



Uttarakhand Approves Unified Pension Scheme

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami, has approved the implementation of the [Unified Pension Scheme \(UPS\)](#), and [New Excise Policy 2025](#).

- The government has also announced **financial assistance for 45 writers** to promote **literature** and **culture**.

Key Points

- **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Approval:**
 - The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the implementation of the [Unified Pension Scheme \(UPS\)](#) for officers and employees under the [National Pension System \(NPS\)](#).
 - The scheme aims to provide assured pension payouts post-retirement.
 - It will come into effect from **1st April, 2025**.
- **New Excise Policy 2025**
 - **Liquor licenses** near religious places will be closed to respect religious sentiments.
 - Stricter control will be imposed on **liquor sales**, considering public sensitivities.
 - **Sub-shops** and the **metro liquor sales system** have been abolished.
 - If a shop sells liquor above the **Maximum Retail Price (MRP)**, its license may be canceled.
 - The **excise revenue target** for **2025-26** has been set at **Rs 5,060 crore**.
 - In **2023-24**, revenue of **Rs 4,038.69 crore** was earned against a target of **Rs 4,000 crore**.
 - In **2024-25**, **Rs 4,000 crore** has been received so far against a target of **Rs 4,439 crore**.
- **Promotion of Literature and Culture**
 - The government has announced **financial assistance for 45 writers** this year.
 - 21 new literary awards, along with the **Uttarakhand Sahitya Bhushan award**, have been introduced.
 - The initiative underscores the government's commitment to preserving [literature](#) and **culture**.
 - Chief Minister Dhami emphasized that this financial aid is symbolic of the state's dedication to **cultural preservation** and **literary growth**.

Unified Pension Scheme

- **Assured Pension:** This would amount to **50%** of the employee's average basic pay drawn over the **last 12 months** before retirement for a minimum qualifying service of **25 years**.
 - The amount would proportionately go down for a smaller service period, up to a minimum of **10 years of service**.
- **Assured Minimum Pension:** In the case of retirement after a **minimum 10 years of service**, the **UPS** provides for an assured minimum pension of **Rs 10,000 per month**.
- **Assured Family Pension:** Upon a **retiree's death**, their immediate family would be eligible for **60%** of the pension last drawn by the retiree.
- **Inflation Indexation:** Dearness relief will be available on the above mentioned three kinds of

pensions.

- **Indexation** will be calculated based on the [All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers](#).
- **Lump Sum Payment at Retirement:** In addition to **gratuity**, employees will receive a **lump sum payment** at retirement equivalent to **1/10th** of their **monthly emoluments (pay+DA)** as of the retirement date for every completed six months of service.
 - This payment will not affect the amount of the **assured pension**.
 - **Gratuity** is an amount paid by an employer to its employees for rendering their services.
- **Choice for Employees:** The employees can still opt to remain under the **NPS**. However, an employee can only opt for once. once opted, the option can not be changed.

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