



Social Development
for Communities
FOUNDATION

November 2025

Uttarakhand Disaster and Accident Analysis Initiative - UDAAI



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

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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.

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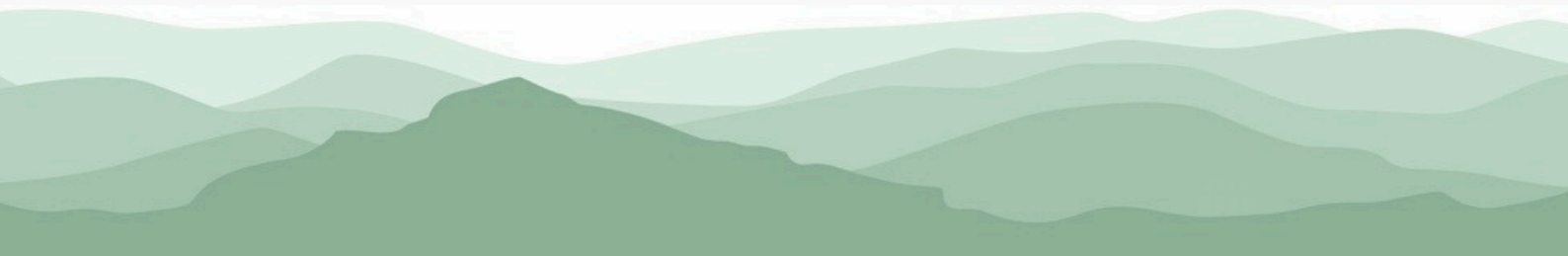


About UDAAI Monthly Reports

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 - November 2025

November 2025 reinforced the reality that disasters in Uttarakhand are no longer episodic events but prolonged and cumulative conditions. Months after the August flash flood, Dharali village in Uttarkashi remained buried under 20–25 feet of debris, with no substantive rehabilitation initiated. Twelve missing people were officially declared dead without recovery of bodies, while survivors struggled with inadequate compensation and uncertainty ahead of winter. In Chamoli's Tharali tehsil, the Uttarakhand High Court sought detailed reports on relief and rehabilitation following the August cloudbursts that killed two people, damaged property worth crores, and left several residents unaccounted for, highlighting judicial concern over administrative delays.

Scientific and policy developments during the month added urgency to these ground realities. A study published in *Scientific Reports* revealed rapid glacier retreat across the Char Dham region, with Gangotri retreating at 22.3 metres per year and Kedarnath at 14.1 metres per year, increasing risks of floods, landslides, and extreme weather amid rising pilgrim pressure. Simultaneously, the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) flagged Uttarakhand's lack of a dedicated, science-based disaster management policy, urging a shift from reactive response to integrated risk reduction. The release of the Earthquake Zonation Map 2025, placing Uttarakhand in the most sensitive seismic zone, further underscored the vulnerability of large infrastructure projects in fragile terrain.

The month also recorded continuing environmental stressors, large-scale soapstone mining in Bageshwar was linked to slope instability and drying springs; early winter forest fires ravaged forests in the same district; persistent landslides forced relocation demands in Uttarkashi's Vinai-Nailadi village and a bus accident in Tehri killed five people, reflecting infrastructure and safety risks in hilly regions.

Together, these incidents show how climate volatility, geological fragility, extractive practices, and governance gaps are converging to push Uttarakhand deeper into a state of chronic disaster, demanding urgent, preventive, and ecology-centred interventions.

1. November 05, 2025: 3 Months On, Disaster-Hit Dharali Still Awaits Relief & Rehab

Uttarkashi: Three months after debris came crashing down the Kheer Gad stream in Uttarkashi's Dharali village, the once-bustling settlement continues to remain buried under 20-25 ft of silt and rubble. The landscape was obliterated on Aug 5 with homes, hotels, resorts, and shops flattened, yet not a single rehabilitation or safety measure has begun.

In Uttarkashi, 12 of the missing have been officially declared dead, but with no bodies handed over, families continue to dig through the debris in search of their loved ones.

Those who were evacuated have returned and are trying to rebuild from what little remains. The worst-hit, however, are the shopkeepers and families who lived in the main market that was completely wiped out. The state government had provided Rs 5 lakh compensation, but the survivors said the amount was not adequate given the scale of destruction.

With temperatures dropping and snowfall expected soon, villagers fear that rebuilding efforts will now become impossible. They have instead demanded relocation and submitted a list of six possible sites, including Bhairoghati, Kopang, Jangla, Dabrani, Ongi and forest department land in Akhod Thatar between Bhaironghati and Lanka, for the administration to consider. They have also warned of a protest if rehabilitation and safety work do not begin soon. As official help remains slow, a local NGO, Himalayan Paryavaran Jadibooti Agro Sansthan, has stepped in with the 'Dharali Livelihood Restoration Mission', offering rock-climbing training to affected youth both to support their mental well-being after the disaster and to equip them with employable skills.



2. November 08, 2025: Tharali Cloudbursts: Court Seeks Report On Relief & Rehab

Dehradun: Uttarakhand high court on Friday sought a report from the state government on relief and rehabilitation measures taken in Chamoli district's Tharali Tehsil, where two persons died and properties worth crores of rupees damaged due to cloudbursts on Aug 22 & 28.

The division bench of Chief Justice G Narendar and Justice Subhash Upadhyay was hearing a public interest litigation (PIL) against the state govt's failure to provide essential facilities to citizens after the disaster. HC also directed the petitioner to submit his response on the government's report, and fixed the next hearing date after one week.

As the state government presented a report in court on Friday, the petitioner raised several questions about the report, stating that the government had not yet provided compensation to victims. Many people swept away in the disaster remain unaccounted for, adding Tharali hospital is in a dilapidated condition and has no doctors, and women's deliveries are being conducted at other hospitals.

During the previous hearing, the court said Uttarakhand is a hilly state, and cloudbursts and melting of glaciers can be due to human intervention. However, the responsibility to deal with these lies on the state government. Such incidents have been happening repeatedly in the state for the past few years, affecting the state's tourism, local people and their livelihoods, and hence government should draw a concrete policy to prevent disasters and also take expert advice.

Many houses were swept away in the Aug 22 and 28 cloudbursts in Tharali tehsil, which is yet to recover. The facilities provided by the state govt are not sufficient. All motor roads in the tehsil were damaged and connection with villages was cut off.



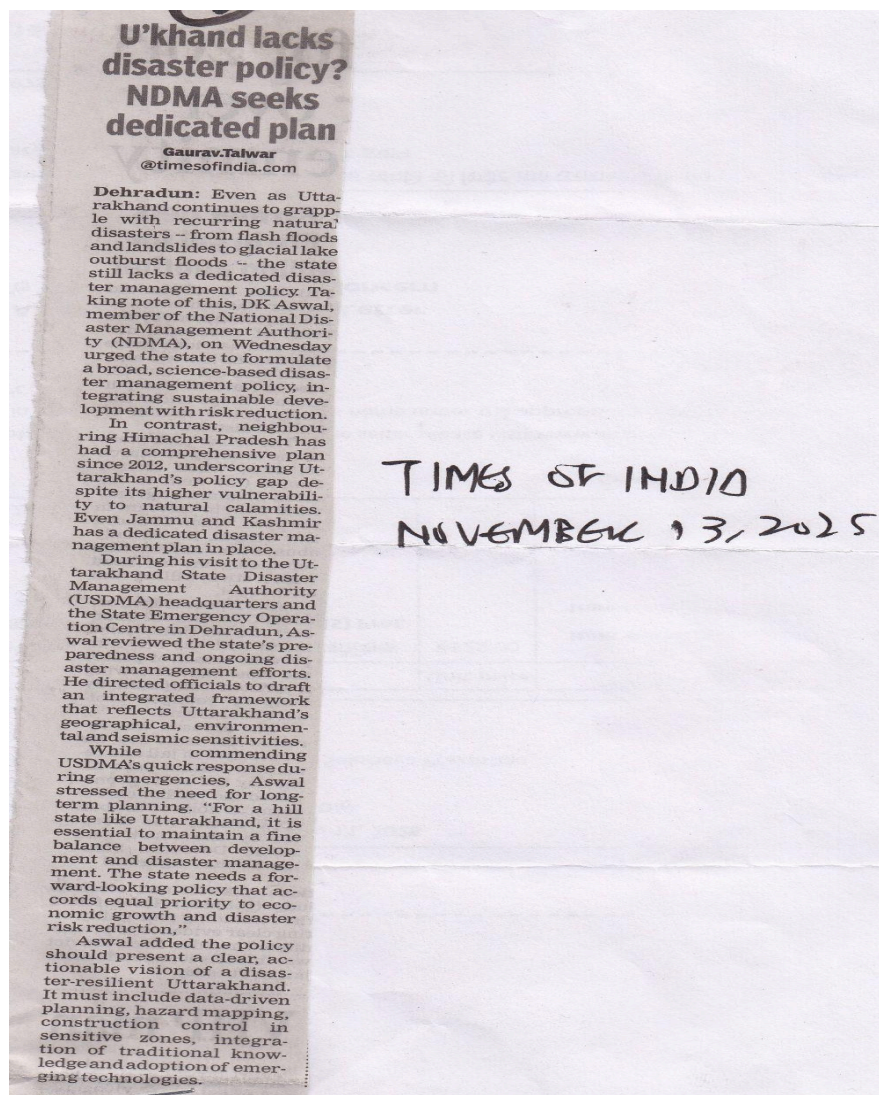
3. November 13, 2025: Uttarakhand lacks disaster policy? NDMA seeks dedicated plan

Dehradun: Even as Uttarakhand continues to grapple with recurring natural disasters from flash floods and landslides to glacial lake outburst floods the state still lacks a dedicated disaster management policy. Taking note of this, DK Aswal, member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), on Wednesday urged the state to formulate a broad, science-based disaster management policy, integrating sustainable development with risk reduction.

In contrast, neighbouring Himachal Pradesh has had a comprehensive plan since 2012, underscoring Uttarakhand's policy gap despite its higher vulnerability to natural calamities. Even Jammu and Kashmir has a dedicated disaster management plan in place.

During his visit to the Uttarakhand State Disaster Management Authority (USDMA) headquarters and the State Emergency Operation Centre in Dehradun, Aswal reviewed the state's preparedness and ongoing disaster management efforts. He directed officials to draft an integrated framework that reflects Uttarakhand's geographical, environmental and seismic sensitivities.

While commending USDMA's quick response during emergencies, Aswal stressed the need for long-term planning.



4. November 15, 2025: Glaciers Feeding Char Dham Towns Shrinking Rapidly

Dehradun: A new scientific assessment raises alarm over rapidly shrinking glaciers that feed Uttarakhand's four Char Dham shrine towns Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath warning that the accelerating melt is dramatically increasing the region's exposure to floods, landslides and extreme weather events. The study, published in the 'Scientific Reports' journal of Nature, maps glacier behaviour, climate trends, terrain fragility, biodiversity sensitivity and tourism pressure across all four pilgrimage circuits, presenting one of the most detailed vulnerability profiles of the Char Dham landscape to date.

As per the findings, the Gangotri glacier is retreating the fastest at 22.3 metres per year, followed by Yamunotri (20 m/year), Badrinath (17.3 m/year) and Kedarnath (14.1 m/year). Researchers attribute the rapid ice loss to a combination of rising temperatures, thinning snow cover and increasingly unstable precipitation regimes. Satellite data shows a consistent rise in temperature across all seasons from 1990 to 2020, with the steepest increase recorded during the pre monsoon and monsoon months. The report also highlights sharp variability in rainfall, particularly in the Yamunotri Valley, which has seen a significant rise in monsoon precipitation fluctuations over recent decades.

Analysis shows large portions of the Char Dham region lie in steep-slope, high-elevation zones where even minor hydrological shifts can trigger large-scale disasters. Gangotri, for instance, has nearly 60.6% of its landscape above 4,200 metres, placing human settlements and pilgrimage routes below at heightened risk.

Compounding the climate and ecological stress is unprecedented pilgrim pressure. Tourist inflow, for instance, surged from around 1 million in the early 2000s to more than 3 million in 2022.

The study suggests installing advanced weather radars, real-time visitor monitoring, decentralising tourism through satellite eco-routes and prioritising electric or BSVI vehicles along the pilgrimage corridors. Strengthening community-based tourism could also distribute economic benefits while reducing pressure on ecologically critical hotspots.

'Glaciers feeding Char Dham towns shrinking rapidly'

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Dehradun: A new scientific assessment raises alarm over rapidly shrinking glaciers that feed Uttarakhand's four Char Dham shrine towns — Gangotri, Yamunotri, Badrinath and Kedarnath — warning that the accelerating melt is dramatically increasing the region's exposure to floods, landslides and extreme weather events. The study, published in the 'Scientific Reports' journal of Nature, maps glacier behaviour, climate trends, terrain fragility, biodiversity sensitivity and tourism pressure across all four pilgrimage circuits, presenting one of the most detailed vulnerability profiles of the Char Dham landscape to date.

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Researchers warn that



Unprecedented pilgrim pressure adding to climate stress

the shrinking glaciers and altered weather patterns are destabilising high-altitude slopes, affecting drainage channels and increasing the risk of flash floods, GLOFs and landslides.

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TIMES OF INDIA

NOVEMBER 15, 2025

5. November 21, 2025: How Soapstone Mining Pushed Bageshwar to Brink

Bageshwar: Soapstone mining in Uttarakhand's Bageshwar district, whose ban the Supreme Court lifted earlier this week, flourished for over a decade, generating significant revenue for the state but also triggering deep environmental concerns. Official data shows a sharp surge in extraction in the years leading up to the Uttarakhand high court's Jan halt: output rose from 3.24 lakh tonnes in 2020-21 to 4.61 lakh tonnes in 2022-23. In just five years, more than 18 lakh tonnes of soapstone were mined, yielding revenues of over Rs 125 crore before the HC stay.

Yet despite large-scale extraction, mandatory plantation and site restoration were never carried out.

Villagers said that even as crores were earned in revenue, mining affected areas saw no improvement in basic amenities. "Residents still walk on broken roads, wait weeks for drinking water and depend on school and health centres with chronic staff shortages. If crores of rupees came from our land, why are we still living like this?" asked Kala Devi, who lives near a heavily mined slope.

According to geologists, the impacts are structural-weakened slopes, reduced water-retention capacity and a heightened risk of landslides and long-term water scarcity. Several springs in the region have already dried up, an early sign of the damage.

How soapstone mining pushed Bageshwar to brink
Yogesh Nagarkoti | TNM

₹125 CR REVENUE BEFORE HC STAY

YEAR-WISE OUTPUT

Year	Output (lakh tonnes)
2020-21	3.24
2021-22	3.5
2022-23	4.61
2023-24	3.86
2024-25	2.65

Environmentalist Ramesh Pandey said, "Neither the forest department nor the mining department possesses records of reforestation, indicating that ground-level work simply never happened. Deep cuts made by heavy machinery removed not just minerals but also vast quantities of soil and rock. Where did all this debris go? It was dumped into the streams, ravines and even rivers. Revenue climbed into crores, but the gains came at a steep ecological cost."

Puran Chandra Joshi of SSI University, Almora

DEVIL, who lives near a heavily mined slope. According to geologists, the impacts are structural-weakened slopes, reduced water-retention capacity and a heightened risk of landslides and long-term water scarcity. Several springs in the region have already dried up, an early sign of the damage. "The mountains of Bageshwar are fragile. Mining without scientific limits is like removing the bones from a living body," said a researcher familiar with the area. "Mountain ecology is extremely delicate. Mining is possible, but only with scientific limits, phased extraction and strict reforestation. Development must walk with nature, not over it," said prof Puran Chandra Joshi of SSI University, Almora.

id, "Neither the forest department nor the mining department possesses records of reforestation, indicating that ground-level work simply never happened." Pandey warned that decades of excavation have taken a severe ecological toll. "Deep cuts made by heavy machinery removed not just minerals but also vast quantities of soil and rock. Where did all this debris go? It was dumped into streams, ravines and even rivers. Revenue climbed into crores, but the gains came at a steep ecological cost." Villagers said that even as crores were earned in revenue, mining-affected areas saw no improvement in basic amenities. "Residents still walk on broken roads, wait weeks for drinking water and depend on schools and health centres with chronic staff shortages. If crores of rupees came from our land, why are we still living like this?" asked Kala

TINKS OF INDIA
21/ NOVEMBER
2025

6. November 25, 2025: 5 Killed as Bus Plunges into 70-m Gorge in Tehri

DEHRADUN: Five people were killed and several others injured after a bus carrying around 18 passengers fell into a 70 meter deep gorge near Kunjapuri - Hindolakhil in the Narendra Nagar area of Tehri district of Uttarakhand on Monday, said officials. The victims were part of a group of devotees returning from the

Kunjapuri Temple when their bus plunged into a gorge after its brakes reportedly failed.

According to State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) officials, the district control room informed the SDRF Corps Control Room about the accident on Monday afternoon, stating that the vehicle had skidded off the road in the Narendra Nagar police station limits. Acting on the alert, SDRF deployed five teams from Post Dhalwala, Post Koti Colony and the SDRF Corps Headquarters to the site.

SDRF officials confirmed five deaths at the scene. All injured passengers were evacuated from the gorge and rushed to nearby hospitals for treatment. Five seriously injured have been shifted to AIIMS Rishikesh.

Tehri district officials said the victims, who hailed from different parts of the country, were part of a group of devotees returning from the hill shrine when their bus plunged into a gorge after its brake reportedly failed.

Officials said the group of 40 devotees had travelled in two buses via Dayanand Ashram to visit the popular Kunjapuri Temple. The accident occurred while one of the buses (registration number UK14 PA1769) carrying 18 passengers, was reversing on a narrow stretch when its brakes malfunctioned, causing the vehicle to fall into a deep gorge.

5 killed as bus plunges into 70-m gorge in Tehri

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Five people were killed and several others injured after a bus carrying around 18 passengers fell into a 70-metre-deep gorge near Kunjapuri-Hindolakhali in the Narendranagar area of Tehri district of Uttarakhand on Monday, said officials. The victims were part of a group of devotees returning from Kunjapuri Temple when their bus plunged into a gorge after its brakes reportedly failed.

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The site of the accident in Uttarakhand's Tehri district

HT PHOTO

victims, who hailed from different parts of the country, were part of a group of devotees returning from the hill shrine when their bus plunged into a gorge after its brakes reportedly failed. The deceased include Anita Chauhan, wife of Narendra Chauhan, resident of Dwarka, Delhi, Parth Sarathi, 17, son of Madhusudan Joshi, resident of Baroda, Gujarat, Namita Pravat Kale, 58, resident of Nagpur, Maharashtra, Anuja Venkataraman, 48, resident of Bengaluru and Ayushi Tyagi, 51, wife of Pradeep Kumar, resident of Uttar Pradesh.

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Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said, "The news of the bus accident in Narendranagar, Tehri is saddening. I pray to God to grant the departed souls a place at His feet and give the bereaved families the strength to bear this grief. The injured in the accident are being sent to the nearest hospital by the district administration and SDRF, and the seriously injured have been referred to AIIMS Rishikesh."

~~TIMES OF INDIA~~
HINDUSTAN TIMES
NOVEMBER 25, 2025

7. November 26, 2025: Landslides Cause Cracks in U'kashi Village; Relocation Demand Grows

Uttarkashi: Fear due to persistent landslides has gripped Vinai-Nailadi village of Purola block in Uttarkashi of Uttarakhand, where cracks have started appearing in nine houses and in agricultural fields.

Village Head Shanti Raj said continuous landslides occurring below the village could pose a major threat in near future, and stressed that relocation is necessary because fields, trees, electric poles and buildings are all tilting towards the hill slopes affected by landslides.

People in the village, having a population of around 200, say they are living in constant danger and are afraid of going out to their agri fields or untethering their livestock for grazing.

Assistant geologist at Uttarkashi mining department, Pradeep Kumar, said his team, along with officials from the revenue department, conducted a geological survey of Nailadi and found cracks in nine houses and also in the agri fields. According to the survey, the cracks measure approximately 50–100 metres in length, 0.2–0.6 cm in width and around 1–1.5 cm in depth. Structural cracks have also been observed in eight, nine houses situated on higher areas of the village.

Villagers said that land subsidence was first noticed in 2010 and it intensified again during the monsoon this year. Now, villagers fear that these cracks would widen and cause damage to their houses and agri fields.

A stream flows through the lower part of the village and another runs along the left side. During the monsoon season, water level rises in these streams and overflows, and causes erosion and widens the cracks in the agricultural land.

Landslides cause cracks in U'kashi village; relocation demand grows

8-10 Houses Could Collapse Any Time, Cracks Increasing Every Day: Locals
Ashish Mishra | TNN

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SHIFTING GROUND: Villagers said that relocation is necessary as fields, trees, electric poles and buildings are all tilting towards hill slope affected by landslides

Villagers said that land subsidence was first noticed in 2010 and it intensified again during the monsoon this year. Now, villagers fear that these cracks would widen and cause damage to their houses and agri fields. They say they are afraid to venture out to their fields or untether their livestock to graze in the affected land.

A stream flows through the lower part of the village and another runs along the left side. During the monsoon season, water level rises in these streams and overflows, and causes erosion and widens the cracks in the agricultural land.

Nailadi residents Mamaraj Bhandari and Anil Bhandari said that 8-10 houses in the village could collapse at any time. "There are 11 members in our family. The cracks in the houses are increasing every day. Even a small earthquake could cause the house to collapse," they said.

'Widening fissures led to bike accidents, structural damage'

Continued from P 1

But in the past few months the pace has increased rapidly. By my estimate, the area has sunk by almost one foot," Gansola added. Another shopkeeper, Dharam Singh Thapli, added that the "deepening cracks have made the road risky for motorists, leading to multiple accidents and structural damage to homes."

Mussoorie municipal council chairperson Meera Saklani said, "An IIT Roorkee team visited the subsidence site a few months ago. They have submitted their report to the district magistrate, and I will be meeting the DM soon to decide the next steps."

Subsidence in the area was first reported in early Jan 2023, when a 50m segment of the Landour market road between Hotel Nishima and the Kohinoor Building began sinking, with cracks also appearing in adjoining structures. Shopkeepers and residents had warned that the road was giving way and nearby buildings were developing fissures, putting about 500 people at risk.

In response, an eight-member multi-institutional team comprising experts from USDMA, IIT Roorkee, the Geological Survey of India and the Central Building Research Institute inspected the site. The team initially described the issue as "localised, affecting only 10-15m of the stretch," and said "the root causes, including possible drainage failures, required detailed investigation."

The National Green Tribunal later took suo motu cognisance, warning that "unchecked construction, mounting traffic pressure and ecological stress were pushing Mussoorie beyond its carrying capacity," concerns that echoed alarms raised after the Joshimath subsidence crisis. It directed the state govt to prepare a comprehensive, time-bound action plan. Among the NGT's recommendations was regulating tourist inflow by registering visitors in line with the hill station's carrying capacity and levying a visitation fee to fund waste and sanitation management. The tribunal has set Jan 28 next year as the next hearing and directed the state to submit an action plan.

FRACTURED STRETCH

Times of India
NOVEMBER 26, 2025

8. November 30, 2025: Uttarakhand Now Extremely Sensitive to Earthquakes, Included in Zone Six

Dehradun: Uttarakhand has been included in Zone Six, the most sensitive zone from the earthquake point of view. Earlier, the state was divided into Zone Four and Zone Five. The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has now released a revised Earthquake Zonation Map-2025, under which Uttarakhand, along with other Himalayan states, has been placed in the most earthquake-sensitive category.

According to Vineet Gehlaut, Director of the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, the BIS had earlier released an earthquake zonation map in 2016. In the newly released map, issued after nine years, all Himalayan states have been uniformly included in Zone Six. This means that from an earthquake perspective, the risk level in Uttarakhand is considered similar to that of Jammu and Kashmir.

Gehlaut said large dams, roads, buildings and other infrastructure projects play a crucial role in mountainous states. With the inclusion in Zone Six, construction work in hill states will now require greater planning and caution. Earlier, districts such as Rudraprayag, Chamoli, Bageshwar and Pithoragarh were considered the most earthquake-sensitive and were placed in Zone Five.

उत्तराखंड अब भूकंप की दृष्टि से अति संवेदनशील, जोन छह में हुआ शामिल

भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो ने भूकंपीय क्षेत्रीकरण मानचित्र-2025 किया जारी

अमर उजाला ब्यूरो

देहरादून। उत्तराखंड को भूकंप की दृष्टि से अति संवेदनशील जोन-छह में शामिल किया गया है। इससे पहले राज्य के जिलों को जोन चार और पांच में विभाजित किया गया था। अब भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो ने डिजाइन भूकंपीय जोखिम संवेदनशीलता के भूकंपरोधी डिजाइन के मानक वीति संहिता-2025 में नया भूकंपीय क्षेत्रीकरण मानचित्र जारी किया है। इसमें उत्तराखंड समेत अन्य हिमालयी राज्यों को भी भूकंप की दृष्टि से बेहद संवेदनशील जोन छह में रखा गया है। वैज्ञानिकों के अनुसार, इससे पूरे राज्य में निर्माण कार्यों के लिए लोगों को अधिक सजग होना होगा।

बादिया हिमालय भू-विज्ञान संस्थान के निदेशक विनेत गहलौत के अनुसार, भारतीय मानक ब्यूरो भूकंपीय जोनिंग मानचित्र जारी करता है। इससे पहले वर्ष-2016 में इसे जारी किया गया था। अब करीब नौ वर्ष बाद जारी नए मानचित्र में सभी पहाड़ी राज्यों को समान रूप से जोन छह में शामिल किया गया है। इसका अर्थ यह हुआ कि भूकंप की दृष्टि से जो खतरा जम्मू-कश्मीर में है, वही उत्तराखंड में भी है। निदेशक गहलौत कहते हैं कि बड़े डैम, सड़क, इमारत आदि के निर्माण में इसका महत्वपूर्ण रोल होता है। अब पहाड़ी राज्यों के भीतर निर्माण कार्यों में एकलपक्ष आगामी। इससे पहले जोन पांच में शामिल रुद्रप्रयाग, चमोली, बागेश्वर और पिथौरागढ़ भूकंप की दृष्टि से सबसे अधिक संवेदनशील जिले थे।

पृथ्वी की दृष्टि से हिमालय में कोई बहुत अंतर नहीं होता : बिष्ट

श्रीनगर गढ़वाल केंद्रीय विधि के भूगर्भ विभाग के विभागाध्यक्ष एमपीएस बिष्ट कहते हैं कि पृथ्वी की दृष्टि से हिमालय में कोई बहुत अंतर नहीं होता है। उनको चट्टान, बाउंड्री, प्लेट आदि एक जैसे ही होती हैं। पहले जोनिंग हुई थी उसमें राज्य को दो जोन में रखा गया था। अब एक ही जोन (छह) में रखा गया है। इसकी संवेदनशीलता बढ़ दी गई है। उन्होंने बताया कि भूकंप की पूर्व घटना, तैजत समेत अन्य पहलुओं को शामिल करते हुए भूकंप की जोनिंग होती है।

पहले दो जोन में रखा गया था राज्य को

पहले भूकंप की दृष्टि से राज्य को दो जोन में रखा गया था। इसमें सबसे अधिक संवेदनशील जोन पांच में रुद्रप्रयाग, चमोली, बागेश्वर और पिथौरागढ़ थे। जबकि जोन चार में उत्तरकाशी, टिहरी गढ़वाल, देहरादून, हरिद्वार, पौड़ी गढ़वाल शामिल थे।

हिमालय को आपदा से बचाने के लिए सख्त करने होंगे नियम

देहरादून। उत्तराखंड समेत हिमालयी राज्यों को आपदा से बचाने के लिए अब कठोर कदम उठाने की जरूरत है। यूकोट के विश्व आपदा प्रबंधन सम्मेलन में पहुंचे विशेषज्ञों ने इस बात पर जोर दिया कि निर्माण संबंधी गतिविधियों पर सख्त नियामक और कानूनी की दरकार है। >> विस्तृत पेज - 2 पर

AMAK UTJALA
NOVEMBER 30, 2025

9. November 30, 2025: Bageshwar Forests Turn to Ash as 'unusual' Winter Blaze Spreads

Bageshwar: Forest fires have been raging across Bageshwar district for the past three days, devastating large stretches of woodland, particularly in Hunera and Tilsari Mate under the Gankhet Range. Flames have been visible from kilometres away, while forests near Kanda in the Dharamghar Range have already turned to ash. Residents said the blaze is destroying vegetation and forcing wild animals toward villages, raising the risk of human wildlife conflict.

Meanwhile, forest department teams are working to extinguish the blaze. The outbreak is unusually early, as the fire season normally runs from mid Feb to mid June. Fires have already affected Pinath forest in Kausani, Chandika forest, and the area behind the district magistrate's office over the past month, with some taking days to control. Steep slopes, dry vegetation and difficult terrain are making fire fighting extremely challenging.

Environmental experts warned that repeated forest fires threaten the fragile mountain ecology, vegetation, wildlife and even the tourism sector. Continuous burning can lead to severe ecological imbalance and long-term damage to the region's biodiversity, they said.

Bageshwar forests turn to ash as 'unusual' winter blaze spreads

Wild Animals Move Into Villages, Sparking Conflict Concerns
Yogesh Nagarkoti | TNN



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Jagdish Chandra, a resident, said the recurring winter fires have become a serious threat to both the environment and wildlife. "Continuous burning has caused

extensive damage to vegetation, while terrified wild animals are abandoning their natural habitats and moving toward nearby villages, triggering fears of rising human-wildlife conflict," he said.

Villagers described the situation as "alarming." Gaurav Kandpal said, "Due to the forest fire, a leopard has been spotted near the houses. As evening falls, the leopard's roars create an atmosphere of fear in the village." Pankaj

Singh added, "The fire has reduced everything in the forest to ashes and even animals like bears are now moving closer to the villages."

Local hotel operator Poo-ran Dausad said, "The smoke has spread so much that long-distance visibility has dropped sharply. In winter, especially in Nov, we never expect such conditions."

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break is unusually early, as the fire season normally runs from mid-February to mid-June. Fires have already affected Pinath forest in Kausani, Chandika forest, and the area behind the district magistrate's office over the past month, with some taking days to control. Steep slopes, dry vegetation and difficult terrain are making firefighting extremely challenging.

Environmental experts warned that repeated forest fires threaten the fragile mountain ecology, vegetation, wildlife and even the tourism sector. Continuous burning can lead to "severe ecological imbalance and long-term damage to the region's biodiversity", they said.

Bageshwar's divisional forest officer, Aditya Ratna, said, "Preliminary investigations suggest the fires may have been caused by villagers burning grass or by miscreants." Authorities warned that the damage could become irreversible if the fires are not contained soon.

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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.

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