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IN THIS ISSUE

- Cabinet: fuel & energy conservation measures
- Census 2027: house-listing phase completed
- One-click pension to 7.56 lakh beneficiaries
- Forest fire season and the Shitalkhet model
- Char Dham crosses 20 lakh; Hemkund Sahib opens
- Former CM B.C. Khanduri passes away
- Quick revision: 30 one-liners



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CONTENTS

Month at a Glance.....	3
01 State Cabinet Decisions.....	4
1.1 Cabinet Meeting of 13 May 2026 — Fuel and Energy Conservation.....	4
02 Governance, Polity & Schemes.....	5
2.1 Census 2027 — House-Listing Phase Completed in Uttarakhand.....	5
2.2 One-Click Transfer of Social Security Pensions.....	5
2.3 State SDG Achievers Awards and District SDG Ranking.....	6
03 Environment & Disaster Management.....	7
3.1 Forest Fire Season 2026 — Figures and Response.....	7
04 Tourism, Pilgrimage, Art & Culture.....	8
4.1 Char Dham Yatra Crosses 20 Lakh; Hemkund Sahib Opens.....	8
4.2 Champawat: Goljyu Mahotsav and Maa Varahi Dham.....	8
05 Persons, Sports & Important Days.....	10
5.1 Former CM Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri Passes Away.....	10
5.2 Padma Bhushan to Bhagat Singh Koshyari.....	10
5.3 Niti Xtreme Ultra Run 2026.....	10
5.4 Important Days and Anniversaries in May.....	11
06 Quick Revision: One-Liners.....	12



Month at a Glance

Key Uttarakhand developments of May 2026 in chronological order.

Date	Development
6 May	CM releases April pension of ₹111.82 crore to 7.56 lakh beneficiaries through 'one click'
7-16 May	10-day Goljyu Mahotsav held at Champawat
8 May	CM inaugurates BPCL-funded hospital at Kedarnath Dham
13 May	Cabinet adopts fuel and energy conservation measures: weekly 'No Vehicle Day', 50% EVs in new government vehicles, convoys halved
16 May	CM reviews reconstruction of Maa Varahi Dham, Devidhura (Champawat)
19 May	Former CM Maj. Gen. (Retd.) B.C. Khanduri passes away in Dehradun at 91; three days of state mourning (19-21 May)
22 May	Portals of Lokpal Laxman temple open; CM reviews forest fires and monsoon preparedness, announces 1,000 forest guard posts
23 May	Hemkund Sahib opens; record 96,116 pilgrims in a single day take Char Dham total past 20.76 lakh
24 May	House-listing and Housing Census phase of Census 2027 ends in Uttarakhand; CM flags off countdown run for Niti Xtreme Ultra Run
25 May	Bhagat Singh Koshiyari receives Padma Bhushan from the President; birth anniversary of Sri Dev Suman
26 May	Forest Minister: 394 forest fires on 331.12 ha from 15 Feb to 25 May; NGT seeks forest department's working strength
27 May	State-level SDG Achievers Awards at Almora; Rudraprayag first in the District SDG ranking
31 May	First Niti Xtreme Ultra Run (75 km and 42 km) held in the Niti valley, Chamoli

01

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

State Cabinet Decisions



1.1 Cabinet Meeting of 13 May 2026 — Fuel and Energy Conservation

WHY IN NEWS Following the Prime Minister's appeal to save fuel amid global supply disruptions linked to the West Asia crisis, the state cabinet chaired by Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami adopted a package of fuel- and energy-saving measures.

Area	Decision
No Vehicle Day	One day a week to be observed as ' No Vehicle Day '; officials to use video conferencing and work from home where possible; citizens encouraged to use public transport.
Official convoys	Convoys of the CM and ministers cut by 50% — the CM's own convoy reduced to 5 vehicles.
Electric vehicles	At least 50% of new government vehicles to be electric; EV charging network to be expanded and a state EV policy prepared.
One officer, one vehicle	Officers holding charge of several departments to use only one vehicle.
Public transport	Uttarakhand Transport Corporation to increase bus services and frequency.
Electricity	Limited use of air-conditioning in government and private buildings; rooftop solar under PM Surya Ghar and biogas through panchayats to be promoted.
Cooking fuel	Piped natural gas (PNG) connections to be promoted in hotels, restaurants and homes; less cooking oil in school, hospital and office canteens.
Agriculture	Natural farming and soil-health awareness to be encouraged.
Tourism and local products	'Visit My State' campaign for domestic tourism, single-window clearance for destination weddings, promotion of 'Made in State' products.

KNOW THE TERMS

- **PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana (2024)** — central scheme giving subsidy for rooftop solar to 1 crore households, with up to 300 units of free electricity a month.
- **PNG vs LPG** — piped natural gas is supplied continuously through pipelines by city gas distribution networks; it is cheaper and safer than bottled LPG and cuts LPG imports.

02

POLITY & SOCIAL SECTOR

Governance, Polity & Schemes



2.1 Census 2027 — House-Listing Phase Completed in Uttarakhand

WHY IN NEWS The first phase of Census 2027 — the House-listing and Housing Census — ran in Uttarakhand from 25 April to 24 May 2026, after a self-enumeration window that the Governor opened on 10 April.

Item	Details
Self-enumeration	10–24 April 2026 on the portal se.census.gov.in (16 languages); the Governor was the first in the state to self-enumerate
House-listing phase	25 April – 24 May 2026
Questions	33 questions on housing condition, household amenities and assets
Field staff	About 30,000 enumerators and supervisors in about 32,000 house-listing blocks
Training	650 batches — 2 national trainers, 23 master trainers, 555 field trainers
Phase 2 in snow-bound areas	September 2026 for 131 villages and 3 urban areas of Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Pithoragarh and Uttarkashi

CENSUS 2027 — KEY FACTS

- India's **first digital census**, with data captured on mobile apps and a self-enumeration option; it will also enumerate caste.
- Two phases: House-listing (April–September 2026, by state) and Population Enumeration (February 2027); reference date **1 March 2027**, and **1 October 2026** for snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh.
- Conducted under the **Census Act, 1948** by the Registrar General and Census Commissioner, Ministry of Home Affairs. The last census was in 2011.

2.2 One-Click Transfer of Social Security Pensions

WHY IN NEWS On 6 May 2026 the Chief Minister released the April 2026 instalment of state social security pensions directly into the bank accounts of beneficiaries through a single 'one-click' transfer.

Amount	₹111.82 crore
Beneficiaries	7,56,682
Pensions covered	Old-age, widow, disability, farmer, abandoned (parityakta) women, maintenance allowance, Teelu Rauteli pension and dwarf (bauna) pension
Funding	Schemes funded 100% by the state government
Mode	Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT)

- About **60,000 new beneficiaries** join social security pensions every year.
- Officials were told to prepare applications of people turning 59 in advance so that their pension starts as soon as they turn **60**.

2.3 State SDG Achievers Awards and District SDG Ranking

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Minister presented the state-level SDG Achievers Awards at the Uday Shankar Academy of Dance and Music, Almora, on 27 May 2026 and released the ranking of districts on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Rank (District SDG Index)	District(s)
1st	Rudraprayag
2nd	Uttarkashi and Nainital
3rd	Bageshwar, Chamoli and Tehri Garhwal

- 32 individuals, groups and organisations were honoured for work on the SDGs; six districts were recognised for their ranking.
- The awards are organised by the Planning Department with the **Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG)**, Dehradun.
- Figures cited: GSDP growth 7.23%; Uttarakhand rose from 10th to **1st** in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index.

SDG INDIA INDEX

- Released by **NITI Aayog** (first edition 2018). In the 2023–24 edition Uttarakhand and Kerala shared the **top rank with a score of 79**.
- The index tracks states on 16 of the 17 UN Sustainable Development Goals adopted in 2015 for the 2030 Agenda.

03

ENVIRONMENT & GEOGRAPHY

Environment & Disaster Management



3.1 Forest Fire Season 2026 — Figures and Response

WHY IN NEWS Uttarakhand's forest fire season runs from 15 February to 15 June. In May 2026 the government reviewed fire control, announced new forest guard posts, and the National Green Tribunal sought details of the forest department's preparedness.

Forest fires from 15 February to 25 May 2026 (Forest Minister Subodh Uniyal, 26 May)

Region	Incidents	Area affected (ha)
Garhwal	285	241.32
Kumaon	74	64.05
Wildlife areas	35	25.75
Total	394	331.12

- One person died — a fire watcher in Chamoli; incidents and area burnt were lower than in 2025.
- 5,625 fire watchers** were deployed; their insurance cover was raised to **₹10 lakh**; Forest Fire Management Committees were formed with village heads in sensitive areas.
- At a review on **22 May**, the CM announced **1,000 new forest guard posts**, asked for the **Shitalkhet model** to be adopted across the state, and directed that officials reach a fire site within one hour of an alert.
- On **26 May** the NGT, hearing a case on burning of leaves along the Rishikesh-Dehradun road (Badkot range), asked the Principal Chief Conservator of Forests for the department's actual working strength and a contingency fire-management plan.

WHY UTTARAKHAND'S FORESTS BURN — AND THE SHITALKHET MODEL

- About two-thirds of the state is forest; highly inflammable **chir pine needles (pirul)** covering the floor of lower-hill forests are the main fuel for spring fires.
- Shitalkhet model (Almora)** — a community effort in which villagers and women's groups clear dry leaves and pine needles and do controlled burning before the fire season, and guard the forest together; it sharply cut fire incidents in the area.

04

CULTURE & TOURISM

Tourism, Pilgrimage, Art & Culture



4.1 Char Dham Yatra Crosses 20 Lakh; Hemkund Sahib Opens

WHY IN NEWS On 23 May 2026 a record 96,116 pilgrims visited the four dhams in a single day, taking the season's total past 20.76 lakh in 35 days. Hemkund Sahib opened the same day.

Shrine	Pilgrims till 23 May 2026
Kedarnath	8,11,923
Badrinath	5,56,437
Yamunotri	3,56,031
Gangotri	3,52,162
Char Dham total	20,76,553
Hemkund Sahib (opening day)	6,605

Shrine	Opened	Facts
Lokpal Laxman temple	22 May	Near Hemkund Sahib in the Bhyundar valley, Chamoli; one of the few temples dedicated to Lakshman — an example of shared Hindu-Sikh tradition
Hemkund Sahib	23 May	Sikh shrine at about 4,600 m (15,000 ft); trek from Govindghat via Ghangharia; linked with Guru Gobind Singh

- **8 May** — a hospital built by **Bharat Petroleum (BPCL)** under CSR was inaugurated at Kedarnath Dham; it is run by the Swami Vivekananda Health Mission Society.
- The CM also reviewed the **Badrinath Master Plan** works for developing Badrinath as a 'spiritual smart town'.

BHYUNDAR VALLEY

- The **Valley of Flowers National Park** lies in the same valley; together with Nanda Devi National Park it forms a **UNESCO World Heritage Site** (2005 extension of the 1988 listing).
- The valley is drained by the **Lakshman Ganga (Bhyundar Ganga)**, which joins the Alaknanda at Govindghat.

4.2 Champawat: Golju Mahotsav and Maa Varahi Dham

WHY IN NEWS The 10-day Golju Mahotsav was held at Champawat from 7 to 16 May 2026, and on 16 May the CM inspected reconstruction work at Maa Varahi Dham, Devidhura.

- The **Golju Mahotsav** celebrates the folk deity Golu Devta with cultural programmes, local products and fairs; the CM addressed its closing virtually.
- The **Maa Varahi Dham** at Devidhura is being redeveloped at a cost of about **₹15 crore** (foundation laid in March 2026) to make it a centre of religious tourism.

KNOW THE CULTURE

- **Golu Devta (Goljyu)** — revered in Kumaon as the **god of justice**; devotees tie bells and submit written petitions. Main temples: Chitai (Almora), Ghorakhal (Nainital) and Gorilchaur/Champawat.
- **Devidhura Bagwal** — at the Varahi temple on Raksha Bandhan, four khams (clans) hurl stones at each other (now fruits and flowers) in a ritual combat.

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05

PERSONALITIES & SPORTS

Persons, Sports & Important Days



5.1 Former CM Maj. Gen. (Retd.) Bhuwan Chandra Khanduri Passes Away

WHY IN NEWS Former Chief Minister B.C. Khanduri died in Dehradun on 19 May 2026 at the age of 91. The state declared three days of mourning (19–21 May) and he was cremated with full state honours on 20 May.

Born	1 October 1934, Dehradun
Army	Corps of Engineers, 1954–1991; retired as Major General; Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (1982)
Lok Sabha	Five-time MP from Garhwal (1991, 1998, 1999, 2004, 2014)
Union Minister	Road Transport and Highways (2000–2004) under PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee — oversaw the Golden Quadrilateral under NHDP
Chief Minister	Twice: 8 March 2007 – 23 June 2009 and 11 September 2011 – 13 March 2012
Known for	A strong Lokayukta law (2011) that brought the CM within its ambit; clean-governance image

5.2 Padma Bhushan to Bhagat Singh Koshyari

WHY IN NEWS Former Chief Minister and former Governor of Maharashtra Bhagat Singh Koshyari received the Padma Bhushan (Public Affairs) from President Droupadi Murmu at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25 May 2026.

Born	17 June 1942, Palanadhura village, Bageshwar district
Chief Minister	2nd CM of Uttarakhand (Uttaranchal), 30 October 2001 – 1 March 2002
Parliament	Rajya Sabha (2008–2014); Lok Sabha from Nainital–Udham Singh Nagar (2014–2019)
Governor	Maharashtra (2019–2023), with additional charge of Goa (2020)

PADMA AWARDS

- Announced every year on the eve of Republic Day; conferred by the President in investiture ceremonies, usually in March–May.
- Three grades: **Padma Vibhushan** (exceptional service), **Padma Bhushan** (distinguished service of a high order) and **Padma Shri** (distinguished service).

5.3 Niti Xtreme Ultra Run 2026

WHY IN NEWS The first Niti Xtreme Ultra Run, organised by the state Tourism Department with support from the Army, was held in the Niti valley of Chamoli on 31 May and 1 June 2026; the CM flagged off its countdown run in Dehradun on 24 May.

Race	Route
75 km Ultra (31 May)	Rimkhim (about 4,340 m) – Sumna – Niti – Malari; open only to Indian runners (Inner Line area)
42 km Marathon (31 May)	Malari (3,100 m) – Niti village (3,600 m) – Malari
21 km and 5 km (1 June)	Shorter runs for local and amateur participants

Runners from **28 states** took part. The event aims to promote adventure tourism and livelihoods in border villages covered by the Vibrant Villages Programme.

NITI VALLEY

- Upper valley of the **Dhauliganga** in Chamoli; **Niti Pass** (about 5,070 m) was a traditional trade route to Tibet used by the Bhotiya (Rongpa) community.
- **Malari** is known for its archaeological finds (megalithic burials).

5.4 Important Days and Anniversaries in May

WHY IN NEWS Anniversaries of personalities and events connected with Uttarakhand that fall in May.

Date	Occasion	State connection
20 May	Birth anniversary of Sumitranandan Pant (1900)	Born at Kausani (Bageshwar); first Hindi poet to receive the Jnanpith Award (1968, for Chidambara)
23 May	Bachendri Pal's ascent of Everest (1984)	Born at Nakuri (Uttarkashi); first Indian woman to climb Mount Everest
25 May	Birth anniversary of Sri Dev Suman (1916)	Born at Jaul (Tehri); fought the Tehri princely state's rule and died on 25 July 1944 after an 84-day hunger strike in Tehri jail

06

RAPID REVISION

Quick Revision: One-Liners



#	Fact
1	The state cabinet adopted fuel and energy conservation measures on 13 May 2026 .
2	Uttarakhand will observe a weekly ' No Vehicle Day '; convoys of the CM and ministers have been cut by 50%.
3	At least 50% of new government vehicles in Uttarakhand are to be electric.
4	The house-listing phase of Census 2027 in Uttarakhand ran from 25 April to 24 May 2026.
5	The house-listing questionnaire of Census 2027 has 33 questions .
6	Census 2027 is India's first digital census with a self-enumeration option; the Governor was the first in the state to self-enumerate.
7	Reference date for snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand in Census 2027: 1 October 2026 .
8	Population enumeration in 131 snow-bound villages and 3 towns of four districts will be done in September 2026.
9	On 6 May 2026 the CM released ₹111.82 crore as pension to 7.56 lakh beneficiaries through 'one click'.
10	The Teelu Rauteli pension and bauna (dwarf) pension are among the state's social security pensions.
11	Rudraprayag ranked first in Uttarakhand's District SDG ranking released on 27 May 2026.
12	The state SDG Achievers Awards 2026 were presented at the Uday Shankar Academy of Dance and Music, Almora .
13	Uttarakhand and Kerala shared the top rank (score 79) in NITI Aayog's SDG India Index 2023-24 .
14	Uttarakhand's forest fire season runs from 15 February to 15 June .
15	394 forest fires affected 331.12 ha between 15 February and 25 May 2026.
16	The CM announced 1,000 new forest guard posts and statewide adoption of the Shitalkhet model on 22 May 2026.
17	Insurance cover for forest fire watchers has been raised to ₹10 lakh .
18	A record 96,116 pilgrims visited the Char Dham on a single day, 23 May 2026.
19	The Char Dham total crossed 20.76 lakh in 35 days; Kedarnath alone crossed 8.1 lakh.
20	Hemkund Sahib opened on 23 May and the Lokpal Laxman temple on 22 May 2026.
21	A BPCL-funded hospital was inaugurated at Kedarnath Dham on 8 May 2026.
22	The Goljyu Mahotsav was held at Champawat from 7 to 16 May 2026.
23	Golu Devta is worshipped in Kumaon as the god of justice ; his best-known temple is at Chitai, Almora.
24	Former CM B.C. Khanduri died on 19 May 2026; he was CM in 2007-09 and 2011-12.
25	As Union Minister for Road Transport and Highways, Khanduri oversaw the Golden Quadrilateral project.
26	Bhagat Singh Koshyari , the state's second CM, received the Padma Bhushan on 25 May 2026.
27	The first Niti Xtreme Ultra Run (75 km) was held in the Niti valley, Chamoli, on 31 May 2026.
28	Sumitranandan Pant, born at Kausani on 20 May 1900, was the first Hindi poet to win the Jnanpith Award.
29	Bachendri Pal became the first Indian woman to climb Everest on 23 May 1984 .
30	Sri Dev Suman (born 25 May 1916) died after an 84-day hunger strike in Tehri jail in 1944.

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



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