

'Nakshatra Sabha' India's 1st Astro Tourism Campaign

Why In News

- **Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board** and an astro-tourism company, Starscapes collaboratively launched Nakshatra Sabha, India's first Astro tourism campaign.



- The major aim of this campaign is to provide an **all-inclusive Astro Tourism** experience to people of India and abroad. This initiative includes various calming activities which one cannot experience in highly populated cities including observing the stars, stargazing, astrophotography contests, special solar observations, camping under the stars etc.
- **Nakshatra Sabha** is going to be a very engaging platform that brings together adventurers, astronomy enthusiasts, and travellers to gaze and explore the wonders of the universe along with enjoying the natural beauty of the state of Uttarakhand.

When is Nakshatra Sabha

- **Secretary of Tourism**, Uttarakhand is very excited about this campaign; it will aid the state economically by making it a premier destination for astronomy-focused travel.

- Uttarakhand is a unique combination of **abundant forest cover**, easy access to major cities, nature-based tourism, a well-established hospitality sector, homestays etc which makes it an ideal destination for Astro tourists from around the globe.



- Nakshatra Sabha will commence in June at **George Everest in Mussoorie**. This campaign will continue until mid-2025.
- Many huge events at various locations across Uttarakhand will be organized for visitors.
- People will get opportunities for **stargazing, exploring beautiful night sky sites** of districts like Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Nainital, and Chamoli.



- Experts from various fields will organize seminars and webinars to increase awareness and education for this initiative. The campaign also offers professional training and skill development opportunities to local residents, with an aim to enhance local economies.

- Furthermore, it will advocate for the **preservation of dark skies**, fostering a community of ambassadors dedicated to promoting dark sky conservation efforts throughout Uttarakhand.



- This includes the formulation of a **dark sky preservation** policy and its implementation throughout the region over the course of the year.
- **The team at Starscapes** will actively collaborate with local communities, travel and tourism partners, as well as homestay communities, providing training and ongoing support to ensure successful implementation of these initiatives.