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## Astro Tourist in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 04 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Uttarakhand government** organised a **three-day 'Nakshatra Sabha'** to promote **astro tourism** in the region.

- Besides astro tourism, the state is also focusing on green tourism, adventure tourism, and wellness tourism

### Key Points

- The event is part of Uttarakhand's initiative to promote **multidimensional tourism** in the state.
- This pioneering initiative aims to make Uttarakhand a premier destination for celestial admirers and travelers seeking unique experiences under the night sky.
  - The event took place at **George Everest Peak in Mussoorie**, known for its **spectacular views** of the **snow-clad Himalayan peaks** and the **Doon Valley**.
- The event featured stargazing through specialized instruments, talks by experts, an astrophotography competition, and special solar observations.

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## Muradi Demands Village Status Back | Uttarakhand | 04 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Muradi was merged into Naugaon Nagar Panchayat in 2018, alongside Mungra, Naugaon, and Dhari Gram Panchayats.

- Since becoming part of the Nagar Panchayat, the **village residents have reported experiencing more losses than gains.**

### Key Points

- Agriculture is the primary income source in village, but **Nagar Panchayat** lacks farming facilities.
  - Irrigation canals (kools) maintained by the former Gram Panchayat are now neglected.
  - Increased wild animal intrusions (monkeys, pigs, stray cattle) threaten crops.
- A major canal damaged during highway expansion has remained unrepaired for five years and smaller canals also suffer damage, impacting irrigation.
  - Local youth raised Rs 35,000 for temporary canal repairs, which proved ineffective without government support.
- Transition from Gram **Panchayat to Nagar Panchayat** led to the **loss of [Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme \(MGNREGS\)](#) benefits.**
- Residents now face higher house taxes, water, and electricity tariffs without service improvements.

- A major concern of Muradi residents is the **increased migration**.
  - The village boasts a historically non-migratory community, **but residents fear that urban incorporation will disrupt this tradition.**

## MGNREGA Scheme

- **About:**
  - MGNREGA is one of the largest work guarantee programmes in the world launched in 2005 by the [Ministry of Rural development](#).
  - It provides a legal guarantee for one hundred days of employment in every financial year to adult members of any rural household willing to do public work-related unskilled manual work at the statutory minimum wage.
- **Implementation Agency:**
  - The **Ministry of Rural Development (MRD)** is monitoring the entire implementation of this scheme in association with state governments.
- **Objective:**
  - This act was introduced with an aim of improving the [Purchasing Power](#) of the rural people, primarily semi or unskilled work to people living below poverty line in rural India.
  - It attempts to bridge the gap between the rich and poor in the country.

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## Rs 10,000 Crore Project to Combat Air Pollution in Haryana | Haryana | 04 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Haryana Chief Secretary reveals that the state government will soon roll out a Rs 10,000-crore project funded by the [World Bank](#) to address [air pollution](#).

### Key Points

- The project will be implemented in phases. The initial phase focuses on districts falling within the **National Capital Region (NCR)**, with later replication across the entire state.
- Enhancements to **Haryana's air quality monitoring infrastructure** are part of the project. This includes establishing a **cutting-edge laboratory** and modernizing existing ones.
  - A dedicated program management unit will oversee project implementation.
- Training programs for stakeholders engaged in **air quality management** are included.
- The project targets **transportation, industry, construction, road dust, biomass burning, and household pollution**.
  - It aims to promote **cleaner vehicles**, incentivize [electric vehicle adoption](#), and phase out older, polluting vehicles.

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# Air Pollutants

## Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>)



It comes from the consumption of fossil fuels (oil, coal and natural gas). Reacts with water to form acid rain.

**Impact:** Causes respiratory problems.

## Ozone (O<sub>3</sub>)



Secondary pollutant formed from other pollutants (NO<sub>x</sub> and VOC) under the action of the sun.

**Impact:** Irritation of the eye and respiratory mucous membranes, asthma attacks.

## Nitrogen Dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>)



Emissions from road transport, industry and energy production sectors. Contributes to Ozone and PM formation.

**Impact:** Chronic lung disease.

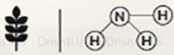
## Carbon Monoxide (CO)



It is a product of the incomplete combustion of carbon-containing compounds.

**Impact:** Fatigue, confusion, and dizziness due to inadequate oxygen delivery to the brain.

## Ammonia (NH<sub>3</sub>)



Produced by the metabolism of amino acids and other compounds which contain nitrogen.

**Impact:** Immediate burning of the eyes, nose, throat and respiratory tract and can result in blindness, lung damage.

## Lead (Pb)



Released as a waste product from extraction of metals such as silver, platinum, and iron from their respective ores.

**Impact:** Anemia, weakness, and kidney and brain damage.

## Particulate Matter (PM)



**PM10:** Inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 10 micrometers and smaller.

**PM2.5:** Fine inhalable particles, with diameters that are generally 2.5 micrometers and smaller.

**Source:** Emitted from construction sites, unpaved roads, fields, fires.

**Impact:** Irregular heartbeat, aggravated asthma, decreased lung function.

**Note:** These major air pollutants are included in the Air quality index for which short-term National Ambient Air Quality Standards are prescribed.



## World Bank

### ▪ About:

- It was created in **1944**, as the **International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD)** along with the **IMF**. The **IBRD** later became the **World Bank**.
- The **World Bank Group** is a unique global partnership of **five institutions** working for

sustainable solutions that reduce **poverty** and build shared prosperity in developing countries.

- The **World Bank** is one of the [United Nations'](#) specialized agencies.

- **Members:**

- It has **189 member countries**.
- India is also a member country.

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## Haryana Government Denies Allegation of Less Water Supply | Haryana | 04 Jun 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, the Chief Minister of Haryana dismissed the Delhi government's accusation that Haryana was **not providing Delhi with its allocated share of water**.

- The **Haryana government** has supplied water to Delhi beyond the agreed-upon quantity.

### Key Points

- Delhi is currently facing an acute water shortage, and the Delhi government has blamed Haryana for not releasing the required quantity of water from the Yamuna.
  - The water dispute between Haryana and Delhi highlights the **challenges of resource allocation and management in the region**.

### Yamuna River

- **About:**

- The **Yamuna River** is one of the major tributaries of the **Ganges** in **Northern India**.
- It forms an integral part of the **Yamuna-Ganga Plain**, one of the world's most extensive alluvial plains.

- **Source:**

- It has its source in the **Yamunotri Glacier** at an elevation of **6,387 meters** on the **southwestern sides of Banderpooch crests** in the **lower Himalayan ranges**.

- **Basin:**

- It meets the Ganges at the **Sangam (where Kumbh mela is held)** in **Prayagraj, Uttar Pradesh** after flowing through **Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana and Delhi**.

- **Important Dam:** Lakhwar-Vyasi Dam (Uttarakhand), Tajewala Barrage Dam (Haryana) etc.

- **Important Tributaries:** Chambal, Sindh, Betwa and Ken.

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## New Rainwater Harvesting Rules in Rajasthan | Haryana | 04 Jun 2024

## Why in News?

Recently, **Rajasthan State Industrial Development & Investment Corporation (RIICO)** has issued a circular requiring all plot lessees with an area of 500 square meters and above to construct Rainwater Harvesting Structures on their premises.

## Key Points

- The goal is to conserve water and increase groundwater levels in the state, which faces water scarcity due to its arid climate.
  - [Groundwater depletion](#) is a critical issue associated with groundwater use. It refers to **long-term declines in water levels** caused by sustained pumping of groundwater.
- If there's a delay in constructing Rainwater Harvesting Structure, the lessee will be subject to penalties as prescribed by RIICO.
- The penalty amount varies based on plot size:
  - For plots between 500 sq m and 2,000 sq m: Rs 25,000 per annum.
  - For plots above 2,000 sq m: Rs 50,000 per annum.
- Besides RIICO, other departments are also implementing rainwater harvesting. For instance, the **Rajasthan Police Housing and Construction Corporation Limited (RPH&CCL)** is collecting rainwater from rooftops and surrounding areas to recharge existing wells and aquifers.
- The state government is also emphasizing tree plantation to further conserve water.

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PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/statepcs/04-06-2024/print>

