



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

UTTARAKHAND



JUNE 2025



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhra Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

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Steering Committee Meeting of Project Elephant

Why in News?

The **21st Steering Committee Meeting** of **Project Elephant** at the **Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun**, chaired by Union Minister Bhupender Yadav, focused on addressing the critical issue of **human-elephant conflict**.

- 💡 The meeting reviewed ongoing initiatives, including action plans for conflict management, and emphasized the involvement of local communities in conservation efforts.

Key Points

Elephant:

- ✦ Elephant is the **Natural Heritage Animal** of India.
- ✦ Elephants are considered a “**Keystone Species**” as they play a critical role in maintaining the balance and health of forest ecosystems.
 - ✍ They are **known for their exceptional intelligence**, boasting the largest brain size of any land animal.
- ✦ The Indian elephant (*Elephas maximus*) is found in the central and southern **Western Ghats**, **Northeast India**, **eastern India** and **northern India** and in some parts of southern peninsular India.
- ✦ It is included in **Schedule I of the Indian Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972** and in **Appendix I of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Flora and Fauna (CITES)**.
 - ✍ **Asian elephants (Indian)** are classified as Endangered on the **IUCN Red List** due to habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and **poaching**.

Project Elephant:

- ✦ Project Elephant was **launched by the Government of India in the year 1992** as a Centrally Sponsored Scheme with following objectives:
 - ✍ To protect elephants, their habitat & corridors
 - ✍ To address issues of man-animal conflict
 - ✍ Welfare of captive elephants
- ✦ The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** provides financial and technical support to major elephant range states in the country through Project Elephant.

Shivalik Elephant Reserve in Uttarakhand:

- ✦ It was **established in 2002** as part of the “**Project Elephant**” initiative.
- ✦ It's known for having one of the highest densities of elephants in India.
- ✦ The reserve encompasses several protected areas, including **Rajaji National Park**, **Corbett Tiger Reserve**, and **Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary**.

Note: **World Elephant Day** is observed **annually on 12th August** to raise awareness about the conservation status and challenges faced by **Asian and African elephants in the wild**.

- 💡 In 2025, the celebration will take place in **Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu**, where the prestigious **Gaj Gaurav Awards** will also be presented to honour contributions to elephant conservation.

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ELEPHANT



4 Main Species of Elephant

Species	Found in	IUCN Red List Status	Habitat
Indian	Asia	EN (CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I)	Subtropical broadleaf forest, tropical broadleaf moist forest, dry forest, grassland
Sumatran	Asia	CR	Broadleaf moist tropical forests
Savanna (Bush)	Africa	EN	All sub-Saharan Africa except for Central Africa's dense tropical forest
Forest	Africa	CR	Dense Tropical Forests

Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

Largest Land Mammal on Asian Continent
National Heritage Animal of India

Top 5 Indian States by Maximum Elephant Population: (As per elephant census 2017)

■ Karnataka > Assam > Kerala > Tamil Nadu > Odisha

Social Structure:

- Female elephants are more social than males; form herd (generally 5-7)
- Led by the oldest female, the 'matriarch'
- Males usually live alone

Threats:

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Poaching for Ivory
- Human-Elephant Conflict
- Mistreatment in Captivity

Conservation Efforts:

- Gaj Sookhna App (2022)
- Gaj Yatra (2017)
- Hathi Mere Sathi campaign (2011)
- National Elephant Corridor project (2005)
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme (2003)
- Project Elephant (1992)

Uttarakhand's First Yoga Policy

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Chief Minister launched the **state's first-ever Yoga Policy** on the occasion of the **11th International Yoga Day** at Bhararaisain, the state's summer capital.

- 💡 The creation of '**Spiritual Economic Zones**' in the Garhwal and Kumaon regions was also announced.

Key Points

Uttarakhand's First Yoga Policy:

- ✦ **About:** It aims to develop Uttarakhand as the global capital of yoga and wellness.
 - 📎 The policy promotes the vision of '**Yoga in Every Home, Health for Every Person**', with support from the Central Government.
- ✦ **Financial Provisions:** Under this policy, the establishment of yoga and meditation centres will be **eligible for subsidies of up to Rs 20 lakh**.
 - 📎 Research activities related to yoga and naturopathy will receive **grants of up to Rs 10 lakh**.
- ✦ **Implementation Targets:** By **March 2026**, yoga services will be made available at all **AYUSH Health and Wellness Centres** across the state.
 - 📎 By 2030, five new yoga hubs will be developed across the state.

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- ✦ **Spiritual Economic Zones:** These zones will be developed as international hubs for Ayurveda, yoga, and spiritual tourism.

- ✎ These zones aim to create new employment opportunities within the state.
- ✎ The initiative is expected to help curb migration from the hill regions by providing livelihood opportunities closer to home.

International Yoga Day

- 💡 **About:** International Yoga Day is celebrated worldwide to raise awareness about yoga's benefits for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being, and to promote global harmony and peace through its practice.
- 💡 **Origin & UN Declaration:** India proposed the idea at the **69th UN General Assembly in 2014**. The UN declared **21st June** as the International Day of Yoga.
 - ✦ The first celebration took place in **2015** with the theme *"Yoga for Harmony and Peace."*
 - ✦ The theme for 2025 is **"Yoga for One Earth, One Health"**.
- 💡 **Significance of 21st June:** The date marks the **Summer Solstice**, the longest day in the Northern Hemisphere, symbolising light, energy, and spiritual awakening in yogic tradition.
- 💡 **Global Recognition:**
 - ✦ **UNESCO** listed Yoga as an **Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity** in 2016.
 - ✦ The **World Health Organization (WHO)** recognises Yoga as a valuable tool for physical and mental health and included it in its Global Action Plan (2018–30).

Note: India's Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports classified Yoga as a **'Priority' sports discipline** in 2015.

Centre Issues Notification for the 2027 Census

Why in News?

The central government has officially notified the conduct of the next **decennial census in 2027**, exercising its authority under **Section 3 of the Census Act, 1948**.

- 💡 This notification **supersedes an earlier order from March 2019**, which had initially set the schedule for the Census in 2021 but was delayed due to the **Covid-19 pandemic**.

Note: Under **Section 3**, the Central Government may, by **notification in the Official Gazette**, declare its intention of **taking a census in the whole or any part of the territories** to which this Act extends, whenever it may consider it necessary or desirable to do so, and there upon the census shall be taken.

Key Points

Updated Census Schedule:

- ✦ The Census will have a reference date of **1st March, 2027**, for most parts of the country.
- ✦ However, regions like **Jammu and Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, and Uttarakhand**, which face logistical challenges due to snow and difficult terrain, will follow an earlier reference date of **1st October, 2026**.
 - ✎ This adjustment **allows for more accurate data collection in these areas**.

Census:

About:

- ✎ The Indian Census is the **largest source of demographic and socio-economic data** on the country's population.
- ✎ **India's first synchronised census** occurred in **1881** under **W.C. Plowden**, the then Census Commissioner of India.
- ✎ It has consistently **provided detailed statistical information every 10 years**, starting in **1872**, when the first non-synchronous census was conducted across different regions of India.

Legal Framework and Institutional Evolution:

- ✎ The **Census Act of 1948** was enacted to create a legal framework for census operations and to define the roles of census officers.
 - While the Act provides the legal framework, it does not mandate a specific frequency, making the decennial pattern a convention, not a constitutional requirement.

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- In May 1949, the Government of India established a **permanent Census organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs** to systematize the collection of population and demographic data.
- The **Office of the Registrar General** was later tasked with implementing the **Registration of Births and Deaths Act, 1969**, further expanding its role in maintaining vital statistics.

DECENNIAL POPULATION CENSUS

A process of collecting, compiling, analysing and disseminating demographic, economic and social data (at a specific time) of all persons in a country.



BRIEF HISTORY

- Earliest mentions: **Rigveda** (800-600 BC), **Arthashastra** (300 BC) & **Ain-i-Akbari** (16th century)
- 1st Non-synchronous Census (held in a few places): **1872** under Gov. Gen. Lord Mayo
- 1st Synchronous Census (held all over British India): **1881** by W.C. Plowden (Census Commissioner of India) under Lord Ripon

RESPONSIBLE BODY

- Until 1951, Census Organisation was set up on an ad-hoc basis for each Census
- Since 1951, Office of the **Registrar General and Census Commissioner** (MHA)

LEGAL BACKING

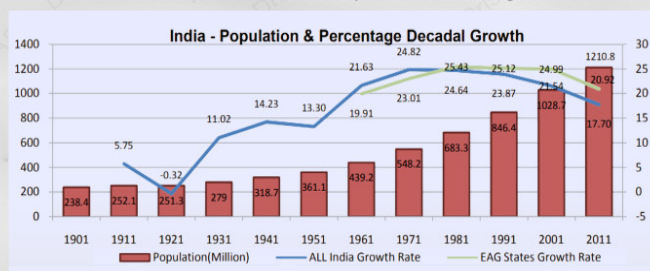
- A Union list subject under **Article 246**
- Conducted under **Census Act (CA), 1948**

CONFIDENTIALITY OF INFORMATION COLLECTED

- Guaranteed under CA 1948
- Information not even accessible to the courts of law

SIGNIFICANCE

- Largest single source of statistical information about people of India
- Used for good governance purposes
- Demarcation of constituencies & representation in Legislature



Census	Major Event
5 th (1921)	Only census to witness a decadal population decline (0.31%) Hence, called the year of "The Great Divide"
11 th (1971)	Added information on fertility for currently married women
13 th (1991)	Concept of literacy changed to children aged 7+ (previously 4+)
14 th (2001)	Leap in tech front; usage of Intelligent Character Reading (ICR)
15 th (2011)	Notable fall in case of Empowered Action Group (EAG) States noticed first time

Socio-Economic and Caste Census (SECC)

ABOUT

- Conducted in **2011** for the **first time since 1931**

COMPONENTS

- Economic status** (to define a poor/deprived person)
- Specific caste** (to evaluate caste groups that are economically worse/better off)

CONSTITUTIONAL BACKING

- Article 340** mandates the **appointment of a commission** to investigate the conditions of socially/educationally backward classes

Census v/s SECC

- SECC **identifies beneficiaries** of state support (Census - national population data)
- SECC **data open for use** by govt depts (Census data - confidential)

SIGNIFICANCE

- Better inequality mapping
- Quantifiable data to support existing reservation levels

SOME KEY FINDINGS OF SECC 2011

- Total Households - 24.49 crore
 - Rural - 17.97 crore
 - SC/ST Households - 3.87 crore (21.56%)
- Households with no literate adult (age >25) - 23.5%

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Gangotri National Park

Why in News?

Residents of **Uttarkashi district** have expressed concern to the Union government over a new waste incinerator inside **Gangotri National Park**, located in the **Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone**.

Key Points

📌 Gangotri National Park:

- ✦ The national park was **established in 1989**.
 - 📌 It covers an area of 1,553 square kilometers and rises to an altitude of 7,083 metres, encompassing diverse terrain.
- ✦ The park is home to the **Gaumukh-Tapovan Trek**, one of the most popular trekking routes in the region.
- ✦ **Gaumukh at Gangotri glacier**, the origin of **river Ganga**, is located inside the park.
- ✦ **Flora**: The park is enveloped by dense coniferous forests that are mostly temperate. **Chirpine, deodar, fir, spruce, oak and rhododendron** are the common vegetation.
- ✦ **Fauna**: Various rare and endangered species like Bharal or Blue Sheep, **Black Bear, Brown Bear, Himalayan Monal, Himalayan Tahr, Musk Deer** and **Snow Leopard** are found in the park.

📌 Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone:

- ✦ In 2012, the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)** issued a gazette notification declaring the **watershed area along the stretch of river Bhagirathi**, covering 4,179.59 sq km from Gaumukh to Uttarkashi, an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)**.
 - 📌 ESZs are the ecologically important areas designated to be protected from industrial pollution and unregulated development under the **Environment Protection Act of 1986**.

💡 Revised Industry Classification by CPCB:

- ✦ In April, the **Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)** introduced a new **blue category** under revised industrial classifications.
 - 📌 This category **includes essential environmental services** such as **waste-to-energy plants and integrated sanitary landfills** to manage urban waste responsibly.

💡 Legal and Environmental Concerns:

- ✦ **Violation of Laws**: The incinerator's location violates the principles of environmental protection, as industries in such sensitive areas are prohibited.
 - 📌 According to the **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**, the construction of landfills in hilly areas is strictly forbidden, and waste should be transferred to suitable locations in the plains.
- ✦ **Impact on Biodiversity**: The Gangotri National Park is part of the **Western Ghats biodiversity hotspot**, rich in unique flora and fauna.
 - 📌 The presence of the incinerator in such a sensitive region exacerbates the risk of ecological degradation.
- ✦ **Public Opposition**: Local activists and residents have voiced strong objections, highlighting the delicate ecological balance of the Gangotri region.
 - 📌 They argue that the **establishment of such a facility in the Himalayas poses a significant threat** to the area's biodiversity, which is already vulnerable due to its unique and sensitive environment.

Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB)

- 💡 CPCB is a statutory organisation and was **constituted in 1974** under the **Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974**.
- 💡 CPCB was also entrusted with the powers and functions under the **Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981**.
- 💡 It serves as a field formation and also provides technical services to the Ministry of Environment and Forests and Climate Change of the provisions of the **Environment (Protection) Act, 1986**.

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New Himalayan Bat Species Found in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

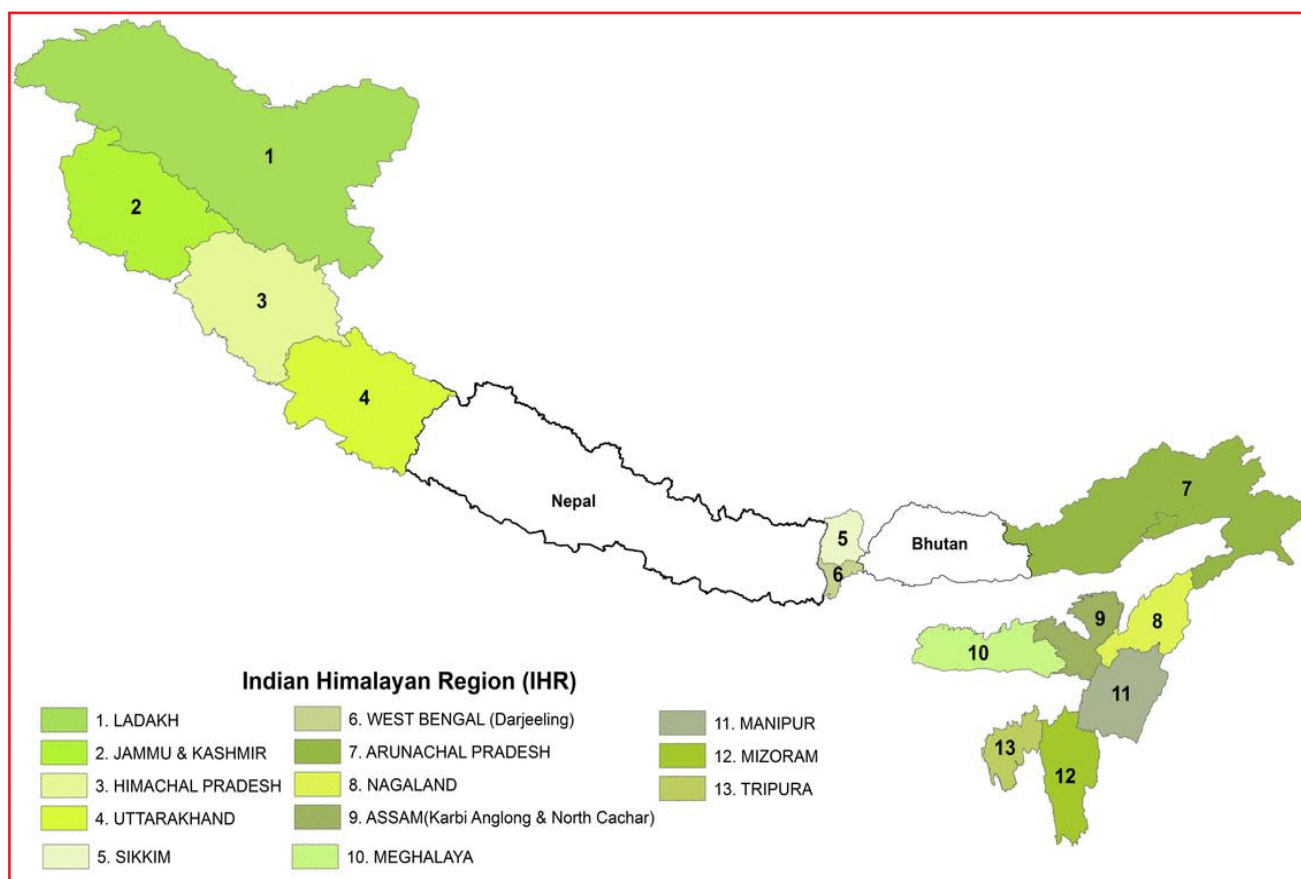
A recent study by Indian scientists has unveiled a **new-to-science bat species**, the **Himalayan long-tailed myotis** (*Myotis himalaicus*), recorded in **Uttarakhand**.

💡 It was previously identified in Pakistan's Khyber Pakhtunkhwa in 1998.

Key Points

Key Findings and Implications of the Study

- 💡 **About the Study:** Indian scientists documented **29 bat species** between **2017 and 2021** during surveys in the **Western Himalayas** region of **Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand**.
- 💡 **New Bat Species:** The **Himalayan long-tailed myotis**, found in Uttarakhand's **Kedarnath Wildlife Sanctuary**, has been formally described as a new species in the Zootaxa journal.
- ✦ This addition brings India's total bat species count to **135**.



- 💡 **Range Extension of Known Species:** The **East Asian free-tailed bat** (*Tadarida insignis*), previously mistaken for the European species, has been confirmed in India for the first time.

✦ This species, extending its range by 2,500 km **from China and Taiwan**, has now been documented in the Western Himalayas.

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Confirmation of Babu's Pipistrelle as a Valid Species:

- ✦ The study reinstated **Babu's pipistrelle** (*Pipistrellus babu*) as a valid species, **separate from Javan pipistrelle** (*P. javanicus*).
- ✦ Previously thought to be a synonym due to morphological similarities, Babu's pipistrelle is now confirmed to be **found in Pakistan, India, and Nepal**.

First-Time Records in India:

- ✦ The study also provided the first specimen-based confirmation in India for:
 - 📌 **Savi's pipistrelle** (*Hypsugo savii*)
 - 📌 **Japanese greater horseshoe bat** (*Rhinolophus nippon*)

Key Species & Conservation Significance:

- ✦ **Key species** included **Blandford's fruit bat**, Japanese and Chinese horseshoe bats, Nepalese whiskered bat, Mandelli's mouse-eared bat, Kashmir cave myotis, chocolate pipistrelle, and eastern long-winged bat.
- ✦ According to the **Zoological Survey of India (ZSI)**, the research will significantly advance the conservation and documentation of India's small mammal diversity, especially in the ecologically sensitive Himalayan region.

Zoological Survey of India

- 📌 ZSI is also a **subordinate organization of the MoEFCC** and was **established in 1916** as a national center for the **faunistic survey and exploration** of the resources leading to the advancement of knowledge on the exceptionally rich faunal diversity of the country.
- 📌 It has its **headquarters in Kolkata** and **16 regional stations** located in different geographic locations of the country.

Bailey Bridge in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The residents of **Milam village** are facing significant accessibility issues due to an **avalanche** that damaged the **Bailey bridge** over the **Gaokha River**.

- 📌 The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has been instructed to repair the damage and reinstall the bridge at the earliest.

Key Points

Location of the Bridge:

- ✦ Situated approximately 8 km from Milam village, the **Bailey bridge** is a **vital connection between the village and several security posts** along the China border.
- 📌 Milam village with a population of around 400 residents, is the **last inhabited settlement in the Johar Valley**, located near the **India-China border**.
- ✦ The 65-km-long **Munsyari–Milam route** is the only access corridor for residents during these seasonal movements.

About Bailey Bridge:

- ✦ A Bailey bridge is a type of modular bridge whose parts are pre-built, so they can be put together quickly as needed.
- ✦ **Donald Coleman Bailey**, an English civil engineer credited with inventing it during **World War II**.
 - 📌 Their key features include **modular design**, **ease of transport**, **high load-bearing capacity**, and **adaptability to various terrains**.
- ✦ Bailey bridges are specifically engineered for quick assembly in **challenging environments**, **requiring neither heavy machinery** nor advanced construction techniques.
- ✦ The Indian armed forces inherited the Bailey bridge design from the British, using it in the **1971 war with Pakistan** and in various disaster relief efforts, such as after the **2021 Uttarakhand flash floods**.

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Avalanche

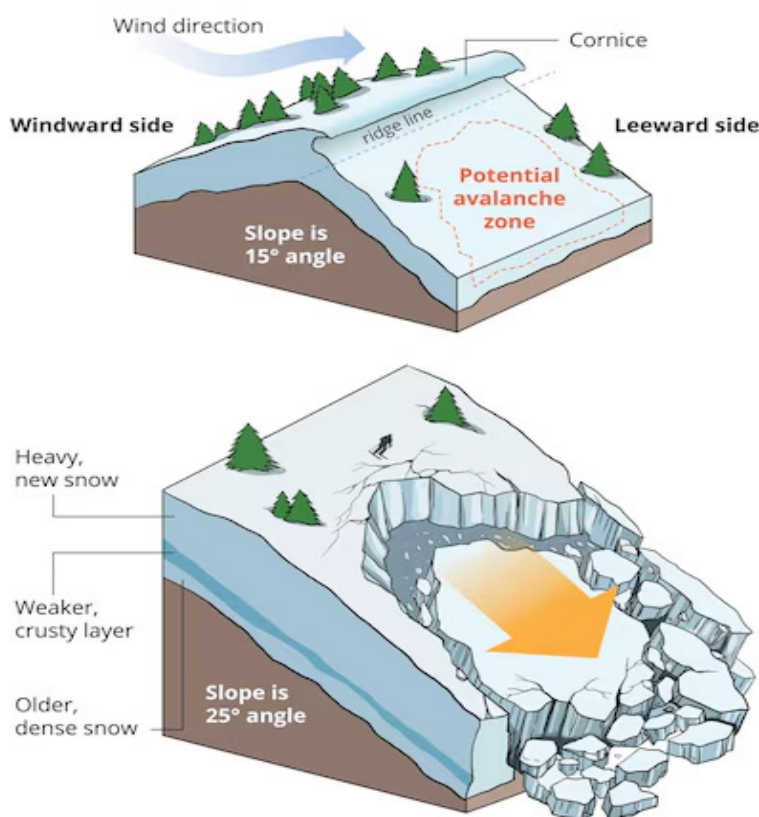
About:

- ✦ An **avalanche** is the rapid flow of **snow, ice, and debris** down a mountain slope. It often carries **earth, rocks, and rubble**, causing destruction.
- ✦ Avalanche risk peaks from **December to April** due to heavy **winter snowfall (snow accumulation)** and **spring thaw** (weakening snow layers).

Types:

- ✦ **Loose Snow Avalanche:** It starts from a **single point** where snow is **not well bonded**, spreads in an **inverted V-shape** as snow particles fall, and is **less dangerous** due to lower volume and speed.
- ✦ **Slab Avalanche:** It occurs when a **cohesive snow slab breaks away** from underlying layers, often reaching speeds of **50–100 km/h** and causing significant destruction.
- ✦ **Gliding Avalanche:** The snowpack **slides down a smooth surface, like grass or rock slabs**, leaving a broad fracture line separating it from stationary snow.
- ✦ **Wet-Snow Avalanche:** A wet-snow avalanche is naturally triggered by **rising temperatures or rain**, as meltwater weakens the snow layer bonds.

AVALANCHE ANATOMY



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Border Road Organisation (BRO)

- 💡 BRO was conceived and **raised in 1960** for co-ordinating the speedy development of a **network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border** regions of the country.
 - ✦ It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Defence**.
- 💡 It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works comprising **airfields, building projects, defence works and tunneling** and has endeared itself to the people.
- 💡 The Union Government set up the **Border Roads Development Board (BRDB)** with the **Prime Minister as Chairman** of the Board and **Defence Minister as Deputy Chairman**.

Strategic Advisory Committee in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmit Singh, has approved the formation of a **Strategic Advisory Committee on Innovation & Effective Implementation**.

- 💡 Also, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami signed three key agreements to advance social development, skill-building, and technological innovation.

Key Points

- 💡 **Strategic Advisory Committee:** Chaired by the **Chief Minister** to promote governance innovation and effective program implementation.
- 💡 **Tripartite Agreement with Tata Trust:** 10-year partnership focusing on water management, nutrition, telemedicine, rural livelihoods, and green energy.
- 💡 **Skill Development Agreement with NASSCOM:** Positions Uttarakhand as a tech skill hub, offering courses in AI, Data Science, Cybersecurity, and Python.
- 💡 **Agreement with Wadhvani Foundation:** Integrates AI-driven personality development and skill training in government colleges for 1.2 lakh students.

Governor

- 💡 The **Governor** is the **constitutional head of a state** in India, performing a role similar to that of the President at the national level.
- 💡 His position is defined under **Articles 153 to 162** of the Indian Constitution, and he functions in **dual capacities**:
 - ✦ As the **constitutional head**, bound by the advice of the state's council of ministers.
 - ✦ As a **link between the Union and the State Government**, ensuring coordination within India's federal structure.
- 💡 **Appointment and Tenure:**
 - ✦ Appointed by the **President of India**.
 - ✦ Serves a **term of 5 years**, though this can be shortened by resignation or dismissal.
 - ✦ Must be an Indian citizen, at least **35 years old**, and not hold any office of profit.
- 💡 **Powers and Responsibilities:**
 - ✦ Holds **executive, legislative, and discretionary powers**.
 - ✦ Plays a key role in **state governance, law-making, and emergency provisions**.
 - ✦ Can **recommend President's Rule** under Article 356 in case of constitutional failure in the state.

Regional Workshop on State Support Mission in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

NITI Aayog, in collaboration with the **State Institute for Empowering and Transforming Uttarakhand (SETU) Aayog** held a one-day Regional Workshop under the **State Support Mission (SSM)** in Dehradun.

Key Points

- 💡 **About Regional Workshop:**
 - ✦ This workshop marked the **first in a series under the SSM**, aimed at fostering structured engagement between NITI Aayog and States/UTs through **State Institutions for Transformation (SITs)**.

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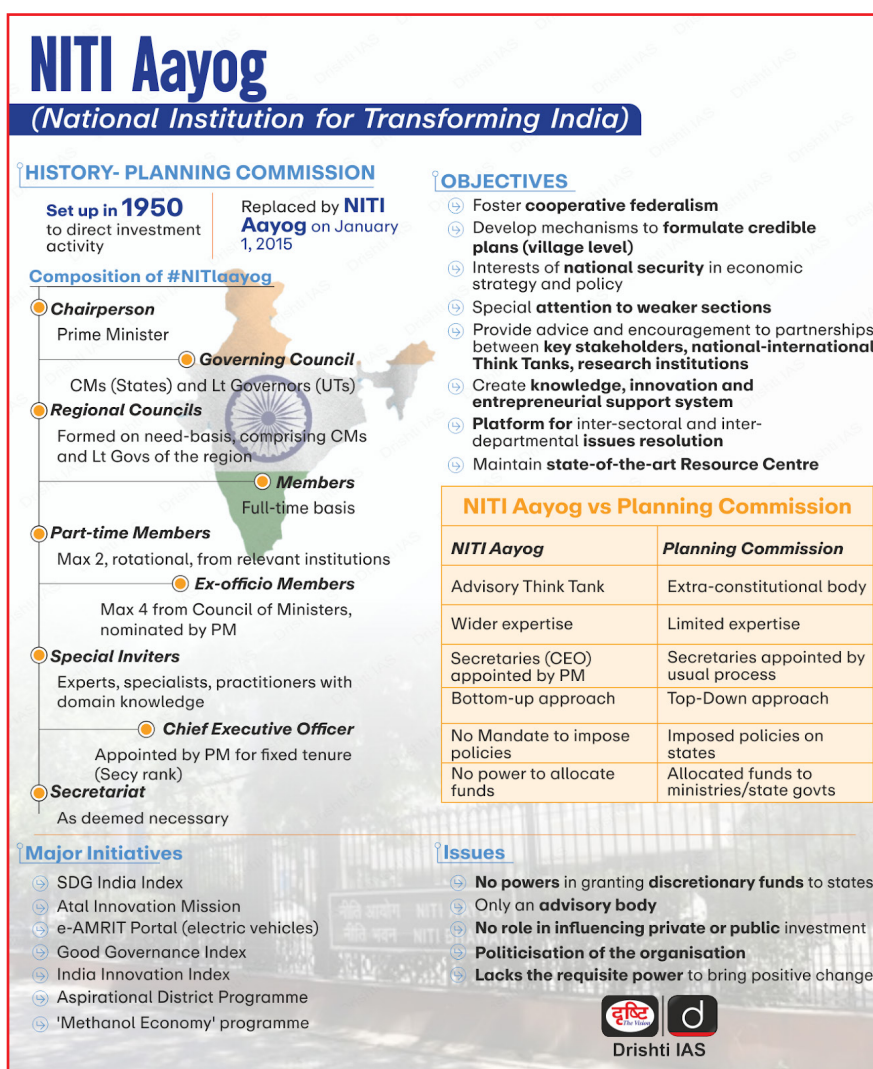


- ✦ The workshop aimed to bring together States and UTs to share experiences on SSM initiatives, promote peer learning and enhance collaboration for socio-economic development.

- ✦ It highlighted the pivotal role of SITs in driving State growth and shaping state visions.

💡 State Support Mission (SSM):

- ✦ Under this mission, NITI Aayog supports the States/UTs in capacity building and setting up **State Institutions for Transformation (SIT)**.
- ✦ It aims to assist States/UTs in achieving their socioeconomic development goals by 2047, aligned with national priorities.
 - 📎 The mission has been approved with a total outlay of Rs. 237.5 crore for the period 2022-23 to 2024-25.
- ✦ A **State Economic and Transformation Unit (SETU)** has been created at NITI Aayog to implement the Mission.
 - 📎 Headed by a Joint Secretary-level officer (**Mission Director**), the unit includes a team of Director, Assistant Director, Innovation Lead, and Young Professionals.
- ✦ SSM would facilitate the strengthening of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** localisation efforts which in turn would aid further reduction in multidimensional poverty.



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20th Governor's Cup Golf Tournament - 2025

Why in News?

The **20th Governor's Cup Golf Tournament - 2025**, organized by the Raj Bhavan Golf Club, Nainital, concluded successfully on 1st June 2025.

- 💡 The Governor of Uttarakhand presented awards to winners and runners-up across multiple categories.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Tournament:** The tournament was held over three days from 30th May to 1st June 2025, in Nainital, Uttarakhand.
 - ✦ A total of **177 golfers** from various states across India participated in the event.
- 💡 Significance:
 - ✦ The Raj Bhavan Golf Course was opened in 2024 to encourage children, youth, and students to take an interest in golf.
 - ✦ Special efforts have been made to **encourage female players and youth participation in the sport**.
- 💡 **Winners of 2025:**

Category	Winner
Super Veteran Gross Category	Colonel S.C. Gupta
Women's Category	Shrishti Dhan
Gross Category	Zafar Iqbal
Net Category (15-17 age group)	Amyra Bajaj
Amateur Category (12-14 age group)	Samridh Chand Thakur

Raj Bhawan Golf Club, Nainital

- 💡 The Raj Bhawan Golf Club in Nainital **was established in 1926** as part of the Government House estate.
- 💡 The course is located in a lush, pristine mixed forest at an elevation ranging from 6,700 to 7,000 feet above sea level in the hill station of Nainital.
- 💡 The Raj Bhawan Golf Club has a **rich history and is regarded as a prominent destination for golfers across India**.

Valley of Flowers

Why in News?

The **Valley of Flowers** in Uttarakhand officially opened to tourists on **1st June 2025**, marking the start of the annual four-month visiting season.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Valley of Flowers:** It is located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand and lies within the Nanda Devi **Biosphere Reserve**.
 - ✦ It spans over 87 sq km and lies at an altitude of 3,600 meters above sea level.
- 💡 Historical Background:
 - ✦ It was **introduced to the Western world in 1931** when British mountaineers Frank S. Smythe, Eric Shipton, and R.L. Holdsworth **discovered it during their return from Mount Kamet**.
 - 📎 Smythe's 1938 book, Valley of Flowers, brought it global recognition.
- 💡 **Flora and Fauna:** The valley is famous for its wide variety of **flowering plants**, including **orchids, poppies, primulas, marigolds, daisies, and anemones**.
 - ✦ Rare and sacred flowers like the **brahmakamal**, often offered in religious rituals, also bloom here.
 - ✦ The valley is home to many **medicinal plants and herbs** used in traditional healing.
 - ✦ Several **wildlife species** inhabit the region, such as the **snow leopard, the Himalayan weasel, the black bear, the red fox, the gray langur, the flying squirrel** and various species of butterflies including the **lime butterfly**.
- 💡 **Natural Features:** The valley offers breathtaking views of **alpine meadows, cascading waterfalls, glacial streams, and thick forests**.
 - ✦ It lies in a unique transition zone between the **Zaskar** and **Greater Himalaya** mountain ranges.
- 💡 **Conservation Efforts:** Due to concerns over ecological damage, the valley was declared a **National Park in 1982**.

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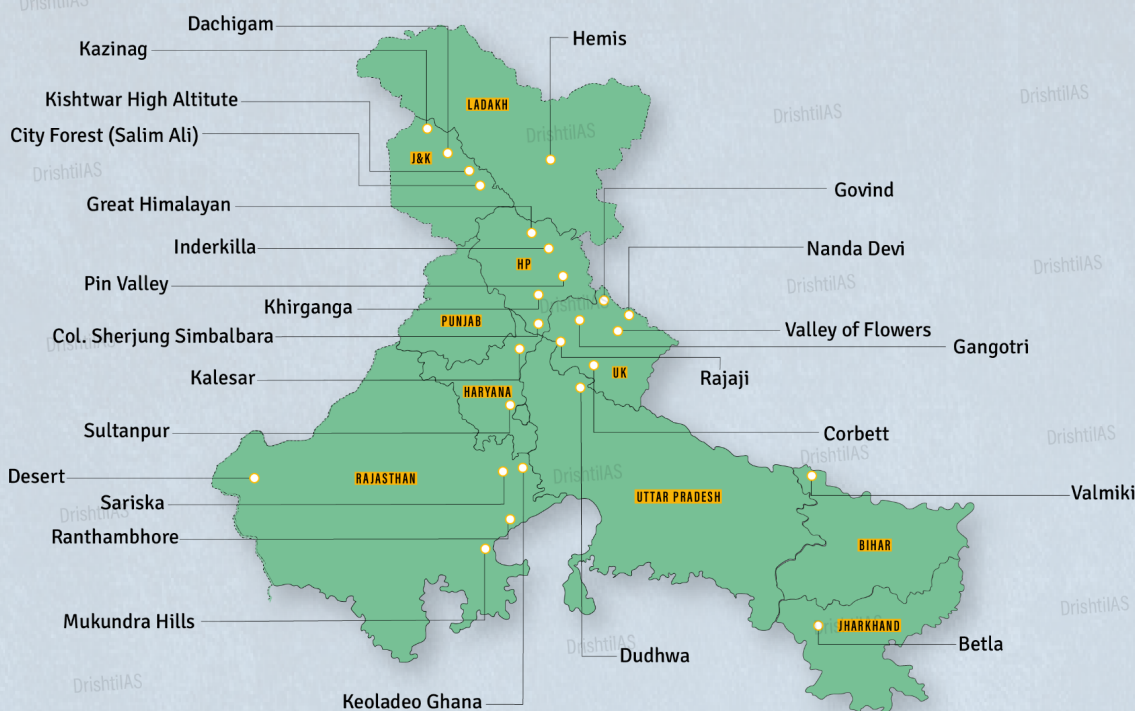
✦ In 1988, it became part of the **Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve**, and tourism was reintroduced gradually under strict controls.

✦ It was declared a **UNESCO World Heritage** Site in 2005, for its exceptional beauty and biodiversity.

💡 **Cultural Significance:** The valley holds spiritual importance in Hindu mythology and is **traditionally inhabited by the Bhotiya tribe**. Sacred flowers like the **Brahmakamal** are used in religious rituals.

National Parks-I

106 National Parks (2022)



ABOUT

- A national park can be notified by the state government for the preservation of its ecological, faunal, floral, geomorphological, or zoological importance.
- The areas are secured under the Wildlife Protection Act (WPA), 1972.
- No human activity is permitted inside the national park except for the ones permitted by the Chief Wildlife Warden of the state under the conditions given in the WPA.

FACTS

- Hemis National Park (Ladakh): Largest in South Asia. Also known as Snow Leopard Capital.
- Jim Corbett National Park (Uttarakhand): India's first national park. Project Tiger (1973) was started here.
- Desert National Park (Rajasthan): Second-largest national park in India.



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