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## 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.