



Adarsh Sanskrit Village

Why in News?

The **Uttarakhand government** has designated one village in each of its 13 districts as an '**Adarsh Sanskrit village**' to **preserve and promote Sanskrit**, the State's second language.

Key Points

- **Government's Commitment to Promote Sanskrit:**
 - The State Education Minister, referring to **Sanskrit as 'Devvani' (language of the gods)**, emphasized that **preserving and promoting Sanskrit is a top priority** for the government.
 - He stated that **Adarsh Sanskrit Villages** will help connect the new generation to **Indian philosophy and knowledge traditions** through Sanskrit.
- **Integration of Sanskrit into Daily Life:**
 - The government has **appointed special instructors to train villagers in communicating in Sanskrit** in their daily lives.
 - Villagers will be encouraged to **recite verses from the Vedas, Puranas, and Upanishads during religious rites**.
 - Women and children will be motivated to sing **religious songs in Sanskrit during festivals and celebrations**.
 - **Scheduled Caste (SC) and Scheduled Tribe (ST)** children will receive encouragement to study Sanskrit, aiming to foster harmony among different sections of society.
- **List of Adarsh Sanskrit Villages:**
 - The government has **designated 13 villages as Adarsh Sanskrit Villages** across Uttarakhand's districts:
 - **Garhwal region:** Noorpur Panjhanhedi (Haridwar), Bhogpur (Dehradun), Kotgaon (Uttarkashi), Dimmar (Chamoli), Goda (Pauri), Baiji (Rudraprayag), Mukhem (Tehri).
 - **Kumaon region:** Pandey (Nainital), Jainti (Almora), Kharkkarki (Champawat), Urg (Pithoragarh), Sheri (Bageshwar), Nagla Tarai (Udham Singh Nagar).
- **Sanskrit Education in Uttarakhand:**
 - The State has **more than 100 Sanskrit medium schools**, further strengthening its efforts to promote the language.

Sanskrit

- It is an **old Indo-Aryan language** in which the **most ancient documents, Vedas** are composed in what is called **Vedic Sanskrit**.
- **Classical Sanskrit**, a language close to late Vedic as then used in the northwest of the subcontinent, was elegantly described in one of the **finest grammars** ever produced, the **Astadyayi** ("Eight Chapters") composed by **Panini** (c. 6th-5th century BCE).
- Sanskrit has been written both in **Devanagari script** and in various regional scripts, such as Sarada from the north (Kashmir), Bangla (Bengali) in the east, Gujarati in the west, and various southern scripts, including the **Grantha alphabet**, which was especially devised for Sanskrit texts.

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