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Resolution passed to rename Lansdowne to Jaswantgarh

Why In News?

Recently, in a meeting chaired by Brigadier Vijay Mohan Chowdhary, Chairman, Lansdowne Cantonment Board, Uttarakhand, a resolution has been passed to rename Lansdowne town as Jaswantgarh after Hero of the NEFA Mahavir Chakra winner martyr Rifleman Baba Jaswant Singh Rawat. Cantonment Board Office Superintendent Vinita Jakhmola has confirmed this.

Key Points:

- It is known that the Cantonment Board has sent a suggestion to the Ministry of Defense to change the name of the old cantonment town from Lansdowne to Jaswantgarh. The Ministry of Defense had earlier sought suggestions from the Cantonment Board to change the name.
- It is worth mentioning that Jaswant Singh Rawat was born on August 19, 1941 in Barium village of Dunav gram panchayat of Bironkhal block of Pauri district of the state. He was serving in the 4th Battalion of the Garhwal Rifles at the time of his martyrdom.
- The Sino-Indian War of 1962 was in its final stages. Chinese troops had reached beyond Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. Jaswant Singh Rawat was posted at the turn of the road near Sela Top. During this, he dragged the Chinese medium machine and brought it to the Indian post and turned it towards the Chinese soldiers and destroyed them. He finally attained Veergati on November 17, 1962, after stopping the Chinese army for 72 hours.
- Jaswant Singh Rawat was posthumously awarded the Maha Vir Chakra.



Kanvashram Rescue Center Project

Why in News?

On July 2, 2023, Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttarakhand Dr. Sameer Sinha said that in order to reduce the continuous increase in human-wildlife attacks in the state, Mrig Vihar located in Kanvashram of Lansdowne Forest Division will be converted into a mini zoo and rescue centre. A fresh exercise has been started to develop it.

Key Points:

- It is known that the wildlife in the state is turning violent and targeting the people in the populated areas. In such a situation, predatory animals (especially tigers and Guldar/Leopard) are caught and sent to rescue centres in all areas, but now there is no space left in the rescue centres available in the state to keep these Schedule One animal. That's why now the government is going to build new rescue centres and expand the old ones.
- Continuous talks are being held with the CZA to develop Mrig Vihar at Kanvashram as a mini zoo and rescue centre. Apart from this, efforts are also being made to expand other rescue centres.
- The difficulties of the Forest Department will be reduced to a great extent by the conversion of Mrig Vihar located in Kanvashram, spread over an area of about 12 hectares, into a rescue centre.
- It is known that in the year 2018, the then Forest Minister Dr. Harak Singh Rawat had taken initiative to develop Mrig Vihar as Mini Zoo and Rescue Center. During that time, in-principle approval was also given by the Central Government for this work.
- After this, the Central Zoo Authority (CZA) was asked to complete the formalities in this matter, which was not completed by the Forest Department in time. After this, the matter went into cold storage. Now correspondence has been started with the CZA through the government to develop Mrig Vihar as a mini zoo and rescue centre again on behalf of the forest department.
- Except for the Dehradun Zoo Rescue Center located at Malsi in the state capital Dehradun, all the other three rescue centres are running houseful. These rescue centres do not have a place to keep even a single Schedule One wild animal.

Note:

- Five in the zoo located in Almora and six in the rescue centre, a total of 11 Guldars (Leopards) have been kept. There is no place to keep other Guldars here.
- Similarly, 11 Guldars have been kept in the rescue centre located at Chidiyapur in Haridwar. This too has become Housefull. The rescue centre at Nainital Zoo is already full.
- An injured Guldar was kept in the Rescue Center at Dehradun Zoo, which has now been released into the forest after recovering. Currently, there is not a single Guldar in the rescue centre. Anyway, only two Guldars can be kept here.

55 Hospitals of the state will get Anti-earthquake Armor

Why in News?

On July 5, 2023, in the meeting of the high-powered committee chaired by the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, Dr. S.S. Sandhu, it was told that under disaster management mitigation in the state, hospitals will be equipped with Anti-Seismic shields. In the first phase, 55 health centres have been selected.

Key Points:

- The equipping of hospitals with earthquake-resistant cover will start from 55 primary and community health centres (CHCs and PHCs) located in remote areas of mountainous areas. Under the construction of earthquake-resistant buildings, retrofitting of buildings of these 55 health centres will be done.
- Under the Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project (UDRP), the World Bank will spend Rs 38.78 crore for this.
- It is known that the proposal for the revival of old and dilapidated health centres in the state was submitted to the government by the Department of Medical Health and Family Welfare.
- A total of 150 such health centres have been selected in the state under the UDRP project. After that, 90 of these hospital buildings were selected in the process of classification. After this, now 55 health centres were selected under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu.
- Now these health centres will be retrofitted and given a completely new look. Where there is scope for

improvement in old buildings, they will be repaired, new earthquake-resistant buildings will be built in the buildings which are in dilapidated condition.

- With the completion of this project, PHCs and CHCs, which have reached a dilapidated condition in the hilly areas, will be seen with a new look, which will help in strengthening the health services in the state.
- A total of 90 CHCs and PHCs have been selected for retrofitting in the state. Of these, 7 are in Almora, 4 in Bageshwar, 9 in Chamoli, 4 in Champawat, 8 in Dehradun, 7 in Haridwar, 12 in Pauri, 7 in Pithoragarh, 6 in Rudrapur, 10 in Tehri, six in Udham Singh Nagar and 10 in Uttarkashi. Out of these, 55 health centers will be revived in the first phase.

Preparation to Start Mobile ECHS in the State

Why In News?

On July 4, 2023, Brigadier Amrit Lal, director of the Sainik Welfare Department in Uttarakhand, announced that there is a preparation to provide free health facilities near home to about two lakh ex-servicemen and their dependents of the state. For this, preparations are on to start Mobile ECHS (Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme) in Pahar.

Key Points

- This facility in the mountains will stop migration from the districts along the international border.
- It is known that in the military-dominated state, ECHS centres have been set up in various districts including Dehradun for health facilities for ex-servicemen and their dependents, but due to some centres being in remote areas, ex-servicemen and their dependents are not getting its benefits. Especially those ex-servicemen who are 80 years or more cannot reach the centre.
- It is to be known that according to the Director of the Sainik Welfare Department, this issue was raised by the Sainik Welfare Department in the meeting of Kendriya Sainik Board held in New Delhi in April this year.
- It was told in the meeting that Uttarakhand is a hilly state, which has a different geographical location. The problem is also being faced in the state due to the uniform standards for ECHS.

Note:

- Uniform standards have been set for ECHS by the Army Headquarters across the country. According to the director of the Sainik Welfare Department, an ECHS can be set up for a population of at least 7,500 ex-servicemen, while the Dehradun district has 36,500 ex-servicemen. Apart from this, he has a large number of dependents.
- Under the ECHS scheme, some fees are deposited as contributions to the retired soldiers and officers from the Indian Army at the time of retirement. After this, their ECHS card is made, on which they and their dependents get free health facilities for life. They are also provided health care in ECHS empanelled private hospitals.
- 40 to 45 km in the field. The distance can be covered in a while, while it takes hours in the mountains. Apart from this, there is also the problem of transport in the mountains. This problem of the ex-servicemen of the state has been raised in the meeting of the Kendriya Sainik Board so that ex-servicemen get the benefit of health facilities near their homes.

Jobs in Japan-Germany open for Ayurveda Students of the State

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on July 6, 2023, the state government has received a proposal from Japan and Germany to demand pass-out students or trained youth in Ayurveda Nursing, Yoga and Naturopathy, Panchakarma courses of Uttarakhand for jobs in nursing and hospitality sector, which has opened the doors of jobs for them there.

Key Points:

- Indian Medical Council, Uttarakhand has sent the details of pass-out students in Nursing, Yoga, Panchakarma, and Naturopathy courses from Ayurveda colleges, who will be given skill development training through the Skill and Employment Department. After this, they will be provided jobs abroad.
- For this, a list of students has been sought from 25 private Ayurveda and Paramedical colleges recognized by the Medical Council of India. A letter was issued to the colleges in this regard.

- AYUSH Secretary Dr. Pankaj Kumar Pandey has also given directions to the Council to provide job opportunities abroad by training Ayurveda students through the Department of Skills and Employment.
- Registrar of the Council Navarda Gusain said that to improve Ayurveda medical education, new courses will be implemented in nursing, panchakarma, yoga and naturopathy courses from the new session. Soon course books will be made available to all colleges by the council.
- Apart from this, examinations will start from the end of this month. The exam date will be announced by the council soon. A new pattern has been prepared for the examination.

State's 64 Bridges to be Renovated with Rs 264 Crore: Approval by HPC Meeting

Why in News?

According to information received from the media on July 9, 2023, the health of damaged and over-aged bridges in Uttarakhand will be improved or replaced. In this regard, an amount of Rs 264 crore 69 lakh 52 thousand has been approved by the government for 64 such bridges under the World Bank-funded U-prepare project.

Key Points:

- Apart from this, the Public Works Department (PWD) has submitted an estimate of Rs 622.18 crore (estimated cost) to the government for 74 bridges.
- It is known that the state government is working on many fronts under the mitigation of disaster management in the state. For this, with the help of the World Bank, several works have been completed under the Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project (UDRP) in the first phase and some projects are underway, while in the second phase, the U-Prepare project has been started.
- Under this, this project has been started to improve the health of bridges. It also includes those bridges which were declared dangerous in the safety audit conducted by the government in December 2022.
- The project, funded by the World Bank, is to be completed in the next five years.

Note:



- It may be noted that the High-Powered Committee (HPC) constituted under the chairmanship of State Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu had given green signal to the Uttarakhand Disaster Recovery Project (UDRP).
- Under the project, repair of damaged bridges, construction of new bridges and construction of missing link bridges are to be done. Bridges damaged in disasters have been taken on priority in the project.
- At present financial approval has been received for 64 bridges from HPC under the World Bank-funded U-Prepare project in the state. The department has submitted the details of the estimated expenditure for 74 bridges. As soon as the tender process is completed, the work of improving the bridges will be started.
- It is notable that in the safety audit conducted in December 2022 on the instructions of the government, 36 bridges were found unsafe. During that time, 3262 safety audits of five zones were conducted. Under this, the bridges which can be technically improved will be repaired.

Cabinet Nod to State Mental Health Policy

Why in News?

On July 7, 2023, Dr. R. Rajesh Kumar, Health Secretary, Uttarakhand said that strict action will now be taken against de-addiction centres and psychiatric institutions operating in the state by flouting the rules and standards. In this regard, the State Government has approved the State Mental Health Policy Manual.

Key Points:

- Now all mental health institutions and de-addiction centres will be operated under the rules of the State Mental Health Policy Manual.
- Apart from institutions, psychologists, mental health nurses, psychiatric social workers will have to compulsorily register with the State Mental Health Authority. A fee of Rs 2,000 has been kept for temporary registration of mental health institutions, but registration of mental health experts will be free.
- Two thousand rupees will be payable for a temporary license of one year. After that, a fee of 20 thousand will have to be paid for permanent registration.

- For violating the rules, a fine of 5 to 50 thousand rupees will be imposed the first time, 2 lakh the second time and 5 lakh in case of repeated violation. A provision has been made to fine up to Rs 25,000 on the employees working in unregistered de-addiction centres.
- If a person violates the rules, then in such a situation, that person will be punished with imprisonment of six months or a fine of Rs 10,000 in the first instance, and for repeated violations, a jail term of two years or a fine of Rs 50,000 to 5 lakh.
- It is known that the State Mental Health Authority was constituted in the year 2019. After this, the state government has formed a board for monitoring and hearing in seven districts. Of these, boards have been formed in Haridwar, Dehradun, Udham Singh Nagar, Pauri, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Tehri and Uttarkashi districts, while the process is underway in six districts.
- Under the State Mental Health Policy Manual, de-addiction centres cannot keep a mental patient hostage in a room. The patient will be kept in the de-addiction centres and will be discharged only on the consultation of the doctor. Fees, stay, and food menu will have to be displayed in the centre.
- A doctor, a psychiatrist will have to be kept for the treatment of the patients. There should be an open space in the centre for the mentally ill.
- Monitoring will be done through the Mental Health Review Board at the district level. Mental patients will be given a phone facility to talk to their relatives. Apart from this, the distance from one bed to another has also been fixed in the rooms.
- With the implementation of this policy, mental patients of the state will get better treatment facilities. Along with this, there will be a ban on incidents happening in mental health institutions.

Security of Women Working Night Shifts in factories to be Strengthened

Why in News?

On July 7, 2023, in the Uttarakhand cabinet meeting, the proposal of the Labor Department was approved, deciding to strengthen the security for women employees working in factories in night shifts.

Note:

Key Points:

- It is known that whatever reliefs were given to women workers in the Factories Act 1948, the relief has been further increased by amending it.
- Now it will be mandatory to install panic buttons, GPS devices, and CCTVs in the vehicles carrying women workers working in night shifts in factories to their homes.
- Police verification of the driver-conductor operating these vehicles has also been made mandatory. It has also been clarified that women can work the night shift only in those factories where there are at least 20 women workers. Less than this, the night shift will not be allowed for women workers.
- When the new rules are implemented, it will be easier for women to travel from home to the factory.

ESI Benefits Available for the 1st Time in 7 Hilly Districts , Dispensaries will open

Why In News?

On July 10, 2023, according to the information received from the media, for the first time in the seven hilly districts of the state, the directorate will open dispensaries in these seven districts to provide benefits of Employees State Insurance Scheme (ESIC) to the insured personnel. At the same time, ESI hospitals are going to be opened in three new cities in the state.

Key Points

- According to the information, with the opening of dispensaries in these seven hilly districts, two lakh people, including the relatives of 50,000 insured personnel, will get the facility of free treatment.
- According to the directorate, till now the ESIC insured employees and their families in Uttarkashi, Champawat, Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Pithoragarh, Almora and Bageshwar had to come to plain districts to avail health facilities. According to the figures of the Labor Department, there are 50,000 insured workers in these seven districts so far. However, there are many people in these districts who work in other states. In such a situation, their relatives will be able to take advantage of ESIC in the mountain itself.

- A 300-bed hospital is being built in Haridwar by the Employees' State Insurance Scheme, in which 250 beds will be specialty and 50 beds will be of super specialty. This hospital will be ready by 2025. After this, for the first time, ESI insured employees will get state-of-the-art and expensive treatment free of cost.
- At the same time, a proposal to build a 100-bed ESI hospital between Rishikesh-Raiwala in Dehradun has been sent to the District Magistrate. On the other hand, a proposal has been prepared and sent to Kashipur to build a 100-bed ESI hospital near the city. Till now there is only one ESI hospital in Rudrapur in the state.
- It is known that there are about seven lakh employees working in companies, factories or other institutions who come under the purview of ESI. Including their family members, the number of people taking health benefits from ESI is about 28 lakhs.
- The addresses of 10 dispensaries already running in Udham Singh Nagar, Haridwar and Nainital are going to be changed. The Directorate has issued a notification for change of rental building at new places. Under this, dispensaries at Sitarganj, Bajpur, Jaspur and Rudrapur in Udham Singh Nagar district, Bhagwanpur, Haridwar and Sidcul in Haridwar, Bahadradab and Lalkuan, Haldwani, Nainital

Green Technology Treatment for 23 Landslide Zones in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On July 11, 2023, according to the information received from the media, the state government is going to take a big step towards the treatment of the chronic landslide zone which has become a canker for the roads in the mountainous areas of Uttarakhand. Now such landslide zones will be treated with green technology using bioengineering techniques.

Key Points:

- Rs 100 crore has been approved in the first phase for this work under the World Bank-funded U-Prepare project.
- In the first phase, 23 chronic landslide zones have been identified in different hill districts.

Note:

- It is known that the landslide zones, which become active every year during the monsoon season in the state, put a brake on the pace of development of the state. Due to the closure of the roads, where the movement is interrupted, the whole life is affected. The state government spends crores of rupees every year to open the roads closed by landslides, but every time the same situation is created again. That is why the state government has now decided on their permanent treatment.
- Under the first phase of the World Bank-funded U-Prepare project, a high-powered committee headed by Chief Secretary Dr. SS Sandhu has given permission for the treatment of 23 active landslide zones.
- Of these, chronic landslide zones will be treated at one place in Chamoli, one in Almora, six in Nainital, four in Pauri, four in Tehri, four in Uttarkashi and three in Rudrapur.
- For this, green technology will be used under bioengineering techniques. In this, special species of plants are planted with concrete, cement and mesh, so that soil stones and rocks become stable forever.



Newly Built Library & New Website of Uttarakhand Vidhan Sabha Inaugurated

Why in News?

On July 13, 2023, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retired) inaugurated the newly constructed library and new website of the Vidhan Sabha in the Vidhan Sabha Auditorium of Uttarakhand, so that information related to the legislative works of the Vidhansabha and the proceedings of the Vidhansabha can now be found on one click.

Key Points:

- Apart from this, books and research-based books of famous writers from India and abroad will be available from the e-library in the Vidhan Sabha.
- More than 25 thousand books have been included in the library, in which important books related to various subjects including constitution and law, public administration and general knowledge will be available. The books will be available in both digital and print form.
- The Vidhan Sabha library will help the MLAs in their parliamentary work, while on the other hand, they will also benefit in social work by studying the special books available in the library.
- Through this library in the Vidhan Sabha, all the elected members can get information regarding the solution to their parliamentary problems as well as the parliamentary traditions and proceedings inside the house. According to the agenda from the books available in the library, information about the proceedings of the House and old records will guide many people.
- This library will also be connected with the library of other state assemblies of the country.
- On the new website of Vidhan Sabha www.vidhansabha.gov.in, legislative and assembly proceedings and question-answers will be available to the people in one click.



Harela Parv-2023

Why in News?

On July 17, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Harela festival organized by the Forest Department at Maharana Pratap Sports College, International Cricket Stadium in Raipur, Dehradun.

Note:

Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also honoured schools and van panchayats who have made commendable efforts towards environmental protection.
- Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal said that a target has been set to plant eight lakh saplings in the state this year on the occasion of Harela festival. This campaign will run till August 15.
- He said that apart from planting saplings, special attention should also be paid towards their conservation. The Forest Inspector of the sector in which the success rate of trees will be the highest, will be honored.
- Chief Conservator of Forests Anoop Malik said that on August 15, 75-75 saplings would be planted in 1750 villages. He appealed to all the residents of the state to work unitedly for the protection of the environment and plant saplings and post selfies with plants, so that we can tell our future generations what contribution we have made towards environmental protection.
- In the program, the Chief Minister said that Uttarakhand is a naturally rich state. The Harela festival here is a symbol of happiness, prosperity, peace, environment and nature conservation. This festival is a festival of social harmony and also an indicator of season change. Harela is one such festival, which deepens our closeness to nature.
- The Chief Minister said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the central government has laid great emphasis on the circular economy as the circular economy has a big role to play in the field of water conservation. When treated water is reused, fresh water is conserved and the entire ecosystem is greatly benefited.



Himalayan Thermal Energy will generate Electricity in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

On July 17, 2023, according to information received from the media, Uttarakhand will soon generate electricity from the heat of the Himalayas. For this, for the first time work will be started on power generation from geothermal energy.

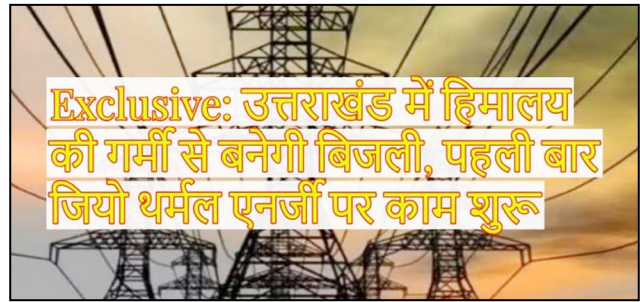
Key Points:

- The state government and Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) will soon sign an MoU to generate electricity from the heat of the Himalayas. Soon a team of experts from ONGC, Geological Survey of India and Iceland Geo Survey will come to explore the possibilities of geothermal energy at different places in the state.
- It is known that there is a possibility of large-scale geothermal energy in the Himalayan regions of Uttarakhand. This has also come to the fore in earlier studies.
- It is noteworthy that last month, ONGC has signed an MoU with a scientific and research organization called Iceland GeoSurvey to set up a geothermal energy project in Ladakh.
- Meanwhile, ONGC Director (Expansion) Sushma Rawat, considering it a good way to meet energy needs, said that its possibilities would be seen in other states of the country. In this sequence, the Government of Uttarakhand is now going to start work on GeoThermal Energy in the state in association with ONGC.

Note:

- It is known that in the year 2008, a research paper of Prof. Kailash Bhardwaj and Prof. SC Tiwari of Garhwal University was published. In this, immense possibilities of Geothermal energy were expressed in the mountainous regions of Uttarakhand.
- He said in his research that in the womb of the Himalayas, energy is hidden from 121 to 371 degree Celsius, which can be used in electricity generation.
- In his research, he has mentioned three drills in the 3 kilometres upstream area of Dhauliganga near Tapovan Geothermal Spring, from where springs of hot water of temperature 65-90 degree Celsius were coming out. A geothermal spring near Yamunotri was also found to have 88-90 Degree Celsius hot water.
- Scientists said that geothermal areas of Badrinath, Gaurikund and Tapovan can be developed.
- The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology did a major study on Geothermal Springs in Himachal and Uttarakhand in the year 2020. Wadia director Kalachand Sai told how 40 hot water springs have been identified in Uttarakhand and 35 in Himachal Pradesh, which in the future, it can prove to be very effective in terms of energy production.
- It is worth mentioning that hydropower projects in the state have been pending for a long time. Now the state government is working on its options so that in the future electricity can be produced according to the needs of the state.
- The state government will generate electricity from coal in Odisha. For this, a joint venture of UJVNL-THDC is being formed. On the other hand, a pumped storage policy is being formulated in the state for generating electricity from rainwater. Jindal Group has completed surveys for this in four districts of Dehradun, Nainital, Almora and Champawat in the state.
- The possibilities of generating 10,600 MW of electricity in the country from geothermal energy were estimated 15 years ago. 129 MW in Kenya, 7 MW in Ethiopia, and 56 MW in Papua New Guinea can be seen as examples. Today 20 countries of the world including America (3676 MW) are producing electricity from geothermal energy.
- This is how electricity is generated from geothermal energy: Drilling is done in the geothermal area. Here electricity is generated by running a turbine with the steam of hot springs. The water produced from this steam is again sent by drilling inside the ground.

- Presently 1396.1 MW of hydro-power projects are running under Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam (UJVN). Construction work is underway on 440.5 MW hydropower projects. Apart from this, about 60 projects of solar energy are going on. Relative to this the demand for electricity is many times higher.



More than 8 lakh people Out of Poverty Line in Uttarakhand in 5 years

Why in News?

On July 17, 2023, The Multidimensional Poverty Index report of NITI Aayog, released in New Delhi, revealed that Uttarakhand's multidimensional poverty has decreased by 8 percent during the 5 years of the National Family Health Survey of 2015-16 and 2019-21.

Key Points:

- In this way, according to the population of 2011 census, 815,247 people have come out of the poverty line in Uttarakhand.
- It is known that NITI Aayog has prepared this report through a comparative analysis of two National Family Health Surveys (NFHS).
- As per the report, the number of people living in multidimensional poverty in Uttarakhand has dropped from 17.67 percent to 9.67 percent between 2015-16 and 2019-21. In this way, a total decline of 8 percent has been registered.
- According to the report, the multidimensional poverty of rural areas of Uttarakhand decreased by 11.03 percent. In 2015-16, 21.87 percent were poor, which decreased to 10.84 in 2019-21.
- There is less poverty in the urban areas of the state than in the villages. Between 2015-16 and 2019, multidimensional poverty in cities fell from 9.89 percent to 7 percent.

Note:

- Improving nutrition, schooling, sanitation, access to cooking fuel, electricity, housing, assets, bank accounts, child and maternal mortality, and health services have played a significant role in reducing poverty.
- Maximum 16.18 percent of people came out of the poverty line in Almora district. Uttarkashi in second place saw 14.74 percent people come out of poverty. Champawat district with a decline of 12.82 percent stood at the third place, Bageshwar district at the fourth place with a decline of 12.49 percent.
- Apart from these, 11.72 percent in Udham Singh Nagar district, 11.60 percent in Tehri Garhwal, 9.96 percent in Chamoli, 8.77 percent in Rudrapur, 8.41 percent in Haridwar, 7.48 percent in Pithoragarh, 3.86 percent in Dehradun, 3.31 percent in Nainital and 3.01 percent in Pauri Garhwal district poor were decreased.



Uttarakhand Ranks 1st among the Himalayan States in the Export Preparedness Index released by NITI Aayog.

Why in News?

On July 17, 2023, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Berry released the third edition of the report titled 'Export Preparedness Index (EPI) 2022' for the States/UTs of the country, in which Uttarakhand has retained its first position among the Himalayan states.

Key Points:

- EPI 2022 report to assist in decision-making with sector-specific insights, identify strengths, address gaps and empower state governments to drive growth

at scale across India's States and Union Territories (UTs) has been advocated.

- The report presents a comprehensive analysis of India's export turnover during FY 2021-22, including sector-specific as well as district-level commodity export trends.
- The EPI 2022 report evaluates the performance of states across four pillars – Policy, Business Environment, Export Ecosystem and Export Performance.
- The index uses 56 indicators to provide an overall picture of the export preparedness of states and UTs, both at the state and district levels, in terms of exports.
- A brief description of the four pillars in the index is as follows -
 - The Policy pillar assesses States and Union Territories based on their export policy ecosystem and the institutional structure built around it at the State and District levels.
 - The Business Environment assesses the existing business environment in the State/UT including infrastructural facilities supporting the business, State/UT transport connectivity.
 - The export ecosystem takes into account the export infrastructure in the state along with the research and development activities prevalent in the state to promote innovation and business support to exporters.
 - Export performance is an output-based indicator, which measures the export growth of a state over the previous year and its export-oriented activities and presence in the global market.
- These pillars are further based on ten sub-pillars – Export Promotion Policy, Institutional Framework, Business Environment, Infrastructural Facilities, Transport Connectivity, Export Facilities, Trade Support, R&D Infrastructure, Diversification in Exports and Steps to Promote Growth Are included.
- The EPI Report 2022 observed that most of the 'coastal states' have performed well. Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Karnataka and Gujarat have been at the forefront of export preparedness among all categories of states across the country.
- Uttarakhand has made a quantum jump in the Export Readiness Index. In this index ranking, the state has improved to 9th position in the country, while Uttarakhand was ranked 19th in the country in the Export Preparedness Index 2021 ranking.

Note:

- On the other hand, in the Himalayan states, after Uttarakhand, Himachal is in second place and Manipur is in third place.
- It is known that the state has also implemented a new export and logistics policy. In addition, two products have been selected in each district to increase exports.
- The infrastructure and facilities for exports are also being strengthened at the district level, which has helped Uttarakhand to rank ninth in the country in the index ranking, while Tamil Nadu ranks first and Madhya Pradesh ranks second.
- The Chief Minister said that the State Government has made several reforms to promote exports. World class Integrated Industrial Estate has been developed in the state. There are Integrated Container Depots at Pantnagar and Kashipur and Multi Modal Logistics Park at Pantnagar.
- Efforts are being made to make Dehradun and Pantnagar airports of the state as international level airports. To promote air travel, turbo fuel has been reduced by 18 percent.
- Aroma Park, Electronics Manufacturing Cluster, Pharma City-II, and Plastic Park are being developed in the state.
- Pharma, automobile, dairy products, vegetable products, honey, food items, mineral products, chemical products, plastic, rubber, wood products, textiles, transport-related products, and defence equipment are mainly exported from the state.
- In the state, pickles in Almora, natural fibres, copper craft, organic wool in Bageshwar, iron utensils in Champawat, dairy products, apples in Uttarkashi, fish and herbs in Chamoli, maize products in Dehradun, pharma, sugarcane products in Haridwar, automobiles, Pharma, Aipen craft in Nainital, wood craft in Pauri, multi-grain, carpet in Pithoragarh, honey, herbs, spices in Tehri, bakery production in Udham Singh Nagar, export of rice, mentha in Rudraprayag will be increased.
- Year-wise export status in the state:

Year	Exports (Rs. in crore)
2014-15	8509
2015-16	7350
2016-17	6011
2017-18	10837
2018-19	16285
2019-20	16971

Players will get α 4% Sports Quota in Jobs

Why in News?

On July 19, 2023, in the meeting chaired by the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, Dr. S.S Sandhu, an agreement was reached on the proposal to give a four percent horizontal sports quota to the players of the state on the posts of direct recruitment. Soon its proposal will come into the cabinet.

Key Points:

- At the same time, national and international medalists will get direct jobs in various six departments ranging from 2000 to 5400-grade pay.
- It is known that the proposal to give jobs to medal winners of national competitions in the post of grade pay 2000 was earlier returned by the Finance Department saying that jobs cannot be given on this grade pay post. However, the Finance Department had agreed to appoint gold, silver and bronze medal winners in the Olympics to Group 'B' posts.
- The department had talked about giving jobs in the posts of Grade Pay 4800 to the gold medal winners of the Olympic Games, World Championships, World Cup, Asian Games and Commonwealth Games in sports category- 2 and grade pay 4600 to silver and bronze medal winners.
- In the Sports Category- 3, medal winners in SAF Sports and National Games were given consent to be placed in Group 'C' positions in Asian Games, Commonwealth Games, World Championships, and World Cup, but the matter of job was stuck in the grade pay 2000 post.
- It was also agreed upon in the meeting:
 - Five percent quota for outstanding sports persons for admission to colleges.
 - The decision to examine the utilization of the land identified for setting up a Women's Sports College in Udham Singh Nagar.
 - Provision of national and international level sports coaches in the Centre of Excellence.
 - Organizing sports competitions and training camps for persons with disabilities.
 - A meeting will be held with the Forest Department for the land of the sports university in Haldwani.
 - Summer training camps will be organized.

Note:

- The excise department is deducting a cess of one rupee on liquor and beer bottles. It will be given to the Sports Department. A proposal will come into the cabinet for its notification.
- The under-construction stadium at Ransi in Pauri will be developed as a High Altitude Center.

International Brainstorming on Disaster Management will be held in Dehradun

Why in News?

On July 23, 2023, according to information received from the media, the Sixth World Conference Pre-Conference on Disaster Management will be held in November in several states including Uttarakhand. The pre-conference will be held in Dehradun on August 4, and preparations have started for it.

Key Points:

- International Disaster Society, State Disaster Management Authority and Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology (UCOST) will jointly organize this conference from November 28 to December 1.
- Representatives, students, and researchers from more than 100 countries of the world will participate in this. UCOST is the scientific and technical coordinator of the conference.
- UCOST Director General Dr. Durgesh Pant said that in the month of June, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami had released the poster of this conference.
- After the first pre-conference on August 4 in Dehradun, there will be pre-conferences in the North East states.
- The theme of the conference is Strengthening Climate Action and Disaster Resilience. The techniques being adopted in different states and countries will make disaster management easier in other countries as well.
- Japan has done a lot of work in the field of disaster management. Their machines will also be displayed at this world conference. Invitations have been sent to all the countries for this. When the rivers change course due to various reasons, it also causes a lot of loss of life and property. This will also be discussed by experts at the conference.

- It is known that Uttarakhand is a very sensitive state from the point of view of disasters. Experts from all over the world and people working in the field of disaster management in mountainous areas will participate in the 6th World Conference on Disaster Management.

Govt. Services will Become Costlier by 5 % Every Year in the State: Order Issued to Increase User Charges

Why in News?

- According to information received from the media on July 22, 2023, the user charges being collected in lieu of government services being provided in Uttarakhand will now become five percent costlier on April 1 every year. Finance Secretary Dilip Jawalkar has issued an order in this regard.

Key Points:

- It is known that user fee means any such fee, which is being collected through various departments or agencies.
- It has been said in the order that due to regular small increases in fees, people will not be burdened one time and funds will also be received for repair and maintenance of public services. Till now there was a tendency to collect user fees at the level of departments at intervals of three to five years, which appeared to be a lump sum.
- All the departments will have to compulsorily provide the facility of UPI to collect user charges through their respective web portal app. The order states that it is necessary to link the user fee rates to the prevailing market inflation.
- Only the state cabinet will have the right to reduce the rate of increase in user charge below five percent. He can reduce the revised rates on reasonable offers.
- According to the order, if it is justified and practical to increase the user charges of any service by more than five percent, then the departments will be able to do so. The revised rates will be applicable in such a way as to cover the cost of operation and upgradation of the unit.
- It is worth noting that in hospitals, the user charge is collected in lieu of many other departmental services including slip fee, disease test fee, driving license

Note:



and its renewal, RC, transfer of vehicles, income certificate, permanent residence certificate, copy of account-khatauni, copy of the registry, drinking water bill, which will increase by five percent on April 1.

- According to sources in the finance department, property tax will also increase by five per cent on April 1 of every financial year. The Finance Department will issue a separate order for this.

State's 1st Plant to be set up in Rudrapur

Why in News?

On July 24, 2023, according to the information received from the media, the Rudrapur Green Energy Company, which set up the state's first Compressed Biogas (CBG) plant, will also set up a plant to make drinking water from atmospheric vapour and steam in Rudrapur. The officials of the company have discussed with the mayor and municipal commissioner of Rudrapur Municipal Corporation setting up the plant.

Key Points:

- According to the information, after making CNG from waste and electricity from CNG, now Rudrapur Green Energy Company is going to take the initiative to make drinking water from air. For this, the company has entered into an agreement with Arrow Water Private Limited.
- Sameer Rege, director of Rudrapur Green Energy Company and project in-charge Vikas Kumar said that in the era of modern technology, a plant to make drinking water from Vapour, steam and moisture has started being set up. By using this technology, there will never be any shortage of water in life.
- He informed that Rudrapur Municipal Corporation has been contacted regarding the plant to be set up at a cost of crores of rupees. However, now Mayor Rampal and Municipal Commissioner Vishal Mishra are discussing with the higher officials to set up the plant.
- A project has also been made on behalf of the company to clean and renovate the Kalyani river of Rudrapur. By setting up treatment plants at various places near the Kalyani river, it can be cleaned.
- Officials said that the company has also made a project to launch liquid manure community tanks under the Kalyani brand to reduce the cost of fertilizers for the

farmers. Compost centres will be set up at different places in the city.

- Project in-charge of Rudrapur Green Energy Company Vikas Kumar said that the compressed biogas plant has been set up with the technique of build on, operate and transfer. The capacity of the project in the first phase is to produce dry and liquid organic fertilizers with compressed biogas using 20 tonnes of wet biodegradable waste per day. Soon the capacity of the plant will be to make CNG from 50 tonnes of wet waste.
- Biogas will be used for cooking and electricity generation. Compressed biogas will be used as fuel for transportation vehicles.

National GeoScience Award

Why in News?

On July 24, 2023, President Draupadi Murmu presented the prestigious **National Geoscience Awards-2022** (NGA) of the Ministry of Mines to Dr. Vikram Gupta, scientist of Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geoscience, Dehradun, at a grand ceremony held at Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Center.

Key Points:

- It is to be noted that the National Geoscience Awards - 2022 (NGA) honored 22 Geo-science including working professionals and academicians from across the country under three categories - one National Geo-Science Award for Lifetime Achievement, one National Young Geoscientist Award and eight National Geo-Science Awards in different fields of Geo-Science.
- The National Geo-Science Award for Lifetime Achievement was given to Dr. Om Narayan Bhargava (Honorary Professor, Department of Geoscience, Panjab University, Chandigarh). He is known for his remarkable work in the Himalayas over the last four decades.
- The National Young Geoscientist Award was presented to Dr. Amiya Kumar Samal, Assistant Professor, Banaras Hindu University. He has made significant contributions to understanding the heterogeneity of the sub-continental lithospheric mantle (SCLM) beneath the various Archaean cratons of the Indian surface.
- Dr. Vikram Gupta, Scientist, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geoscience, Dehradun, was awarded the

Note:

National Geo-Science Award jointly with Dr. Saibal Ghosh (Deputy Director General, Geological Survey of India, Kolkata) for the investigation of natural hazards under Applied Geoscience, which includes scientific studies related to natural hazards like earthquakes, landslides, floods and tsunamis.

- Dr. Vikram Gupta has been awarded the National Geo-Science s Award (NGA) for his contribution to studies around natural hazards, especially landslides in the Himalayan region.
- Dr. Vikram Gupta has traced major landslide hot spots and potential landslide sites in the Himalayan region. These are such large landslide zones, which can create a great danger to the population by making temporary dams on the river flowing along them. After doing such study in Himachal's Sutlej, now he is expanding the study in Uttarakhand's Alaknanda valley as well. So far, he has published more than 85 papers on landslides in international journals.
- It is noteworthy that the National Geo-Science Awards (NGA), instituted in 1966, is a symbol of respect and appreciation for exceptional individuals and organizations who have demonstrated excellence, dedication and innovation in the field of Geo-Science s. These awards are given in the fields of mineral exploration and exploration, basic Geoscience, applied Geo-Science and mining, mineral beneficiation and sustainable mineral development.
- A total of 173 nominations were received for the National Geo-Science Award-2022. The number of valid nominations under the three award categories is 168. Out of a total of 12 awards, the AMA has finally selected 10 awards, including 4 individual awards, 3 team awards and 3 joint awards. The 4 individual awards also include an award for the National Geo-Science Award for Lifetime Achievement and another for the National Young Geoscientist Award.

S.N.	Category of Award	Number of Awards
1.	National GeoScience Award for Lifetime Achievement	1 Award
2.	National GeoScience Awards	8 Award (3 Team Awards + 3 Joint Awards + 2 individual Awards= 20 awardees)

3.	National Young Geo-scientist Award	1 Award
	Total	10 Awards (22 Awardees)



All India Police Science Congress will be held in Doon after 13 years

Why In News?

On July 25, 2023, According to the information received from the media, the **All India Police Science Congress to be held in October has been hosted by Uttarakhand this time.** Although its date has not been announced at the moment.

Key Points:

- Significantly, the police department has received a letter for this from the Ministry of Home Affairs. Union Home Minister Amit Shah will participate in it as the chief guest. Uttarakhand got the responsibility of Police Science Congress 13 years back in 2010.
- It is known that every year Science Congress is organized in the country to brainstorm on how to

Note:

make the police capable of fighting modern crimes. IGS and DGPs of all the states participate in this. Last year this Science Congress was held in Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.

- Uttarakhand DGP Ashok Kumar said that till now the FRI located in Dehradun has been proposed as the venue for the Police Science Congress. Senior police officers will be included for the panel in the Science Congress.
- The DGP said that this time the main points of the Science Congress will be drone technology, cybercrime, and prevention of drug smuggling. Cybercrime is a big crime at present. Criminals are using new methods in this. In such a situation, it is very important to discuss it in detail.

Chief Minister Released the Promo and Poster of Uttarakhand Feature Film 'Pahadi Ratna Sridev Suman'

Why In News?

On July 25, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the promo and poster of Uttarakhand feature film 'Pahadi Ratna Sridev Suman' in New Delhi.

Key Points::

- Remembering the great revolutionary Sridev Suman on his death anniversary, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that people will experience Sridev Suman through this film based on the life and works of Sridev Suman.
- Sridev Suman always raised his voice against injustice and started mass movements against dictatorship. Suffered many inhuman tortures, but did not deviate from the path of truth.
- Sridev Suman was not only a people's leader but he had an unwavering patriotism within him. He was a revolutionary, intellectual, creator, journalist and a visionary great man.
- The Chief Minister said that when the movement against the British was going on in India, a movement was being run by the Tehri Prajamandal, which was headed by Sridev Suman. While fighting this battle, he protested many times in a peaceful way, had to

face a lot of harassment, many times also went on fast unto death.

- He actively participated in the Quit India movement and remained in jail for years, many inhuman atrocities were committed on him in jail. Despite this, his struggle continued.
- He started his historic fast on 3rd May, 1944 and breathed his last on the evening of 25th July, 1944.

A New Government Order has been issued regarding the Condition of Maintenance, Repair and Condominium of Government Vehicles in the state

Why in News?

On July 26, 2023, Uttarakhand Transport Secretary Arvind Singh Hyanki issued a new government order deactivating all the previous government orders regarding the **maintenance, repair and condominium of government vehicles in the state.**

key points

- A new government order has been issued by encroaching on all the previous government orders to repair and declare the vehicles unusable. On this basis, the rules of repair and condominium will apply.
- Under the new mandate, any government motorcycle with a capacity of less than 300 cc will be allowed to attain the age of 10 years and cover a distance of one lakh km. Walking will be considered a condominium. All four-wheelers will not be able to operate after completing 15 years of age.
- For the repair of vehicles, they will be able to go to the garage or dealer authorized by the Transport Department. In the departments where technical staff is available for maintenance and repair of vehicles, repairs can be done in departmental workshops after the recommendation of technical staff within the limit of the available budget.
- Departments where technical staff is not available can get repairs done by a garage or dealer recognized or authorized by the Transport Department after the

Note:

technical recommendation of the Divisional Inspector of the Transport Department. The condition for this is that it is possible to spend more than five percent of the purchase price of the vehicle.

- According to the government order, the transport department will also take a decision for such vehicles, whose age is about to end and their repair may cost more. If needed, they will be declared condominiums.
- These are the rules for the vehicles to be condominium:
 - All vehicles of government departments, municipal corporations, municipalities, panchayats, state transport undertakings or any public sector undertaking which have completed 15 years of age from the date of registration will be considered as condominiums.
 - Government two-wheelers with engine capacity of less than 300 cc will have to complete the age of 10 years from the date of registration and cover one lakh km. (80 thousand km in the mountainous area.) condominiums can be done while walking.
 - Government two-wheelers with a capacity of more than 300 cc can be used for 10 years of age and 1.25 lakh (one lakh in mountainous areas). condominiums can be done while walking.
 - Age of 12 years and one lakh km. Government three-wheelers can be consumed.
 - Vehicles with a gross vehicle load capacity of up to 3000 kg can be 13 years of age and 1.50 lakh km. But it can be condoms. Age of 11 years and two lakh km, age of nine years and 2.50 lakh km, age of seven years and three lakh km. But condominiums can also be done.
 - Vehicles with a load capacity of 3000-7000 kg can be used at 12 years of age and 2.25 lakh km, 10 years of age and 2.75 lakh km. condominiums can occur when walking.
 - Vehicles with a capacity of more than 7500 kg can be found at the age of 12 years and 2.50 lakh km, 10 years of age and 3 lakh km. After that, there can be condominiums.
 - If a vehicle crashes and is not in a repairable condition, it can be suspended on the recommendation of the Divisional Technical Committee even if the vehicle is malfunctioning or the vehicle is more expensive to operate and repair. This committee will include the RTO of the concerned division, the ARTO of the subdivision, and RI Technical.

Rural Children to experiment with science; Mobile Science Lab will be provided by UCOST

Why in News?

On July 27, 2023, Dr. Durgesh Pant, Director General, Uttarakhand Council of Science and Technology (UCOST), said that even children from remote areas of the state will now be able to learn the experiments of science. For this, a Labs on Wheel program is going to be started.

Key Points:

- For the first time in the state, UCOST's mobile van will go to every district, which will have all the equipment of the lab.
- It is known that there are many schools in the state, where labs are there, but they are not as strong as they should be. In many places, children are not even able to do science experiments. Especially the arrangements for making scientific use of the books which children read up to 8th or 10th standard are less. To overcome this deficiency, UCOST is starting the Labs on Wheels program.
- According to the information, one mobile van will be operated in every district. This van will have all the equipment related to scientific experiments. Each expert's team will also be with you. This team will reach out to remote areas and teach science experiments to children. Will tell the wonders of science.
- Eucost believes that this will develop scientific temper within the children. They will also get inspiration to move forward in the field of science.
- The Science City is being constructed by the National Council of Science Museum (NCSM) on 25 acres of land in the vicinity of Ucost Jhajharia. It will be a unique city of its kind, in which every aspect of life will be explained through science. This type of science city is only selected in the whole country.
- Apart from this, the construction of the Sub Regional Science Center has also started in Almora. Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has given five crores for this. Efforts are being made to start it from this year itself.

Note:



Key Points

Details

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Summary

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