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## Inauguration of New Heli Service in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 02 Mar 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inaugurated **heli service in Uttarakhand** to boost connectivity within the state.

### Key Points

- The newly launched helicopter service will **link Haldwani with Munsiyari, Pithoragarh, and Champawat.**
- This initiative is a part of the **Regional Connectivity Scheme** which aims to reduce the distance between these remote regions.
  - Due to Uttarakhand's challenging terrains, aerial connectivity will help with both everyday travel and critical emergency response capabilities.
- This launch follows the recent inauguration of a new terminal building at **Jolly Grant Airport.**
- **Upcoming air routes** were also announced, including **Dehradun to Amritsar, Dehradun to Pantnagar, and Dehradun to Ayodhya.**

### Regional Connectivity Scheme: UDAN

- **About:**
  - **UDAN (Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagarik)** was launched by the Ministry of Civil Aviation for regional airport development and **regional connectivity enhancement.**
  - It is a part of the **National Civil Aviation Policy 2016.**
  - The scheme is applicable for a **period of 10 years.**
- **Phases:**
  - **Phase 1** was launched in 2017, with the objective of connecting underserved and unserved airports in the country.
  - **Phase 2** was launched in 2018, with the aim of expanding air connectivity to more remote and inaccessible parts of the country.
  - **Phase 3** was launched in November 2018, with the focus on enhancing air connectivity to hilly and remote regions of the country.
  - **Phase 4** of the UDAN scheme was launched in December 2019, with a focus on connecting islands and other remote areas of the country.
  - **Phase 5** was launched in April 2023, with a focus on **Category-2 (20-80 seats) and Category-3 (>80 seats) aircrafts with no restriction on the distance** between the origin and the destination of the flight.