Nakshatra Sabha: Astro-Tourism in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 30 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Nakshatra Sabha was launched to promote astro-tourism and local heritage across Uttarakhand.

Key Points

- **Event Overview:**
    - Organized by Starscapes in collaboration with the Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board, Nakshatra Sabha is a year-long series of immersive astro-tourism events.
    - The initiative includes celestial observations, astrophotography sessions, and cultural immersion at various **dark-sky locations.**
- **Cultural Integration:**
    - Each edition highlights the region's natural beauty, cultural significance, and the interplay between astronomy and local heritage.
    - Events aim to make astronomy accessible and engaging, fostering interest among participants of all ages.
    - The program promotes awareness of Uttarakhand's rich traditions and its historical connections to astronomy.
- **Community Involvement:**
    - Local communities are encouraged to participate, enhancing tourism and supporting local economies.
    - Participants can engage in guided stargazing sessions, workshops, and discussions led by experts in astronomy and culture.

Uttarakhand Tourism Policy

- **Investment Promotion:**
    - The new tourism policy aims to attract investments by setting a minimum project cost of Rs. 5 crore, providing up to 50% subsidies in unexplored areas, and 100% subsidies for initiatives like heli tourism and adventure activities.
- **Categorization of Cities:**
    - Cities are divided into three categories (A, B, and C) with varying subsidy rates: 25% in Category A, 35% in Category B, and up to 50% in Category C, along with exemptions from stamp duty.
- **Diverse Incentives:**
    - Financial incentives are offered for various tourism ventures, including hotels, adventure sports, and eco-friendly transport options, aimed at creating new employment opportunities and promoting sustainable tourism.