



PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU
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Uttarakhand Divas Devbhoomi on its Road to Progress

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“उत्तराखंड के स्थापना दिवस पर देवभूमि के अपने सभी भाइयों और बहनों को मेरी हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं। पिछले पांच वर्षों में प्रदेश ने जो प्रगति की है, उससे मुझे विश्वास है कि यह पूरा दशक उत्तराखंड का ही होने वाला है। मेरी कामना है कि प्रकृति की गोद में बसा यह राज्य यूं ही विकास के पथ पर निरंतर अग्रसर रहे।”

- PM Shri Narendra Modi
(On Uttarakhand Divas)

Introduction

Uttarakhand Divas (Day) is celebrated as the State foundation day and is observed annually on 9 November (since 2000). The State of Uttarakhand was formed as *Uttaranchal* on 9 November 2000 by the [Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000](#)¹, bifurcating the erstwhile State of Uttar Pradesh. On 1 January 2007, Uttaranchal was renamed Uttarakhand, reclaiming the name by which the region had been known prior to statehood. There are 13 districts in Uttarakhand which are grouped into two divisions— Kumaun and Garhwal.

According to the 2011 Census of India, [Uttarakhand’s population had reached approximately 1.01 Crore](#) with an increase of 19.17 percent from the past decade. The State’s Sex Ratio stands out at 963 which was at 962 in 2001 census and fares better as compared to average sex ratio of India (940). Uttarakhand has a literacy rate of 79.63% which is above the national average of 74.04%.

The State is home to various religious sites, including the Char Dhams, which consist of the four most revered and sacred Hindu temples, i.e. Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and other holy sites like Panch Kedar, Panch Badri, Panch Prayag and Gurudwara Sri Hemkund Sahib. Spots like Rishikesh, Auli, Chopta, Valley of Flowers, Nainital, Jim Corbett National Park are a hit among tourists from India and abroad alike. The State received [3,56,09,650 domestic tourists, and 1,51,320 foreign tourists in 2018 and saw a growth rate of 3.64% in domestic tourists, and 13.16% in foreign tourists](#)².

¹<https://legislative.gov.in/sites/default/files/A2000-29.pdf>

²<https://tourism.gov.in/sites/default/files/2020-04/India%20Tourism%20Statistics%202019.pdf>

In the last five years, the Central Government, together with the State Government, has embarked upon a holistic development strategy to propel Uttarakhand on the path of progress. The thrust has been not only on boosting the infrastructure of the State, but also on enhancing the quality of life of the people. Several policy measures have been undertaken to boost infrastructure and encourage inflow of investment for facilitating religious and eco-tourism. Stress has also been laid on improving health, education and streamlining skill development in the State, together with ensuring basic amenities such as water supply and electricity for the citizens.

Milestones on Uttarakhand's Path to Progress

1. Infrastructure & Tourism

- The [Ministry of Road Transport & Highway](#)³ has taken up a separate programme for connectivity Improvement for Char-Dham (Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunothri & Gangotri) in Uttarakhand.
- Out of a total of 53 civil works covering the entire length of 889 km under Char Dham project, 40 civil works of total project cost amounting to Rs. 9474 crore (including cost of pre-construction works amounting to Rs. 491 cr.) in a length of 673 km have been sanctioned.
- 34 works in a length of 604 km amounting to Rs. 7923 cr. have been awarded out of which 30 works amounting to Rs. 7679 cr. in length of 589 km are ongoing. Work on 78 km length has been completed till March 2019 and 2 works amounting to Rs. 141 cr. in a length of 1.1 km have been completed. Outer Ring Road will be constructed in Haldwani, Dehradun, Haridwar and Rudrapur.
- The projects under [Char Dham Programme](#)⁴ include widening of existing roads along with adequate/sufficient slope protection by way of erection of retaining walls and breast walls and by deploying drapery system, netting, anchoring, reinforced wall etc. as per Detailed Project Reports.
- The projects also include mitigation measures/ stabilisation of chronic landslide & sinking spots/zones as standalone projects or as part of road widening projects to avoid landslides and ensure safety of road users. There are 68 projects in the State for which the construction work has been started and completed during the years [2015, 2016 and 2017](#)⁵.
- The Ministry of Tourism under its flagship schemes of Swadesh Darshan and National Mission on Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual, Heritage Augmentation Drive ([PRASHAD](#)⁶) is giving due emphasis to development of tourism infrastructure and facilities in Uttarakhand (Himalayan Circuit).
- [Memoranda of Understanding \(MOUs\)](#)⁷ were signed on 6 May 2021 between the Oil and Gas PSUs- Indian Oil, BPCL, HPCL, ONGC and GAIL, and Shri Badrinath Utthan Charitable Trust for Construction and Redevelopment of Shri Badrinath Dham as a Spiritual Smart hill Town.

³<https://morth.nic.in/char-dham-pariyojana>

⁴<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1593962>

⁵<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1524594>

⁶<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1575661>

⁷<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaseframePage.aspx?PRID=1716457>

- [Ministry of Road Transport & Highways](#)⁸ has brought out a list of *Dhabas* (Food Courts) and vehicle repair shops to facilitate transport and tourism.
- Work for Rishikesh–Karnaprayag Rail Line is underway

2. Water Resource Management & Development

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated [6 mega development projects](#)⁹ in Uttarakhand under the NamamiGange Mission on 20 September 2020 through video conference.
 - Projects worth more than Rs 30,000 Crore are either in progress or have been completed.
 - Due to these projects the sewage treatment capacity of Uttarakhand has increased four times in the last six years.
 - Over 130 drains flowing into River Ganga closed in the last six years.
 - For example, the Chandreshwar Nagar drain at Muni Ki Reti, in Rishikesh was closed and a four storied Sewage Treatment Plant (STP) was constructed at Muni Ki Reti.
- The Ganga Avalokan Museum, the first of its kind on the River Ganga at Haridwar was inaugurated on 20 September 2020.¹⁰
- The PM also unveiled the ‘Margadarshika for Gram Panchayats and Paani Samitis under Jal Jeevan Mission’ (Guidelines for the Village Panchayats and Water Committees) on the occasion.¹¹
- New Projects for rejuvenation of 6 polluted river stretches in Uttarakhand have been approved by the [National Mission for Clean Ganga \(NMCG\)](#).¹² Out of the remaining 3 polluted stretches, project of Ganga at Jagjeetpur, Haridwar has already been commissioned and on the remaining two, NamamiGange projects are already under execution.
- The [Minister of State for Jal Shakti & Food Processing Industries](#)¹³ Shri Prahlad Singh Patel said that 47.30% of the households in Uttarakhand have been provided piped water connections under Jal Jeevan Mission.
- Union [Minister for Road Transport & Highways](#)¹⁴, Shipping and Water Resources, River Development and Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari inaugurated and laid the foundation stones for NH and Namami Gange works amounting to Rs 5894 crore at Haridwar in Uttarakhand on 21 February 2019.

3. Development of Aviation & Air Connectivity

- [Union Minister of Civil Aviation](#)¹⁵, Shri Jyotiraditya Scindia along with the Minister of State for Civil Aviation, General (Retd.) Dr. V.K. Singh flagged off the Doon Drone Mela 2021 in Dehradun, Uttarakhand.

⁸https://morth.nic.in/sites/default/files/covid_19/Uttarakhand%20Dhaba%20%20Workshop.pdf

⁹<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1660011>

¹⁰ ibid

¹¹ ibid

¹²<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1736271>

¹³<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1762524>

¹⁴<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1565566>

¹⁵<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1762127>

- Shri Jyotiraditya M. Scindia, [Union Minister of Civil Aviation](#)¹⁶ virtually interacted with the Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Pushkar Dhama, for strengthening of the aviation infrastructure in the State. 8 new heliports are to be developed and Dehradun International Airport to be completed as per the discussions. Under the UDAN scheme, 14 new routes have been awarded to Uttarakhand.

4. Covid 19 Relief & Health Infrastructure

- [Uttarakhand successfully completed 100% first dose of Covid 19 vaccination](#)¹⁷ for people of the 18+ age group on 18 October 2021. The Hon'ble [Prime Minister congratulated](#) the people of Uttarakhand for the same.
- **Covid Relief Package** is being given – Rs. 200 crore for people associated with tourism, transport and culture sector affected by Covid-19 in the State, Rs. 205 crore for medical sector and Rs 118 crores for women self-help groups and beneficiaries associated with self-employment schemes of the State government.
- Health infrastructure has grown manifold over the years. Oxygen plants have been established in every district. A free testing scheme has been started in the State. Under this, patients are getting free facility of 207 types of pathological tests.
- Under the Ayushman Uttarakhand Yojana, Ayushman cards of 44 lakh people have been made. So far more than 3,40,000 thousand patients have received free treatment under Ayushman Yojana. More than 461 crores have been spent on the treatment of beneficiaries under the scheme.

5. Education & Skill Development

- PM Modi laid the foundation stone of two new model degree colleges at Kiccha and Laldhang and one professional college at Paithani in Uttarakhand on 3 February 2019. Higher Education Minister Dr Dhan Singh Rawat informed that for model degree colleges at Kichha and Laldhang, a sum of Rs. 12 crore each and for professional colleges at Paithani, a sum of Rs. 26 crore have been received from the Central Government.
- Uttarakhand has seen the establishment of many high level institutions in the recent past. These include the country's first Drone Application Centre, CIPET, Coast Guard Recruitment Centre, National Law University, Center of Excellence on Natural Fiber.
- On passing the written examination and its equivalent of Union Public Service Commission, NDA, CDS and on the basis of the financial condition of the family, financial assistance of Rs. 50,000 is being given to the candidate for the preparation of the interview.

¹⁶<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1756804>

¹⁷<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleaselframePage.aspx?PRID=1764660>

- Time bound targets for self-employment have been given to various departments. For the convenience of the applicants, all the formalities are being completed at one place by setting up camps.

6. Other Sectoral Developments

- Shri Rajeev Chandrasekhar, [Minister of State for Electronics & Information Technology](#)¹⁸ and Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, inaugurated the first Internet Exchange in the state of Uttarakhand, hosted at Dehradun, through a virtual inaugural ceremony from Delhi on Nov 1, 2021. The inauguration of the 10th internet exchange of NIXI in India will help in enhancing and improving the quality of Internet and Broadband services in Uttarakhand.
- The [Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation](#)¹⁹, Shri Amit Shah launched the Mukhyamantri Ghasiyari Kalyan Yojana and computerization of cooperative societies in Dehradun, Uttarakhand on 30 October 2021.
- 62 lakh people are being provided 5kg rice and 1 kg daal free of cost under [Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Anna Yojana](#) (PM-GKAY).
- So far, 8.93 lakh farmers have benefited from PM-Kisan Samman Nidhi in Uttarakhand.
- Under the [Ministry of Food Processing Industries](#),²⁰ Uttarakhand operates two major food processing parks.
- Six thousand Gram Panchayats have been connected with internet through BharatNet Phase-II.
- 12,662 families have been allotted houses under the [Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana – Gramin](#).
- The State government has increased the honorarium of Anganwadi workers. The honorarium of the folk artists of the state has been doubled. The amount of old age, widow and handicapped pension has been increased from one thousand rupees per month to twelve hundred rupees per month. The honorarium of village guards has been made Rs. 2000 per month.

Biodiversity Conservation Efforts in the Past

The State has [contributed the following](#)²¹ towards conservation of wildlife and biological diversity:

- Corbett National Park, established in 1936 is the first National Park of the Asian Mainland.

¹⁸<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1768488>

¹⁹<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1767942>

²⁰https://mofpi.nic.in/sites/default/files/41_mfps_status_as_on_07.10.2021.pdf

²¹<https://sbb.uk.gov.in/pages/display/63-achievements>

- Undivided U.P. was the first State in the country to establish a separate Wildlife Preservation Organization as part of the Forest Department in 1956.
- Project Tiger was launched in Corbett National Park on 1 April 1973.
- Nanda Devi Biosphere Reserve, established in 1988 is India's second Biosphere Reserve.
- Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers National Parks are designated as World Heritage Sites by UNESCO.
- The Country's First Conservation Reserves, Asan Wetland and Jhilmil Tal were dedicated to the Nation by His Excellency, the President of India on 14 August, 2005.
- Shiwalik Elephant Reserve, which includes eleven forest divisions, two national parks (Rajaji, Corbett) and the Sonanadi Wildlife Sanctuary, and covering an area of about 5180 sq.km, was declared in 2002.
- An Anti-poaching unit has been established for the prevention and control of wildlife offences.
- The state Wildlife Advisory Board has been set up under the Chairmanship of the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
- Uttarakhand, with the second highest tiger population in the country after Karnataka, now has a second tiger reserve after the Corbett Tiger Reserve. The Rajaji Tiger Reserve (RTR) has been notified by the Government of India as the 48th tiger reserve in the country. The area declared as the tiger reserve (1075.17 sq km) includes the 255.63 sq km of the Rajaji National Park's buffer zone.

Way Forward

- In the last five years, various projects worth more than one lakh crore rupees were sanctioned for the State by the central government.
- Work on the Rishikesh-Karnprayag rail project worth Rs.16,216 crore is going on in full swing. The project will be completed by 2024-25.
- The survey of Gangotri-Yamunotri rail line from Tanakpur-Bageshwar and Doiwala has been approved by the Government of India. Doubling work of Haridwar-Dehradun railway line will be completed soon.
- Jolly Grant airport is being made of international standard. Green field airport is being developed at Udham Singh Nagar. Uttarakhand is the first State where Heli-service has been started under UDAN scheme. Air connectivity has improved significantly in the last few years.
- According to the proposed plan of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, soon Gurudwara Sri Hemkund Sahib will be connected by ropeway and cable car will also run till Kedarnath. This will give a boost to the tourism sector.
- Apart from this, many other projects including Smart City Project, Uttarakhand Water Management Project and Jamrani Multipurpose Project, Bharat Net Phase-II Project are also in operation.
- The "One District, Two Products" scheme based on Vocal for Local will generate self-employment opportunities for the local people and at the same time local products will get world-class recognition.
- Home stay scheme is strengthening the rural economy. 16 eco-tourism destinations are being developed. Special incentives are also being given to home stays on trekking routes.
- Solar energy and Pirul energy policy have helped the livelihood of rural youth.

Uttarakhand has been successful in making its mark on the national stage. [The State was ranked 10th in the Sustainable Development Goals Index in the year 2018 and currently it is ranked third.](#) The State ranks first in the energy as well as law and order index. There has been considerable improvement in health indicators like maternal mortality rate, infant mortality rate and child mortality rate. Uttarakhand stands as one of the leading states in the country in all socio-economic indices.

References:

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