



Rare Orchid Species

Why in News?

Recently, Two **research associates** from the **Uttarakhand forest department** found a [rare orchid species](#), *Calanthe davidii*, at Gini Band in Munsyari tehsil of **Pithoragarh district**.

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Key Points

- **India is home to 244 orchid species, and Uttarakhand hosts 120 of them, some of which are exceptionally rare.**
 - One such rare species is *Calanthe davidii*, a **terrestrial plant that grows in clusters** and reaches **heights between 40 and 90 centimeters**.
 - This species was **initially discovered in the [Western Himalayas](#)**, including Mussoorie and Mayabasti in Uttarakhand, Chamba in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir, and Arunachal Pradesh.
 - **In Uttarakhand, it was first found in Mussoorie in 1898 and in Champawat in 2002.**
 - This species is **under threat due to seasonal goat herding** activities.
- In response, the **Uttarakhand forest research wing** has **initiated efforts to cultivate the plants in a nursery located in Chamoli district**, in order to conserve this species.

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