



# STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

# UTTARAKHAND



**JULY**  
**2025**



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## New Colonel of the Regiment of Garhwal Rifles

### Why in News?

Lieutenant General Dinesh Singh Rana, Commander-in-Chief of Andaman & Nicobar Command, has officially taken over as the **23<sup>rd</sup> Colonel of the Regiment of Garhwal Rifles** in a ceremony held at the **Garhwal Rifles Regimental Centre in Lansdowne, Uttarakhand**.

- He succeeds Lieutenant General NS Raja Subramani.

### Key Points

#### Garhwal Rifles:

- The Garhwal Rifles is an infantry regiment of the **Indian Army**, established in **1887** as the **39<sup>th</sup> (Garhwal) Regiment of the Bengal Army**.
  - It became part of the British Indian Army and was later incorporated into the Indian Army after India's independence.
- The soldiers of the Garhwal Rifles mainly come from the **seven Garhwal districts of Uttarakhand**:
  - Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Tehri Garhwal, Dehradun, Pauri Garhwal, and Haridwar.
  - The Garhwal Scouts are stationed at **Joshimath** and are nicknamed "The Snow Leopards."
- It has a **strong legacy of valor, courage, and service to the nation**, reflecting the proud tradition of Garhwali warriors.
  - The regiment earned distinction in both **World Wars** and in multiple post-independence conflicts.
  - It played a **significant role in the 1962 Sino-Indian War** and the **Indo-Pakistan wars of 1965 and 1971**.
- The Garhwal Rifles is **famous for its role in peacekeeping missions**, such as **Operation Pawan** in Sri Lanka.
- The regiment's motto is "**Yudhaya Krit Nishchaya**" (Fight with Determination).
  - The regiment's insignia features a **Maltese cross**, similar to the defunct Rifle Brigade (Prince Consort's Own).

- The Garhwal Rifles has won several prestigious awards, including three **Victoria Crosses** and one **Ashoka Chakra**.

## Cloudburst in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

A **cloudburst** in Uttarkashi, Uttarakhand caused **landslides**, disrupted key pilgrimage routes, and left several workers missing.

- Districts prone to **flash floods** and landslides have been placed on high alert.

### Key Points

#### About Cloudburst:

- A cloudburst is a sudden, intense rainstorm that results in more **than 10 cm of rain** in less than an hour over a small area (approximately 10 km<sup>2</sup>).
- It can also be accompanied by **hail and thunder**. Cloudbursts are common in **mountainous areas**, especially in the **Himalayas**.
- Due to their localised nature, cloudbursts are **hard to predict or detect** but can unleash sudden, devastating rainfall, leading to **flash floods** and landslides.

#### Landslide:

- Definition:** A landslide is the downward movement of rock, soil, or debris on a **slope due to gravity**.
  - It is a form of **mass wasting**, where earth materials move down a slope under the influence of gravity.
- Causes:** Natural factors like **heavy rainfall, earthquakes, and water seepage** weaken slopes, while human activities such as **deforestation and construction** increase risks. Geological factors, such as **soil composition and terrain**, also affect slope stability and can lead to landslides.

#### Flash Floods:

- Definition:** Flash floods are sudden increases in water levels during or immediately after intense rainfall.

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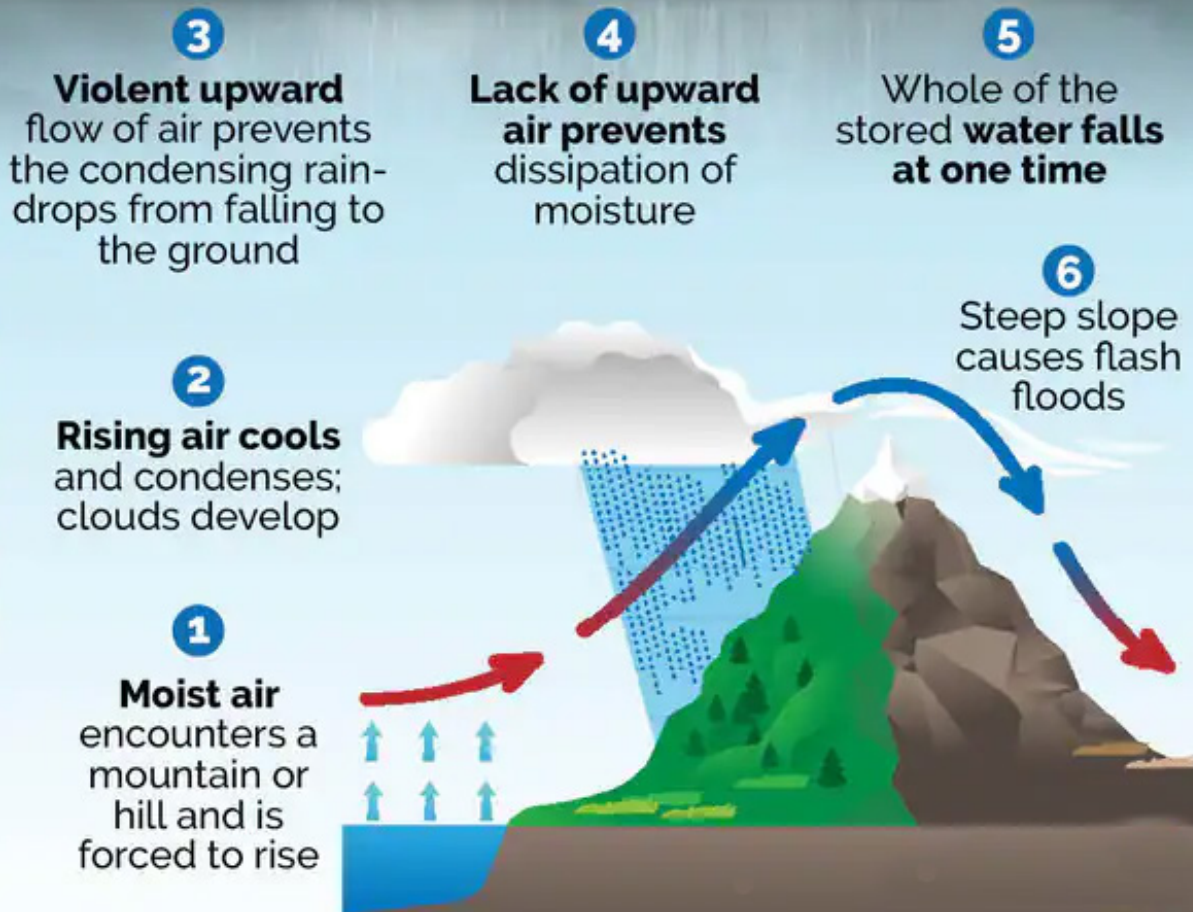




# WHAT CAUSES CLOUDBURSTS?

Cloudbursts occur only via orographic lift i.e. a situation when a warm air parcel mixes with cooler air, resulting in sudden condensation.

## OROGRAPHIC LIFTING AND CLOUDBURST



✍ They are **highly localized and short-lived events**, typically occurring within **6 hours of rainfall**.

✳ **Causes:** Flash floods are primarily caused by intense rainfall that overwhelms the **soil's absorption capacity and drainage systems**.

- ✍ Apart from heavy rain, flash floods can also result from **rapid snowmelt due to sudden temperature rise**, dam or levee breaches, ice or debris jams, and sudden glacial lake outbursts.
- ✍ Additionally, urbanisation with impervious surfaces like roads and buildings increase runoff, reducing **water absorption and intensifying flood risks**.

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# Kailash Mansarovar Yatra

## Why in News?

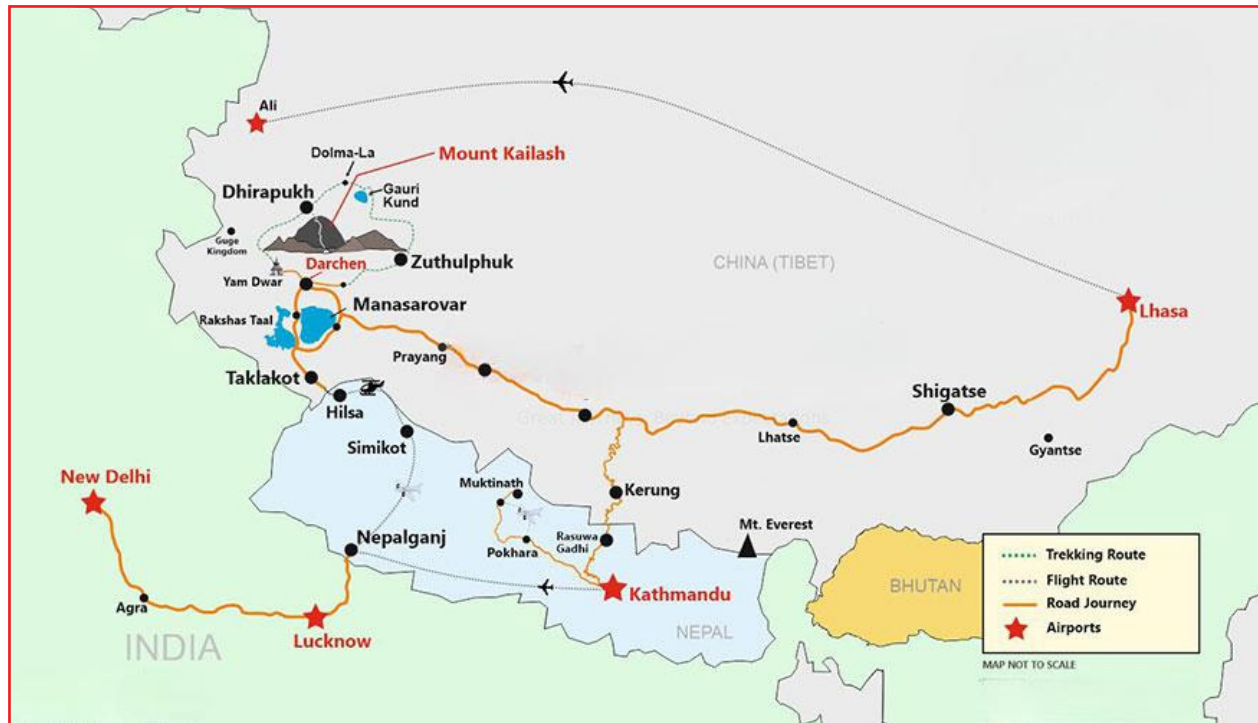
The **Chief Minister of Uttarakhand** flagged off the first batch of pilgrims for the revered **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra** from Tanakpur.

### Key Points

💡 **Kailash Mansarovar Yatra:**

 **About:**

- ✍ The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) organises the Yatra every year between June and September.



- ✎ The pilgrimage is conducted through two official routes: Lipulekh Pass in Uttarakhand and Nathu La Pass in Sikkim.
- ✎ Due to the Indo-China border dispute, Indian pilgrims were denied access to Kailash for nearly two decades.
  - The **Yatra resumed in 1981**, under the MEA's supervision and in cooperation with the Chinese government.
- ✧ **Religious and Cultural Significance:**
  - ✎ Mount Kailash, revered as the **abode of Lord Shiva**, holds sacred value in **Hinduism**, Jainism, Buddhism, and the Bonpa tradition of Tibet.
  - ✎ Hindus regard it as a spiritual energy centre, while Jains believe **Rishabhdev attained Nirvana** here; Buddhists call it **Yungdruk Gu Tseg (Nine-Storey Swastika Mountain)**.
- ✧ **Geographic Features:**
  - ✎ Mount Kailash (6,675 m) is **located in Western Tibet**, known **locally as Kang Rampoche or Precious Jewel**.

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- ✍ South of Kailash lie Rakastal (Ravan Hrid), Mansarovar, and Gurla Mandhata peak (7,683 m).
- ✍ **Lake Mansarovar** lies at an elevation of 4,530 m, with a circumference of 90 km, depth of 90 m, and area of 320 sq. km.
- ✍ **Rakastal** (Ravan Hrid) has a circumference of 22 km and is connected to Mansarovar via a 6-km-long channel called Gangachhu.
  - During the Himalayan uplift, four great rivers originated near Kailash: **Indus** (north), **Karnali** (south), **Yarlung Tsangpo** (east), **Sutlej** (west), which emerges from Rakastal.

💡 **Lipulekh Pass (Uttarakhand):** It is the shortest route to **Mansarovar (50 km from the border)**, but rough terrain extends the trek to 200 km.

- ✦ It was the **first Indian border post opened for trade with China** in 1992, followed by **Shipki La (1994) and Nathu La (2006)**.

💡 **Nathu La Pass (Sikkim):** This 1,500 km fully motorable route, opened in 2015, is among the world's highest motorable roads and allows pilgrims to complete the journey without the need for trekking.

- ✦ Nathu La connects **Sikkim with China's Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR)** and is part of the ancient **Silk Road**.

## Uttarakhand Geo-Thermal Energy Policy 2025

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand cabinet approved the **Uttarakhand Geo-Thermal Energy Policy 2025** to promote scientific and technological research for exploring and developing **geothermal resources** that are both economically and environmentally **sustainable**.

#### Note:

- 💡 The cabinet approved the **Uttarakhand State Mineral Exploration Trust Rules, 2025** to encourage the formation of state-level mineral trusts.
- 💡 It also approved amendments and formalized the **Uttarakhand District Mineral Foundation Trust Rules, 2025**, replacing the 2017 rules.

### Key Points

#### 💡 About Geo-Thermal Energy Policy 2025:

- ✦ The policy aims to **utilize geothermal sites for power generation**, heating and cooling, water purification and community development.
- ✦ The government seeks to **enhance Uttarakhand's energy security**, reduce **carbon emissions**, and contribute to long-term environmental sustainability.
- ✦ The Energy Department, in collaboration with **Uttarakhand Renewable Energy Development Agency (UREDA)** and **Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Limited (UJVNL)** will implement the policy across all geothermal projects in the state.

#### 💡 Project Duration and Allotment Process:

- ✦ The government will allot geothermal projects for a maximum of 30 years from the date of commissioning.
- ✦ Projects can be awarded to central or state PSUs or private developers through competitive bidding or other specified methods.

#### 💡 Geological Basis of Geothermal Energy in Uttarakhand:

- ✦ Hot springs or geothermal sources in the **Himalayan region** form when subsurface water reaches geothermal points and emerges through thermal vents.
- ✦ Heat generation occurs due to **volcanic activity**, **tectonic movement**, and **rock formation** deep beneath the Earth's surface.
  - ✍ When a water source passes near these zones, it absorbs the heat and emerges through thermal vents as hot springs.
- ✦ Geothermal sources lie along the Main Central Thrust, a **geological fault line** where the Indian plate meets the **Eurasian plate**.
- ✦ For Example, **Manikaran (Himachal Pradesh)**, **Gaurikund (Uttarakhand)**

#### Geothermal Energy

- 💡 Geothermal energy is **heat from the Earth's interior**, generated by **radioactive decay**. It is **renewable**, provides baseload power, available 24/7 as the Earth continuously produces heat.

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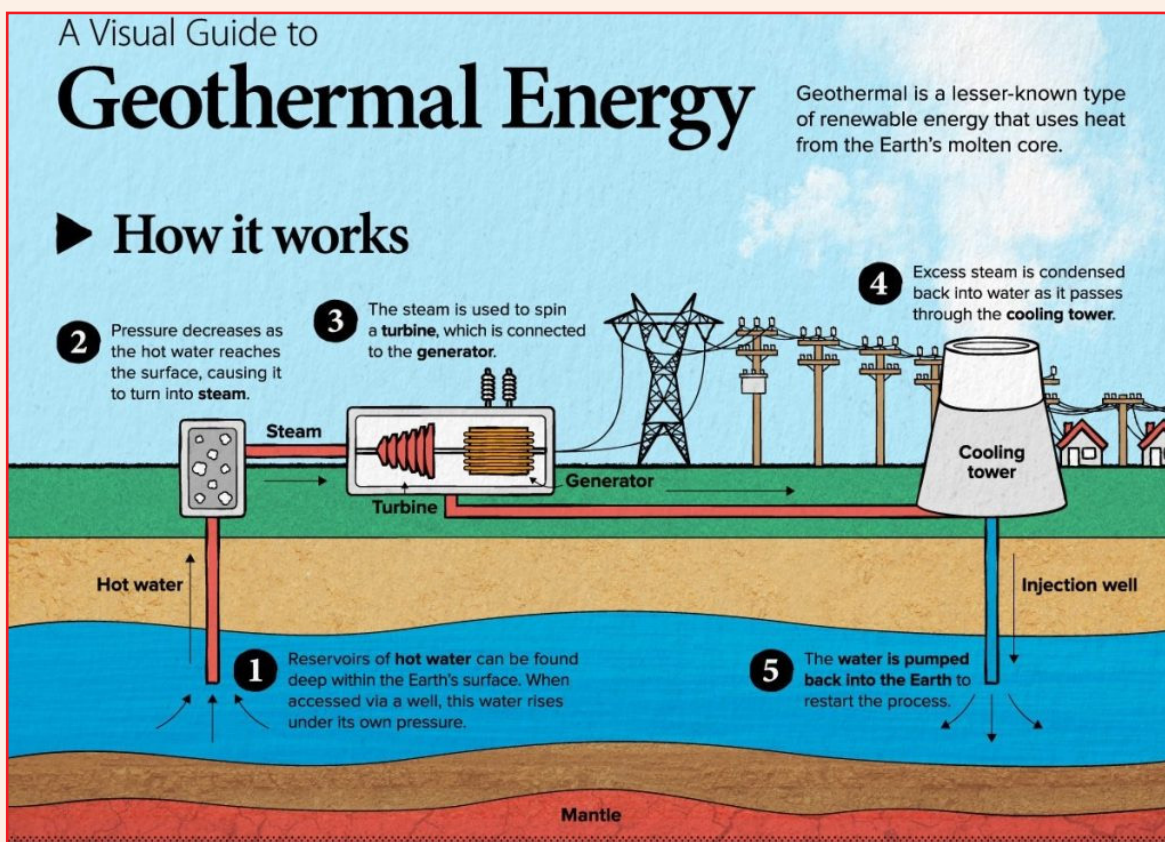


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- India has **381 thermally anomalous sites** identified by the **Geological Survey of India (GSI)** with a potential to generate **10,600 MW**, enough to power **10 million households**.
  - Key projects include a **20 kW pilot plant in Manuguru**, Telangana and **ONGC's 1 MW project in Puga Valley**, Ladakh.
- India has established agreements with countries like **Iceland (2007)**, **Saudi Arabia (2019)**, and the **Renewable Energy Technology Action Platform (RETAP)** with the **US (2023)** for geothermal energy collaboration.



### Geothermal Features:

- ✦ **Geysers:** These are geothermal features that periodically **eject water and steam** due to **underground heating**.
  - Geysers require large amounts of groundwater to fill underground cavities in volcanic areas. When heated by **nearby magma**, the **water flashes into steam**, causing an eruption of hot water and steam.
  - Example:** Yellowstone National Park (US)
- ✦ **Fumaroles:** These are openings in the Earth's crust where volcanic gases and steam are released.
  - Fumaroles occur when **magma passes through the water table**, heating the water and causing steam to rise, carrying volcanic gases like **hydrogen sulfide (H<sub>2</sub>S)** to the surface.
  - Often found near **"dying volcanoes"** where magma deep underground has solidified and cooled.
  - Example:** Barren Island (Andaman and Nicobar Islands)
- ✦ **Mudpots:** These are the bubbling pools of mud that form in geothermal areas.
  - Formed when limited geothermal water mixes with mud and clay.
  - Example:** Yellowstone National Park (US)

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## Uttarakhand Police Recover MDMA Drugs

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand Police arrested a woman near the **India-Nepal border** with 5.688 kg of **metyhlenedioxy-methylamphetamine (MDMA)** worth Rs 10.23 crore and booked her under the **Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985**.

**Note:** India's National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances is guided by **Article 47 of the Constitution**, which urges the State to prohibit the consumption of intoxicating substances harmful to health, except for medicinal use.

💡 The **Central Government** holds the **primary responsibility for controlling drug abuse** and enforcing narcotics laws in the country.

### Key Points

#### 💡 About MDMA:

- ✦ MDMA (3,4-methylenedioxymethamphetamine) is a **synthetic derivative of amphetamine**, widely known as a **recreational drug**.
- ✦ Since the 1980s, it has been popular on the streets under names like **Ecstasy, E, Molly, XTC, X, Beans, and Adams**.
- ✦ MDMA belongs to a class of **psychoactive substances** known as **entactogens** (from Greek, meaning "touching within").
- ✦ As an entactogen, it induces **euphoria**, **enhances emotional closeness**, **boosts empathy and communication**, and may aid in **retrieving repressed memories**.
- ✦ It can **severely affect the cardiovascular, neurological, renal, and hepatic systems**. Its potentially **life-threatening effects** require urgent recognition and intervention in clinical and emergency settings.

#### 💡 Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985:

- ✦ The Act regulates certain operations such as **manufacture, transport, and consumption** related to narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances.

- ✦ Under the Act, financing certain illicit activities such as cultivating cannabis, manufacturing narcotic drugs, or harbouring persons engaged in them is an offence.
- ✦ Persons found guilty of this offence will be punished with rigorous imprisonment of at **least 10 years**, extendable **up to 20 years**, and a fine of **at least Rs 1 lakh**.
- ✦ It also provides for **forfeiture of property** derived from, or used in, illicit traffic in narcotic drugs and **psychotropic substances**.
- ✦ It also provides for the **death penalty in some cases** where a person is a repeat offender.
- ✦ The **Narcotics Control Bureau** was also constituted in 1986 under the Act.

#### 💡 Initiatives Taken to Tackle Drug Abuse in India:

- ✦ **Project Sunrise:** It was launched by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in 2016 to tackle the **rising HIV prevalence** in north-eastern states in India, especially among **people injecting drugs**.
- ✦ **Nasha Mukt Bharat:** The government has also announced the launch of the **'Nasha Mukt Bharat', or Drug-Free India Campaign**, which focuses on community outreach programs.
- ✦ **NIDAAN and NCORD Portals:** **NIDAAN and NCORD Portals** are online platforms that maintain detailed databases of drug offenders, supporting law enforcement agencies in tracking drug-related crimes and trends.
- ✦ **Seizure Information Management System:** The Narcotics Control Bureau has been provided funds for developing new software like the **Seizure Information Management System (SIMS)**, which will create a complete online database of drug offenses and offenders.
- ✦ **National Drug Abuse Survey:** The government is also conducting a National Drug Abuse Survey to measure trends of drug abuse in India through the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment with the help of the **National Drug Dependence Treatment Centre of AIIMS**.

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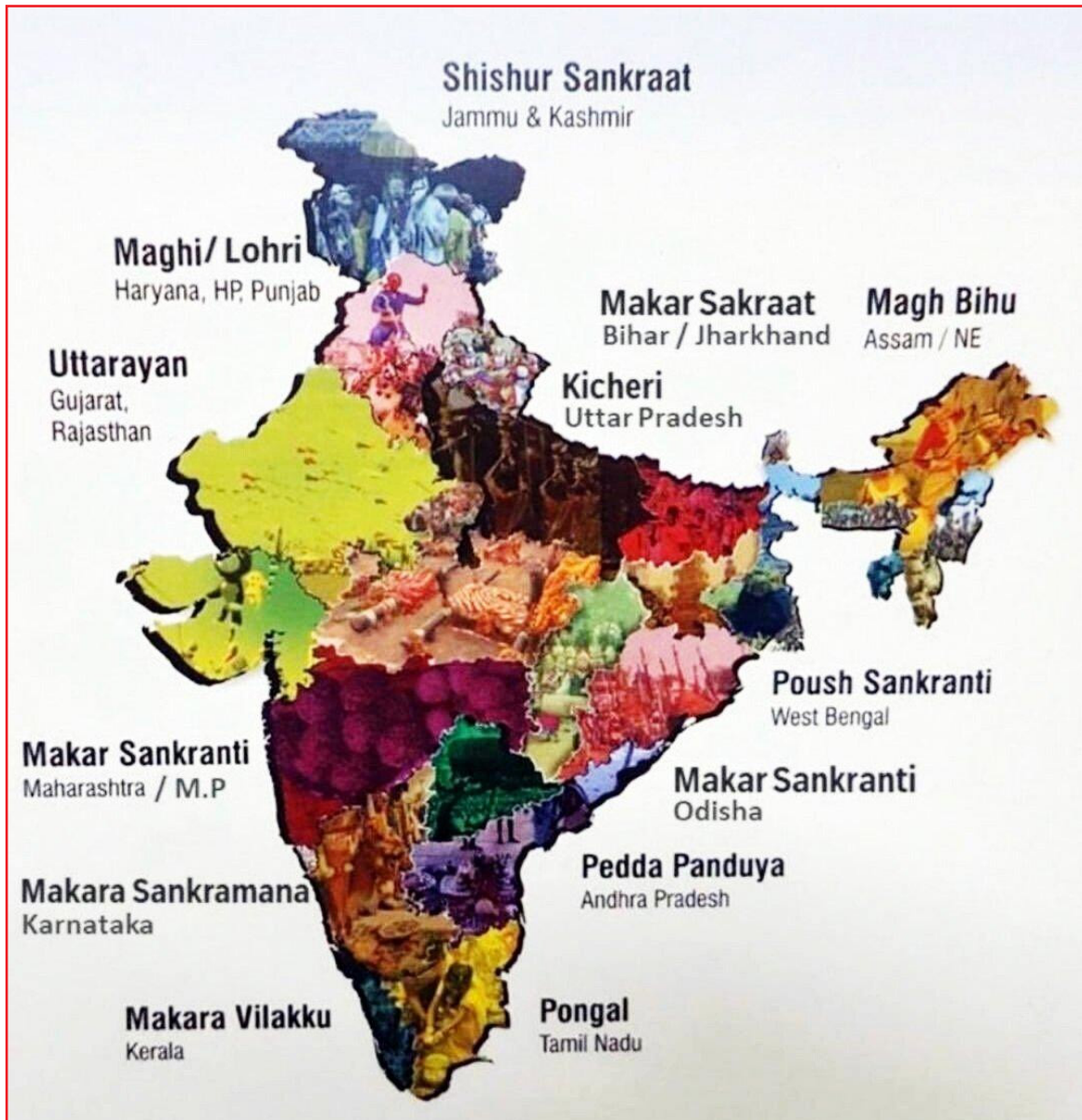
### Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB)

- 💡 The Government of India established the NCB in 1986 under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act, 1985.
- 💡 NCB functions as the apex coordinating agency for drug law enforcement in India and operates under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

## Uttarakhand Creates New Record on Harela Festival

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand created a new record by **planting over 8.13 lakh saplings** across the state on the occasion of the **Harela festival**, with the **Chief Minister** launching the campaign by planting a **Rudraksh sapling**.



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## Key Points

### About Harela Festival

- 💡 **Overview:** It is the **traditional festival** of Uttarakhand and marks the beginning of the **monsoon season** and the **sowing cycle** in the Hindu month of Shravan.
  - ✦ Widely observed in the **Kumaon region** and **parts of Garhwal**, it is both a **religious and agrarian festival**, rooted in reverence for nature and agriculture.
- 💡 **Agricultural Significance:** Households across the state prepare for the occasion by sowing seeds such as **barley, maize, and mustard** ten days in advance. These sprout into green shoots called **harela**, which are **symbolically cut and placed** on the heads of family members as a blessing for prosperity and good health.
- 💡 **Religious and Cultural Observance:** The festival also commemorates the **divine marriage of Lord Shiva and Goddess Parvati**, with many homes and temples setting up clay idols for ritual worship. Devotees offer prayers for a good harvest, environmental harmony, and community well-being.
- 💡 **Celebrations and Events:** Traditional **folk songs, dances**, and local fairs are celebrated in towns and villages, including events like the Harela Mela in Almora and Nainital.
  - ✦ Children participate in **bamboo-stilt games called Gedi**, while elders uphold age-old customs to commemorate the festival.
- 💡 **Significance in Modern Times:** Celebrated primarily by Hindu communities in the hills, it serves as a reminder of the deep bond between humans and nature.
  - ✦ With its blend of agricultural, religious, and ecological themes, the festival has grown in significance over the years, both as a **cultural tradition** and a public **environmental movement**.

### About Plantation Drive

- 💡 The **"Celebrate Harela, Repay the Debt of Mother Earth"** plantation campaign saw the planting of over 8.13 lakh saplings **across 13 districts**, marking

the largest plantation effort in the state during a single festival, aligned with the **Prime Minister's "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" initiative**.

- 💡 The plantation effort involved active participation from the local administration, forest department, **NGOs**, women's groups, and youth, spreading across villages, towns, cities, schools, and **Anganwadi centers**.

### About Prime Minister's

### "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" Initiative

- 💡 **Launch:** On **World Environment Day** (5 June 2024), the **Prime Minister** launched the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' campaign, combining environmental responsibility with a tribute to mothers.
  - ✦ The campaign was inaugurated with the planting of a **Peepal tree** at **Buddha Jayanti Park** in Delhi.
- 💡 **Symbolic Gesture of Tree Planting:** The campaign encourages individuals to plant a tree in the name of their mother, symbolizing a **heartfelt tribute to mothers'** nurturing roles while contributing to **environmental preservation**. Trees are vital for sustenance, protection, and future generations, much like mothers.
- 💡 **Contribution to Sustainable Development:** The initiative aligns with **India's broader quest for sustainable development**, emphasizing the need for both individual actions and collective efforts in promoting environmental conservation and creating lasting legacies for future generations.

## Schools in Uttarakhand to Recite Gita Shlokas

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has mandated that a **Bhagavad Gita** shloka be recited daily in all government schools during prayer meetings to **integrate traditional Indian knowledge systems with modern education** to foster character-building traits in students.

### Key Points

- 💡 The directive, issued by the Director of Secondary Education, instructs teachers to select a **"Shloka of the Week"** for recitation.

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- ⚡ The teachings of the Bhagavad Gita, rooted in psychology, logic, behavioral science, and moral philosophy, will be explained to highlight their contribution to human values, leadership, emotional balance, and scientific thinking, all from a **secular** perspective.
- ⚡ The initiative aligns with the **National Education Policy 2020**, which encourages the inclusion of India's traditional knowledge systems in the education curriculum.

### Bhagavad Gita

- ⚡ The Bhagavad Gita, a 700-verse philosophical dialogue attributed to sage Vyasa, is embedded in the Mahabharata's Bhishma Parva.
- ⚡ It features a conversation between Prince Arjuna and Lord Krishna, offering teachings on dharma (duty), karma (action), bhakti (devotion), and jnana (knowledge).
- ⚡ The Gita synthesizes various Indian philosophies, including Vedic, Buddhist, Jain, and Charvaka, and forms the foundation of Karma Yoga.

## Uttarakhand's First-Ever Tourist Carrying Capacity Assessment

### Why in News?

To safeguard Uttarakhand's ecologically sensitive hill towns from the growing impact of unregulated tourism, the state government will undertake its first-ever tourist **carrying capacity** survey in Nainital, Kainchi Dham, and Bhowali, aimed at evaluating the strain on infrastructure caused by overcrowding, excessive vehicular traffic, and overburdened public amenities.

- ⚡ Earlier, in **September 2024**, the **National Green Tribunal** directed the state government to classify Nainital district into prohibited, regulated, and development zones, based on its carrying capacity and environmental sensitivity.

### Key Points

- ⚡ **Survey Scope and Expected Outcome:** The Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB) will conduct the survey during both peak and off-peak seasons, assessing vehicular inflow, tourist footfall, and hospitality capacity, with support from CCTV monitoring.

- ✦ Based on the findings, the state may implement a tourist registration system and develop a sustainable roadmap aimed at ecological conservation, traffic management, and infrastructure enhancement.

- ⚡ **Need of Survey:** Over **7,500 four-wheelers** enter Nainital city daily during peak tourist seasons, translating to nearly **30,000 tourists per day**, causing severe pressure on the town's limited infrastructure.

### Carrying Capacity

- ⚡ **About:** Carrying capacity refers to the **maximum population or activity level** that a particular area can sustain without degrading its natural resources and environment. It is determined by both:

- ✦ **Biotic factors** such as vegetation and hydrology.
- ✦ **Abiotic factors** such as terrain and climate.

- ⚡ **Approaches to Assessing Carrying Capacity:**

- ✦ **Planetary Boundaries Approach:** This method is used in the context of **global environmental challenges**, including **climate change**, land degradation, pollution, and water scarcity. It helps identify safe operating limits for human activity on Earth.
- ✦ **Biocapacity Overshoot Approach:** A sustainability metric that **measures the ecological demand humans place** on natural systems. It highlights how we consume a year's worth of ecological resources in just a few months—illustrated by concepts like **Earth Overshoot Day**.

- ⚡ **Importance:** Assessing carrying capacity is essential for balancing environmental sustainability with development needs. When guided by the **precautionary principle**, it provides a practical framework to resolve conflicts between **developmental governance** and the **long-term sustainability** of natural systems.



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**Summary**

## Key Points

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## Summary

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