



Uttarakhand's Grassland Conservation SOP

Why in News?

The **forest department of Uttarakhand government** will prepare a **standard operating procedure (SOP)** to conserve grasslands in the [Upper Himalayan Region](#) of the state.

- This initiative aims to address the **increasing frequency of [landslides](#)** and **land subsidence** caused by both **natural and human activities**.

Key Points

- **Grassland Conservation Initiatives:**
 - **Dayara Bugyal**, a sensitive ecological area, has shown positive results from previous ecological restoration efforts. To extend these benefits to other grasslands, the forest department plans to develop a **SOP** for conservation.
 - This **SOP** will focus on reducing biological pressure and preventing further degradation.
 - So far, conservation work has been carried out on approximately **83 hectares of land across 22 grasslands** under the **Bugyal Conservation Scheme**.
- **Snow Leopard Conservation Center:**
 - During their visit, the officials also inspected a [snow leopard conservation center](#) under construction at Lanka near Gangotri.
 - The center is expected to be ready within a year, offering tourists an opportunity to experience the **natural environment** and **observe snow leopards** in their habitat.
 - [Gangotri National Park](#) has emerged as a significant **trans-Himalayan national park** over the past decade.
 - The **Wildlife Institute of India** has recorded a substantial presence of **snow leopards** in the park, which was relatively unknown until recently.