



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

**FEBRUARY  
2025**

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## Kedarnath Temple Gates to Open on 2<sup>nd</sup> May

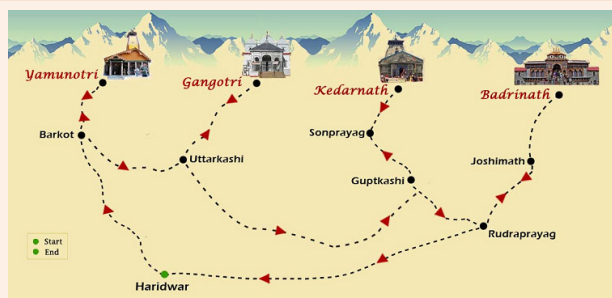
### Why in News?

On 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the **Shri Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee** announced that the temple gates will open on 2<sup>nd</sup> May, 2025.

### Key Points

- **Finalized Dates for Pilgrimage Sites:**
  - With the announcement of **Kedarnath temple's** opening, the dates for all four sacred sites in the Garhwal Himalayas have been fixed.
  - **Badrinath Dham** will open on **4<sup>th</sup> May 2025**.
  - **Gangotri and Yamunotri Dhams** will open on **30<sup>th</sup> April 2025**, coinciding with **Akshaya Tritiya**.
  - These **four sites together form the Chota Char Dham**, an important Hindu pilgrimage circuit.
- **Decision on Kedarnath Temple Opening:**
  - Religious gurus and Vedpathis determined the auspicious hour and date for Kedarnath's opening on **Mahashivratri**.
  - The decision was made after offering prayers at **the Omkareshwar temple** in Ukhimath, the **winter abode of Baba Kedar**.

### Char Dham Yatra



- **Yamunotri Dham:**
  - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
  - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
  - **River Yamuna** is the second-most sacred river in India after **River Ganga**.

- **Gangotri Dham:**
  - **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
  - **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
  - Considered the most sacred of all Indian rivers.
- **Kedarnath Dham:**
  - **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
  - **Dedicated to:** Lord Shiva.
  - Situated on the bank of the **Mandakini River**.
  - One of the **12 Jyotirlingas** (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.
- **Badrinath Dham:**
  - **Location:** Chamoli district.
  - Home to the sacred Badrinarayan Temple.
  - **Dedicated to:** Lord Vishnu.
  - One of the holy shrines for Vaishnavites.

## Uttarakhand's Afforestation Body Mismanaged Funds

### Why in News?

After **the Comptroller and Auditor General's (CAG) report** on **Uttarakhand's Compulsory Afforestation Management and Planning Authority (CAMP A)** was released, the body's Chief Executive Officer stated that they are addressing the flagged issues.

- The report, covering 2019-20 to 2021-22, found improper spending from Rs 753.89 crore in 43 forest divisions.

### Key Points

- **CAG Flags CAMP A Expenditure:**
  - The **CAG flagged Rs 13.86 crore of the total allocated funds** for CAMP A.
  - The Chief Executive Officer stated that **the audit needs verification** to determine if the expenditure was approved by the administration.
- **Disputed Purchases:**
  - It was noted that only two mobile phones were purchased and that CAMP A rules do not prohibit such purchases.

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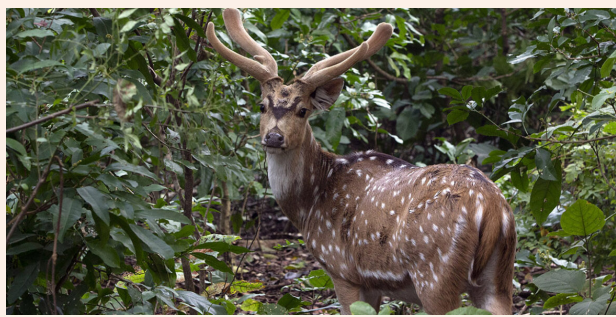
Note:

- CAMPA rules allow spending on communication and IT equipment for forest and wildlife protection.
- **Major Fund Diversions Identified:**
  - The Haridwar, Tons, Nainital, and Narendranagar forest divisions spent Rs 3.6 crore on building renovations, Harela, and fencing, which the CAG flagged as “major diversions.”
  - **The Kalagarh Tiger Reserve** (Lansdowne division) diverted Rs 1.71 crore for:
    - Motor road construction for a **tiger safari**
    - **Elephant** protection wall
    - Forest Rest House repairs
    - Solar fencing and lantana removal
  - The CAG stated that the scheme was included in the **Annual Plan of Operations (APO)** without proper ground-level analysis.

#### Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG)

- The CAG of India, as per **Article 148 of the Constitution**, heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD)**.
- He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
- The CAG upholds the **Constitution and parliamentary laws** in financial administration and is considered one of the key pillars of India’s democratic system, alongside the **Supreme Court, Election Commission, and Union Public Service Commission**.
- CAG of India is governed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General’s (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

#### Kalagarh Tiger Reserve (KTR)



- **About:**
  - It is situated in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand**.
  - It was **formed in 1974** when the northern region of **Jim Corbett Park** was renamed **Kalagarh Tiger Reserve**.
  - **Named after the Kalagarh Dam**, built on **the Ramganga River**.
  - Covers 301.18 sq. km, including Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary and Jim Corbett Park.
- **Terrain:**
  - Located in the foothills of **the Himalayas**.
  - Features a diverse landscape of forests, grasslands, and hills.
- **Flora:**
  - Home to trees like **sal, sheesham, semal, bakli, haladu, tun, sain, fig, and bamboo**.
  - Rich in medicinal plants.
- **Fauna:**
  - Hosts a high density of **tigers, leopards, elephants, and other wild cats**.
  - Inhabited by various **deer species, including chital, barking deer, goral, sambar, and hog deer**.
  - Home to more than 580 bird species, such as **kingfishers, wagtails, forktails, pheasants, and hornbills**.

## Uttarakhand's Organic Exports Decline

### Why in News?

The **Confederation of Organic Food Producers and Marketing Agencies (COII)** expressed concern over a sharp decline of **66 %** in exports of organic products from Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- The exports of **organic products** in Uttarakhand have fallen from **285 tonnes** worth **Rs 11.6 crore** in **2022-23** to **97 tonnes** worth **Rs.4.2 crore** in **2023-24**, registering a **sharp decrease**.

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Note:

- **Reasons for Decline:**
  - The decline in exports is mainly due to the **non-implementation** of the declared policy of “**Uttarakhand Organic**” by the state government.
  - The **continuous migration of people** in search of livelihood, as they do not find agriculture economically viable.
  - The lack of state government’s support to farmers with **incentives, mandis, training, and demonstration programs**.
- **Initiatives Taken:**
  - **MoU signed** between **COII** and **GB Pant University** to provide organic farming technology to farmers.
  - **Training of 500 farmers** and assistance in obtaining **organic certification**.
  - **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** should help to hold training programmes in interior parts of the state and buyer-seller meets on a regular basis.
  - The state government must provide **financial help** to each farmer switching from **synthetic farming** to **organic farming** for at least **three years** and strengthen the infrastructure.
- **Expected Outcomes:**
  - Once organic farming becomes economically beneficial, **horticulture** and **handicrafts sectors** will be revived and a new generation will promote it further to a level of **agri-based micro and small industries** which will generate new employment opportunities.

### Organic Farming:

- **About:**
  - Organic farming is an agricultural system that emphasizes the **health of soils, ecosystems, and people** by avoiding **synthetic chemicals** and focusing on natural processes.
  - It relies on **ecological cycles, biodiversity, and combines tradition, innovation, and science** to promote environmental benefits and fair relationships.
  - While generally Organic farming avoids **external inputs, certification systems** allow the **use of organic, biological, and mineral supplements** when needed.

- **National Programme for Organic Production (NPOP):**
  - The **NPOP**, launched in **2001** implemented by **Agricultural and Processed Food Products Export Development Authority (APEDA)** under the **Ministry of Commerce & Industries**, focuses on accreditation, organic production standards, and promoting organic farming.
  - It enhances India’s global competitiveness in organic farming. NPOP standards for production and accreditation are recognized by the **European Commission and Switzerland**, allowing Indian organic products to be accepted internationally.

### CONFEDERATION OF ORGANIC FOOD PRODUCERS & MARKETING AGENCIES (COII):

- The **Confederation of Organic Food Producers & Marketing Agencies (COII)** serves as a unifying body for all stakeholders in India’s organic sector, including farmers, producers, processing centers, buyers, sellers, exporters, importers, seed and technology providers, financial institutions, and government bodies at both state and central levels.
- The Confederation, since its inception, has been **promoting and protecting** the interest of all the stakeholders in the **organic food industry** and providing a **collective voice** for the industry.
- The Confederation promotes the industry’s general ideal, commercial, and business interests, particularly by fighting unfair competition and providing information and changes in technology.

## National eVidhan Application

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly has adopted **the National eVidhan Application (NeVA)** and transformed into a **Digital House**.

### Key Points

- **Chief Minister** Pushkar Singh Dhami and Speaker Ritu Khanduri inaugurated the **National eVidhan Application (NeVA)** in the Uttarakhand Assembly.

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Note:

- **The Governor** Gurmit Singh also attended the event.
- **About National eVidhan Application:**
  - Under **the Digital India initiative**, the Government of India has launched the centrally sponsored 'National e-Vidhan Application' scheme to **transition all Legislative Assemblies of the country to a paperless format** and unify them on a single platform.
  - The scheme implementation **costs will be shared with 60% funded by the Government of India and 40% by the state governments.**

#### Digital India Programme

- The Digital India program, **launched in 2015, aims to transform India into a digitally empowered society** and a knowledge-based economy.
- Its **key objectives include** strengthening digital infrastructure, delivering services digitally, and promoting digital financial inclusion.

## Uttarakhand Budget 2025-26

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has unveiled a **Rs 1,01,175.33 crore budget** for the financial year 2025-26, aiming to **strengthen infrastructure while ensuring economic stability.**

### Key Points

- **Budget Presentation and Vision:**
  - **The State Finance Minister presented the Rs 1,01,175.33 crore budget** in the State Assembly, Dehradun.
  - The **budget outlines a comprehensive roadmap** for the state's economic and infrastructural development.
- **Sectoral Focus Areas:**
  - The government has prioritized **agriculture, industry, energy, infrastructure, connectivity, tourism, and Ayush.**
  - Additional emphasis has been placed on education, health, infrastructure, and rural development to foster growth.
- **Revenue and Receipts Overview:**
  - The budget estimates total receipts at Rs 1,01,034.75 crore, including:

- **Revenue receipts:** Rs 62,540.54 crore
- **Capital receipts:** Rs 38,494.21 crore
- **Tax revenue** is expected to contribute Rs 39,917.74 crore, while non-tax revenue is estimated at Rs 22,622.80 crore.
- **'GYAN' Model for Inclusive Development:**
  - The budget is based on the **'GYAN' model**, focusing on:
    - Gareeb (Poor)
    - Yuva (Youth)
    - Anndata (Farmers)
    - Naari (Women)
- **Boost to Industry and Startups:**
  - To support industrial growth and entrepreneurship, the budget includes:
    - Rs 50 crore for **MSME industries.**
    - Rs 35 crore for the Mega Industry Policy.
    - Rs 30 crore for startup promotion.
    - Rs 500 crore under **the Mega Project Scheme** to drive economic expansion.
- **Major Allocations by Sector:**
  - **Water Resources and Irrigation:**
    - Funds are allocated for **the Jamrani Dam, Song Dam, Lakhwad Project.**
    - Rs 1,500 crore under special capital assistance for states.
    - Rs 1,843 crore for **the Jal Jeevan Mission.**
    - Rs 100 crore for urban water supply improvements.
  - **Roads, Transport, and Infrastructure:**
    - 220 km of new roads to be constructed.
    - 1,000 km of roads to be reconstructed and 1,550 km renovated.
    - Rs 1,200 crore for **road safety initiatives.**
    - 37 new bridges to be built.
    - Rs 1,065 crore allocated under **the PMGSY scheme.**
    - Rs 36.88 crore for **the Civil Aviation Department.**
  - **Tourism and Cultural Development:**
    - Rs 100 crore for **Tehri Lake development.**
    - Rs 25 crore for **the Manskhanda Scheme.**
    - Rs 20 crore for **the Vibrant Village Scheme.**

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Note:

- Rs 10 crore for **new tourist destinations**.
- Rs 10 crore for **Char Dham road network improvements**.
- **Environment and Sustainable Development:**
  - Rs 395 crore allocated for **the CAMPA scheme**.
  - Rs 60 crore for **climate change mitigation**.
  - Rs 125 crore for **the Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARA)**.
  - Rs 10 crore for public **afforestation projects**.
- **Social Security and Welfare:**
  - Rs 1,811.66 crore allocated for social security schemes.
  - Rs 918.92 crore set aside for various welfare subsidies.
  - Rs 600 crore for **the Food Security Scheme**.
  - Rs 207.18 crore for **the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Rural)**.
  - Rs 54.12 crore for **the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana (Urban)**.
  - Rs 25 crore for EWS housing grants.
  - Rs 55 crore for cooking gas subsidies for low-income families.
  - Rs 2 crore for the Environmental Friend Insurance scheme.
  - Rs 40 crore to provide free travel on state transport buses.
  - Rs 10 crore for **the State Food Grain Scheme**.
  - Rs 34.36 crore to subsidize salt for **Antyodaya ration card holders**.

➤ **Strategic Focus on Development:**

- The budget reflects the state government's commitment to **holistic growth and sustainable development**.
- By emphasizing infrastructure, social welfare, environment, and economic expansion, the government aims to improve the quality of life for Uttarakhand residents.

**Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana**

- **PMGSY is a central government scheme launched in 2000 to provide all-weather road connectivity to unconnected rural habitations.**

- The scheme was originally a 100% centrally-sponsored initiative, but starting from the financial year 2015-16, the funding has been shared between **the Central and State governments in a 60:40 ratio**.
- Around 800,000 kilometres of rural roads have been built and 180,000 habitations were connected under various phases of the PMGSY scheme.

**Vibrant Villages Programme**

- It is a **Centrally sponsored scheme**, announced in **the Union Budget 2022-23 (to 2025-26)** for development of villages on **the northern border, thus improving the quality of life of people living in identified border villages**.
- It will cover the border areas of **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Sikkim and Ladakh**.
- It will cover 2,963 villages with 663 of them to be covered in the first phase.
- Vibrant Village Action Plans will be created by the district administration with the help of Gram Panchayats.
- There will **not be overlap with the Border Area Development Programme**.

## World's 2<sup>nd</sup> Highest Trek in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

Prime Minister Narendra Modi will visit **Gangotri Mukhba** on **27<sup>th</sup> February 2025** to inaugurate the winter yatra to Uttarakhand.

- **Mukhba (Mukhwa)** is a small village in the **town of Harsil**, on the **banks of river Bhagirathi**, on the way to the **pilgrimage of Gangotri**.
  - It is situated at an **altitude of 2620 meters** above the sea level.

### Key Points

- **Foundation Stone for Janaktal Trek:** PM Modi will lay the foundation stone for the **Janaktal trek**, which will be the **second-highest trekking route** in the world.

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Note:

- **Tourism Initiatives:** Several adventure activities have been planned, including, a motorbike rally to **Jadung** will be conducted under the aegis of the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board (UTDB)**.
  - A trekking expedition organized by the **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** from **Neelapani** to **Mulling La Base**.
  - It is expected to **boost tourism** and **enhance the economic growth** of the region through **sustainable tourism practices**.
- **Cultural Significance:** PM Modi is expected to offer prayers at the **Ganga Temple** in **Mukhwa**.

#### Janaktal trek

- It is located in **Uttarakhand**, the **Janaktal trek** reaches an impressive **17,716 feet**, making it the **world's second-highest trekking route**.
- Trekkers are treated to **breathtaking views of the Garhwal Himalayas**, unique **flora**, **serene glacial lakes**, and a glimpse into local culture through traditional villages along the way.
- The **12 km Janaktal trek** takes adventurers through **ruined, high-altitude terrain** to a secluded lake surrounded by **snow-capped peaks**.
- Previously restricted due to **military presence**, the area is now open to tourists, offering untouched beauty.
- The Uttarakhand government plans to develop this route, along with **Jadung**, **Nelong**, and **Sonam Valley**, to attract domestic and international adventure seekers.

## Uttarakhand Bars Outsiders from Buying Farmland

### Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand Cabinet** has approved a new draft law that bans **Non-residents of the state** from purchasing **Agricultural** and **horticultural land** in 11 out of 13 districts barring **Haridwar** and **Udham Singh Nagar**.

### Key Points:

- **Restrictions on Land Purchase:** **District Magistrates** will no longer have the authority to approve land purchases.

- Non-residents of the state must submit an affidavit before purchasing land **to prevent fraud and irregularities** with final approval resting with the state administration.
- **Online Monitoring System:** A dedicated portal will be created to record land transactions involving non-residents and ensure transparency.
- **Stricter Land Use Regulations:** Land within municipal boundaries must be used as per designated regulations. Any violation will result in government possession.
- **Comparison with Himachal Pradesh :** In Himachal, non-agriculturists cannot buy agricultural land freely but can acquire it for industry, tourism, or horticulture with government approval.
- **Government's Stand:** This new draft will protect the **resources of the state**, **cultural heritage** and the **rights of the citizens**, as well as play an important role in maintaining the original identity of the state.

## Grants for Rural Local Bodies in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

The Union Government has released **the Fifteenth Finance Commission (XV FC) Grants** for **Rural Local Bodies** in **Punjab, Uttarakhand, and Chhattisgarh** during the **Financial Year 2024–25**.

- These grants strengthen **grassroots democracy** by supporting **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs)** and **Rural Local Bodies (RLBs)**.

### Key Points

- **XV FC Grants:**
  - The government has released the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of **Untied Grants** for FY 2024–25, amounting to Rs. 93.9643 crore **for Uttarakhand**.
  - The government has released the 1<sup>st</sup> installment of Untied Grants amounting to Rs 225.1707 crore for Rural Local Bodies in **Punjab**.
  - The government has disbursed the 2<sup>nd</sup> installment of Untied Grants for FY 2024–25 amounting to Rs 237.1393 crore **for Chhattisgarh**.

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Note:



- **Process of Grant Allocation:**
  - The Ministry of Panchayati Raj and [the Ministry of Jal Shakti](#) (Department of Drinking Water and Sanitation) recommend XV FC Grants for Rural Local Bodies.
  - The Ministry of Finance releases these grants in two installments per financial year.
- **Utilization of XV FC Grants:**
  - **Untied Grants:**
    - PRIs and RLBs can utilize these grants for location-specific felt needs under the 29 subjects listed in [the Eleventh Schedule of the Constitution](#).
    - These funds cannot be used for salaries and establishment costs.
  - **Tied Grants:**
    - These funds must be used for basic services, including:
      - Sanitation and maintenance of [Open Defecation-Free \(ODF\) status](#), including [waste management](#) and fecal sludge treatment.
      - Drinking water supply, [rainwater harvesting](#), and [water recycling](#).

#### Finance Commission

- It is a **constitutional body** that determines the **method and formula for distributing the tax proceeds** between **the Centre and states** and among the states as per the constitutional arrangement and present requirements.
- Under **Article 280** of the Constitution, the President of India is required to constitute a **Finance Commission** at an interval of five years or earlier.
- The **1<sup>st</sup> FC** was set up in 1951 and there have been fifteen so far.
- The **15<sup>th</sup> FC** headed by **N.K. Singh** was constituted by the President of India on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2017, against the backdrop of the abolition of [the Planning Commission](#) and the introduction of [the Goods and Services Tax \(GST\)](#).
- In November 2019, the Union Cabinet approved the **15<sup>th</sup> FC** to submit its first report for the first **fiscal year 2020-21** and to extend its tenure to provide for the presentation of the final report covering Financial Years 2021-22 to 2025-26 by 30<sup>th</sup> October, 2020.

## 14<sup>th</sup> Mid Career Course (Phase III)

### Why in News?

[The National Human Rights Commission \(NHRC\)](#), India, organized a training programme for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers as part of the **14<sup>th</sup> Mid Career Course (Phase III)** at the [Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy](#), Dehradun.

### Key Points

- **Importance of IFS Officers:**
  - The Chairperson of NHRC emphasized the **key role of Indian Forest Service officers** in **safeguarding the nation's natural heritage**. He highlighted their responsibility to **balance development needs with conservation priorities**.
  - He stressed the need for officers to **understand the historical context of forest legislation, the evolving challenges in forest management**, and the relationship between law, policy, and enforcement to carry out their duties effectively.
- **Historical Evolution of Forest Legislation:**
  - The Chairman also discussed the **historical development of forest legislation, from the British era to the present**. The changing balance between development and conservation was also highlighted.
  - The impact of [the 2013 Land Acquisition Act](#) on forest land acquisition was examined, which eventually led to [the 2023 amendment of the Forest Conservation Act](#).
- **Judicial Impact on Forest Conservation:**
  - The Chairperson emphasized the role of the courts in shaping forest conservation, citing the landmark [T. N. Godavarman case of 1995](#). This case **reduced the timber industry's detrimental effects on forest cover**.
  - The **importance of strong laws and effective enforcement mechanisms** was highlighted, noting that the ongoing involvement of the court through **'continuing mandamus'** highlights the persistent challenges in balancing development with conservation.

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### National Human Rights Commission (NHRC)

#### ➤ About:

- It ensures the **protection of rights related to life, liberty, equality**, and dignity of individuals.
- Rights guaranteed by the Indian Constitution and international covenants enforceable by Indian courts.

#### ➤ Establishment:

- Established on 12th October 1993, under the **Protection of Human Rights Act (PHRA), 1993**.
- Amended by the Protection of Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2006, and Human Rights (Amendment) Act, 2019.
- Established in conformity with the Paris Principles, adopted for promoting and protecting human rights.

### Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

- It is a forest service training institute **under the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India**, which was originally as Indian Forest College, **established in 1938** for training of senior forest officers.
- It is situated in the **New Forest campus of Forest Research Institute**, Dehradun.

## National Games 2025

### Why in News?

Uttarakhand hosted the **38<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Games**, with participation from 28 states, eight union territories, and the Services Sports Control Board (SSCB).

### Key Points

- **Current Medal Standings:**
  - The SSCB holds the top position with 120 medals, including:
    - 67 Gold
    - 26 Silver
    - 27 Bronze
  - **Maharashtra in Second Place**, secured a total of 195 medals.
    - 53 Gold
    - 70 Silver
    - 72 Bronze

- **Haryana in Third Position** earned 150 medals, consisting of:
  - 46 Gold
  - 46 Silver
  - 58 Bronze

#### ➤ National Games 2025

##### ○ About:

- The National Games of India is an **Olympic-style multi-sport event** where athletes from **states and Union Territories** compete for medals.
- The **38<sup>th</sup> edition of the National Games** will take place from **28<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025** in **Uttarakhand**.

##### ○ Competition Structure:

- The National Games will feature **32 sporting disciplines** for competitive events.
- In addition, **four demonstration sports** will be included i.e., **Kalaripayattu, Yogasana, Mallakhambh, and Rafting**.

##### ○ Theme and Tagline:

- The mascot of the games is **Mouli**, inspired by **Uttarakhand's state bird, the Monal**, reflecting the region's natural beauty and cultural diversity.
- The tagline for the games is **"Sankalp Se Shikhar Tak"** (from resolution to zenith).



## Adarsh Sanskrit Village

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has designated one village in each of its 13 districts as an **'Adarsh Sanskrit village'** to **preserve and promote Sanskrit**, the State's second language.

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Note:

### Key Points

- **Government's Commitment to Promote Sanskrit:**
  - The State Education Minister, referring to Sanskrit as 'Devvani' (language of the gods), emphasized that **preserving and promoting Sanskrit is a top priority** for the government.
  - He stated that **Adarsh Sanskrit Villages** will help connect the new generation to **Indian philosophy and knowledge traditions** through Sanskrit.
- **Integration of Sanskrit into Daily Life:**
  - The government has **appointed special instructors to train villagers in communicating in Sanskrit** in their daily lives.
  - Villagers will be encouraged to **recite verses from the Vedas, Puranas, and Upanishads** during religious rites.
  - Women and children will be motivated to **sing religious songs in Sanskrit during festivals and celebrations**.
  - **Scheduled Caste (SC)** and **Scheduled Tribe (ST)** children will receive encouragement to study Sanskrit, aiming to foster harmony among different sections of society.
- **List of Adarsh Sanskrit Villages:**
  - The government has **designated 13 villages as Adarsh Sanskrit Villages** across Uttarakhand's districts:
    - **Garhwal region:** Noorpur Panjhanhedi (Haridwar), Bhogpur (Dehradun), Kotgaon (Uttarkashi), Dimmar (Chamoli), Goda (Pauri), Baiji (Rudraprayag), Mukhem (Tehri).
    - **Kumaon region:** Pandey (Nainital), Jainti (Almora), Kharkarkari (Champawat), Urg (Pithoragarh), Sheri (Bageshwar), Nagla Tarai (Udham Singh Nagar).
- **Sanskrit Education in Uttarakhand:**
  - The State has **more than 100 Sanskrit medium schools**, further strengthening its efforts to promote the language.

### Sanskrit

- It is an **old Indo-Aryan language** in which the **most ancient documents, Vedas** are composed in what is called **Vedic Sanskrit**.
- **Classical Sanskrit**, a language close to late Vedic as then used in the northwest of the subcontinent, was elegantly described in one of the **finest grammars** ever produced, the **Astadhyayi** ("Eight Chapters") composed by **Panini** (c. 6<sup>th</sup>–5<sup>th</sup> century BCE).
- Sanskrit has been written both in **Devanagari script** and in various regional scripts, such as Sarada from the north (Kashmir), Bangla (Bengali) in the east, Gujarati in the west, and various southern scripts, including the **Grantha alphabet**, which was especially devised for Sanskrit texts.

## Uttarakhand to Go Paperless for Land Registration

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government is set to implement a **paperless system for land registrations** across the state.

### Key Points

- The **Department of Stamps and Registration** has prepared a foundational framework for this initiative.
- Finance Minister of the state **Premchand Aggarwal** announced that the "**Uttarakhand Online Document Registration Rules 2025**" will be presented for approval in the upcoming cabinet meeting.
  - Upon receiving the cabinet's consent, the system will be formally implemented.
- **Digital Transformation of Land Registration:**
  - The new system aims to enhance the registration process by introducing **paperless registration, Aadhaar authentication**, and **virtual registration procedures**.
  - Parties involved in **property transactions** will have the option to **visit sub-registrar offices** in person or **complete document verification** through **video KYC (Know Your Customer)**.

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Note:

- Sub-registrars will finalize the process using **digital signatures** and promptly notify the parties via **WhatsApp** and **email**.

➤ **Significance:**

- **Integrating Aadhaar authentication** with the land transaction process is expected to improve public convenience and promote transparency.
- This move aims to **curb fraudulent activities** in the registration process. The government is committed to ensuring that the land buying and selling process is transparent and efficient.

### Aadhaar

- **Aadhaar** is a **12-digit individual identification** number issued by the **Unique Identification Authority of India** on behalf of the Government of India. The number serves as **proof of identity and address**, anywhere in India.
  - The **Aadhaar number** is unique for each individual and will remain valid for life time.
  - Aadhaar number will help the residents to avail various services provided by **banking, mobile phone connections** and other **Govt and Non-Govt services** in due course.
  - Establishes identity of individuals on the basis of **demographic and biometric information**.
  - It is a voluntary service that every resident can avail irrespective of present documentation.

## Uttarakhand Promotes Green Games

### Why in News?

In the ongoing **38<sup>th</sup> National Games**, Uttarakhand introduced innovative initiatives aligned with the **Green Games** theme.

- The state has implemented **sustainable practices**, promoted **local culture**, and prioritized women's health.

### Key Points

➤ **Green Games Initiatives:**

- The state has chosen **Monal, the Himalayan state bird**, as the **official mascot** to highlight conservation efforts.

- In a unique initiative, **medals awarded to winners have been crafted from e-waste**.
- Uttarakhand is creating a **Sports Forest (Khel Van)** to honor victorious athletes.

- A 2.77-hectare area has been designated for the project, where **1,600 Rudraksha trees will be planted**.

- The event incorporates sustainable practices such as **invitation cards made from recycled materials, electric rickshaws** to curb **pollution**, the use of **solar panels**, and reusable water bottles.

➤ **Repurposing Sports Waste:**

- Various symbols, including a running athlete and the Monal bird, have been crafted from repurposed sports materials.
- A **massive tiger sculpture made entirely from e-waste** has become a major attraction at the Games.

➤ **Promoting Fitness and Sustainability:**

- To encourage environmental conservation and physical well-being, **bicycles have been made available at event venues**.

➤ **Women's Health Takes Priority:**

- Uttarakhand is addressing **menstrual health awareness** through a thoughtful initiative for female athletes.
- The state has introduced **kits featuring sanitary pads and other essentials**, earning praise for promoting women's health in sports.

➤ **Yoga and Mallakhamb:**

- For the first time, **traditional Indian sports** have been included in the National Games medal tally.

➤ **Celebrating Local Culture and Tourism:**

- Uttarakhand has ensured that the National Games **highlight local culture and extend beyond metropolitan hubs**.
- **Events are being hosted in scenic locations** like Tehri and Almora, promoting lesser-known regions.

➤ **Showcasing Pahadi Heritage:**

- **Traditional cuisine**, including **Jhangora and Gahat Dal**, is being served, while **Aipan folk art** is featured in posters, banners, and event decorations.

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Note:

## Aipan Art



- Aipan is a **traditional folk art created exclusively by women** in Uttarakhand.
- The **artwork is done on floors over a brick-red background** using a **white paste made from rice flour**.
- **Only red and white colors are used** to craft religious motifs, repetitive geometric patterns, and nature-inspired elements, reflecting the region's distinct artistic style.
- Aipan is an **integral part of household ceremonies, rituals, and special occasions**.
- The motifs are believed to **invoke divine power, bringing good fortune and protecting against evil**.

## Mallakhamb



- Mallakhamb is a traditional sport, originating from the Indian subcontinent, in which a gymnast **performs aerial yoga or gymnastic postures and wrestling grips** with a vertical stationary or hanging wooden pole, cane, or rope
- The name Mallakhamb derives from the terms **malla, meaning wrestler, and khamb, which means a pole**. Literally meaning **"wrestling pole"**, the term refers to a traditional training implement used by wrestlers.
- **Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra** have been the hotspots of this sport.

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Note:

**Key Points**

**Details**

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**Summary**

