



STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

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No Snow on Om Parvat

Why in News?

Recently, For the first time in recorded history, snow has vanished from **Om Parvat in Uttarakhand**, sparking profound concerns among **environmentalists**.

Key Points

- Experts have attributed this unprecedented event primarily to the deficient rainfall and sporadic snowfall observed in the upper **Himalayan region** over the past five years.
- The significant **decline in precipitation has directly contributed to the diminishing snow cover on Om Parvat**. Moreover, the escalation of vehicular **pollution** and the effects of **global warming** have further aggravated the situation.
 - The implications of this event has potential repercussions for the region's **tourism industry**.
- The disappearance of snow from Om Parvat serves as a stark indicator of the broader ramifications of **climate change**.
 - The Himalayan region, characterized by its fragile ecosystem, is especially **susceptible to alterations in temperature and precipitation patterns**.
 - The rise in global temperatures has **accelerated glacier melt and diminished snowfall**, impacting the region's natural beauty and the water resources.
- **Efforts to mitigate the impact of climate change** in the region must encompass measures such as **reducing vehicular emissions, managing forest fires, and promoting sustainable tourism practices**.
 - Assessing the carrying capacity of **ecologically sensitive areas** and **enforcing stringent regulations on vehicular activity** can aid in preserving the natural beauty and ecological integrity of the Himalayas.



Note:

Om Parvat

- It is located in the **Vyas Valley of Pithoragarh district**, Uttarakhand at an altitude of approximately 14,000 feet.
- It is renowned for its snow-capped peak that **naturally forms a pattern resembling the Hindu symbol "Om."**
 - This unique feature has made it a **popular destination for tourists and pilgrims alike.**

Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950

- It was one of the **first important pieces of legislation that abolished the zamindari system** in India.
- The main goal of this reform was to **remove the intermediaries**, such as Zamindars, Jagirdars, and Inamdars, who were exploiting tenant farmers.
- The reform also aimed to **strengthen the landholders, or cultivators, by transferring land ownership directly to them.**

Supplementary Budget Tabled in Uttarakhand Assembly

Why in News?

Recently, The **Uttarakhand government** presented a Rs 5,013 crore **supplementary budget** in the state assembly.

Key Points

- The **Uttarakhand Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024**, and an **amendment to the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act, 1950** were also introduced.
 - The supplementary budget included **Rs 1,532 crore for centrally funded schemes** and **Rs 273 crore for externally aided schemes.**
 - A total provision of Rs 749 crore has been made for **major construction works** in the state.
 - Rs 50 crore has been kept for **Tehri Lake development**, Rs 32 crore for **Gau Sadan construction**, Rs 25 crore for nursing colleges and Rs 14 crore for degree college construction.
- The Uttarakhand Prisons and Correctional Services Bill, 2024, aims to **update the state's prison laws** following the **repeal of several older acts** by the Union Ministry of Home Affairs. The bill addresses the **management and rehabilitation of prisoners.**
- The state government has proposed amendments to the Zamindari Abolition and Land Reforms Act to **address issues arising from the expansion of municipal areas** and related land disputes.

Capacity Building Program at NCGG Mussoorie

Why in News?

Recently, The **National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)** in Mussoorie, commenced the **5th Capacity Building Program** for mid-career **civil servants of Sri Lanka.**

Key Points

- It is a **two-week program** being organized from 19th August 2024 to 30th August 2024, and is **hosting 39 mid-career civil servants from Sri Lanka.**
- The programme is curated to **offer participants a broader understanding of cultural nuances and shared governance practices.**
 - This exposure presents participants with **valuable insights to adopt and implement good governance models** for the benefit of the citizens.
 - The program encompasses a wide range of sessions covering topics such as **the Changing Paradigm of Governance**, **Digital India**, the **Right to Service: Ease of Living**, **Land Records Management under the Swamitva Scheme**, **Aspirational District Programs**, the **Approach to Achieving SDGs by 2030**, **Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana**, among others.

Note:

National Centre for Good Governance (NCGG)

- The National Centre for Good Governance was **established in 2014**. It is mandated to **train civil servants from India and other countries**.
 - Over the years, the center has successfully trained officers from various nations from various countries such as **Bangladesh, Kenya, Tanzania, Tunisia, Seychelles, Gambia, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Laos, Vietnam, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Somalia, South Africa, Indonesia, Madagascar, Fiji, Mozambique and Cambodia**.

Agitators Quota in Government Jobs

Why in News?

Recently, The **Uttarakhand agitators and their dependents** met the Uttarakhand Chief Minister and expressed gratitude for the passage of the **bill providing 10% reservation in government jobs**.

Key Points

- According to the Chief Minister the **state government recognizes the agitators' struggle and sacrifices** and gives top priority to their welfare.
 - Along with **increasing the pension of the statehood agitators**, the government has also decided to give **pension to their dependents after their death**.

Uttarakhand Movement

- The **Uttarakhand movement led to the formation of Uttarakhand** as a **separate state** from the undivided state of Uttar Pradesh.
- The demand to make Uttarakhand a state was **first raised at a special session of the Indian National Congress in 1938**.
- The **movement gained traction and by 1994**, the demand for a separate state eventually took the form of a **mass movement that resulted in the formation of India's 27th state on 9th November 2000**.

Uttarakhand Lifts Restrictions on Char Dham Tourists

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand government decided that there will be no limit on the number of pilgrims visiting the Char dhams**, despite multiple **landslides** that have blocked the route for pilgrims.

- The **yatra starts in May and continues till the first week of September** every year.

Key Points

- The state government has set a **daily limit of 12,000 pilgrims for the dhams**, but in **2018**, a **Supreme Court-appointed committee recommended a limit of 5,000 pilgrims per day for Kedarnath**.
- At a **2023 investor summit**, the state government reported that the **tourism sector contributes 15% to the state's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)**.
 - They also outlined plans to attract investments totaling Rs 20,000 crore and initiate 200 projects through the **Public-Private Partnership (PPP) model by 2030**.

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.

Note:

Gross Environment Product Index

Why in News?

Uttarakhand has become the first Indian state to launch a Gross Environment Product Index.

Key Points

- The **Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation** is the creator of the Gross Environment Product Index.
- There are **four pillars of the Gross Environment Product Index**: air, soil, tree and water.
 - The formula is, **GEP index = (Air-GEP index + Water-GEP index + Soil-GEP index + Forest-GEP index)**.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

EIA is a study conducted in the early stages of development project planning to predict and address potential environmental impacts.

What are the Objectives of Environment Impact Assessment?

- ① **Statutory Status:** Environmental (Protection) Act, 1986 (Made EIA mandatory)
- ② **Nodal Ministry:** Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC)
- ③ **Project Categorisation:** EIA Notification of 2006 categorises the developmental projects as:
 - **Category A Project:** Needed prior for Environmental Clearance (EC) from MoEF&CC
 - **Category B Project:** Needed prior EC from State/UT Govt.
 - **Category B1 projects** (Mandatory requires EIA)
 - **Category B2 projects** (Do not require EIA)

There are 39 categories of projects that require an EC process and are subject to EIA

Step	Objective	Carried Out By
Screening	Need of EIA	State Expert Appraisal Committee (SEAC) Category B1
Scoping	Identify important issues for EIA	Standard Term of Reference (ToR) prepared by MoEF&CC with PAC/SFAC for Category B Projects
Public Consultation	Address concerns of affected people	State Pollution Control Board (SPCB)/UT Pollution Control Board (UTPCB)
Project Appraisal	Feasibility of final EIA report/ Environmental Management Plan (EMP)	PAC for category A Projects with SFAC for category B1 Projects
Decision Making	Granting EC	Category A: MoEF&CC Category B: State LIA Authority (SLIA)
Monitoring (Post EC)	Compliance of general and specific conditions	SPCB/UTPCB and Regional Offices

Government Initiatives For EC

- **PARIVESH (Proactive and Responsive facilitation by Interactive, Virtuous, and Environmental Single Window Hub):** Single Window System for EC
 - Developed by MoEF&CC and National Information Centre (NIC)
- **Environmental Information System (ENVIS):** Collect, Collate, Store, Retrieving and Disseminating Information Related to the Environment Sector
- **Draft Environmental Impact Assessment Notification 2020:** Published by MoEF&CC to replace existing EIA Notification, 2006

Note:

- **Significance:**
 - It helps in assessing the **impact of anthropological pressure** on our ecosystem and natural resources.
 - It provides a **robust and integrated method for assessing a state's ecological growth**, capturing various facets of environmental well-being as a result of human actions.
- **Recommendation:**
 - Activities should be **prohibited; regulated and promoted**.
 - Regulated activities should be allowed only as per carrying capacity and **environmental impact assessment**.

Himalayan Environmental Studies and Conservation Organisation

- It is a **Non-governmental Organisations**, formed in 1979.
- Its aims are:
 - Resource based **ecological and economical development of Himalayan community**.
 - Building and empowering community organisation for **socio economical independence**.

Uttarakhand CM Launches Rs. 30 Cr Schemes

Why in News?

Uttarakhand Chief Minister (CM) Pushkar Singh Dhama inaugurated 26 projects worth more than Rs 30 crore ahead of **Raksha Bandhan**.

Key Points:

- **Focus on Women's Empowerment:** The schemes are part of the government's efforts to empower women, especially in areas such as economic upliftment and safety.
- **Infrastructure and Welfare Projects:** The launched projects include a **mix of infrastructure development and welfare programs** aimed at improving the state's overall development.

- **Flood Protection Measures:** As part of the schemes, CM announced efforts to protect areas affected by **flooding, focusing on disaster preparedness and recovery**.
- **Recognizing Local Women:** The Chief Minister also honored the women doing better work in the district and appreciated the **handmade rakhis** and other manufactured products made from **Pirul, Aipan, Yarn** and other local products by the women of the self-help group of the district.
- **New Names for Public Infrastructure:** The announcement includes the naming of the under-construction stadium in Champawat after the **late Kailash Gahtori**.
 - Additionally, the **Kharkodi road of Gram Panchayat Dudhali** will be named in honor of martyred commando **Naveen Singh Bisht** of the Indian Army.

Stray Dogs Near Corbett Tiger Reserve to be Vaccinated

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Stray dogs** in villages within 2 kilometre radius of the **Corbett Tiger Reserve's** boundaries in Uttarakhand will be **vaccinated** against the **canine distemper virus** so that the **disease does not infect tigers and elephants of the reserve**.

Key Points

- Canine distemper is a contagious and serious disease that **attacks the respiratory, gastrointestinal and nervous systems of dogs**.
- The vaccination drive will be **conducted as part of a central government funded pilot project for better health of wildlife**.
 - It is a project of the **National Mission for Himalayan Studies** of the Government of India, aims to work on **ways to improve the health of the country's wildlife**.
 - **The Veterinary Department of Uttarakhand government** and **Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI)** located in Uttar Pradesh's Bareilly will jointly examine and vaccinate stray dogs.

Note:

Canine Distemper Virus

- Canine distemper virus is known mainly to **cause a severe infection in dogs and wild carnivores** such as wolves, foxes, raccoons, red pandas, ferrets, hyenas, tigers, and lions.
- The prevalence of this virus and its diversity in wildlife of India is not adequately studied.
 - A lion does not eat the entire prey at one go. In between, the dogs consume the kill and infect it with the CDV. Once the lion returns to finish it off, it gets the deadly disease.
- The CDV is **more dangerous for lions than tigers**. This is because lions move together in large numbers, making them more vulnerable to the virus as compared to tigers that are more isolated and territorial animals.

World Elephant Day

Why in News?

Recently, The **Corbett Tiger Reserve** in Uttarakhand ran an awareness campaign to celebrate **World Elephant Day**.

Key Points

- **Corbett Tiger Reserve**
 - It is located in the **Nainital district of Uttarakhand**. The **Project Tiger** was launched in 1973 in **Corbett National Park (first National Park of India)**, which is part of Corbett Tiger Reserve.
 - The national park was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger.
 - It is named after Jim Corbett who played a key role in its establishment.
 - The core area forms the **Corbett National Park while the buffer contains reserve forests** as well as the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary.
 - The entire area of the reserve is mountainous and falls in the Shivalik and Outer Himalaya geological provinces.
 - **Ramganga, Sonanadi, Mandal, Palain and Kosi** are the major rivers flowing through the Reserve.
 - Sprawling over **500 square kilometres**, CTR is home to 230 tigers and has the world's highest tiger density at 14 tigers per hundred square kilometres.
 - **Flora:**
 - Dense moist deciduous forests are found. According to the **botanical survey of India**, Corbett has 600 species of plants - trees, shrubs, ferns, grass, climbers, herbs, and bamboo. Sal, Khair, and Sissoo are the most visible trees found in Corbett.
 - **Fauna:**
 - Apart from tigers, Corbett also has leopards. Other mammals such as jungle cats, barking deer, spotted deer, sambar deer, sloth etc. are also found there.
 - **Other Major Protected Areas of Uttarakhand:**
 - **Nanda Devi National Park.**
 - Valley of Flowers National Park.
 - **Valley of Flowers National Park** and **Nanda Devi National Park** together are a **UNESCO World Heritage Site**.
 - **Rajaji National Park.**
 - **Gangotri National Park.**
 - Govind National Park

Note:



National Parks & Sanctuaries of Uttarakhand



World Elephant Day

- It is celebrated every year on the **12th August** to bring awareness to the status of Asian and African elephants in the wild.
- The theme for 2024 is “**Personifying prehistoric beauty, theological relevance, and environmental importance**”.
- India is home to about **60%** of the world’s Asian elephant population, with an estimated 27,312 individuals as per the 2017 census and 138 identified **elephant corridors**.
- Elephants have a **gestation period of about 22 months**, the longest of any land animal.
- Asian elephants (Indian) are classified as **Endangered** on the **IUCN Red List** due to habitat loss, human-elephant conflict, and poaching.

Note:

ELEPHANT



4 Main Species of Elephant

Species	Found in	IUCN Red List Status	Habitat
Indian	Asia	EN (CITES - Appendix I, WPA - Schedule I)	Subtropical broadleaf forest, tropical broadleaf moist forest, dry forest, grassland
Sumatran	Asia	CR	Broadleaf moist tropical forests
Savanna (Bush)	Africa	EN	All sub-Saharan Africa except for Central Africa's dense tropical forest
Forest	Africa	CR	Dense Tropical Forests

Indian Elephant (*Elephas maximus*)

Largest Land Mammal on Asian Continent
National Heritage Animal of India

Top 5 Indian States by Maximum Elephant Population:
(As per elephant census 2017)

Karnataka > Assam > Kerala > Tamil Nadu > Odisha

Social Structure:

- Female elephants are more social than males; form herd (generally 5-7)
- Led by the oldest female, the 'matriarch'
- Males usually live alone

Threats:

- Habitat Fragmentation
- Human-Elephant Conflict
- Poaching for Ivory
- Misreatment in Captivity

Conservation Efforts:

- Gaj Soochna App (2022)
- Gaj Yatra (2017)
- Hathi Mere Saathi campaign (2011)
- National Elephant Corridor project (2005)
- Monitoring the Illegal Killing of Elephants (MIKE) Programme (2003)
- Project Elephant (1992)

Women Swept Away in Uttarakhand Rivers

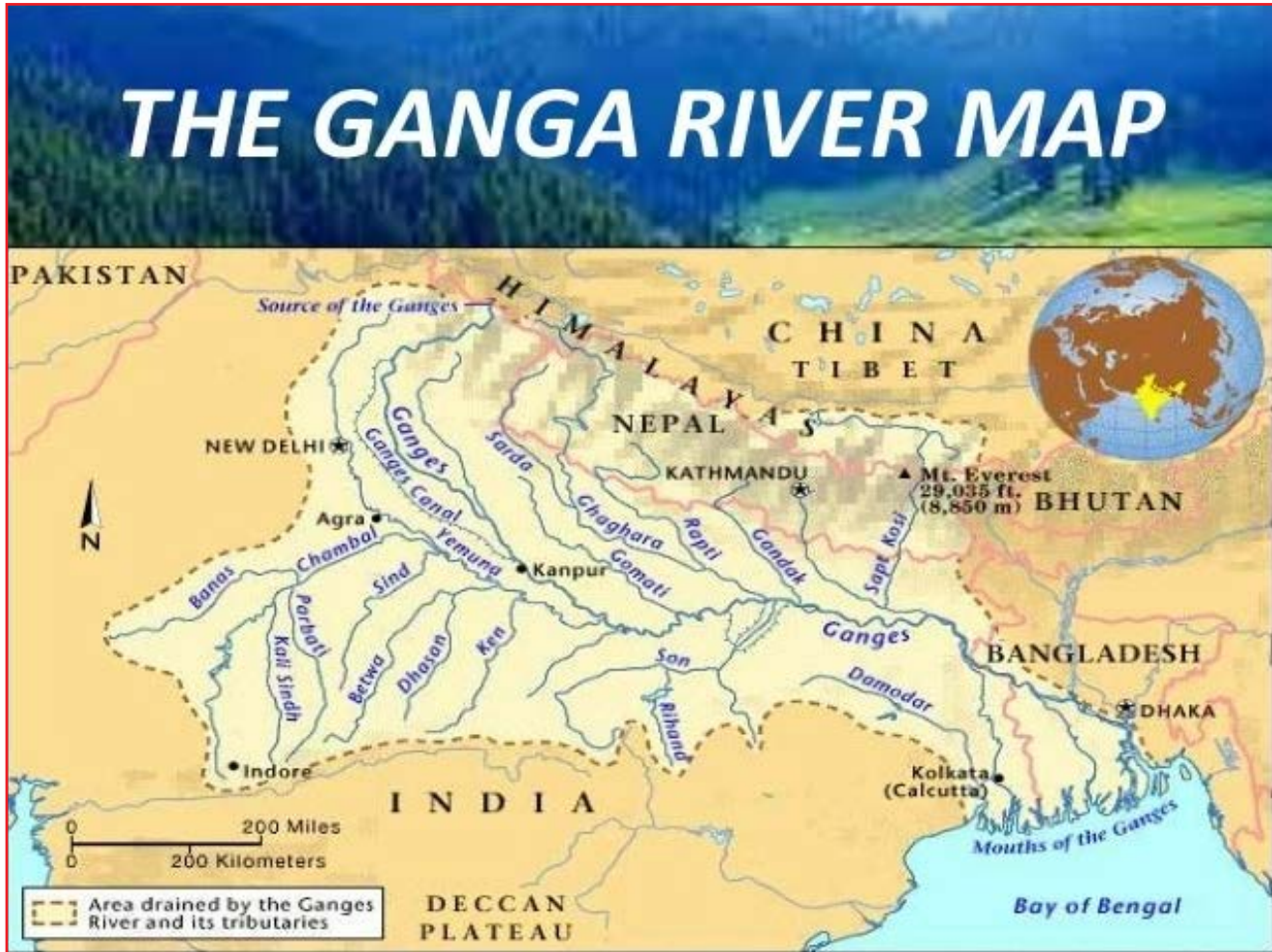
Why in News?

Recently, Three women were swept away by strong currents in **Ganga** and **Bhagirathi rivers** in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- A **State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)** team has launched a search operation in the area.
- Bhagirathi River:
 - It is a **turbulent Himalayan river** of Uttarakhand, and one of the two headstreams of the Ganges.
 - The Bhagirathi rises at the foot of **Gangotri Glacier**, at **Gaumukh**, at an elevation of 3892 m and fanning out into the 350 km wide Ganga delta, it finally empties into the **Bay of Bengal**.
 - The **Bhagirathi and Alaknanda** join at **Devprayag** in Garhwal and are thereafter known as **the Ganges**.

Note:



Land Subsidence in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the sources, **Uttarakhand** is facing the impact of **monsoon rains**, with extensive damage to roads and residential buildings.

- The state has been experiencing continuous rainfall since the onset of the monsoon, leading to persistent **weather challenges**.

Key Points

- Multiple **landslides** have occurred on the **Kund-Ukhimath-Chopta-Gopeshwar highway**, while the **iron bridge over the Mandakini River** in Kund, which connects Rudraprayag-Gaurikund National Highway to Kedarghati and Kedarnath, is **under threat** due to strong river currents.
 - The **National Highway Construction Division** inspected the bridge site and immediately **imposed a ban on the movement of heavy vehicles on the bridge**.
- The Uttarakhand government has sounded a **high alert in the affected areas**, with emergency services on standby to respond to any further emergencies.
 - The situation is being closely monitored, and **residents are advised to exercise extreme caution**.

Note:



Honorarium for Adopting Destitute Bovine Animals

Why in News?

According to the sources, the **Uttarakhand government** is planning to provide a **fixed honorarium to state residents who adopt destitute bovine animals**.

Key Points

- As per officials, Rs 80 to be given to people per animal and the amount may go up to Rs 100 in special cases if the animal is extremely sick and needs extra care.
- According to the data provided by the **Uttarakhand Animal Welfare Board (UAWB)**, there are a **total of 60 registered bovine shelters in the State** in which 14,000 bovines are currently residing.

Note: A **bovine animal** is a domesticated, cloven-hoofed ruminant of the *genus Bos*, such as a **goat, cow, buffalo, bison, deer, or sheep**.

Rajya Shakti Tilu Rauteli Award

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand government** recognized 13 outstanding women with the **Rajya Shakti Tilu Rauteli Award** in Dehradun, **commemorating their exceptional accomplishments in diverse domains**.

Key Points

- The awardees included **Preeti Goswami**, a **para-swimmer** and athlete hailing from Almora; **Neha Devali**, a **taekwondo player** from Bageshwar; **Sangeeta Rana**, a **powerlifter** from Haridwar; and **Mandeep Kaur**, a **para-badminton player** from Udham Singh Nagar.
- Other honorees included **Padma Shri** awardee **Madhuri Barthwal** for her work in **folk singing**, **Soniya Arya** from Champawat for **promoting Hindi literature**, **Vinita Devi** from Rudraprayag for her bravery in

saving her mother-in-law from a wild animal attack in June, **Narmada Rawat** from Chamoli for her efforts in **advancing handicrafts and handloom**, and **Sudha Pal** from Nainital for her **contributions to science**.

Rajya Shakti Tilu Rauteli Award

- This award is **given every year by the Government of Uttarakhand** in the name of Veerbala Tilu Rauteli to **women who have done remarkable work in various fields**.
 - The state government had started the tilu Rauteli award for women and adolescent girls who have done remarkable work in the field of women empowerment since **2006 on the birth anniversary of Uttarakhand's heroine Tilu Rauteli**.
- Under this, the state government gives **31 thousand rupees and a citation**.

NGT to Uttarakhand: Disclose Carrying Capacity Responsibility

Why in News?

The **National Green Tribunal** asked the **Uttarakhand's environment department to disclose responsibility** in case of an accident as there is no carrying capacity restricting the number of pilgrims across **Char Dham** in Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- According to the tribunal, there is **no carrying capacity fixed even on an ad-hoc basis** for the pilgrims on the tracks of **Shri Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri**, and there is **no restriction in respect of the number of pilgrims** on those tracks.
 - According to the **state government's counsel**, **one year would be required to get a report** about the carrying capacity at the four pilgrimage sites.
 - As per NGT, the unregulated **number of pilgrims could result in a mishap** and someone must take its responsibility.

Note:

Climate Change Imprint in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the experts, the **heavy rainfall** in Uttarakhand was not a **cloudburst**, but shows the **impact of climate change**, highlighting the **Indian Himalayas'** lack of preparedness for such intense rainfall.

Key Points

- The districts of Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Pauri and Tehri Garhwal reported damage to life and property due to heavy rainfall.
- According to the **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** meteorologist, a 'cloudburst' is defined as **more than 100 mm of rainfall in one hour**.
 - In this case, there was no cloudburst in Kedarnath, but Nainital and Dehradun recorded over 50 mm in one hour, and Sonprayag received more than 30 mm of rain in an hour.
- The **sensitive geomorphological conditions** of high mountain areas make even **less rainfall cause more damage**.
 - **Landslides** occur due to steep slopes, land shape, and soil nature, leading to extensive damage.
- The **geologically-young Himalayan range** is **not built for heavy rainfall**, and the **intensity of both heat and rain is increasing** in the mountains **due to climate change**.

Landslide

- A landslide is defined as the **movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope**.
- They are a **type of mass wasting**, which denotes any downward movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- The term landslide encompasses **five modes of slope movement: falls, topples, slides, spreads, and flows**.

UCC before Uttarakhand's Foundation Day

Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand Chief Minister** declared that his state will implement the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** before **Foundation Day (9th November 2024)**.

Key Points

- The **UCC Bill** was introduced in the **state legislative assembly on 6th February 2024** and was passed on **7th February 2024** during a **special session of the Uttarakhand assembly**.
- It was proposed in India to **establish uniform rules for personal matters** such as **marriage, divorce, inheritance, and property rights applying** to all citizens equally irrespective of their **religion, gender or sexual orientation**.
- The proposed law has **392 sections divided into four parts and seven chapters** providing equal rights to women in marriage, divorce, alimony and inheritance of property, proscribes certain kinds of relationships, bans polygamy, sets the marriageable age for men and women (21 years and 18 years respectively), and makes registration of marriages mandatory.
 - The **state's Scheduled Tribe population** which comprises **2.89% of the population** are exempted from this law.

Note:





UNIFORM CIVIL CODE

All sections of the society irrespective of their religion shall be treated equally according to a National Civil Code - the Uniform Civil Code.

THEY COVER AREAS LIKE



Maintenance



Inheritance



Marriage



Divorce



Adoption

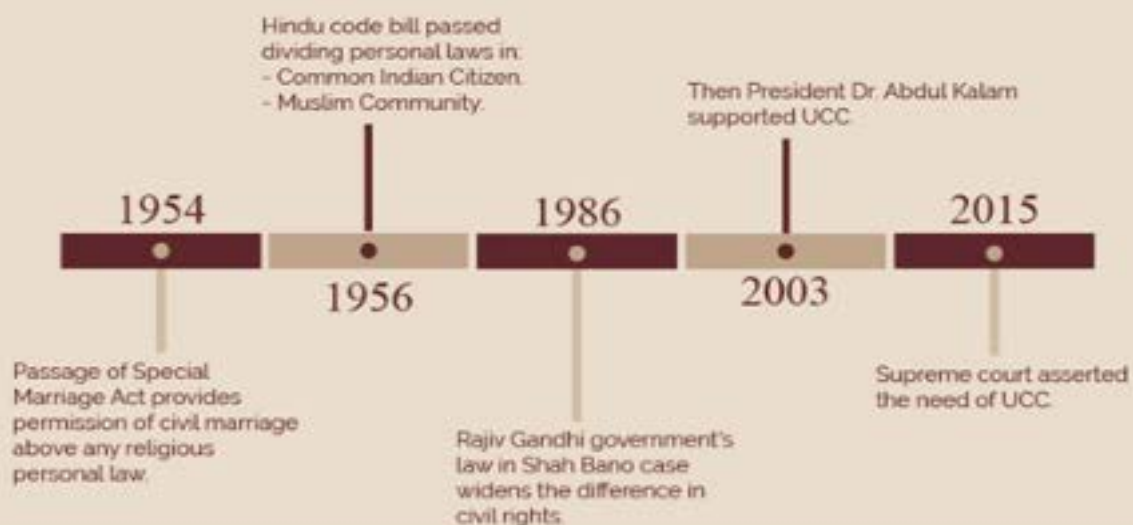


Succession of Property

It is based on the premise that there is necessarily no connection between religion and personal law in a civilized society.

"UCC refers to a common set of laws governing civil rights of every citizen."
Article 44 of Directive Principles sets duty of state for implementing UCC.

TIMELINE



The dialogue for UCC was started by the Law Commission in the year 2016

Note:



drishti

Rare Orchid Species

Why in News?

Recently, Two research associates from the Uttarakhand forest department found a **rare orchid species**, *Calanthe davidii*, at Gini Band in Munsyari tehsil of Pithoragarh district.



Key Points

- India is home to 244 orchid species, and Uttarakhand hosts 120 of them, some of which are exceptionally rare.
 - One such rare species is *Calanthe davidii*, a **terrestrial plant that grows in clusters** and reaches heights between 40 and 90 centimeters.
 - This species was **initially discovered in the Western Himalayas**, including Mussoorie and Mayabasti in Uttarakhand, Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.

- In Uttarakhand, it was first found in Mussoorie in 1898 and in Champawat in 2002.
- This species is **under threat due to seasonal goat herding activities**.

- In response, the Uttarakhand forest research wing has **initiated efforts to cultivate the plants in a nursery located in Chamoli district**, in order to conserve this species.

Red Alert for Uttarakhand

Why in News?

Recently, The **India Meteorological Department (IMD)** has issued a **red alert** for certain areas in Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand due to an **increased risk of extremely heavy rainfall and potential flooding**.

Key Points

- Heavy rainfall raises concerns for **waterlogging, landslides, and disruptions to daily life and transportation**.
- Authorities are urging residents in these areas to **stay informed with the latest weather updates and take necessary precautions** to safeguard their health and property as the monsoon intensifies.

Colour- Coded Weather Warning

- It is issued by the **IMD** whose objective is to alert people ahead of severe or hazardous weather which has the potential to cause damage, widespread disruption or danger to life.
- Warnings are updated daily.
- The IMD uses 4 colour codes are:
 - **Green (All is well):** No advisory is issued.
 - **Yellow (Be Aware):** Yellow indicates severely bad weather spanning across several days. It also suggests that the weather could change for the worse, causing disruption in day-to-day activities.

Note:



- **Orange/Amber (Be prepared):** The orange alert is issued as a warning of **extremely bad** weather with the potential of disruption in commute with road and rail closures, and interruption of power supply.
- **Red (Take Action):** When the extremely bad weather conditions are certainly going to **disrupt travel** and power and have significant risk to life, the red alert is issued.
- These alerts are **universal in nature** and are also issued during floods, depending on the amount of water rising above land/in a river as a result of torrential rainfall.
- For instance, when the water in a river is 'above normal' level, or between the 'warning' and 'danger' levels, a yellow alert is issued.

Kedarnath Cloudburst

Why in News?

Recently, A **cloudburst in Kedarnath** caused significant damage, leading to a **sharp rise in the Mandakini River's water level in Sonprayag**.

- Emergency services have been placed on high alert as authorities are concerned that between **150 to 200 pilgrims may be stranded in Kedarnath**.

Key Points

- The cloudburst triggered a **landslide along the Kedarnath walking path**, damaging about 30 meters of the route, leading to its temporary closure for safety reasons.
 - Heavy rainfall in **Haridwar caused widespread flooding**. Areas like Bhupatwala, Haridwar, Naya Haridwar, Kankhal, and Jwalapur have been severely affected.
- The **Regional Meteorological Center** has issued a **red alert for heavy to very heavy rainfall across seven districts** in Uttarakhand.

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**.

Note:

