



Research Unit
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Uttarakhand Diwas: Celebrating the Land of Gods

Uttarakhand was officially established on the 9th of November in the year 2000, marking its recognition as the 27th State within the Republic of India. It was delineated from the northern regions of Uttar Pradesh. Popularly known as the "Land of Gods," Uttarakhand certainly lives up to this epithet through its awe-inspiring and majestic natural landscapes.

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu graced Uttarakhand State Foundation Day celebrations at Dehradun today (November 9, 2023). The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has extended best wishes to the people of Uttarakhand on State's Foundation Day. He said that Devbhoomi Uttarakhand has made an invaluable contribution to the richness of Indian culture and tradition.

Cradle in the lap of Nature

Uttarakhand is situated at the base of the majestic Himalayan mountains and is blessed with a wealth of natural resources, particularly in the form of water bodies and forests, featuring numerous glaciers, rivers, dense woodlands, and snow-covered mountain summits. The state boasts remarkable biodiversity, including the presence of 175 rare species of aromatic and medicinal plants. The state encompasses almost all major climatic zones, making it conducive to a range of commercial opportunities in horticulture, floriculture, and agriculture. Uttarakhand is also abundant in mineral resources, such as limestone, marble, rock phosphate, dolomite, magnesite, copper, gypsum, and more minerals.

Uttarakhand unfolds untouched nature in all its breathtaking splendour, presenting visitors with a landscape blessed by extraordinary natural beauty. The state is graced with the gift of pristine wilderness, as nearly 45.43 per cent of its geographical expanse is adorned with dense forest cover—an exceptional attribute. The grandeur of the Himalayan range contributes to the state's remarkable topography, with numerous glaciers serving as the origins of major rivers in India, including the sacred Ganga and Yamuna. Iconic snow-clad peaks such as Nanda Devi, Badrinath, and Kamet present awe-inspiring vistas, while the enchanting forests of oak, rhododendron, deodar, and pine evoke a sense of wonder and admiration. Uttarakhand, with its untouched natural wonders, stands as a testament to the harmonious coexistence of diverse ecosystems within its boundaries.



DEV BHOOMI

Uttarakhand is also enriched with deep religious mythology, revered legends, and a profound heritage of numerous sacred temples, holy rivers, and spiritual locales. Nestled amid these towering peaks are the Char-Dhams, four of the most sacred and revered temples: Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, and Yamunotri. The presence of the four holy centres of Kedarnath, Badrinath, Yamunotri, and Gangotri attracts pilgrims from far to this sacred land. They also seek the sanctity of the Panch Prayag, the convergence of rivers at five distinct sites that collectively give rise to the sacred River Ganga, revered as a goddess in India. Moreover, pilgrims pay homage at various other religiously significant destinations in the state, including places like Bageshwar, Joshimath, and Baijnath, among others, in a region often referred to as the Land of Pilgrims.

Haridwar, often referred to as the Gateway to the Gods," stands as one of the most sacred pilgrimage destinations in India. Situated at the point where the Ganga, the holiest of all Indian rivers, enters the Indo-Gangetic plains, this city is nestled at the base of the Himalayas. Haridwar is renowned for its numerous temples and ashrams, and its deeply spiritual atmosphere embraces all who visit.

Haridwar is among the four holiest cities in India that host the Kumbh Mela, a sacred gathering of millions of Hindu devotees that occurs every 12 years. The Ardh Kumbh is organized here every six years, and the city also hosts the Kanwar Mela annually during the rainy season.



A Heaven for Tourism

Uttarakhand presents itself as the perfect tourist spot with attractions ranging from beautiful mountains to majestic national parks. Uttarakhand is a sanctuary for nature enthusiasts, wildlife experts, botanists, and all those who relish exploration and adventure. The state's abundant and diverse wildlife consistently captivates the hearts of its visitors. The state takes pride in hosting a total of six national parks, each offering a unique natural experience. Among them, the renowned Corbett National Park stands out for its tiger population, while Govind National Park is home to approximately 15 mammal species, 150 bird species, and several medicinal plants, showcasing the rich biodiversity of the region. These national parks are sanctuaries for a diverse range of flora and fauna, including endemic, rare, and endangered species of animals and birds.

In addition to the national parks, Uttarakhand features two conservation reserves, Asan Barrage and Jhilmil Tal, contributing to the preservation of the state's natural heritage. Furthermore, the state is proud to host UNESCO World Heritage Site: Nanda Devi and Valley of Flowers

National Parks, further emphasizing its commitment to environmental conservation. The presence of numerous lakes in Uttarakhand adds to its allure, providing havens for migratory birds. These lakes become focal points for birdwatchers, attracting them in substantial numbers to witness the vibrant avian life in the region.

Uttarakhand stands as the ultimate adventure destination, offering a solution to all your thrill-seeking aspirations. With its gift of snow-covered slopes perfect for high-altitude skiing, the majestic Himalayan ranges providing opportunities for trekking, mountaineering, and rock climbing, babbling rivers offering white water rafting experiences, serene lakes inviting canoeing and kayaking enthusiasts, and mountain paths tailored for challenging biking adventures—this region leaves no room for a shortage of adrenaline-pumping activities. Uttarakhand, with its diverse terrain and natural wonders, is a haven for those seeking exhilarating and unforgettable adventures.



Uttarakhand: Excelling in All Aspects

Uttarakhand has significantly benefited from various schemes, reflecting the Government of India's commitment to the welfare and development of the State. Prime Minister Narendra Modi marked a significant milestone in Uttarakhand by laying the foundation stone and dedicating multiple development projects valued at approximately Rs 4,200 crore in October

2023. These projects span various crucial sectors, including rural development, road infrastructure, power, irrigation, drinking water, horticulture, education, health, and disaster management.

Further, 289 works with sanctioned cost of Rs 27,893.20 crore have been taken up in the State of Uttarakhand since 2014, out of these, 220 works are completed (as on February 09, 2023). 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.

Char Dham Road Connectivity Project:

- Improvement of 5 National Highways (NHs) connecting Chardham viz. Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath including Tanakpur to Pithoragarh section of KailasMansarovar yatra covering a total length of 825 km is being undertaken in the State of Uttarakhand.

Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor:

- On December 01, 2021, Prime Minister laid the foundation stone of Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor (from Eastern Peripheral Expressway Junction to Dehradun). It is being built at a cost of around Rs 8300 crore. It will significantly reduce the travel time from Delhi to Dehradun from six hours to around 2.5 hours.

PM KISAN Samman Scheme:

- The Central Government has allocated over 2,224 Crores under the PM KISAN Samman scheme, directly benefiting approximately over 9.53 lakh farmers in Uttarakhand.

Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi Pariyojana (PMBJP):

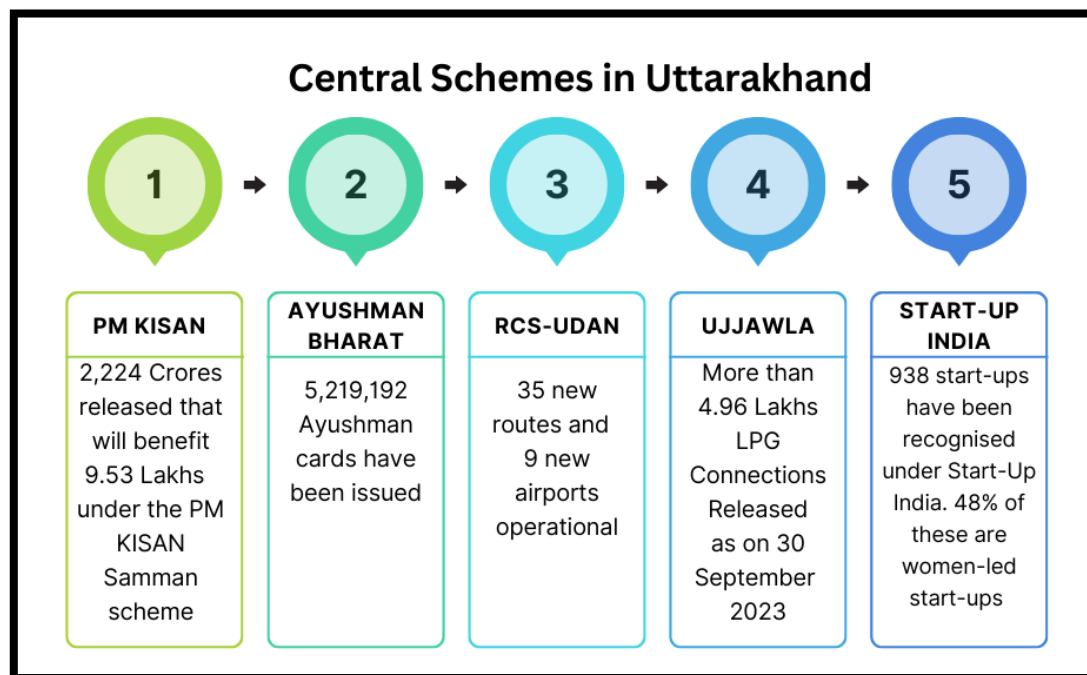
- Currently, 220 Janaushadhi Kendras are operational in Uttarakhand, facilitating the provision of quality and affordable generic medicines to the public.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK):

- Uttarakhand has witnessed the establishment of 786 PMKSKs, functioning as a 'one stop shop' for all farming needs.

Regional Connectivity Scheme – Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik (RCS-UDAN):

- The implementation of 35 new routes and the operationalization of 9 new airports under RCS-UDAN have significantly enhanced connectivity in the region.



Ayushman Bharat - Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojna (PMJAY):

- A total of 5,219,192 Ayushman cards have been issued in Uttarakhand under PMJAY, ensuring that the masses can avail health services.

Start-Up India Scheme:

- Uttarakhand has seen the recognition of 938 start-ups under the Start-Up India scheme, with a notable inclusion of 455 women-led start-ups, showcasing a vibrant entrepreneurial ecosystem in the state.

Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana:

- To ensure smoke-free kitchens for the women of Uttarakhand, over 4.96 lakh LPG connections have been released

Swadesh Darshan Scheme:

- Two projects have been started in Uttarakhand under this scheme: Development of Tehri-Chamba- Sarain around Tehri Lake for which 69.17 Crores have been sanctioned and Development of Kumaon Region - Katarmal - Jogeshwar - Baijnath - Devidhura. for which 76.32 Crores have been sanctioned.

*Data of schemes is till September 30, 2023

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