



# Uttarakhand Forest Fires Halt Air Services

## Why in News?

Air services to **Pithoragarh and Munsiyari towns** in the border district were halted for the due to low visibility at the **Naini-Saini airport** caused by smoke from the **forest fires**.

## Key Points

- Visibility in the vicinity of the airport was below 1000 meters, whereas **air traffic requires a minimum of 5000 meters of visibility** to operate safely.
  - Apart from the **Saur valley**, there are forest fires spreading in **Quirala valley of Champawat** and the **forests of Lohaghat, Jhoolaghat, and Gaurihat**.
  - According to healthcare professionals at community and primary health centers in different locations within the district, a growing number of **patients are visiting hospitals** with concerns of **breathing difficulties and eye irritation**.
- **Naini Saini Airport** otherwise called **Pithoragarh Airstrip** is situated in Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. The airstrip was **built in 1991 for authoritative use** and got ready for the operations of the Dornier **228 sort flying machine**.

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