



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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# Content

● Free WiFi through Fiber to Home Connection in 1114 Villages of the State .....	3
● Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Fund (Corps Fund) .....	3
● Preparation to Give Two Houses to the Residents of Vibrant Village .....	3
● Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Fund (Corps Fund) .....	4
● Preparation to Give Two Houses to the Residents of Vibrant Village .....	4
● Two Lakh Site of 5G Launched in Gangotri.....	5
● PM Flags off 1st journey of 'Vande Bharat Express Train' between Dehradun to Delhi .....	5
● Tiger Safari will start in Doon Zoo .....	6
● Uttarakhand and Goa will become Partners in the field of Tourism .....	7
● Amar Ujala First Honor .....	8
● 90% of Eco-Tourism Earnings will be spent on the Local Community.....	9
● The state will soon get Cyber Forensic Lab .....	9
● 16 Proposals Approved in the State Cabinet Meeting.....	10
● Approval for Proposal of 300 Acres of Land for Jamrani Dam displaced Families .....	11
● Patch Reporting App'.....	11
● Government to Take Back Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium .....	12
● Bills of Branded Products will also be included in the 'Bill Lao, Inam Pao' Scheme .....	12
● Bio-fencing to be done to Protect Crops from Wildlife .....	13
● A grand bronze 'Om' weighing 60 quintals will be installed in Kedarnath Dham .....	13
● Inauguration of National Homoeopathic Conference 'Homoecon 2023' .....	14
● State Government will give a 75% subsidy on project costs to Single Women for self-employment.....	14
● GIA map of the Entire State will be prepared.....	15
● Chief Minister inaugurated Shri Anna Mahotsav 2023 at Hathibarkala .....	15
● Chief Minister presented 'Hospitality & Tourism Excellence Award' to Entrepreneurs and Businessmen associated with tourism sector .....	16
● Smart School Smart Block' Program.....	17
● The Chief Minister Approved Several Proposals to Help Journalists.....	17
● All Villages of Uttarakhand will be Free from Plastic Waste.....	18
● CM launches Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR) .....	18
● Somnath Mela Masi 2023.....	19
● CM launches New Format of CM Helpline 1905 at Secretariat .....	19
● Chief Minister released the book 'Cyber Enc ounters' .....	20
● Tungnath temple will be declared a National Monument .....	21
● For the 1 <sup>st</sup> time in the country, BRO opened a Cafe in Chamoli. ....	21
● Students will get Bilingual Books in Uttarakhand Schools.....	21
● Important Decisions of Uttarakhand Cabinet.....	22
● Review of Vision 25, Sankalp 2022 .....	23
● Dr. S.S Inaugurated the Training Module under Mission Karmayogi .....	23
● Actress Dr. Arushi Nishank receives the 'Fresh Face of Bollywood' award.....	24

## Free WiFi through Fiber to Home Connection in 1114 Villages of the State

### Why in News?

On 29 May 2023, the Director of Uttarakhand Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) Nitika Khandelwal said that a free WiFi facility will soon be available in all government offices and bodies of 1114 gram panchayats of the state. For this, an agreement has been signed between the Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) and BSNL.

### Key Points:

- ITDA Director Nitika Khandelwal said that an agreement has been signed with BSNL for this Rs 50 crore project.
- Under this, 3090 Fiber to the Home (FTTH) connections will be given. Also, BSNL will take care of their maintenance for the next five years.
- It is worth mentioning that last year the government released a budget of 50 crores for the FTTH scheme, but the work could not be started on time. To avoid a budget lapse after 31 March, the government has given this budget again this year.
- Under this scheme, BSNL will provide FTTS service in 1114-gram panchayats of the state. Under its ambit, all the government institutions coming under that Gram Panchayat will be included till the Panchayat Ghar. Free WiFi facilities will be available at all these places.
- It may be noted that the gram panchayats in which the work of laying optical fiber cable was given to BSNL under Bharat Net-1, were not able to complete it within the stipulated time.

## Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Fund (Corps Fund)

### Why In News?

- On May 26, 2023, Principal Secretary, Forest and Environment Department of Uttarakhand, R.K. Sudhanshu said that to reduce the incidents of human-wildlife conflict in the state, the department has given green signal to Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention and Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Fund (Corps Fund). A government order has been issued in this regard.

### Key Points:

- It is known that every year 60 to 70 people die in human-wildlife conflict in the state and 250 to 300 people get injured. In order to provide immediate relief in such incidents, the state government has set up a human-wildlife conflict prevention cell as well as a corpus fund of Rs 2 crore.
- The state government will be able to increase or decrease this amount at its own discretion. The special thing is that the amount will be non-lapsable. That is, whatever amount of funds is left every year, it will remain in future also and the amount received in future will go on adding to the fund.
- One Forest Officer of the Forest Department, one GIS expert on contract basis and two JRF, SRF experts will be appointed in the cell.
- The Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Cell will operate under the office of Chief Wildlife Warden. The cell has been established for scientific analysis of the incidents happening between humans and wildlife in the state.
  - What will the cell do:
    - To collect data of every human-wildlife incident happening in the state.
      - To monitor the status of payment of ex-gratia after the event.
      - Scientific analysis of all events.
      - Study of the steps being taken in this regard in other countries and regions.
      - Participation in wildlife census in the state.
      - Other technical work.

## Preparation to Give Two Houses to the Residents of Vibrant Village

### Why In News?

On May 28, 2023, Nitika Khandelwal, the nodal officer of the Vibrant Village Program in Uttarakhand, said that the state government is preparing to provide houses to the residents of the four vibrant villages of the state even at the places of seasonal migration. For this, instructions were given to send a proposal to the Center in a meeting chaired by Chief Secretary Dr. S.S Sandhu recently.

Note:

**Key Points:**

- It is known that in the recent meeting chaired by Union Home Minister Amit Shah in Delhi, instructions have been received that an action plan should be prepared within three months keeping in view the specialty of each village under the Vibrant Village programme.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi's dream project Vibrant Village program includes four border villages of the state, Niti, Mana, Malari and Gunji.
- Under the Vibrant Village programme, such families from each village will be given houses at both the places through the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana. Its proposal will be sent to the Centre. After this, the central government will take a decision on this.
- At the same time, it has also been decided that a district level committee and then a block level committee will be constituted for the Vibrant Village Program under the chairmanship of the District Magistrate in the districts.
- The Border Security Force will buy fruits, vegetables, milk, eggs, meat etc. from the people living in the Vibrant Village. A proposal is also being prepared for this, which will soon be sent to the High-Power Committee.
- If any village has any problem or issue with the army or security forces, then its proposal will also have to be sent to the government. A Growth Center will also be set up in every Vibrant Village. ITBP has also appointed one nodal officer for all the Vibrant Villages.
- Chief Secretary Dr. S.S. Sandhu has given instructions that minibuses should operate in the vibrant villages where there is a problem with public transport. For this, the proposal from the district concerned will be made available to the Transport Department.
- All the districts will solve the problems related to land rights immediately by coordinating with the revenue department. Telemedicine facilities will also be provided in Vibrant Village.

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## Two Lakh Site of 5G Launched in Gangotri

**Why in News?**

On 24 May 2023, Union Communication Minister Ashwini Vaishnav launched the two lakh site of 5G at Gangotri Dham in Uttarakhand from Dehradun by pressing

the digital button. With this, the four Dhams are now connected to 5G service.

**Key Points:**

- Now optical fiber connectivity has been done in all the four Dhams. This will not only provide better internet connectivity to the devotees around the Chardham temple complexes but will also help in disaster management, surveillance and monitoring of yatras on a real time basis.
- The Union Communication Minister informed that 4G services will be provided in 1581 frontier and vibrant villages of Uttarakhand. Under the 'Vibrant Village Scheme', the central government has arranged funds for 2800 such villages. All this responsibility has been given to BSNL.
- It is known that work is going on very fast on the plan of 4G and 5G connectivity. This technology will be available in every panchayat, block, tehsil and district headquarters of the country. This facility has reached almost all the district headquarters.
- It is known that the country is now becoming an exporter of technology. The engineers here have started getting 6G patents. There have been more than 100 such patents.



## PM Flags off 1st journey of 'Vande Bharat Express Train' between Dehradun to Delhi

**Why in News?**

- On 25 May 2023, Prime Minister Narendra Modi flagged off the Vande Bharat Express between Dehradun to Delhi through video conferencing. He also dedicated newly electrified railway sections to the nation and declared Uttarakhand as a state with 100 percent electric traction.

Note:

**Key Points:**

- This is the first 'Vande Bharat Express train' to start in Uttarakhand. This train will connect the country's capital with the Devbhoomi of Uttarakhand. The travel time between the two cities will be further reduced and the world class facilities available on the train will make traveling a pleasant experience.
- The train is indigenous and equipped with advanced safety features including armor technology. The new Vande Bharat Express will cover the distance between Dehradun and Delhi in 4.5 hours.
- On this occasion, the Prime Minister mentioned 9 gems of development-
  - **First** - Rs 1300 crore renovation work in Kedarnath-Badrinath Dham.
  - **Second** - Rs 2500 crore ropeway project in Gaurikund-Kedarnath and Gobind Ghat-Hemkund Sahib.
  - **Third** - Renovation of ancient temples of Kumaon under the Manas Khand Mandir Mala program.
  - **Fourth** - Promotion of homestays across the state (More than 4000 homestays are registered in the state).
  - **Fifth** - Development of 16 ecotourism places.
  - **Sixth** – Expansion of health services in Uttarakhand (sub-centre of AIIMS in Udham Singh Nagar).
  - **Seventh** – Rs 2000 crore Tehri Lake Development Project.
  - **Eighth** – To develop Haridwar Rishikesh as the capital of Yoga and Adventure tourism.
  - **Nawan** - Tanakpur Bageshwar Rail Line.
- He informed that the work on the Char Dham mega project with a cost of Rs 12,000 crore is going on at a fast pace. The Delhi Dehradun Expressway will make travel faster and easier.
- He said that the Rs 16,000 crore Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project would be completed in 2-3 years. This project will make a large part of Uttarakhand accessible and promote investment, industry and employment.



## Tiger Safari will start in Doon Zoo

### Why in News?

On 23 May 2023, Mohan Singh Rawat, Forest Officer of Dehradun Zoo, Uttarakhand, said that on the lines of the state's world-famous Jim Corbett and Rajaji Tiger Reserves, tiger safari will soon start in Dehradun Zoo as well.

### Key Points:

- Here the track has been prepared for Tiger Safari, while the work of making 11 enclosures is in the final stage. As soon as the work of the enclosures is completed, a pair of tigers from Nainital Zoo will be shifted here. After this, the tourists will be able to see the total 25 hectares of the zoo area.
- It is known that till now the activities of the Zoo are being conducted only in an area of five hectares.
- The team of Central Zoo Authority (CZA) has also visited Dehradun Zoo to start Tiger Safari. As soon as the work of the enclosures is completed, once again the CZA team will permit inspecting the spot.
- In this track prepared for Tiger Safari, instead of Gypsy, tourists will be taken by electric vehicles, so that the noise and pollution of vehicles can be avoided.
- It is known that this zoo was started in the year 1976 as Van Chetna Kendra. Due to being in Malsi village and the number of deer being high, it was later named Malsi Deer Park. In March 2012, it was converted into a mini zoo. Now after the start of Tiger Safari here, the Zoo is going to get a new identity.

Note:

- In Doon Zoo, two cubs of Guldar (A local name given to Leopard) will be brought here from Chidiyapur Rescue Center in a month. Apart from this, two bears (sloth and black bear species), two foxes, and two hyenas will also be brought to the zoo.
- It is worth mentioning that at present there is a female Guldar, 23 types of birds, 23 types of wildlife, and ten species of snakes, crocodiles, and alligators in the zoo. Apart from this, an aquarium has been prepared for fish.
- Dehradun Zoo has always been a centre of tourist attraction. In the last year 2022, 7 lakh 65 thousand tourists came to the zoo. Every day 12 to 15 hundred tourists reach here, while on Sundays the number of tourists reaches 4 to 5 thousand. The zoo earned about 3 crores 35 lakh rupees. This money is spent on the care, food and other expenses of the wildlife.
- The carnivorous animals in the zoo are observed fasting on Tuesdays. No food is given to them on this day. This is done in view of their balanced diet.



## Uttarakhand and Goa will become Partners in the field of Tourism

### Why in News?

On 23 May 2023, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed in the presence of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami and Goa Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte to promote mutual cooperation in various aspects of tourism.

### Key Points:

- The MoU was signed by Uttarakhand Tourism Secretary Sachin Kurve and Goa Tourism Director Sunil Achipka.

- Through bilateral cooperation in the field of tourism, both the states will also try to increase the number of tourists on the basis of a joint action plan and improve travel facilities between the two states in the development of tourism facilities.
- Under the MoU, focus on more than one direct flight connectivity facility from Goa to Uttarakhand for the convenience of tourists, cultural exchange programs to acquaint tourists with the distinctive cultural heritage of Goa and Uttarakhand, efforts will be made to create opportunities for road shows, organizing mutual festivals, showcasing local cuisine, folk culture & handicrafts.
- Both sides will work on exploration of joint packages for promotion of various tourism products keeping in view the convenience of tourists. Both the states will also share best practices in the field of tourism.
- In adventure tourism activities, both the states will jointly promote major adventure activities like water sports, aero sports and land based activities. States will focus on encouraging private sector and youth participation to develop adventure tourism activities.
- Land Based Activities like Paragliding, SkyDiving, Hot Air Balloon, Skiing etc, including Mountain Biking Trekking/Hiking, all Terrain Motor Biking, possibilities will be explored in destinations like Tehri Nainital, Baur Jal, Nanakmatta in Uttarakhand and other water body areas.
- These activities include aero sports powered hang glider, water sports parasailing, scuba diving, white water rafting, jet boats, jet boats, flyboarding, along with the water sports of Water Goa, the focus will also be on jointly developing and promoting water sports.
- In the field of eco-tourism, there are many national parks and wildlife in both the states. Sanctuaries which can be promoted as ecotourism. Both the states can jointly work for a strategy to promote and develop spiritual & religious tourism.
- In the field of wellness tourism, Uttarakhand has huge potential in the field of Ayurvedic and Yoga, while Goa has many spa & wellness resorts which can be promoted jointly.
- Similarly, in the field of heritage tourism, both Uttarakhand & Goa have colonial history and there are many places with rich cultural heritage, for which joint promotional strategy can be worked out.

Note:



- Both sides will work together in the field of human resource development and also partner in ensuring exchange of knowledge & expertise in the field of tourism.
- Describing the occasion as historic, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama said that this initiative would inspire other states as well. Citizens of both the states will be able to take advantage of the first direct flight service from Goa to Dehradun, which will boost tourism in both the states.
- This direct flight between Goa and Dehradun will encourage the people of both the states to travel, tourists will get the opportunity to see the Himalayas from the sea.
- This MoU will help in getting familiar with each other's rich cultural heritage besides promoting tourism of both the states. Both Uttarakhand and Goa are tourism oriented small states. Both the states can take advantage of these opportunities by mutual coordination and can also solve the problems.
- Goa's Tourism Minister Rohan Khaunte also termed the MoU signed between Goa & Uttarakhand as historic and said that this will lead to unprecedented growth in the tourism sector of both the states. Tourism is a major part of Goa's GDP. More than 35% of the jobs in Goa are generated from tourism.
- Goa government is working on the vision of trade, technology and tourism. States can promote tourism in their respective areas with mutual coordination. At present, Goa has moved beyond the principle of Sun, Sand and Sea. Here work is being done in various areas like adventure tourism, eco tourism, spiritual tourism, wellness tourism, heritage tourism.



## Amar Ujala First Honor

### Why in News?

On 22 May 2023, at the Prathama Samman ceremony organized by Amar Ujala & Devbhoomi Uttarakhand University, Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan and Women & Child Development Minister Rekha Arya presented the Prathama 2023 Samman to 26 women who gave a new direction to the society.

### Key points

- Among the women who received the Prathama Award were the vice-chancellor of the university, director of AIIMS, professor, doctor, film actress, scientist, social worker, environmentalist, sportsperson, woman entrepreneur & the first woman cab driver.
- Speaking on the occasion, Assembly Speaker Ritu Khanduri Bhushan and Women & Child Development Minister Rekha Arya paid respect to the women by saying that this is a good beginning. These women are not only making their valuable contribution to the society but are also becoming an inspiration for thousands & millions of daughters.
- Women bodybuilder Pratibha Thapliyal, cab driver Imrana, international para badminton player Neerja Goyal were also felicitated on the occasion.
- The event was organised in association with RBS Developer, Nilaya Heights & Nilaya Hills, L.G. Electronics India Pvt Ltd, Treat Milk Rusk & Namkeen.



Note:





## 90% of Eco-Tourism Earnings will be spent on the Local Community

### Why in News?

On 18 May 2023, the Uttarakhand cabinet approved the proposal for revenue sharing in eco-tourism activities. Under this, 90 % of the income from eco-tourism in Uttarakhand will be spent at the local level.

### Key Points:

- Under the proposal passed by the cabinet, 10 % of the earnings in the first year from the fees charged for various items (entrance fee, adventure activities, parking, stay facilities, camping) in new eco-tourism destinations in forest areas outside the protected areas and in the coming years, 20 % will be deposited in the account of the government.
- Organizations & committees formed at the local level for conducting tourism activities will be able to spend this money on the maintenance of tourist places and other items.
- This system will remain in force till the first year, while from the second year onwards 20 % of the earnings will go to the government and 80 % to the local community.
- Apart from this, for such eco-tourism destinations, whose income exceeds Rs 5 crore after a time, then the additional amount will be deposited in the state fund. Regarding already operated eco-tourism destinations, 20 % will be deposited in the treasury, while 80 % will remain with the local bodies for their maintenance etc.

- Three awards will also be given to the districts which have done excellent work in developing eco-tourism destinations. Rs 1 crore will be given as the first prize, Rs 75 lakh for the second and Rs 50 lakh for the third prize.
- The districts will use this prize money to take forward other activities of eco-tourism. The district which comes first will not be considered for this award for the next three years.
- It may be noted that the Uttarakhand Eco-Tourism Development Corporation was established in 2016 under the Companies Act, of 2013. Under this, a proposal for revenue sharing has now been passed.

## The state will soon get Cyber Forensic Lab

### Why in News?

According to the information received from the media on 19 May 2023, the Uttarakhand Police will no longer have to depend on the Central Forensic Lab or the labs of other states for investigation in cyber crimes. Soon the state will get its own forensic lab.

### Key Points:

- According to the information, the Central Government has approved a budget of Rs 4 crore. of this, Rs 1.25 crore has also been released as a limit.
- It is known that cyber crimes are increasing continuously. At present, Uttarakhand has the fifth place in the country, where the maximum number of cyber crimes are registered. In many cases, computers, mobiles and other items are sent to the Central Forensic Lab, Chandigarh, for forensic examination.
- The Chandigarh Lab has priority to investigate cases of the Chandigarh Police. After this, he gives preference to Punjab and Haryana Police. In such a situation, the police number of Uttarakhand or other states comes much later.
- According to the police officers, sometimes the investigation of the cases is also affected due to delays in the investigation reports. There is also pressure to submit the investigation report in court. In such a situation, a proposal was sent last year to set up a cyber forensic lab.

Note:

## 16 Proposals Approved in the State Cabinet Meeting

### Why in News?

On May 18, 2023, a state cabinet meeting was held under the chairmanship of Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, in which a total of 16 proposals were passed, including giving two years of child care leave to single parents.

### Key Points

- The meeting also approved the CM Meritorious Scholarship Scheme which will provide scholarships to students studying in government schools from class 6 to 12.
- Scholarships from class 6 to class 10 will be given on the basis of percentage of marks after the scholarship exam. Rs 600 in class 6, Rs 700 in class 7, Rs 800 in class 8, Rs 900 in class 9, Rs 1200 in class 11 and 12 will be given as scholarship. Scholarship amount will be given every month.
- Other important decisions of the cabinet meeting:
- Must have scored more than 70% marks in class 6 to class 10. 75% attendance is necessary in the examination.
- There will be a chance to improve the result in two subjects in the Uttarakhand board examination. Apart from failed students, exams can also be given to improve their marks.
- The fire department has been divided into 7 categories depending on the city. Each category will have separate facilities.
- 955 BRCs and CRCs will be placed in the state through an outsourcing agency on a salary of Rs 40,000 per month.
- The tourism department has made rules for aerospots paragliding etc., under which a license will have to be obtained after fulfilling the conditions, a fine of up to Rs 50,000 will be imposed on those who do paragliding without a license.
- Approval for amendment to the Commercial Tax Officers Service Rules will now be called State Tax. Commissioner Tax has been reserved for 9 posts of Commissioner State Tax and Entertainment Tax.
- The powers of the financial committee have been increased - now instead of one crore, works up to 10

crores will get approval from the committee formed at the level of the departmental secretary. Those above this will get approval from the committee headed by the Chief Secretary.

- Approval for Bhatkhande Hindustani Sangeet Mahavidyalaya's manual.
- To promote eco-tourism in the state, only 10% of the income earned at the eco-tourism site will be deposited in the treasury. 90% share will be with the local committee so that development works can be done there. 20% of the old eco-tourism sites will be deposited in the treasury and if an amount of more than 5 crores is collected and no new work is possible, that amount will be deposited in the treasury.
- Now single parents in the state will be able to get child care leave for 2 years. Till now only women employees were getting this facility. Now single male guardians will also get this facility. Those whose children are more than 40% disabled will be able to get the benefit of CCL even after the prescribed 18 years.
- According to the directions of the High Court, an officer of the Pollution Control Board will also be a member of the site selection committee for stone crusher hot mix plant.
- The government will now give a grant of Rs.80 instead of Rs.30 per cow per day in the Gaushalas built for destitute cattle in the state; DM will also be able to give money on this infrastructure development.
- The displaced persons of the Jamrani Dam will be given 300 acres of land at Parag Farm in Udham Singh Nagar. Its displacement policy has already been passed by the Cabinet.
- The limits of Nagar Panchayat Kaladhungi will be expanded.
- Nazul Policy 2021 has been extended in the state for one year.



Note:

## Approval for Proposal of 300 Acres of Land for Jamrani Dam displaced Families

### Why in News?

In a meeting of the Uttarakhand Cabinet on 18th May, 2023, the Cabinet approved the proposal for 300 acres of land for the families displaced under the Jamrani Dam Multipurpose Project in Rani Bagh area of Haldwani in the state.

### Key Points

- This land is in Parag Farm area of Udham Singh Nagar, where the displaced families will be settled. This land registered in the Revenue Department will now be transferred to the Irrigation Department.
- It is worth mentioning that about 1323 families of six villages are to be rehabilitated under Jamrani Dam Project. For this, the state government has already approved the rehabilitation proposal. Under this, one acre of land will be given to each displaced family of category-one.
- Till now almost all the formalities regarding the construction of the dam have been completed. Financial approval has also been done. The work of dam construction will be started as soon as the budget is released. After this, drinking water will be supplied to the people of nearby areas including Haldwani in the coming times.
- The Jamrani Dam project has been included in the 'Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchayee Yojana' by the Public Investment Board (PIB). This project will not only provide irrigation water to 1.5 lakh hectares of agricultural area, but will also provide drinking water supply to Haldwani city and generate 63 million units of electricity.
- It can be noted that these days objections were sought for rehabilitation and resettlement under the Jamrani Dam project, which was published in the month of April.
- The objections are being disposed of at the level of ADM Administration Nainital. A final publication will be made to hear all the objections. After this, the process of compensation and land distribution will be initiated.

## Patch Reporting App'

### Why in news?

- Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama launched a 'patch reporting app' On May 18, 2023, this app will have been used to capture photos of potholed roads from anywhere in the state and send them to the government.

### Key Points

- Through this app, Any person will now be able to register his complaint on the 'Patch Reporting App' with complete information by taking photographs of potholes on the roads around him. After the repair of that road, the photo of the repaired road will be sent to the complaint on the app itself along with complete information.
- Through the app, there will be a lot of help in making the roads of the state pothole free.
- The Chief Minister instructed the officials of the Public Works Department that within a week of receiving the complaint, the responsibility of the officers should be fixed for action and the higher officials should also monitor it regularly.
- The location information of the pit spot will automatically be displayed in the patch reporting app. This mobile app, which helps in making the roads pothole-free in the state, has been developed by the Public Works Department to maintain interaction with the common people for smooth and safe travel.



Note:



## Government to Take Back Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium

### Why in News?

On May 16, 2023, Uttarakhand's Sports Minister Rekha Arya said that after giving the state's first Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium on lease for 30 years, the government will now take it back. The department has got in-principle consent from the government for this.

### Key Points

- According to department officials, the company did not fulfil the prescribed service conditions. This is the reason why the stadium is being taken back.
- According to Jitendra Sonkar, director of the sports department, this stadium was constructed in the year 2016-17 at a cost of about Rs 253 crore. It is the first international stadium in the state, which was leased to the Infrastructure Leasing and Financial Services Company with certain conditions.
- It is known that this company is the country's leading infrastructure development and finance company. The public sector company has 40 subsidiaries, but after taking the International Stadium on the lease, the company went bankrupt and did not fulfil the service conditions.
- An account was to be opened on behalf of the company, in which the amount deposited could not be withdrawn without consent, but the account was not opened. The company was given 2.8 acres of land in the stadium complex for the development of sports infrastructure, but it was also not completed. Apart from this, an ice skating rink was to be operated at Maharana Pratap Sports College, but it was also not started.
- This stadium built at a cost of crores was not being used properly due to non-fulfilment of the service conditions for this stadium given on seven and a half percent gross revenue. This is the reason that in the meeting chaired by the Chief Minister, approval has been given to take back the stadium and bring its proposal to the cabinet.
- It is noteworthy that the Afghanistan Cricket Board adopted the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium

in Dehradun as the home ground in the year 2018. During that time many T20 International matches took place here. Apart from this, the Cricket Association of Uttarakhand had also chosen the stadium as the home ground.

- After taking back the Rajiv Gandhi International Cricket Stadium, it will be given in PPP mode. The transaction with the concerned company will be brought into the cabinet.



## Bills of Branded Products will also be included in the 'Bill Lao, Inam Pao' Scheme

### Why in News?

On 15 May 2023, Uttarakhand State Tax Commissioner Iqbal Ahmed said that along with extending the 'Bill Lao Inam Pao' scheme till November 2023, the state government has abolished the condition of non-branded bills. Now bills for branded products will also be included in the scheme.

### Key Points:

- It is known that the 'Bill Lao Inam Pao' scheme was launched on 1 September 2022, with the aim of encouraging customers to collect GST bills.
- Till now, GST bills for non-branded clothes, sweets, restaurants, dry fruits, beauty parlours, laundry services and products were being included in the scheme but now GST bills for the purchase of all goods including branded ones will get a chance to get the reward in the scheme. The mega lucky draw of the scheme will be drawn in November 2023.

Note:

- State Tax Commissioner Iqbal Ahmed said that if the consumer buys household items other than branded company goods, he can upload the GST bill on the BLIP app. After that every month 1500 winners will be given smartphones, smartwatches and earphones as prizes through the lucky draw.
- Mega lucky draws will be drawn on the bills uploaded from 1 September 2022 to 30 November 2023, in which the winners will be given many attractive prizes including cars, motorcycles, laptops, and smart TVs.
- GST bills received from online purchases will not be included in this scheme. Bills for goods/services directly from vendors will be included in the scheme. These bills have to be uploaded on the BLIP app. Points will be given to consumers on every uploaded bill, which will be in the form of rewards, cash back, and discount coupons.
- Under the scheme, such GST-registered traders will also be rewarded, from whose establishment maximum bills will be uploaded.

## Bio-fencing to be done to Protect Crops from Wildlife

### Why in News?

On 16 May 2023, Chief Wildlife Warden of Uttarakhand Forest Department, Dr. Sameer Sinha said that bio-fencing will now be promoted in place of solar power fences to reduce the loss of crops caused by wildlife in the state.

### Key Points:

- In order to promote bio-fencing, instructions have been given by the state government to set up a cell as well as appoint special officers for this. Apart from promoting bio-fencing, this cell will also conduct research on these subjects.
- Budget will be arranged for this in the Campa Fund itself. Plant species will be studied for different fencing.
- It is known that till now only solar energy fencing was used to protect crops from damage, but the cost of installing it is high. Once the fencing is done by the department, it is handed over to the villagers. Due to a lack of proper maintenance, this fence wears out quickly and the beneficiaries do not get the expected results.

- In order to avoid this problem, Chief Secretary Dr. Sukhbir Singh Sandhu, in the meeting of the Steering Committee of CAMPA (Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority), directed the forest officials to promote bio-fencing.
- Wild boars, elephants and monkeys especially harm the crops in the state. Bio-fencing will be done accordingly in the area where the terror of wildlife is more.
- Depending on the weather, climate and geographical conditions, different bio-fencing is done at different places. These commonly include black bamboo, thorn bamboo, ram bamboo, geranium, lemongrass, various types of cactus, Euphorbia antiqorum (tridhara), devil's backbone, eastern red, Clerodendrum inermis, bougainvillea, gooseberry, Jatropha curcas, Duranta erecta, hybrid vine tree, Leyland Cypress and Hemelia etc.
- Dehradun Forest Division's forest officer Nitishamani Tripathi said that bio-fencing was used in Lansdowne in the year 2015, which was successful. Some time ago this method was also adopted in Ramnagar. This type of fencing is being used in many countries.
- Under this, beekeeping is used as bio-fencing. In this, instead of keeping the bee boxes on the ground at the edge of the field, with the help of trees or pegs, they are suspended above the ground with the help of a wire. As soon as an animal moves this wire, bees come out and attack it. This method has proved effective in keeping elephants away from the fields.
- That's why bio-fencing is better:
- Solar power is cheaper than fencing and there is not much hassle of maintenance after installation.
- Different types of fences also yield different types of production.
- Prevents soil erosion.
- It is a cheaper deal than building a wall or digging a pit.

## A grand bronze 'Om' weighing 60 quintals will be installed in Kedarnath Dham

### Why in News?

On May 16, 2023, Mayur Dixit, District Magistrate of Rudraprayag, Uttarakhand said that a grand bronze Om (ॐ) figure weighing 60 quintals will be installed in the Gol Plaza of Lord Ashutosh's Dwadash Jyotirlinga Kedarnath.

Note:

**Key Points:**

- The District Magistrate said that the District Disaster Management Authority and the Public Works Department, with the help of a Hydra machine, conducted a trial to install the figure in the round plaza, which was completely successful. Soon it will be installed permanently.
- It is known that under the dream project of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Kedarnath is being grandly decorated along with securing it. These days the work of the second phase is going on in full swing in the Dham. In the first phase, the Temple Road and Gol Plaza were constructed along with the expansion of the temple complex.
- The figure of Om is being installed at the Gol Plaza in Kedarnath, which is situated just above the Sangam, about 250 meters before the temple. The grandeur of Kedarnath Gol Plaza will increase even more if the shape of Om is established.
- The bronze figure of Om weighing 60 quintals has been made in Baroda, Gujarat.
- To completely secure the Om shape, welding will be done with copper from all four sides. Also, the middle portion as well as the edges will be protected so that it does not get damaged due to snowfall. Om shape will be installed permanently in a week.



## Inauguration of National Homeopathic Conference 'Homoecon 2023'

**Why in News?**

On 14 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the National Homeopathic Conference 'Homoecon 2023' at Doon University, Dehradun in the state.

**Key Points:**

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister launched a documentary on homeopathy and also honoured the doctors doing commendable work in the field of homeopathy.
- It is worth mentioning that Prime Minister Narendra Modi formed a separate Ministry of AYUSH in the year 2014 to promote the traditional medical system in India. Homeopathy has been considered by the World Health Organization as the second most popular system of medicine in the world.
- Recalling the father of homeopathy, Samuel Christian Hahnemann, the Chief Minister said that he developed such a treatment method in the form of homeopathy, which is very effective as well as economical.
- The Uttarakhand state government is determined to establish Devbhoomi as an important AYUSH region. In a state like Uttarakhand with a heterogeneous geographical situation, the importance of AYUSH and especially the homeopathy medical system increases due to being economical and effective.



## State Government will give a 75% subsidy on project costs to Single Women for self-employment

**Why in News?**

On 15 May 2023, Uttarakhand's Women Empowerment and Child Development Minister Rekha Arya told the media that the state government will give a 75 percent subsidy on the project cost to single women for self-employment in Uttarakhand.

**Key Points:**

- The departmental minister said that this subsidy will be given on projects costing Rs 50,000 to Rs 2 lakh, while 25 percent of the amount will be given as a loan without a guarantor.

Note:



- The departmental minister informed that a proposal is being prepared at the directorate level for the self-employment of single women. It will be presented in the next cabinet after the approval of the Department of Justice, Finance and Personnel.
- The departmental minister said that in the first year, 500 women would be benefited from the scheme. There are about 1.5 lakh single women in the state. Apart from this, the amount of Rs 30 thousand received by the workers from the Anganwadi Welfare Fund will be increased to Rs 50 thousand. Both proposals will be brought to the next cabinet.
- The minister said that there are four lakh single women in the state, but to make economically weak single women self-reliant, the scheme to be launched in the name of 'Ekal Mahila Self-Employment' will cover about one and a half lakh women.
- These women will be able to do any self-employment-related work like animal husbandry, beauty parlour, tea shop etc.
- To get the benefit of the scheme, the age of the woman should be 22 to 45 years and the annual income should be less than 72 thousand rupees.
- Among Single Women, widows, divorced, abandoned, unmarried women, as well as transgenders, will also be eligible for this scheme.
- In the meeting, while increasing the scope of the Mahalakshmi kit, the minister instructed to prepare a proposal for giving the kit even after the birth of a child.
- The Uttarakhand Revenue Board will conduct a survey of the land recorded in the revenue records under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Program (DILRMP). Along with this, details of the land of all government departments will also be collected.
- Under the Digital India Land Records Modernization Program, a target has been set to complete the survey work of the entire land of the state in about two years. The RFT tendering process will be started after the order is issued by the Chief Secretary.
- The survey work will be done with Aerial Lidar (Light Detection & Ranging) technology. This is the survey's aerial mapping technique, which uses calibrated laser returns from the Earth's surface and is accomplished via a GPS-tracked aircraft equipped with on-board positional & IMU sensors.
- It is known that due to the hilly terrain of the state (9 districts), all the lands are embroiled in the dispute of round accounts. Government is not able to start many development schemes due to the non-availability of land. At the same time, many departments do not have records of their own available land.
- To overcome all these problems, the government has now decided to conduct a survey of the entire land. For this, a governing body has been constituted under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary Dr. S.S. Sandhu, in which Chief Secretaries, Principal Secretaries, Secretaries and Heads of Departments have been made special invitees.
- After the survey of the entire land in the state and preparation of the GIS map, it will help in solving the issues related to land disputes. Along with this, it will be easier for the government to take decisions at the planning stage. The Bhu Aadhaar Number (ULIPN) of every land will be prepared.

## **GIA map of the Entire State will be prepared**

### **Why in News?**

On 14 May 2023, Commissioner & Secretary of Uttarakhand Revenue Council, Chandresh Yadav told the media that for the first time, the entire land of the state would be surveyed by taking the help of modern technology. After this, a map of the entire state will be prepared with GIS (Geographical Information System).

### **Key Points:**

- A budget of Rs 150 crore has been arranged for this by the state government. Uttarakhand Revenue Council has been made the nodal agency for this work.

## **Chief Minister inaugurated Shri Anna Mahotsav 2023 at Hathibarkala**

### **Why in News?**

On 13 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated Shri Anna Mahotsav 2023 at Survey Stadium, Hathibarkala in Dehradun district.

Note:



**Key Points:**

- Thousands of farmers from all over the state are participating in the four-day Shree Anna Mahotsav.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister inspected various stalls based on Millets and released the book 'Swad Ke Saath Swasthya' based on nutritious crops of Agriculture Department, Uttarakhand.
- This event will prove to be a milestone in promoting 'Shri Anna'. Such events will not only encourage the cultivation of millets but also provide necessary information related to millets to the farmers.
- It is worth mentioning that the year 2023 is being celebrated as 'Millets Year' in the country and on the proposal of India, the 'United Nations' has declared 2023 as the International Year of Millets.
- The Uttarakhand state government is working to encourage the cultivation of millet in the hilly regions of the state through government schemes to encourage farmers and provide employment.
- Coarse grains like Mandwa, Jhingora, Chaulai are being procured from the farmers of the hilly districts of the state at minimum support price, along with this, online payment is also being made to the farmers. This is not only increasing the income of farmers but also encouraging farmers to produce millet products.
- An amount of about Rs 73 crore has been given to the State Millet Mission by the government to encourage millet crops and include them in the food of common people.
- Along with organic agriculture, the implementation of the National Natural Agriculture Mission scheme is being started in 11 districts of the state from this year. For this, approval has also been given by the Government of India to run an agricultural mission



program worth about 796 lakhs on 6400 hectares of land.

- Uttarakhand has got the first prize for two consecutive years for doing good work in the state in the field of organic farming.

## Chief Minister presented 'Hospitality & Tourism Excellence Award' to Entrepreneurs and Businessmen associated with tourism sector

**Why in News?**

On 13 May 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama presented the 'Hospitality & Tourism Excellence Award' to entrepreneurs and businessmen associated with the tourism sector in a program organized by a news channel.

**Key Points:**

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister also felicitated Director General Information Banshidhar Tiwari & Sushant Patnaik for his contribution in the field of environment and forest for better coordination with various tourism businessmen & contribution in effective publicity of public welfare schemes through media.
- It is known that the entire Uttarakhand is a destination from the point of view of tourism and efforts are being made to connect the state through various circuits. Along with tourism, there are many possibilities in adventure tourism and other tourism activities in the state.
- Due to the spontaneous natural beauty of the state, there are immense possibilities of tourism, industry and trade. The foundation stone of the ropeway from Hemkunt Sahib and Gaurikund to Kedarnath has been laid, due to which the journey will be easier in the coming times.



Note:

Passengers will reach Char Dham from Rishikesh in a very short time as compared to before construction of all-weather road and construction of Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail line.

## Smart School Smart Block' Program

### Why in News?

On 11 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the 'Smart School Smart Block' program at the auditorium located at Goralchod in Champawat district of the state.

### Key Points

- New dimensions will be achieved in the field of education through the 'Smart School Smart Block' program in the state. This step taken in the direction of making Champawat an ideal district is also a good initiative for ideal Uttarakhand.
- This work of providing modern education to the person standing at the last end of the society is being done with the help of Sampark Foundation and the government.
- This partnership of the State Government and Sampark Foundation is an effort for the betterment of education to present an innovative and first of its kind study program in government schools of the state.
- The 'Smart Schools Smart Blocks' program aims to improve the learning outcomes of 5484 children by training 274 teachers from 137 schools in Champawat block of Champawat district in the state.
- After successful implementation for 100 days in Champawat block, the program will be extended to Khirsu block of Pauri district in a time bound manner.
- Sampark Foundation brings together its entire range of innovative learning resources under the 'Smart Schools Smart Blocks' programme. These resources are in line with the state syllabus & SCERT which will completely transform the process of studying in the classroom and will help in making it convenient.
- The resources provided by 'Sampark' for this program include TV sets for each school, Sampark TV devices, Sampark Smart Shala application, Maths and English kit with Sampark Didi audio box, 500 lesson plans, 1100 lesson videos, 450 Activities with TLM, Class

and subject wise 2000 worksheets, 3000 questions for evaluation in the format of KBC Sampark Didi's questions, videos of songs & experiments on science topics for classes 6 to 8 and a resource book for teachers.

- Sampark FLN TV is an affordable plug & play device for classes 1 to 5, which consists of an Android set top box and a remote. It is very easy to handle & operate where it transforms a normal television into an interactive and engaging learning platform, making the classroom a smart classroom.
- The Sampark team will also train educational functionaries at the district, block, & cluster levels to monitor the use of TLMs and resources in schools & classrooms.



## The Chief Minister Approved Several Proposals to Help Journalists

### Why in News?

According to the information given by the Information & Public Relations Department of Uttarakhand on 11 May 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has organized a committee for 'Journalist Welfare Fund' and 'Chief Minister Journalist Samman Pension Yojana' for financial assistance to the state's journalists & their dependents.

### Key Points

- It is worth mentioning that in the meeting of the committee on 29 April 2023, on the applications received from the Journalist Welfare Fund for the distressed journalists of Uttarakhand & their dependents, a total financial assistance of Rs 45 lakh was given by the committee to the dependents of 09 deceased journalists, in which a proposal was made

Note:





to provide financial assistance of Rs 55 lakh to each dependent family, which has now been approved by the Chief Minister.

- For the medical treatment of journalists suffering from serious and incurable diseases, a proposal was made to provide a total financial assistance of Rs 20 lakh to 05 journalists and to provide financial assistance of Rs 72293 to one case from Chief Minister's Relief Fund, on which the approval has now been given by the Chief Minister.
- Under the 'Chief Minister Journalist Samman Pension Yojana', the committee agreed on the proposal to allow pension on 03 cases fulfilling the prescribed qualification/eligibility, which has also been approved by the Chief Minister.
- The committee found 06 cases incomplete under the provisions mentioned in the rules, in respect of which it was suggested to be given an opportunity to present the records once again.



## All Villages of Uttarakhand will be Free from Plastic Waste

### Why in News?

On 11 May 2023, Uttarakhand's Rural Development Commissioner and Panchayat Director Anand Swaroop said that 7791 gram panchayats of the state will be made plastic-free, for which an action plan has been prepared.

### Key Points

- Under this, with the help of three-tier panchayats, action will be taken from picking up plastic waste from every house to its disposal. Funds have been arranged for this work by the Central Government in the 15th Finance Commission.
- It may be noted that the 'Uttarakhand Plastic Waste Management Act' 2013 is applicable in the state. Plastic has reached every village but it was not being disposed of in the villages as per the arrangements given in the Act.

- Under the new scheme, work has already started to a large extent in 70 percent of the villages of the state.
- Under this, plastic waste will be collected from house to house at the Gram Panchayat level and transported to the door-to-door head. After this, this waste will be transported to the compactor through garbage vehicles at the area panchayat (block) level. The next task will be that of the district panchayats, who will transport the compacted waste to the plastic waste plant for disposal. This whole series will work under one cluster.
- Under this scheme, 95 vehicles (pickup vehicles) will be provided to 95 blocks of the state to pick up the plastic waste and take it to the compactor.
- Under this scheme, compactors are to be installed in all the 95 blocks of the state. While so far these have been installed in 69 blocks.
- Apart from this, the closed recycling plant has also been restarted in Haridwar, where compacted plastic waste will be disposed of.
- It is worth mentioning that in the year 2022, on a public interest petition filed by social activist Jitendra Yadav, the Uttarakhand High Court had directed the state government to make villages plastic-free. Along with this, instructions were also given to inform the court about the steps taken in this regard through an affidavit.

## CM launches Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR)

### Why in News?

On 9 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated the Automatic Number Plate Recognition System (ANPR) prepared by the Transport Department from the Secretariat.

### Key Points:

- The automatic number plate recognition system will facilitate compliance with traffic rules and online monitoring of tax evasion cases on major roads of the state.
- Installation of ANPR cameras will also help GST & other departments and prevention of tax evasion will also be possible through this. With this, there will be freedom from jams at check posts and traffic will also be easy. Along with this, the introduction of this system will also help in preventing vehicle accidents.

Note:

- Secretary Transport Arvind Singh Hayanki informed through a presentation that by amending the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988, arrangements have been made for electronic monitoring of vehicles by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India.
- All the check posts established on the state border in Uttarakhand have been abolished. In order to implement the electronic monitoring system in the state, in the first phase, ANPR will be started on the state border. A plan has been made to set up for which an amount of Rs 4.61 crore has been sanctioned from the State Road Safety Fund.
- Uttarakhand Transport Secretary informed that under this scheme, the process of integration has been started to make the data received from the ANPR portal available to the GST department, while other departments – mining, excise, tourism, urban development, Integration with Forest Department and Police are also proposed so that the data obtained through a single medium can be used by all the concerned departments.
- This system has been made fully automated, for which the software prepared for ANPR cameras has been integrated with VAHAN Portal and E-Challan Portal. With this, challans will be automatically generated on the basis of the number plate of the vehicle, in which there will be no human intervention.



## Somnath Mela Masi 2023

### Why in News?

On 8 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, participating in the historic Somnath Mela Masi 2023, announced a grant of Rs 5 lakh to the Somnath Mela.

### Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that the Somnath Masi Mela is organized on the banks of the river in front of the Sameshwar Mahadev temple situated on the other side of the Ramganga River in the village named Masi of Ranikhet Tehsil of Almora district of Kumaon Mandal.
- It starts on the last Sunday of Vaisakh and the mela of the first session is called 'Saltiya Mela'. Its main attraction is the water-throwing competition by throwing stones in the river on this side of the Ramganga in front of the temple of Somnath on the last Monday of Vaisakh.
- This competition takes place between the two factions of Palipchhau, Masiwal and Kanudia. Therefore, the people of both factions come with their respective marks (flags), and drums and stand at a fixed place on the banks of the Ramganga and wait for their signals to start the competition at the appointed time by the chiefs of both factions. As soon as there is a signal from their side by a flag or a whistle, the people of both factions throw big stones into the river with their hands and try to take the thrown water on themselves. This water is considered holy.

## CM launches New Format of CM Helpline 1905 at Secretariat

### Why in News?

On 9 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the new format of CM Helpline 1905 at the Secretariat.

### Key Points

- In the new version of CM Helpline 1905, apart from dialling 1905, the facility of web portal, mobile app and audio call recording feature have also been provided.

Note:

- Now along with taking help on 24 hours CM helpline 1905, the facility to register complaints will also be available.
- On this occasion, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami instructed the officials that the CM Helpline 1905 should be reviewed twice a month by the departments. The Chief Minister himself will review it in the last week of every month.
- The Chief Minister directed that people should be made more and more aware through the CM Helpline 1905. It should be ensured that the general public gets the benefit of this helpline created for the redressal of public problems and complaints.
- The Chief Minister instructed the officers to ensure that public problems are resolved at their level only. The problems which can be solved at the tehsil level should not reach the unnecessary District Magistrate and the problems which have to be solved at the district level should not reach the government level. The level at which the problems have to be resolved, if it is not happening then the responsibility of the concerned officers and employees should be fixed.
- Anti-Corruption Mobile App- 1064 should be made more powerful. Tehsil Diwas should be organized regularly. At the district level also, the District Magistrate should conduct public hearings every month. Tehsil Jan Samarpan Diwas should be organized on the first & third Tuesday of every month and the fourth Tuesday, the District Magistrate should solve public problems by observing Jan Samarpan Diwas in the district.
- All public problems and public complaints should be registered online. Those whose problems will not be resolved at the tehsil and district level, only those problems will be referred to the chief minister's office.



## Chief Minister released the book 'Cyber Encounters'

### Why in News?

On 7 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the Hindi version of the book 'Cyber Encounters' at St. Joseph's Academy, Rajpur Road, Dehradun.

### Key Points:

- This book is written by DGP Uttarakhand Ashok Kumar and former DRDO scientist O.P. Manocha.
- DGP Ashok Kumar and O.P. Manochahaves wrote this book analyzing cyber crimes and based on true incidents, it will help readers a lot in avoiding cyber crimes. In this book, where on the one hand an attempt has been made to make people aware by mentioning true incidents, on the other hand, the book is also entertaining. Each page of the book will work to inspire people to protect themselves from cybercrime.
- Cybercrime is the biggest challenge of the current era of technology and the DGP of the state has made the public aware of this challenge, increasing the relevance of this book even more.
- It is worth mentioning that the author of this book, DGP Ashok Kumar, is a 1989 Indian Police Service (IPS) officer of the Uttarakhand cadre.
- On 30 November 2020, he became the 11th DGP (Director General of Police) of Uttarakhand. In his nearly three decades of service, from undivided Uttar Pradesh to Uttarakhand, he has been posted to important posts in Police, ITBP and BSF. Over the years, he also wrote books on many subjects, in which his book 'Khakee Mein Insaan' has been very famous.
- Ashok Kumar was born on 20 November 1964 in Kurana village of Panipat district, Haryana. He received B.Tech and M.Tech education from IIT Delhi.
- DGP Ashok Kumar received the UNA Mission Medal in 2001 for his outstanding work in Kosovo. He was awarded the President's Police Medal for long and excellent services in the year 2006.
- O.P. Manocha is a DRDO scientist. O. P. Manocha is a Post Graduate of Physics (Electronics) and has 35 years of experience working in DRDO, the research wing of the Ministry of Defense where he has spearheaded various defense projects.

Note:



- He has six published works in various international & national journals and conferences, including Proceedings of Defense Science Journal, International Conference of Image Information Processing & International Conference on Advances in Computer Science.
- He is a Life Fellow of the Institution of Electronics & Telecommunication Engineers and a life member of the Computer Society of India & the Indian Society of Remote Sensing. He is the former President of IETE, Dehradun Chapter. He retired from DRDO in the year 2018.

## **Tungnath temple will be declared a National Monument**

### ***Why in News?***

According to the information received from the media on 6 May 2023, Devraj Singh Rautela, the officer-in-charge of the Archaeological Department of Uttarakhand, said that Kedar Tungnath Temple, the third of the Panchkedars, will be declared a national monument.

### ***Key Points:***

- It is known that the Tungnath Temple in the Rudraprayag district of the state is the highest Shivalaya (12800 feet) above sea level in Asia. The distance of Tungnath Temple from Rudraprayag district headquarters is 70 km. From Chopta, one has to climb 4 km on foot to reach the temple.
- Significantly, the Central Government issued a notification on 27 March 2023 to declare the ancient temple Tungnath as a monument of national importance.



## **For the 1<sup>st</sup> time in the country, BRO opened a Cafe in Chamoli.**

### ***Why in News?***

According to information received from media sources on 7 May 2023, on the 64th Foundation Day of Border Roads Organization (BRO), Minister of State for Defense Ajay Bhate virtually inaugurated the first cafe of BRO in the country at Pandukeshwar in Chamoli district on Badrinath Highway in Uttarakhand.

### ***Key Points***

- The cafe opened by BRO at Pandukeshwar is the first cafe of the organization. In this, the best food facilities will be provided for the pilgrims visiting Badrinath Dham and Hemkund Sahib.
- With this new initiative of BRO, the pilgrims coming on pilgrimage will get a lot of conveniences.
- Wherever there are BRO roads in the country, cafes will be opened at 75 places along them.



## **Students will get Bilingual Books in Uttarakhand Schools**

### ***Why in News?***

According to information received from media sources on 6 May 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, during the review of school education, said that from the next session, students of classes 6 to 12 of state government and non-government schools will be given Science, Mathematics and Civics bilingual books will be made available.

Note:

**Key Points**

- The Chief Minister said that in each such subject book of NCERT, the left page would be in Hindi and the right page would be in English language. This will make it easier for Hindi and English medium children to study.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister directed the officials to study the reasons for the dropout of students in the districts under school education and make every possible effort to reduce the number of dropout children and to increase the number of students in government schools.
- Under PM Shri, all the necessary facilities will be provided for the selected 142 schools of the state. Along with school education, special attention will also be given to vocational education.
- Courses will be conducted in polytechnic colleges and ITIs based on the demand of time. For this, continuous coordination will be made with industrial institutions, so that after training the students get proper placement.
- Paying special attention to the modernization of polytechnic colleges and ITIs, it should be decided that they should have skilled human resources as well as necessary equipment. Special attention should be given to those trades in which the demand for work has increased. Instructions were also given to upgrade polytechnic colleges and ITIs in a phased manner.
- The Chief Minister said that special attention will be paid to the compliance of the National Education Policy 2020 and work will also be done to promote vocational courses along with higher education.

## **Important Decisions of Uttarakhand Cabinet**

**Why in News?**

On 03 May 2023, the cabinet of Uttarakhand approved several other important proposals along with approving SETU (State Institute for Empowering and Transforming Uttarakhand) in Uttarakhand on the lines of NITI Aayog.

**Key Points**

- It is worth mentioning that on the completion of one year of the state government in March 2023, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced the Chief Minister's Skill Upgradation and Global Employment Scheme.

- Now, under this scheme, ANM, GNM pass youth will be given employment in Germany, Japan etc. for nursing, caring for the elderly and hospitality. For this, proposals have been received from 11 institutions. The government will bear 20 percent of the total expenditure incurred by the selected youth for learning a foreign language.
- Apart from this, if any youth takes a loan for the expenses of training, visa and air ticket, then the government will bear 75 percent of the interest of the loan up to Rs 1 lakh.
- SETU will work under the chairmanship of the Chief Minister. Its vice-chairman will be the planning minister, or a minister nominated by the chief minister. In this, an external expert will be placed in the post of Chief Executive Officer. The post of Additional Chief Executive Officer will be an officer of the level of Additional Secretary.
- In this, Rs 2 crore will be funded from the centre every year. In this expert will be taken from outside for 3 Centers for Economy & Social Development, Center for Public Policy & Good Governance and Center for Evidence-Based Planning along with 6 Consultants for Economic & Employment, Social Infrastructure, Public Policy & Good Governance, Urban & Semi-Urban Development, Statistics & Data, Monitoring & Evaluation.
- It has also been decided in the cabinet decision that a site selection committee under the chairmanship of DM will be constituted in every district to find land for any school, hospital etc.
- On this occasion, the cabinet has approved Chief Minister Uttarakhand State Livestock Mission in the state.
- Under this, 125 world-class veterinary hospitals will be built, while the computerization of 575 veterinary hospitals will be done. Horse mules will also encourage entrepreneurship. Now the purchase of a horse mule has also been included in this.
- Under this, a 9 percent subsidy will be given on the loan interest for buying milch animals, sheep, goats, and hens as well as horses & mules for business.
- The cabinet has approved the Uttarakhand Fodder Policy 2023. Under this, a provision has been made to spend Rs 66 crore to promote green and dry fodder production.
- This policy will be for five years. Under this, 10 straw storage houses will be built.

Note:

- A Corpus fund will be created for an uninterrupted supply of fodder in the state in case of natural calamity.
- As of now, the government pays Rs 2 per kg to the Pirul collectors in the state. By increasing this, now Rs 3 per kg will be paid under this.
- The cabinet has approved the formation of the Human-Wildlife Conflict Prevention Cell in the state.
- While this cell will find out the causes of human-wildlife conflict and suggest its redressal to the government, compensation will also be made available immediately on the occurrence of human-wildlife conflict. For this, a corpus fund of two crore will be created.



## Review of Vision 25, Sankalp 2022

### Why in News?

Under the chairmanship of Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, Dr. S.S. Sandhu, the Government's "Vision Paper 25, Sankalp 2022" was reviewed in the Secretariat.

### Key Points

- During the review, the Chief Secretary gave instructions to collect the data of the state so that the ex-servicemen of the state can take maximum advantage of this scheme under the General Bipin Singh Rawat Ex-Servicemen Credit Guarantee Scheme. Along with this, instructions were also given to monitor this project daily.
- He directed to focus on the development of roads from Tanakpur, Ramnagar and Haldwani to the Manaskhand circuit to make access to the Manaskhand circuit easy.
- To strengthen the women's self-help groups, the products made by them should be made available

in the market. Online platforms should be made available for marketing. Along with this, instructions were given to increase the maximum number of Jan Aushadhi Kendras in the state.

- To promote eco-tourism across the state, instructions were given to identify & develop maximum eco-tourism sites and to bring maximum proposals for the development of affordable rental housing complexes in rural & urban areas.
- While expediting the construction of excellent schools, the Chief Secretary instructed us to put the scheme on the ground soon and to focus on providing hostels along with strengthening colleges under higher education & technical education.

## Dr. S.S Inaugurated the Training Module under Mission Karmayogi

### Why in News?

On 1 May 2023, the Chief Secretary of Uttarakhand, Dr. S. S. Sandhu inaugurated the training module for online training of state officers and employees prepared by Tolia Uttarakhand Academy of Administration under the Mission Karmayogi at Secretariat.

### Key Points:

- Instructing all the departments to be onboarded on the iGOT portal soon, the Chief Secretary said that nodal officers of all the departments should be nominated soon to be onboarded on the iGOT portal.
- According to the Director General of Dr. R.S.Tolia & Uttarakhand Academy of Administration B.P. Pandey, 36 out of 72 departments have been onboarded on the iGOT portal so far. Training material will be available for the training of employees on this online portal, from which departmental personnel will be able to receive e-learning material through an official email ID.
- The departments which already have their training material available can be uploaded on this portal so that all personnel can get it easily. So far 120 training modules have been uploaded to the portal, by next month the number will be around 200.

Note:



## Actress Dr. Arushi Nishank receives the 'Fresh Face of Bollywood' award

### Why in News?

On 29 April 2023 Renowned actress, filmmaker and social activist from Uttarakhand Dr. Arushi Nishank felicitated as the 'Fresh Face of Bollywood' by Sheikh Yacoub Al Ali and HE Arefa Al Falahi at the Global Inspirational Awards and Fashion Festival in Dubai has been awarded.

### Key Points

- This award was given to Arushi Nishank for her outstanding work in Bollywood as an actress and producer.
- It is worth mentioning that Arushi Nishank was born in Kotdwar, Uttarakhand. Aarushi's father Dr. Ramesh Pokhriyal Nishank is a Member of Parliament from

the Haridwar constituency and he has also been a former Union Education Minister.

- Arushi, who rose to fame by being a part of three music videos by T-Series and G-Music, will next be seen in the film 'Taarini'.
- Arushi Nishank runs her own production house - Himshree Films and is producing a show with Disney+Hotstar.



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Note:



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**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

**Key Points**

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