



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.

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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