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JULY 2026

IN THIS ISSUE

- Madrasa Board dissolved; new minority authority
- SIR draft roll: 71.34 lakh electors
- SC clears High Court shift to Haldwani
- Top among Himalayan states in NITI index
- Geothermal exploration begins at Tapovan
- 'Dholi' wins National Film Award
- Quick revision: 30 one-liners



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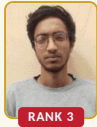
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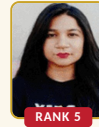
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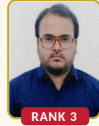
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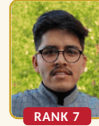
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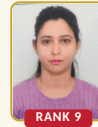
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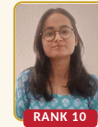
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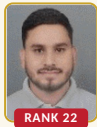
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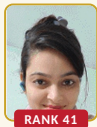
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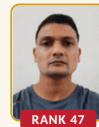
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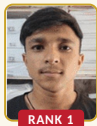
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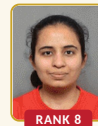
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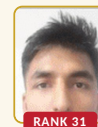
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Month at a Glance

Key Uttarakhand developments of July 2026 in chronological order.

Date	Development
1 Jul	Madrasa Education Board dissolved; Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education comes into force
5 Jul	CM flags off first batch (49 pilgrims) of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra from Tanakpur
10 Jul	Cabinet approves 10 proposals incl. River Rafting/Kayaking Amendment Rules and end of grants to Arabic madrasas from 2027-28
12 Jul	6th Lok Samvardhan Parv inaugurated at Parade Ground, Dehradun, in the presence of Union Minister Kiren Rijiju
14 Jul	Draft electoral roll after SIR published: 71,33,785 electors; polling stations raised to 12,543
15-16 Jul	Supreme Court clears shifting of the High Court from Nainital to Haldwani
16 Jul	Harela festival; month-long plantation drive with a target of one crore saplings
17 Jul	Uttarakhand tops Himalayan & North-Eastern states in NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index; first GI Products Gallery opens at Haldwani
18 Jul	Garhwali film 'Dholi' wins Best Garhwali Film at the 72nd National Film Awards; Ramnagar-Dehradun Express flagged off
19 Jul	Scientific exploration begins for the Tapovan geothermal project, Chamoli
20 Jul	First export of frozen French fries (24 tonnes) from Kashipur to Iraq
22 Jul	Government invites suggestions for a proposed Sanskrit Commission
25 Jul	Sri Dev Suman Balidan Diwas; plan to radio-collar elephant herd leaders ahead of Kumbh 2027 reported
26 Jul	Kargil Vijay Diwas observed across the state
30 Jul	Kanwar Yatra 2026 begins in Haridwar

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01

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

State Cabinet Decisions



1.1 Cabinet Meeting of 10 July 2026 — 10 Proposals Approved

WHY IN NEWS The state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami approved stricter rules for river rafting, a unit for overseas jobs, and ended grants to Arabic madrasas in line with the Minority Education Act.

Decision	Key details
River Rafting / Kayaking (Amendment) Rules, 2026	Amends the 2014 rules: penalties for operating without helmets or life jackets and blacklisting of operators who violate safety norms.
Overseas employment	A 7-member Project Management Unit under the Skill Development Department to link youth with jobs abroad through the Sahaspur Skill Hub; ₹9.66 crore over three years.
Grants to Arabic madrasas	Budget grants to Arabic madrasas to end from 2027-28 , following the Uttarakhand Minority Education Act, 2025.
Frontier technology institute, Pithoragarh	14.857 ha transferred to the Technical Education Department for the institute at Madhdhura (academic blocks, hostels, labs, sports complex).
Mid-day meal	Akshaya Patra Foundation to serve cooked meals to Classes 1-8 in selected schools of Srinagar (Pauri) under PM POSHAN.
Forest settlements	Committee under the Chief Secretary on regularisation of settlements at Bapugram (Rishikesh), Bindukhatta (Nainital) and Bagga-54 (Udham Singh Nagar) — about 4,500 ha of forest land.

KNOW THE TERMS

- **PM POSHAN** — the mid-day meal scheme (renamed 2021) giving hot cooked meals to children of Classes 1-8 in government and aided schools.
- **Rafting in Uttarakhand** — the Ganga stretch between Shivpuri and Rishikesh is the main commercial rafting zone; rafting licences are issued under the state's River Rafting/Kayaking Rules, 2014.

02

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Governance, Polity & Law



2.1 Madrasa Board Dissolved; Minority Education Authority Comes into Force

WHY IN NEWS From 1 July 2026 the Uttarakhand Madrasa Education Board stood dissolved and the Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education took over, under the Uttarakhand Minority Education Act, 2025.

Chairperson of the Authority	Surjit Singh Gandhi
Madrasas affected	452 registered — about 400 teach up to Class 8 and about 55 up to Class 12
Recognition	Classes 1–8: district level; Classes 9–12: affiliation with the Uttarakhand Board of School Education
Curriculum	National Curriculum Framework and NEP 2020 mandatory
Coverage	Institutions of all notified minorities — Muslim, Sikh, Christian, Jain, Buddhist and Parsi

Uttarakhand is the **first state to abolish its Madrasa Board**. The Madrasa Education Board Act, 2016 and the Non-Government Arabic and Persian Madrasa Recognition Rules, 2019 stand repealed.

2.2 SIR: Draft Electoral Roll Published

WHY IN NEWS After house-to-house enumeration under the Special Intensive Revision (8 June – 7 July), the draft electoral roll of Uttarakhand was published on 14 July 2026.

Item	Figure
Electors in the draft roll	71,33,785
Electors with discrepancies needing verification	About 19 lakh
Polling stations	Increased from 11,733 to 12,543
District with most electors	Haridwar
Claims and objections	14 July – 13 August 2026
Final roll	15 September 2026

Names were dropped mainly because electors had died, shifted permanently or were not found at their registered address. Special camps were held to verify doubtful entries.

2.3 Supreme Court Clears Shifting of the High Court to Haldwani

WHY IN NEWS A bench of Chief Justice Surya Kant and Justices Joymalya Bagchi and V. Mohana cleared the relocation of the Uttarakhand High Court from Nainital to Haldwani (judgment of 15–16 July 2026).

- The court set aside the High Court's **May 2024 order** that had called for a referendum of lawyers and litigants on the shift, holding that such decisions are administrative, to be taken by the High Court and the state government, and not on the judicial side.
- The state was told to hand over the identified **26-hectare site at Gaulapar, Haldwani** within eight weeks, on an 'as is, where is' basis, keeping the existing trees.
- The state cabinet had approved the shift in 2022; the High Court had earlier objected to the site because about 75% of it is under tree cover.

UTTARAKHAND HIGH COURT

- Established on **9 November 2000** at Nainital under the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000.
- Nainital is also the seat of the Kumaon Commissionerate; the Garhwal Commissionerate is at Pauri.

2.4 Uttarakhand to Set Up a Sanskrit Commission

WHY IN NEWS On 22 July 2026 the Sanskrit Education Department invited suggestions from scholars, teachers and institutions (till 10 August) for a proposed Uttarakhand Sanskrit Commission.

- The commission will work on Sanskrit education, research, **manuscript preservation**, digital and AI applications, skills and administrative use of the language.
- A high-level meeting on 15 July 2026 set the process in motion.

SANSKRIT IN UTTARAKHAND

- Uttarakhand made Sanskrit its **second official language in 2010** — the first state to do so; Hindi is the first official language.
- The state runs the Uttarakhand Sanskrit University (Haridwar) and has declared a Sanskrit village in each district.

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03

ECONOMY

Economy, Energy & Infrastructure



3.1 Investment Friendliness Index — First among Himalayan States

WHY IN NEWS NITI Aayog released its first Investment Friendliness Index on 17 July 2026. Uttarakhand ranked first among Himalayan and North-Eastern states.

Item	Details
Coverage	28 states and 8 Union Territories
Framework	8 pillars and 84 indicators, including a survey of over 1,850 businesses; maximum score 100
Uttarakhand	Score 47.5 — 1st among Himalayan & North-Eastern states , 11th overall; category 'Frontrunner'
Top large state	Gujarat (56.6), followed by Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu
Categories	Top performers (5), Frontrunners (15), Emerging performers (8), Aspirants (8)

3.2 Exploration Begins for the Tapovan Geothermal Project

WHY IN NEWS Scientific exploration started in July 2026 for a geothermal power project at Tapovan near Jyotirmath, Chamoli — a first for the state under its Geothermal Energy Policy, 2025.

Developer	Uttarakhand Jal Vidyut Nigam Ltd (UJVN), allotted the project in June 2026
Consultant	Verkis Consulting Engineers (Iceland) with an Indian partner
Capacity found feasible	1 MW pilot plant and a 10 MW commercial plant
Next steps	Drilling, geo-scientific tests; a technical committee to oversee work

GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

- Heat from inside the earth reaching the surface through faults and fractures; the Himalaya has many hot springs because of active tectonics (e.g., Tapovan, Gaurikund, Yamunotri).
- India's first geothermal project is being developed at **Puga valley, Ladakh**, by ONGC.

3.3 Connectivity and Agri-Exports

WHY IN NEWS A new rail link between Kumaon and Garhwal and a first processed-food export were among the economic developments of the month.

Date	Development	Details
18 Jul	Ramnagar–Dehradun Express	Flagged off by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw with the CM; first direct train between Kumaon and Garhwal ; runs twice a week via Kashipur, Moradabad, Najibabad and Haridwar
20 Jul	Frozen French fries to Iraq	APEDA facilitated the state's first export of 24 tonnes of frozen French fries processed at Kashipur from potatoes grown in Udham Singh Nagar

04

CULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Environment, Pilgrimage, Art & Culture



4.1 Harela 2026 — One Crore Saplings in a Month

WHY IN NEWS Harela was celebrated on 16 July 2026. The state launched a month-long plantation campaign with a target of one crore saplings; over 10 lakh were planted on the first day.

ABOUT HARELA

- A Kumaoni folk festival of greenery marking the start of **Shravan** (Karka Sankranti); seeds of 5–7 grains are sown in small baskets about 10 days earlier and the sprouts (harela) are offered to deities.
- Uttarakhand observes Harela as a public holiday and as a state-wide plantation festival.

4.2 Radio-Collaring of Elephants ahead of Kumbh 2027

WHY IN NEWS The Forest Department plans to fit radio collars on the leaders of elephant herds around Haridwar before the Kumbh Mela 2027 (14 January – 20 April 2027), to prevent elephants entering settlements and fair areas.

- The **Wildlife Institute of India** is studying herd size, routes, timing and the settlements most visited, to identify herd leaders.
- Collars will send real-time location alerts so that rapid-response teams can push elephants back to the forest; a proposal has been sent to the Union Environment Ministry.
- Trenches and solar fences have not stopped elephants from entering human settlements to the extent expected.

ELEPHANTS IN UTTARAKHAND

- Elephant census 2020: **2,026 elephants**, up from 1,839 in 2017; most live in the Terai–Shivalik belt, including the Rajaji–Corbett landscape.
- Uttarakhand has two elephant reserves: **Shivalik Elephant Reserve** (2002) and **Terai Elephant Reserve**.

4.3 Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and Kanwar Yatra

WHY IN NEWS The first batch of Kailash Mansarovar pilgrims on the Lipulekh route was flagged off from Tanakpur on 5 July, and the Kanwar Yatra began on 30 July 2026.

- **5 July** — the CM flagged off the first batch of **49 pilgrims** from the Tourist Rest House, Tanakpur (Champawat); the yatra through Uttarakhand is managed by the **Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN)**.
- **30 July** — the Kanwar Yatra began with the month of Sawan; Kanwariyas collect Ganga water from Haridwar, Rishikesh and Neelkanth for Shiva temples in their home towns.

4.4 First GI Products Gallery and Lok Samvardhan Parv

WHY IN NEWS Uttarakhand's first gallery of Geographical Indication (GI) products opened at the Uttarakhand Forest Training Academy, Haldwani, on 17 July; the 6th Lok Samvardhan Parv was held in Dehradun from 12 July.

Category	GI products displayed (examples)
Agriculture	Tejpat, Munsiyari white rajma, Kumaon chyura oil, Almora lakhori mirch, Berinag tea, Uttarakhand kala bhat
Fruits	Bedu, Ramnagar litchi, Ramgarh peach
Crafts	Aipan art, Chamoli Ramman masks, Tamta copperware, Ringal craft
Others	Nainital candles, Buransh squash

- Uttarakhand has **more than 30 GI-tagged products**; it received **18 GI tags on a single day** in December 2023. GI registration is valid for 10 years and can be renewed.
- Lok Samvardhan Parv** — a five-day fair of the Union Ministry of Minority Affairs under the **PM VIKAS** scheme, held with the Uttarakhand Minorities Welfare and Waqf Development Corporation; about 90 women artisans took part.

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05

PERSONALITIES

Persons, Awards & Important Days



5.1 'Dholi' Wins Best Garhwali Film at the 72nd National Film Awards

WHY IN NEWS The winners of the 72nd National Film Awards were announced on 18 July 2026. The Garhwali film 'Dholi' won the Rajat Kamal for Best Garhwali Film.

Film	Dholi (Garhwali)
Director	Dinesh P. Bhonsle
Award	Rajat Kamal (Silver Lotus) and ₹2 lakh — Best Garhwali Feature Film
Shot in	A village of Uttarkashi district, with local artists
Best Feature Film (72nd awards)	'Article 370' (Hindi)

DID YOU KNOW?

- The first Garhwali film was '**Jagwal**' (1983), produced by Parashar Gaur.
- Uttarakhand's Film Policy 2024 offers subsidies for films shot in the state, with extra support for films in Garhwali, Kumaoni and Jaunsari.

5.2 Important Days Observed in July 2026

WHY IN NEWS Days of state relevance observed in July.

Date	Day	State connection
16 Jul	Harela	Folk festival of greenery; state-wide plantation drive
25 Jul	Sri Dev Suman Balidan Diwas	Died on 25 July 1944 after an 84-day hunger strike in Tehri jail against the Tehri princely state
26 Jul	Kargil Vijay Diwas	Uttarakhand lost 75 soldiers in the 1999 Kargil war; 'Sainya Dham' is being built in Dehradun as the state's fifth dham
31 Jul	Martyrdom day of Shaheed Udham Singh	Udham Singh Nagar district is named after him; CM paid tribute and launched the 'Samrasata Sankalp' campaign at Bhagwanpur

06

RAPID REVISION

Quick Revision: One-Liners



#	Fact
1	The state cabinet met on 10 July 2026 and approved 10 proposals.
2	The River Rafting/Kayaking (Amendment) Rules, 2026 allow blacklisting of operators who break safety rules.
3	Grants to Arabic madrasas in Uttarakhand will end from 2027-28 .
4	A 7-member PMU under the Skill Development Department will link youth with overseas jobs .
5	Akshaya Patra Foundation will serve mid-day meals in Srinagar (Pauri) under PM POSHAN .
6	The Madrasa Education Board was dissolved and the Minority Education Authority came into force on 1 July 2026 .
7	Chairperson of the Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education: Surjit Singh Gandhi .
8	Uttarakhand is the first state to abolish its Madrasa Board (Minority Education Act, 2025).
9	The SIR draft electoral roll (14 July 2026) has 71,33,785 electors.
10	After the SIR, polling stations in Uttarakhand rose from 11,733 to 12,543 .
11	The Supreme Court cleared the shift of the High Court from Nainital to Haldwani in July 2026.
12	The new High Court site is a 26-ha plot at Gaulapar, Haldwani .
13	The Uttarakhand High Court was established on 9 November 2000 at Nainital.
14	Uttarakhand made Sanskrit its second official language in 2010 ; a Sanskrit Commission is now proposed.
15	Uttarakhand ranked 1st among Himalayan & NE states (score 47.5) in NITI Aayog's first Investment Friendliness Index.
16	Gujarat topped the Investment Friendliness Index 2026 with a score of 56.6.
17	Exploration for the Tapovan geothermal project (Chamoli) began in July 2026; UJVN is the developer.
18	The Icelandic firm Verkis is the consultant for the Tapovan geothermal project.
19	Uttarakhand's Geothermal Energy Policy was notified in 2025 .
20	The Ramnagar-Dehradun Express (18 July 2026) is the first direct train between Kumaon and Garhwal.
21	The first export of frozen French fries (24 tonnes) from Uttarakhand went from Kashipur to Iraq on 20 July 2026.
22	Uttarakhand's first GI Products Gallery opened at the Forest Training Academy, Haldwani, on 17 July 2026.
23	Uttarakhand has more than 30 GI-tagged products; it got 18 GI tags in one day in December 2023.
24	The Harela 2026 campaign aims to plant one crore saplings in a month.
25	Elephant herd leaders around Haridwar will be radio-collared with WII's help ahead of Kumbh 2027.
26	Haridwar Kumbh 2027 is scheduled from 14 January to 20 April 2027 .
27	The first Kailash Mansarovar batch (49 pilgrims) was flagged off from Tanakpur on 5 July 2026.
28	Garhwali film ' Dholi ' won the Rajat Kamal for Best Garhwali Film at the 72nd National Film Awards.
29	The first Garhwali film was ' Jagwal ' (1983).
30	The 6th Lok Samvardhan Parv (PM VIKAS scheme) was held in Dehradun from 12 July 2026.

Compiled from official releases (DIPR Uttarakhand, PIB) and reports in leading newspapers, July 2026.



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