Over 34k pensioners go digital in Uttarakhand

Max Of 9,082 Applications From Doon

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Jeevan Pramaan is a digital service with biometric support through which pensioners can generate life certificates online

Dehradun: The Centre's initiative of a face authentication technology system based on the Aadhaar database turned out to be a boon for elderly pensioners who live in far-flung areas and find it difficult to produce their life certificates to ensure continuity of their pension, treasury officials said.

Over 34,000 of the total one lakh pensioners in the hill state have applied for digital life certificates (DLC) so far.

Pankaj Tewari, director of the treasury, said that as many as 34,050 pensioners in the state have applied for Jeevan Pramaan (DLC). The highest number of 9,082 applications came from Dehradun.

Jeevan Pramaan is a digital service with biometric support through which pensioners can generate DLC utilising the Aadhaar-enabled biometric authentication method online.

"We have over one lakh pensioners retired from state government services. Those who have to travel several kilometres to reach headquarters to produce their life certificate or those who have shifted to another state are accepting this new technology with great enthusiasm. However, pensioners living in headquarters are still following the offline mode of getting pensions," he said.

The treasury director said that there is a psychological factor behind the practice of applying offline for Jeevan Pramaan for the pensioners living under the district headquarters. "It allows them to meet their peers with whom they have spent a substantial amount of their life during the service," director Tewari said, adding that the officials have been running awareness drives to convince such pensioners for the online mode.

"With this method, a DLC can be created from any android smartphone by taking a live photo of the pensioner and uploading it on the Jeevan Pramaan mobile application," chief treasury officer, Manoj Pandey said.

He added that out of 34,050 online applications, 16,667 have been accepted, while the remaining 17,383 applicants have been asked to submit their Aadhaar numbers. "Every day, we clear over 100 pending online applications as soon as we get their Aadhaar number. People who are now retiring are very enthusiastic about adopting new online technology," Pandey said.

Now, heavy-lift drones to carry injured, relief aid

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The drones are being developed by ITDA and IIT-Roorkee

The ITDA has also planned to train youth from BPL families in drone operations, so they can be employed in disaster or emergency situations

Dehradun: Uttarakhand's Information Technology Development Agency (ITDA) is working with IIT-Roorkee to develop heavy-lift drones with lifting capacity of up to 120kg to airlift patients and injured persons from remote hill areas in times of disaster or an emergency.

The drones are being developed as per an MoU signed by the agency and IIT-Roorkee. Amit Sinha, director, ITDA said, "The project has already started under the MoU as IIT-Roorkee hosts a drone research centre, while ITDA has a government drone application centre in the state. Experts from both the bodies are working together on the dynamics of the drone."

Sinha said that the drones would be primarily used in sending relief material to disaster-hit areas of the state, especially in difficult hilly terrain. "As the name suggests, the drones would be able to airlift relief material in large quantities for short distances. Eventually, they would be used for carrying the injured or patients to nearby ambulances or health centres in the hills. These drones would be quadcopters (helicopters with four rotors) and are likely to be developed within a year," said Sinha.

The ITDA has also planned to train youth from BPL families in drone operations, so that they can be employed in disaster or emergency situations.

A drone training centre with 25 seats is already in the works in Rishikesh. This would be the state's first such centre. The agency also plans to open such centres in the remaining 12 districts as well, with the aim of training the state's youth in drone application so they can be employed in the drone industry, which the ITDA believes is "the next big emerging area".

Shashi Singh, additional director of ITDA (procurement and finance), said they are also "in talks with the state government to employ the trained youths in departments like disaster management (where drones can find out damage or trapped people), agriculture (drones can determine which area is ideal for growing crops), health (delivering medicines and samples), border security among others."

Over 18,000 houses get nod for state under PMAY-G

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Dehradun: The Centre has approved an additional 18,676 houses for Urban Local Bodies under the Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana - Gramin (PMAY-G). Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that the state was getting the benefits of "double engine" and conducted Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Union rural development minister Giriraj Singh for approving the additional houses for the Himalayan state.

"The state government is trying its best to ensure that the development plans are implemented on the ground. We are making the required efforts to take the benefits of development to the people residing in the far flung and remote areas of Uttarakhand," CM Dhami said. Dhami had requested the Centre for allocation of additional targets under the PMAY-G.

36% posts lying vacant in U'khand fire dept: RTI

Sonali Mishra | TNN

Nainital: A total of 36% of posts are lying vacant in Uttarakhand's fire service department, according to the data provided by the officials to a right to information (RTI) activist from Kashipur.

RTI activist Nadeem Uddin had sought information from the Uttarakhand Police headquarters about the sanctioned, working and vacant posts of fire service personnel in the state. According to the information provided by the department, a total of 36% of posts are lying vacant. Of these, over 45% of posts of firemen for fire extinguishing and emergency services are vacant in most districts.

The RTI reply further revealed that while nine posts of chief fire officer (CFO) are sanctioned in the state, only four, in Dehradun, Haridwar, Nainital and Udham Singh Nagar districts, have been filled, while five spots, in Chamoli, Pauri Garhwal, Tehri Garhwal, Almora and Pithoragarh, are vacant.

As mentioned in the reply, there are 35 sanctioned posts of fire station officers (FSOs) in the state, but only seven stations have FSOs, while 28 posts are vacant. Out of 50 posts of the fire station second officer, 26 posts are vacant.

Similarly, 15 out of 162 sanctioned posts of leading firemen are vacant. Among 206 posts of fire service drivers, only four are vacant. However, 19 drivers are working under UPNAL. There are 998 sanctioned posts of firemen, whereas 455 posts are vacant and only 543 firemen are employed.

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The Ganga Kisan Sahkari Chini Mills Ltd Morna, Muzaffarnagar Inviting Tenders for Sales of Loose Bagasse Produced In Season 2022-23 end date 29.11.2022, 6.55 PM for details please visit Website
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अल्पकालीन ई-निविदा आमंत्रण सूचना

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Date: 26.11.2022 Place: Barabanki Authorised Officer, State Bank of India

Party that made Kalapani an issue defeated in Darchula

Prem Punetha | TNN

Pithoragarh: The Communist Party of Nepal (Unified Marxist-Leninist), whose leaders had aggressively used the Kalapani dispute with India in their poll discourse, lost the parliamentary seat and the two provincial seats in Darchula on the India-Nepal border. The issue was seen as the party's major poll plank in the area and was expected to fetch it more votes.

Elections were held in Nepal on November 20 and the counting is ongoing.

File photo of Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting former Nepalese Prime Minister KP Sharma Oli

NEPAL POLLS

Darchula is a border district of Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand. Kalapani is an area that falls in the tri-junction between India, China and Nepal and is considered under Indian administration as part of Pithoragarh district. However, it is also claimed by Nepal, which says that it lies in Darchula district in its Sudurpashchim province.

The dispute is not new and has cropped up every now and then since the 1960s. In recent times, the issue flared up again when in May 2020, defence minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the strategically crucial Ghatiabagarh-Lipulekh Road. The then Nepal government, led by CPN (UML)'s KP Oli, expressed objection and protested the inauguration of the road claiming that it passed through its territory. In July 2020, Nepal came out with a new map showing Lipulekh, Kalapani and Limpiyadhura as its territories. India reacted sharply to the move.

Meanwhile, In Nepal's parliamentary election held on Sunday, Dilendra Prasad Badu of Nepali Congress defeated the two-time sitting MP Ganesh Singh Thagunna of CPN (UML) and in provincial assembly seats, Vikram Singh Dhami of Nepali Congress defeated Har Dev Joshi of CPN (UML) and Man Bahadur Dhami of CPN (Maoist centre) defeated Ram Datt Joshi of CPN (UML).

This election, Oli led an aggressive poll campaign aimed at "taking back" all Nepali territory occupied by others. He raised the Kalapani dispute as a poll issue during his campaign in Darchula. However, despite Kalapani dispute being raised by political parties in the election, it is not being considered the sole cause of the party's defeat, according to poll pundits. The alliance between Nepali Congress and CPN-Maoist Centre has also allegedly made a dent in CPN (UML)'s electoral fortunes.

Cantt boards of Doon clash over garbage disposal

Times News Network

The DMC is also struggling in the absence of a solid waste management plant after the contract with the outsourcing company ended last month

Dehradun: The tussle between chief executive officers (CEOs) of the two cantonment boards in Dehradun over garbage disposal has come to the fore after the Garhi board refused to allow garbage carriers of the Clement Town to enter its trenching ground.

Garhi Cantonment CEO Abhinav Singh said that his counterpart should request Dehradun Municipal Corporation (DMC) or develop a waste management plant on their land for garbage disposal instead of sending its waste to them.

As the trenching ground case of Clement Town is pending in court, earlier DMC was picking up their garbage, but it was stopped sometime back. Thereafter, Clement Town CEO Kaushal Gautam asked his counterpart to allow the dumping of solid waste at Garhi Cantt for a month. However, it is alleged that they continued dumping waste even after the deadline.

Garhi Cantonment's CEO Singh said that they are somehow managing the solid waste of their area with limited resources and infrastructure and it has been quite difficult to take around 7-8 tonnes of extra garbage from another area. "Clement Town was paying a good amount to Dehradun Municipal Corporation for garbage disposal services. If DMC has stopped taking their waste, they should develop a waste management plant on their land or take some other land on lease, utilising the money they were paying to DMC. We were requested to accommodate their garbage only for a month, but it has been three months now and no initiative is taken by them yet," Singh said. Significantly, the Dehradun Municipal Corporation is also struggling on this front in the absence of a solid waste management plant after the contract with the outsourcing company ended last month.

Clement Town's Gautam said that he has written to the divisional commissioner requesting him to provide any solution as they have no space with them at the cantonment area to dump the garbage.

"We are a cantonment of close to 30,000 people, which generates around 8 tonnes of garbage waste every day. Since we didn't receive any reply from DMC, we requested Garhi to help us in the matter," CEO Gautam said, adding that he has written to the secretary in the government also regarding the garbage disposal matter.

Ganga Utsav held in Uttarkashi to celebrate spirit of holy river

Abhyudaya Kotnala | TNN

Uttarkashi: A massive cleanliness drive was conducted by the Uttarkashi district administration on Friday on the occasion of the Ganga Utsav event organised under the Namami Gange initiative to celebrate the holy river which originates from Gaumukh in the district.

Government officials, social activists, villagers and school children participated in the drive, which was held from Chinyalisaur to Bhatwari blocks in areas close to the Ganga-Bhagirathi river.

Water sports, laser light show, yoga and street plays were also organised on the first two days of the three-day event, which will conclude on Saturday.

People practising yoga during Ganga Utsav

Meanwhile, Swami Chidanand Saraswati, spiritual head of the Parmarth Niketan Ashram, participated in the event during the cultural night held at Ramlila Ground on Friday evening.

He also felicitated Gangotri MLA Suresh Chauhan, DM Abhishek Ruhela and chief development officer of Uttarkashi Gaurav Kumar with the Ganga Ratna award.

While addressing the gathering, he said, "Events like Ganga Mahotsav not only connect masses but also provide a platform to spread the message of conservation of nature and culture."

He added, "Uttarakhand is a confluence of divinity and magnificence, as holy rivers Ganga and Yamuna originate from here. So we must preserve the natural beauty of our state."

Suresh Chauhan said, "Both state and central governments are dedicatedly working to preserve the purity and holiness of river Ganga. We have also sent a proposal to the government for garbage and sewer management in Uttarkashi. But, these efforts will only succeed when people unite for the cause."

BJP, Congress send senior state leaders to campaign in Delhi

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While the BJP has issued a list of 42 party members to hold rallies and meetings in Delhi, over two dozen Congress leaders are scheduled to be in Delhi in the last week of November. CM Dhami himself led the campaign for BJP candidates on Friday

Dehradun: Top Congress and BJP leaders have headed to Delhi to campaign in the upcoming municipal polls.

A sizable number of people from the Himalayan state are based in Delhi and keeping this in mind, both the political parties have asked their senior state leaders to pitch in with the election campaigning.

While the BJP has issued a list of 42 party members to hold rallies and meetings in Delhi, over two dozen Congress leaders are scheduled to be in Delhi in the last week of November.

MCD POLLS

CM Pushkar Singh Dhami himself led the campaign for BJP candidates on Friday. On the day, he campaigned for candidates such as Rekha Rawat, a BJP nominee from Uttarranchal enclave, Kamlapur (ward number 9, Santnagar).

"I have come here as a dedicated BJP member and all the leaders, who are from other states, and are in the national capital are here as committed party members," Dhami said. He claimed that BJP would record a landslide win in the municipal polls.

BJP media incharge, Manveer Singh Chauhan, said, "This time, BJP has given tickets to 10 members who have roots in Uttarakhand. Our teams will campaign in 28 wards of Delhi." He pointed out that two teams of 28 and 14 members would campaign in Delhi.

Meanwhile, Congress vice-president Mathura Dutt Joshi said, "Some of our seniors have already visited Delhi for the municipal poll campaign and others are scheduled to be there in the next few days."

Speaker Om Birla addresses 175th year celebrations at IIT-Roorkee

Tapan Susheel | TNN

Birla lauded the institute's role during the Covid pandemic for proposing solutions for handling the pandemic

Roorkee: Lok Sabha speaker Om Birla addressed students and others, as chief guest on the 175th year Foundation Day celebration of IIT-Roorkee on Friday. He said, "IIT-Roorkee has been doing a great job in shaping India since last 175 years. Today, India's emergence as a global financial power is remarkable and this, it has achieved through excellence in education, science, technology and airspace sectors.."

Birla also released a postal stamp and a coin on the occasion. "Our Prime Minister has a vision that as we enter in 100th year of our Independence, we would be a 'developed' nation of the word. With intellectual prowess of our youths in the field of research and innovation, this challenge would be addressed very easily. Now we have to develop more universities on the lines of IIT-Roorkee where our students could give more solutions in technology, medical sciences, artificial intelligence, defence and airspace sectors," said Birla while lauding institute's role during the Covid pandemic after conducting research and proposing solutions for handling the pandemic.

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Dard Anek-Rahat Ek
NOVITA

Art for cleanliness awareness: DMC with local NGO starts competition for students

Dehradun: The Dehradun