STATE
PCS CA
(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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Content

# Dumak Village will Get Road in 8 Months

Why in News?

The under-construction road connecting **Dumak** and other villages in **Chamoli district** along the **Indo-China border** in Uttarakhand, which has been delayed for 17 years, will be **completed before the year ends.**

Key Points

➢ According to the sources, few voters in Dumak have decided to boycott Lok Sabha polls after being fed up with constant delays on the road construction.

➢ **Uttarakhand Rural Roads Development Agency (URRDA)** CEO issued a statement saying that the pending work on the road will be completed in the next eight months.

❍ The Agency shall **act for the sole purpose of implementation of the Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana** under the guidance and norms as fixed by the National Rural Road Development Agency.

Indo-China Border

➢ The border between India and China is not clearly demarcated throughout and there is no mutually agreed **Line of Actual Control (LAC)** along certain stretches.

➢ LAC **came into existence after the 1962 Indo China war.**

➢ India-China border is divided into three sectors:
  ❍ **Western Sector:** Ladakh
  ❍ **Middle Sector:** Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand
  ❍ **Eastern Sector:** Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim
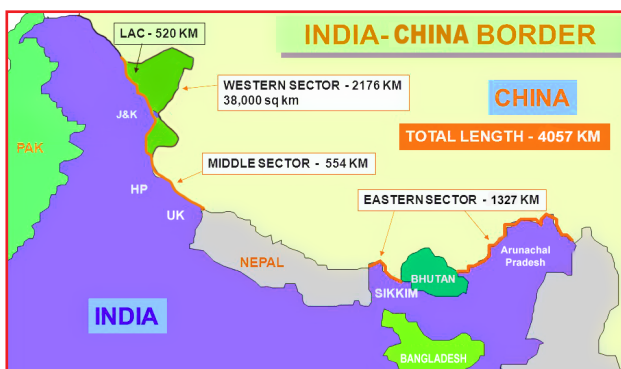
Snowfall in Gangotri Dham

Why in News?

Recently, **Gangotri Dham** in Uttarakhand, the highest temple dedicated to Goddess Ganga, received fresh rain and snowfall.

➢ The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)**, earlier, issued an alert for the districts of Chamba, Kangra, Kullu, Mandi, Shimla, Solan and some parts of Lahaul-Spiti.

Key Points

➢ The **Gangotri Temple,** where **Goddess Ganga** is worshipped, stands at a height of 20 feet and boasts of exquisite carvings on **white granite**.

➢ It is the **origin of the River Ganges** and is **one of the four sites in the Char Dham pilgrimage of Uttarakhand.**
  ❍ The other shrines included in the Char Dham pilgrimage are **Badrinath, Kedarnath, and Yamunotri.**

➢ The river is called **Bhagirathi** at the source and acquires the name Ganga (the Ganges) from Devprayag onwards where it meets the Alaknanda.

➢ The origin of the **holy river is at Gomukh,** set in the Gangotri Glacier, and is a 19 km trek from Gangotri.

India Meteorological Department

➢ IMD was **established in 1875**. It is the **National Meteorological Service** of the country and the principal government agency in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.

➢ It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** of the Government of India.

➢ It is headquartered in **New Delhi.**

➢ IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the **World Meteorological Organization.**

Note:

Helicopter Service to Uttarakhand's Adi Kailash and Om Parvat Peaks

Why in News?

Recently, a **helicopter service** was launched to the **Adi Kailash and the Om Parvat peaks** from the <u>Naini Saini Airport in the Pithoragarh</u> district of Uttarakhand.

Key Points

➢ Under the Uttarakhand government's **Heli Darshan scheme**, an Mi-19 helicopter will take pilgrims from the airport to Adi Kailash and Om Parvat in the Vyas Valley region and return after hovering over the peaks.
  ❍ The service was launched by Joint Magistrate Ashish Mishra.

Adi Kailash

➢ Also known as Shiva Kailash, Chota Kailash, Baba Kailash or Jonglingkong Peak, is a mountain located in the <u>Himalayan mountain range</u> in the Pithoragarh district of Uttarakhand.

Luminous Invests in Solar Module Facility in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, **Luminous Power Technologies** inaugurated a **250 MW <u>solar module</u>** manufacturing facility **in Rudrapur**, Uttarakhand.

➢ Luminous also launched an **immersive Experience Center** at the plant to showcase its solar ecosystem approach integrating connected energy solutions.

Key Points

➢ The fully automated **10-acre plant** built with an initial investment of Rs 1.2 billion is **expandable up to 1 GW capacity.**
  ❍ The launch marks a strategic shift for Luminous from being just a maker of solar inverters and batteries to now manufacturing solar modules.
  ❍ The company also claims to be the only Indian firm that can design and build complete solar power generation systems.

➢ The facility will produce **polycrystalline, monocrystalline, N-type, and TOPCon solar panels** with adaptability ranging from 5BB (BusBars) to 16BB configurations **for residential, commercial, and agricultural needs.**

➢ The company has **partnered with Australia's University of New South Wales for solar module technology development.**

➢ The launch aligns with the government's <u>**'Make in India' mission**</u> and the recently announced '<u>**PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana**</u>' **solar program.**
  ❍ Originally intended to **fully subsidise installation of 1-3 Kilowatt (KW) solar systems in 1 crore households,** the scheme now offers **up to 60% coverage of costs,** with households required to cover the remainder, albeit with accessible loans.
  ❍ The scheme envisaged to generate up **to 300 units of free electricity every month** which would translate to benefits of ₹15,000-18,000 annually for households.

➢ According to the recently released **"State of Solar PV Manufacturing in India 2024"** report by Mercom India Research, India added 20.8 GW of solar modules and 3.2 GW of solar cell capacity in the calendar year 2023.

Recycling Facility for Li-ion Batteries and E-Waste in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, the **Technology Development Board (TDB)** entered into an agreement with **M/s Remine India Private Limited**, for setting up a commercial plant for **recycling of Li Battery and <u>E-Waste</u>** using Indigenous Technology in Sitarganj (District Udham Singh Nagar), Uttarakhand.

Key Points

➢ Through the agreement, TDB has pledged a financial assistance of ₹ 7.5 crores out of the total project cost of ₹ 15 crores, marking a significant stride towards **sustainable development** and environmental stewardship.

  ❍ The efficient recycling of **Li-ion batteries** serves as a vital source of secondary raw materials for cell manufacturing within the country.

  ❍ The escalating imports of e-waste stemming from the disposal of spent **Lithium-ion Batteries (LIBs)** are driven by their growing utilization in portable electronics, electric vehicles, and global renewable energy storage systems.

  ❍ The disposal of LIBs through landfilling and incineration poses environmental and safety concerns, highlighting the need for recycling initiatives.

  ❍ The potential for value creation through the retrieval of metals from spent LIBs has spurred interest in recycling e-waste generated by these batteries.

➢ The lithium-ion battery recycling market size is projected to reach **USD 14.89 billion by 2030**, with a **Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 21.6%**, up from USD 3.79 billion in 2021.

  ❍ Despite this, a significant **95% of Li-ion batteries currently end up in landfills**, while **only 5% undergo recycling and reuse.**

➢ The dominance of the informal sector in the e-waste scenario has adverse environmental and economic implications.

➢ Efficient and environmentally friendly recycling methods are imperative to address the escalating issue of battery waste, mitigate migrant supply side risks related to critical elements, and reduce **carbon footprints.**

➢ India is 3rd in the world in terms of e-waste generation and significant efforts are required to curb the issue.

Li-ion Batteries
➢ A lithium-ion battery or Li-ion battery is a type of **rechargeable battery.**
➢ Li-ion batteries use an **intercalated** (Intercalation is the reversible inclusion or insertion of a molecule into materials with layered structures) lithium compound as one electrode material, compared to the metallic lithium used in a non-rechargeable lithium battery.

➢ The battery consists of electrolyte, which allows for **ionic movement**, and the two electrodes are the constituent components of a lithium-ion battery cell.

➢ Lithium ions move from the **negative electrode** to the **positive electrode during discharge and back when charging.**

E-Waste

➢ It is short for Electronic-Waste and the term is **used to describe old, end-of-life or discarded electronic appliances.** It includes their components, consumables, parts and spares.

➢ Laws to manage e-waste have been in place in India since 2011, mandating that only authorised dismantlers and recyclers collect e-waste. **E-waste (Management) Rules, 2016** was enacted in 2017.

➢ **India's first e-waste clinic** for segregating, processing and disposal of waste from household and commercial units has been set-up in **Bhopal, Madhya Pradesh.**

Uttarakhand High Court Seeks State Govt. Reply on Horizontal Reservation Plea

Why in News?

Recently, The Uttarakhand High Court sought a reply from the Uttarakhand government on a petition challenging **30% horizontal reservation to domiciled women of the state** in government jobs.

Key Points

➢ The petition challenges **Section 3(1) of the Uttarakhand Public Service Commission (Horizontal Reservation for Women) Act, 2022,** saying 30% reservation for women of the state is beyond the scope of **Article 16 of the Constitution of India.**

➢ As per the case, Uttarakhand Public Service Commission had released an advertisement for various posts of **PCS (provincial civil services) on March 14, 2024.**

  ❍ **Clause 10(d) of the advertisement** provides for 30% horizontal reservation for female candidates who are native of Uttarakhand.

  ❍ The petitioner challenged the reservation and said horizontal reservation based only on domicile should not be made.

Note:

- **Section 3(1)** of the **Uttarakhand Public Service Commission (Horizontal Reservation for Women) Act, 2022** is unconstitutional because it violates the **Article 16** of the **Constitution of India.**

Article 16 of the Constitution of India

➢ It provides for the grounds of positive discrimination or Reservation in government jobs.
  ○ **Article 16(4)** provides that the State can make any provision for the **reservation of appointments or posts** in favor of any backward class of citizens who, in the opinion of the state, are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
  ○ **Article 16(4A)** provides that the State can make any provision for reservation **in matters of promotion** in favor of the Scheduled Castes and the Scheduled Tribes if they are not adequately represented in the services under the State.
  ○ **Article 16(6)** provides that the State can make any **provision for the reservation of appointments or posts in favor of any economically weaker sections.**

Advaita Ashrama Marks 125th Anniversary

Why in News?

Advaita Ashram in **Mayavati**, a centre of **Ramakrishna Math and Mission** in Uttarakhand, is celebrating its **125th anniversary in 2024.**

➢ A two-day programme was recently held in Mayavati to commemorate the milestone.

Key Points

➢ The ashram was founded by **Swami Vivekananda in 1899.**
➢ The objective of the Ashrama is to study, **practice and preach the Advaita philosophy** free from ritualistic settings, and also to train others in spreading it.
  ○ The Ashrama in a short time became a centre point for the best minds of the East and the West. It helped spread the core Advaita doctrine.

➢ Advaita Ashrama in Kolkata was established 21 years after Mayavati Ashram to meet the growing demand for its **publications and journal Prabuddha Bharata.**
➢ **Advaita Vedanta** is the core of Hindu Dharma, teaching the oneness of existence and solidarity of the human race.
  ○ For the past 125 years, Advaita Ashrama has been disseminating principles of Advaita ideology through literature published from its Kolkata branch.

Advaita Vedanta

➢ It articulates a philosophical position of radical nondualism, a revisionary worldview which it derives from the **ancient Upanishadic texts**.
➢ According to Advaita Vedantins, the Upanishads reveal a fundamental principle of nonduality termed 'brahman', which is the reality of all things.
➢ Advaitins understand **brahman as transcending individuality and empirical plurality.** They seek to establish that the **essential core of one's self (atman) is brahman.**
➢ The fundamental thrust of Advaita Vedanta is that the atman is **pure non-intentional consciousness.**
  ○ It is one without a second, nondual, infinite existence, and numerically identical with brahman.

Swami Vivekananda

➢ He was born as **Narendra Nath Datta, on 12th January, 1863.**
➢ He was a **monk and chief disciple of Ramakrishna Paramhansa.**
➢ He introduced Indian philosophies of **Vedanta and Yoga** to the Western world and is credited with raising interfaith awareness, bringing Hinduism to the world stage during the late 19th century.
➢ He established **Ramakrishna Mission in 1987**, named after his Guru Swami Ramakrishna Paramhansa. The institution did extensive educational and philanthropic work in India.
➢ He also represented India in the **first Parliament of Religion held in Chicago (U.S.) in 1893.**

Note:

Uttarakhand Licensing Authority on Misleading Patanjali Ads

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand State Licensing Authority (SLA)** has been reprimanded by the <u>Supreme Court</u> for its failure to address complaints regarding **misleading advertisements** by Patanjali, which had persisted for over two years.

➢ The Supreme Court rejected the SLA's latest justification for its inaction.

Key Points

➢ The **Ayush ministry** filed an affidavit in court which showed that the SLA had not taken any action on a complaint filed in February 2022, beyond giving a warning and asking the company to stop advertisements, though the company continued to advertise throughout the two years.

➢ The petition against Patanjali stated that it was for violation of <u>section 3 of the Drugs and Magic Remedies Act (DMRA),</u> which **prohibits advertising drugs for 54 diseases and conditions.**

○ The Act **prohibits advertisements of drugs and remedies** that claim to have magical properties, and makes doing so an offence.

● The Act defines **"magic remedy"** to include **talismans, mantras, kavachas (amulets),** and any other similar items that claim supernatural or magical properties for curing ailments.

Meaning of 'Ayush'
➢ **Traditional and Non-Conventional systems of Health care and healing** which include Ayurveda, Yoga, Naturopathy, Unani, Siddha, Sowa-Rigpa and Homoeopathy etc.
➢ The Indian systems of medicine **exhibit significant strengths**, including **diversity and flexibility.**
➢ These systems are **highly accessible and affordable** for a broad section of the population.
➢ Compared to conventional healthcare, these systems **incur relatively lower costs.**
➢ They demonstrate **growing economic value**, highlighting their potential to serve as vital healthcare providers for a substantial portion of the populace.

Human-Wildlife Conflict in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Uttarakhand's Nainital and Pauri districts'** remote villages are facing <u>migration</u> due to increasing <u>human-wildlife conflict</u> and **poor connectivity** in rural areas, which leads to a fluctuating health graph.

Key Points

➢ Over the past decade, **264 individuals** lost their lives to large felines in Uttarakhand, with <u>leopards</u> **being responsible for 203 deaths and** <u>tigers</u> **for 61.**

➢ These <u>wildlife</u> **incidents have caused significant disruptions** in the affected areas, leading to the closure of schools and triggering protests in villages such as Sawaldeh, Patrani, Dhela, and Pauri.

○ The state government established the **country's first human-wildlife conflict-mitigating cell**, allocated **special funds to compensate affected families,** and introduced a helpline number. However, the state of affairs is still unstable.

➢ **Wildlife attacks have influenced electoral events in the area.** In Tehri in 2022, locals refused to participate in assembly elections, mirroring actions taken during the 2014 Lok Sabha polls in Pauri.

Note:

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HUMAN-WILDLIFE CONFLICT

When encounters between humans and wildlife lead to negative results, such as loss of property, livelihoods, and even life

Causes of HWC

- Agricultural Expansion
- Urbanization
- Infrastructure Development
- Climate Change
- Wildlife Populations Growth and Range Expansion

Impacts of HWC

- Grave injuries, Loss of life
- Damage to farms and crops
- ↑ violence against animals

WWF India during 2003-2004 developed the Sonitpur Model by which community members were connected with Assam Forest Dept and given training on how to drive elephants away from crop fields and human habitations safely.

In 2020, the SC upheld Madras HC's decision on the Nilgiris elephant corridor, affirming the right of passage of the animals and closure of resorts in the area.

Data on HWC

- Tigers killed 125 humans between 2019 and 2021
- Death of 329 tigers due to poaching, natural and unnatural causes.
- Elephants killed 1,579 humans in three years
- Death of 307 elephants due to poaching, electrocution, poisoning and train accidents

Advisory for HWC Management
(Standing Committee of the National Board of Wildlife)

- Gram Panchayats empowered to deal with problematic wild animals (WPA 1972)
- Compensation against crop damage due to HWC (PM Fasal Bima Yojna)
- Local/State depts. to adopt early warning systems and create barriers
- Paying a part of ex-gratia as interim relief within 24 hours of the incident to the victim/family

State – Specific Initiatives

- **UP** - Man-animal conflict under **listed disasters** (in State Disaster Response Fund)
- **Uttarakhand - Bio-fencing** carried out by growing various species of plants in areas
- **Odisha** - Casting **seed balls** inside different forests **to enrich food stock for wild elephants**

Drishti IAS

Char Dham Yatra

Why in News?

According to the Uttarakhand tourism department, the online registration for the **'Char Dham Yatra'** has started on the tourism department's portal.

Key Points

➤ The Char-Dham yatra in Uttarakhand consists of visiting four temples, **Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri.**

➤ The Char Dham Yatra holds profound spiritual significance in Hinduism. This journey typically occurs **from April/ May to October/November.**

Note:

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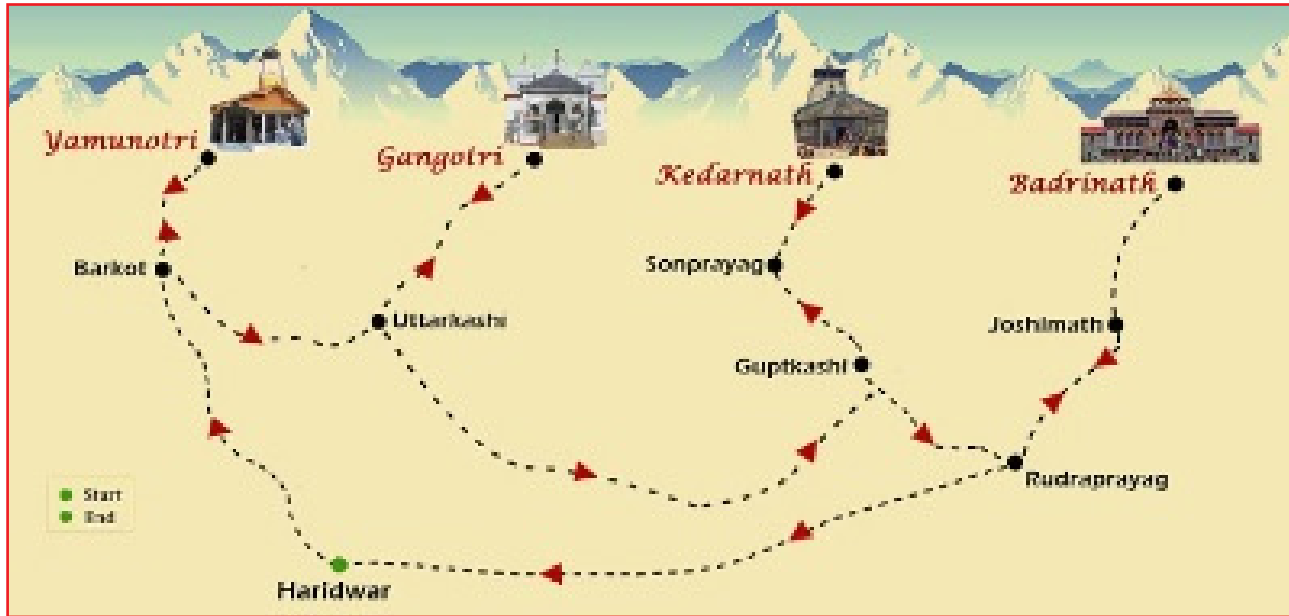
Char Dham Yatra

➤ Yamunotri Dham:
- **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
- **Dedicated to:** Goddess Yamuna.
- **River Yamuna** is the **second-most sacred river in India** after River Ganga.

➤ Gangotri Dham:
- **Location:** Uttarkashi district.
- **Dedicated to:** Goddess Ganga.
- Considered the **most sacred of all Indian rivers.**

➤ Kedarnath Dham:
- **Location:** Rudraprayag district.
- Dedicated to: Lord Shiva.
- Situated on the bank of the **Mandakini River.**
- One of the **12 Jyotirlingas (divine representations of Lord Shiva) in India.**

➤ Badrinath Dham:
- **Location:** Chamoli district.
- Home to the sacred **Badrinarayan Temple.**
- Dedicated to: Lord Vishnu.
- One of the **holy shrines for Vaishnavites.**

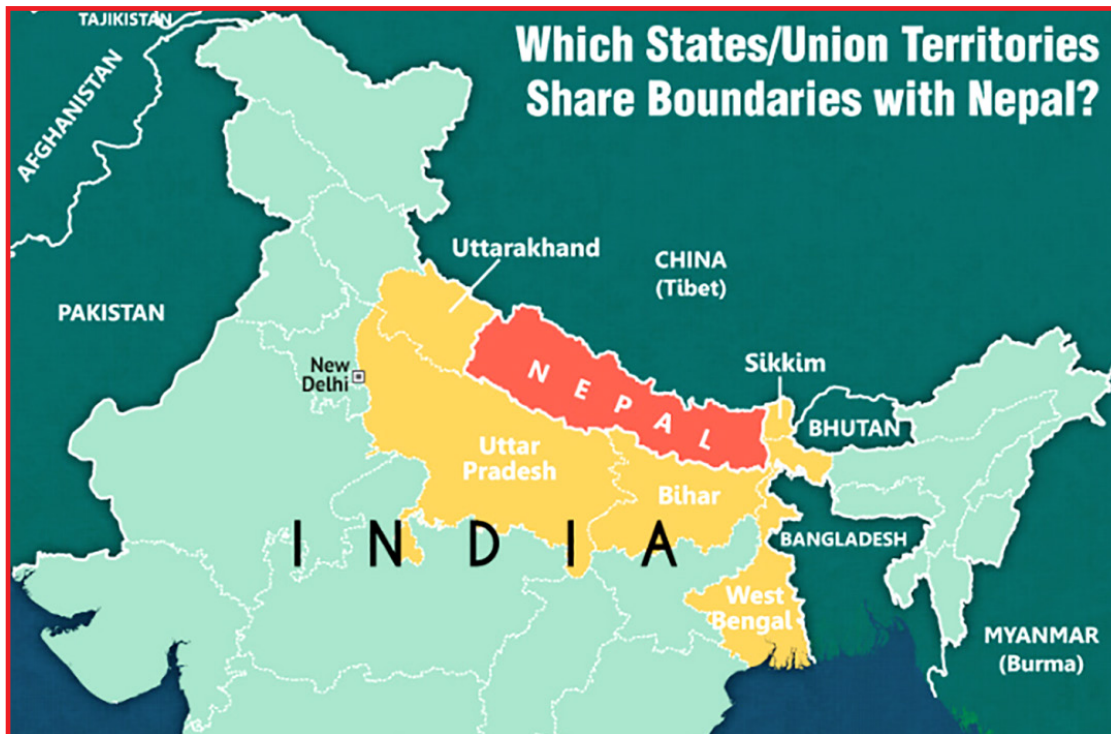# Authorities to Suspend Cross-Border Transit

Why in News?

Authorities plan to temporarily close the border between **Uttarakhand State in India** and **Nepal's Sudurpaschim Province** from the evening of 19th April as a **routine precaution ahead of India's general elections.**

➤ The closure will not impact **cross-border emergency services.**

Note:

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Which States/Union Territories Share Boundaries with Nepal?

Key Points

➢ An **increased security** presence will be in place across India with **heightened vigilance** likely being exercised on both sides of the border.

➢ Disruptions to **cross-border freight and passenger traffic** could extend for several days after the closure is lifted as transport companies and customs officials clear their backlogs.

India-Nepal
➢ Nepal **shares a border with 5 Indian states-** Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, Sikkim and Bihar. Hence an important point of cultural and economic exchange.
➢ The importance for India **can be studied from two different angles:**
❍ Their strategic importance for India's national security.
❍ Their place in India's role perception in international politics.
➢ Nepal is right in the middle of India's **'Himalayan frontiers'**, and along with Bhutan, it acts as a **northern 'borderland' flanks** and acts as buffer states against any possible aggression from China.

➢ Rivers originating in Nepal **feed the perennial river systems** of India in terms of ecology and hydropower potential.

➢ Many Hindu and Buddhist religious sites are in Nepal making it an **important pilgrimage site** for a large number of Indians.

Rebuilding a Hydropower Project in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

The **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change(MoEFCC)** has started the process of granting environmental clearance to **rebuild a hydropower project** in the upper reaches of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand that was almost completely **washed away during the 2013 flash floods** that killed over 6,000 people.

Key Points

➢ The ministry's expert appraisal committee for river valley and hydroelectric projects approved the grant of terms of reference (ToR) to the **Phata Byung Hydroelectric Project** (76 MW).

➢ The Phata Byung project aggravated the damage caused by the **2013 cloudburst** and flash floods by constricting the flow of **the Mandakini river.**

The Mandakini River

➢ It is a tributary of the **Alaknanda River** in Uttarakhand.

➢ The river runs for approximately 81 kilometers between the **Rudraprayag and Sonprayag** areas and emerges from the **Chorabari Glacier.**

➢ The Mandakini merges with river Songanga at Sonprayag and **flows past the Madhyamaheshwar temple at Ukhimath.**

➢ At the end of its course it drains into the Alaknanda, which flows into the **Ganges**.

Preparation for Casualty-Free Lok Sabha Polls in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to **Uttarakhand's Additional Chief Electoral Officer,** preparations are under way for the **Lok Sabha elections**. All five Lok Sabha seats in Uttarakhand are scheduled to take place in a single phase on **19th April 2024**.

Key Points

➢ According to the officials, they have arranged **two helicopters for emergency service,** and voting will be **casualty-free and no emergency situation** will arise.

➢ To increase voter turnout in the hill state, more than 11,000 polling booths are being set up across the state.
  ○ The **counting of votes** is scheduled on **4th June 2024.**

One Nation-One Election (ONOE)

➢ About:
  ○ The concept talks about a scenario where all State elections will take place simultaneously with the general elections of **Lok Sabha**, once every five years.
  ○ The idea is to streamline the electoral process and reduce the frequency of elections, thus saving time and resources.

➢ Background:
  ○ The idea has been around since 1983, when the **Election Commission** first mooted it. However, until 1967, simultaneous elections were the norm in India.

● The first General Elections to the House of People (Lok Sabha) and all **State Legislative Assemblies** were held simultaneously in **1951-52.**

● That practice continued in three subsequent General Elections held in the years 1957, 1962 and 1967.

○ However, due to the premature dissolution of some Legislative Assemblies in 1968 and 1969, the cycle got disrupted.

● In 1970, the Lok Sabha was itself dissolved prematurely and fresh elections were held in 1971. Thus, till 1970, only the First, Second and Third Lok Sabha enjoyed full five-year terms.

Sadbhavna Sammelan in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, on the left bank of **'Har Ki Paudi' in Haridwar**, Uttarakhand tourism minister organised a two-day **'Sadbhavna Sammelan'**.

➢ Thousands of people assembled for the conclave in which the minister spoke on **spirituality and importance of the Ganga** for Hindus.

Key Points

➢ Flowing for over **2,600 km across northern and eastern India,** the Ganga is considered a goddess and a focus of religious devotion for Hindus.
  ○ The river is **source of drinking water** for more than 40% of India's 1.4 billion population living in the **Gangetic river basin** spread across six states and a union territory between Uttarakhand and West Bengal.

➢ According to **Jal Shakti ministry** data, around three million litres of sewage is emptied into the Ganga everyday and only about half of that is treated.
  ○ In the holy city of Varanasi alone, it is estimated that 4,000 bodies are burnt on the banks of the river everyday.
  ○ Dams in Uttarakhand block the river flow, turning the river into a stream at several places during the summer months.

Note:

THE GANGA RIVER MAP

- ❍ The **hydropower projects** in the state are mostly run of the river (ROR), except the **Tehri Dam Project,** which is a storage project for hydropower development and augments the non-monsoon river flows.

- ❍ According to the **Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB)**, testing of samples from 59 of the 97 water quality monitoring stations along the river the **faecal coliform** in the river was above the permissible level at 70% of the locations in January 2023.
  - ● Faecal coliform is a **group of bacteria** found in the **gut and faeces of warm-blooded animals** and its contamination indicates presence of human faecal matter.

- ➢ In 2024, the **Namami Gange scheme,** a diverse set of interventions to clean and rejuvenate the river, reduced the "pollution load" in the river.

- ➢ The polluted river stretches were being **rejuvenated through approved action plans** to achieve the target of outdoor bathing criteria as notified by the environment ministry.

Namami Gange Programme

- ➢ It is an Integrated Conservation Mission, **approved as a 'Flagship Programme' by the Union Government in June 2014** to accomplish the twin objectives of effective abatement of pollution and conservation and rejuvenation of National River Ganga.

- ➢ It is being operated under the Department of Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation, **Ministry of Jal Shakti.**

- ➢ The program is being **implemented by the National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG) and its state counterpart organizations** i.e State Program Management Groups (SPMGs).

- ➢ In **phase 2 of Namami Gange Programme (2021-26),** the states will focus on expeditious completion of projects and preparation of bankable Detailed

Note:

Project Report (DPR) for projects in Ganga tributary towns, cutting down delays.

❍ Focus is also being given to the **revival of small rivers and wetlands.** For the future, each Ganga district is to develop scientific plans and health cards for at least 10 wetlands and adopt policies for reuse of treated water and other by-products.

Uttarakhand Records 55% Voter Turnout

Why in News?

Uttarakhand recorded a **voter turnout of around**

55.01 % across the five Lok Sabha seats with a major dip of 6.3% votes (estimated) as compared to 61.4% in 2019 polls.

Key Points

➢ All **five constituencies** experienced a drop in voter participation in 2024 elections.

➢ The voter turnout was lowest in Almora at 45.4%, with the highest turnout seen in Nainital-Udham Singh Nagar constituency at 59.9%, followed by Haridwar at 59.7%, Tehri at 51.7%, Pauri Garhwal at 49.9%, and the SC reserve seat of Almora at 45.4%, as reported by the **official Election Commission of India app.**

➢ Uttarakhand has a collective of **83.2 lakh general electors** and additionally **93,357 service voters.**

SEAT-WISE SEGREGATION

UTTARAKHAND

Constituency	No. of voters	Voter turnout (%)
Almora	13.6 lakh	45.4
Nainital-UDN	20.2 lakh	59.9
Pauri Garhwal	13.9 lakh	49.9
Tehri	15.8 lakh	51.7
Haridwar	20.3 lakh	59.1

Total voter turnout till 10pm **55.01%**

(Map showing Tehri Garhwal, Pauri Garhwal, Almora, Hardwar, Nainital-US Nagar)

Voter Turnout App

➢ This application was launched on **18th April 2019** by the **Election Commission of India** to **increase citizen participation in elections** and to provide instant information about voter turnout on the voting day.

➢ It is used to **display real time voter turnout details** including Male, Female and Third Gender **in each Assembly Constituency/Parliamentary Constituency**. This app can be used by citizens to capture live voter turnout data.

➢ The Voter Turnout app allows citizens to get information about the estimated voter turnout for each state separately. The **app also allows users to share voting percentage** with their contacts via Facebook, Twitter, Gmail and WhatsApp. That means any person can share the percentage of real-time voting **in his social media account.**

➢ **No data can be pre-fed in the Voter Turnout App.** The Voter Turnout App is designed to show estimated voter turnout for each state and can be used up to the district and assembly constituency level. On the day of voting, state wise, district wise and assembly constituency wise voter turnout updates can be seen.

Note:

Election Commission of India (ECI) 🗳️

About
- **Autonomous Constitutional Authority -** Administers Union/state election
  - LS, RS, State LA, the offices of the President and VP
- Estd - **25th Jan1950** (National Voters' Day)

Constitutional Provisions
Part XV - Article 324 to 329

Structure
- 1 Chief Election Commissioner and 2 Election Commissioners **appointed by President**
- **Tenure- 6 years, or up to the age of 65 years,** whichever is earlier
- Retiring ECs – **eligible for further appointment by the govt.**
- **Removal of CEC-** Resolution on the **ground of proven misbehaviour or incapacity,** with majority of 2/3rd members present and voting, supported by more than 50% of the total strength of the house
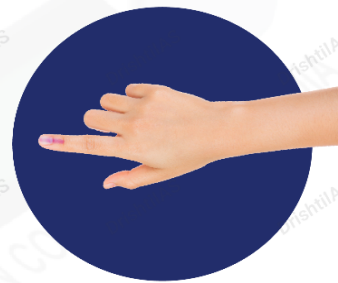
Major Roles and Responsibilities
- Determining Electoral Constituencies
- Preparing/Revising electoral rolls
- Notifying the schedules and dates of elections
- **Registering political parties and granting them the status of national or state parties**
- Issuing the Model Code of Conduct (MCC) for political parties
- Advising the President on **matters concerning the disqualification of MPs**
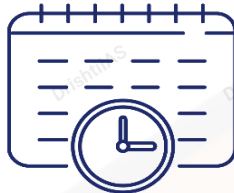
Challenges
- Truncated Tenure of CEC
- Executive Influence in Appointments
- Dependence on Centre for Finance
- Lack of Independent Staff

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Note:

Uttarakhand Begins Dehradun Airport's International Expansion

Why in News?

In a significant effort to boost inbound **tourism**, the Uttarakhand government is working on **transforming Dehradun into an international airport.**

Key Points

➤ The state government has called for proposals from airlines to run subsidized non-stop flights between **Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun** and **Kathmandu.**

    ○ Reports suggest that the central government supports this initiative to tap into India's ability to become a global tourist destination.

    ○ **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA)** in **2019 totaled around 1.1 crore**. **In 2022**, this number **decreased to 62 lakh**, but **in 2023** it increased to **92.4 lakh.**

    ○ The industry is discussing strategies to surpass the 2019 FTA levels by **enhancing international connectivity,** introducing new tourism routes, and **simplifying visa procedures.**

➤ Ambitious strategies are underway to position India as a key global aviation center with major airlines like **IndiGo and Tata Group Air India** alongside significant hubs.

➤ By **connecting the capital cities of Nepal and Uttarakhand**, this endeavour not only **fortifies historical ties** but also unlocks new avenues for **tourism, commerce, and cultural exchange.**

➤ **India** has **doubled the number of airports since 2014** and many of them will increasingly get international status to have direct flights at least from nearby catchment countries.

Uttarakhand's Manaskhand Corridor Yatra

Why in News?

Uttarakhand tourism department in collaboration with the **Indian Railways** will start the **'Manaskhand Corridor Yatra'** to popularise the ancient temples of the **Kumaon region.**

Key Points

➤ A dedicated train service has been arranged to transport passengers from **Pune to Tanakpur** in **Pithoragarh district** for the pilgrimage.

    ○ The train will carry over **600 pilgrims in two batches** to the famous temples of **'Manaskhand', a phrase used in ancient Hindu scriptures to refer to the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand.**

➤ The devotees will be taken to temples and other religious places of **Tanakpur, Champawat, Pithoragarh and Almora** as part of the tour package and briefed on the **mythological significance of these temples.**

➤ Visits to Baleswar, **Maneswar and Mayawati temples in Champawat**, Hat Kalika , **Patal Bhubaneswar temples in Pithoragarh**, **Jageshwar and Golu devta temples at Chitai**, **Nanda Devi, Kasar Devi, Katarmal in Almora, Nanakmatta Sahib Gurudwara in Udham Singh Nagar and the Naina Devi temple in Nainital** are part of the itinerary for the pilgrims.

Kumaon Region
➤ It comprises six districts of the state: **Almora, Bageshwar, Champawat, Nainital, Pithoragarh and Udham Singh Nagar.**
➤ Historically known as **Manaskhand and then Kurmanchal**, the Kumaon region has been **ruled by several Hindu dynasties** over the course of history.
➤ The **Kumaon division was established in 1816**, when the British reclaimed this region from the Gorkhas, who had annexed the erstwhile Kingdom of Kumaon in 1790.
➤ In independent India the state was called Uttar Pradesh. **In 2000,** the new state of **Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh,** including Kumaon.

President on Uttarakhand Visit

Why in News?

President Droupadi Murmu will be on a **two-day tour of Uttarakhand.**

Key Points

➤ During her visit:

    ○ The President will **attend Ganga aarti** and the **fourth convocation of AIIMS in Rishikesh.**

Note:

○ She will grace the **convocation ceremony of officer trainees** of the **Indian Forest Service (2022 batch)** at the **Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy, Dehradun.**

All-India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS)

➢ It was **established in 1956** as an institution of national importance **by an Act of Parliament** with the objectives of developing patterns of **teaching in Undergraduate and Postgraduate Medical Education** in all its branches so as to demonstrate a high standard of Medical Education in India.

➢ It aims to bring together in one place educational facilities of the highest order for the training of personnel in all important branches of health activity; and to attain self-sufficiency in Post-graduate Medical Education.

Indira Gandhi National Forest Academy

➢ It is a forest service training institute **under the Ministry of Environment and Forests of India,** which was originally as Indian Forest College, **established in 1938** for training of senior forest officers.

➢ It is situated in the **New Forest campus of Forest Research Institute,** Dehradun.

50 Years of Chipko Movement

Why in News?

Recently, **Chipko Movement** which **began in Uttarakhand**, in early **1973,** marks its **50th anniversary.**

Key Points

➢ Chipko Movement was a **non-violent agitation** which originated **in Uttar Pradesh's Chamoli district (now Uttarakhand) in 1973.**

➢ The name of the movement **'chipko' comes from the word 'embrace',** as the **villagers hugged the trees** and encircled them to prevent being hacked.

➢ It is best remembered for the **collective mobilisation of women** for the cause of preserving forests, which also brought about a change in attitude regarding their own status in society.

➢ Its biggest victory was **making people aware of their rights to forests,** and **how grassroots activism can influence policy-making** regarding ecology and shared natural resources.

○ It led to a **ban on commercial felling of trees above 30 degrees slope** and above 1,000 msl (mean sea level) **in 1981.**

Note:

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Major Environmental Movements in India

Name	Year	Place	Leaders	Details
Bishnoi Movement	1700	Khejarli, Marwar region, in Rajasthan	Amrita Devi	
Chipko Movement	1973	Uttarakhand	Sunderlal Bahuguna Chandi Prasad Bhatt	Used to hug trees to stop their felling The main objective was to protect the trees on the Himalayan slopes from the axes of contractors of the forest.
Silent River Valley Project	1978	Kantipuza river in Kerala	Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad Sughathakumari	To protect the Silent Valley, the moist evergreen forest from being destroyed by a hydroelectric project. In November 1983 the Silent Valley Hydroelectric Project was called off. In 1985, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi formally inaugurated the Silent Valley National Park.
Jangal Bachao Aandolan	1982	Singbhum district of Bihar	Tribals of Singhbum	Against governments decision to replace the natural sal forest with Teak.
Appiko Movement	1983	Karnataka	Lakshmi Narasimha Yuvak Mandali Pandering Hegde.	To stop felling of natural trees. Against commercial forestry of teak and eucalyptus trees
Tehri dam	1980s to 1990s	Bhagirathi and Bhilangama rivers at Tehri in Uttaranchal	Tehri Badh Virodhi Sangarshan Committee Sunderlal Bahuguna and Veera Dutt Saklani	
Narmada Bachao Aandolan	1980s to present	Gujarat Madhya Pradesh and Maharastra Total 33 dams Two main are Sardar Sarovar Dam and the Indira Sagar Project	Medha Patkar Arundhati Roy Sundarlal Bahuguna Baba Amte Arundhati Roy	

Forest Fire in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the **Uttarakhand forest department, 477 incidents of forest fires** have been reported from the state so far in 2024 in which over 379.4 hectares of forest land have been damaged.

Key Points

➤ Of 379.4 hectares which were damaged, **136.4 hectares** were **damaged in the Garhwal region**, **202.82 hectares in the Kumaon region** and **40.2 hectares in the administrative wildlife regions.**

➤ According to forest officials, forest fires have become an annual feature and with the change in weather conditions resulting in soaring temperatures, Uttarakhand starts experiencing **forest fires in mid-February,** when the **trees shed dry leaves and the soil loses moisture due to a rise in temperature,** and this continues till mid-June.

   ❍ Since 2000, when the state was carved out of Uttar Pradesh, over 54,800 hectares of forest land have been damaged till now in forest fires.

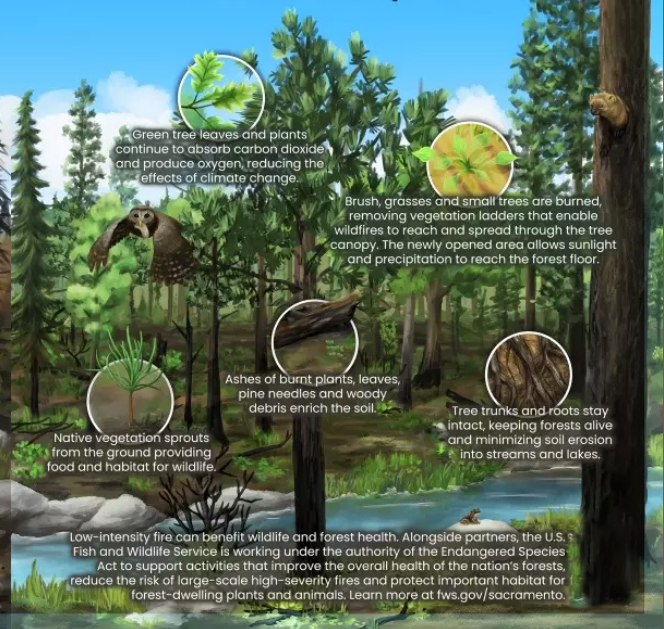| Forest Fire |
|---|
| ➤ Also called **bush or vegetation fire or wildfire**, it can be described as any uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion or burning of plants in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brushland or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography). |
| ➤ A wildfire requires **three essential elements to sustain combustion like** Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source. |

Note:

How does fire impact forests and wildlife?

Wildfires are inevitable, but not all fire is harmful to forests. Low-intensity fires can naturally "clean" and thin the forest by removing flammable and thick vegetation on the forest floor. The result is improved habitat for wildlife, healthier soil and new growth of native plants.

It also helps reduce the risk of large-scale high-severity fires that burn through the forest—from the floor to the canopy—with intense heat. High-severity fires across large landscapes can be devastating for wildlife, habitat and surrounding communities.

High-Severity Fire

Nearby communities may be destroyed causing loss of life and property.

With little regrowth, rodents can't find seeds to eat, and grazers have no leafy meals. Carnivores no longer have prey to hunt.

Wildlife corridors are disconnected due to loss of vegetation that provides cover to small species. Roaming species, like fishers, become isolated in smaller areas where they may not find mates or adequate food.

Runoff containing ash and debris flows into lakes and streams, damaging water sources and disrupting the lifecycles of aquatic species like fish and frogs.

Scorched soil is no longer suitable for pine forests to regrow, and forests may be replaced with invasive grasses or low scrub.

Low-Intensity Fire

Green tree leaves and plants continue to absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, reducing the effects of climate change.

Brush, grasses and small trees are burned, removing vegetation ladders that enable wildfires to reach and spread through the tree canopy. The newly opened area allows sunlight and precipitation to reach the forest floor.

Ashes of burnt plants, leaves, pine needles and woody debris enrich the soil.

Native vegetation sprouts from the ground providing food and habitat for wildlife.

Tree trunks and roots stay intact, keeping forests alive and minimizing soil erosion into streams and lakes.

Low-intensity fire can benefit wildlife and forest health. Alongside partners, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working under the authority of the Endangered Species Act to support activities that improve the overall health of the nation's forests, reduce the risk of large-scale high-severity fires and protect important habitat for forest-dwelling plants and animals. Learn more at fws.gov/sacramento.

Melting Glacier in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, a **glacier** slid down towards the **Johar Valley** along the strategically important **Munsiyari–Milam road** in Uttarakhand's **Pithoragarh district**, affecting crucial connectivity to the **India–China border** and villages in the region.

Key Points

➢ The **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** has initiated efforts to clear the road, but significant challenges persist due to the extensive snow cover.

   ❍ Experts underscore that the glacier's rupture serves as a stark reminder of the escalating impacts of **climate change**.

   ❍ The **Himalayan region**, vulnerable to the effects of **global warming**, faces mounting risks, including accelerated glacier melt.

➢ **Snowfall** was observed in the upper regions of Pithoragarh in March 2024. Now, with temperatures rising, the glaciers are melting, leading to **avalanches** and occasional break-offs.

Border Road Organisation
➢ BRO was conceived and **raised in 1960 by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru** for coordinating the speedy development of a **network of roads in the North and the North Eastern border** regions of the country.
➢ It works under the administrative control of the **Ministry of Defence.**
➢ It has diversified into a large spectrum of construction and development works comprising **airfields, building projects, defence works and tunneling** and has endeared itself to the people.

Uttarakhand Braces for Monsoon Rainfall

Why in News?

According to the **Dehradun Meteorological Centre**,

Note:

the state government should start preparations for more than normal rainfall in 2024 monsoon in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

➢ A training camp was organised by the **Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA)** for various departments regarding **monsoon** preparedness.

➢ According to the officials, **the Meteorological Department** continuously sends alerts regarding weather-related information and if they are followed, the effects of **disasters** can be reduced to a great extent and the loss of life and property can also be reduced.

India Meteorological Department
➢ IMD was **established in 1875.** It is the **National Meteorological Service of the country and the principal government agency** in all matters relating to meteorology and allied subjects.
➢ It works as an agency of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India.**
➢ It is **headquartered** in **New Delhi.**
➢ IMD is also one of the **six Regional Specialized Meteorological Centres** of the World Meteorological Organization.

Nainital Forest Fire

Why in News?

A large **wildfire** was spread across the **forests near Nainital** in Uttarakhand. The crisis prompted the **Indian Air Force** to dispatch personnel and **Mi-17 helicopters** to help control the intense blaze.

➢ The fire has allegedly **destroyed 108 hectares** of forests.

Key Points

➢ The helicopters are gathering water and using jet-sprays to extinguish the fire in what is known as the **Bambi Bucket operation.**

➢ According to the **Uttarakhand's Forest Department,** 26 incidents of forest fire occurred in the **State's Kumaon region** in a few hours.

  ○ While **five incidents occurred in Garhwal region,** where 33.34 hectares of forest area was affected.

➢ As per a **2019 report** from the **Forest Research Institute (Dehradun),** which comes under the Environment

Ministry of India, **95% of forest fires are caused by humans.**

➢ There are **four forest-fire clusters in India:** the North-Western Himalayas, North-East India, Central Ghats, and Western and Eastern Ghats.

  ○ Fires in the **North-Western Himalayas** are attributed to the preponderance of **pine trees and the accumulation of thick flammable litter.**

  ○ In the summer, there is a large quantity of pine needles that gather on the forest floor, which is highly susceptible to fire.

Number of forest fires detected in Uttarakhand 2019-23*

*2019: until June 30
2020: until June 23
2021: until July 23
2022: until August 6
2023: until November 29
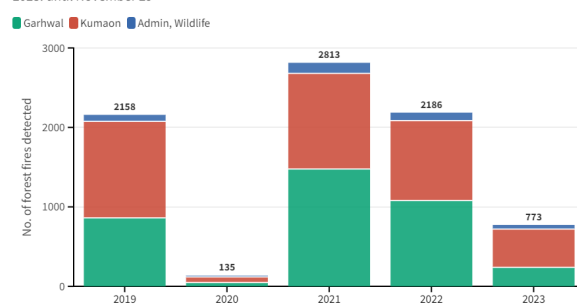
Bambi Bucket operation
➢ The Bambi Bucket, also called a helicopter bucket or a helibucket, is a specialised container that is suspended by cable under a chopper, and which can be filled by lowering into a river or pond before being flown **above a fire and discharged aerially by opening a valve at the bottom of the bucket.**
➢ The Bambi Bucket is especially helpful in fighting wildfires that are difficult or impossible to reach from the ground. Around the world, helicopters are frequently commissioned to fight forest fires.
Forest Fire
➢ Also called **bush or vegetation fire or wildfire,** it can be described as any uncontrolled and non-prescribed combustion or burning of plants in a natural setting such as a forest, grassland, brushland or tundra, which consumes the natural fuels and spreads based on environmental conditions (e.g., wind, topography).

Note:

➢ A wildfire requires **three essential elements to sustain combustion** like Fuel, Oxygen, and a Heat source.

➢ Classification:

  ❍ **Surface Fire:** A forest fire may burn primarily as a surface **fire, spreading along the ground as the surface** litter (senescent leaves and twigs and dry grasses etc) on the forest floor and is engulfed by the spreading flames.

  ❍ **Underground Fire/Zombie Fire:** The fires of low intensity, consuming the organic matter beneath and the surface litter of the forest floor are sub-grouped as underground fires. In most of the dense forests, **a thick mantle of organic matter is found on top of the mineral soil.**

    ● These fires usually **spread entirely underground** and burn for some meters below the surface.

    ● This fire spreads very slowly and in most cases it becomes **very hard to detect and control** such types of fires.

    ● They may continue to **burn for months** and destroy the vegetative cover of the soil.

  ❍ **Canopy or Crown Fires:** These occur when **fire spreads through the upper canopy of trees,** often fueled by high winds and dry conditions. They can be particularly intense and difficult to control.

  ❍ **Controlled Deliberate Fires:** In some cases, controlled deliberate fires, also known as **prescribed burns or bushfires,** are intentionally set by forest management agencies to reduce fuel loads, **mitigate the risk of uncontrolled wildfires,** and promote ecosystem health.

    ● These controlled burns are carefully planned and executed under specific conditions to minimize risks and maximize benefits to the forest ecosystem.

Uttarakhand Suspends License of Patanjali Products

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Government has **suspended manufacturing licenses of 14 products** made by pharmaceutical companies of yoga **guru Ramdev** for repeatedly publishing **misleading advertisements** about their efficacy.

Key Points

➢ **The Supreme Court of India** has in recent weeks repeatedly criticized Ramdev for not complying with its directives in an ongoing lawsuit to stop misleading advertisements of some of his traditional ayurvedic medicines.

➢ The list of 14 products whose licenses were suspended included traditional medicines for **asthma, bronchitis and diabetes.**

➢ The case in the Supreme Court relates to the Indian Medical Association's allegations that the firm, Patanjali, disparages conventional medicines and continued publishing misleading ads despite a court directive to stop them.

➢ Patanjali's advertisements violated the **Drugs & Other Magical Remedies Act, 1954 (DOMA), and the Consumer Protection Act, 2019 (CPA).**

➢ The **Drugs and Magic Remedies Act, 1954,** regulates drug advertisements and bans promotions of certain magic remedies.

  ❍ It prohibits ads that **falsely represent a drug's nature or effectiveness** and those promoting drugs for specific diseases listed in the Act.

  ❍ Additionally, it prohibits advertising magic remedies claiming to treat the same diseases.

➢ **Section 89 of the CPA imposes stringent penalties** for false or misleading advertisements.

  ❍ It states that any **manufacturer or service provider** who causes a false or misleading advertisement to be made which is prejudicial to the interest of consumers shall be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to two years and with fine which **may extend to ten lakh rupees;** and for **every subsequent offence**, be punished with imprisonment for a term which may extend to five years and with fine which may extend to fifty lakh rupees.

Note:

Key Points

Details

Summary

Key Points   **Details**

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