



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

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## Sonali Ghosh of Uttarakhand became the 1<sup>st</sup> woman director of Kaziranga Park

### Why is News?

According to information received from the media on September 2, 2023, Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Sonali Ghosh, resident of Dehradun, Uttarakhand, will be the first woman officer to take charge as Field Director of Kaziranga National Park (KNP) in Assam. have become

### Key Points:

- According to information, Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer Sonali Ghosh took charge as Field Director of KNP on 1 September. With this, Sonali has become the first woman officer to take charge as the director of the 118-year-old KNP.
- It is worth mentioning that the Assam government had already issued an order to appoint Sonali Ghosh as forest chief. The Indian Forest Service (IFS) officer took over the charge of the park from Jatindra Sharma, the current field director. Jatindra Sharma retired on 31 August.
- Prior to becoming Director, Sonali Ghosh was serving as Chief Conservator of Forests, Research Education and Action Planning Division in the office of Principal Chief Conservator of Forests and Head of Forest Force, Guwahati.



## Chief Minister launched the logo and website of Global Investors Summit-2023

### Why is News?

According to information received from the media on September 2, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the logo and website of the proposed Global Investors Summit-2023 in the state in December.

### Key Points:

- During this, the Chief Minister said that the interests of entrepreneurs will be taken full care of in the Investors Summit. This Investors Summit is important for the entire state and all departments.
- It is known that for this, a dialogue was held in Dehradun and talks were held with the industry group in Delhi on 21<sup>st</sup> August. There is interest in the industry regarding investment in Uttarakhand. Everyone in the industry group are brand ambassadors.
- The Chief Minister said that people are ready for investment and new investors in the state. Industry groups are ready to expand the industry. There are 15 to 20 thousand such industries ready for investment in the state.
- It is noteworthy that the Dhami government has set an investment target of Rs 2.5 lakh crore for the proposed Global Investors Summit in December. The round of meetings for the Investors Summit is continuing from Dehradun to Delhi.



Note:

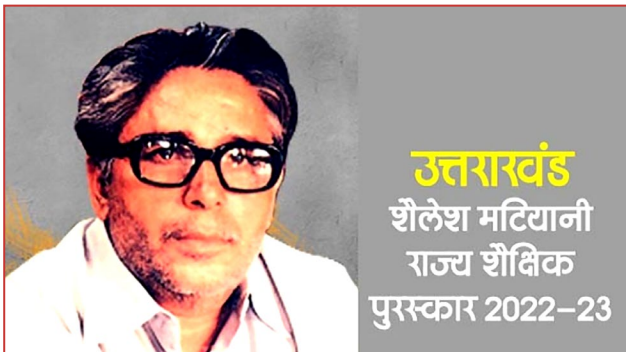
## 17 Teachers of Uttarakhand will receive Shailesh Matiyani Educational Award

### Why is News?

According to the information received from the media on September 1, 2023, 17 teachers of the state will be honored with the Shailesh Matiyani State Educational Award by the Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) on Teachers' Day, including 10 for elementary education, 6 for secondary and Includes 1 teacher from the training institute.

### Key Points:

- It is worth mentioning that according to Secondary Education Director Seema Jaunsari, the Shailesh Matiyani State Educational Award 2022 was announced by the department in February this year, but the teachers selected for these awards could not be rewarded.
- Among these teachers in primary education, Asha Budakoti from Pauri district, Sanjay Kumar Kuksal from Uttarkashi, Usha Gaur from Dehradun, Sanjay Kumar from Haridwar, Uttam Singh Rana from Tehri, Ravish Chandra Panchauli from Champawat, Suresh Chandra Sati from Bageshwar, Ganga from Pithoragarh. Arya and Dr. Asha Bisht from Nainital will be honored.
- In secondary education, Lokendrapal Singh from Uttarkashi, Sanjay Kumar from Dehradun, Damayanti Chand from Pithoragarh, Tribhuvan Chand from Bageshwar, Dr. Prabhakar Joshi from Almora, Nirmal Kumar from Udham Singh Nagar will be awarded.
- Apart from this, Dr. Shailendra Singh Dhapola, spokesperson of District Education and Training Institute Bageshwar, will be honoured from the training institute.



## Tehri's Rajesh Bhandari became Deputy Chief of the Air Force

### Why is News?

According to information received from the media on September 1, 2023, after the former CDS and former Army Chief, now Rajesh Bhandari, a resident of Tehri in Uttarakhand, has been made Deputy Chief of Air Force.



### Key Points:

- Rajesh Bhandari has been appointed as Assistant Chief of Air Staff at Air Force Headquarters in New Delhi.
- It is known that Rajesh Bhandari received his education in Dehradun. He was a commissioned officer in the Air Force on December 15, 1990. He was then promoted to the rank of Air Commodore on February 1, 2022.
- Before this, Air Marshal Vijaypal Singh Rana, resident of Nelda village in Pratap Nagar assembly constituency, had reached a high position in the Air Force. He was the first officer from Tehri and the second officer from Uttarakhand to reach the post of Advisor to the Air Chief Marshal.

## Air Service trial started between Dehradun - Pithoragarh - pantnagar

### Why is News?

According to information received from the media on September 4, 2023, the proposed air service between Dehradun, Pantnagar and Pithoragarh is expected to start soon. The trial has started on the air route from Fly Big Company.

### Key Points:

- According to the information, the 19-seater aircraft of Fly Big Company reached Pantnagar on September 3 via Pithoragarh from Dehradun. In this aircraft, apart from the crew, there was necessary material for the staff of the company present in Pantnagar.

Note:

- Fly Big management has deployed employees by setting up site offices at Dehradun, Pithoragarh and Pantnagar airports.
- It is believed that air service can start from October. Employees are being given training before starting the air service.
- It is worth mentioning that this air service will be under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS), 60 percent fare of which will be borne by the passengers and 40 percent fare will be borne by the state government.



## 17 Teachers of the state got Shailesh Matiyani Award

### Why in News?

On September 5, 2023, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmeet Singh (Retd.) honored 17 teachers with the Shailesh Matiyani State Educational Award at Dehradun Raj Bhavan on the occasion of Teachers' Day.

### Key Points:

- The teachers awarded with Shailesh Matiyani State Educational Award include 10 teachers from elementary education, six from secondary and one from training institute.
- In the program, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama announced to increase the prize money. He said that the amount of Shailesh Matiyani Award has been increased from Rs.10,000 to Rs.21,000.
- It is known that the Shailesh Matiyani State Educational Award 2022 was announced by the Education Department in February this year, but the teachers selected for these awards could not be rewarded. Now these teachers were rewarded in a function organized at Raj Bhavan on Teachers' Day.
- In elementary education, Asha Budakoti from Pauri district, Sanjay Kumar Kuksal from Uttarkashi, Usha Gaur from Dehradun, Sanjay Kumar from Haridwar, Uttam Singh Rana from Tehri, Ravish Chandra Pancholi from Champawat, Suresh Chandra Sati from Bageshwar, Ganga Arya from Pithoragarh and Nainital. Dr. Asha Bisht was honored.
- In secondary education, Lokendrapal Singh from Uttarkashi, Sanjay Kumar from Dehradun, Damayanti

Chand from Pithoragarh, Tribhuvan Chand from Bageshwar, Dr. Prabhakar Joshi from Almora, Nirmal Kumar from Udham Singh Nagar were awarded.

- Apart from these, 128 crore will be spent on overall education, 100 crore on RIDF scheme of Lonivi, 100 crore on construction of Haridwar Medical College, 67 crore on rooftop solar plant and street lights, 50 crore on construction of Chief Minister's Anganwadi building, 50 crore on making unity goods.
- Along with this, provision of funds has also been made for the development of Sports Stadium, State Cancer Institute Haldwani, Rishikesh Yoga City.
- A provision of Rs 300 crore has been made for the repair of roads that have become dilapidated during the monsoon, while Rs 297 crore will be spent on the National Health Mission. The government has kept Rs 284 crore for food grain subsidy.
- A provision of Rs 218 crore has also been made under disaster management.



## 23 Small Towns of Uttarakhand with Less than 50 thousand Population will be Rejuvenated

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on September 5, 2023, 23 small towns of Uttarakhand with a population of less than 50 thousand will also be transformed. The Centre has given in-principle consent to the state's proposal. Now a detailed proposal will be sent to the Union Housing and Urban Affairs Ministry.

Note:

**Key Points:**

- Six municipal corporations of Uttarakhand - Dehradun, Haridwar, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Kashipur, Roorkee as well as Nainital - were included in the AMRUT-1 scheme. In these cities, sewage and drinking water etc works were done after making the master plan under the scheme.
- Now the central government is going to launch the Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation (AMRUT 2.0).
- Recently, a meeting was held in the Union Ministry, in which Uttarakhand's Chief Town Planner Shashi Mohan Srivastava attended.
- He had demanded that small towns of Category-3 should also be included in a state with odd geographical conditions like Uttarakhand, to which the ministry had given its consent. After this, the department has sent its proposal to the Center.
- According to the state's chief town planner, there are 23 cities in the state that are in category-3. There are a total of 10 cities in category-1 and category-2.
- Under the AMRUT 2.0 scheme, the master plan of the cities will be made. According to this plan, apart from sewage and drinking water lines, drainage, green space and parks will be developed here. For this the budget will be received from the central government only.



## Fire Service will do Rescue in the Mountains with Modern ATV Vehicles

**Why in News?**

On September 9, 2023, Uttarakhand Fire Service IG Neeru Garg said that the fire service personnel will not

have to put in much effort to reach the inaccessible routes in the mountains. For this, the police department is soon going to purchase two All Terrain Vehicle (ATV) vehicles for the fire service.

**key points**

- These (ATV) vehicles will be capable of entering ditches, rivers and drains everywhere.
- At present, these vehicles will be purchased for Kedarnath Dham and Gangotri Dham areas. Big vehicles cannot reach these places. Nor are small rescue vehicles of the fire service able to reach the narrow roads here. In such a situation, an ATV is the only suitable vehicle for these places. If they are successful here then ATVs will be purchased for other hilly places also.
- It is known that fire service is the first service to reach not only in case of fire but also in case of any accident. This is why it is also called first responder. As of now, the fire service does not have a modern fleet of vehicles so that inaccessible places can be easily reached with less risk.
- For this, recently a proposal for purchase of two ATV vehicles from the fire service was sent to the government. The government has not taken any decision on this, but now the police have got new hope from the World Bank budget. The World Bank can soon approve the budget for this. The price of each vehicle will be around Rs 75 lakh.
- It is noteworthy that recently the National Disaster Management Authority has also recommended ATVs for hilly places. Along with this, the Government of India has also asked all the hilly states to purchase such vehicles, so that people's lives can be saved by reaching narrow roads easily and quickly.
- These vehicles will also have the facility of carrying water to extinguish the fire, that is, along with carrying the soldiers for rescue, these vehicles will also do the work of extinguishing the fire.
- To reduce the risk of life in extinguishing fires, the fire service will soon take the help of robots. Approval for this was given last year. Now tenders for the purchase of two robots have also been issued by the fire service. Bids have been invited from vendors till September 20. After the completion of the tender process, modern robots will join the fire service fleet.

Note:



## 18 Products of Uttarakhand will get GI Tag

### Why in News?

On September 11, 2023, Uttarakhand Agriculture Minister Ganesh Joshi informed in a meeting regarding the preparations for the GI Festival that for the first time, a Geographical Indication (GI) Festival will be organized in Uttarakhand from November 17 to 21 to get international recognition of local products. Soon, 18 products of the state will get a GI tag.

### Key Points:

- The Agriculture Minister said that the festival will be organized in collaboration with agriculture, horticulture, NABARD, industry, cultural department, cooperative, rural development, and tourism department. Certificates of products will be issued by the central government at the GI Festival.
- Agriculture Minister directed to include Agricultural University Pantnagar in the festival. Apart from this, competitions and rallies related to GI tag will be taken out to the students in the festival.
- The festival will be organized in Dehradun by the GI Registry Department of the Central Government.
- It is known that tejpat, basmati rice, bhotia dan, aipan kala, chura oil, munsiyari's rajma, ringal craft, copper products, and thulama have got GI tag.
- The 18 local products of the state which will get GI tag are: Manduwa, Jhangora, Gahat, Red Rice, Kala Bhatt, Malta, Chaulai, Ramdana, Lakhori Chilli of Almora, Pahari Tor Dal, Buransh Sharbat, Aadu, Litchi, Berinag Tea, Malta, Nettle Fiber, Candle of Nainital, Kumaoni Pichora, Chamoli Ka Mask and Wood Art.



## Sanskrit will Also be Taught in 117 Madrasa of Uttarakhand, NCERT Curriculum will be Implemented

### Why in News?

On September 11, 2023, Uttarakhand Waqf Board Chairman Shadab Shams said that now NCERT curriculum will be implemented in 117 madrasa located in Uttarakhand. It also includes Sanskrit education along with other subjects.

### Key Points:

- The Chairman of Waqf Board said that Uttarakhand is Devbhoomi. Now people of Muslim community also want change. They are also happy with the upgradation of madrasa.
- In this sequence, modern education is being started in four madrasa in four districts of Uttarakhand. The committee of Hifzul Quran Kunjagrnt, a Madrasa registered with the Waqf Board, proposed to include itself in the Modern Madrasa, which has been approved by the Waqf Board.
- Similarly, all the madrassas registered with the Waqf Board will be linked to modern madrasa education in a phased manner.
- It is known that a Muslim girl Razia Sultana has done PhD in Sanskrit. Razia is translating the Quran into Sanskrit. Razia will be included as a member in the state level education committee of Waqf Board.

Note:

- Madrasa's registered with the board are being modernized. In this, along with smart classes and modern education, children will also be provided tablets and computers.



## **'Hub and Spoke' Model will Start to Promote Professional Education**

### **Why in News?**

On September 10, 2023, Uttarakhand Deputy State Project Director Pradyuman Rawat said that to promote vocational education in the state, the 'Hub and Spoke' model will be started in 47 schools, which will make it easier for the students of these schools to study vocational subjects.

### **Key Points:**

- Project Director Pradyuman Rawat said that this scheme has been approved by the Central Government. This model will start in the state from this month.
- Under the scheme, the government will give Rs 3,000 every year to the students of those schools which do not have a laboratory. Vocational trainers will get an additional Rs 6,000 per month in addition to the honorarium.
- According to education department officials, vocational education is currently being imparted in 200 schools in the state. Students of other schools within a distance of five to seven kilometers from these schools will also get the benefit of vocational education. Vocational trainers will train students in these schools.
- Eight different professional courses like Tourism, Agriculture, Plumber etc. are being run in all these schools.

- Hub schools are schools that have a laboratory of vocational education. These schools also have vocational trainers, while spoke schools are those schools located within a radius of five to seven kilometers of the hub school, which do not have vocational trainers, nor are there a laboratory of vocational education, this scheme will also benefit these schools.

## **Vidya Samiksha Kendra Inaugurated, Foundation Stone of 141 PM Shri Schools and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School Laid**

### **Why in News?**

On September 12, 2023, Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship Dharmendra Pradhan, along with Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, inaugurated the Vidya Samiksha Kendra and laid the foundation stone of 141 PM Shri Schools and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School in Dehradun.

### **Key Points:**

- The Union Minister of Education and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship said that the technology based and modern data driven model Vidya Samiksha Kendra will be an effective step towards improving the learning outcomes of 23.50 lakh school students of Uttarakhand.
- It is known that as the Chief Minister of Gujarat, Narendra Modi had started the Vidya Samiksha Kendra in the state. After the introduction of NEP-2020, it has been expanded to the entire country.
- With the inauguration of the center in Uttarakhand, the state has started Vidya Samiksha Kendra on the lines of the Gujarat education model.
- Apart from data on performance, attendance etc., the content of DIKSHA portal and data of District Institute of Education and Training (DIET), complete information on school education of the state will be available on the portal.
- It is noteworthy that NEP-2020 is a logical document for building the knowledge-based economy of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Note:



- The 141 PM Shri Schools in the state serve as models for existing schools to achieve excellence. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential School will complete the education of neglected children.
- It is noteworthy that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi has presented NEP-2020 as a global model and it has been appreciated by member countries and international organizations. This will not only benefit 30 crore Indian students but will also set a benchmark for students all over the world.



## State's First Service Sector Policy Approved

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on September 12, 2023, in the state cabinet meeting held at the Uttarakhand Secretariat, the cabinet approved the first service sector policy of the state to attract investors from the country and the world to invest in the health and education sector.

### Key Points:

- The first service sector policy of the state has been made covering health, hospitality, wellness centre, education, film and media, sports and IT. Some concessions have been given in this. 25% capital subsidy will be given in this.
  - Minimum capital investment: Rs 200 crore in health-fields, Rs 25 crore in hills.
  - Yoga Centre: 50 crore people in the plains and 25 crore people in the mountains will get the benefit of this policy.
  - Schools: 50 crore in the plains and 25 crore in the hills will get the benefit of this policy.
  - University: 50 crore people in the plains and 25 crore people in the hills will get the benefit of this policy.
  - Data Centre: 100 crore people in the plains and 50 crore people in the mountains will get the benefit of this policy.
- Apart from the service sector policy, in the cabinet meeting, approval has been given to constitute Auli Tourism Development Authority to make Auli of the state a world class skiing centre.



## New Industrial Policy Implemented in the State: Entrepreneurs will Now get Subsidy in Instalments, Not One Time

### Why in News?

On September 13, 2023, Nainital District Industries General Manager of Uttarakhand, S.K. Pant said that a

Note:

new industrial policy has been implemented in the state, under which instead of a one-time subsidy on completion of the project, it will now be distributed in installments.

### Key Points

- In the new policy, the slabs have been changed and divided into four categories instead of five. A and B categories include hilly districts and C and D categories include most of the plain areas.
- To promote micro, small and medium industries, capital subsidy and interest have also been increased in the scheme.
- It is known that in a major change in the new policy made in August, subsidy on investment up to Rs 1 crore will be given in two installments within two years in micro category industries. Investments ranging from Rs 1 crore to Rs 50 crore will get subsidy in five installments within five years.
- The new rule also states that investors in primary and very primary category manufacturing enterprises of natural fibre, products marked in one district or two products, manufacturing enterprises of GI tagged products and food processing enterprises will also get additional capital support as per the rules.
- Apart from this, Scheduled Caste, Tribe and women entrepreneurs have been included in the very priority category for encouragement. Under this, additional subsidy will be given up to a maximum limit of Rs 10 lakh for investments of Rs 1 crore, Rs 15 lakh for investments between Rs 1 to Rs 10 crore and Rs 20 lakh for investments of Rs 10-50 crore.
- It is known that in the previous industrial policy, a subsidy up to Rs 40 lakh, i.e. up to 40 percent, was being given in A category (capital investment). There was a provision of subsidy up to Rs 35 lakh in B category, Rs 30 lakh in C category and Rs 15 lakh in D category.
- In the new policy of MSME, a rule has been made to give 50 percent subsidy to those investing up to Rs 1 crore in A category. Apart from 50 percent profit on investment between Rs 1 to 5 crore, there will be an additional profit of 25 percent on investment above that, the maximum limit of which has been kept at Rs 1.50 crore. In this category, the limit of subsidy has been kept at a maximum of Rs 2.5 crore for investments of Rs 5-10 crore and a maximum of Rs 4 crore for investments of Rs 10 to 50 crore.
- Similarly, 40 percent subsidy will be available on investment up to Rs 1 crore in B category, 30 percent subsidy on investment up to Rs 1 crore in C category and Rs 20 lakh on investment up to Rs 1 crore in D category. On top of this, there is a provision for additional subsidy on investment also.

## Pumped Storage Policy Made in the State for Cheap Electricity Generation

### Why in News?

On September 12, 2023, Uttarakhand's Energy Secretary R Meenakshi Sundaram said that the state government has brought a pump storage policy to provide cheap electricity in the state. The Cabinet has approved this.

### Key Points:

- Under the pump storage policy, those setting up projects on the rivers of the state will not have to pay 12.5 percent royalty to the state government, but they will also get exemption from local area development charges and transmission charges.
- After the introduction of the pump storage policy, cheap electricity will be available during peak times. During the day, water will be sent from bottom to top with cheap electricity coming from solar or other means. After this, at night when there is huge demand for electricity (expensive electricity in the market), then electricity will be generated from the project.
- The proposed policy includes inter-state transmission charges, local area development fund, free royalty power (12.5 per cent), transfer on land, quick permission for extraction, water tax and transfer of government land to circles for a period of 45 years for quick development of projects. A discount will be given on allotment at the rate linked to the annual lease rate.
- The Energy Secretary said that companies will be given priority in the projects already running on rivers. These projects will be for 45 years, after which they will be handed over to the state government.
- Private investors will be selected through tender to build projects in the identified areas on the rivers. He can also identify the place at his level and bring a proposal before the government.

Note:

- Along with on stream, off stream projects can also be implemented. The project will have to be constructed within three years of receiving all approvals.
- On the lines of liquefied gas coming from abroad, now VAT will be zero on CNG coming for two gas based power plants located in Kashipur in Udham Singh Nagar district of the state.
- With this, gas based plants will be able to operate and the shortage of power supply in the state can be overcome. The electricity generated from these will also be cheap.

## Young Women will Take Responsibility of Cow Protection in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

In the joint meeting held on September 14, 2023 by the Uttarakhand Public Works, Panchayati Raj, Urban Development and Animal Husbandry Department regarding the construction and operation of Gaushala, Kanji House for destitute cattle, instructions have been given that the responsibility for the safety of cattle in the hilly areas will be taken by the youth-Women.

### Key Points

- It was decided in this meeting that only after the verification of the new NGOs, they will be allowed to establish and operate Gosadans in the hilly areas, in which participation of women and youth self-help groups will be ensured.
- If there is space in the already running Gausadans, Animal Husbandry, Urban Development and Panchayati Raj departments will run a campaign in mutual coordination and take all the destitute cows here within a month.
- This action will be taken first in the Gosadan operated in Khatima Nagar located in Udham Singh Nagar district.
- Cow shelters will be built near the forests for the destitute cattle and enclosures will be built after contacting the forest department. Roster wise duty of veterinary officers will be imposed on Gausadans. The budget for the establishment of new Gausadans will be given by the District Magistrate at the district level.
- Daily progress report of establishment and operation of Gosadans will have to be updated in the WhatsApp

group. For monitoring, remote sensing cameras will have to be installed in all Gosadans. Whichever cow will be brought to these Gausadans, their picture will have to be shared in the WhatsApp group.

- The Head of the Department of Animal Husbandry, Urban Development and Panchayati Raj Department will be nominated as the nodal officer for their operation.



## Forest Minister Inaugurates Four-Day Event Water Sports Cup in Tehri Lake

### Why in News?

On September 14, 2023, Uttarakhand Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal inaugurated the four-day Water Sports Cup in Tehri Lake of the state.

### Key Points

- In this competition, players from many provinces of the country have participated in the sports of kayaking and canoeing to showcase their talent.
- These games will not only create Tehri's identity on the national stage, but will also infuse energy among the youth of the state through players representing the nation at the international level.
- Organizing this national level game is a matter of pride for the state of Uttarakhand and THDC (formerly Tehri Hydro Development Corporation Limited).
- In the competition organized courtesy THDC India, outstanding senior male and female players will be selected for the 37th Open National Games to be held in Goa.
- It is noteworthy that such games are being organized in Tehri Lake for the second time.

Note:



## 8th Doon International Film Festival

### Why in News?

On September 17, 2023, Rajesh Sharma, organizer of Dehradun International Film Festival, said that the 8th Dehradun International Film Festival will be organized from September 22 to September 24 at Silver City Rajpur Road and Tulas Institute.

### Key Points:

- Along with the film festival, Uttarakhand Talent Hunt and Aangan Bazaar Exhibition will also be organized.
- The organizer of Dehradun International Film Festival said that two groups have been kept in it. The group will have participants in the age group of 8 to 15 years and above 16 years in which they will showcase their art such as dance, acting, poetry, mimicry and singing etc.
- Along with being given awards and certificates, the winning participants will also get opportunities in vocal music and upcoming projects of Dehradun International Film Festival.
- It is known that the Dehradun International Film Festival has been organized for the last 8 years. In which an attempt has been made to provide a platform to many new directors and producers.
- Many such directors and producers have also come out from Uttarakhand who are making their presence felt at the national level today. Another effort is being made to give the youth an opportunity to showcase their talent in other fields also through Uttarakhand Talent Hunt.



## Four Artists from Uttarakhand Received Sangeet Natya Academy Award

### Why in News?

On September 16, 2023, the country's Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar honored 84 outstanding artists above 75 years of age with the Sangeet Natak Akademi Amrit Award at Vigyan Bhawan in New Delhi, which also includes four veteran artists from Uttarakhand.

### Key Points:

- It is noteworthy that these are the artists who have been awarded a national honor for the first time.
- Among the four veteran artists of Uttarakhand who received the honour, Bhairav Dutt Tiwari (79) and Jagdish Dhoundiyal (78) were given the Amrit Award in folk music and dance. While Narayan Singh Bisht (75) was awarded the Amrit Award for folk music and Jugal Kishar Petshali (76) was awarded the Amrit Award for overall contribution to the performing arts of Uttarakhand.
- Apart from copper plate, Angavastram, a cash amount of Rs 1 lakh was given to the artists as awards.
- On this occasion, the Vice President said that by protecting their musical heritage, these artists have given the message to the young generation that nothing is above the country and Indianness. The culture of some countries is 500 to 600 years old. But, it is a matter of pride that India's culture is more than 7000 years old.
- Jugal Kishore Petshali: He is a resident of Almora district. He wrote books like Rajula-Malusahi, Madhya Himalaya Ki Amar Prem Gatha and Jai Bala Moriya etc.
- Narayan Singh Bisht: He is a resident of Chamoli district. He carried forward the Jagar tradition of Uttarakhand.
- Jagdish Dhondhiyal: He is a resident of Pauri Garhwal district. He has given more than 2500 performances of the dance drama Kamayani.
- Bhairav Dutt Tiwari: He is a resident of Almora and has contributed to the Kumaoni folk tradition. He prepared the presentation of the plays Rasik Ramola and Haru Heet for Doordarshan.

Note:



## Chief Minister Started Cleanliness Service Fortnight

### Why in News?

On September 18, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the Swachh Seva Pakhwada campaign in a program organized at Main Seva Sadan, Dehradun. This campaign will run till October 2.

### Key Points:

- On this occasion, the Chief Minister honored the village heads of 15 gram panchayats of Nainital, Champawat, Dehradun and Udham Singh Nagar districts who have become examples of cleanliness in the villages.
- The Chief Minister also honored five environmental friends who did commendable work in the field of cleanliness and also released the song 'Swachhta Hi Seva'.
- **These village heads were honoured:**
  - **Population category less than 2000:** Khashti Raghav, head of Pastola Panchayat from Nainital, Basant Lal Shah of Ramgarh Bohrakot, Balveer Singh of Jamradi, Mohan Chand Pandey, head of Chowki

Panchayat of Champawat and Shiv Shankar Pathak, head of Thanta were honored.

- **Population Category 2000-5000:** Vipin Chand Joshi, head of Kishanpur Sakulia Panchayat of Nainital district, Sunita Ghughatiyal of Kania, Hemant Joshi, head of Halduchaudiggi and Deepak Joshi, head of Dehradun Bhagwanpur Julho, were honored.
- **Population category more than 5000:** Manju, Pradhan of Dakpathar Panchayat of Dehradun, Sangeeta Thapliyal of Khadri Kharak Mafi, Awadh Kumari of Kheda Jat of Haridwar and Narendra Kumar, Pradhan of Bhageri Mehatpur and Madhavi Devi, Pradhan of Vigrabag in Udham Singh Nagar district were honoured.
- **These Environmental Friends were honored:**
  - The Chief Minister honored environment friends Pappu, Vinod, Shivkumar, Meena and Savita for their commendable work in the field of cleanliness.



## Chief Minister Released the Book 'Atma Ke Swar'

### Why in News?

On September 19, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami released the book 'Atma Ke Swar' based on the compilation of the addresses of Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh in a program organized at Dehradun Raj Bhavan.

### Key Points:

- On this occasion, the short film '2 years on the path of duty in Devbhoomi' was also screened.
- It is known that Governor Lieutenant General Gurmeet Singh always went ahead and served Mother India and has been serving Devbhoomi as Governor for the last 2 years.

Note:

- The book 'Aatma Ke Swar' is a compilation of 108 major addresses by the Governor at various events, festivals, convocation ceremonies etc.
- In this book, the Governor has shared his experiences during his tenure and has set 5 missions for the state, which will be helpful in including Uttarakhand among the leading states in the country.
- The Governor said that the sentiments expressed in this book include Indian military pride, national consciousness, social unity, Indian culture and spiritual thinking.
- Apart from this, the rich culture of Uttarakhand, military courage, bravery, contribution of women power, achievements of daughters of Uttarakhand, etc. are also included in the book.



## Tourism Minister Flags off Mountaineering Expedition Team and Sends it off

### Why in News?

On September 19, 2023, Uttarakhand Tourism Minister Satpal Maharaj flagged off two teams of 12 members to climb the 6,316 meter high Bandarpunch and the 6,512 meter high Bhagirathi II mountain range.

### Key Points:

- This mountaineering expedition is being carried out under the joint auspices of Uttarakhand Tourism Development Council and Indian Mountaineering Association.
- On this occasion, Satpal Maharaj said that the main objective of such an event is to provide self-employment opportunities to the local residents by promoting adventure sports in the state.

- The Tourism Minister said that Ganse (Gauri) and Auli are being specially developed so that this tourist destination attracts the whole of Asia. There are enough places for adventure tourism in the state. By developing these, work is being done on a plan to promote adventure tourism.
- He said that the Nalang-Jadung area is being opened for tourism by the government. It is necessary to regulate the journey so that the journey is carried out keeping in mind the climate.



Note:

## 2 Players from the State Selected for Para Asian Games 2022

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on September 20, 2023, 2 players from Uttarakhand have been selected in the Indian team for the Para Asian Games 2022 starting from October 16 in China.

### Key Points:

- The selected players include Neelima Rai, resident of Kalinagar, Udham Singh Nagar of the state and Nirmala Mehta, resident of Haldwani.
- All-rounder Neelima Rai has been selected for lawn ball, throw ball, swimming and other para sports.
- It is known that Neelima Rai has so far won 22 medals in various competitions.
- Neelima Rai, honored with the 'Tilu Rauteli Award', is currently the captain of the Indian women's para throw ball.
- Haldwani resident Nirmala Mehta has been selected for the lawn ball game.

## Vineeta Jagdish Chaudhary Received Uttarakhand Science Education Promotion Award

### Why in News?

Vineeta Jagdish Choudhary, lecturer in Biology, working at the Government Girls Inter College, Fazilpur Mehraula, Rudrapur, has been honored with the Third Uttarakhand Vigyan Shiksha Prasar Samman 2023 in the Teachers Conclave organized at the IRTD Auditorium in Dehradun on September 17, 2023.

### Key Points:

- Cooperative and Higher Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat and USRC Director Dr. Anil Rawat honored Vineeta by presenting her a citation, cash amount of Rs 11,000 and a shawl.
- It is noteworthy that this award is given to 15 teachers of the state for the work done in various fields.

- Vineeta has been given this honor because of the good work done in the field of science education in the state.
- Presently Vineeta is the Block Science Coordinator as well as the Eco Club in-charge.



## Champawat and Pithoragarh Districts Included in 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana 2.0'

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on September 19, 2023, two border districts of Uttarakhand – Champawat and Pithoragarh districts have been included in 'Swadesh Darshan Yojana 2.0'.

### Key Points:

- It is known that the objective of this scheme of the Central Government is to promote tourism activities and develop these areas along with basic facilities.
- Under the plan, Abbott Mount, Kolidhek Lake, Tea Garden, Chuka and Rajbunga Fort located at the district headquarters of Champawat in the state will be included in the first phase.
- The representatives from the authorized Delight company of the Government of India were provided necessary facilities in the five tourist destinations, such as pathways, café construction, library, parking, museum, buildings built in local style, outlets for sale of local products, yoga and meditation center, small gym. Instructions have been given to include necessary works like children's entertainment resources, construction

Note:



drishti

of toilets, light and sound system, construction of benches, arrangement of solid waste management, construction of adventure park in the DPR.



## Selection of Sarmoli of Pithoragarh Among the Best Tourist Villages of the Country.

### Why in News?

According to information received from the media on September 21, 2023, the Union Ministry of Tourism has selected Sarmoli village of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand in the Best Tourism Village Competition. The village will soon be declared the best tourist village of the country.

### Key Points:

- According to sources, Kamakshi Maheshwari, the nodal officer of Rural Tourism India of the Ministry of Tourism, has issued a letter to the state informing about the selection of Sarmoli village as the best tourism village of the country.
- It will be officially announced at an event to be held in Delhi on September 27. Also, the village will be given the award for the best tourism village.
- It is known that to promote rural tourism, the Union Ministry of Tourism has started the Best Tourism Village Competition. Sarmoli village near Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district has been selected in this competition at the national level.
- The competition was organized through the Ministry's Central Nodal Agency for Rural Tourism and Rural Home Stay, which received applications from 795 villages from all states and union territories. Sarmoli village was selected as the best tourist village for the better work done at the village level to promote tourism.

- It is noteworthy that Sarmoli village near Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district boasts of its rich culture and natural beauty. Along with environmental protection, the village people have made rural tourism self-employment.
- Tourists come to Sarmoli village for eco tourism and adventure tourism. The view of Himalayas, Nanda Devi, Rajarambha, Panchachuli, Nanda Kot peaks from here attracts everyone. Home stay in the village is the first choice of tourists.



## Increase in Honorarium of Contract Sports Trainers in the State

### Why in News?

On September 23, 2023, Uttarakhand Sports Minister Rekha Arya increased the honorarium of contractual sports trainers working in the sports department in the state by 78 to 140 percent. Special Principal Secretary Abhinav Kumar has issued an order in this regard.

### Key Points:

- As per this order, the revised rates of honorarium will be applicable from October 01, 2023.
- It is known that sports trainers working on contract in the Sports Department had been demanding an increase in honorarium since 2014.
- After the matter came to light in the review meeting of the department held at the Directorate under the chairmanship of Sports Minister Rekha Arya on June 15, 2023, the minister had instructed the departmental officers to prepare a proposal for an honorarium increase.

Note:



- According to the government order, the honorarium of Arjuna, Dronacharya awardees, sportspersons who have participated in Olympics, World Cup competitions, medal winners in SAFF Games and regular course training diploma holders from NIS has been increased from Rs 20,000 to Rs 45,000.
- The honorarium of Asian, Commonwealth Afro Asian, SAFF Games medalists etc. has been increased from Rs 17,000 to Rs 35,000, the honorarium of coaches participating in Afro Asian and SAFF Games competitions in Asian Commonwealth Commonwealth has been increased from Rs 14,000 to Rs 25,000, and that of senior nationals medal winners from Rs 10,000 to Rs 20,000.
- In the senior category, the honorarium of the coaches of the players participating in the national and winning medals in the All India Inter-University Competition has been increased from Rs 7,000 to Rs 15,000, while the honorarium of the coaches participating in the All India Inter-University Competition, participating in the Senior North Zone has been increased from Rs 5,000 to Rs 12,000.
- The order will benefit 210 contract sports trainers.



## Four New Sainik Schools and Five Kendriya Vidyalayas will open in Uttarakhand.

### Why in News?

On September 23, 2023, State Education Minister Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat said that four new Sainik Schools and five Kendriya Vidyalayas will open in the state. After the approval of Chief Minister Pushkar Dhami, the government has sent its proposal to the Central Government.

### Key Points:

- These Sainik Schools will open in Patisain, Pauri Garhwal, Udham Singh Nagar, Dehradun and Champawat, the birthplace of the famous Peshawar massacre hero Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali. The new schools will run in partnership mode under Sainik School Society.
- It is known that there is only one Sainik School Ghorakhal in the state, which is operated by the Defense Ministry.
- It is noteworthy that according to Education Secretary Ravinath Raman, the Central Government has decided to open 100 Sainik Schools across the country, under which the Central Government has approved 23 new Sainik Schools in the country in the first phase. After this, Sainik School is to be approved in the second phase.
- A proposal for four new Sainik Schools has been sent by Uttarakhand for the second phase. After meeting all the standards and approval of the Chief Minister and Education Minister, its proposal has been sent.
- For Sainik School, 10 acres of land is available in village Dungarasethi Tehsil Champawat, while 250 acres of land is available in A.N Jha Inter College Rudrapur Udham Singh Nagar and 9.5 acres of land is available in Rajiv Gandhi Navodaya Vidyalaya Nanurkheda Dehradun.
- Apart from these, five new Kendriya Vidyalayas will be opened in the state. The Education Department has sent a proposal to the Central Government to open a Kendriya Vidyalaya in Panduvakhal Tehsil Chaukhutia District Almora, Dwarahat District Almora, Kotdwara District Pauri Garhwal, Narendranagar District Tehri Garhwal and Madannegi District Tehri Garhwal of Pratapnagar Assembly Constituency.



## 189 Atal Utkrishi Schools of the State will Remain Firm, only the Board will Change

### Why in News?

On September 24, 2023, State Education Secretary Ravinath Raman said that 189 Atal Utkrishi Schools of

Note:

the state running in English medium affiliated to the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) will continue to run through this medium as before, but the board of the school will be changed to Uttarakhand Board.

### Key Points:

- After the demand of the Government Teachers Association to bring these schools back to the Uttarakhand Board, its proposal is being prepared by the department. There are three different proposals for these schools.
- Under the first proposal, the board of these schools will be changed to the Uttarakhand Board.
- Under the second proposal, the CBSE pattern will be implemented from class 6 instead of class 10 and 12 and thirdly, teachers in these schools will be posted on good salaries from the private sector or others.
- The State Council of Educational Research and Training has been asked to prepare a proposal for this, which will be brought to the cabinet.



## Country's First three Polythene Garbage Banks opened in Doon

### Why in News?

On September 25, 2023, the country's first three polythene garbage banks have been established by the Dehradun Cantt Board of Uttarakhand for the disposal of polythene waste, one of which, the garbage bank located at Garhi, was inaugurated by the state's Urban Development Minister Premchand Aggarwal. .

### Key Points:

- Two polythene waste banks have been opened in Garhi in Dehradun and the third in Premnagar.

- This is the first such bank in the country, which will clean the dirt from homes, roads, as well as become a medium of income. Polythene will be collected from this bank and sent further, from which decorative items like tiles, boards, pots etc. will be made.
- In these collection centers, polythene waste such as bags, chips wrappers, packing bags, plastic cutters, bread wrappers etc. will be purchased at the rate of Three rupees per kg.
- Polythene waste banks will be made operational this week at Bindal Chowki, Dairy Farm in Garhi and Special Wing in Premnagar. The bank aims to purchase a minimum of 70 tonnes and a maximum of 100 tonnes of polythene waste every month.
- Abhinav Singh, CEO of The Cantt Board, said that at present, polythene bags, chips wrappers, packing bags, plastic cutters, etc. are kept in the category of low value plastic. They have no buyers and no markets. Waste pickers also pick up plastic bottles, glass, etc. but do not take polythene bags, chips wrappers, etc. The polythene waste bank will solve this problem.
- On behalf of the Cantonment Board, the Cantonment Council organized a polythene and e-waste collection competition among the RWAs (Resident Welfare Association) of the military area, the winners of which were also honored by the Urban Development Minister.



## Contract Female and Single Male Employees will get Child Care and Child Adoption Leave.

### Why in News?

On September 24, 2023, the Government of Uttarakhand will provide 15 days of child care and child adoption leave within the limit of 120 days to the female

Note:

and single male (unmarried, widower or divorced) employees deployed on contractual, ad-hoc and fixed salary through departments and outsourced means. Gave a gift. Finance Secretary Dilip Jawalkar issued orders in this regard.

### Key Points:

- Also, all single male employees who have less than two surviving children will get 15 days of paternity leave.
- According to sources in the Finance Department, this decision of the government will benefit 40-45 thousand employees. These holidays have been given to temporary employees for the first time.
- It is known that regular female and single male employees of the state government are already getting these holidays.
- Paternity leave A single male employee having less than two surviving children will get 15 days paternity leave for 15 days before the expected date of birth of the child during the delivery period of his wife or up to six months after the birth of the child.
- It can be taken with any other holiday. Generally, this holiday cannot be rejected under any circumstances.
- Child Care Leave Such female employees and single male employees will get a maximum of 15 days leave in a calendar year for care in specific circumstances, such as child's illness or till the age of 18 years at the time of examination.
- No less than five days leave will be allowed at a time. There will be a maximum of three holidays in a calendar year.
- Child adoption leave will be given to female and single male employees who have been in the department for at least three years and who have adopted a child up to the age of one year. A maximum of 120 days leave will be available at the time of adoption.

## Uttarakhand Chief Minister Signs MoU worth Rs 2000 Crore with French Company for Ropeway Construction

### Why in News?

Before the Global Investors Conference on September 25, 2023, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami signed an MoU of Rs. 2000 crore with Poma, the world leader in ropeway construction, for the construction of rope-way cable car in Uttarakhand with French company Poma.

### Key Points:

- Through the first international level road show being organized in London, the state government will encourage investors to invest in tourism, food processing and education sectors in the state.
- In road shows at national and international level, the state government will encourage investors on the financial facilities and investment possibilities provided in industrial policies.
- The state government has set a target of investment of Rs 2.50 lakh crore in the global investors conference proposed in December.
- The state government is looking for such avenues for investment in which the balance between development and environment is maintained. In such a situation, options like a ropeway will provide convenience to the tourists in Uttarakhand. On the other hand, as the livelihood opportunities of the local people will increase, it will also prove to be better from the environmental point of view.
- It is known that after London, international road shows will be held in Singapore, Taiwan and Dubai in the month of October.



## Sarmoli Got the Award for the Best Tourist Village of the Country

### Why in News?

Sarmoli of Uttarakhand was awarded the best tourism village of the country in a program organized in Delhi on the occasion of 'National Tourism Day' on September 27, 2023.

Note:

**Key Points:**

- Kamakshi Maheshwari, Nodal Officer of Rural Tourism India, Ministry of Tourism, honored village Sarpanch Mallika Virdi with the award.
- A massive cleanliness drive has been planned by the Tourism Ministry. The Government of India identified 108 tourist places for the launch of the cleanliness campaign. Along with these 108 sites, this campaign will also be run at other places of tourist importance.
- The campaign aims to clean up litter, ensure cleanliness and ban single use plastics (SUP) and promote the use of eco-friendly substances. For wider reach, students from schools and colleges and members of Youth Tourism Club (YTC) have also been included.
- The Best Rural Tourism Village Awards were given for promoting and preserving cultural heritage and sustainable development through tourism, which included 35 rural tourism villages from across the country in the Gold, Silver and Bronze categories with 5, 10 and 20 villages respectively. In these, Sarmoli village of Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand was given the gold medal.
- It is noteworthy that in 2004, a community based home stay and nature program was started under the guidance of Sarpanch Mallika Virdi of Sarmoli village. Mallika Virdi was the Sarpanch of Van Panchayat twice (2004 to 2010 and 2017 to 2022). Under his leadership, work was done to promote nature tourism and increase efforts for forest and water conservation. He made efforts to revive the forest and especially the Mesar Kund.
- From the year 2007 Messer Van started organizing a popular forest fair called Van Kautik as well as a nature and culture festival called Himal Kalasutra. During Himal Kalasutra, bird festival, butterfly and insect festival, traditional food festival, Damo Nagada Dhol festival, an innovative high altitude marathon called Khaliya Challenge and many such events are organised.



## Eight Member Teams of SSB including Subodh of Bhawali Conquered Rudragaira Mountain Peak.

**Why in News?**

According to information received from the media recently, a seven-member team of SSB led by Field Officer Subodh Chandola (53), a resident of Bhawali town of Nainital district of Uttarakhand, conquered the Mount Rudragaira mountain range located at an altitude of 5819 meters south of Gangotri in the Garhwal region of central Himalayas.

**Key Points:**

- Subodh Chandola, a recipient of the Indian Police Medal and Home Minister's Medal, has earlier hoisted the tricolor on various mountains including Everest, Comet, Satopanth, Abhigamin, Gangotri Forest, Bhagirathi Two, Trishul.
- As part of the expedition, more than 20 trainees from the 29-member expedition stayed at the base camp at Rudragaira, from where eight mountaineers marched further and hoisted the flag on the Rudragaira mountain peak.
- In this expedition team, along with Subodh Chandola, chief constables Kailash Chandra Joshi, Arakshi Narendra Singh, Dildar Singh, Pradeep Singh, Prabal Pratap Singh, Arvind Kumar Ghaghre, Indra Singh were included.



Note:

## Retired Roadways Employees will get Cashless Treatment Facility through Golden Card.

### Why in News?

On September 27, 2023, Dr. Anand Srivastava, Managing Director of Uttarakhand Transport Corporation, issued an order regarding the facility of unlimited cashless treatment under the health scheme to retired employees and their dependents.

### Key Points:

- According to the order issued on the instructions of the Managing Director, salary level 1-5 employees, pensioners and family pensioners will have to contribute Rs 250 per month, salary level 6 employees will have to contribute Rs 450 per month, salary level 7-11 employees will have to contribute Rs 650 per month and salary level 12 employees will have to contribute Rs 1000 per month.
- Retired personnel from the Corporation can get the Golden Card by paying an annual contribution (12 months) on retirement after a minimum of 10 years of service.
- Those who deposit a one-time contribution of 10 years can avail the golden card facility for life.
- In this regard, instructions have been given to all divisional managers to ensure that the contribution of retired personnel and dependents who fill the Golden Card form is deposited in the Corporation Fund.

## International Road Show: Uttarakhand signs MoU on investment of Rs 9000 Crore

### Why in News?

On September 26-27, 2023, the Uttarakhand government signed MoUs with investors for an investment of Rs 9,000 crore during two-day roadshows in London

and Birmingham as part of the international roadshow for the proposed Global Investors Summit in December.

### Key Points:

- On the second day of the international roadshow on September 27, an MoU was signed on investment of Rs 7000 crore under the chairmanship of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, while on the first day an MoU of Rs 2000 crore was signed.
- As many as 80 industry houses from education, tourism, IT and health sectors participated in the meeting.
- Two separate MoUs with industry conglomerate Cayenne Jet include Rs 4,500 crore with Jet and Rs 1,000 crore with Usha Breco and Rs 1,500 crore with different companies in Birmingham.
- Kayan will invest in the jet cable car project, and it has also been agreed to develop ski resorts in Auli, Dayara Bugyal and Munsiyari. Usha Breco Limited will invest in ropeways in Haridwar and other districts.
- On this occasion, the Chief Minister said that the government is constantly working towards making Uttarakhand a global tourism destination. There are many possibilities in wellness and rural tourism in the state.
- Rishikesh is known as the global capital of yoga and spirituality. Tourists from Europe and other countries come to the state every year in large numbers for yoga spirituality. The government is in talks with investors to set up a world-class convention centre.



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**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**