Uttarakhand Current Affairs 2017 - Jan to July
70 seats in the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly

36 seats needed for a majority

Turnout 65.64%

Majority party

Minority party
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Leader</th>
<th>Trivendra Singh Rawat</th>
<th>Harish Rawat</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Party</td>
<td>BJP</td>
<td>INC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader since</td>
<td>2017</td>
<td>2014</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leader's seat</td>
<td>Doiwala</td>
<td>Haridwar Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>(lost) Kichha (lost)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Last election</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seats won</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seat change</td>
<td>▲ 26</td>
<td>▼ 21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Popular vote</td>
<td>2,312,912</td>
<td>1,665,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percentage</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Swing</td>
<td>▲ 13.37</td>
<td>▼ 0.29%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Doiwala Vidhan Sabha Constituency - CM Trivendra Singh Rawat, 9th CM, 5th BJP CM
Governor – K K Paul

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Party</th>
<th>Seats contested</th>
<th>Seats won</th>
<th>Seat change</th>
<th>Vote share</th>
<th>Swing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bharatiya Janata Party</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>▲ 26</td>
<td>46.5%</td>
<td>▲ 13.37%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Indian National Congress</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>▼ 21</td>
<td>33.5%</td>
<td>▼ 0.29%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bahujan Samaj Party</td>
<td>70</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>▼ 3</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>▼ 5.19%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uttarakhand Kranti Dal</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>▼ 1</td>
<td>0.7%</td>
<td>▼ 1.23%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Samajwadi Party</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>–</td>
<td>0.4%</td>
<td>▼ 1.01%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independents</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>▼ 1</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>▼ 2.34%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
U’khand, UP to sign pact on Jamrani dam project soon

The multipurpose dam envisaged in 1975

Expected to provide drinking water for not only the people of Haldwani and Nainital but also will quench the thirst of nearby Bijnor and Rampur districts in Uttar Pradesh

Steps for finally resolving the matter between UP and Uttarakhand began in 2015
The total cost of the project is Rs 2,350 crore, 25% of the cost (Rs 595 crore will be borne by the UP government)

75% - Uttarakhand state government

The 13.06 meter dam on the Gola river

Gola river of Kathgodam area in Nainital district
Combined commanders' conference at Dehradun's Indian Military Academy

PM Modi and that time defence minister Manohar Parrikar attended it

The country may soon get a new tri-service chief—a four-star general like the Army, IAF and Navy chiefs—to ensure synergy in training, logistics, planning and procurements among the forces.

Admiral Sunil Lanba, General Bipin Rawat and Air Chief Marshal B S Dhanoa attended

The crucial reform to have a chief of defence staff (CDS) or a permanent chairman of the chiefs of staff committee (CoSC), in addition to the three existing chiefs
Fruits and stone pelting witnessed at Bagwal fair at Devidhura (Champawat)

The devotees did stone pelting as a ritual to appease the local deity.

Traditionally the participants would pelt stones at each other shedding blood all over under the superstition that the local deity **Barahi** is appeased when blood is shed by her disciples. This fair is held on **Raksha Bandhan** every year.

The stone pelting has been replaced with **fruits and flower petals** after the court order.
Surya Kiran XI Joint Military Exercise concludes in Pithorgarh

11th edition of the Surya Kiran exercise
The 14-day long exercise began on 7 March 2017.

- The **EKTA SHAKTI** Battalion of the Punjab Regiment of Indian Army and the **DURGA BAHSH** Battalion of Nepalese Army participated in the joint military exercise.

- The aim of the exercise was to train troops in counter insurgency operations and enhance defence cooperation and military relations between the two countries.
Uttarakhand High Court declares river Ganga ‘first living entity of India’

Yamuna has also been declared a living entity

Same legal rights as a person

In a similar incident, New Zealand government had declared 145km long Whanganui River as a living entity. At the time of declaration, the river became the first in the world to be legally recognized as a living entity.
NDMA conducts unique state level mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand

3-Day event started on 18th April

70% of the Uttarakhand’s geographical area comes under forests

In 2016, the pine forests of Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh caught fire.

Most of the fires in Uttarakhand happen in the Chir pine (Pinus Rroxburghii) forests because leaves of this conifer tree catch fire easily
The 19th Commonwealth Forestry Conference was held at Forest Research Institute, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

From 3-7 April 2017, under the theme ‘Forests for Prosperity and Posterity.’

The fifth Mediterranean Forest Week, held from 20-24 March 2017, in Agadir, Morocco, coincided with the International Day of Forests, held annually on 21 March.

Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 13 (Climate Action)
Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 15 (life on land)
as well as the UN Forum for Forests (UNFF) Strategic Plan for Forests 2017-2030
Uttarakhand becomes fourth open defecation free state

1st – Sikkim
2nd – Himachal Pardesh
3rd Kerala

5th - Haryana
Uttarakhand was conferred with the award of excellence at the 2nd Global Skill Development Summit held in Paris recently for innovations and extensive use of IT for skilling the state's youth.
Two-Day Regional Conference on “Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices” inaugurated in Nainital

A two-day Regional Conference on “Good Governance and Replication of Best Practices” involving 12 States and 4 Uts

inaugurated by Shri C. Viswanath, Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG)

organized on July 7-8, 2017, by the Department of Administrative Reforms and Public Grievances (DARPG), Government of India, in collaboration with the Government of Uttarakhand & Administrative Training Institute (ATI), Nainital.
Pranab Mukherjee inaugurated presidential retreat \textit{Ashiana annexe} in Dehradun

It has accommodation facilities for accompanying officers and staff of the \textit{Rashtrapati Bhavan}

\textbf{K R Narayanan, in March 1998, was the last president to stay here}
Tiger count in Uttarakhand goes up to 242, 2nd highest in India

Uttarakhand has two tiger reserves – the Corbett Tiger Reserve and the Rajaji Tiger Reserve

Jim Corbett National Park is the oldest national park in India.

• It was established in 1936 as Hailey National Park to protect the endangered Bengal tiger. Jim Corbett was born on July 25, 1875 which makes today his 142nd birth anniversary.

According to the data, at least 208 tigers have been identified in Corbett Tiger Reserve, up from last year’s 163. Also six cubs were identified there. At least 34 tigers have been identified in Rajaji Tiger Reserve in 2016-17, up from previous year’s 16

Karnataka has the highest, with a population of 400 tigers
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Eight stations will be developed under the **Adarsh Station Scheme**

The eight stations selected are Doiwala, Kathgodam, Kotdwara, Ramnagar, Rishikesh, Roorkee, Harrawala and Raiwala. These stations will be developed under the scheme by the end of 2018.
The Union Ministry of Food Processing has given its go ahead to set up five cold storage chains in Uttarakhand.

These cold chains have been approved under the Central government’s Cold Storage Chain Scheme under which 75 per cent assistance will be provided by the Centre to private entrepreneurs.

They will be set up at a cost of Rs 85.64 crore. Three cold stores have been approved for Udham Singh Nagar and one each for Nainital and Haridwar.
Govt to develop 5 circuits to promote eco-tourism in Uttarakhand

**Swadesh Darshan** - a central government scheme to boost tourism in states by linking it with livelihood of villagers

The circuits — Haridwar-Lansdowne, Ramnagar-Nainital, Tons Valley and Rishikesh-Dehradun — have been planned in Pauri, Nainital, Dehradun and Champawat districts.

The idea is to link tourism to a prominent Forest Rest House (FRH) and tourist places adjoining it. The basic objective of the corporation is to link tourism with livelihood of locals.
Under the scheme, 100% funding will be done by the central government for strengthening infrastructure, capacity building of staff and locals, finding new avenues to connect people with tourism activities.

Ministry of Tourism – **PRASAD** - Pilgrimage Rejuvenation and Spiritual Augmentation Drive and Swadesh Darshan

Heritage City Development and Augmentation Yojana (HRIDAY) scheme - Urban Development Ministry
PRASAD Scheme was launched in 2014-15 with 12 identified sites namely Ajmer (Rajasthan), Amritsar (Punjab), Amaravati (Andhra Pradesh), Dwarka (Gujarat), Gaya (Bihar), Kedarnath (Uttarakhand), Kamakhya (Assam), Kanchipuram (Tamil Nadu), Mathura (Uttar Pradesh), Puri (Odisha), Varanasi (Uttar Pradesh) and Vellankani (Tamil Nadu).

During 2015-16, Patna (Bihar) and in 2016-17, 12 more sites were added in the scheme for development namely Ayodhya (Uttar Pradesh), Badrinath (Uttarakhand), Belur (West Bengal), Deoghar (Jharkhand), Guruvayur (Kerala), Hazratbal and Katra (Jammu & Kashmir), Omkareshwar (Madhya Pradesh), Somnath (Gujarat), Srisailam and Tirupati (Andhra Pradesh), Trimbakeshwar (Maharashtra).
The Chardham Mahamarg Vikas Pariyojna, or the Chardham highway project, is an ambitious initiative to improve connectivity to the Char Dham pilgrimage centres in the Himalayas.

PM Modi laid the foundation stone in Dehradun

The project’s main objective is to develop around 900 km of national highways. These highways will be built in Uttarakhand at an approximate cost of Rs 12,000 crore

The project will make travel to the Char Dham (Gangotri, Yamunotri, Kedarnath and Badrinath) safer and more convenient
Ministry of AYUSH providing Farmers subsidy to cultivate medicinal plants

As per scheme guidelines, the financial assistance to northeast and hill states of Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Jammu and Kashmir is provided in the ratio of 90:10, whereas in other states it is shared in the ratio of 60:40 between Central and the state government.

Currently, **140 medicinal plants** species have been prioritized for supporting cultivation throughout the country for which subsidy is provided to farmers,

(i) 75% subsidy for cultivation of medicinal plants which are highly endangered.

(ii) 50% subsidy for cultivation of medicinal plants where sources of supply are critically declining.

(iii) 30% subsidy for cultivation of other medicinal plants species which need support.
Pancheswar dam: project to generate employment, power, irrigation

More than two-and-a-half years after Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Nepal, his ambitious bi-national scheme, the Pancheshwar multi-purpose project, which was an integral component of his 4C policy — cooperation, culture, connectivity and Constitution — meant to strengthen bilateral ties with Kathmandu, has made significant progress in Uttarakhand.

The Uttarakhand government has now taken steps to hear out people's sentiments in three critical districts — Champawat, Pithoragarh and Almora — which are supposed to be affected by the proposed construction of the 5040 MW Pancheswar dam to be jointly carried out by India and Nepal. The three districts are in danger of being submerged due to the dam's construction.
An Eminent Persons Group (EPG) tasked by the Centre to strengthen cultural, historical, trade and political relations between the two countries, has been constantly working to build consensus on important bilateral issues, including the Pancheshwar dam project.

The EPG, which has representation from Nepal's prominent personalities, is chaired by former Uttarakhand chief minister and BJP MP from Nainital, Bhagat Singh Koshyari.

During his visit to Nepal in August 2014, Modi had placed special focus on this project. The governments of India and Nepal had also signed an MoU regarding the Pancheshwar multi-purpose project's amendment.
The project would also help regulate and control the free flow of Karnali and Mohana rivers which cause floods in Kheri, Pilibhit districts of Uttar Pradesh and other Tarai districts.
Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board

- State tourism minister Satpal Maharaj

- a project ‘Mere Bujurg Mere Teerth’ under which free transportation and accommodation is provided to pilgrims by state-owned Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam (GMVN) and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam (KMVN)

- would be extended to many other religious places besides the existing five destinations.

- The name of the scheme, which was the brainchild of former chief minister Harish Rawat, would be changed to ‘Pt Deen Dyal Matr Pitr Theerthatan Yojna’.
The scheme will now include more places of religious importance like Kali Math, Jageshwar temple, Golu Devta temple, Baijnath, Tadkeshwar temple and Gangolihat.”

The project was started three years ago by the Congress government in Gangotri and Badrinath temples.

Three other religious spots - Reetha Sahib, Nanak Matta and Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah in Delhi - were brought under the ambit of the scheme.

Now, instead of Hazrat Nizamuddin Dargah, Piran Kaliyar Sufi shrine in Roorkee will be part of the scheme.
MNREGA

The average wages under the scheme were increased 2.7% for 2017-18 following the changes in Consumer Price Index for agricultural labour.

For several states, including Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and Uttarakhand, this translated to a mere Rs 1 rise in wages.
The agriculture ministry has selected two districts of Uttarakhand — Chamoli and Pithoragarh — for setting up krishi vigyan kendras.

Uttarakhand farmers to be allowed cut 20 varieties of trees: Union agriculture minister

The farmers will have to grow those 20 varieties of trees, which once matured, they will be allowed to cut and sell in the timber market.
Swacch Sarvekshan 2017

Roorkee – 218
Haridwar – 244
Kashipur - 256
France’s Chamonix and Uttarakhand’s Chamoli to club hands to promote each other

Both places are top skiing destinations
MoU was signed between Uttarakhand tourism department and the Chamonix Cluster Mountain Forum (CCMF), a skiing and eco-tourism body in France, the mayor of Chamonix and the French embassy in this regard.

The CCMF will aid Uttarakhand in building a ropeway with a glass bottom in Auli in Chamoli district to connect it with Gairsain and Bedni Bugyal. The project will be built under public-private partnership mode. “
The **Uttarakhand** government has signed an agreement with **Airports Authority of India (AAI)** to develop civil aviation infrastructure in the state.

**AAI** will also assist Uttarkhanad Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) in obtaining necessary clearances for airport operations starting with the upgraded airport at **Pithoragarh** and later at **Chiniyalisaur**.
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