



# Uttarakhand Begins Dehradun Airport's International Expansion

## Why in News?

In a significant effort to boost inbound **tourism**, the Uttarakhand government is working on **transforming Dehradun into an international airport**.

## Key Points

- The state government has called for proposals from airlines to run subsidized non-stop flights between **Jolly Grant Airport in Dehradun and Kathmandu**.
  - Reports suggest that the central government supports this initiative to tap into India's ability to become a global tourist destination.
  - **Foreign Tourist Arrivals (FTA) in 2019 totaled around 1.1 crore. In 2022, this number decreased to 62 lakh, but in 2023 it increased to 92.4 lakh.**
  - The industry is discussing strategies to surpass the 2019 FTA levels by **enhancing international connectivity**, introducing new tourism routes, and **simplifying visa procedures**.
- Ambitious strategies are underway to position India as a key global aviation center with major airlines like **IndiGo and Tata Group Air India** alongside significant hubs.
- By **connecting the capital cities of Nepal and Uttarakhand**, this endeavour not only fortifies historical ties but also unlocks new avenues for **tourism, commerce, and cultural exchange**.
- **India has doubled the number of airports since 2014** and many of them will increasingly get international status to have direct flights at least from nearby catchment countries.

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