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## Maa Nanda - Sunanda Mohatsav | Uttarakhand | 09 Sep 2024

### 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 **2<sup>nd</sup> 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.**

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## Uttarakhand CM Approves Flood Relief Funds | Uttarakhand | 09 Sep 2024

### Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand CM approved special assistance from the **Chief Minister's [Disaster Relief Fund](#)** to **aid businessmen affected by heavy rains** in the [Kedarnath area](#).

### Key Points

- The funds are allocated to compensate businessmen affected by damage to pedestrian and motor roads from **Linchauli to Sonprayag** due to heavy rains.
- The approved amount will be used specifically for those affected by the damage on **31<sup>st</sup> July**.
- Payments will be made through e-banking or demand drafts, with details of beneficiaries to be maintained at the district level.
- Approximately 17,000 people were evacuated from disaster-affected areas in Rudraprayag district.

### **CM Relief Fund (CMRF)**

- CMRF is an emergency assistance scheme for granting relief to deserving families and individuals affected by natural calamities like floods, droughts, earthquakes etc. or any other similar calamities.

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