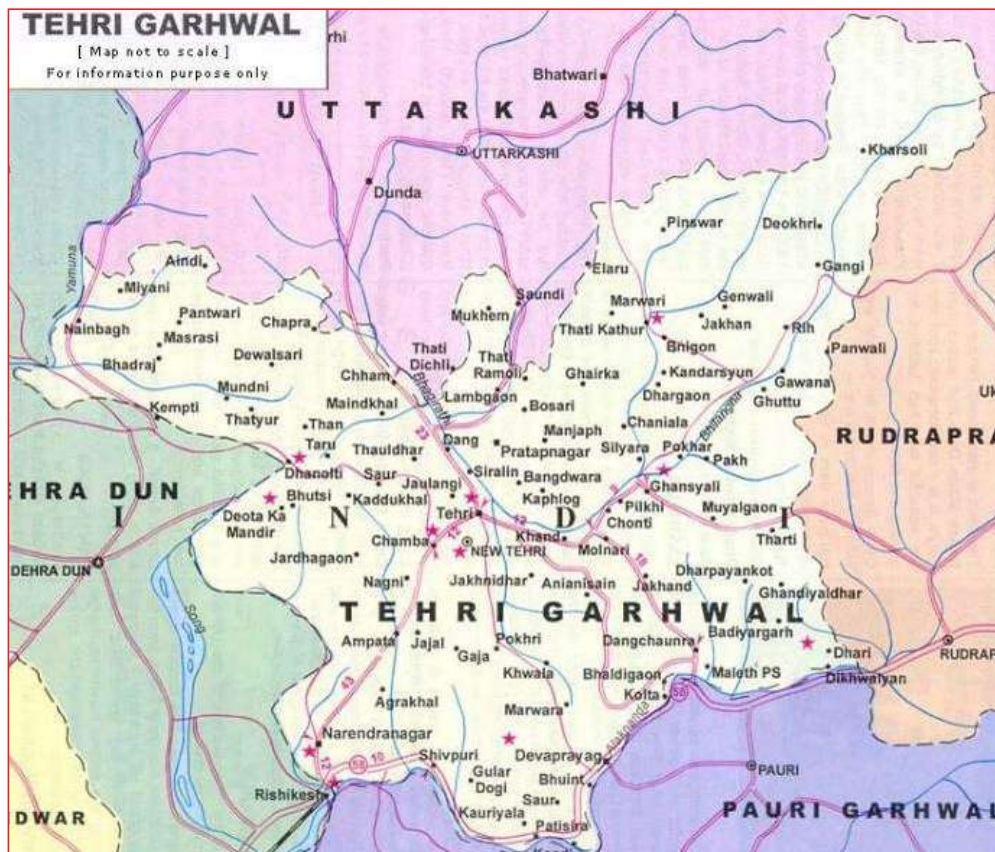
### Key Points

- During the event, the CM honored the members of women's **self-help groups** and highlighted the role

played by women of Uttarakhand in the **statehood movement and the development of the state.**

- To underline the steps being taken by the state government for women's empowerment, the CM mentioned **30% reservation for women** in government jobs and emphasized on schemes such as **Mukhya Mantri Maha Lakshmi Yojana, Mukhya Mantri Aanchal Amrit Yojana and Mukya Mantri Swarojgar Yojana.**

- He also administered an oath to students to make **Uttarakhand drug-free by 2025.**



## Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra Camp in Champawat

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, participated in the **Viksit Bharat Sankalp Yatra camp** organised at Ramlila Maidan in Tanakpur, Champawat district.

### Key Points

- On this occasion, the CM **distributed checks of 1 Lakh each to 9 women groups** under the **National Rural**

**Livelihood Mission (NRLM)**, checks of 13 lakhs were distributed to 10 resource **cooperative societies** of the cooperative department and 10 women beneficiaries under the NRLM.

- Quizzes, cultural programs and drone demonstrations were held to create awareness regarding the schemes. **Programmes like 'Meri Kahani-Meri Zubaani' were also conducted** to share personal success stories and achievements of the beneficiaries.
  - The CM also **flagged off 11 new vehicles for the municipality.**
- Bharat Sankalp Yojana is **developed by the central government which focuses on public welfare schemes.**

Note:



- The resolution of this yatra is to develop India in every way by 2047.
- 19 schemes in rural areas and 15 in urban areas have been identified for the yatra.
  - The identified schemes are related to the healthy India mission, **food security**, quality education, health services, proper nutrition, housing for the poor, financing services and social security.
- More than 63 thousand participants in the state have so far gotten the benefits of the schemes.

## Animal Attacks in Uttarakhand




### Why in News?

According to data by the forest department, 43 fatalities are seen in **human-wildlife conflicts** involving **tigers** and **leopards** in the year of 2023.

### Key Points

- According to 2023 data, 21 people died in leopard attacks and 22 people died in tiger attacks.
- The **Wildlife Protection Society of India (WPSI)**, has released data showing 204 deaths in the country in 2023.
  - From January 2000 to December 2023, a total of **551 people lost their lives in leopard and tiger attacks**, and over 1,833 individuals sustained injuries.
- The **Corbett Tiger Reserve (CTR)** has reported the **highest number of tigers** at 260 among the 53 tiger reserves in the nation.
- The tiger population in Uttarakhand has surged from **442 to 560 compared to the figures reported in 2018**. The estimated number of leopards in Uttarakhand is 3,115.
- Since June 2001, a total of **1,663 leopard deaths have been recorded, with many attributed to accidents or interspecies conflicts**, among other causes.

# HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

#### Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

#### Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

#### Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

#### Advisory for HWC Management (Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)


- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

#### State - Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand** - **Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests to **enrich food stock for wild elephants**

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the **Sonitour Model** by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.



Note:

## Uttarakhand Culture

### Carnival

#### Why in News?

Recently, a 4-day winter carnival began in Mussoorie to showcase the local culture of Uttarakhand.

#### Key Points

- The carnival gained popularity and became a major attraction for tourists and locals, along with giving a boost to tourism and benefits local businesses.
- The theme of this year's festival is **millets**, and a wide range of delicacies made from the crop.
- The event features many **musical and cultural performances** along with a **food festival**.



## UCC in Uttarakhand

#### Why in News?

According to the Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, **the Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** will soon be implemented in Uttarakhand.

- The bill for the implementation of UCC will be tabled in the assembly soon.


#### Key Points

- UCC is envisaged to provide for **one law for the entire country**, applicable to all religious communities in

their personal matters such as marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption etc.

- **Article 44** of the Constitution lays down that the state shall endeavor to secure a UCC for the citizens throughout the territory of India.
  - Article 44 is one of the **Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP)**.
  - The purpose behind Article 44 is to strengthen the object of **“secular democratic republic”** as enshrined in the Preamble of the Constitution.
- As of now, **Goa is the only state in India with a UCC.**


Note:




# UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

All sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a National Civil Code - the Uniform Civil Code.


**THEY COVER AREAS LIKE**




Marriage




Divorce




Maintenance



Inheritance



Adoption

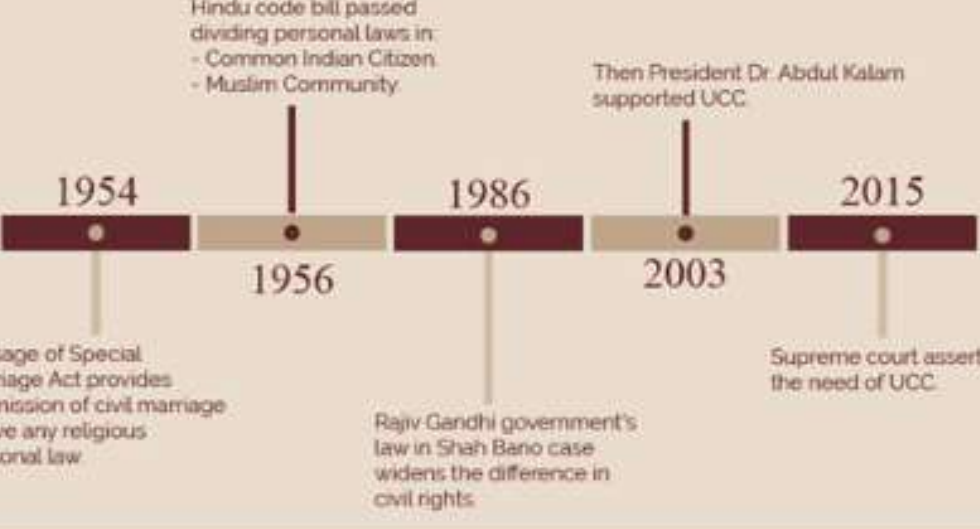


Succession of Property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

**"UCC refers to a common set of laws governing civil rights of every citizen."**  
**Article 44 of Directive Principles sets duty of state for implementing UCC.**

### TIMELINE



1954: Passage of Special Marriage Act provides permission of civil marriage above any religious personal law.

1956: Hindu code bill passed dividing personal laws in:  
- Common Indian Citizen.  
- Muslim Community.

1986: Rajiv Gandhi government's law in Shah Bano case widens the difference in civil rights.

2003: Then President Dr. Abdul Kalam supported UCC.

2015: Supreme court asserted the need of UCC.

The dialogue for UCC was started by the Law Commission in the year 2016

Note:



## Banning Land Purchase

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand government decided to **ban land purchase by outsiders** for agriculture or horticulture purposes.

### Key Points

- The official release stated that the **District Magistrates (DMs) will not issue permission** to outsiders to purchase land for the purpose of agriculture and horticulture.
- On 22nd December 2023, the government constituted a **five-member drafting committee** under the **chairmanship of additional chief secretary** (home) Radha Raturi for a detailed examination of the report submitted by the committee on land laws.
- The government is allegedly taking the steps in accordance with the public's sentiments which it places paramount in this case.
  - CM Dhama had set up a high-level committee to make recommendations for **striking a balance between the requirement of land for industrial development projects** in the state and the preservation of land that is currently available in Uttarakhand.
- **Specific demands are being raised by public such as**, in all projects, and industries set up in hilly areas, in which land acquisition or purchase is mandatory or will be done in the future, **25% share of local villagers and 25% share of native residents of the district must be ensured**. And 80% employment should be ensured to local people in these projects.
- It is **necessary to introduce these measures to ensure that natives have the first right to resources of the state** – jal (water), jangal (forests), jameen (land) – and will ensure employment for the locals.

## Rising Winter Wildfires

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand is **witnessing a rise in winter wildfires**, a phenomenon that usually begins on November 1.

### Key Points

- The **Forest Survey of India (FSI)**, which is the **apex body** of the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (**MoEFCC**), has sent **1006 fire alerts to Uttarakhand** from 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2023 to 1<sup>st</sup> January 2024. This number is significantly higher than the 556 fire alerts received during the same period in 2022.

- Wildfires have been **reported in districts**, Uttarkashi, Nainital, Bageshwar, Tehri, Dehradun, Pithoragarh, Pauri, and Almora.
- Nainital experienced heightened forest fires on the first day of the year 2024. Villagers cite the **absence of rainfall or snow in the last three months**, making the region dry, as the reason for the same.
  - The **fires can lead to increased human-wildlife conflicts**, as animals venture out to the urban landscape to escape fire.
- **Various reasons** such as **controlled burning** by forest staff, agricultural **residue burning** by farmers, **waste burning** by villagers in barren land lead to the incidence of these forest fires.

## 86% Crimes Under IPC in 2023 Solved

### Why in News?

According to the state Director General of Police (DGP), **Uttarakhand reported** a total of **15,797 crimes under the Indian Penal Code in 2023**, which is 752 cases less as compared to 2022 in which 16,549 cases were reported.

**Note:** Indian Penal Code (IPC) is the official criminal code of India drafted in **1860** in the wake of **the first law commission established in 1834 under the Charter Act of 1833**.

### Key Points

- In 2023, **police solved 86%** of the total cases, while **taking action against 61%** of the total accused involved in the crimes.
- A total of **432 wanted criminals** on the run were **arrested** in 2023.
- The state police **took action against 30 criminals under the Gangster Act, 1986** and seized their illegally accumulated properties worth Rs 186 crore.
- Apart from this, appropriate **legal action** was also taken **against 262 criminals under the Goondas Act, 1982 in 2022**.
- In 2023, a total **1,649 people** were **arrested for drug trafficking** and **drugs worth Rs 27 crore** were seized.
- The fire unit of the Uttarakhand police addressed a **total 1,381 accidents** in which **318 human lives and properties worth Rs 121 crore** were saved.
- Police collected **Rs 37 crore as fines** imposed after issuing a total **6.7 lakh challans** on vehicles for various violations.

Note:

## Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School

### Why in News?

On 1st January 2024, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the building of **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential Hostel** in Kaulagarh, Dehradun.

### Key Points

- The foundation stone of this building was laid by CM Dhami last year, which was built at a cost of Rs 4,09,40,000.
  - The residential hostel and stock of the facilities being provided to the children in the hostel were inspected.
  - The officials of the Education Department were instructed to provide **better-quality resources** to the children in the hostels.
  - **Residential arrangements** have been made for **100 children** in the hostel.
- On this occasion, CM announced that the hostels opened in **Kasturba Gandhi Balika Vidyalaya**, built for the education of daughters of weaker, deprived, and resourceless sections and **11 schools** adjacent to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose hostel will be **upgraded to the intermediate level**.
- **13 such hostels** are running in the state for the education of weak, backward, orphan, and resourceless children, in which free arrangements have been made for 1000 children.
- **40 Kasturba Gandhi Residential Girls Hostels** are being run separately for girls, in all facilities are being provided free of cost.

#### Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose

- He was a fierce nationalist, whose defiant **patriotism made him one of the greatest freedom fighters in Indian history**.
- He was born on **23rd January 1897**, in Cuttack, Orissa Division, Bengal Province.
  - His **Jayanti is celebrated as 'Parakram Diwas'**.
- He was **credited with setting up the Indian Army as a separate entity from the British Indian Army** - which helped to propel the freedom struggle.

## IG Drones to Survey PRT Corridor

### Why in News?

According to the reports, IG Drones, a drone tech and analytics company is going to survey the **Uttarakhand Metro Rail Project**. It is the inaugural **Personalized Rapid Transit Corridor (PRT)** corridor under the Neo Metro System.

- An initiative by the Government of Uttarakhand, the **PRT Corridor project is anticipated to be completed by 2024** and seeks to offer world-class and state-of-the-art commuting.

### Key Points

- The **Neo Metro Project** plans to build state-of-the-art **rapid transit systems in Dehradun, Haridwar, and Rishikesh** in the next four years to ease traffic congestion.
- The **PRT** is being **developed under the Mass Rapid Transit System (MRTS)** that will **link three cities—Haridwar, Rishikesh, and Dehradun**.
- IG Drones will help prepare a **Detailed Project Report (DPR)** by surveying the project through high-tech drones.
  - The company will employ domestically developed drones to conduct **regular overview** of the ongoing work progress on the ground.
  - The drones are equipped with **advanced sensors** capable of **capturing high-resolution images, videos, and additional data from the ground**.
  - This collected data is then processed through **IG One**, their **proprietary software**, which offers in-depth technical insights and analytics.
  - These analytics enable real-time tracking of the project's progress.
- IG Drones is the leading drone tech and analytics company that has launched India's **first 5G Drone-Skyhawk**.
- **Drones** are increasingly prevalent in infrastructure projects, **valued for their efficiency, precision, and cost-effectiveness**.
  - Their applications extend to **surveying construction progress, assessing work quality, and identifying potential issues** during the construction phase.

## Efforts to Rescue Tigris

### Why in News?

Recently, two cages have been put up in the **Surai range of Terai East Forest Division** to **rescue** an elusive

Note:



**tigress** who has been moving for a year with a wire stuck around the lower part of its stomach.

- The **Surai range** of the forest division is **adjacent to the Semal Kuan forest area** in the **Mahof range of the Pilibhit Tiger Reserve** of Uttar Pradesh.

### Key Points

- In January 2023, the tigress was seen by a patrol team in the forest and a **wire noose was wrapped around its stomach near its hind legs**.
- To monitor the tigress, **camera traps were installed** on the spot and continuous photographs of the tigress were seen in 26 out of 35 camera traps.
- The **monitoring report** of the tigress was **sent to Uttarakhand Wildlife Warden and National Tiger Conservation Authority**, on which a joint team was formed and the process of capturing the animal was started.

#### Pilibhit Tiger Reserve

- It is **situated in the Pilibhit district and Shahjahanpur District of Uttar Pradesh**, forming part of the Terai Arc Landscape, in the upper Gangetic Plain Biogeographic Province.
- The **northern edge of the reserve lies along the Indo-Nepal border** while the southern boundary is marked by the river Sharada and Khakra.
- The **habitat is characterized by Saal Forests**, tall grasslands and swamp maintained by periodic flooding from rivers.
- The **Sharda Sagar Dam** extending up to a length of 22 km (14 mi) is on the boundary of the reserve.
- It was **designated as a Tiger Reserve in 2014**.

## Action Plan to Make Uttarakhand a Major Destination for AYUSH

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami reviewed **the Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha and Homeopathy (AYUSH)** Education Department and directed the officials to work with an **effective action plan to make the state a major destination in the field of AYUSH and wellness**.

### Key Points

- According to an official release, to **promote the production of herbs** in Uttarakhand proper arrangements for **collection and marketing should be**

**made in coordination with the AYUSH Department, Horticulture and Forest Corporation.**

- The Chief Minister also instructed to bring a **new yoga policy to make Uttarakhand the best yoga destination** in the world and emphasized on **special efforts to promote Panchakarma**.
- To promote the field of AYUSH, arrangements for a **proper platform will be done for marketing herbal products**.
- To provide information related to **AYUSH to school students**, it is instructed to ensure its **arrangement in all schools** and to expedite the effective implementation of the AYUSH policy.
- The **establishment of wellness centers, certification of AYUSH services** and arrangement for **training of AYUSH doctors and pharmacists through renowned AYUSH experts** will help in connecting AYUSH medicine with the public.
- The **AYUSH policy** includes the promotion of the **production of high-quality Ayurvedic herbs**, mandatory adherence to **international standards of Good Agriculture Practices (GAP)**, use of the latest **drone-based technology**, the establishment of **cold storage on Public-Private Partnership (PPP) mode**, and **regulation of vendors of medicinal plants**.
  - In collaboration with leading manufacturers and reputed marketing agencies in the state, Uttarakhand will establish an **online platform to bring together buyers** (farmers, local suppliers) and drug manufacturers, 'Assured Buy-back' scheme for medicinal plants.
  - **Capital assistance** of up to 10% for all **AYUSH manufacturing units**, encouragement to **establish common testing laboratories** at 2-3 important places in the state for **quality assessment of AYUSH products**, mandatory to obtain **AYUSH Premium Mark**, and **Standard Mark for AYUSH products** has been done.
- Through the State Tourism Policy, 2023, up to **50% capital assistance** will be provided to **wellness resorts, Ayurveda/Yoga/Naturopathy resorts** and **5% financial assistance to wellness centers, Ayurveda, Yoga, and Naturopathy resorts** to be established in Category B and Category C areas.
- To promote AYUSH education, a provision has been made to provide an incentive amount of up to **Rs 15 lakh to the AYUSH colleges** that meet the standards set by the **National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC)**.

Note:

## Tiger Population in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

Recently, the **tiger** population in Uttarakhand has increased at a rate of **314%** between 2006 and 2022. According to the Uttarakhand Wildlife officials, the **tiger** population density in Uttarakhand is among the highest in the world.

### Key Points

- The **tiger** population which stood at **178 in 2006** rose to **560 in 2022**, recording a rise of 314%.

- The increase in the population of wild animals in the state is due to steps taken by the forest department in recent years to improve their habitat conditions.
- A slight increase is also recorded in 2023 in the number of people killed and injured in tiger attacks.
  - The total number of people killed in encounters with animals such as **leopards, elephants** and snakes besides tigers was 71 in 2021, 82 in 2022 and 66 in 2023.
  - The number of persons injured in **man-animal conflicts** was 361 in 2021, 325 in 2022 and 317 in 2023.
- There are two tiger reserve in Uttarakhand:
  - **Rajaji Tiger Reserve**
  - **Corbett Tiger Reserve**

# TIGER


Royal Bengal Tiger (*Panthera tigris*) is the National animal of India.

### Subspecies of Tiger

- \* The continental (*Panthera tigris tigris*)
- \* The Sunda (*Panthera tigris sondaica*)

### Habitat

Tropical rainforests, evergreen forests, temperate forests, mangrove swamps, grasslands, and savannas



### Countries Where Tiger Population Is Found

- Found only in 13 Tiger Range countries- India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, Myanmar, Russia, China, Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam
- As per the latest report by IUCN, tiger has gone extinct in Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam

### Protection Status

- IUCN Red List: Endangered
- CITES: Appendix I
- WPA 1972: Schedule I

### Threats


- Habitat loss
- Poaching and illegal trade
- Human-Wildlife conflict

### Conservation Efforts

- International Big Cats Alliance (IBCA):** For conservation of seven big cats namely Tiger, Lion, Leopard, Snow Leopard, Cheetah, Jaguar and Puma (launched by India)
- Tx2 campaign:** Launched by WWF; stands for 'Tiger times 2' signaling the goal to double the tiger population by 2022
- National Tiger Conservation authority (NTCA):** Constituted under the WPA, 1972
- Project Tiger:** Launched in 1973
- Tiger Census:** Every 4 years

### Tigers In India

- India has the largest population
  - As of 2022, India has 3167 tigers
  - Largest population has been found in Central Indian Highlands & Eastern Ghats Landscape
- Tiger Reserves:** India now has 53 tiger reserves
  - Ranipur in UP is the latest
  - Nagarjun Sagar (Andhra Pradesh) is the largest while Orang (Assam) is the smallest (Core area)



Note:

## Uttarayani Festival on Ram Temple Theme

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami directed to celebrate **the Uttarayani festival and fair**, observed on **Makar Sankranti** every year in the state's Kumaon region, **with the theme of the Ram Temple consecration ceremony**.

### Key Points

- The chief minister **urged the people to perform Deepotsav** in their homes and **organize Kalash Yatras and Ram Katha**.
- He also emphasized on organizing a **campaign to clean the ghats of major rivers**.
- **Essay and painting competitions** should be organized in schools on the ideals of Lord Ram.

#### Ram Temple Consecration Ceremony

- Preparations for the **'pran-pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya on January 22** includes:
  - **Idols of elephants, lions, Lord Hanuman and Garuda, 'vahana' of Lord Vishnu**, have been installed at the **entrance gate** of the Ram Temple.
  - Invitation cards for the consecration ceremony have been sent out to guests including VVIPs, priests, donors and several politicians.
- According to **Sri Ram Janmabhoomi Tirath Kshetra Trust**, the committee overseeing the construction of the temple:
  - The **Ram Mandir, constructed** in the traditional **Nagara style**, is a **three-storied shrine, measuring 380 feet in length (east-west direction), 250 feet in width, and 161 feet in height**.
  - It has a **total of 392 pillars and 44 doors**. It features **five Mandaps (halls) -- Nriya Mandap, Rang Mandap, Sabha Mandap, Prarthna and Kirtan Mandaps**.

## Efforts to Control Road Accidents

### Why in News?

According to Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, **effective efforts** should be made **to control**

**road accidents**. Road safety audits should be conducted **regularly** at accident-prone spots.

### Key Points

- The remaining work of **crash barriers** on all the identified routes of the state should be **completed** with full quality **before the Chardham Yatra**.
- **Road safety audits** should be conducted regularly at **black spots (accident prone spots)**.
- **Dormitories** should also be **arranged for the drivers** in the areas **where parking of vehicles has been arranged near the tourist places of the state**.
- **Strict action** should be taken as per rules **against those driving without license, driving under the influence of alcohol and violating other traffic rules**.
- To **make people aware of road safety**, short films should be made and publicized on a wide scale.
- Information about **road safety awareness** should also be **included in the school curriculum**.
- To take **effective action to stop encroachment on the roadsides** police, municipal corporations, Mussoorie Dehradun Development Authority (MDDA) and district administration should take continuous action.

## 5 Airfields to be Built in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** is set to develop **five airfields in Uttarakhand, including Gunji, Kalsi, Tanakpur, Tanakpur, Ghansali, and Navidhang**.

### Key Points

- This initiative is necessary for **enhancing the management of resources near the border with China**.
- The meeting also discussed the **widening and strengthening work of the 10.9km stretch, the strategic Auli-Joshimath route in Chamoli district**.
- The **construction of the 15km alternative route from Bargaon in Joshimath to Auli** is also proposed to be entrusted to the BRO.
- Lt Gen Srinivasan shared details of the **ongoing BRO projects, including roads from Baluwakote to Tawaghat and Lipulekh to Jolingkong in Pithoragarh district**.

Note:



### Border Roads Organisation (BRO)

- BRO was **conceived and raised in 1960** by **Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** for coordinating the speedy development of a network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border regions of the country.
- It **works under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence**.
- It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works comprising airfields, building projects, defence works and tunneling and has endeared itself to the people.

## Plan to Prevent Human-Wildlife Conflict

### Why in News?

Recently, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami issued directions to the **Forest Department** to prepare an **action plan to prevent human-wildlife conflict**.

- This comes after rising **incidents of leopards attacking children** in different parts of Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- The officials are asked to prepare a **proposal to increase from Rs 4 lakh to Rs 6 lakh financial assistance** paid to the **families of those killed in human-wildlife conflicts**.
- The chief minister also warned of **strict action against officials** who are **found negligent** in this regard.

### Wildlife Rehabilitation and Rescue Centers

- These are **important facilities to care and cater for the helpless wildlife that may have been injured in an accident** or have been illegally attempted for poaching or illegally captured and are in need of immediate medical attention and rehabilitation.

## Uttarakhand CM Requests Coal Block for Thermal Power Plants

### Why in News?

Recently, CM Dhami met Union coal and mines minister Pralhad Joshi in Delhi and requested him to **allot**

a coal block with storage capacity of about 125 million tonnes to Uttarakhand on priority for setting up pit-head **thermal power plants** of minimum 1,000 MW.

### Key Points

- Uttarakhand is among few states **where no thermal power station is operational**.
- Due to **favourable industrial policy**, there has been **rapid industrial development** in the state as a result of which **demand for electricity has continuously increased**.
- According to the CM, **power shortage becomes severe during the winter** as **cold temperatures reduce the flow of water in rivers**. The demand for electricity in the state is **increasing at the rate of about 4% to 5% each year**.

### Thermal Power Sector in India

- Thermal power plants or thermal power stations are **power stations that generate electricity from heat**. Thermal power plants use different sources of energy to produce heat, including coal, oil, natural gas, and geothermal sources.
- The thermal power sector has been a **major source of electricity generation in India**, accounting for around 75% of the country's total installed power capacity.
- India's thermal power plants **rely heavily on coal, which is mostly imported from other countries**. This can lead to supply disruptions and price volatility.
- The **top five states with the highest installed capacity of thermal power** are – Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Uttar Pradesh, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka.

## Heavy Snowfall in Kedarnath Dham

### Why in News?

After a sudden shift in the weather pattern in the high-altitude areas of Uttarakhand, **Kedarnath Dham** has been experiencing **continuous and heavy snowfall**.

### Key Points

- According to the **Indian Meteorological Department**, the **minimum temperature** in Kedarnath is expected to hover in the **range of -16 to -18 until January 23**.

Note:

- Significant snowfall was reported at key locations such as **Badrinath Dham, Hemkund Sahib, Valley of Flowers, Rudranath, Niti Valley, and Mana Valley.**
- **Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP)** has invited seers at the **Badrinath Dham to the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya on January 22.**
  - The **seven-day Vedic rituals for the 'Pran Pratishtha' ceremony of Ram Lalla in Ayodhya began on January 16.**
- Earlier, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced a **special 11-day 'anushtan' (ritual)** ahead of the Pran Pratishtha ceremony at the Ram Temple.
  - PM Modi will preside over the **ceremonial installation of Shri Ram Lalla inside the sanctum sanctorum of the temple.**
- **Ram temple will be open for 'darshan' for the general public from January 23, 2024.**

## Defense Minister Unveils Border Projects

### Why in News?

Recently, Defense Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated **35 projects** in Uttarakhand to strengthen the country's border security.

### Key Points

- The projects were constructed by the **Border Roads Organization (BRO)** at a cost of Rs 670 crore, these projects consist of roads, bridges, and tunnels aimed at enhancing connectivity, defense readiness and socio-economic development.
- The minister appreciated the important role played by BRO in **connecting geographically and socially isolated communities to national connectivity.**
- According to the defense minister, the increasing natural disasters in border countries due to climate change pose a serious national security issue.
  - He acknowledged the **exceptional support** extended by the **Border Roads Organization** in Uttarakhand and lauded the **teamwork displayed by various agencies during the crisis.**
  - He highlighted the **change in attitudes towards compensation professionals (CPLs),** acknowledging their **vital role in the organisation.**

### Border Road Organisation

- It was formed on 7 May **1960** to secure India's borders and develop infrastructure in remote areas of the north and north-east states of the country.
  - This includes infrastructure operations in **19 states and 3 union territories** (including Andaman and Nicobar Islands) and neighboring countries such as Afghanistan, Bhutan, Myanmar, Tajikistan and Sri Lanka.
- In order to ensure coordination and expeditious execution of projects, the Government of India set up the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** with the **Prime Minister as Chairman** of the Board and Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman.
- BRO is also tasked with maintaining this infrastructure including operations such as snow clearance. BRO is instrumental in significantly upgrading and building new India-China Border Roads.
- Lieutenant General Raghu Srinivasan is the **28th Director General (DG)** of the Border Roads Organisation.
- The organisation motto is **Shramena Sarvam Sadhyam** (everything is achievable through hardwork).

## Uttarakhand CM Initiates First Phase of Scholarship Scheme

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister provided an amount of **Rs 33 lakh 52 thousand** through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)** to the account of **241 students** in the first phase of the Chief Minister's Higher Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme.

### Key Points

- This amount was provided to the students entering their **first year of graduation** at the **university campuses and government colleges in the state.**
- The students having a **minimum of 80% of the faculty-wise merit list** prepared at the college level, **monthly scholarships of Rs 3000, 2000 and Rs 1500** will be provided to the **first, second and third** respectively.

Note:

- Scholarships distributed for other classes will be done **after verification on the Samarth Portal** from the concerned institute level.
- The **main objective** of starting this scheme is **to bring forward the talents of students from ordinary families.**

#### Chief Minister's Higher Education Promotion Scholarship Scheme

- It was **announced on 31st May 2023** by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama.
- The main objective behind launching the Scheme is **to encourage students to pursue higher education** by providing them monthly financial assistance.
- Only **Graduate and Post Graduate Students are eligible** for scholarship.

#### Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- It is an initiative **launched by the Government of India on January 1st, 2013**, with the aim of reforming the government delivery system.
- It is **designed to streamline and expedite the transfer of information and funds to beneficiaries** while also reducing fraudulent practices within the system.
- DBT **enables the direct transfer of** government subsidies, benefits, and assistance to the intended recipients, ensuring a more efficient and transparent delivery mechanism.

## Uttarakhand Renames Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve

### Why in News?

Ahead of the consecration of the Ram Lalla idol at the Ayodhya temple, the 5,800-hectare **Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve** in **Ramnagar forest division**, is renamed as **Sitabani Conservation Reserve**.

### Key Points

- According to the officials, there is an **ancient temple dedicated to Mother Sita and the Maharishi Valmiki Ashram inside the reserve**, where she is **said to have stayed with her sons Luv and Kush after she left Ayodhya**.
  - Both the structures are being maintained by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.

#### Pawalgarh Conservation Reserve (PCR)

- It is **located in the Nainital District of the hill state of Uttarakhand**. It was designated as a Conservation Reserve in December, 2012.
- The total area of PCR is 58.25 sq. km which lies in the beautiful, vast and rich forests of Ramnagar Forest Division, Ramnagar.
- The **reserve is home to more than 33 species of mammals, 365 species of birds and more than 400 species of flora**.

#### Note:

- In 2021, Union minister of state for forest, during his visit to **Corbett National Park** had written in the visitor's book that the national park's name should be changed to Ramganga National Park after **he learnt from forest officials that Corbett had different names in the past, one being Ramganga**.
  - The reserve **came into existence in 1936** and was named **Hailey National Park** after the first **Lieutenant Governor Governor of the United Provinces**.
  - It got notified as a reserve in December 2012.

## Uttarakhand Airports Soon to be International

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister announced that the **airports in Dehradun and Pantnagar would soon attain international status**.

### Key Points

- **Jolly Grant in Dehradun and Pantnagar in Udham Singh Nagar** are pivotal airports for the state.
  - Jolly Grant being the primary airport and the nearest gateway to the picturesque town of Mussoorie.
  - Pantnagar serves as the closest airport to the serene Nainital.
- This move is expected to **enhance connectivity and boost tourism**, opening up new avenues for economic growth in the state.
- In addition to this, the CM also revealed an ambitious vision for the development of a **new township near Dehradun**.

Note:



- The township is set to be established in Haripur, near Kalsi in the Dehradun district, **equipped with modern facilities to cater to the needs of the residents.**
- This development aligns with the government's broader **agenda of creating sustainable urban infrastructure to support the state's growing population.**

## Uttarakhand CM Releases Calendar

### Why in News?

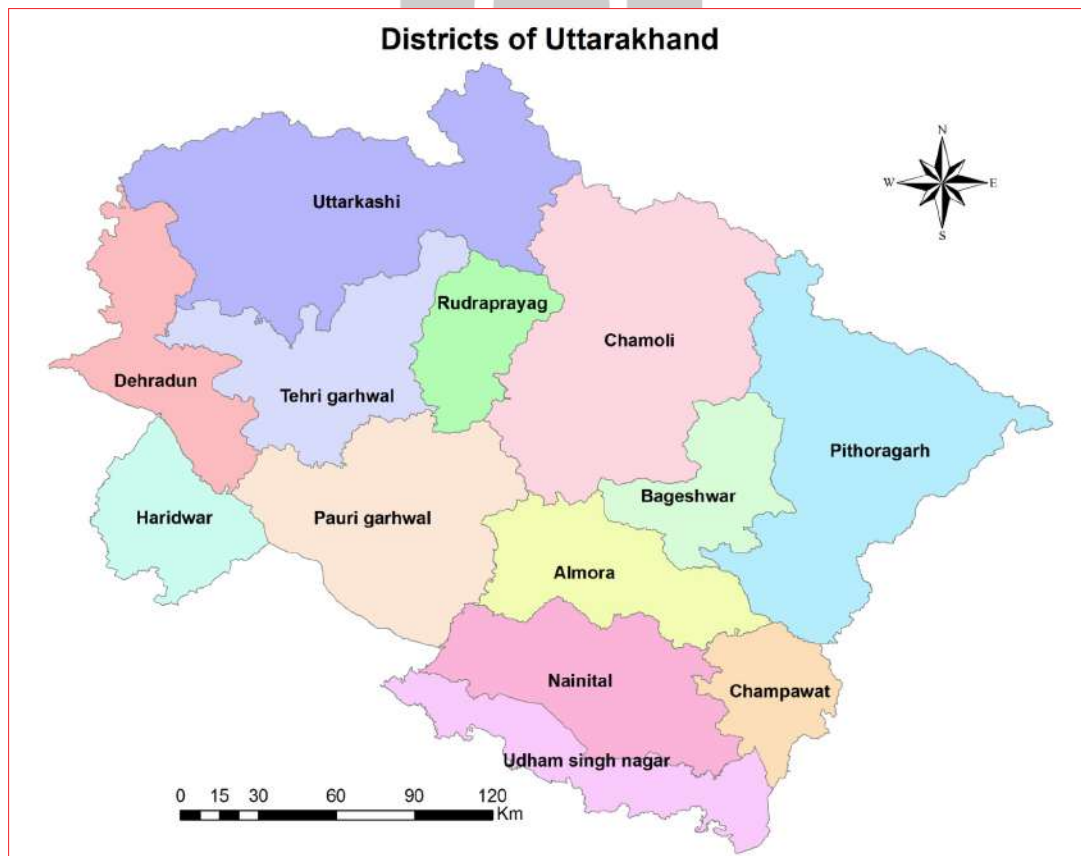
Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the **annual calendar "Strong Leadership, Prosperous Uttarakhand"** of the Information and Public Relations Department, Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- Through this annual calendar, **major religious and tourist places, local products, natural beauty,**

**mythological places of all 13 districts of Uttarakhand** were shown through pictures.

- **Efforts were made to attract people's attention towards** the state's tourism policy, solar energy policy, empowered women-rich state, sensitivity towards youth and the work done by the government for investment-employment-prosperity.
- The CM gave instructions the officials in a high-level meeting:
  - Continuous **efforts should be made towards water conservation and awareness** campaigns should also be conducted for this.
  - To make people aware of **digital transactions** and to run **cleanliness campaigns** regularly.
  - **Vocal for Local** should be promoted rapidly in the state.
  - To continuously work on **promoting tourism** more rapidly and **promoting natural farming** in the state.
  - To run **awareness campaigns** from time to time to include food and sports in their daily routine and **to stay away from drugs and addiction.**



Note:

## Republic Day Parade Tableau: 'Developed Uttarakhand'

### Why in News?

The **Republic Day parade** tableau representing **Uttarakhand in 2024** will showcase the **theme of 'Developed Uttarakhand'**.

- This decision follows the success of the state's tableau '**Manaskhand**' which secured **first prize in the Republic Day Parade of 2023**.

### Key Points

- According to the officials, the **front section features a Kumaoni woman dressed in traditional attire, extending a warm welcome**.
- The tableau also showcases the **cultivation of traditional crops such as Maduwa, Jhangora, Ramdana, and Kauni**, along with the **state bird, Monal**. In the central part of the tableau, **homestays form a major part**.
- The **concluding segment** of the tableau depicts **crucial elements of the state's developmental projects** such as the **all-weather road of the Chardham route, the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project, ropeway systems, and enhanced road connectivity to Mana**.

Jhangora



- It is **ethically sourced from the farmers of Uttarkashi Valley, Uttarakhand**. It is **one of the oldest grains known to mankind, almost 3000 years old**.
- It is **commonly known as Shyama** in Bengali, **Moraiyo** in Gujarati, **Sanwa rice** in Hindi, **Udalu** in Kannada and **Telgu and Kuthiraivali** in Tamil.

Ramdana



- It is **handpicked and ethically sourced from the Himalayan Valley**. It grows in abundance between the altitudes of **1,000-3,000 metres** in the Himalayan region, **stretching from Kashmir to Bhutan**.
- It is a complete protein, containing all nine essential amino acids, and at **14% protein**. It is also known as **Amaranth, Chua, Chaulai and Pungkiri**.

Monal



- The Himalayan Monal, also known as the **Impeyan monal**, **Impeyan pheasant**, is a bird in the pheasant family, **Phasianidae**.
- It is the state bird of Uttarakhand. It has been **selected as the mascot for the 38th National games** that were held in Uttarakhand in 2018.
- Himalayan monal is a **Schedule – I bird**, according to the **Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and classified as **Least Concern (LC)** by the **IUCN**.

## State Advised Price (SAP) of Variety of Sugarcane

### Why in News?

Recently, the Uttarakhand government **declared the State Advised Price (SAP) of early and common variety**

Note:

of sugarcane for the current crushing season 2023-24 at Rs 375 and Rs 365 per quintal respectively.

- The Uttar Pradesh government had also **recently increased the price of sugarcane**.

### Key Points

- The Prices of Sugarcane are **Determined by the Central Government and the State Governments**.
- **Central Government:** Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP)
  - The Central Government announces FRP which are determined on the recommendation of the **Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP)** and announced by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA).
    - CCEA is chaired by the Prime Minister of India.
  - The **FRP is based on the Rangarajan Committee** report on reorganising the **sugarcane industry**.
- **State Government:** State Advised Prices (SAP)
  - The SAP is announced by the Governments of key sugarcane producing states.
  - **SAP is generally higher than FRP.**

#### Geographical Conditions for the Growth of Sugar

- **Temperature:** Between 21-27°C with hot and humid climate.
- **Rainfall:** Around 75-100 cm.
- **Soil Type:** Deep rich loamy soil.
- **Top Sugarcane Producing States:** Maharashtra > Uttar Pradesh > Karnataka

## Uttarakhand's Jadung Village Set for Rehabilitation

### Why in News?

In a "first-of-its-kind" initiative, the Uttarakhand government has decided to **rebuild and rehabilitate Jadung village in Uttarkashi district** which was **abandoned** by the residents **since the 1962 Indo-China war**, as a major "**tourist destination**".

- The village has been under the control of the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** since 1962.

### Key Points

- As part of the initiative, the **tourism department** aims to **call back the descendants of the original**

**homeowners**, now residing in nearby villages, to **revitalise the village**.

- The October-November 1962 conflict had left the region deserted, impacting **relations between India and China**, with certain border disputes still unresolved.
  - **The locality** is a cold desert area (like Ladakh) **has proper road connectivity, making it a potential tourist destination**.
- In the **first phase**, the tourism department will **renovate and refurbish six "dilapidated" houses and promote them as homestays** in vernacular architecture, **using locally available material and run by the villagers**.
- The initiative will generate "**self-employment opportunities**" for Jadung village, while providing everyone with a **unique tourism destination**.
  - The **villagers will have to operate the homestays at least for 10 years**, with the operators being chosen by the Uttarkashi district administration through applications from original inhabitants of the village.
  - The tourism department has also been planning to **provide skill training programmes to the homestay operators**, which would be organised by the department from time-to-time. The department will also provide necessary **support for marketing and promoting these homestays**.
- According to the officials, the scheme will become a milestone towards **reverse migration** through **government intervention** and also create **new tourism opportunities**.

#### The Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- It is a dedicated force **responsible for safeguarding India's borders with Tibet (China)**.
- It is a **specialized mountain force** of India, which was **established on 24th October 1962**, soon after the India-China war which was initially meant for deployment along the India-China border.
- ITBP was **initially raised under the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) Act, 1949**. However, **in 1992, parliament enacted the ITBP Act and the rules were framed in 1994**.
- ITBP has also been deployed for **various internal security duties**, including **anti-Naxal operations**. The force is **known for its expertise in high-altitude rescue and mountaineering operations**.

Note:





**Note:**

- The border between India and China is not clearly demarcated throughout and there is no mutually agreed Line of Actual Control (LAC) along certain stretches.

- LAC came into existence after the 1962 Indo-China war.
- India-China border is divided into three sectors:
  - **Western Sector:** Ladakh
  - **Middle Sector:** Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  - **Eastern Sector:** Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim



## Uttarakhand CM Holds Roadshow in Rudraprayag

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami held a roadshow from Prachin Dewal to Sports Ground Agastyamuni in Rudraprayag and announced schemes worth ₹467 crores.

### Key Points

- In the event, welfare schemes worth more than ₹467 crores were inaugurated.
- On this occasion, the CM also took information from the women about the changes in their livelihood after joining the Mahaprasad scheme of the government.

- Various women's groups associated with the Kedarnath Yatra had done business worth more than ₹70 lakh during the 2023 Yatra.
- Apart from this, women have earned ₹5 lakh from local herbal incense, churma, belpatri, honey, jute, silk bags, etc.
- More than 500 women belonging to various women's groups also got employment from it.
- The district administration of Rudraprayag has set a target of selling prasad worth ₹2 crore in the next yatra.
- The CM also honoured all women police personnel included in the Guard of Honor giving them cash awards.

Note:

### PRASHAD Scheme

- The 'National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive' (PRASAD) was launched by the **Ministry of Tourism** in the year **2014-15** with the objective of holistic development of identified pilgrimage destinations.
- The name of the scheme was changed from PRASAD to "National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Heritage Augmentation Drive (PRASHAD)" in **October 2017**.
- Under the PRASHAD Scheme, several religious cities/sites in have been identified for development such as **Amaravati and Srisailem (Andhra Pradesh)**, **Kamakhya (Assam)**, **Parasuram Kund (Lohit District, Arunachal Pradesh)**, **Patna and Gaya (Bihar)**, etc.

## Flight Operations Linking Sacred Lands

### Why in News?

Recently, **flight operations began** from **Pithoragarh's Naini-Saini airport** after a gap of more than three years.

### Key Points

- Following the resumption of flight operations, which was suspended in early 2020, aviation firm **Flybig** will operate a **19-seater aircraft between Dehradun and Pithoragarh** thrice a week on Monday, Tuesday and Friday.
- Resumption of services from the airport, which will **soon be extended to Pantnagar and then to Hindon airport in Ghaziabad**, will be crucial for the strategically important border district.
- According to Uttarakhand Chief Minister, air connectivity between Dehradun and Pithoragarh will give further **boost to religious tourism** in the Manaskhand region.

- The Prime Minister's visit to **Jolingkong for a darshan of the Adi Kailash peak and Jageshwar Dham** had **awakened the interest of tourists** who have begun to visit the relatively **lesser-known religious destinations** in large numbers.

### Adi Kailash Peak



- Adi Kailash, also known as Shiva Kailash, Chota Kailash, Baba Kailash or Jonglingkong Peak, is a mountain **located in the Himalayan mountain range** in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

### Jageshwar Dham



- It is a Hindu pilgrimage town near Almora in Almora district of Uttarakhand. The site is protected under Indian laws, and managed by the **Archaeological Survey of India**.



Note:





**Key Points**

**Details**

Blank area for Key Points.

Lined area for Details.

**Summary**

Blank area for Summary.