



# STATE PCS CA

(CONSOLIDATION)

UTTARAKHAND

**MARCH  
2025**

**Drishti, 641 First Floor,  
Dr. Mukharjee Nagar, Delhi-110009**

**Inquiry: +91-87501-87501**

**Website: [www.drishtias.com](http://www.drishtias.com)**

**Email: [care@groupdrishti.in](mailto:care@groupdrishti.in)**

# Content

● Avalanche Alert in Uttarakhand .....	3
● Uttarakhand CAMPA Funds .....	4
● Uttarakhand Government Seals Multiple Madrasas .....	5
● Uttarakhand First Nanofabrication Facility.....	5
● Lakhpati Didi Yojana in Uttarakhand .....	7
● Ropeway Projects Approved in Uttarakhand .....	8
● PM to Offer Prayers at Mukhwa .....	8
● Uttarakhand Approves Unified Pension Scheme.....	10
● Electrama 2025.....	10
● Chamoli Avalanche .....	11
● NGT Seeks Presence of Uttarakhand Officials .....	12
● Uttarakhand UCC.....	13

  
drishti

## Avalanche Alert in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

The Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE) has issued an avalanche warning for high-altitude areas across five districts of Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- **Avalanche in Chamoli:**
  - The alert follows a **deadly avalanche in Mana (Chamoli)**, near the **Indo-China border** in Chamoli district.
  - The avalanche claimed the lives of eight contractual workers from **the Border Roads Organisation (BRO)**.
- **Avalanche Warnings:**
  - The DGRE issued an **orange alert** for high-altitude areas in **Chamoli**, indicating a high risk of avalanches.
  - A **yellow alert**, signaling moderate risk, was issued for **Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, and Rudraprayag districts**.
  - A **green warning**, indicating a low threat level, was issued for **Bageshwar district**.
    - Fresh **snowfall** has led to increased snow accumulation on slopes, significantly raising the risk of avalanches in these regions.
- **Safety Recommendations:**
  - The DGRE **advised restricting movement to safer and carefully selected routes** through the valley.
  - It urged extreme caution while traveling and **warned against venturing onto snow-loaded slopes**.
  - Authorities recommended evacuating unprotected settlements near avalanche-prone paths.

### Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE)

#### ➤ About:

- DGRE is the only establishment within **the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO)** that provides **advanced terrain intelligence solutions to the Armed Forces**.

- It specializes in **mapping, forecasting, monitoring, controlling, and mitigating landslides and avalanches in the Indian Himalayas**.
- DGRE was **established on 15th November 2020**, under the Armament & Combat Engineering Cluster of DRDO.
- It was formed by merging two premier DRDO labs:
  - **Snow & Avalanche Study Establishment (SASE)**, Chandigarh
  - **Defence Terrain Research Laboratory (DTRL)**, Delhi
- The **headquarters** of DGRE is located in **Chandigarh**.
- **Research and Meteorological Centres:**
  - DGRE operates **five Research & Development Centres (RDCs)** in:
    - Manali (Himachal Pradesh)
    - Delhi
    - Tezpur (Assam)
    - Tawang (Arunachal Pradesh)
    - Lachung (Sikkim)
  - It also has **three Mountain Meteorological Centres (MMCs)** in:
    - Srinagar (J&K)
    - Auli (Uttarakhand)
    - Sasoma (Ladakh U.T.)
- **Objectives:**
  - Ensuring the **safe mobility of troops in challenging terrains**.
  - Assessing the **military potential of different terrains** using modern evaluation techniques.
  - Mission Priorities:
    - **Geospatial Information System** – Develop a system for operational planning and military intelligence.
    - **Engineering Solutions** – Provide cutting-edge engineering solutions to ensure safe troop movement, particularly in avalanche- and landslide-prone areas.
    - **AI-Enabled Systems** – Build intelligent, AI-powered solutions for optimized deployment and operational efficiency.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

### Avalanche

- **About:**
  - An avalanche is a sudden, rapid flow of **snow, ice, and debris down** a mountain or slope.
  - It can be triggered by various factors such as heavy snowfall, rapid temperature changes, or human activity.
  - Many regions that are prone to avalanches **have specialized teams that monitor and control avalanche risks** by using various methods such as explosives, snow barriers, and other safety measures.
- **Types:**
  - **Rock Avalanches** which consist of large segments of shattered rock.
  - **Ice Avalanches** which typically occur in the vicinity of a glacier.
  - **Debris Avalanches** which contain a variety of unconsolidated materials, such as loose stones and soil.

## Uttarakhand CAMPA Funds

### Why in News?

**The Supreme Court of India** reviewed Uttarakhand's response and deemed **the Uttarakhand Forest Department's 'diversion' of Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds** as insignificant.

### Key Points

- **Allegations Based on CAG Report:**
  - The SC sought a response from the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary regarding allegations from a **Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report** in the public domain.
  - The report accused the Forest Department of misusing **Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA) funds** for purchasing gadgets, including iPhones and laptops.
  - The allegedly misused funds amounted to **only 1.8% of the total CAMPA funds available**.
- **Directive on Interest Deposit Compliance:**
  - The Court directed Uttarakhand to timely deposit interest with **the State Compensatory Afforestation**

**Funds (SCAF)** as per **the Compensatory Afforestation Fund Act, 2016**.

- The CAG report highlighted non-payment of Rs 275.34 crore in interest between 2019-20 and 2021-22, despite multiple requests from CAMPA authorities.

### The Comptroller and Auditor General

- The CAG of India, as per **Article 148 of the Constitution**, heads the **Indian Audit and Accounts Department (IA-AD)**. He/she is responsible for safeguarding the public purse and overseeing the financial system at both the central and state levels.
  - The CAG upholds the **Constitution and parliamentary laws** in financial administration and is considered one of the key pillars of India's democratic system, alongside **the Supreme Court, Election Commission, and Union Public Service Commission**.
- CAG of India is governed by the **Comptroller and Auditor-General's (Duties, Powers and Conditions of Service) Act, 1971**, with significant amendments in 1976, 1984, and 1987.

### Compensatory Afforestation Fund

- The CAF Act was **passed by the centre in 2016** and the related rules were notified in 2018.
- The CAF Act was enacted to manage the funds collected for compensatory afforestation which till then was managed by **ad hoc Compensatory Afforestation Fund Management and Planning Authority (CAMPA)**.
  - **Compensatory afforestation** means that every time forest land is diverted for non-forest purposes such as mining or industry, the user agency pays for planting forests over an equal area of non-forest land, or when such land is not available, twice the area of degraded forest land.
- As per the rules, **90% of the CAF money is to be given to the states while 10% is to be retained by the Centre**.
- The funds can be **used for treatment of catchment areas, assisted natural generation, forest management, wildlife protection and management, relocation of villages from protected areas, managing human-wildlife conflicts, training and awareness generation, supply of wood saving devices and allied activities**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Uttarakhand Government Seals Multiple Madrasas

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand government has sealed 52 [madrasas](#) across the state. [Muslim organizations](#) have criticized the crackdown on [minority religious institutions](#).

### Key Points

- **Madrasas Sealed Across the State:**
  - Government officials cited **illegal and unauthorized construction** as the primary reason.
  - **Some institutions were found unregistered** and operating without recognition.
  - The identification **drive against minority institutions began in January 2024** following orders from the State Chief Minister.
    - The CM reiterated the commitment to act against illegal construction and [encroachment](#).
- **Statewide Crackdown on Illegal Encroachments:**
  - In 2023, the government launched a **statewide drive against illegal encroachments on forest land**.
  - Over 450 Mazars (minority religious structures) and 50 temples were demolished across Uttarakhand as part of the campaign.

#### Madrasas

- Madrasa is an **Arabic word** for an **educational institution**.
- Initially, [mosques](#) served as educational institutions in early Islam, but by the 10th century, madrasas evolved into distinct entities for both religious and secular learning in the Islamic world.
- The earliest madrasas were found in [Khorasan and Transoxania \(modern eastern and northern Iran, central Asia, and Afghanistan\)](#), with larger institutions providing housing for students, especially those from poor backgrounds.
- Recognized madrasas are **under state boards**; unrecognized ones follow curricula from major seminaries like [Darul Uloom Nadwatul Ulama and Darul Uloom Deoband](#).

#### Encroachment

- It is the **unauthorised use or occupation of someone else's property**. This can occur on abandoned or unused spaces if the legal owner is not actively involved in its upkeep. It is important for **property owners to be aware of the legal steps** to take and their rights in such cases.

- Urban encroachment refers to the **unauthorised occupation** or use of land or property within urban areas.
- This could include **illegal construction, squatting, or any other form of occupation** without proper permission or legal rights.
  - Land encroachment, as defined by **Section 441 of the Indian Penal Code (IPC), 1860**, is the act of unlawfully entering someone else's property without permission to commit an offence, threaten possession of the property, or stay on the land uninvited.

## Uttarakhand First Nanofabrication Facility

### Why in News?

[IIT-Roorkee](#) has established a **cutting-edge nanofabrication facility** in Uttarakhand to advance [India's semiconductor manufacturing mission](#).

### Key Points

- **International Collaboration:**
  - IIT-Roorkee collaborated with **Taiwan's premier semiconductor institutions** to exchange expertise.
  - [The Department of Science and Technology \(DST\)](#) funded the project, which began in 2019.
- **State-of-the-Art Infrastructure:**
  - The facility features cutting-edge instruments, including:
    - **50 kV Electron Beam Lithography (EBL)** system with 10nm resolution.
    - **Inductively Coupled Plasma RIE (ICP-RIE)**, a key etching technology for semiconductor manufacturing.
  - Equipped with ultra-clean rooms featuring controlled environments:
    - Class 100 space (300 sq ft) and Class 1000 space (600 sq ft) for precision research.
- **Research Applications:**
  - **The facility supports cutting-edge research in:**
    - [Quantum sensors](#)
    - [Spintronics](#)
    - Memory devices
    - [Thin-film devices](#)
    - [Photodetectors](#)
    - [Quantum optics](#)
    - [Photonic crystals](#)

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

### Department of Science and Technology

- The **foundation of DST was laid on 3rd May 1971** along the model of National Science Foundation (NSF), USA.
- It provides **funding and also makes policies** and co-ordinates scientific work with other countries.
- It **empowers scientists and scientific institutions** and also works with a highly distributed system permeating stakeholders ranging from school college, PhD, Postdoc students, young scientists, startups and NGOs working in Science & Technology.
- DST's budget has increased over the years by 100%, which has allowed initiation of new programmes in a wide range of areas.

# SEMICONDUCTORS

Semiconductors are materials having conductivity between conductors and insulators

## EXAMPLES

- **Pure Elements:** Silicon and Germanium
- **Compounds:** Gallium Arsenide and Cadmium selenide

## SIGNIFICANCE

- Essential to almost all sectors of the economy – **aerospace, automobiles, communications, clean energy, information technology** and **medical devices** etc.

## SEMICONDUCTORS AND INDIA

- **India Imports from:** China, Taiwan, USA and Japan
- **Indian Semiconductor Market:** Expected to reach **USD 55 bn** by **2026**

### SCHEMES

- **Production-Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme**
- **Design Linked Incentive (DLI) Scheme**
- Scheme for Promotion of Manufacturing of Electronic Components and Semi-conductors (SPECES)

### OBJECTIVES

- Encourage semiconductor and display manufacturing in the country.
- Nurture >20 domestic companies in semiconductor design  
Achieve a turnover of > Rs.1500 crore in next 5 years
- Manufacture electronics components and semiconductors

## INDIA'S SEMICONDUCTOR MISSION (ISM)

### VISION

- Build a **vibrant semiconductor and display design and innovation ecosystem**

### LAUNCHED

- 2021

### NODAL MINISTRY

- Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY)

### TOTAL FINANCIAL OUTLAY

- Rs 76,000 crore

### COMPONENTS

- Scheme for setting up of Semiconductor Fabs
- Scheme for setting up of Display Fabs
- Scheme for setting up of Compound Semiconductors/Silicon Photonics/Sensors (including MEMS) Fabs/ Discrete Semiconductors Fab and Semiconductor ATMP/OSAT
- DLI Scheme



Drishti IAS

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Lakhpati Didi Yojana in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand has achieved the highest success in implementing [the Lakhpati Didi Yojana](#), a key initiative under [the National Rural Livelihood Mission \(NRLM\)](#).

### Key Points

- **Progress Towards Targets:**
  - Udham Singh Nagar is nearing its target, with **25,918 women** becoming Lakhpati Didis against a goal of 27,285.
  - Haridwar follows, achieving 21,442 out of its 23,588 target.
  - Pauri, Almora, and Tehri have also made significant progress.
- **Entrepreneurial Opportunities for Rural Women:**
  - Under the Lakhpati Didi Yojana, rural women have become entrepreneurs by engaging in:
    - Value addition of coarse grains and fruits.
    - **Dairy farming** and **LPG** distribution.
    - Primary veterinary care and insurance schemes, earning commissions.
    - Digital transactions, strengthening household incomes.
- **NRLM's Impact on Women's Empowerment:**
  - NRLM has transformed the lives of women in remote villages, offering them not just financial stability but also empowerment and self-reliance.

### Lakhpati Didi Initiative

- **About:**
  - A "Lakhpati Didi" is a member of a SHG who has successfully achieved an **annual household income of Rupees One Lakh or more**.
  - This income is sustained across at least four agricultural seasons or business cycles, ensuring that the average monthly income exceeds Rupees Ten Thousand (Rs. 10,000).

- It was initiated by the [Deendayal Antyodaya Yojana- National Rural Livelihoods Mission \(DAY-NRLM\)](#), wherein each SHG household is encouraged to take up multiple livelihood activities coupled with value chain interventions, resulting in a sustainable income of Rs. 1,00,000 or more per year.

- **Purpose:**
  - The initiative aims to **empower women not only by improving their income but by transforming their lives through sustainable livelihood practices**.
  - These women serve as role models in their communities, demonstrating the power of effective resource management and entrepreneurship.

### National Rural Livelihood Mission

- **About:**
  - It is a **centrally sponsored programme**, launched by the Ministry of Rural Development in June 2011.
- **Aim:**
  - To **eliminate rural poverty** through the promotion of multiple livelihoods and improved access to financial services for the rural poor households across the country.
- **Functioning:**
  - It **involves working with community** institutions through community professionals in the spirit of self-help which is a unique proposition of DAY-NRLM.
  - It impacts the **livelihoods through universal social mobilization** by inter alia organising one-woman member from each rural poor household into [Self Help Groups \(SHGs\)](#), their training and capacity building, facilitating their micro-livelihoods plans, and enabling them to implement their livelihoods plans through accessing financial resources from their own institutions and the banks.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Ropeway Projects Approved in Uttarakhand

### Why in News?

On March 5, 2025, the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA), led by Prime Minister approved two ropeway projects in Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- **About the ropeway:**
  - The ropeways will connect Sonprayag to Kedarnath and Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Gurudwara.
  - These projects, estimated at Rs 7,000 crore, fall under the **National Ropeways Development Programme, Parvatmala Pariyojana**.
  - The ropeways will **significantly reduce travel time to pilgrimage sites** located over 3,500 metres above sea level.
- **Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib Ropeway:**
  - **Length:** 12.4 km
  - **Cost:** Rs 2,730.13 crore
  - **Development Mode:** Design, Build, Finance, Operate, and Transfer (DBFOT) under a public-private partnership (PPP).
  - **Current Trek:** Pilgrims currently take a challenging 21-km uphill trek from Govindghat to Hemkund Sahib, traveling on foot, ponies, or palanquins.
  - **Expected Benefits:**
    - The ropeway will ease travel for pilgrims, as the Gurudwara is open only for five months a year (May to September).
    - 1.5 to 2 lakh pilgrims visit Hemkund Sahib annually.
    - It will also benefit tourists visiting the Valley of Flowers, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.
- **Sonprayag to Kedarnath Ropeway:**
  - **Length:** 12.9 km
  - **Cost:** Rs 4,081.28 crore
  - **Technology:** Similar to the Hemkund Sahib ropeway
  - **Time Reduction:**
    - The ropeway will reduce travel time from the current 8-9 hours to just 36 minutes.
    - Pilgrims currently take helicopters, ponies, or walk a 16-km uphill path from Gaurikund to Kedarnath.

- Kedarnath Temple is one of the 12 Jyotirlingas and the most visited temple of the Char Dham Yatra.

### ➤ Economic and Tourism Impact:

- The ropeway projects will **generate employment during construction and operation**.
- They will boost allied industries such as hospitality, travel, food & beverages (F&B), and tourism throughout the year.

### Parvatmala Pariyojana

- It was announced in the union budget 2022-23 as an Efficient and Safe Alternate Transport Network.
- The scheme will be taken up on PPP (Public Private Partnership) mode, which will be a preferred ecologically sustainable alternative in place of conventional roads in difficult hilly areas.
- The idea is to **improve connectivity and convenience for commuters**, besides promoting tourism.
  - This may also cover congested urban areas, where conventional mass transit systems are not feasible.

### Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA)

- It is chaired by **the Prime Minister**, and **sets priorities for public sector investments**.
- It continuously **reviews economic trends** to develop an integrated economic policy framework and oversees policies and activities in the economic field, including foreign investment, requiring high-level decisions.

## PM to Offer Prayers at Mukhwa

### Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India is going to visit Uttarakhand and **pray at the winter seat of Maa Ganga in Mukhwa**.

### Key Points

- **Events in Harsil:**
  - The Prime Minister will **flag off a trek and a bike rally in Harsil**.
  - He will also address a public gathering during a function in the region.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:



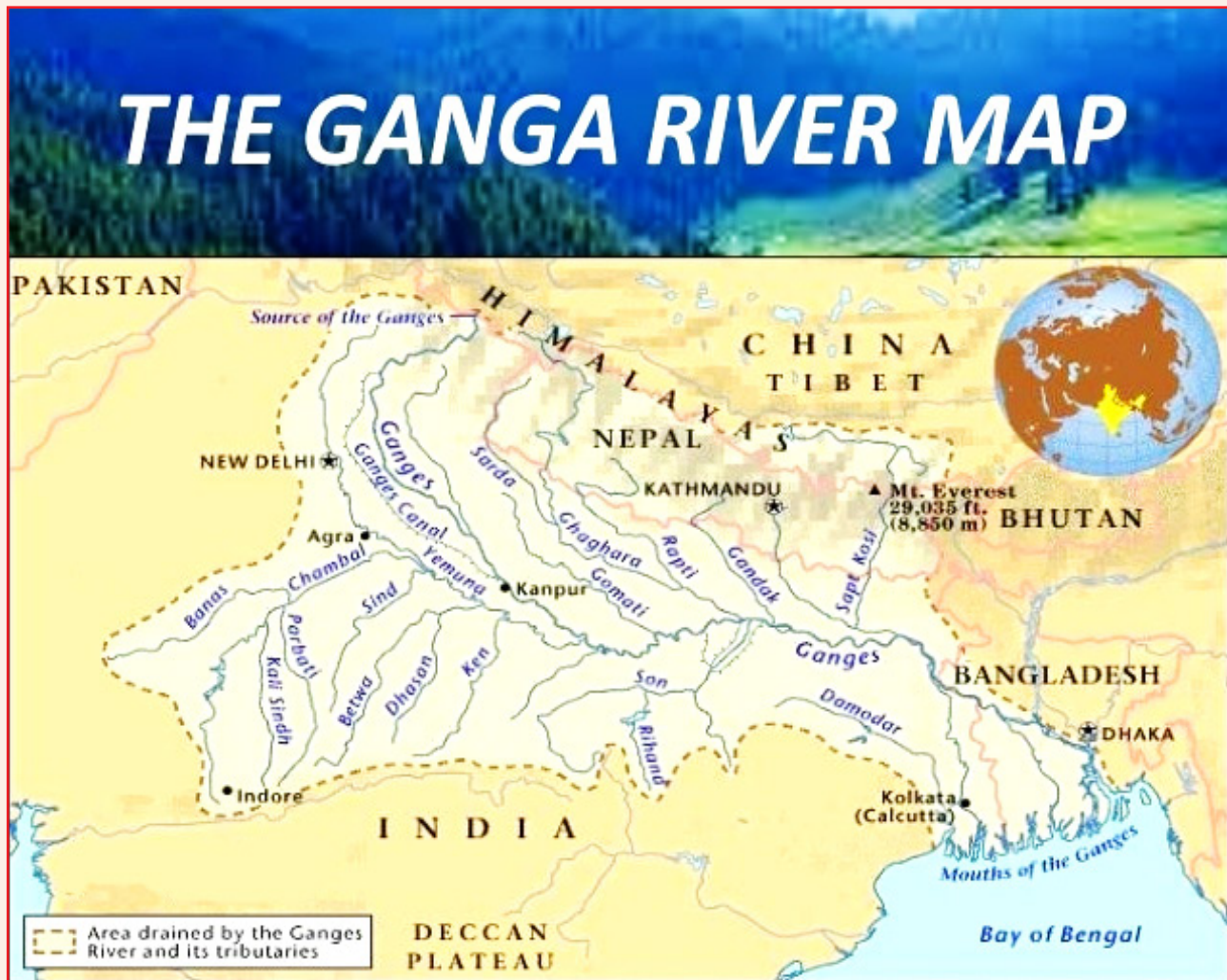
### ➤ Winter Tourism Programme:

- The Uttarakhand Government has launched a **Winter Tourism Programme** in 2025.
- The initiative **aims to promote religious tourism** and **boost the local economy**.
- Thousands of devotees have already visited the winter seats of **Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath**.
- The programme will support homestays, tourism businesses, and related sectors.

### Mukhwa

- It is a small village in the **town of Harsil**, on the **banks of river Bhagirathi**, on the way to the **pilgrimage of Gangotri**.
- It is situated at an **altitude of 2620 meters** above the sea level.

### Ganga River System



- The headwaters of the Ganga called the '**Bhagirathi**' are fed by the **Gangotri Glacier** and joined by the Alaknanda at Devprayag in Uttarakhand.
- At Haridwar, **Ganga emerges from the mountains** to the plains.
- The Ganga is joined by many tributaries from the Himalayas, a few of them being major rivers such as the Yamuna, the Ghaghara, the Gandak, and the Kosi.

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

## Uttarakhand Approves Unified Pension Scheme

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Cabinet, under the leadership of Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhama, has approved the implementation of the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)**, and **New Excise Policy 2025**.

- The government has also announced **financial assistance for 45 writers** to promote **literature** and **culture**.

### Key Points

- **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS) Approval:**
  - The Uttarakhand Cabinet approved the implementation of the **Unified Pension Scheme (UPS)** for officers and employees under the **National Pension System (NPS)**.
  - The scheme aims to provide assured pension payouts post-retirement.
  - It will come into effect from **1<sup>st</sup> April, 2025**.
- **New Excise Policy 2025**
  - **Liquor licenses** near religious places will be closed to respect religious sentiments.
  - Stricter control will be imposed on **liquor sales**, considering public sensitivities.
  - **Sub-shops** and the **metro liquor sales system** have been abolished.
  - If a shop sells liquor above the **Maximum Retail Price (MRP)**, its license may be canceled.
  - The **excise revenue target** for **2025-26** has been set at **Rs 5,060 crore**.
  - In **2023-24**, revenue of **Rs 4,038.69 crore** was earned against a target of **Rs 4,000 crore**.
  - In **2024-25**, **Rs 4,000 crore** has been received so far against a target of **Rs 4,439 crore**.
- **Promotion of Literature and Culture**
  - The government has announced **financial assistance for 45 writers** this year.
  - 21 new literary awards, along with the **Uttarakhand Sahitya Bhushan award**, have been introduced.
  - The initiative underscores the government's commitment to preserving **literature** and **culture**.

- Chief Minister Dhama emphasized that this financial aid is symbolic of the state's dedication to **cultural preservation** and **literary growth**.

### Unified Pension Scheme

- **Assured Pension:** This would amount to **50%** of the employee's average basic pay drawn over the **last 12 months** before retirement for a minimum qualifying service of **25 years**.
  - The amount would proportionately go down for a smaller service period, up to a minimum of **10 years of service**.
- **Assured Minimum Pension:** In the case of retirement after a **minimum 10 years of service**, the **UPS** provides for an assured minimum pension of **Rs 10,000 per month**.
- **Assured Family Pension:** Upon a **retiree's death**, their immediate family would be eligible for **60%** of the pension last drawn by the retiree.
- **Inflation Indexation:** Dearness relief will be available on the above mentioned three kinds of pensions.
  - **Indexation** will be calculated based on the **All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers**.
- **Lump Sum Payment at Retirement:** In addition to **gratuity**, employees will receive a **lump sum payment** at retirement equivalent to **1/10th** of their **monthly emoluments (pay+DA)** as of the retirement date for every completed six months of service.
  - This payment will not affect the amount of the **assured pension**.
  - **Gratuity** is an amount paid by an employer to its employees for rendering their services.
- **Choice for Employees:** The employees can still opt to remain under the **NPS**. However, an employee can only opt for once. once opted, the option can not be changed.

## Electrama 2025

### Why in News?

'Electrama-2025', the world's largest electrical show was organized at **India Expo Mart in Greater Noida**.

### Key Points

- **About:**
  - This program was **organized from 22-26 February, 2025**.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

- This was the **16th edition of Elecrama**. It was organised by **Indian Electrical and Electronics Manufacturers' Association (IEEMA)**.
- During this event, electrical and energy technologies from around the world including India were demonstrated.
  - E-mobility and charging infrastructure
  - digital energy technology
  - Transformers, switchgear, insulators, High Voltage Direct Current (HVDC) systems
  - Fault Detection and Automation Systems
  - Drive and control technologies for industrial applications

### Elecrama

- Elecrama is the **largest and flagship event of the Indian electrical and electronics industry**, organised to showcase the eco-system of the power sector.
- The event is **held every two years** and is known as the largest gathering of the power industry in the country.
- The main objective of Elecrama is to **bring together all aspects of the industry**.
- This event covers all aspects of electricity, including emerging technologies, innovative products, and future trends.

## Chamoli Avalanche

### Why in News?

On 1st March 2025, **Uttarakhand Chief Minister** conducted an **aerial survey of the areas affected by the avalanche** near Mana village in **Chamoli district of Uttarakhand**.

- He also visited **Joshimath**, met the injured **Border Roads Organisation (BRO)** workers rescued from the site.

### Key Points

- **Rescue Operations in Mana Avalanche:**
  - Rescue teams have **successfully saved 47 out of 55 BRO workers** trapped under snow.
  - Eight workers remain trapped, and rescue operations are still underway.
  - Authorities have **deployed four Army helicopters to aid in the rescue efforts**.

### Government and Administrative Efforts:

- It was confirmed that four helicopters, arranged with the help of the Centre and the State Government, have joined the rescue mission.
- Seven rescued workers have been transported to Joshimath Hospital for treatment.
- Doctors are monitoring their condition, and three of them are reported stable.

### Joint Efforts by Security Forces:

- The avalanche, which struck near Mana village, buried several BRO workers under snow.
- Teams from **the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**, **Indian Army**, and **Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)** are conducting joint rescue operations on a war footing.

### Border Road Organisation

#### About:

- 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.

#### Achievements so far:

- The BRO, in more than six decades, **has constructed over 61,000 kms of roads, over 900 Bridges**, four Tunnels and 19 airfields under challenging conditions along India's borders and **in friendly foreign countries, including Bhutan, Myanmar, Afghanistan and Tajikistan**.
- In 2022-23, the BRO completed 103 infrastructure projects, the most by the organisation in a single year.
  - These include construction of **Shyok Bridge in Eastern Ladakh** and **Steel Arch Siyom Bridge of Load Class 70 in Arunachal Pradesh** on Along-Yinkiong Road.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

### Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)

- The ITBP was established on 24th October, 1962.
- It is responsible for guarding the Indo-Tibetan border and the mountainous regions of the 3,488 km long India-China border, monitoring the northern borders of India.
- In 2004, the ITBP replaced the Assam Rifles in Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. The force secures the Indo-China border across the following states:
  - Jammu & Kashmir
  - Himachal Pradesh
  - Uttarakhand
  - Sikkim
  - Arunachal Pradesh

### National Disaster Relief Fund

- National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the enactment of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
  - It is defined in Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act).
- It is managed by the Central Government to meet the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster.
  - It supplements the SDRF in case of a disaster of a severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF.

## NGT Seeks Presence of Uttarakhand Officials

### Why in News?

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) has directed the Member Secretary of the Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB) and the State's Principal Chief Conservator of Forests to appear before it in a case involving the illegal felling of 176 trees in Udham Singh Nagar district of Uttarakhand.

### Key Points

- About the Hearing:
  - The NGT is reviewing a petition regarding the unauthorized felling of trees for the development of a residential colony by private individuals in Chandpur village, Udham Singh Nagar district.
- Findings of the Joint Committee:
  - In its order, an NGT Bench referred to a joint committee report confirming the illegal felling of 176 trees.
  - The tribunal stated that environmental compensation must be recovered for the unauthorized deforestation.
  - The joint committee investigating the matter includes:
    - The District Magistrate
    - The Dehradun regional office of the Union Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
    - The Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB)
- Tribunal's Directives:
  - After reviewing the report, the NGT sought a response from the Uttarakhand Chief Secretary and other concerned officials.
  - The tribunal stressed the importance of personal appearances by:
    - The Member Secretary of UKPCB
    - The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests (PCCF)
  - It directed them to attend the next hearing physically or via video conferencing to assist in the case.
  - The tribunal emphasized that their presence is crucial for a just and proper adjudication.

### Uttarakhand Pollution Control Board (UKPCB)

- It is a statutory organisation established under the provisions of the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, and the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.
- The UKPCB is responsible for the prevention, control, and abatement of pollution in the state of Uttarakhand, India.
- It is headquartered in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

## Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

# NATIONAL GREEN TRIBUNAL

The National Green Tribunal (NGT) is a specialised body for swift resolution of environmental and natural resource cases.

## About

- ④ **Establishment:** By National Green Tribunal Act 2010
- ④ **Objective:** Quick resolution of environmental & natural resource cases
- ④ **Case Resolution:** Within 6 months
- ④ **Places of Sitting:** New Delhi (Principal), Bhopal, Pune, Kolkata, and Chennai

## Structure

- ④ **Composition:** Chairperson, Judicial Members, and Expert Members
- ④ **Tenure:** Up to 5 years/until age 65 (no reappointment)
- ④ **Appointments:** Chairperson - Central Government (with the CJI's consultation)
  - ④ 10-20 judicial members & 10-20 expert members - Selection Committee

India is the third country globally (after Australia and New Zealand) and the first developing nation to establish a specialised environmental tribunal like NGT.

## Powers & Jurisdiction

- ④ **Jurisdiction:** Civil cases on environmental issues and rights
- ④ **Suo Motu Powers:** Granted since 2021
- ④ **Roles:** Adjudicatory, preventative, and remedial
- ④ **Procedures:** Follows Principles of natural justice
  - ④ Not bound by the CPC, 1908 or Indian Evidence Act, 1872
- ④ **Principles:** Sustainable Development; Precautionary; Polluter pays
- ④ **Orders:** Executable as civil court decrees; offers relief and compensation (**decisions are binding**)
- ④ **Appeals:** Tribunal can review its decisions.
  - ④ If decision fails - Appeal to the SC to be filed within 90 days

## NGT deals with Civil Cases under

- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974
- ④ Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977
- ④ Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980
- ④ Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981
- ④ Environment (Protection) Act, 1986
- ④ Public Liability Insurance Act, 1991
- ④ Biological Diversity Act, 2002



Drishti IAS

## Uttarakhand UCC

### Why in News?

The Uttarakhand **High Court** observed that **live-in relationships** were increasing and that the **Uniform Civil Code (UCC)** aimed to accommodate the rights of women and children born from such relationships.

## Prepare with Drishti IAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App




Note:

### Key Points

#### ➤ Court's Observations:


- The High Court made the observations while hearing petitions challenging provisions of the UCC.
- The **State implemented the UCC on 26 January 2025**, and mandated registration for live-in relationships.
- The court stated that **live-in relationships were increasing and that the law aimed to protect the rights of women and children born from such relationships.**




# 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**




Marriage




Divorce




Maintenance



Inheritance



Adoption

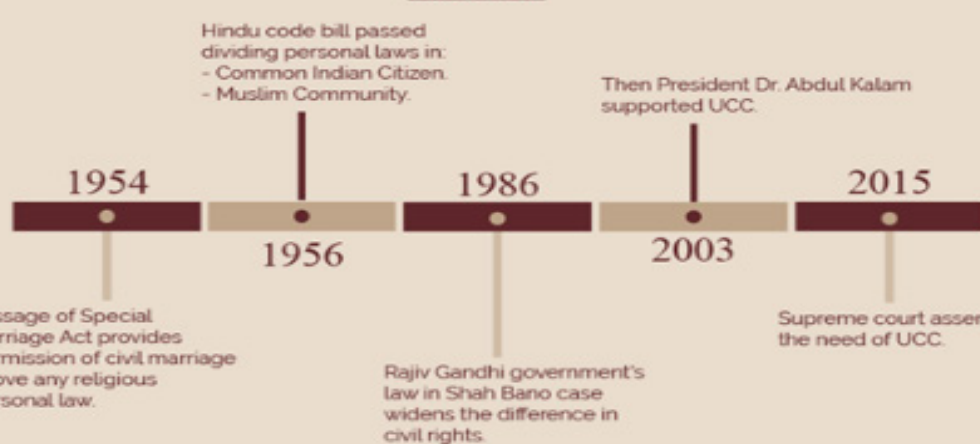


Succession of Property

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



1954: Passage of Special Marriage Act provides permission of civil marriage above any religious personal law.

1956: Hindu code bill passed dividing personal laws in:  
 - Common Indian Citizen.  
 - Muslim Community.

1986: Rajiv Gandhi government's law in Shah Bano case widens the difference in civil rights.

2003: Then President Dr. Abdul Kalam supported UCC.

2015: Supreme court asserted the need of UCC.

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

### Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:

➤ **Privacy Concerns Raised in Court:**

- It was argued that the UCC allowed **excessive state surveillance and restricted individual choices protected** under **the right to privacy**.
- The law was establishing a “**draconian statutory regime**” that authorizes inquiries, approvals, and penalties over personal relationships.
- It was stated that while society might not fully accept live-in relationships, the law aimed to adapt to changing times.

➤ **Potential for Harassment and Vigilantism:**

- Social activists contended that a critical reading of the UCC suggested **it could increase harassment and violence** against couples who defy majoritarian views.
- It is warned that the law **might encourage vigilantism** by groups opposing live-in relationships.

- Concerns were also raised that the law permitted any person to file a complaint questioning the validity of a live-in relationship.
- The mandatory submission of confidential documents, such as Aadhaar, during the registration process was also objected to.

➤ **State Government’s Defense:**

- The court questioned **the Solicitor General** on whether the Uttarakhand government had sought public suggestions before implementing the UCC and whether those suggestions were incorporated.
- It was argued that the **UCC did not violate privacy rights and served only as a regulatory mechanism** to protect women from injustice. The law resulted from extensive consultations with all stakeholders.



drishti

**Prepare with DrishtiIAS**

UPSC  
Mains  
Test Series  
2025



UPSC  
Classroom  
Courses



IAS Current  
Affairs Module  
Course



Drishti  
Learning  
App



Note:





