



Maa Nanda - Sunanda Mohatsav

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand CM virtually inaugurated the **Maa Nanda-Sunanda Mahotsav, 2024**, in Nainital highlighting the festival's role in connecting people with their cultural roots.

Key Points

- **Maa Nanda-Sunanda Mahotsav:**
 - Celebrated in remembrance of the goddesses **Nanda and Sunanda** during the **Nandashtami festival in the Kumaon region** of Uttarakhand every September.
 - Observed in locations such as **Almora, Nainital, Kot Along, Bhowali, and Johar.**
- CM announced **2nd September** as **Bugyal Conservation Day** to protect alpine meadows, describing them as the Himalayas' '**precious heritage**'.

Bugyals

- Bugyals are high-altitude alpine meadows found in Uttarakhand.
 - These meadows are characterized by their lush greenery and are situated above 3,000 meters (10,000 feet) in elevation.
- **Ecological Significance:** Bugyals are crucial for the region's biodiversity, supporting a range of flora and fauna.
 - They serve as grazing grounds for livestock and are vital for maintaining ecological balance.
- **Popular Bugyals in Uttarakhand:**
 - **Dayara Bugyal:** Known for its expansive meadows and stunning views.
 - **Bedni Bugyal:** Famous for its scenic beauty and as a trekking destination.
 - **Auli Bugyal:** Noted for its panoramic views and biodiversity, Auli is nestled amidst the giant snowy peaks of **Nanda Devi, Kamet and Dunagiri.**