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Uttarakhand Current Affairs

The essence of ten months in Devbhoomi — tables, facts & one-liners

JANUARY – OCTOBER 2026

TEN-MONTH COMPILATION

INSIDE THIS EDITION

200+ ONE-LINERS

01 Polity, Legislature & Governance	02 Policies & Welfare Schemes
03–04 Economy, Budget, Rankings & Reports	05–06 Infrastructure, Energy & Agriculture
07–08 Disasters, Environment & Wildlife	09–10 Tourism, Pilgrimage, Art & Culture
11–12 Defence, Security, Awards & Honours	13 Appointments, Persons & Institutions
14 Sports & Adventure	15 Important Days

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CONTENTS

Ten Months at a Glance 9

01 Polity, Legislature & Governance 13

1.1 'Jan Jan ki Sarkar, Jan Jan ke Dwar' Outreach Campaign 13
1.2 Ankita Bhandari Case: CBI Inquiry Recommended 13
1.3 Digital Governance: Revenue Portals, TMS, myScheme, Revenue Lok Adalat 13
1.4 Uniform Civil Code: First UCC Diwas, Amendment Act and Rules 14
1.5 Minority Education Authority Replaces the Madrasa Board 15
1.6 Other Governance Initiatives, February–October 2026 16
1.7 Budget Session at Bhararisain and the Bills Passed 17
1.8 Devbhoomi Parivar Act: A Family ID for Every Household 18
1.9 Cabinet Expansion: Council of Ministers at Full Strength 18
1.10 Four Years of the Second Dhami Government 19
1.11 GIS-Based Master Plans and Dehradun Master Plan 2041 19
1.12 Census 2027: House-Listing and Snow-Bound Enumeration 20
1.13 Special Assembly Session on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam 20
1.14 Lokayukta: Search Committee and Search Committee Rules 21
1.15 Special Intensive Revision of Electoral Rolls 21
1.16 High Court to Shift from Nainital to Haldwani 22
1.17 Uttarakhand to Set Up a Sanskrit Commission 22
1.18 Third Pravasi Uttarakhandi Diwas at Doon University 23
1.19 October Gairsain Session: Two Sessions in One Year 23

02 Policies & Welfare Schemes 24

2.1 VB-G RAM G Act: What It Means for Uttarakhand 24
2.2 Swasth Seema Abhiyan: ITBP Health Care in Border Villages 24
2.3 Uttarakhand Green Hydrogen Policy, 2026 25
2.4 Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana 26
2.5 Girl Child: Nanda Gaura Yojana and Nanda-Sunanda Project 26
2.6 Nutrition Schemes: Bal Palash and Mahila Poshan Expanded 27
2.7 HPV Vaccination Drive Against Cervical Cancer 27
2.8 Jobs Abroad: Almora Language Centre and Overseas Employment Unit 27
2.9 Veer Udyami Yojana for Ex-Servicemen and Agniveers 28
2.10 Science, Technology and Innovation Policy 2026 28
2.11 Drug-Free Uttarakhand: Nasha Mukt Bharat Saptah and ANTF 29
2.12 Agniveer Rozgar Cell: Uttarakhand First State 29
2.13 Gau Palan Yojana Extended to General Category 30
2.14 Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana-2026 30
2.15 80th Independence Day: Chief Minister's Seven Announcements 30
2.16 Uttarakhand State Cooperative Policy, 2026 31
2.17 Women-Centric Initiatives around Raksha Bandhan 31
2.18 Higher Education Skill Enhancement Scheme-2026 32
2.19 Other Schemes and Policies, Jan–Oct 2026 32

03 State Economy, Budget & Finance 34

3.1 16th Finance Commission: Uttarakhand's Share Rises to 1.14% 34

3.2 Uttarakhand Economic Survey 2025-26 34
3.3 State Budget 2026-27: ₹1,11,703 Crore on GYAN and SANTULAN 35
3.4 Gender Budget 2026-27: ₹19,692 Crore 37
3.5 SASCI 'Pride of Hills': ₹3,460 Crore for Uttarakhand 37
3.6 Viksit Uttarakhand Vision 2047: District Plans by December 38
3.7 Supplementary Budget 2026-27: ₹7,844.18 Crore, Farmers First 38

04 Rankings, Indices & Reports 40

4.1 Uttarakhand in Rankings, Jan–Oct 2026 40
4.2 ICJS 2.0: Uttarakhand First in the Country 40
4.3 Export Preparedness Index 2024: Uttarakhand Tops Small States 41
4.4 States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking: Uttarakhand a 'Leader' 41
4.5 Fiscal Health Index 2026: Uttarakhand 2nd among Himalayan States 42
4.6 State SDG Achievers Awards and District SDG Ranking 43
4.7 Uttarakhand Becomes India's Sixth Fully Literate State 43
4.8 Investment Friendliness Index: First among Himalayan States 44
4.9 GI Registrations: Uttarakhand 10th with 29 Products 44
4.10 Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2026: Dehradun Climbs to 12th 45
4.11 PMAY-Urban 2.0: Uttarakhand Best Performing State 46

05 Infrastructure, Connectivity & Energy 47

5.1 National Highways: Proposals, Sanctions and Bypasses 47
5.2 Railways: Record Budget, Karnaprayag Line, Namo Bharat 48
5.3 Sharda River Corridor: First Works at Tanakpur 49
5.4 Jamrani Multipurpose Dam on the Gola 49
5.5 Solar Power Crosses 1 GW; Saur Swarozgar Progress 49
5.6 Other Infrastructure Sanctions and Releases 50
5.7 Ropeways: Parvatmala Projects and the 9 November Deadline 51
5.8 Aviation: Dehradun–Pithoragarh Flight and Seaplane Trial 51
5.9 Delhi–Dehradun Economic Corridor Inaugurated 52
5.10 Banbasa Land Port on the India–Nepal Border 52
5.11 Kishau Dam: Six States Sign MoU 53
5.12 Tapovan Geothermal Project: State's First 54
5.13 Ganga Expressway to Be Extended to Haridwar 54
5.14 1,320 MW Long-Term Power Deal with Adani Power 54
5.15 PMAY-Urban and Jal Jeevan Mission: Progress 55
5.16 PMGSY-IV: ₹2,708 Crore for 315 Roads, 32 Bridges 55
5.17 Industry and Startups: CII Summit, STPI Centre 55
5.18 Tiuni–Plasu 72 MW Hydro Project Cleared 56

06 Agriculture, Industry & Livelihoods 57

6.1 Malta Mahotsav and the Malta Mission 57
6.2 Pabo Floriculture under Collective Cooperative Farming 57
6.3 House of Himalayas: Women-Led Umbrella Brand 58
6.4 Beekeeping Policies 2026: Honey Production and Forest-Fringe Bee Fences 58
6.5 Protecting Crops from Wild Animals: ₹25 Crore Farm Fencing 59
6.6 Wheat Procurement, Rabi Marketing Season 2026-27 59
6.7 ITBP–Horticulture Council MoU for Border Farmers 59
6.8 Lakhpati Didi: Mana Village to 3.03 Lakh Women 60
6.9 Badri Cow: Uttarakhand's First Certified Cattle Breed 60
6.10 Khet Bachao Abhiyan at Hawalbagh, Almora 61

6.11 Agri-Exports from Uttarakhand, 2026 61
6.12 Chaupal-2026 under Mukhyamantri Udyamshala Yojana 62

07 Disaster Management 63

7.1 Entire Uttarakhand in New Seismic Zone VI 63
7.2 Forest Fire Season 2026 and the Sheetlakhet Model 64
7.3 Glacial Lakes: Working Group to Vasudhara Tal Warning System 65
7.4 Disaster Management Day on 28 November 66
7.5 Cell Broadcast Alerts and Landslide Risk Mapping 66
7.6 Monsoon 2026: Flash Floods, Landslides and Restorations 67
7.7 Tunnel Accident at Vishnugad–Pipalkoti Hydro Project, Chamoli 67
7.8 Snowfall Strands 136 Trekkers on Uttarkashi's High Passes 67
7.9 Chamoli Earthquake (M4.9) and the Early Warning System 68
7.10 Helicopter Crash near Jyotirmath Kills Six 69
7.11 SDRF Uttarakhand: India's First ISO-Certified Disaster Response Force 69
7.12 Disasters and Rescues of 2026: At a Glance 69

08 Environment, Ecology & Wildlife 71

8.1 Namami Gange: Aquatic Biodiversity Work in Uttarakhand 71
8.2 Hemileccinum indicum: New Mushroom from Bageshwar 71
8.3 Kotdwar Bird Festival 2026 at Saneh, Pauri 72
8.4 ARIES Study: Uttarakhand's Vegetation from Space, 2001–2022 72
8.5 Elephants: Train Collisions and Radio-Collaring before Kumbh 72
8.6 High Court: No Tree Felling in Mussoorie without Permission 73
8.7 Tiger Recorded at 3,015 m in Sunderdhunga Valley 74
8.8 Naini Lake Revival: Snow Trout, Aeration and Fish Release 74
8.9 Van Panchayats of Uttarakhand: Key Facts 75
8.10 Forest Research Institute, Dehradun: History and Facts 75
8.11 'Carry Me Back' Policy at Kedarnath 75
8.12 Harela 2026: One Crore Saplings in a Month 76
8.13 Springs and Rivers: SARA's One District One River, Bhagirath App 76
8.14 Wildlife Week 2026: Announcements at FRI, Dehradun 76
8.15 Himalayan Tahr and Geothermal Springs: October Notes 77
8.16 Heval River Revival Model, Tehri Garhwal 77

09 Tourism & Pilgrimage 78

9.1 Char Dham Yatra 2026: Winter Seats to Record Season 78
9.2 Swami Vivekananda Corridor Announced 80
9.3 Winter Tourism Conclave and 'Visit My State' Campaign 80
9.4 Record Tourist Footfall in 2025: 6.03 Crore 80
9.5 Haridwar Kumbh 2027: Preparations, Logo and Bathing Dates 81
9.6 83 Peaks Opened and the Adventure Tourism Push 82
9.7 Maa Purnagiri Mela 2026 83
9.8 Tehri Lake Festival and 'One State, One Global Destination' 83
9.9 International Yoga Festival, Rishikesh, and AYUSH 84
9.10 BKTC to Become Badri-Kedar Prabandhan Board? 84
9.11 Surya Devbhoomi Challenge 2.0 on the Panch Kedar Trail 84
9.12 Kailash Mansarovar Yatra 2026 via Lipulekh 85
9.13 Valley of Flowers Opens for the Season 85
9.14 Kanwar Yatra 2026 86
9.15 Homestay Scheme Spreads Tourism to Villages 86

10 Art, Culture & Heritage 87
10.1 Makar Sankranti Fairs: Magh Mela and Uttarayani 87
10.2 Nanda Devi Raj Jat Moved to 2027; Badi Jat 2026 87
10.3 Centenaries of Kalyan (Gita Press) and Gayatri Pariwar 90
10.4 Uttarakhand Tableau at Bharat Parv 2026: Copper Craft 90
10.5 Fairs, Festivals and Cultural Events of February 90
10.6 Phool Dei and Kumaoni Holi 91
10.7 Culture in the News: Other Items 91
10.8 State Tribal Festival 2026 and the State's Tribes 92
10.9 Champawat: Goljyu Mahotsav and Maa Varahi Dham 92
10.10 First GI Products Gallery and Lok Samvardhan Parv 92
10.11 12th National Handloom Day and Uttarakhand's Crafts 93
10.12 Hilljatra and the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission 93
10.13 State Movement Remembered: Khatima, Mussoorie, Rampur Tiraha 94
10.14 Nanda–Sunanda Mahotsav and Other September Festivals 94
10.15 Fairs and Festivals of October 2026 95
10.16 Culture, Language and the Creative Economy 95
10.17 Lekhak Gaon International Festival 2026: Two Sahitya Grams 96

11 Defence, Security & Policing 98
11.1 Republic Day 2026 Medals for Police and Fire Personnel 98
11.2 Chinyalisaur and Gauchar Airstrips Become Advanced Landing Grounds 98
11.3 Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 at Chaubatia 98
11.4 Uttarakhand Police: President's Colour, Martyrs and New Motto 99
11.5 IMA Passing Out Parade: First Women Cadets Commissioned 100
11.6 First NCC Training Academy at Ganiyan, Pauri 100
11.7 Yudh Abhyas 2026: India–US Exercise at Auli 101

12 Awards & Honours 102
12.1 National Youth Day: Mangal Dal Awards 2026 102
12.2 Padma Bhushan for Bhagat Singh Koshyari 102
12.3 Best State for Aviation Ecosystem at Wings India 2026 103
12.4 Uttarakhand Sahitya Gaurav Samman 2025 103
12.5 Other Honours: Digital Empowerment, Passport Verification, MMA Title 104
12.6 'Dholi' Wins Best Garhwali Film, 72nd National Film Awards 104
12.7 Teelu Rauteli and Anganwadi Worker Awards: Prize Money Raised 105
12.8 State Sports Awards on National Sports Day 105
12.9 New State Honours: Himalaya Vibhuti and Shaurya Puraskar 106

13 Appointments, Persons & Institutions 107
13.1 Key Appointments and Persons in News, 2026 107
13.2 Institutions in News: Forest Corporation Silver Jubilee and More 108
13.3 Former CM Maj Gen B.C. Khanduri Passes Away 109
13.4 Jaspal Rana and Other Obituaries of 2026 110
13.5 New Heads at IGNFA Dehradun and NIM Uttarkashi 110
13.6 Governor: Gurmit Singh's Record Tenure, Bisen Ninth Governor 111
13.7 UKPSC Gets Chairman Lt Gen Gajendra Joshi and New Members 112
13.8 Justice Sudhir Singh Recommended as High Court Chief Justice 112

14 Sports & Adventure 114
14.1 National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship, Roorkee 114

14.2 Kapkot Paragliding and Auli National Skiing Championships....114
14.3 Uttarakhand Reaches First-ever Ranji Trophy Semi-final....115
14.4 National Championships Hosted in April....115
14.5 Niti Xtreme Ultra Run 2026....116
14.6 Commonwealth Games 2026: Uttarakhand's Medallists....116
14.7 State Sports University and Sports Initiatives....117
14.8 Mountaineering: Kilimanjaro Climb and Mount Mukut Summit....117
14.9 Asian Games 2026: Medals with Uttarakhand Link....118
14.10 October Round-up and Uttarakhand's Sporting Achievers....118

15 Important Days....120
15.1 Important Days Observed in Uttarakhand, Jan–Oct 2026....120

16 Quick Revision: One-Liners....123

Ten Months at a Glance

The most important Uttarakhand developments of January – October 2026, month by month.

January 2026

Date	Development
3 Jan	Malta Mahotsav in Dehradun; Malta Mission announced with MSP for Malta and Galgal
6 Jan	State outlines VB-G RAM G benefits: 125 days work, 90:10 funding
8 Jan	Uttarakhand Police ranked 1st in ICJS 2.0 implementation (93.46)
8 Jan	₹392.52 crore sanctioned for Dugadda–Gumkhal road on NH-534
10 Jan	Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta takes office as Chief Justice of the Uttarakhand High Court
12 Jan	Mangal Dal awards on National Youth Day; Vivekananda Corridor announced
14 Jan	CM opens Magh Mela, Uttarkashi; Uttarayani fairs mark Makar Sankranti
14 Jan	Export Preparedness Index 2024: Uttarakhand 1st among small states
14 Jan	Namami Gange aquatic-biodiversity initiatives launched at WII, Dehradun
14 Jan	Winter Tourism Conclave begins at Uttarkashi
15 Jan	ITBP–state MoU for Swasth Seema Abhiyan in 108 border villages
16 Jan	National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship opens at COER University, Roorkee
16 Jan	Uttarakhand a 'Leader' in DPIIT's 5th Startup Ecosystem Ranking
18 Jan	Nanda Devi Raj Jat postponed to 2027; confirmed at Nauti on 23 January
25 Jan	Padma Bhushan for Bhagat Singh Koshyari announced
26 Jan	New mushroom Hemileccinum indicum reported from Bageshwar
27 Jan	First UCC Diwas; UCC (Amendment) Ordinance in force
28 Jan	Chinyalisaur and Gauchar airstrips to MoD as Advanced Landing Grounds
28 Jan	Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 approved — 100 kt target by 2030
29 Jan	Best State for Aviation Ecosystem award at Wings India, Hyderabad

February 2026

Date	Development
1 Feb	16th Finance Commission report tabled; Uttarakhand's share rises to 1.14%
3 Feb	2025 tourist footfall: record 6.03 crore
5 Feb	National Accuracy Paragliding Championship begins at Kapkot; Manish Upreti wins
7 Feb	First works of ₹3,300 crore Sharda Corridor begin at Tanakpur
8 Feb	Uttarakhand beat Jharkhand by an innings, reach first Ranji semi-final
10 Feb	Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana launched for single women
13 Feb	National Skiing Championship opens at Auli; Himachal overall champion
18 Feb	Solar capacity crosses 1 GW (1,027.87 MW)
20 Feb	Jan Jan ki Sarkar Phase I ends — 681 camps, 5.33 lakh citizens
24 Feb	14-member panel under Prof. R. Pradeep Kumar to revise by-laws for Zone VI
24 Feb	Exercise Dharma Guardian (India–Japan, 7th edition) opens at Chaubatia, Almora
25 Feb	Honey Production Policy and Advanced Apple Nursery Scheme, 2026 approved
26 Feb	₹145.93 crore to 33,251 girls under Nanda Gaura Yojana

01

POLITY & GOVERNANCE

Polity, Legislature & Governance

1.1 'Jan Jan ki Sarkar, Jan Jan ke Dwar' Outreach Campaign

WHY IN NEWS Launched on 17 December 2025 in all 13 districts, the campaign's Phase I ended on 20 February 2026; Phase II began on 4 July 2026.

A multi-department outreach in which officials hold camps at **nyaya panchayat and block level** (in Phase II also at district and tehsil level) for **grievance redressal, issue of certificates and enrolment in schemes**. Services include social-security pensions, Ayushman cards, aids for the disabled and agricultural equipment.

Indicator	Phase I (till 20 Feb 2026)	Phase II (till 2 Aug 2026)
Camps organised	681	198
Citizens participating	5,33,452	1,34,740
Complaints received	51,053	23,219
Complaints resolved on the spot	33,755	20,808
Certificate applications	74,184	—
Citizens benefited by services / schemes	About 3 lakh	81,753

- Phase I was extended by the CM's order and ended on **20 February 2026**. By 9 January, 300+ camps had reached 1,97,522 citizens; the highest single-day reach was **7,876 citizens on 24 January**.
- Total participation in Phases I and II crossed **6.5 lakh** by 2 August 2026.

1.2 Ankita Bhandari Case: CBI Inquiry Recommended

WHY IN NEWS On 9 January 2026, acting on a request from Ankita Bhandari's parents, the state government recommended a CBI inquiry into the 2022 murder case.

- The case was earlier probed by an SIT headed by a woman IPS officer; the trial court awarded **life imprisonment to the three accused in May 2025**.
- On 8 January 2026 the State Nursing College, **Dobh-Srikot (Pauri Garhwal)**, was renamed **'Late Ankita Bhandari Government Nursing College'**, as her parents had asked.

1.3 Digital Governance: Revenue Portals, TMS, myScheme, Revenue Lok Adalat

WHY IN NEWS The CM launched six revenue portals on 10 January 2026, including certified Khatauni online; the TMS and myScheme portals followed in February and a statewide Revenue Lok Adalat on 28 March.

Six revenue portals (10 January 2026)

Launched by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami at his residence in Dehradun; developed by the **Board of Revenue (Rajasva Parishad)** with NIC. Citizens can now get a **certified Khatauni online** for a fixed fee, without visiting the tehsil.

Portal	Purpose
e-Bhulekh (updated)	Certified Khatauni copies online through a payment gateway
Bhu-Naksha	Cadastral (village) maps free of charge
Bhulekh Ansh	Separate share records for joint landholders; base for a farmer registry
Bhu-Anumati	Online land-use permissions (industrial/agricultural); land-purchase permissions in Haridwar and Udham Singh Nagar

02

POLICIES & SCHEMES

Policies & Welfare Schemes

2.1 VB-G RAM G Act: What It Means for Uttarakhand

WHY IN NEWS The Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025, which replaces MGNREGA, received Presidential assent on 21 December 2025. On 6 January 2026 the state government set out its benefits for Uttarakhand's villages.

Feature	MGNREGA (2005)	VB-G RAM G Act (2025)
Guaranteed work per rural household	100 days a year	**125 days** a year
Funding (Uttarakhand)	Centre bore unskilled wages	**90:10** Centre–state (Himalayan state); 60:40 for general states
Pause during farm season	No provision	Up to **60 days** a year during sowing and harvest
Wage payment	Within 15 days	**Weekly**, with compensation for delay
Administrative expenses	6%	9%

Other key provisions

- **Unemployment allowance** if work is not provided within **15 days** of demand.
- Transparency: biometric attendance, **geo-tagging** of works, **AI-based fraud detection** and **social audits twice a year**.
- **Priority works:** water conservation (ponds, check dams), rural infrastructure, livelihood assets and disaster-resilience works — suited to a hill state prone to landslides and flash floods.

BACKGROUND — MGNREGA

- The Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act, 2005 gave a legal right to 100 days of unskilled wage work to every rural household.
- VB-G RAM G stands for 'Viksit Bharat–Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin)'; it raises the guarantee to 125 days.
- The higher 90:10 central share applies to North-Eastern and Himalayan states such as Uttarakhand.

2.2 Swasth Seema Abhiyan: ITBP Health Care in Border Villages

WHY IN NEWS On 15 January 2026 the state government and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) signed an MoU, in the Chief Minister's presence, to provide health services in 108 border villages.

Campaign	Swasth Seema Abhiyan (first phase)
Partner	Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)
Coverage	**108 border villages** of 3 districts — **Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi**
Linked to	Vibrant Villages Programme — to stop out-migration from frontier villages

Partner	Responsibilities
ITBP	Doctors and paramedical staff, scheduled visits, examination rooms, telemedicine, medical records, management of medicines and equipment

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03

ECONOMY & FINANCE

State Economy, Budget & Finance

3.1 16th Finance Commission: Uttarakhand's Share Rises to 1.14%

WHY IN NEWS The report of the 16th Finance Commission (Chairman: Dr Arvind Panagariya), covering 2026-27 to 2030-31, was tabled in Parliament on 1 February 2026. Uttarakhand's share in central taxes rises to 1.14%.

Chairman	Dr Arvind Panagariya
Constituted	31 December 2023, by the President under Article 280
Award period	1 April 2026 to 31 March 2031 (five years)
States' share (vertical devolution)	41% of the divisible pool, unchanged from the 15th FC
Uttarakhand's share (horizontal)	1.14% (15th FC: 1.118%, about 1.12%)
Grants discontinued	Revenue-deficit grants, sector-specific grants and state-specific grants
Disaster funds (SDRMF)	Corpus of ₹2,04,401 crore; Centre : State sharing 90:10 for North-Eastern and Himalayan states (including Uttarakhand), 75:25 for others

Horizontal devolution formula

Criterion	16th FC weight	15th FC weight
Income distance	42.5%	45%
Population (2011)	17.5%	15%
Area	10%	15%
Forest (and ecology)	10%	10%
Demographic performance	10%	12.5%
Contribution to GDP (new)	10%	—
Tax and fiscal effort	Dropped	2.5%
Total	100%	100%

The **forest criterion** helps Uttarakhand, where forests cover about 71% of the geographical area (as per state records). The new **contribution-to-GDP** criterion rewards states that add more to the national economy.

KNOW THE COMMISSION

- The Finance Commission is a constitutional body set up by the President under Article 280, normally every five years.
- It recommends how the Union's net tax proceeds are shared between the Centre and states (vertical) and among states (horizontal), and grants-in-aid under Article 275.
- The 15th Finance Commission (Chairman: N.K. Singh) covered 2021-22 to 2025-26.

3.2 Uttarakhand Economic Survey 2025-26

WHY IN NEWS The Economic Survey 2025-26 was released on 5 March 2026 by Principal Secretary (Planning) Dr R. Meenakshi Sundaram and tabled in the budget session. The Planning Department prepared it with NCAER.

Indicator	Figure
GSDP at current prices, 2025-26	₹3,81,889 crore (2021-22: ₹2.54 lakh crore — about 1.5 times in three years)

04

RANKINGS & REPORTS

Rankings, Indices & Reports

4.1 Uttarakhand in Rankings, Jan–Oct 2026

WHY IN NEWS Between January and October 2026 Uttarakhand was placed first or in the top group in several national rankings, indices and awards. The table sums them up; each is explained in the articles that follow.

Index	Publisher	Uttarakhand's position	Category / notes
ICJS 2.0 implementation (Jan; dashboard Mar)	NCRB, Ministry of Home Affairs	1st (93.46)	All states; Haryana 2nd, Assam 3rd
Export Preparedness Index 2024 (14 Jan)	NITI Aayog	1st	Small states, NE states and UTs
States' Startup Ecosystem Ranking, 5th edition (16 Jan)	DPIIT, Ministry of Commerce & Industry	Leader	One of 11 Leaders; Gujarat, Arunachal, Goa Best Performers
Fiscal Health Index 2026 (Mar)	NITI Aayog	2nd (52.5), Achiever	10 NE & Himalayan states; Arunachal 1st
District SDG Index (27 May)	Planning Dept with CPPGG	Rudraprayag 1st district	State-level ranking of districts
Fully literate state (Jun–Aug)	ULLAS, Ministry of Education	6th state	Literacy 98.7% (state assessment)
Investment Friendliness Index (17 Jul)	NITI Aayog	1st (47.5); 11th overall	Himalayan & NE states; Frontrunner
GI registrations (Aug)	DPIIT data	10th (29 GIs)	Uttar Pradesh 1st (81)
Swachh Vayu Survekshan 2026 (7 Sep)	MoEFCC / CPCB	Dehradun 12th	Cities of 3–10 lakh population
PMAY-Urban 2.0 award (5 Oct)	Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs	Best Performing State	NE and hilly states/UTs; houses grounded vs sanctioned

4.2 ICJS 2.0: Uttarakhand First in the Country

WHY IN NEWS On 8 January 2026 Uttarakhand Police was ranked first in the country in implementing the Inter-operable Criminal Justice System (ICJS) 2.0. The NCRB's CCTNS/ICJS Progress Dashboard (data up to January 2026, reported on 7 March) confirmed the top rank.

Rank	State	Score
1	Uttarakhand	93.46
2	Haryana	93.41
3	Assam	93.16
4	Sikkim	91.82
5	Madhya Pradesh	90.55

- The ranking also measures implementation of the three new criminal laws — **Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita and Bharatiya Sakshya Adhiniyam** (in force since 1 July 2024).
- **'One Data, One Entry'** — data entered once by the police is shared in real time with e-Courts, e-Prisons, e-Prosecution and e-Forensics, along with fingerprint data.
- Over **23,000 police personnel** were trained on the new laws.

05

INFRASTRUCTURE & ENERGY

Infrastructure, Connectivity & Energy

5.1 National Highways: Proposals, Sanctions and Bypasses

WHY IN NEWS On 5 January 2026 the CM placed four highway projects before Union Minister Nitin Gadkari; through the year the Centre sanctioned the Dugadda–Gumkhal road (8 January) and the Rishikesh bypass (31 March), and trial traffic began on the Rudraprayag bypass on 26 October.

Projects sought at the Bharat Mandapam review (5 January)

Project	NH	Length	Cost (₹ crore)
Rishikesh bypass (four-lane; elevated sections for elephant corridor; bridge on Chandrabhaga)	NH-07	12.67 km	1,161.27
Almora–Danya–Panar–Ghat (two-lane)	NH-309B	76 km	988
Almora–Bageshwar–Kanda–Udiyari Bend	NH-309A	84.04 km	1,001.99
Jyolikot–Khairna–Gairsain–Karnaprayag (two-lane)	NH-109	235 km	—

Figures cited at the review: **3,723 km** of national highways in the state; **₹12,769 crore** approved for the Char Dham road project; **193 km** of NHAI roads under construction at ₹15,890 crore.

Sanctions and works, January–October 2026

Date	Project	Key facts
8 Jan	Dugadda–Gumkhal road, NH-534 (old NH-119), Pauri Garhwal	₹392.52 crore (MoRTH); 18.1 km two-laning with paved shoulders; links UP plains with Pauri hills, access to Lansdowne Cantonment, alternative Char Dham route; next stretch Gumkhal–Satpuli (21 km)
31 Mar	Rishikesh bypass, NH-7	₹1,105.79 crore (revised from ₹1,151.18 crore); 12.67 km four-lane; Teenpani flyover to Kharasrote bridge via Bhattowala and Dhalwala; EPC mode, 3 years
13 Aug	Four NH spur/link proposals (sent 24 July)	Forwarded for examination: Sikuda Band–NTD, Almora (~1 km, with tunnel; spur of NH-309B); Seraghat–Badechina (45 km); Marchula–Bhikiyasain (72 km); Kalsi–Chakrata (44 km; spur of NH-707A/NH-507)
26 Oct	Rudraprayag bridge-tunnel bypass (Char Dham road project)	About ₹156 crore; 200 m bridge over the Alaknanda + 900.30 m tunnel (about 1.18 km with approaches); links NH-107 (Kedarnath route) with NH-07 (Badrinath route), bypassing Rudraprayag town; trial traffic from 26 October

BACKGROUND: ROADS OF UTTARAKHAND

- About 86% of the state's 53,483 sq km is mountainous, so roads are the main mode of transport; agencies include NHAI, BRO, PWD and PMGSY.
- Char Dham Pariyojana: about 889 km (often rounded to 900 km) of all-weather two-lane highways with paved shoulders, tunnels and bypasses linking Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri.
- Dobra–Chanthi bridge over Tehri lake (about 725 m) is among the longest motorable suspension bridges in India.
- BRO maintains strategic roads towards Mana, Niti Pass and Lipulekh.

06

AGRICULTURE & RURAL ECONOMY

Agriculture, Industry & Livelihoods

6.1 Malta Mahotsav and the Malta Mission

WHY IN NEWS On 3 January 2026 the CM inaugurated the Uttarakhand Malta Mahotsav at the Circuit House garden, Garhi Cantt, Dehradun, and announced a 'Malta Mission' to raise production of the hill citrus fruit.

Malta is a sweet-orange variety grown in the mid-hills of Garhwal and Kumaon. **Galgal** is the large hill lemon. Under the Malta Mission the state offers the following support:

Support	Details
Minimum Support Price	Declared for Malta and Galgal (hill lemon)
Orchard development (plantation)	50% subsidy
Micro-irrigation	70–80% subsidy
Food-processing units	Up to 60% subsidy
Marketing	Malta festivals in every district and a Malta Festival in New Delhi

A second, two-day Malta festival was held at the ITBP stadium, Seema Dwar, Dehradun (7–8 January).

6.2 Pabo Floriculture under Collective Cooperative Farming

WHY IN NEWS In January 2026 farmers of Pabo block (Pauri Garhwal) were reported growing chrysanthemum and gladiolus together on once-barren land under collective cooperative farming.

Place	Pabo development block, Pauri Garhwal
Flowers	Chrysanthemum and gladiolus (millets also sown)
Scheme	Veer Madho Singh Bhandari Collective Cooperative Farming Scheme (Cooperation Department)
Launch in Pabo	3 August 2025 at Chopra village by Cooperation Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat; about 170 nali of barren land brought under the plough
State coverage (Nov 2025)	1,235 acres; about 2,400 farmers; 24 cooperative societies; 70 clusters selected
Target	Revive 4,750 acres of unused land

Farmers pool unused land into clusters and farm it with modern methods through cooperative societies. The scheme aims to bring barren land back under cultivation, encourage reverse migration, develop multipurpose PACS as business units and promote millets, vegetables, fruits, herbs and agri-tourism.

WHO WAS MADHO SINGH BHANDARI?

- A 17th-century general of the Garhwal kingdom.
- Folklore remembers him for cutting a tunnel canal that brought water to his village, Malethi.

07

DISASTER MANAGEMENT

Disaster Management

7.1 Entire Uttarakhand in New Seismic Zone VI

WHY IN NEWS The Bureau of Indian Standards' revised earthquake code (IS 1893 Part 1: 2025), released in late November 2025, places the whole Himalayan arc, including all of Uttarakhand, in a new highest-risk Zone VI. On 24 February 2026 the state formed a 14-member expert panel to revise its building by-laws to match.

What the new seismic map changed

Point	Old map (IS 1893: 2002)	New map (IS 1893 Part 1: 2025)
Zones	Four zones: II, III, IV, V	New highest zone, Zone VI, added
Himalaya	Split between Zones IV and V	Entire Himalayan arc (Jammu & Kashmir to Arunachal Pradesh) in Zone VI; Andaman & Nicobar too
Uttarakhand	Partly Zone IV (e.g. Dehradun), partly Zone V	Whole state in Zone VI
India's area at risk	About 59% earthquake-prone	About 61% in moderate to high hazard zones; about 75% of people live in seismically active areas
Method	Deterministic, past-quake based	Probabilistic Seismic Hazard Assessment (PSHA)
Boundary towns	No clear rule	A town on a zone boundary goes to the higher zone

For Uttarakhand this means the relief that building norms gave to Zone IV areas ends. Every new house, school, office, road and bridge in every district must be designed for stronger shaking, and construction costs in both hills and plains may rise.

Expert panel to revise building by-laws (24 February 2026)

Formed by	Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan, on the direction of CM Pushkar Singh Dhami
Size	14 members
Chair	Prof. R. Pradeep Kumar, Director, CSIR–Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee
Member Secretary / Convener	Shantanu Sarkar, Director, Uttarakhand Landslide Mitigation and Management Centre (ULMMC), Dehradun
Members from	CBRI, IIT Roorkee, BIS, UNDP, BRIDCUL, PWD, Irrigation, Town & Country Planning, development authorities, geologists
Focus	Earthquake-resistant design, geotechnical investigation, wind load, landslide safety, climate-responsive construction, traditional hill building methods, land use and materials, training of engineers
Report to	Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) and Housing Department
Why needed	State by-laws still follow IS 1893: 2002; they now allow 7–8 storeys in the plains and 3–4 in the hills

Low-intensity tremors (19–21 April 2026)

The National Center for Seismology (NCS) recorded six low-intensity quakes in Bageshwar and Pauri Garhwal districts: three in Bageshwar on 19 April, more in Bageshwar and Pauri on 20 April, and the largest, **magnitude 2.6**, in Bageshwar on 21 April. No damage was reported.

08

ENVIRONMENT & ECOLOGY

Environment, Ecology & Wildlife

8.1 Namami Gange: Aquatic Biodiversity Work in Uttarakhand

WHY IN NEWS On 14 January 2026 Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil launched aquatic-biodiversity initiatives under the Namami Gange Mission at the Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun. On 12 June 2026, 7,000 golden mahseer fingerlings were released into the Alaknanda under the same mission.

Initiatives launched at WII, Dehradun (14 January)

Initiative	Details
Aqua Life Conservation Monitoring Centre for Ganga and other rivers	Labs for ecotoxicology, aquatic ecology, spatial ecology and microplastics
Dolphin Rescue Ambulance	Run by TSAFI for rescue of distressed Gangetic dolphins
Indian Skimmer Conservation Project	With the Bombay Natural History Society (BNHS)
M.Sc. in Freshwater Ecology & Conservation	Two-year course at WII

- Figures cited: Gangetic dolphin population is over 6,000.
- 20 Red-crowned Roofed Turtles were reintroduced into the upper Ganga — the first monitored reintroduction in 30 years.

Golden mahseer into the Alaknanda (12 June)

Fingerlings released	7,000 golden mahseer, upstream of the Dhari Devi dam area on the Alaknanda
Lead agency	ICAR-Central Inland Fisheries Research Institute (CIFRI), Barrackpore (Director Dr Pradip Dey)
Partners	Zoology Department of HNB Garhwal University and Tehri Garhwal Fisheries Department
Source of seed	Mahseer hatcheries at HNBGU's Chauras campus and the Tehri fisheries facility
Mission total	About 40,000 mahseer juveniles released so far in the Ganga basin

GOLDEN MAHSEER (TOR PUTITORA)

- State fish of Uttarakhand (also of J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Arunachal Pradesh); called the 'tiger of the water'.
- IUCN status: Endangered; threats are dams, habitat loss, overfishing and pollution.

8.2 Hemileccinum indicum: New Mushroom from Bageshwar

WHY IN NEWS Scientists of the Botanical Survey of India (BSI), with the University of Torino (Italy), described a new pitted-spore bolete mushroom from the oak forests of Bageshwar district; the paper appeared in the Nordic Journal of Botany (reported 26 January 2026).

Species	Hemileccinum indicum
Place	Dhakuri area, Bageshwar district, above 2,600 m, in temperate oak forest
Significance	First record of the genus Hemileccinum in India
Key feature	Violet-brown wrinkled cap; tiny pits on the spores seen only under an electron microscope

09

TOURISM & PILGRIMAGE

Tourism & Pilgrimage

9.1 Char Dham Yatra 2026: Winter Seats to Record Season

WHY IN NEWS The winter yatra ran at the four winter seats in January. The shrines opened between 19 and 23 April 2026, and the season crossed a record 60 lakh pilgrims in October.

The four dhams: opening, closing and winter seats

Dham	District / river	Opened 2026	Kapat closing 2026	Winter seat
Yamunotri	Uttarkashi / Yamuna	19 April (Akshaya Tritiya)	11 Nov, 10.28 am (Bhai Dooj)	Kharsali (Khushimath), Uttarkashi
Gangotri	Uttarkashi / Bhagirathi	19 April (Akshaya Tritiya)	10 Nov, 12.05 pm (Annakut)	Mukhba (Mukhimath), Uttarkashi
Kedarnath	Rudraprayag / Mandakini	22 April, 8 am	11 Nov, 8.30 am (Bhai Dooj)	Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath (Rudraprayag)
Badrinath	Chamoli / Alaknanda	23 April, 6.15 am	16 Nov, 9.37 pm; dolis leave 17 Nov	Yogdhyan Badri, Pandukeshwar and Narsingh Temple, Jyotirmath (Chamoli)
Hemkund Sahib	Chamoli / Lakshman Ganga	23 May	10 Oct, 2 pm (Lokpal Laxman temple same day)	—

- **Winter yatra:** more than 27,000 pilgrims visited the winter seats up to 15 January 2026 — Kedarnath (Ukhimath) 16,950, Badrinath 6,407, Gangotri (Mukhba) 3,298 and Yamunotri (Kharsali) 1,017.
- Other closings: Tungnath on 6 November and Madmaheshwar on 16 November 2026. Kedarnath's doli reaches Ukhimath on 13 November.

Timeline of the 2026 season

Date	Event
23 Jan	Basant Panchami: Badrinath opening date (23 April) fixed at the Narendranagar royal palace (Tehri); Gadu Ghada (tel kalash) ritual on 7 April
15 Feb	Maha Shivratri: Kedarnath date fixed by Panchang at Omkareshwar Temple, Ukhimath; Panchmukhi Doli left Ukhimath 19 April and reached the Dham 21 April
6 Mar	Online registration opened at 7 am (registrationandtouristcare.uk.gov.in and 'Tourist Care Uttarakhand' app); 6,17,853 registered by 16 March
17 Mar	e-Swasthya Dham portal announced for real-time health monitoring of pilgrims
17 Apr	Offline registration began (2,713 on day one); online registrations had crossed 18.23 lakh
18 Apr	CM inaugurated the yatra at Rishikesh; portals opened 19–23 April, about ten days earlier than in 2025
30 Apr	4,97,526 pilgrims had darshan (Kedarnath 2,44,642)
8 May	BPCL-built (CSR) hospital opened at Kedarnath; run by the Swami Vivekananda Health Mission Society
23 May	Record 96,116 pilgrims in a single day; total 20.76 lakh in 35 days; Hemkund Sahib opened
21 Aug	48.05 lakh pilgrims in 125 days despite monsoon disruptions
13 Sep	50.28 lakh in 147 days; all-time records at Gangotri and Yamunotri

10 ART & CULTURE
Art, Culture & Heritage

10.1 Makar Sankranti Fairs: Magh Mela and Uttarayani

WHY IN NEWS Makar Sankranti (14 January 2026) was marked across the state by river fairs and the Ghughutiya festival; the CM opened the Magh Mela at Uttarkashi the same day.

- **Magh Mela, Uttarkashi:** The CM opened the week-long fair at Ramlila Ground on 14 January in the presence of the dolis of Kandar Devta and Hari Maharaj; devotees bathed in the Bhagirathi.
- **Uttarayani Kauthig, Lucknow:** On 14 January the CM attended the 15-day fair organised by the Parvatiya Mahaparishad for people from Uttarakhand living in Lucknow.

KNOW THE FESTIVALS

- **Uttarayani Mela, Bageshwar** is held at the confluence of the Saryu and Gomti. In January 1921 the coolie-begar system was ended there under the leadership of Badri Datt Pandey.
- **Ghughutiya (Kale Kauwa)** is celebrated in Kumaon: children offer sweets shaped like 'ghughut' to crows.
- **Magh Mela of Uttarkashi** is a trade and religious fair of the Barahat region; it is also called 'Barahat ka Thaulu' (Barahat is the old name of Uttarkashi).

10.2 Nanda Devi Raj Jat Moved to 2027; Badi Jat 2026

WHY IN NEWS On 18 January 2026 the Shri Nanda Devi Raj Jat Committee postponed the Raj Jat to 2027 (confirmed at Nauti on Vasant Panchami, 23 January). Separately, the Badi Jat of Goddess Nanda set out from Kurud (Chamoli) on 5 September 2026 and concluded on 30 September.

Raj Jat Postponed to 2027

- **18 January 2026, Karnaprayag:** Committee president (Rajkunwar) Dr Rakesh Kunwar and secretary Bhuvan Nautiyal announced the unanimous decision to hold the Raj Jat in 2027 instead of 2026.
- **Reasons:** the auspicious dates would bring the yatra to the high Himalaya around 19–20 September, when snowfall, hail and cold were likely; basic facilities and route repairs in the uninhabited stretch were incomplete; priests also found 2026 astrologically inauspicious (the extra lunar month, malmas).
- **23 January 2026 (Vasant Panchami), Nauti:** the Raj Chhantoli reached Nauti from Kansuwa, the Rajkunwars' village, and the 2027 date was announced at the Nanda Devi temple. The 2026 yatra had been only a proposal until the manauti ritual. The Dinpatta (schedule) will be issued on Vasant Panchami 2027.
- The Raj Jat was last held in 2014.

Badi Jat 2026 from Kurud

The **Badi Jat** of Goddess Nanda (in her **Rajrajeshwari** form), held once in about 12 years, began on **5 September 2026** from the **Nanda Siddhapeeth at Kurud** (Nanda Nagar–Ghat area, Chamoli) amid dhol-damau, after five days of worship at Kurud. The doli of the goddess travels about **280 km on foot** towards Kailash, symbolising her journey from her maternal home to her in-laws' home. Unlike the yearly Lok Jat, which ends at Bedni, the Badi Jat went beyond Bedni to **Homkund**.

Start	5 September 2026, Nanda Siddhapeeth, Kurud (Chamoli)
Organiser	Kurud Nanda Dham (temple) committee
Distance	About 280 km on foot (some reports 296 km); 26 halts, first halt Charbang
Guide	Four-horned ram (chausingha khadu)

11 DEFENCE & SECURITY
Defence, Security & Policing

11.1 Republic Day 2026 Medals for Police and Fire Personnel

WHY IN NEWS On the eve of the 77th Republic Day (25 January 2026), eight personnel of Uttarakhand Police and Fire Service were named for President's medals.

Medal	No.	Awardee(s)
President's Medal for Distinguished Service	1	Yogendra Singh Rawat, IG (Personnel), Police HQ
Medal for Meritorious Service (Police)	5	Prabodh Kumar Ghildiyal (DSP, Rudraprayag); Shivraj Singh (DSP, Champawat); Jyoti Chauhan (Inspector, Vigilance, Dehradun); Subhash Chandra (Inspector, Intelligence HQ); Sajid Ali (ASI, Police HQ)
Medal for Meritorious Service (Fire)	2	Girish Chandra Lohni and Mukesh Kumar Pokhariyal (Leading Firemen, Dehradun)

11.2 Chinyalisaur and Gauchar Airstrips Become Advanced Landing Grounds

WHY IN NEWS On 28 January 2026 the state cabinet approved handing over the Chinyalisaur (Uttarkashi) and Gauchar (Chamoli) airstrips to the Ministry of Defence for joint civil–military use as Advanced Landing Grounds (ALGs) of the Indian Air Force.

Airstrip	District / valley	Strategic route
Chinyalisaur (Dharasu)	Uttarkashi — Bhagirathi valley	Gangotri–Harsil axis towards the China (Tibet) border
Gauchar	Chamoli — Alaknanda valley	Badrinath–Joshimath axis towards the Mana and Niti passes

Both airstrips lie close to the international border. The move followed high-level talks between the state, the **Indian Air Force** and the **Ministry of Defence**. The airstrips will remain available for civil flights, while the IAF will use them for **transport and rescue operations**, troop and supply movement, and disaster relief.

WHAT IS AN ADVANCED LANDING GROUND?

- An ALG is a forward airstrip from which the Air Force can operate transport aircraft and helicopters close to the border.
- ALGs cut the time needed to move troops, equipment and relief material to high-altitude areas where roads are slow and landslide-prone.
- In Uttarakhand, which shares about 350 km of border with China (Tibet), such airstrips also serve as staging bases for disaster rescue.

11.3 Exercise Dharma Guardian 2026 at Chaubatia

WHY IN NEWS The 7th edition of the India–Japan joint military exercise Dharma Guardian was held at the Foreign Training Node, Chaubatia (Ranikhet, Almora) from 24 February to 9 March 2026.

Countries	India (Indian Army) and Japan (Japan Ground Self-Defense Force, JGSDF)
Edition / dates	**7th**; 24 February – 9 March 2026
Venue	Foreign Training Node, **Chaubatia**, Ranikhet (Almora district)

12 AWARDS Awards & Honours

12.1 National Youth Day: Mangal Dal Awards 2026

WHY IN NEWS On National Youth Day (12 January 2026) the Chief Minister presented the state's Mahila Mangal Dal and Yuvak Mangal Dal awards at Parade Ground, Dehradun.

Rank	Mahila Mangal Dal	Yuvak Mangal Dal	Prize
1st	**Dhapla** (Nainital)	**Mokh Malla** (Chamoli)	₹1,00,000
2nd	**Sema** (Chamoli)	**Sundarpur Raikwal** (Nainital)	₹50,000
3rd	Banali (Tehri Garhwal)	Chaudirai (Champawat)	₹25,000

At the same event the CM announced a **Swami Vivekananda Corridor** linking places in Uttarakhand associated with Swami Vivekananda's journeys and meditation, such as **Almora, Kakrighat** and Champawat (Mayavati Advaita Ashram). Speech-competition winners and NSS awardees were also honoured.

BACKGROUND

- **National Youth Day** (12 January) marks the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda (born 1863); it has been observed since 1985.
- Mahila Mangal Dals and Yuvak Mangal Dals are village-level women's and youth groups promoted by the state's Youth Welfare Department.

12.2 Padma Bhushan for Bhagat Singh Koshyari

WHY IN NEWS In the Padma Awards announced on 25 January 2026, former Chief Minister Bhagat Singh Koshyari was named for the Padma Bhushan (Public Affairs); President Droupadi Murmu conferred it at Rashtrapati Bhavan on 25 May 2026.

Born	17 June 1942, Palanadhura village, **Bageshwar** district
Chief Minister	**2nd CM of Uttarakhand** (then 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)
Other roles	Took part in the statehood movement; writer in Hindi and Kumaoni
Uttarakhand in Padma 2026	Koshyari was the **only awardee** listed from Uttarakhand. Padma Shri awardee **Khem Raj Sundriyal** (handloom weaving, about six decades) has roots in Uttarakhand but is listed under **Haryana** (works from Panipat)

Padma Awards 2026	Number
Padma Vibhushan	5
Padma Bhushan	13
Padma Shri	113
Total (19 women; 16 posthumous)	**131**

On the same Republic Day eve, eight Uttarakhand police and fire personnel were named for President's medals, led by IG Yogendra Singh Rawat (Distinguished Service).

13

PERSONS IN NEWS

Appointments, Persons & Institutions

13.1 Key Appointments and Persons in News, 2026

WHY IN NEWS From a new High Court Chief Justice in January to a new Governor in October 2026, Uttarakhand saw changes at the top of several constitutional bodies and institutions; several people from the state were also honoured.

The table lists the main appointments of January–October 2026 in date order. The Governor, UKPSC, High Court and IGNFA–NIM changes are explained in separate articles of this section.

Key Appointments 2026

Post	Person	Month
Chief Justice, Uttarakhand High Court	Justice Manoj Kumar Gupta (from Allahabad HC), from 10 January; retired 8 October	Jan
Cabinet ministers (five new, oath by Governor on 20 March)	Madan Kaushik, Khajan Das, Bharat Singh Chaudhary, Pradeep Batra, Ram Singh Kaira	Mar
Director, Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy (IGNFA), Dehradun	Dr Rajendra Prasad Khajuria, IFS (1991, Andhra Pradesh cadre), took charge 2 July	Jul
17th Principal, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering (NIM), Uttarkashi	Col S.S. Rajpurohit	Jul
Chairman, Uttarakhand Public Service Commission (UKPSC)	Lt Gen Gajendra Joshi (Retd), of Latoli (Champawat)	Jul
Member, UKPSC	Dr Hem Chandra Pandey, of Tarikhet (Almora)	Jul
Member, UKPSC	Yogendra Rawat (notification 10 August)	Aug
Vice-Chancellor, Kumaun University, Nainital	Prof. Satpal Singh Bisht (3 September; three years; earlier VC of Soban Singh Jeena University, Almora)	Sep
Rajya Sabha member from Uttarakhand	Dinesh Arya (BJP, Haldwani), elected unopposed on 9 October to the seat of Naresh Bansal (term ends 25 November)	Oct
Acting Chief Justice, Uttarakhand High Court	Justice Manoj Kumar Tiwari (born Pithoragarh, 1965), from 9 October	Oct
Governor of Uttarakhand (ninth)	Dr Dhal Singh Bisen — appointed 12 October, oath 19 October	Oct
Chairman, Uttarakhand Minority Hunar Council	Mufti Shamoon Qasmi	Oct
Chief Justice, Uttarakhand High Court (recommended)	Justice Sudhir Singh, Acting CJ of Patna HC — Collegium, 26 October	Oct

Other Persons in News

Month	Person	In news for
Mar	Dr Jiten Thakur	Uttarakhand Sahitya Bhushan Samman, the state's highest literary honour (30 March)
Mar	Hemant Dwivedi	Chairman, Badrinath-Kedarnath Temple Committee (BKTC); announced the Char Dham 2026 arrangements

14 SPORTS Sports & Adventure

14.1 National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship, Roorkee

WHY IN NEWS The Chief Minister virtually inaugurated the National Paralympic Powerlifting Championship at COER University, Roorkee (Haridwar) on 16 January 2026.

Para athletes from across the country competed at **COER University, Roorkee**. The CM called the event a celebration of willpower and of inclusion in sport. Powerlifting is a recognised Paralympic sport.

Venue	COER University, Roorkee (Haridwar district)
Inauguration	16 January 2026, virtually by CM Pushkar Singh Dhami
Honoured guests	Murlikant Petkar — India's first Paralympic gold medallist (swimming, 1972); para-swimmer Satyendra Singh Lohiya
Follow-up	17 January — Paralympian Dr. Deepa Malik met the CM and discussed a proposal for a para-sports university in the state
India at Paris Paralympics 2024	29 medals (7 gold, 9 silver, 13 bronze) — best ever

BACKGROUND

- Deepa Malik won silver in shot put F53 at Rio 2016, the first Indian woman to win a Paralympic medal.
- Satyendra Singh Lohiya was the first Indian para-athlete to swim across the English Channel (relay).

14.2 Kapkot Paragliding and Auli National Skiing Championships

WHY IN NEWS Kapkot (Bageshwar) hosted a five-day National Accuracy Paragliding Championship from 5 February 2026, and Auli (Chamoli) hosted the National Skiing Championship and Winter Carnival from 13 to 16 February 2026.

National Accuracy Paragliding Championship, Kapkot

Pilots took off from the **Jalekh hills** and landed at Kedareshwar Maidan, Kapkot. In **accuracy flying**, a pilot must land as close as possible to a fixed target, so the contest tests precise control rather than distance. DM Akanksha Konde and local MLA Suresh Singh Gariya inaugurated it; 92 pilots registered, 78 flew and 55 completed all four rounds. Women pilots got special incentive awards.

Position	Pilot	Prize
First	**Manish Upreti**	₹1,00,000
Second	Manish Bhandari	₹50,000
Third	Pankaj Kumar	₹30,000

National Skiing Championship and Winter Carnival, Auli

Organised by the **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, GMVN** and the Chamoli district administration, and inaugurated by Tourism Minister **Satpal Maharaj**. About 17 teams with over 300 players took part — Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, the Army, ITBP, CRPF and two Uttarakhand teams. Events included alpine skiing (slalom, giant slalom), ski mountaineering, snowboarding, a snow marathon and a snowshoe race; ITBP gave a skiing display.

Position	Team	Medals
Overall champion	**Himachal Pradesh**	6 gold, 5 silver

15

DAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

Important Days

15.1 Important Days Observed in Uttarakhand, Jan–Oct 2026

WHY IN NEWS From UCC Diwas on 27 January to Police Smriti Diwas on 21 October 2026, the state marked national and state days with campaigns, awards and launches; the table merges the ten monthly lists.

Only days with an Uttarakhand angle or a 2026 theme are listed, in month order. Folk festivals (Uttarayani, Phool Dei, Harela) and the statehood-movement martyrs' days (Khatima, Mussoorie, Rampur Tiraha) are the most asked.

Date	Day	Uttarakhand angle / 2026 theme
6 Jan	BIS Foundation Day (79th)	State function attended by the Chief Minister
8 Jan	Birth anniversary of Harbans Kapoor (80th)	Former Speaker; eight-time MLA from Dehradun
9 Jan	Sundarlal Bahuguna Jayanti	Chipko leader, born 1927 at Maroda (Tehri); Padma Vibhushan 2009
12 Jan	National Youth Day	Swami Vivekananda's birth anniversary; Mangal Dal awards presented
14 Jan	Makar Sankranti / Uttarayani	Magh Mela, Uttarkashi; Ghughutiya festival of Kumaon
16 Jan	National Startup Day	Uttarakhand rated 'Leader' in the startup ranking
26 Jan	Republic Day (77th)	Theme: 150 years of 'Vande Mataram'
27 Jan	UCC Diwas	First anniversary of the Uniform Civil Code (in force 27 January 2025)
7 Feb	Magh Khichdi	Sharda Corridor works launched at Tanakpur
15 Feb	Maha Shivratri	Kedarnath opening date announced at Ukhimath
27 Feb	Purnagiri Mela opens	Runs till 15 June at Tanakpur (Champawat)
28 Feb	National Science Day	State HPV vaccination drive launched
3–4 Mar	Holi	Kumaoni Baithki and Khadi Holi traditions
8 Mar	International Women's Day	38 women honoured by the Chief Minister
14–15 Mar	Phool Dei	Chaitra Sankranti; children's flower festival
23 Mar	Shaheed Diwas	Also four years of the second Dhami government
24 Mar	World TB Day	100-day intensive TB campaign launched
26 Mar	Ram Navami	Dehradun–Pithoragarh flight launched
14 Apr	Baisakhi / Mesh (Vishuvat) Sankranti; Ambedkar Jayanti	Start of the Vaisakh fairs — Syalde Bikhauti (Dwarahat), Bissu (Jaunsar-Bawar)
19 Apr	Akshaya Tritiya	Gangotri and Yamunotri opened for the Char Dham Yatra
25 Apr	Birth anniversary of Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna (107th)	Born 1919 at Bughani, Pauri Garhwal; UP CM 1973–75; HNB Garhwal (Central) University named after him
20 May	Birth anniversary of Sumitranandan Pant (1900)	Born at Kausani (Bageshwar); first Hindi poet to get the Jnanpith Award (1968, Chidambara)
23 May	Bachendri Pal's Everest ascent (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

16

RAPID REVISION

Quick Revision: One-Liners

Polity, Legislature & Governance

#	Fact
1	The UCC came into force in Uttarakhand on 27 January 2025; 27 January 2026 was the first 'UCC Diwas'.
2	The UCC (Amendment) Ordinance, 2026 was promulgated under Article 213 and replaced by an Amendment Bill passed on 10 March 2026.
3	Gujarat became the second state after Uttarakhand to pass a UCC law, on 24 March 2026.
4	Under the Devbhoomi Parivar Act, the eldest woman aged 18 or above is head of the family.
5	The Public Gambling Prevention Bill, 2026 replaced the Public Gambling Act, 1867.
6	The Minority Commission's office-bearers now have a 3-year tenure instead of 5; the Commission was set up in 2002.
7	Article 164(1A), inserted by the 91st Amendment, caps ministers at 15% of the Assembly but not fewer than 12.
8	Uttarakhand is the first state to abolish its Madrasa Education Board (from 1 July 2026).
9	Surjit Singh Gandhi chairs the Uttarakhand State Authority for Minority Education.
10	Justice (Retd.) Alok Kumar Verma chairs the Lokayukta Search Committee.
11	The SIR draft roll of 14 July 2026 listed 71,33,785 electors; polling stations rose to 12,543.
12	The Supreme Court cleared the High Court's shift from Nainital to Haldwani on 15 July 2026.
13	Uttarakhand is preparing 98 GIS-based master plans, the first state to include small towns.
14	The reference date for Census 2027 in snow-bound areas of Uttarakhand is 1 October 2026.
15	The Irrigation and Drainage Bill, 2026 replaces the Northern India Canal and Drainage Act, 1873.
16	2026 is the first year in which Gairsain hosted two Assembly sessions.

Policies & Welfare Schemes

#	Fact
17	Uttarakhand Green Hydrogen Policy 2026 (approved 28 January) targets 100 kilotonnes of green hydrogen a year by 2030.
18	India's National Green Hydrogen Mission (2023, outlay ₹19,744 crore) targets 5 million tonnes a year by 2030.
19	Under the VB-G RAM G Act, a rural household gets 125 days of guaranteed work; Uttarakhand's funding is 90:10 Centre–state.
20	VB-G RAM G allows a pause of up to 60 days a year during sowing and harvest, and pays wages weekly.
21	Swasth Seema Abhiyan: ITBP gives health care in 108 border villages of Pithoragarh, Chamoli and Uttarkashi.
22	Mukhyamantri Ekal Mahila Swarozgar Yojana (10 February) gives 75% subsidy, up to ₹1.5 lakh, on projects up to ₹2 lakh.
23	Nanda Gaura Yojana gives ₹11,000 at a girl's birth and ₹51,000 on passing Class 12.
24	Nanda Gaura Yojana (2017) merged the Gaura Devi Kanya Dhan Yojana and the Nanda Devi Kanya Yojana.
25	The national HPV vaccination drive was launched at Ajmer on 28 February 2026 for girls aged 14 (Gardasil-4).
26	Veer Udyami Yojana reserves 10% of the Mukhyamantri Swarozgar Yojana quota for ex-servicemen and ex-Agniveers.
27	Uttarakhand is the first state to set up a dedicated employment cell for Agniveers.
28	Mukhyamantri Yuva Bhavishya Nirman Yojana gives free online coaching to 11,000 students in Phase 1.



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