



Social Development
for Communities
FOUNDATION

SEPTEMBER 2025

Uttarakhand Disaster and Accident Analysis Initiative - UDAAI



Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation
Dehradun, Uttarakhand
www.sdcuk.in

© 2025 SDC Foundation

SDC Foundation is a Dehradun based environmental action and advocacy group committed to make a positive impact and secure a sustainable future for our home state Uttarakhand, the Himalayas and beyond.

Material from this publication can be used with due acknowledgement.

Editors

Anoop Nautiyal

Prerna Raturi

Gautam Kumar

Research Team

Riya Raj

Misbah Khan

Shubhransh Vir

Praveen Upreti

Contact: SDC Foundation

69, Vasant Vihar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand (India) - 248001

Website: www.sdcuk.in

Email: contactsdcuk@gmail.com

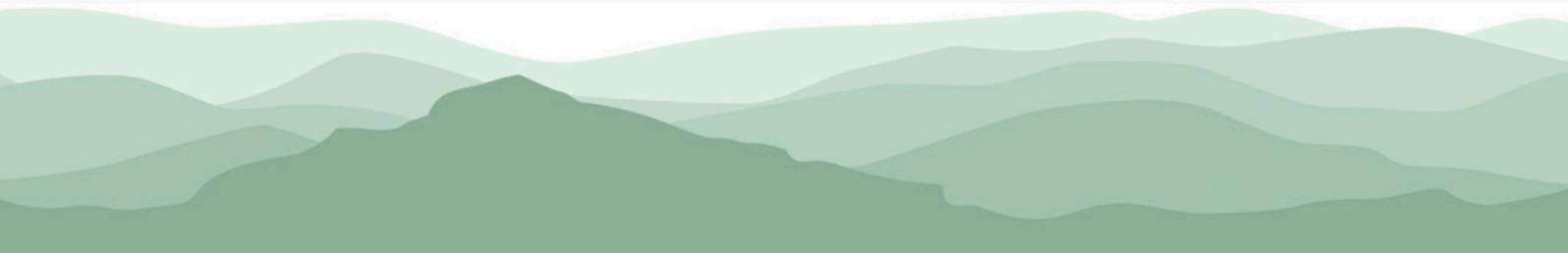


About UDAAI Monthly Reports

Uttarakhand Disaster and Accident Analysis Initiative (UDAAI) is a monthly initiative by Dehradun-based environmental action and advocacy group, Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation. The goal of the UDAAI reports is to document disasters and accidents in Uttarakhand, leading to human and ecological casualties. UDAAI is based on media reports in respectable publications in English and Hindi newspapers, as well as news portals. UDAAI neither attempts nor claims to document all disasters and all accidents in Uttarakhand; its focus instead is to document major casualties and non-casualty events on a regular basis.

We strongly believe that with the perils of inclement climate and unabated disasters, the ecologically fragile and earthquake-prone state of Uttarakhand needs to take many more steps to increase its disaster preparedness. We therefore see UDAAI as a document that highlights attention towards the urgent need for a holistic disaster management and accident minimisation policy framework in Uttarakhand.

It is our earnest hope that UDAAI will spur political leadership, policy makers, bureaucracy, research and academic institutions, businesses, civil society organisations, media and the citizenry at large to initiate inclusive, regular and action-oriented conversations on the subjects of resilience, mitigation and adaptation in Uttarakhand. With mainstreaming and a greater focus on the issue, there is likely to be an improvement in the planning of climate actions and disaster management in Uttarakhand.



SUMMARY OF UDAAI REPORT - SEPTEMBER 2025

September 2025 was a critical month for the environmental health of Uttarakhand, as the state witnessed many devastating catastrophes. It began with the Kedarnath route tragedy that led to the deaths of two pilgrims and injuries to many people. The Char Dham Yatra, which attracts pilgrims from across India every year, began on April 30 this year and 177 deaths have been reported since then. These incidents reflect the dangers that pilgrims have to encounter during their journeys in Uttarakhand.

Nearly a year after the survey of Vasundhara Lake, the installation of the early warning system is still pending, along with the four other surveys for other glacial lakes, highlighting a concerning administrative delay in addressing these time-sensitive issues. Torrential rains in Uttarkashi destroyed homes and farmlands, while in Pauri Garhwal's Srinagar, blasting and tunneling for a ₹16,200 crore rail project caused deep cracks in houses. These instances collectively reveal how bureaucratic inaction and haphazard developmental actions are deepening the region's vulnerability to disasters.

Experts are linking these disasters across the Himalayas with unscientific construction and environmental neglect. They assert that natural stability is weakened by projects like the Rs. 12000 crore Char Dham Highway, the Delhi-Dehradun Expressway, and the proposed ropeways to Kedarnath and Hemkund.

The Doon Valley including Sahastradhara and Maldevta was also hit by extreme devastation, as dry rivers transformed into raging floods, leaving people dead or missing. Mussoorie and surrounding areas witnessed the collapse of houses, bridges, and markets. Cloud bursts destroyed villages in Nandanagar, Chamoli, and made the Badrinath highway unstable. 50 days after the Dharali tragedy, the town remains deserted as disaster hit families seek refuge in homes of relatives and neighbours.

The casualties of this month reveal the ecological imbalance that demands immediate attention as the state of turmoil in high-risk and affected areas continued to worsen after the deluge of July and August. Recklessness at various stages, poor planning and lack of enforcement by government authorities and a host of unsustainable projects have proved to be the precursors of these unfortunate disasters; the antidote is taking these incidents into account and navigating efficiently through sustainable measures.

1. September 2, 2025 : 2 Pilgrims Dead, 6 Injured as Falling Boulders Crush Vehicle On Kedar Route

Dehradun: Two pilgrims were killed and at least six others injured when falling boulders crushed a vehicle carrying 11 people on the Kedarnath route near Mankutiya on Monday morning. Both the dead hailed from Uttarkashi district, Rudraprayag's district disaster management officer, Nandram Singh Rawat, said. "The vehicle was travelling towards Gaurikund, from where they were expected to undertake the trek route to Kedarnath. State Disaster Response Force and district teams reached the spot.

2 Pilgrims Critical After Kedarnath Landslide

Condition of the two injured are serious and they were shifted to another facility. Rita Singh (30) and Chandra Singh (50) died in the incident while Naveen Singh Rawat (35), Meena Panwar (29), Pratibha Singh (25), Rajeshwari Singh (35), Mohit Chauhan, and Pankaj Singh (24) suffered injuries. The condition of Naveen and Mamta is stated to be critical. Seven of them are from Silyalab village in Barkot, Uttarkashi district. Pankaj belongs to Chamoli district.

177 Deaths Have Been Reported on Char Dham Yatra Route Since It Began on May 4 this Year

Notably, Sonprayag is the base camp of Kedarnath temple, where pilgrims' vehicles are parked and from there one needs to either trek or take shuttle service to reach Gaurikund, about 2 km away. Earlier, too, instances of falling boulders were reported in Mankutiya and adjoining areas, leading to yatra on Kedarnath route being briefly halted.

As per the data of State Emergency Operation Center, 177 deaths have been reported on the Char Dham yatra route since it began on May 4 this year. Out of which, 155 were due to health issues, 15 due to other reasons, and seven due to natural disasters.



2. September 6, 2025 : Vasudhara Lake: Even After 11 Months of Survey, Early Warning System Not Installed

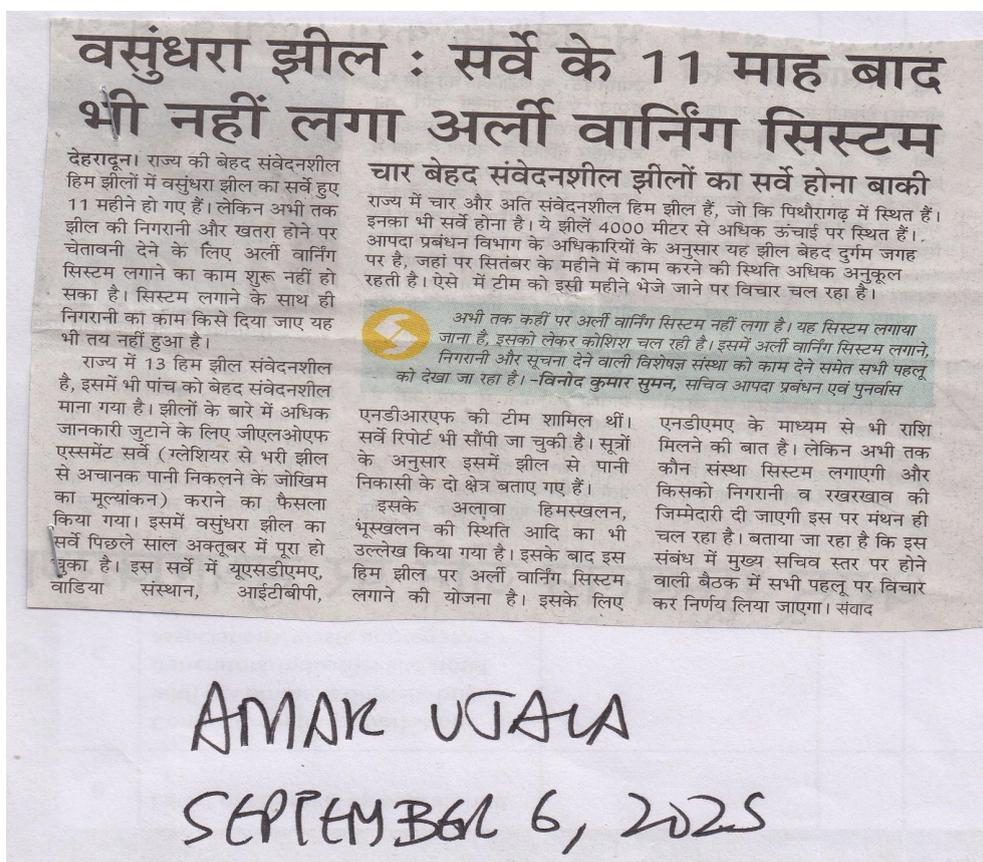
Dehradun: It's been 11 months since the survey of Vasundhara Lake, one of the state's most sensitive glacial lakes, was completed. However, work on monitoring the lake and installing an early warning system to alert it in case of danger has yet to begin. Neither has the system installation nor the monitoring task been finalized.

The state has 13 sensitive glacial lakes, of which five are considered highly vulnerable. To gather more information about the lakes, it was decided to conduct a GLOF assessment survey (evaluating the risk of sudden release of water from a glacier-fed lake). The survey of Vasundhara Lake was completed last October. The survey involved the USDMA, the Wadia institute, the ITBP, and NDRF team. A survey report has also been submitted. According to sources, it identifies two areas for water drainage from the lake.

Moreover, it also mentions avalanche and landslide hazards. Following this, there are plans to install an early warning system at this glacial lake. Funding is also expected through the NDMA. However, discussions are still ongoing regarding which organization will install the system and who will be responsible for monitoring and maintenance. It is being reported that a decision will be made in this regard after considering all aspects in a meeting at the Chief Secretary's level.

Survey of Four Highly Sensitive Lakes is Yet to be Done

The state also has four other highly sensitive glacial lakes, all located in Pithoragarh. These lakes are also subject to survey. These lakes are located at altitudes of over 4,000 meters. According to Disaster Management Department officials, these lakes are located in extremely remote locations, where working conditions are more favorable in September. Therefore, the team is being considered for this month.



3. September 8, 2025 : Heavy Rains in Naugaon Threatens Livelihoods of Residents

Naugaon: Heavy rains have disrupted the lives of people in Naugaon Nagar Panchayat, adjacent to the Yamunotri National Highway. Due to heavy rains late Saturday evening, Devalsari and Naugaon streams overflowed, causing heavy damage in the Naugaon Nagar Panchayat area. Many families are facing a livelihood crisis. Apart from residential buildings, shops and agriculture have also been damaged. Local people have demanded immediate compensation from the government.

In Naugaon Bazaar, water from the streams entered people's homes, destroying valuables and food items. Drinking water lines, hand pumps, and rural roads were also damaged in the Nagar Panchayat. The disaster caused the most damage in the Devalsari, Dhari, Mulana, and Naugaon areas, where there were no casualties, but residential buildings were ravaged. Continuous soil erosion is occurring here. In Naugaon Nagar Panchayat, Phulak Singh Ramola's house was completely damaged, along with Surat Singh Rawat's six-room house and Vijaypal's. The residential homes of Chauhan, Lokesh Badoni, Sundar Lal, Sitaru Lal, Avtar Singh, and Ramraj Panwar are in danger. On the District Magistrate's instructions, SDM Barkot Brijesh Tiwari arrived at the scene and conducted a field inspection of the damage in the city area and asked the revenue team to submit a report.

Phulak Singh to the Government for Help

Phulak Singh Ramola said, "We have appealed to the administration, stating that our house is completely damaged. We even took a loan from the bank to rebuild it. We have demanded compensation from the government." Businessman Trepan said that the administration has not provided any assistance to the people during this time of disaster. No arrangements are being made.

The Affected People of Naugaon Demanded Compensation

The local people have demanded compensation from the district administration for the heavy losses caused by heavy rains in the Naugaon area last Saturday. The local people said that due to the disaster, their residential buildings, business establishments, movable and immovable properties including drinking water lines have been damaged. They should get compensation for this. On Sunday, SDM Barkot Brijesh Kumar Tiwari took stock of the damage caused by heavy rains in the Naugaon area. On this occasion, the local people said that many houses have come under threat from Devalsari Khadd and Naugaon Khadd.



4. September 8, 2025 : Now, Houses Develop Cracks in Pauri; Residents Blame Char Dham Rail Project

Dehradun: Cracks have appeared in nearly a dozen houses in the Teachers' Colony area of Pauri–Garhwal's Srinagar town after a recent landslide and prolonged rainfall triggered land subsidence. The residents linked the damage to controlled blasting and tunnelling activities for the ₹16,200-crore Rishikesh–Karnaprayag rail line, a project under construction since 2019 and billed as a crucial Char Dham connectivity link. However, Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), the agency executing the work, denied the charges and said the site lay well outside the zone of impact.

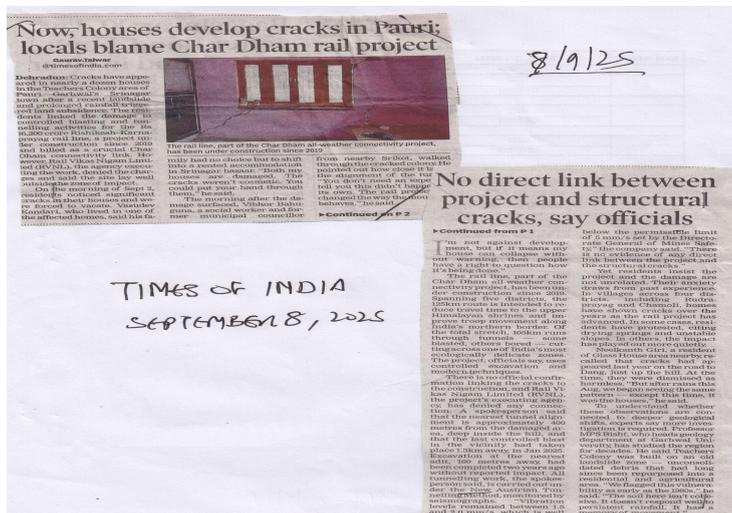
On the morning of September 2, residents noticed significant cracks in their houses and were forced to vacate. Vasudev Kandari, who lived in one of the affected homes, said his family had no choice but to shift into a rented accommodation in Srinagar bazaar. "Both my houses were damaged. The cracks weren't cosmetic. You could put your hand through them," he said.

No Direct Link Between Project and Structural Cracks

The rail line, part of the Char Dham all weather connectivity project, has been under construction since 2019. Spanning five districts, the 125km route is intended to reduce travel time to the upper Himalayan shrines and improve troop movement along India's northern border. Of the total stretch, 105 km runs through tunnels - some blasted, others bored cutting across one of India's most ecologically delicate zones. The project, officials say uses controlled excavation and modern techniques.

There is no official confirmation linking the cracks to construction, and Rail Vikas Nigam Limited (RVNL), the project's executing agency has denied any connection. A spokesperson said that the nearest tunnel alignment is approximately 400 metres from the damaged area, deep inside the hill, and that the last controlled blast in the vicinity had taken place 1.3 km away, in Jan 2025. Excavation at the nearest adit, 160 metres away, had been completed two years ago without reported impact. All tunnelling work, the spokesperson said, is carried out under the New Austrian Tunnelling Method, monitored by seismographs.

Yet residents insist the project and the damage are not unrelated. Their anxiety draws from past experience. In villages across four districts, including Rudraprayag and Chamoli, homes have shown cracks over the years as the rail project has advanced. In some cases, residents have protested, citing drying springs and unstable slopes. In others, the impact has played out more quietly.



5. September 9, 2025 : Himalayan Villages See Disaster Risk Rise as Infra Boom Reshapes Slopes

Kullu/Dehradun: This monsoon, from Kullu to Kalimpong and from Kishtwar to Karnaprayag, landslides, flash floods and ground subsidence sharpened the focus on how India's expanding network of highways, tunnels, ropeways and hydropower dams is affecting the fragile Himalayan terrain. While officials insisted these were natural calamities, a growing number of residents, scientists and campaigners pointed to unscientific construction as a key driver. In many towns and villages in India's hills, protests have intensified over cracked homes, vanished springs, and roads that collapsed as quickly as they were built. The most visible scars appeared on the 197 km Chandigarh - Manali Highway.

Unscientific Construction Key Driver of Himalayan Disaster

The large sections slumped after vertical cutting by the National Highways Authority of India left near-vertical slopes of sand and gravel vulnerable to cloudbursts.

Sharp disagreements over the cause of recent calamities have surfaced in Uttarakhand. Chief Secretary Anand Bardhan told TOI there was “no technical or scientific study” linking large infrastructure to natural disasters, citing the flash flood in Dharali which killed several, as an example of a disaster in a zone without major projects. He added that ropeways to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib had not yet begun and cautioned against speculation.

Campaigners, however, said the impacts were widespread. Experts largely agree that the disasters are man-made, with Brijesh Sati of the Char Dham Teerth Purohit Mahapanchayat stating that “All ecological and local factors have been sidelined.” said Brijesh Sati of the Char Dham Teerth Purohit Mahapanchayat. “It would not be wrong to say these disasters are man made. We are not against development, but it must respect ecology”. He said 50,000 pilgrims completed the Char Dham Yatra in 190-5 without roads and that even in 2000, road broadening was done without felling trees.

Lived memory offers its own testimony. Uttarkashi-based campaigner Suresh Bhai said floods from Kedarnath in 2013 to Joshimath in 2023 show the health of the Himalayas is being spoiled. Development at the cost of ecology requires reassessment. Large-scale projects have advanced across the region: the Rs 12,000 crore, 889km Char Dham highway; Rs 16,200 crore Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway with 105km of tunnels; the 210km Delhi-Dehradun expressway; and ropeways to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib worth Rs 6,800 crore, expected to carry nearly 50 lakh passengers annually by the early 2030s.

IPCC author Anjal Prakash called such projects disaster multipliers that destabilise slopes. Shruti Narayan of C40 said infrastructure in fragile zones must be based on scientific evidence or “risk becoming victims of the very calamities they claim to overcome”

9/9/25

Himalayan villages see disaster risk rise as infra boom reshapes slopes

Rohit Mullick, Gaurav Talwar, Kantiya Singh & Shivani Azad | TNN

Kullu/Dehradun: This monsoon, from Kullu to Kalimpong and from Kishitwar to Karnaprayag, landslides, flash floods and ground subsidence sharpened the focus on how India's expanding network of highways, tunnels, ropeways and hydropower dams is affecting the fragile Himalayan terrain. While officials insisted these

► **Vehicles stranded as landslides hit Bageshwar NH, P 2**
► **Debris blocks rly track; 7 trains cancelled, P 2**

were natural calamities, a growing number of residents, scientists and campaigners pointed to unscientific construction as a key driver. In many towns and villages in India's hills, protests have intensified over crack-

NEW INFRA IN OLD MOUNTAINS

Char Dham highway: ₹12,000Cr, 889km network for all-weather access to Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri, Yamunotri	Delhi-Dehradun expressway: 210km six-lane greenfield corridor
Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway: ₹16,200Cr, 125km rail line with 105km tunnelling. Aimed at faster access in Garhwal	Kedarnath & Hemkund ropeways: ₹6,800Cr total cost. Planned to carry 50 lakh pilgrims annually by early 2030s
	Sevoke-Rangpo railway (Sikkim): 45km rail link connecting Sikkim to national network

Inter-ministerial team to assess damages in U'khand

An inter-ministerial team led by R Prasanna, joint secretary in the ministry of home affairs, arrived in Dehradun on Monday to assess the damage caused by devastating monsoon. The team, tasked with evaluating losses and ongoing relief efforts, is touring the worst-hit districts, including Uttarkashi, Chamoli, Rudrapur, Pauri Garhwal, Bageshwar and Nainital. P 2

ed homes, vanished springs, and roads that collapsed as quickly as they were built. The most visible scars appeared on the 197km Chandigarh-Manali highway.

► Continued on P 4

Unscientific construction key driver of Himalayan disaster

► Continued from P 1

The large sections slumped after vertical cutting by the National Highways Authority of India left near-vertical slopes of sand and gravel vulnerable to cloudbursts.

Carriageways were buried, tunnels flooded, and the Beas was choked with debris. "There used to be hardly any landslides," said Kullu environmentalist Guman Singh. "Then came NHAI with its vertical cuts and created a mess of a road." Former Geological Survey of India director Om Narain Bhargava called the technique "a horrible mistake." Villagers demanded relocation and compensation after their homes developed cracks.

Activist Madan Sharina called it "the most dangerous road ever built," while state rural development minister Anirudh Singh launched a "Justice for Himalachal" campaign, saying the highway had created "more problems than it solved." A state climate report had already warned that such cutting would "exacerbate land instability."

Sharp disagreements over the cause of recent calamities have surfaced in Uttarakhand. Chief secretary Anand Barhan told TOI there was "no technical or scientific study" linking large infrastructure to natural disasters, citing the flash flood in Dharail, which killed several, as an example of a disaster in a zone without major projects. He added that ropeways to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib had not yet begun and cautioned against speculation.

Campaigners, however, said the impacts were widespread. "All ecological and local factors have been sidelined," said Brijesh Sati of the Char Dham Teerth Purohit Mahapanchayat. "It would not be wrong to say these disasters are man-made. We are not against development, but it must respect ecology." He said 50,000 pilgrims completed the Char Dham yatra in 1906 without roads and that even in 2000, road broadening was done without felling trees.

Expert opinion from SC's high-powered committee on the



In Sikkim, a glacial lake outburst flood in 2023 destroyed the Rs 1,200 crore Teesta III dam within minutes

Char Dham project underscored the risks. Environmentalist Ravi Chopra, who chaired the committee, explained that Uttarakhand's Himalayan ranges emerged from three major faults. "Even though the rock may be strong, the slopes are weak. During field visits we saw them weakened further by deforestation and unscientific road-cutting — slopes of 60 degrees were carved where even 30 degrees is unsafe."

Evidence of man-made pressures came from across the scientific community. SK Bararya, former senior hydrogeologist at the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, said both human activ-

ity and climate change were to blame. "Drying of water bodies are surfacing across the Himalayas. To understand the impact of projects we need cause-factor analysis to separate man-made pressures from climatic ones."

Lived memory offers its own testimony. Uttarkashi-based campaigner Suresh Bhai said, "Floods from Kedarnath in 2013 to Joshimath in 2023 show the health of the Himalayas is being spoiled. Development at the cost of ecology requires reassessment." Large-scale projects have advanced across the region: the Rs 12,000 crore, 889km Char Dham highway; Rs 16,200 crore Rishikesh-Karnaprayag railway with 105km of tunnels; the 210km Delhi-Dehradun expressway; and ropeways to Kedarnath and Hemkund Sahib worth Rs 6,800 crore. Expected to carry nearly 50 lakh passengers annually by the early 2030s, IPCC author Anjali Prakash called such projects "disaster multipliers" that destabilise slopes. Sharuti Narayan of C49 said infrastructure in fragile zones must be based on scientific

evidence "or risk of the very claim to overcome."

Anxiety has daily life in Sikkim. A July 2025 explosion destroyed the Rista III dam within away more than on NH-10, and killed a family of five.

A July 2025 explosion destroyed the Rista III dam within away more than on NH-10, and killed a family of five. Families now lie packed at night, warning system -Rangpo railway used beneath slope said were still in kyang and Na springs used for irrigation had begun.

A travel magazine complained that roads lacked dra not engineers." "but we live here. the mountain is in Himachal's Leh. Himachal's Leh has dreds marched in the proposed S schemes, alleging risks had been in impact assessments."

TIMES OF INDIA
SEPTEMBER 9, 2025

6. September 17, 2025 : Tragic as Small Rivers Brought Great Disaster To The Doon Valley

Dehradun: The district's 10 rivers, always full of stones, seemed thirsty for years. Some were used for collecting stones, others as taxi stands. But when the skies quenched their thirst, they took the form of a catastrophe. Everyone was stunned by the sheer volume of water. It seemed as if nature was expressing its anger through these rivers. At some places, water gushing out of the dam was visible under the bridge, while at others, water splashing against rocks frightened people. The flow of the rivers continued, leaving a trail of devastation.

Rishikesh's Chandrabhaga, Jakhan, and Song displayed a different side on Tuesday. A roar could be heard on their usually calm banks today. The sound of the water instilled fear in the heart. In Vikasnagar's Asan River, the water flowed like death. Eight people were taken away by the catastrophe in Asan, while four are still lost somewhere in its currents. The Swarna river was in a similar state. Everyone was shocked to see Swarna in this state on Tuesday. Similarly, the dry rivers flowing through the Dehradun city area wreaked havoc.

दुखदाई... छोटी-छोटी नदियां दून घाटी में बड़ी आपदा लाईं

10 नदियों में आई बाढ़ ने दिए गहरे जखम
जानमाल का बड़े पैमाने पर नुकसान

हर कोई बोला इतना
पानी कभी नहीं देखा

देहरादून। हमेशा पत्थरों से ढकी रहने वाली जिले की 10 नदियां मानो सालों से थ्यासी थीं। कहीं लस्कर चूषान होता है तो कहीं टेम्बकी स्टैंड के रूप में इस्तेमाल होती है या घर आसमान ने जब नदियों की घास बुझाई तो प्रलय का रूप ले लिया। हर कोई देखकर हतभंग था कि इतना पानी...। देखकर लगा कि मानो प्रकृति इन नदियों के जरिए अपना क्रोध जता रही है। कहीं पुल के नीचे बांध से निकलने वाले पानी का दृश्य नजर आ रहा था तो कहीं पत्थरों से टकराकर पानी उछलकर लोगों को डरा रहा था। नदियों का ये प्रवाह आगे बढ़ता गया और तबाही के निशान छोड़ता चला गया। भूमिकेस की चंद्रगंगा, आसन और सींग का मंगलवार को एक अलग रूप दिखा। हमेशा शांत रहने वाले इनके किनारों में आज एक शोर सुनाई दे रहा था। पानी की आवाज दिल में भय पैदा कर रही थी। विकासनगर की आसन नदी में तो पानी मौत बनकर बहा। एक साथ आठ लोगों की जिंदगी आसन में आई प्रलय ने लील ली। चार अब भी इसकी धार में कहीं खोए हैं। मौत नदी में आए भारी जल प्रवाह ने ऊपर बने पुल को क्षतिग्रस्त कर दिया। सुरुवात के भी यही हाल थे। हर कोई सुबके का मंगलवार को ये रूप देखकर हैरान था। इसी तरह देहरादून शहर क्षेत्र में बहने वाली इन सूखी नदियों ने तबाही मचाई।



भन्नाडा गाँव में बाढ़ल फटने और मलबे से रिजॉर्ट और घर क्षतिग्रस्त हो गए। छत्ती

हनुमान जी के कंठ तक पहुंच गई तमसा

शिव चरणों में बहने वाली तमसा क्रोध में थी। टपकेरुवर महादेव मंदिर में तमसा ने कुछ भी सामान्य नहीं छोड़ा। गुफा को जाने वाला पुल तीन साल में दूसरी बार तमसा के क्रोध का भागी बना। इस बार पूरी तरह इस पुल को तहस नहर कर दिया।

भगवान शिव की पीलल की प्रतिया भी तमसा के पानी में समा गई। कभी 2.5 फीट ऊंची हनुमान प्रतिमा के चरणों को चबाने वाली तमसा आज उनके कंठ तक आ पहुंची थी। दशकों से नदी को चौकी के पास तमसा पर बना पुल भी आज उसे नहीं सुहाया। जल प्रवाह के शरणाओं को सर पुल के पुराने पंजर डील नहीं पाए और पुल एक हिस्सा तमसा के प्रवाह में बह गया।

दिल्लवा भी मंगलवार को शवों को अपने यथ बहा ले जा रही थी। तीन शव दिखना से बरामद हुए। दिखना में आए पानी ने समाया पुलों और चरों को नुकसान पहुंचाया। नून नदी में पहाड़ों से जब पानी आया तो एकादश मंदिर के परिसर को भी नहीं छोड़ा। परिसर का बड़ा हिस्सा इसमें प्रवाह में समा गया। बिल्वर नदी के पानी से आसपास की बस्ती वालों की ससे अटकती हुई हैं। दुल्हनो नदी का पानी भी एक अजब सा डर पैदा कर रहा था।

25
फीट ऊंची
हनुमान प्रतिमा
के कंठ तक आ
पहुंची तमसा

AMAN UGALU
SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

7. September 17, 2025 : 13 Dead, 16 Missing as Heavy Rainfall Batters Doon Valley

Dehradun/Mussoorie: In one of the worst natural disasters to hit the Doon valley in recent times, at least 13 people died in rain-related incidents after torrential downpour across Dehradun district on the intervening night of Monday and Tuesday. Three people were injured, while 16 remain missing, according to the district administration. The worst-hit areas were Sahastradhara and Maldevta on the outskirts of Dehradun.

At least 70 villagers were evacuated from Sahastradhara, a popular picnic spot, by SDRF, while debris completely washed away the area's main market, carrying away with it several shops catering to tourists. Landslides damaged the Sahastradhara-Karligad motor road at more than nine locations while the raging Song river swept away a portion of the road at Maldevta, another popular picnic spot, cutting off access to the area. Data from the district disaster management office said that Sahastradhara received 192 mm of rainfall in 24 hours till 9am on Tuesday, most of it around midnight, creating a cloud-burst-like situation. Maldevta received 141.5 mm.

Mussoorie Hotels Offer Free Stay to Stranded Tourists

Heavy rainfall also caused major damage to all roads leading to Mussoorie, cutting off access to the hill town from Dehradun completely. The main Mussoorie-Dehradun road suffered landslides at several points, with sections washed away near Shiv Mandir and Kolhukhet. Vehicular movement came to a complete standstill from Tuesday. The alternative route connecting Dehradun to Mussoorie via Kimadi was also blocked by landslides. Access to Mussoorie from Dhanaulti and Nainbagh was cut off, officials said. As per estimates, nearly 3,000-4,000 tourists were stranded in Mussoorie.

In Dehradun, the main connecting bridge on Chakrata road near Uttaranchal University at Nanda ki Chowki got washed away, hampering traffic. Similar damage was reported at Lal Tappar on the Dehradun-Haridwar highway. Officials said 13 bridges and 10 culverts were damaged in Dehradun district.

Meanwhile, eight deaths were confirmed after a tractor trolley carrying around 15 people was swept away in the Tons river in Vikasnagar block of Doon. Separately, a 22-year-old youth was killed in a landslide at Jajret in Kalsi block, while two individuals were washed away at Bhagat Singh Colony and two others at Shikhar Falls between Dehradun and Mussoorie. A boulder fell on a hutment along the Jharipani-Rajpur trek route near Mussoorie, killing two persons. Near DIT College on Mussoorie Road, a 20-year-old student was killed when the wall of their PG collapsed. In Pondha, SDRF rescued around 200 students stranded on a college campus.

An NDRF team pulled to safety a man stranded on an electric pole in the middle of the Tons river in Premnagar, while SDRF rescued three people from a makeshift island in Sahaspur. In Rishikesh, SDRF rescued three locals stranded in the swollen Chandrabhaga river after multiple vehicles got trapped.

"In the last 24 hours, Dehradun received around 80mm of rainfall, whereas at this time of the year we usually get 25-30 mm. Most of the damage happened in Kalsi and Vikasnagar in terms of deaths and devastation," said district disaster management officer Rishabh Kumar.

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami inspected the disaster-hit areas in and around the state capital. He said at least 25-30 roads had been washed away and directed officials to expedite relief and rescue operations.



8. September 19, 2025 : Cloudburst In Nandanagar Wreaks Havoc in Three Villages... Two Dead, Nine Missing

Nandanagar: A cloudburst on the Binsar hilltop in the Nandanagar area of Chamoli district late Wednesday night caused massive devastation in three villages. 12 people from two villages were swept away, of which two bodies have been recovered, while nine are still missing. More than 20 people were injured. One person was rescued from the debris after 16 hours. More than 30 houses collapsed in the landslide and floods.

The Dehradun-based State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) reported massive destruction has occurred in the villages of Kuntari Lagafali, Sainti Lagakuntri, and Dhurma in Chamoli. A hail of debris erupted after lightning struck the Binsar hills around 2 a.m., devastating three villages at the foot of the hill.

Three people, two women, and a child were rescued in Kuntari Lagafali village. NDRF, SDRF, and police teams arrived at the scene and have been engaged in relief and rescue operations since morning. A large number of cattle have also been reported swept away in the affected villages.



9. September 20, 2025 : Death toll in Doon disaster Dehradun disaster rises, now 27

Dehradun: Data released by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) on Friday night put the toll in the natural disaster that hit Dehradun earlier this week at 27. However, the district administration has claimed that 20 people lost their lives. Updated figures were not shared by the district administration till late on Friday.

Senior district officials alleged that unidentified persons are not being included in the death toll as "confirmation of their dying in a disaster-related incident remains pending". Similarly, the district maintains that three people have been injured while 13 are still missing. On the other hand, the USDMA report shows that four people have been injured and around 10 are missing, further highlighting the mismatch in data provided by the two departments.

Notably, a 20-year-old student's body was found by SDRF on Tuesday following a wall collapse incident on Mussoorie road, but his name remains missing from the official list. The search and rescue operations, meanwhile, continued across the district's disaster-hit areas. A body was found in the debris at Karligar area of Sahastradhara on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Virendra, a resident of Jharkhand. SDRF personnel trekked down with the body from the disaster site to the main road where it was handed over to the district police. Teams from SDRF and local administration also carried out search and rescue activities in Karligar for three persons suspected buried under the rubble. Another SDRF team was active in Prem Nagar and a third in Maldevta's Phulait.

Health services continued to be severely hampered due to broken road connectivity. On Thursday, a seriously ill person from Phulait was transported to the city by air ambulance at the family's request. The next day, when Kewala Devi, 62, from the same village suffered a paralysis attack, an SDRF team which had been conducting a search operation in the area for three days carried the elderly woman on a stretcher via the tough 4 km stretch to a safer point from where she was taken by ambulance to Govt Doon Medical College and Hospital. A young woman with a disability was transported to hospital in a similar manner. At least six villages and 4,000 affected people still remain cut off. Garhwal commissioner, Vinay Shankar Pandey, also inspected the disaster-hit Maldevta-Kesarwala area on Friday. A portion of the road had washed away cutting off direct links between Maldevta and Raipur. A temporary road was completed on Friday morning and traffic resumed.

PWD officials have been told to submit a technical report on building damage. Similarly, officials of PMGSY have been asked to submit a detailed account of the dead and missing labourers in the disaster. Education department officials have been asked to visit the affected area and submit a report on school-related issues, particularly regarding the damage to Chhamroli primary school. Meanwhile, residents of Phulait and Chhamroli villages in Maldevta reported that four families in Palya Sera Tok have developed cracks in their homes. Cash crops and farms have suffered extensive damage too. The irrigation canal has been damaged as well.

Death toll in Doon disaster now 27, rescue ops continue

District Admin, However, Claims Only 20 Were Killed

Tanmayee Tyagi
@timesofindia.com



REPAIR PLANNING BEGINS: Officials from PWD, PMGSY, and education department have been directed to submit reports on building damage, missing labourers, and school-related issues

Dehradun: Data released by Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) on Friday night put the toll in the natural disaster that hit Dehradun earlier this week at 27. However, the district administration has claimed that 20 people lost their lives. Updated figures were not shared by the district administration till late on Friday.

Senior district officials alleged that unidentified persons are not being included in the death toll as "confirmation of their dying in a disaster-related incident remains pending". Similarly, the district maintains that three people have been injured while 13 are still missing. On the other hand, the USDMA report shows that four people have been injured and around 10 are missing, further highlighting the mismatch in data provided by the two departments.

Notably, a 20-year-old student's body was found by SDRF on Tuesday following a wall collapse incident on Mussoorie road, but his name remains missing from the official list.

The search and rescue operations, meanwhile, continued across the district's disaster-hit areas. A body was found in the debris at Karligar area of Sahastadhara on Friday night. The deceased was identified as Virendra, a resident of Jharkhand. SDRF personnel trekked down with the body from the disaster site to the main road where it was handed over to the district police.

Teams from SDRF and local administration also carried out search and rescue

activities in Karligar for three persons suspected buried under the rubble. Another SDRF team was active in Prem Nagar and a third in Maldevta's Phulait.

Health services continued to be severely hampered due to broken road connectivity. On Thursday, a seriously ill person from Phulait was transported to the city by air ambulance at the family's request. The next day, when Kewala Devi, 62, from the same village suffered a paralysis attack, an SDRF team which had been conducting a search operation in the area for three days carried the elderly woman on a stretcher via the tough 4 km stretch to a safer point from where she was taken by am-

bulance to Govt Doon Medical College and Hospital. A young woman with a disability was transported to hospital in a similar manner. At least six villages and 4,000 affected people still remain cut off. Garhwal commissioner, Vinay Shankar Pandey, also inspected the disaster-hit Maldevta-Kesarwala area on Friday. A portion of the road had washed away cutting off direct links between Maldevta and Raipur. A temporary road was completed on Friday morning and traffic resumed.

PWD officials have been told to submit a technical report on building damage. Similarly, officials of PMGSY have been asked to submit a detailed account of the dead and missing labourers in the disaster. Education department officials have been ordered to visit the affected area and file a report on school-related issues, particularly regarding the damage to Chhamrol primary school.

Meanwhile, residents of Phulait and Chhamrol villages in Maldevta reported that four families in Parya Sera Tok have developed cracks in their homes. Cash crops and farms have suffered extensive damage too. The irrigation canal has been damaged as well.

TIMES OF INDIA

SEPTEMBER 20, 2025

10. September 25, 2025 : Badrinath Highway: Pilgrims are Reaching the Shrine Amidst Cracking Rocks

Gopeshwar: The Badrinath Highway in Chamoli district is facing the most severe damage from the rains this year. Landslides and subsidence have plagued the highway, forcing locals and pilgrims traveling to Badrinath and Hemkund Sahib to navigate crumbling rocks to reach their destinations. The most dangerous conditions persist in Maithana, Nandprayag, Pipalkoti, and the stretch from Helang to Pani Mor.

The All-Weather Road Project has been underway on the Badrinath Highway since 2018. Highway widening has been completed at almost all points from Gauchar to Badrinath Dham (128 km). The second phase was supposed to include drain construction and beautification, but due to the disaster, the highway has fallen into disrepair. The hillside is cracking along the highway near Kameda, Nandprayag, Pipalkoti, and Helang, close to Gauchar. Near Bhanerpani in Pipalkoti, a one-kilometer stretch is vulnerable to landslides and subsidence. There is no telling when the highway will be blocked.

The highway from Helang to Paini Mor, ten kilometers before Joshimath, is subsiding, making vehicular movement difficult. The responsibility for the maintenance of the Badrinath Highway from Kameda (Gauchar) to Helang lies with the NHIDCL (National Highways and Infrastructure Development Corporation), and the section from Helang to Mana is the responsibility of the BRO (Border Roads Organisation).



11. September 26, 2025 : Fifty Days After the Disaster, the Village of Dharali Remains Deserted, Following the Closure of Its Relief Camps

Uttarkashi: Fifty days after the devastating flood of the Kheer Ganga river, Dharali village in Uttarkashi is left in a state of utter desolation, buried under dry debris. With formal rescue and search operations now suspended, only the slow-flowing Kheer Ganga remains visible.

Approximately 25 disaster-affected families have departed the relief camps, seeking shelter in the homes of relatives and neighbors. The disaster struck on August 5th, when the floodwaters of the Kheer Ganga completely destroyed multi-story hotels and homes, resulting in widespread inundation. A total of 62 people went missing in the incident, including eight residents of Dharali. The relief and rescue efforts, which lasted for about a month and a half, have now been halted. The Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has only managed to restore traffic on the Gangotri highway as it cuts through the extensive debris. Rubble is spread across several hectares, with the Kheer Ganga flowing through it like a small canal.



About Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation

SDC Foundation is a Dehradun-based environmental action and advocacy group engaged in communication, citizen engagement and capacity building in the Himalayan state of Uttarakhand. The foundation works in partnership with institutions of Government of India, Government of Uttarakhand and other stakeholders such as research & academic institutions, community groups, civil society, media partners, NGOs, businesses & trade bodies, schools & colleges in the state.

Climate and environment conservation, waste management, sustainable urbanisation and a basket of sustainable development issues are key focus areas of the foundation.

Anoop Nautiyal
Founder, SDC Foundation
Dehradun, Uttarakhand
Email: anoop.nautiyal@gmail.com

PS: Errors or omissions in UDAAI documentation, if any, are purely unintentional. In case any errors or key omissions are detected or any fresh updates are available for events that are already documented, SDC Foundation may kindly be notified at the email address contactsdcuk@gmail.com. We shall make the necessary corrections in subsequent versions of the monthly reports of UDAAI.

 contactsdcuk@gmail.com

   [@sdcfoundationuk](https://www.instagram.com/sdcfoundationuk)

 www.sdcuk.in