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## Uttarakhand Approved Forest Panchayat Amendment Rules | Uttarakhand | 16 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, in an effort to make **Van (Forest) Panchayats** strong and self-reliant, the Uttarakhand government during a cabinet meeting approved **the Forest Panchayat Amendment Rules**, under which the **British-era 'Acts of Forest Panchayat'** have been amended.

### Key Points

- According to the new rules, a **nine-member forest panchayat** will be formed, which will have the rights to participate in **herbal production, tree planting, [water harvesting](#), forest fire prevention, [eco-tourism](#).**
- For the first time three-tier local bodies have also been linked to the forest management of **Van Panchayat**.
  - The concept of van panchayat- legally demarcated village forests which are managed and its natural resources shared by village communities **introduced in 1921**.
- Uttarakhand is the **only state in India where the van panchayat system is implemented**.
  - It is a historical community forest management organisation which has been operating **since the year 1930**.
  - At present, **11,217 forest panchayats are in the state** of which have 4.52 lakh hectares of forest area.
- The cabinet gave approval to the '**Uttarakhand Clean Mobility Transformation Policy**' with an aim to **improve public transport in urban areas and reduce pollution** caused by old diesel fueled buses and three wheeler tempos.
  - The policy would be **first implemented in Dehradun** and thereafter extended to other districts.

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## Uttarakhand Launches Development Schemes in Gopeshwar | Uttarakhand | 16 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister inaugurated and laid the foundation stone of various **development schemes worth Rs 229.3 crores**.

### Key Points

- The development schemes were launched in the '**Beneficiary Honor Ceremony**' organized at the Police Ground **Gopeshwar in Chamoli district**.

- During the occasion, the Chief Minister also made several announcements for the development of the district, which include:
  - the early completion of the construction work of the Hapla-Dhotidhar motor road,
  - government and financial approval for the construction of motor road from kilometre one of Baitarni-Sirkhoma-Sentuna-Bairagana motor road to Setuna in Dasholi block from Gopeshwar temple road,
  - construction of hanging bridge on Ramganga river from Ganganagar Mai temple to Bhairav Tok under Lambagad in Karnaprayag,
  - establishment of Gau-Sarakshan Seva in four development blocks in Tharali assembly and approval of Center of Excellence in public interest in Tharali Kulsari.
- The Chief Minister also handed over the keys to beneficiaries of the houses constructed under **Atal Awas Yojana**.
  - Under the [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(Urban\)](#), a cheque of 60 thousand was given to Neelam Devi under the second installment.
  - Under the [Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana \(Rural\)](#), the keys of the house were given to Sangeeta Devi and Guddi Devi.
- Under the **Chief Minister's Self-Employment Scheme**, Rajeshwari Devi and Narendra Singh were given cheques of contribution amount of Rs 50,000 each.
- Under **women empowerment**, Mandodari Devi was given a **Mahalakshmi kit**.
  - For remarkable work, Yuvak Mangal Dal Bura was given cheques of Rs 75,000 and Mahila Mangal Dal Ala Jokhna was given cheques of incentive amount of Rs 37,500.
  - A cheque of Rs 20 lakh was given to **Devbhoomi Matsya Jeevi Sahakarita Samiti**.

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