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UTTARAKHAND



MAY 2025



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Jaipur,
Rajasthan



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Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
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Uttarakhand's Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the **"Viksit Krishi Sankalp Abhiyan"** in Guniyal village, Dehradun, on 29th May 2025.

Key Points

- 💡 **About the Campaign:** The campaign will run from 29th May to 12th June 2025.
- ✦ It will cover 95 development blocks, 670 Nyaya **Panchayats**, and 11,440 villages in Uttarakhand.
- ✦ The state has deployed three teams per district, each conducting programs at three locations daily to engage over 600 farmers per program.
- 💡 **Objectives:**
 - ✦ To empower farmers through scientific knowledge, modern agricultural practices, and awareness about government schemes.
 - ✦ To help farmers adopt advanced agricultural techniques tailored to their soil, land, and climate conditions.
 - ✦ To train farmers in selecting profitable crops based on soil testing and scientific guidance.
 - ✦ To document farmers' traditional knowledge and innovations, making future agricultural research more practical and locally relevant.

Government Support Schemes

- 💡 **State Government Schemes:**
 - ✦ The Uttarakhand government is providing **interest-free loans up to ₹3 lakh** to farmers.
 - ✦ A **subsidy of up to 80 percent** is being offered for the purchase of agricultural machinery through the **Farm Machinery Bank Scheme**.
 - ✦ Farmers are receiving a **bonus of ₹20 per quintal** on wheat procurement.
 - ✦ The **rate of sugarcane** has been increased by **₹20 per quintal**.
 - ✦ **Canal irrigation** has been made **completely free** for farmers in the state.

Special Agricultural Initiatives in Uttarakhand:

✦ Organic and Aroma Farming:

- 📌 The state is converting tea gardens in **Dhauladevi, Munsiyari, and Betalghat** into **organic tea-producing areas**.
- 📌 **Six aroma valleys** are currently being developed to promote high-value aromatic crops.

✦ Budgetary and Project Allocations:

- 📌 In the **2025 budget**, **₹200 crore** has been allocated specifically for the **construction of polyhouses**.
- 📌 A **₹1,000 crore project** named the **Uttarakhand Climate Responsive Rain-Fed Farming Project** has been approved to promote farming in hilly and rain-fed regions.

✦ New Crop Policies:

- 📌 The state has launched several new initiatives, including the **Apple Policy, Kiwi Policy, State Millet Mission, and Dragon Fruit Policy**.
- 📌 These policies are supported by a **total investment of ₹1,200 crore** to diversify and strengthen the horticulture sector.

💡 Central Government Initiatives:

- ✦ Central schemes like the **PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana, Crop Insurance Scheme, Kisan Maandhan Yojana, and Soil Health Card** initiative are also implemented in the state.
- ✦ Additionally, programs such as the **Horticulture Development Mission, Agricultural Machinery Subsidy, Drip Irrigation Scheme, and Digital Agriculture Mission** are promoted to support farmers.

Ropeway From Tapovan to Kunjapuri Temple

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has signed a **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** with a Swiss **ropeway** manufacturer for the development of a **ropeway project** from Tapovan to Kunjapuri Devi Temple.

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Key Points

About the Project:

- ✦ The ropeway will link **Tapovan in Rishikesh** with the **Kunjapuri Temple** in Narendranagar, a key spiritual site.
- ✦ The objective is to **reduce travel time, enhance visitor safety, and minimize environmental degradation** caused by vehicular traffic.

Kunjapuri Temple

💡 **Location:** It is located near Rishikesh in the Tehri Garhwal district of Uttarakhand, situated at an altitude of 1,676 meters above sea level on a hilltop.

Significance:

- ✦ The temple is dedicated to **Goddess Durga** and is one of the **13 Shakti Peethas in the Shivalik range**.
- ✦ It is also one of the **three major Shakti Peethas in Tehri district**, along with **Surkanda Devi** and **Chandrabadni**, forming a **sacred triangle** established by **Jagadguru Adi Shankaracharya**.
- ✦ It is renowned not only for its spiritual significance but also for its **panoramic views of the Garhwal Himalayas**, including peaks such as **Swargarohini**, **Gangotri**, **Banderpunch**, and **Chaukhamba**.
- ✦ From the summit, visitors can also see the **Bhagirathi valley** and cities like **Rishikesh**, **Haridwar**, and the **Doon Valley**.

Parvatmala

💡 **National Ropeways Development Programme (Parvatmala):** It was launched to improve transport connectivity in mountainous regions such as **Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, and the North-East**.

- ✦ The **Parvatmala scheme** aims to build modern, eco-friendly ropeway systems strengthening remote and border villages.

Key Projects Approved in Uttarakhand:

- ✦ Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ropeway.
- ✦ Sonprayag to Kedarnath Ropeway.
- ✦ **NOTE:** Both projects follow a Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model under Design-Build-Finance-Operate-Transfer (DBFOT).

Advantages of Ropeways:

- ✦ Efficient and safe alternative to difficult mountain roads.
- ✦ Faster travel by bypassing terrain obstacles.
- ✦ Environmentally friendly with minimal land use and emissions.
- ✦ Economical with lower maintenance and labor costs.
- ✦ Supports last-mile connectivity and mass passenger transit.

Uttarakhand Mega Industrial & Investment Policy 2025

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has approved the **Mega Industrial and Investment Policy-2025**.

Key Points

💡 **About the Policy:** It is introduced to establish Uttarakhand as a competitive destination for capital investment at national and international levels.

- ✦ It aims to develop the state's economic growth and create additional employment opportunities by promoting large-scale manufacturing enterprises.

Policy Duration and Eligibility:

- ✦ The policy will be effective immediately and will remain in force for five years.
- ✦ Enterprises applying for benefits must submit a **Common Application Form (CAF)** via the Single Window Portal.

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- ✦ Financial incentives are provided based on the enterprise's investment category.
- ✦ A time frame of **3 to 7 years** is fixed for completing the investment from the date of CAF application.

💡 Classification of Enterprises:

- ✦ Large enterprises are divided into **four categories** based on permanent capital investment (excluding land) and minimum employment criteria.

Category	Investment Range (Rs.)	Minimum Employment Required
Large	₹50 crore to ₹200 crore	50
Ultra Large	₹200 crore to ₹500 crore	150
Mega	₹500 crore to ₹1000 crore	300
Ultra Mega	Above ₹1000 crore	500

💡 Financial Incentives:

- ✦ **Stamp Duty Reimbursement:** 50% reimbursement on stamp duty paid for land purchase/lease deeds, up to a maximum of ₹50 lakhs.
- ✦ **Capital Subsidy:** Payable in annual installments after the start of commercial production, as per the investment category.
 - 📎 **Large:** 10% after 8 years
 - 📎 **Ultra Large:** 12% after 10 years
 - 📎 **Mega:** 15% after 12 years
 - 📎 **Ultra Mega:** 20% after 15 years
- ✦ **Additional Subsidies for Hilly Areas:**
 - 📎 **Category A districts:** Extra 2% capital subsidy
 - 📎 **Category B districts:** Extra 1% capital subsidy

Uttarakhand Boosts Cultural Heritage and Development

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister recently inaugurated the 'Ahilya Smriti Marathon – Ek Virasat, Ek Sankalp' and

also inaugurated the 'Pratham' Gaja Ghantakarna Mahotsav-2025, emphasizing the state's rich cultural heritage while linking it with ongoing developmental initiatives.

Key Points

💡 Ahilya Smriti Marathon:

- ✦ The marathon was held in Dehradun as part of a heritage-themed program.
- ✦ The theme of the event, **Ek Virasat – Ek Sankalp (One Heritage, One Resolution)**, is aimed at creating public awareness about health, unity, and cultural pride in Uttarakhand.
- ✦ The initiative was **designed to promote health awareness, social harmony**, and cultural pride among participants.

💡 Gaja Ghantakarna Mahotsav-2025:

✦ Location and Religious Significance:

- 📎 The festival was organized in Gaja, Tehri district.
- 📎 It is centered around the Gaja Ghantakarna Temple, which is considered a significant mythological site in Uttarakhand.
- 📎 The temple is traditionally visited as the **second parikrama site after the pilgrimage to Badrinath Dham**.
- 📎 The temple offers panoramic views from Haridwar to the **Himalayan ranges**, making it an ideal site for spiritual and eco-tourism.

✦ Cultural Contribution:

- 📎 The Mahotsav was initiated to revive and promote the **region's rich cultural and religious heritage**.
- 📎 It aimed to enhance cultural **tourism** and community participation through traditional activities and celebrations.
- 📎 Events like this play a vital role in sustaining intangible heritage and fostering a sense of identity in local communities.

💡 Aligning with the Vision of a Developed India:

- ✦ The efforts are linked to the broader vision of a **developed Uttarakhand and India by 2047**, aligning with PM's Amritkaal vision.

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- ✦ The development of villages, panchayats, districts, and the entire state is vital for realizing India's aspiration to become a **global leader economically and culturally**.

- ✎ The government is actively **working on infrastructure and social development projects including the** Polytechnic Institute in Gaja, Henvalthati pumping drinking water scheme, etc.
- ✎ Promotion of the local economy through **initiatives such as One District One Product (ODOP)** showcases the government's focus on self-reliance and skill development among women through **self-help groups**.

One District One Product (ODOP)

- ✎ The **ODOP initiative** aims to promote **balanced regional development** by identifying and promoting **one unique product** from each of the **761 districts** in India.
- ✎ A total of 1,102 products have been selected, focusing on leveraging local strengths, including **Geographical Indication (GI) - tagged** items and those under the Districts as Export Hubs (DEH) initiative.
 - ✦ The **GI tag products from Uttarakhand include** Red Rice, Almora Lakhori Chilli, Berinag Tea, Ramnagar (Nainital) Litchi, Ramgarh Aadu, **Basmati Rice**, etc.
- ✎ The selection is made by **States and Union Territories**, and coordinated with the **Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT)**.

Sirkari Bhyol Rupasiya Bagad Hydroelectric Project

Why in News?

The **Sirkari Bhyol Rupasiya Bagad Hydroelectric Project in Uttarakhand** has received **in-principle approval** (preliminary or conditional agreement) from the **Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)** under the **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC)**.

Key Points

Sirkari Bhyol Rupasiya Bagad Hydroelectric Project

Project Overview:

- ✦ The project is located on the **Gori Ganga River** in the **Pithoragarh district** of Uttarakhand.
- ✦ It is planned to have an installed capacity of **120 megawatts (MW)**.
- ✦ The **FAC has approved the diversion of 29.997 hectares of forest land** required for the project's implementation.

Infrastructure Design & Impact:

- ✦ The project includes approximately 1 km of **tunnel construction**.
- ✦ The majority of the project infrastructure will be built **underground**, which helps in reducing the environmental footprint.
- ✦ There will be **no displacement** of local populations due to the project.
- ✦ The site does **not fall within any national park, wildlife sanctuary, or eco-sensitive zone**, ensuring minimal ecological disruption.

Energy Potential of the Project:

- ✦ The project is expected to generate around **529 million units of clean, renewable energy annually**.
- ✦ This generation will help **meet local energy demands** and contribute significantly to Uttarakhand's **energy independence**.

Socio-Economic Impact:

- ✦ The project will create both **temporary jobs during the construction phase** and **permanent employment opportunities** once operational.
- ✦ It will also lead to the **improvement of local infrastructure**, including roads and public facilities.
- ✦ These developments are expected to **reduce migration** from the region by enhancing economic opportunities for local residents.

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Forest Advisory Committee (FAC)?

- It is a statutory body which was constituted by the **Forest (Conservation) Act 1980**.
- The FAC evaluates industrial projects which require forest land for their activities.
- The committee may or may not approve a project and can give approval for forest land to be diverted, after imposing certain conditions.

Gori Ganga River

- The Gori Ganga River, also known as Gori Ganga or Gori Gad, flows through the Muniyari tehsil of Pithoragarh district in Uttarakhand.
- It originates from the Milam Glacier, located northeast of Nanda Devi, and travels a course of approximately 104 kilometers before merging with the Kali River at Jauljibi.
- A significant tributary, the Gonga stream, joins the Gori Ganga near the Milam village, just 1 km below the glacier snout.
- Geographical Significance:**
 - The river valley acts as a drainage basin for numerous glaciers and streams that descend from the eastern slopes of the Nanda Devi Sanctuary, and from the Panchachuli, Rajramba, and Chaudhara mountain ranges.
 - Other notable contributors include the Ralam Gad, Pyunsani Gadera, and the Kalabaland-Burfu Kalganga glacier system, which feed into the Gori Ganga from the east.
- Tourism Potential:**
 - The Gori Ganga Valley is also known for its scenic trekking routes leading to iconic Himalayan peaks such as Nanda Devi East, Hardeol, Trishuli, Panchachuli, and Nanda Kot.
 - The valley holds both ecological value and adventure tourism potential, making it an area of multifaceted importance.



Indian Army Launches First FM Radio Station in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The Indian Army has launched its first FM radio station, named 'Panchshul Pulse,' in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

- It was inaugurated by Anindya Sengupta, the General Officer Commanding (GOC) of the Army's Central Command.

Key Points

About the Radio Station:

- The station has been named 'Panchshul Pulse' to reflect its association with the local Panchshul Brigade of the Indian Army.
- It is operated as part of Operation Sadbhavana, a long-standing Army initiative to build constructive relationships with civilians in strategically important areas.
 - Operation Sadbhavana is a humanitarian initiative launched by the Indian Army in the 1990s to support communities affected by terrorism in Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- It aligns with the Vibrant Villages Programme, which emphasises development, connectivity, and awareness in India's border areas.
- The station broadcasts on 88.4 FM and can be received within a 12-kilometer radius.

Objectives of the Initiative:

- It aims to enhance civil-military cooperation by serving as a platform for cultural, historical, and social exchange.
- The station also seeks to raise awareness about the contributions and sacrifices of individuals from the border region.

Highlights of the Radio Programming:

- The programming places special emphasis on local history, culture, and societal practices.

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- ✦ It includes content on **agriculture** and **horticulture**, which are key occupations in the region.
- ✦ The station features stories that celebrate the **achievements of martyrs** and **brave soldiers** from the area.
- ✦ It also highlights the accomplishments of **local sportspersons and individuals working in social and cultural sectors**.

Vibrant Villages Programme (VVP)

- 💡 **About:** The programme was approved on **15th February 2023** as a **Centrally Sponsored Scheme** for the holistic development of villages along India's northern border in 19 districts across 46 blocks in **states including Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Ladakh (UT)**.
- 💡 **Focus Areas:** Livelihood generation will be promoted through tourism, cultural promotion, skill development, entrepreneurship, as well as agriculture, horticulture, and the cultivation of medicinal plants and herbs.
 - ✦ The programme **will focus on improving infrastructure through road connectivity**, housing, **renewable energy**, etc. along with providing basic amenities such as healthcare, **education**, sanitation, and community centres.
- 💡 **Objective:** To encourage residents to **remain in border villages** by providing better infrastructure and livelihood opportunities, enhancing **border security** and **sustainable local development**.
 - ✦ The programme complements the **Border Area Development Programme (BADP)**, which fills infrastructure gaps in border villages within 0–10 km of the international boundary in 16 states and 2 UTs.
- 💡 **Vibrant Villages Programme–II (VVP-II):**
 - ✦ The **VVP-II** has been launched for **FY 2024–25 to 2028–29** with a budget of **₹6,839 crore** to develop villages along international land borders (excluding the northern border).

Hemkund Sahib

Why in News?

Hemkund Sahib, a revered Sikh shrine in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand, has been opened to devotees, marking the start of the annual pilgrimage season.

Key Points

Hemkund Sahib

- 💡 **Hemkund Sahib** is nestled at an elevation of approximately **4,329 meters** (14,200 feet) above sea level.
- 💡 It is beautifully situated on the **banks of the serene Hemkund Lake**, surrounded by **snow-clad Himalayan peaks**.
 - ✦ The beautiful landscape, with glacial waters and **alpine meadows**, adds to the peaceful and spiritual atmosphere.
 - ✦ Trekking routes, including the **path to the Valley of Flowers**, make it a popular place to visit.
- 💡 A small stream named **Himganga** flows out of Hemkund Lake, adding to the ecological richness of the area.
- 💡 **Spiritual Significance:**
 - ✦ Hemkund Sahib is among the most revered Sikh shrines globally.
 - ✦ As per the **holy Granth Sahib**, **Guru Gobind Singh Ji**, the **tenth Sikh Guru**, is believed to have **meditated at Hemkund Lake** in one of his earlier lifetimes.
 - 📌 The site serves as a **symbol of divine reflection, resilience, and purity** for devotees.

Sri Guru Gobind Singh Ji

- 💡 **Early Life:**
 - ✦ Born as **Gobind Rai Sodhi** on **22 December 1666** in **Patna, Bihar**, he was the **tenth and final Guru** of the Sikh faith.
 - 📌 Son of **Sri Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji**, the **ninth Sikh Guru**.

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💡 Turning Point and Ascension:

- ✦ At the age of **nine**, after the martyrdom of his father in 1675, he was **formally installed as Guru**.
- ✦ He combined **spiritual leadership** with **martial discipline** and **literary expression**.

💡 Founding of the Khalsa:

- ✦ On the day of **Baisakhi in 1699**, he established the **Khalsa**, a martial and spiritual order of saint-soldiers.
- ✦ Initiated the **Panj Pyare** (Five Beloved Ones), introduced **Khande Di Pahul** (Amrit initiation), and mandated the **Five Ks**: **Kangha** (comb), **Kesh** (uncut hair), **Kara** (steel bracelet), **Kirpan** (sword), and **Kachhera** (shorts)
- ✦ He changed his name from Gobind Rai to **Gobind Singh**.

💡 Military Struggles and Sacrifices:

- ✦ Fought numerous battles against **Mughal forces and hill rajas**, including at **Bhangani (1688)**, **Nadaun (1691)**, and **Muktsar (1705)**.
- ✦ **Lost all four sons and mother Mata Gujari** to Mughal oppression but remained unshaken in spirit.

💡 Final Days and Legacy:

- ✦ Fatally wounded in **1708 at Nanded** by assassins sent by Nawab Wazir Khan of Sirhind.
- ✦ Before his death on **7 October 1708**, he declared the **Guru Granth Sahib Ji** as the **eternal Guru** of the Sikhs, ending the line of personal Gurus.

Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK)

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami has announced the **inclusion of private schools under the ambit of the Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK)**.

- 💡 This initiative aligns with the state's broader vision to **enhance educational outcomes through data-driven governance**.

Key Points

💡 Vidya Samiksha Kendra (VSK):

✦ About:

- 📎 It is a digital infrastructure ecosystem that **tracks and analyses data** about student enrolment, attendance, academic performance, and teacher training to help administrators monitor school education progress.
- 📎 It enables **transformative impact** through data-driven decision-making aligned with the **New Education Policy (NEP) 2020** and various education schemes.

✦ VSK Implementation in Uttarakhand:

- 📎 Uttarakhand is the first state in India to implement the Gujarat model of VSK.

💡 Infrastructure Development:

- ✦ Construction is underway for 141 **Pradhan Mantri Schools for Rising India (PM SHRI schools)** and **Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Residential Schools**.
- ✦ Virtual classrooms have been **established in several schools across 13 districts** to enable technology-driven learning.

💡 Focus on Educational Enhancements:

- ✦ **NCERT textbooks** are implemented in all government schools to ensure quality education.
- ✦ Scholarships awarded to meritorious students from Class 6 to 12 in both government and private schools.
- ✦ The new **Medhavi Chhatra Protsahan Scholarship Scheme** sends meritorious Class 10 and 12 students on educational tours across India.

💡 Sports and Employment:

- ✦ The state government is emphasizing sports promotion.
- ✦ Players winning **national-level medals** will be offered government jobs as incentives.

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PM SHRI School

- PM SHRI School is a **centrally sponsored scheme** to develop over 14,500 schools across India, managed by Central, state/UT governments, local bodies, Kendriya Vidyalaya Sangathan (KVS), and Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti (NVS).
- It is being **implemented from 2022-23 to 2026-27**.
- The **scheme aims to provide a safe, inclusive, and resource-rich learning** environment where every student feels welcomed and cared for.
- It **aligns with the NEP 2020**, nurturing students to become engaged, productive, and responsible citizens.
- The scheme **promotes quality school education** and helps inform policy, practice, and implementation.

Schemes Related to Education in Uttarakhand

- Mukhyamantri Medhavi Chhatra Protsahan Yojana:** For meritorious students of Class 10 and 12 to go on educational tours across India.
- Chief Minister Higher Education Encouragement Scholarship Scheme:** Scholarships for meritorious students pursuing graduation and post-graduation in government colleges.
- Nanda Gaura Yojana:** Financial assistance for girls from poor families.
- Child Benefit Scheme (UKBOCWWB):** Financial aid for children of registered building and construction workers. Supports students from Class I to higher education or professional courses.

Rudranath Temple

Why in News?

Rudranath Temple, known as the fourth Kedar, has **reopened to devotees** after its winter closure.

Key Points

Rudranath Temple

- It is a **temple dedicated to Lord Shiva**, located in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand.

- It is one of the revered **Panch Kedar** temples.
 - The Panch Kedar temples include **Kedarnath**, **Madhmaheshwar**, **Tungnath**, **Rudranath**, and **Kalpna**.
- The temple is situated at an altitude of **2290 meters** above sea level.
- In the Rudranath temple, Lord Shankar's Ekanan means that the face is worshiped, while the whole body is worshiped in the Pashupatinath of Nepal's capital of Kathmandu.

Char Dham Yatra

- Uttarakhand**, often referred to as **Devbhoomi** or the Land of Gods, is home to many sacred temples and attracts devotees throughout the year.
- Among these spiritual sites, the **Char Dham Yatra** is considered one of the most prominent pilgrimages in the region.
- The Yatra comprises visiting four holy shrines: **Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath**.
 - Yamunotri Temple**, situated in **Uttarkashi district**, lies near the source of the sacred **Yamuna River** and is dedicated to **Goddess Yamuna**.
 - Gangotri Temple**, also in **Uttarkashi district**, is dedicated to **Goddess Ganga**, regarded as the most sacred river in India.
 - Kedarnath Temple**, located in **Rudraprayag district**, honors **Lord Shiva**.
 - Badrinath Temple** is famous for the **Badrinarayan Temple** and is dedicated to **Lord Vishnu**.
- The **shrines are located in the Garhwal Himalayas** and are traditionally visited between May and November.

Pushkar Kumbh 2025

Why in News

The **Pushkar Kumbh** has commenced at **Keshav Prayag** in **Mana village** (Chamoli district) after **12 years**, attracting large numbers of pilgrims.

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Key Points

- 💡 **About Pushkar Kumbh:**
 - ✦ Held at **Keshav Prayag**, the **confluence of the Alaknanda and Saraswati rivers** in **Mana village**, Uttarakhand's last village on the **Indo-China border**.
 - ✦ The Pushkar Kumbh, observed when Jupiter enters Gemini, is a **significant event in Hindu tradition**, attracting Vaishnavite devotees, particularly from southern India.
 - ✍ As per Hindu religious beliefs, **Maharishi Ved Vyas** composed the epic **Mahabharata** while meditating at Keshav Prayag.
 - ✍ It is also believed that **Ramanujacharya** and **Madhvacharya** received divine wisdom from Goddess Saraswati at this sacred site.
- 💡 **Significance:**
 - ✦ The Pushkar Kumbh in Mana, **though smaller** than the traditional Kumbh Melas in cities like Prayagraj and Haridwar, creates a **meaningful spiritual and cultural connection between northern and southern India**.
 - ✦ It highlights the **importance of preserving cultural heritage** while also deepening the nation's spiritual unity.

Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2021

Why in News

According to the **Sample Registration System (SRS) Statistical Report 2021**, released by the **Registrar General of India**, Uttarakhand was the only state to record an increase in **birth rate** during the period of 2016 to 2021.

- 💡 This trend indicates an advanced demographic transition driven by factors like **urbanization**, improved **healthcare**, and female education.

Registrar General of India

- 💡 The RGI, established in **1949 under the Ministry of Home Affairs**, is responsible for overseeing population data collection, including the decennial **Census of India** and the **Linguistic Survey of India**.
- 💡 The RGI ensures the implementation of the RBD Act, 1969, and manages the CRS for continuous birth and death registration.
 - ✦ It also maintains the **National Population Register (NPR)** to record demographic details of all usual residents.
- 💡 **RGI is headed by a senior civil servant**, typically of Joint Secretary rank, the RGI plays a crucial role in demographic planning and policy formulation.

Key Points

Key Highlights of the Report

- 💡 **About SRS Report**
 - ✦ The **SRS is India's largest demographic survey**, designed to provide **annual estimates of fertility and mortality indicators** such as birth and death rates.
 - ✦ The 2021 SRS offers vital population trend insights typically derived from the decadal **Census**, which has not been conducted yet for 2021.
- 💡 **Crude Birth Rates:** Crude birth rate indicates the number of live births occurring during the year, per 1,000 population estimated at midyear.
 - ✦ India's crude birth rate was 19.3 in 2021, declining at 1.12% annually from 2016 to 2021.
 - ✦ Tamil Nadu, Delhi, and Kerala experienced faster declines at rates of 2.35%, 2.23%, and 2.05% per year respectively during the same period.
 - ✦ The **slowest decline in birth rates occurred in** Rajasthan (0.48%), Bihar (0.86%), Chhattisgarh (0.98%), Jharkhand (0.98%), Assam (1.05%), Madhya Pradesh (1.05%), West Bengal (1.08%), and Uttar Pradesh (1.09%).

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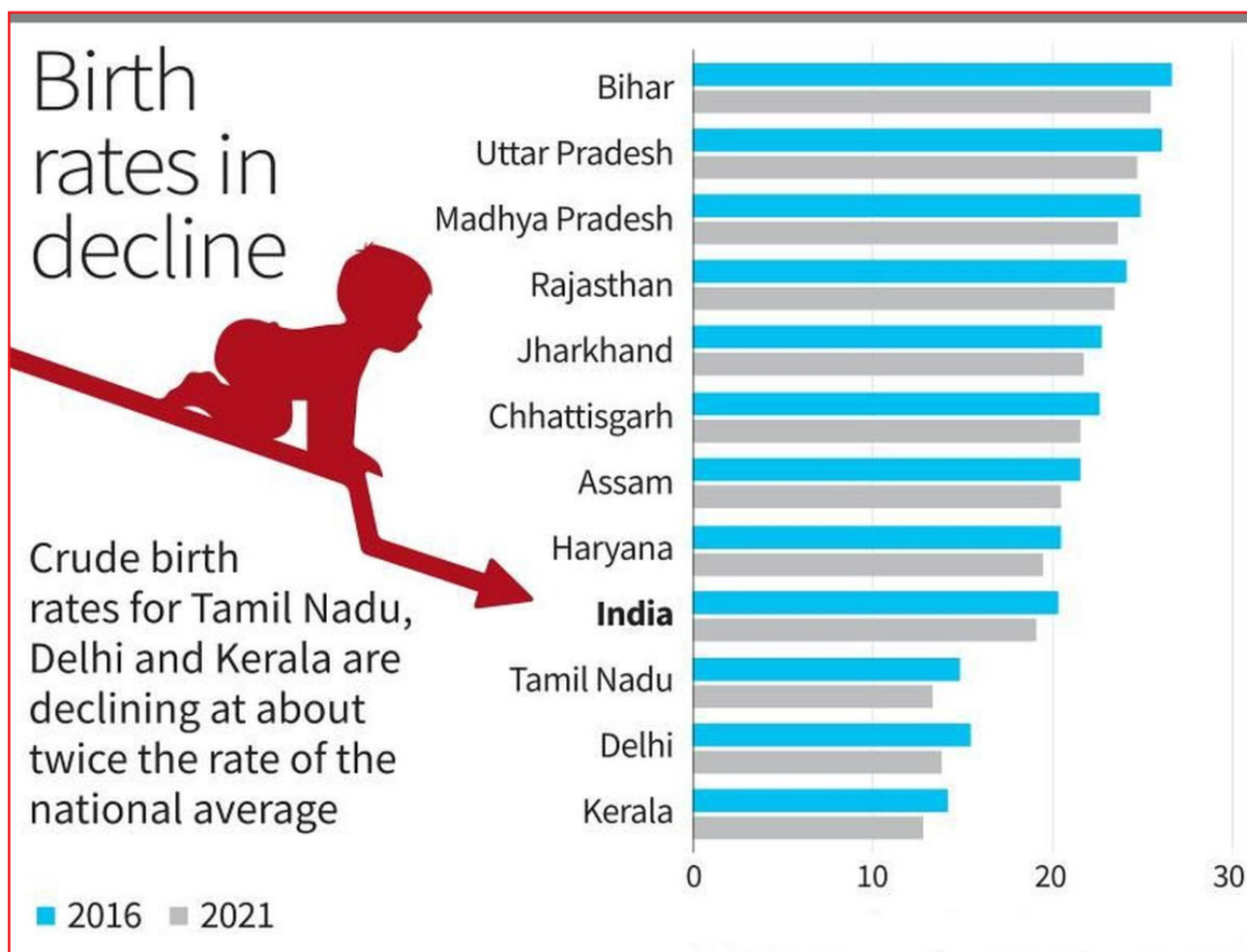
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- ✦ Other southern states including Andhra Pradesh (1.26%), Telangana (1.67%), and Karnataka (1.68%) also recorded faster-than-average declines.
- ✦ The entire southern region reflects a steady move toward smaller family sizes and stabilized population growth.



- 💡 **Total Fertility Rate (TFR):** The **Total Fertility Rate (TFR)** represents the average number of children a woman is expected to have during her reproductive years.
 - ✦ In 2021, India's TFR was 2.0, with **Bihar reporting a high TFR of 3.0**, Uttar Pradesh at 2.7, Madhya Pradesh at 2.6, and Rajasthan at 2.4.
- 💡 **Gross Reproduction Rate (GRR):** The GRR for India stood at 1, meaning that on average, each woman in India is having one daughter who survives to reproductive age and has children of her own.
 - ✦ In contrast, higher GRRs were recorded in Bihar (1.4), Uttar Pradesh (1.3), Rajasthan (1.2) and Madhya Pradesh (1.2)
- 💡 **Birth Registration Trends and Data Insights:** The **Civil Registration System (CRS) 2021 data** shows that states with the **slowest decline in birth rates** also reported an **increase in registered births**, including:
 - ✦ Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, West Bengal, Jammu and Kashmir, etc.
 - ✦ Conversely, southern states such as Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, and Kerala have experienced a **decline in registered births since at least 2012**, with a slight increase seen in Andhra Pradesh in 2021.
 - ✦ Telangana showed a **sharp rise in registered births after 2019**, followed by a **dramatic drop post-2020**.

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Policy and Planning Implications

- ✦ High fertility states require intensified family planning, education, and healthcare improvements.
- ✦ States with rapid fertility decline **need to prepare for the challenges of an aging population** and workforce management.
- ✦ Uniform enhancement of birth registration systems is essential for accurate demographic monitoring.

Schemes Related to Women's Welfare in Uttarakhand

- 💡 **Mukhyamantri Mahalaxmi Kit Yojana:** It was launched by the Department of Women Empowerment and Child Development to provide social security support to new mothers and their daughters.
- 💡 **Nanda Gaura Yojana:** Provides financial assistance to girls from birth until marriage to support their education and empowerment, aiming to prevent **female feticide**, **child marriage**, and social inequality among eligible Uttarakhand residents.
- 💡 **Maternity Benefit Scheme (UKBOCWWB):** It provides financial assistance of ₹10,000 to registered female construction workers during their maternity period.
- 💡 **Mukhyamantri Mahila Poshan Yojana:** It provides nutritious food supplements to pregnant and lactating women to combat **malnutrition** and promote maternal health.

Rajaji National Park

Why in News?

Abundant reservoirs and water holes built within **Rajaji National Park** have limited **elephant** movement into human-populated areas.

Key Points

Reduced Elephant Dependence on the Ganga:

- ✦ Large herds of elephants no longer rely heavily on **the Ganga River**, even during the summer months.
- ✦ The **increased availability of water sources within forest** areas has made elephants more self-sufficient.

Role of Amrit Sarovar Yojana:

- ✦ The **Amrit Sarovar Yojana** has significantly improved the water situation in the forests.
- ✦ The scheme aims to **develop or rejuvenate 75 Amrit Sarovar ponds** in each district across the country.
- ✦ It was **launched in 2022**, as part of India's "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav" celebrations for the **75th year of independence**.

Impact on Human-Wildlife Conflict:

- ✦ The improved water availability within the forest has reduced elephant movement into human-populated areas.
- ✦ As a result, instances of **human-elephant conflict** have declined, enhancing safety for both wildlife and local communities.

Rajaji National Park

About:

- ✦ **Rajaji National Park** is located in the state of Uttarakhand, India.
- ✦ It spans across three districts **Dehradun, Haridwar and Pauri Garhwal**.
- ✦ The park was established by merging three wildlife sanctuaries- **Rajaji, Motichur and Chilla**.
- ✦ It is named after **C. Rajagopalachari**, a prominent freedom fighter, fondly known as "Rajaji".

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Area and Tiger Reserve Status:

- Initially, Rajaji National Park covered an area of 820.42 sq km.
- In 2015, an additional 255.63 sq km of adjoining reserve forest was designated as a buffer zone.
- The combined area of 1075 sq km was then declared as the Rajaji Tiger Reserve under the **Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972**.

Rivers in the Reserve:

- The **Ganges River** flows through the Rajaji Tiger Reserve, enhancing the region's ecological richness.
- The Song River**, a tributary of the Ganga, also traverses the reserve, supporting diverse wildlife and vegetation.

Elephant Corridor and Connectivity:

- The reserve contains an important **elephant corridor**, which ensures safe movement of elephants between Rajaji and **Corbett National Park**, promoting genetic diversity and reducing human-elephant conflict.

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 Soochna 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)

Security Measures Activated in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister held a high-level meeting with senior officials and directed them to ensure robust **security across all border areas** of the state, while maintaining strict surveillance over any suspicious activity in the frontier regions.

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Key Points

- 💡 **Sensitive Border Districts Identified:**
 - ✦ Uttarkashi and Chamoli share borders with China.
 - ✦ Champawat and Udham Singh Nagar share borders with Nepal.
 - ✦ Pithoragarh shares its border with both China and Nepal.
- 💡 **Enhanced Security During Char Dham Yatra:**
 - ✦ CM emphasised **heightened security along the Char Dham Yatra route**, where lakhs of pilgrims are currently registered.
 - ✦ He instructed that all security arrangements for the pilgrimage sites be activated without delay.
- 💡 **Protection of Strategic Infrastructure:**
 - ✦ The meeting reviewed the security of key establishments, dams, power plants and instructed all departments and police forces to stay on high alert.
- 💡 **Emergency Preparedness Measures:**
 - ✦ He directed that **supplies of food grains and essential goods** be ensured at district and tehsil levels.
 - ✦ **Hospitals** must remain alert with **proper arrangements for essential medicines**.
- 💡 **Role of Civil Defence and Volunteers:**
 - ✦ CM called for **training of civil defence groups and voluntary organisations in relief and rescue operations**.
- 💡 **Curbing Rumours and Misinformation:**
 - ✦ The CM emphasised the **need to disseminate accurate, verified information to the public**.
 - ✦ He instructed officials to monitor social media strictly and take action against those spreading rumours.

- ✦ The theme emphasizes the **need to make inhaled medications widely available** for both disease management and emergency care.

💡 About Asthma:

- ✦ Asthma is a **chronic respiratory disease** where a **person's airways** become **inflamed, narrowed, and swollen, producing excess mucus**, which makes breathing difficult.
- ✦ The **National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute (NHLBI)**, defines asthma as a **condition that can cause recurring episodes of wheezing, breathlessness, chest tightness, and coughing**.
- ✦ **Global Burden:**

📎 Over **250 million people** around the world **live with asthma**, according to the **World Health Organization (WHO)**.

📎 In **2019**, **asthma caused approximately 455,000 deaths globally**, highlighting the urgent need for better disease control and treatment access.

💡 History and Origin:

- ✦ The **Global Initiative for Asthma (GINA)** launched the **first World Asthma Day in 1998** during the **World Asthma Meeting in Barcelona, Spain**, with participation from 35 countries.
- ✦ Since then, the event has grown globally and is now considered one of the most significant asthma education and awareness days.

World Asthma Day 2025

Why in News?

World **Asthma** Day is observed on the **second Tuesday of May** to raise awareness about the condition and the risks it poses.

Key Points

- 💡 **World Asthma Day 2025:**
 - ✦ In 2025, it falls on Tuesday, 6 May, with the theme **"Make inhaled treatments accessible for all."**



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Summary

Key Points

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