

## Make pilgrimages blessed experiences

**The Char Dham Yatra** - comprising Puri, Rameswaram, Dwarka and Badrinath - which began on May 10, **broke** a record on Day 1. More than 29,000 **pilgrims** visited Kedarnath, part of the Chota Char Dham Yatra circuit, **clogging** the mountain roads for hours. Many pilgrims were forced to return to base even before starting their journey. Reacting to angry crowds, the Uttarakhand government said it's looking at solutions and is planning to create a Dharmik Yatra Authority to **regulate** the yatra, which includes three other **shrines**, and other pilgrimages such as those in the Kanwar Yatra circuit.

While the government's proposal is welcome, **its past actions** - or rather, inactions - **raise** concerns about its intentions. In 2023, **CM Pushkar Singh Dhami**, under pressure from **priests** and tour operators, rescinded his decision to **impose** a daily limit on the number of pilgrims just a day before it was to be **operationalised**. How Dhami plans to **resist** such **lobbying** again remains to be seen. Last year, the state **constituted** a committee to determine the carrying capacity of tourist towns (Kedarnath is not one of them). This study needs to be done in a **time-bound** manner.



**Uttarakhand**, like many other states, **depends** on tourism, providing options from **trekking** to religious tourism. To make the best use of its natural wealth, it must **embark on** long-term planning, including building **climate-resilient infra**, tourist management that **takes into account** the state's **fragile ecology** and employment needs, and provide high-end tourist needs, especially for HNIs. **States** such as Kerala and Rajasthan **have cracked the code somewhat** by focusing on quality rather than quantity. Uttarakhand and others must **follow suit**. States will benefit from this **pivot**, as will India.

[Practice Exercise]

- Red/blue coloring of words in the sentence indicates subject verb relationship; where 'red' denotes 'subject' and 'blue' denotes 'verb'

## Vocabulary

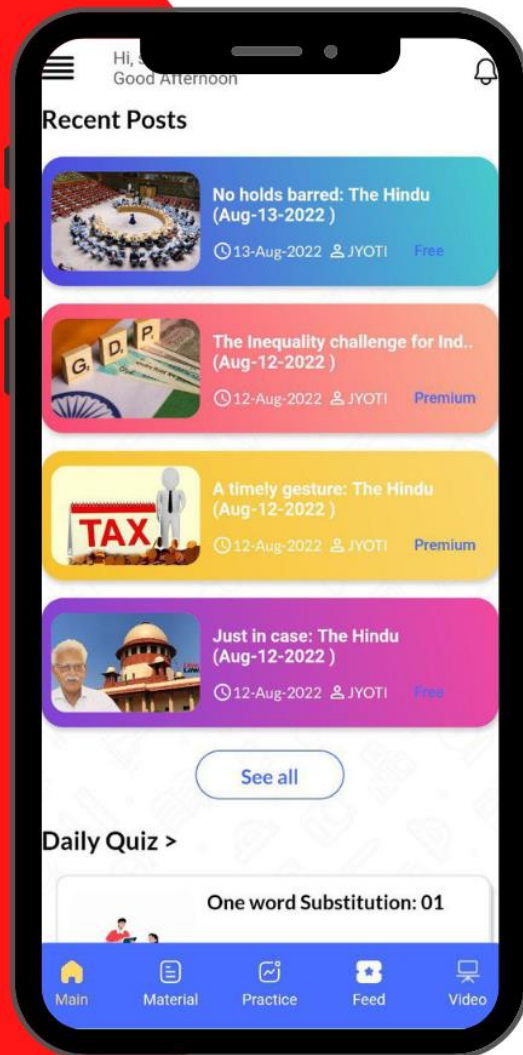
1. **Pilgrimage** (noun) – A journey to a sacred place for religious reasons. तीर्थयात्रा
2. **Blessed** (adjective) – Welcome, providential, lucky, fortunate, pleasant धन्य
3. **Pilgrim** (noun) – A person who journeys to a sacred place for religious reasons. तीर्थयात्री
4. **Clog** (verb) – Block, obstruct, congest, jam, choke. अवरुद्ध करना/ रोकना
5. **Regulate** (verb) – Control, manage, oversee, supervise, govern. नियंत्रण करना
6. **Shrine** (noun) – A holy or sacred place, often associated with a religious figure or event. तीर्थस्थल
7. **Priest** (noun) – Cleric, minister, pastor, clergyman, holy man. पुजारी
8. **Rescind** (verb) – Revoke, cancel, repeal, annul, nullify. रद्द करना
9. **Impose** (verb) – Enforce, apply, implement, institute, mandate. थोपना
10. **Operationalise** (verb) – Implement, activate, put into operation, carry out, execute. क्रियान्वित करना
11. **Resist** (verb) – Oppose, withstand, fight, defy, counteract. विरोध करना
12. **Lobbying** (noun) – the activity of trying to persuade someone in authority, usually an elected member of a government, to support laws or rules that give your organization or industry an advantage. पैरवी
13. **Constitute** (verb) – Form, establish, set up, create, organize. गठन करना
14. **Time-bound** (adjective) – Limited by time, having a deadline, fixed-time, time-specific, scheduled. समयबद्ध
15. **Trekking** (noun) – Hiking, walking, backpacking, tramping, exploring. पैदल यात्रा
16. **Embark on** (phrasal verb) – Start, begin, commence, undertake, initiate. शुरू करना
17. **Climate-resilient** (adjective) – Able to withstand or recover from the effects of climate change. जलवायु-प्रतिरोधी
18. **Infra** (noun) – Infrastructure, basic physical and organizational structures and facilities. अवसंरचना
19. **Take into account** (phrase) – Consider, regard, include, factor in, account for. ध्यान में रखना
20. **Fragile** (adjective) – Delicate, weak, brittle, sensitive, breakable. नाजुक

21. **Ecology** (noun) – The study of the relationships between living organisms and their environment. पारिस्थितिकी
22. **Crack the code** (phrase) – Solve a difficult problem, understand something complex, figure out. समस्या को हल करना
23. **Somewhat** (adverb) – To some extent, a little, slightly, partially, moderately. कुछ हद तक
24. **Follow suit** (phrase) – Do the same, imitate, copy, take similar action, emulate. अनुसरण करना
25. **Pivot** (noun) – A central point, focus, or key aspect, especially one around which a mechanism turns. मुख्य बिंदु

## Summary of the Editorial

1. The Char Dham Yatra, starting on May 10, set a record with over 29,000 pilgrims visiting Kedarnath on the first day.
2. The influx of pilgrims caused significant congestion on the mountain roads, leading to many having to return to the base before starting their journey.
3. In response to the overcrowding, the Uttarakhand government plans to establish a Dharmik Yatra Authority to regulate the yatra and other pilgrimages.
4. There are concerns about the government's commitment to implementing effective regulations due to past inactions.
5. In 2023, CM Pushkar Singh Dhami withdrew a decision to limit the number of daily pilgrims under pressure from priests and tour operators.
6. It remains uncertain how the government will handle lobbying pressures in the future.
7. A committee was formed last year to determine the carrying capacity of tourist towns, but Kedarnath was not included.
8. The study on carrying capacity needs to be completed promptly to address the issue.
9. Uttarakhand relies heavily on tourism, offering options ranging from trekking to religious tourism.
10. The state needs to focus on long-term planning to make the best use of its natural resources.
11. Climate-resilient infrastructure and effective tourist management are essential to preserve Uttarakhand's fragile ecology.
12. There is a need to cater to high-end tourists, especially High Net-Worth Individuals (HNIs).
13. Kerala and Rajasthan have successfully focused on quality over quantity in tourism.
14. Uttarakhand and other states should adopt similar strategies to improve their tourism sectors.
15. Such a pivot towards quality tourism will benefit both the states and India as a whole.

## Practice Exercise: SSC Pattern Based



# Learn Vocabulary Through Reading Articles

**English Madhyam**