



Encroachment on Glacier

Why in News?

Recently, **Baba Yogi Chaitanya Akash**, a self-proclaimed godman, **constructed an unauthorized shrine** at 5,000 meters on **Uttarakhand's [Sunderdhunga glacier](#)**.

- A joint team from revenue, forest, and police departments will investigate after local **villagers expressed anger over [encroachment](#)**.

Key Points

- The self-proclaimed godman claimed that he was instructed by a divine power to build a temple on the mountain.
- The location is an **ecologically sensitive spot**, with a **sacred kund for pilgrims and locals**.
- People visit the Kund during the **Nanda Raj Yatra** every twelve years.
 - It is a **well-known cultural and religious event in Uttarakhand**, famous for the pilgrims covering an extremely long distance on foot. The most recent **Nanda Raj Yatra took place in 2014**.
- An unauthorized temple built in an **[ecologically sensitive](#)** and religiously significant area has raised concerns about the local authorities and the Uttarakhand government's **anti-encroachment efforts** in sensitive zones.

Sunderdhunga Glacier

- The Sunderdhunga Glacier is situated on the **right side of the [Pindar Valley](#)**, approximately 24 kilometers beyond the village of Khati.
- It is considered a **more challenging trek** compared to the hikes to **[Pindari and Kafni Glaciers](#)**.
- It is located in Uttarakhand's **Bageshwar district**.

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