

UTTARAKHAND CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL, 2018

AN APPEAL TO STUDENTS:

There is a lot of material on the Internet, even for Uttarakhand current Affairs. But much of it is copy paste from newspaper articles. It can not be remembered and from exam point of view, it is useless. We appeal you to please make your own notes on relevant topics. While making notes, you should keep in mind that you are preparing for PCS Exam and take only such material that is relevant. We have tried to do the same here in this document and provide you a crisp summary of only RELEVANT events and issues and placing them in proper context.

We would also like to announce that we are preparing a concise and comprehensive document on **Uttarakhand Economic Survey and Budget and the same would be released shortly.**

1. TOURISM AS A JOB PROVIDER AND TOOL TO STOP MIGRATION

There was a story about the village of Pantwari where trekking has brought back youth and provided them employment. Factors for growth of tourism:-

1. Nearness to popular tourist spots(in this case Mussoorie)
2. Good connectivity
3. Availability of infrastructure, board and lodge. In this context Home Stays are being encouraged by the govt. as declared in the budget.

Possible Mains Questions where this can be used:-

- Q. How migration from Uttarakhand villages can be stopped?
- Q. How tourism can help in creating employment opportunities in hilly regions of Uttarakhand?
- Q. There are ample prospect of adventure sports in Uttarakhand elaborate briefly? asked in mains 2016 trekking being an adventure sports.

UTTARAKHAND CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL, 2018

2. NGT intervention: Development vs. Environmental issues

Recently NGT has intervened in three economic activities in Uttarakhand:-

- **Char Dham project: NGT sends notice to Centre, Uttarakhand govt over felling of trees**
 - i) On the allegation that the project was being executed bypassing mandatory environment clearances and environment impact assessment (EIA) procedures.
 - ii) PM Modi laid foundation of The Char Dham all-weather highway project in December 2016.

- **NGT reinforces ban on mining in Haridwar**
 - i) The NGT has reinforced its ban on mining along the banks of Ganga in Haridwar while expressing “anguish” that despite the tribunal’s orders the Union ministry of environment, forest and climate change (MoEF) gave environmental clearances to the Uttarakhand forest development corporation (UFDC) to continue mining in the region.
 - ii) The NGT said that mining licenses have to be restrained until a study by the Forest Research Institute (FRI) on mined areas of rivers is completed.
 - iii) In its latest order dated February 26, 2018, the bench of four judges asked the FRI, Dehradun, to continue its study called ‘The Drainage and Replenishment Study of mined areas of rivers of Uttarakhand’ and submit a report at the earliest.

- **NGT issues notices on conservation of dry springs in Uttarakhand**

A National Green Tribunal (NGT) bench headed by Justice Jawad Rahim issued notices to the ministry of water resources, Uttarakhand, Uttarakhand Peyjal Nigam, Jal Sansthan, Central Ground Water Board, National Biodiversity Board and State Biodiversity Board to

UTTARAKHAND CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL, 2018

respond on measures taken to protect and conserve dry natural springs in the state.

3. UNDP roped in to restore dry springs

- i) The Uttarakhand forest department has roped in United Nations Development Program (UNDP) agency for identification and restoration of dry springs in the forest area.
- ii) The initiative is aimed at taking immediate measures for spring conservation and rainwater harvesting.
- iii) This will also reduce forest fires.

4. Uttarakhand Spring Bird Festival

- i) From March 9 to March 11, 2018.
- ii) At Jhilmil Jheel Conservation Reserve and Thano reserve forest areas by Forest Dept.
- iii) Such events are expected to boost tourism and employment.

5. Saubhagya scheme

- i) Uttarakhand launch happened in March.
- ii) Electrification to poor households.

6. LED gram light training programme

- i) Women SHG make LED.
- ii) For employment generation

Note: Please recall that in last edition we had discussed how women SHG were making organic prasad to be distributed in temples of Char Dham. Such initiatives should be incorporated in notes for good mains answer.

7. Phool Dei festival celebrated

- i) This festival is celebrated on the onset of spring on 1st day of Chaitra
- ii) Celebrated in Kumoun region of Uttarakhand, this festival promotes

UTTARAKHAND CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL, 2018

harmony with nature.

- iii) On this day, little children go to all the houses in the village with flowers and get sweets in return of laying flowers(phool) at the door(dei).

8. Anti Conversion Bill tabled in assembly

- i) Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion Bill, 2018 was tabled in the assembly.
- ii) proposes up to two years in jail to any person or persons found guilty of religious conversion through force or “allurement”. The allurement could be in cash, in kind of employment, or material benefit.
- iii) Uttarakhand after in Odisha, Madhya Pradesh, Chattisgarh, Himachal Pradesh, and Gujarat.
- iv) It also stipulates any person who desires to convert his religion, shall give a declaration at least one month in advance to the district magistrate.

Note: This issue should be seen in context of freedom of religion and recent Hadiya judgement of Supreme Court.

9 . Sarathi Hill Petrol Unit started

- i) On the model of City Petrol Units.
- ii) First one started in Rudraprayag.
- iii) This will aid in efficient traffic management.
- iv) They would also be first responders in case of accidents.
- v) In this unit, women are also deployed to promote women empowerment.

10. 1st economic survey of Uttarakhand released and Budget passed

UTTARAKHAND CURRENT AFFAIRS APRIL, 2018

- i) Focus is on SIDCUL investment to promote industry and employment.
- ii) Tourism is another focus sector(it contributes 13% revenue of state GDP, and budget allocation for this is 0.28%). In this Home Stay policy also to be brought.

Note: Oracle IAS would soon come out with a concise and comprehensive document for Economic Survey and Budget.

11. 13 districts, 13 tourism destinations

- i) To promote lesser known tourist places.
- ii) Boost tourism, employment.
- iii) Decongest existing tourist places.
- iv) To stop migration
- v) Places:
 - a) Munsiyari in Pithoragarh district,
 - b) Kausani in Bageshwar,
 - c) Katarmal in Almora,
 - d) Mukteshwar in Nainital,
 - e) Lohaghat in Champawat,
 - f) Parag Farm in Udham Singh Nagar,
 - g) Chopta in Rudraprayag,
 - h) Tehri lake in Tehri,
 - i) Khirsu of Pauri district,
 - j) Chinyalisaur of Uttarkashi,
 - k) Gairsain-Auli of Chamoli,
 - l) Chakrata in Dehradun,
 - m) Piran Kaliyar and Shaktipeeth in Haridwar