



Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, government celebrated the state's rich folk culture at the **Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav**, and released the book **Uttarakhand ka Lok Putra Pritam Bharatwan** by **Sachidanand Semwal** and praised **Pritam Bharatwan** as the brand ambassador of Uttarakhand's folk culture.

Key Points

- **Jagar Lok Sanskriti Utsav:** It is a festival celebrating the folk culture and traditions of Uttarakhand.
- **Jagar:** It is a Hindu form of **Shamanism** which is practiced in the hills of Uttarakhand, both in [Garhwal](#) and [Kumaon](#).
 - **Shamanism** is a global spiritual practice where a shaman enters altered states of consciousness to interact with the spirit world, heal, communicate with spirits, and guide souls.
 - As a ritual, Jagar is a way in which gods and local deities are woken from their dormant stage and asked for favors or remedies.
- **Pritam Bharatwan:** He is known for promoting the traditional culture and folk arts of Uttarakhand.
- **Restoration and Recognition Efforts by Government:**
 - Efforts are underway to restore traditional fairs to their original form and provide better platforms for artists.
 - Initiatives are being taken to gain recognition for the [Jagar singing style](#).
 - Preservation and publication of scripts related to folk art and culture are being promoted through the Guru-Shishya tradition and art galleries.

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Divisions of Uttarakhand



Landslides Block Badrinath National Highway | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a landslide blocked the **Jyotirmath-Malari road**, which connects to the [India-China border](#), as well as the **Karnaprayag-Gwaldam national highway**.

Key Points

- Landslides triggered by heavy rain have blocked the highway at **Pagalnala, Patalganga, and Nandaprayag**.
- **Jyotirmath-Malari Road**: A high mountain road within the [Nanda Devi National Park](#), linking Jyotirmath (1,934 m) and Malari (3,033 m).
 - Extremely steep with numerous hairpin turns along the [Dhauliganga River](#), subjected to periodic damage from winter snow, ice, and river flooding.
- **Dhauliganga**: It originates from [Vasudhara Tal](#), perhaps the largest glacial lake in Uttarakhand.
 - Dhauliganga is one of the important tributaries of [Alaknanda](#), the other being the Nandakini, Pindar, Mandakini and Bhagirathi.
 - It merges with the Alaknanda at [Vishnuprayag](#).
- **Nanda Devi National Park**: Situated around the peak of [Nanda Devi \(7,816 m\)](#) in Uttarakhand, India; includes the **Nanda Devi Sanctuary**, a glacial basin surrounded by peaks and drained by the [Rishi Ganga](#).
 - Established as **Sanjay Gandhi National Park in 1982**, renamed **Nanda Devi National**

Park; inscribed as a [UNESCO World Heritage Site](#) in 1988.

Landslide

- A **landslide** is the **movement of rock, earth, or debris** down a slope due to **gravity**, often triggered by factors such as **heavy rain, earthquakes**, or the instability of the slope. It results in the **displacement of material**, which can lead to significant damage and destruction.

Pitr Chaya Express | Uttarakhand | 04 Sep 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand announced plans to run a special train from Mumbai to Uttarakhand for temple visits.

Key Points

- **Pitr Chaya Express:** This train is dedicated to honoring ancestors, covering important pilgrimage sites like **Tarpan at Haridwar, Rishikesh, Panch Prayag, and Brahma Kapal at Badrinath**.
 - It aligns with the Hindu tradition of offering "Tarpan" to ancestors during the Shradh (Pitr Paksh) period.

Note: [Manaskhand Express](#) is another train which has started in June 2024, offers a journey covering popular destinations in Uttarakhand, including train travel, meals on the train, road travel within the state, sightseeing, and accommodation in hotels or homestays.

- **Destinations Covered:** Punagiri Temple, Nanakmatta Gurudwara, Tea Garden at Champawat, Haat Kalika Temple, Patal Bhuvneshwar Temple, Jageshwar Temple, Golu Devta Temple, [Kainchi Dham](#), Kasar Devi Temple, Sun Temple Katarmal, and [Naina Devi Temple](#).

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