



Social Development
for Communities
FOUNDATION

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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 - October 2025

A number of incidents that occurred in Uttarakhand during October 2025 demonstrated the area's growing susceptibility to natural calamities and climate-related changes. The month began with information that the state had experienced 447 earthquakes over the past 49 years, the majority of which were of low or moderate magnitude. Recent tremors in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh reminded the region of active seismicity. As the state prepares a Rs. 153-crore project focused on earthquake risk assessment and mitigation, expert institutions including the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, IIT Roorkee, and CBRI have been assigned specific responsibilities.

Simultaneously, concerns about rapidly retreating glaciers intensified. Residents of Sukhi village in the Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone observed drastic reductions in snow cover, with once-perennially white peaks now snowy only briefly, if at all. These changes reflect broader climate trends, supported by international research indicating strong global and national public demand for climate action.

In the middle of the month, the government initiated a major policy shift by proposing new standards for floodplain zoning. Instead of relying only on 25-year and 100-year flood records, assessments will now also consider five-year intervals to better address rapidly changing river behaviour. With over 2,965 km of major rivers impacted by flood zoning, the move is intended to improve safety and planning, especially following landslides from flooding such as the Kheerganga flood that occurred earlier in the year.

The devastating Chenagad disaster remained in public attention as rescue teams recovered additional bodies nearly two months after the landslide, bringing the total recovered to seven. The tragedy destroyed homes and shops, leaving the community deeply affected. Toward the end of the month, authorities identified around 10 danger zones along the Doon-Mussoorie road, where landslides, sinking stretches, and debris flows pose daily risks to commuters.

Overall, October 2025 highlighted Uttarakhand's escalating environmental challenges and the urgent need for strengthened disaster preparedness and climate resilience.

1. October 3, 2025: The state has experienced 447 earthquakes in 49 years.

Dehradun. The state has experienced 447 earthquakes in the last 49 years. Most of these earthquakes were of magnitude 3 to 4 on the Richter scale. The Disaster Management Department is also going to submit a project worth over 153 crore rupees to the National Disaster Management Authority regarding earthquake risk assessment and mitigation in Uttarakhand. Apart from this, it has been decided to give different responsibilities to Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, IIT Roorkee, and CBRI.

The state has been earthquake-prone. The state government has data on 447 earthquakes from 1975 to 2024. Of these, most were of magnitude three to four on the Richter scale (tremors of 3 to 3.9 can feel like heavy vehicles passing by). Ninety were of magnitude four to five, 34 were of magnitude five to six, and three were of magnitude six to seven.

Earthquakes in Bageshwar and Pithoragarh: In recent months, the National Center for Seismology reported a 2.9 magnitude earthquake in Bageshwar on August 16. This was followed by a 3.1 magnitude earthquake in Pithoragarh district on September 12. Five days later, the earth shook again in Pithoragarh, and a 2.8 magnitude earthquake was recorded on the Richter scale. In the first week of October, another 3.1 magnitude earthquake struck Pithoragarh.



2. October 14, 2025: Locals flag rapidly shrinking glaciers in Uttarakhand's Bhagirathi region

Sukhi: It is a clear October day, high up near the glaciated regions of Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone. But, there is barely a speck of snow on these peaks. They stand bare, with exposed grey rock. Till a few years ago, all these peaks appeared white all year round to residents of Sukhi and surrounding villages (altitude of 2300 m), now snow covers these peaks barely for a month or two.

Sukhi, a picturesque village, about 30 km downstream of Gangotri surrounded by several glaciers and glaciated regions, has been at the frontline of climate crisis. Villagers are concerned about the loss of their common resource, the Himalayan glaciers that feed the Bhagirathi and by monsoon's changing aggressive character over the mountains.

According to a paper by Leibniz Institute for Financial Research, Goethe University, Bonn University and others published in Nature journal last year, there is widespread global support for climate action. In a representative survey for the study across 125 countries, interviewing nearly 130,000 people, 69% were willing to contribute 1% of their personal income, 86% endorsed pro-climate social norms and 89% demanded intensified political action. Countries facing heightened vulnerability to climate change show a particularly high willingness to contribute. In India 80% of those surveyed called for political action on climate change.

Locals flag rapidly shrinking glaciers in Uttarakhand's Bhagirathi region

Jayashree Nandi
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SUKHI: It is a clear October day, high up near the glaciated regions of Bhagirathi eco-sensitive zone. But, there is barely a speck of snow on these peaks. They stand bare, with exposed grey rock. Till a few years ago, all these peaks appeared white all year round to residents of Sukhi and surrounding villages (altitude of 2300 m), now snow covers these peaks barely for a month or two.

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Gobind Singh's family has been bearing witness to all this. "I explored some glaciers in 1973 and 1974 along with a team of mountaineers. At that time the glaciers were very large and stable. They looked like blue rock. Glaciers are in very poor health and some may have disappeared," said Singh (71), pointing to a bare rock faced mountain side. "This used to have ice all year round."

His son, Sanjeev Rana (40), is a farmer dependent on agriculture. They have some apple orchards, and grow millets, lentils and potatoes. "We grow the Delicious Royal variety of apples. These have a life of 70-80 years but now they are living only for 25 to 30 years. The harvest quality is deteriorating every year... If it gets any warmer, we will not be able to grow apples," Rana explained.

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'Consult us on infra'
The solution to preventing disasters in the para glacial zones is consultation with locals, said Mohan Singh, Gobind Singh's brother who is retired from the army and now focuses on environmental issues in the region.

A sore point for locals here is a bypass planned under the Char Dham project, an all weather road that connects with the India-China border, considered to be a strategic route from a defence point of view by the Centre. The last 150 km-long stretch of Char Dham road, which will pass through the Bhagirathi Eco-Sensitive Zone, will have to adhere to a minimum width of 10m, minister Nitin Gadkari said last year. The bypass alignment is through the toe of old landslide debris that extends down from Sukhi Top to the Bhagirathi River, experts have flagged in the past. Then there is a 10 km stretch with old growth deodar trees that is up for widening also under the project. "Thousands of Deodar trees have been marked here for felling. If that happens, the hill side will definitely give way. Look at how the roots of deodar are holding the soil. Clearing these trees will only make this strategic route very unsafe. That is why we are asking for consultation for so long," added Mohan Singh.

(The reporter is a recipient of Promise of Commons Media Fellowship, on the significance of Commons and its community stewardship)

HINDUSTAN TIMES
OCTOBER 14, 2025

3. October 23, 2025: The standard for determining flood zones in Uttarakhand will change, proposals sought.

Dehradun. The standards for identifying flood-prone areas in the state's rivers are set to change. Currently, floodplain zoning is based on 25-year and 100-year flood records. Now, it will also be determined on a five-year scale. This means that areas where river behavior could change within five years will also be considered sensitively, and safety measures will be implemented.

It's worth noting that Uttarakhand enacted a law for floodplain zoning in 2013. Under this law, areas that could be submerged due to river floods are assessed based on 25- and 100-year horizons. Based on this flood sensitivity the agricultural, horticultural, residential, and commercial activities are permitted. Recently, the Central Water Commission has issued technical guidelines for flood plain zoning and has also directed Uttarakhand to take action. The government has sought proposals from the Chief Engineer-Irrigation office as per the new zoning standards. 2965.25 km area of more than 12 rivers in the state has been identified for flood zoning of flood-sensitive areas. In some parts of this, the old standards have been followed.

Rivers, floods are becoming a major danger: Uttarakhand also experienced this in August, with the Kheerganga flood in Uttarkashi. There are many other areas located along rivers. Their flood zones need to be designated.

Rivers of Uttarakhand: Flood plain zoning of Uttarakhand's rivers is being done in five phases. In the first phase, an area of 50 km length in Haridwar and 10 km length in Uttarkashi will be covered and in the second phase, Bhagirathi, Bhilangana, Mandakini, Saraswati, Alaknanda and Ganga rivers flowing in Uttarkashi of 504.25 km length in Chamoli Rudraprayag, Pauri and Tehri have also been notified. In the third phase the zoning work of Suswa, Kosi and Gaula rivers of about 295 km length, is underway. In the fourth phase, zoning work is to take place on in 13 other rivers in 955 km length and in the fifth phase, zoning is to be done in 1151 km length area of nine rivers.



4. October 26, 2025: Chenagad disaster: Two months later, five more bodies recovered from the debris.

Rudraprayag. Of the nine people who went missing in the Chenagad disaster nearly two months ago, the bodies of seven people have been recovered so far. Five bodies and one leg were recovered Saturday while removing debris and boulders, while two bodies were also found Friday. However, only one body has been identified so far.

Heavy rains on August 28th and 29th caused widespread devastation in the Basukedar sub-tehsil and the eastern Bangar area of the Jakholi block, completely destroying the Chenagad market. Nine people also went missing in landslides and debris flows. Four of the missing people were of Nepal origin. Since the incident, the district administration, the SDRF, and the DDRF have been conducting continuous search and rescue operations.

Locals also provided spades, using pickaxes, and shovels to clear the debris and search for the missing. The disaster left 15 shops and residential homes in a state of rubble. On Saturday, workers and employees of the Public Works Department, Ukhimath, were clearing debris and boulders from the road. Meanwhile, a police team began searching for the bodies when a strong stench began emanating from a damaged house at the scene. Upon removing the iron rods, five bodies were recovered inside, along with the remains of a leg. These bodies have not yet been identified.

छेनागाड आपदा : दो माह बाद मलबे से पांच और शव मिले

एक अवशेष भी मिला, अभी तक सात मलबा हटाने के दौरान एक मकान के व्यक्तियों के शव हो चुके हैं बरामद अंदर और बाहर मलबे में दबे मिले शव

संवाद न्यूज एजेंसी

रुद्रप्रयाग। करीब दो माह पहले छेनागाड में आई आपदा में लापता हुए नौ लोगों में से अभी तक सात व्यक्तियों के शव बरामद कर लिए गए हैं। शनिवार को मलबा और बोल्टरों को हटाने के दौरान पांच शव और एक अवशेष (पैर) बरामद हुआ है जबकि शुकवार को भी दो शव मिले थे। हालांकि अभी तक सिर्फ एक शव की ही शिनाख्त हो पाई है।

बीते 28 और 29 अगस्त को हुई अतिवृष्टि से बसुकेदार उप-तहसील और जखोली ब्लॉक के पूर्वी बांगर क्षेत्र में भारी तबाही हुई थी वहीं छेनागाड बाजार पूरी तरह से तबाह हो गया था। इस दौरान भूस्खलन और मलबे के सेलब में नौ लोग लापता हो गए थे। लापता लोगों में चार नेपाल मूल के व्यक्ति भी शामिल थे। घटना के बाद से ही जिला प्रशासन, एसडीआरएफ और डीडीआरएफ द्वारा लगातार सर्च व



मलबे में मिले शव को ले जाते डीडीआरएफ के जयान। स्रोत: प्रशासन

रेस्क्यू अभियान चलाया जा रहा है। वहाँ स्थानीय लोगों ने भी गैती, फावड़े और बेलचे लेकर मलबा साफ कर लापता लोगों की तलाश की थी। इस आपदा में 15 दुकानें और अवासीय मकान फलभर में मलबे के

सेलाब में समा गए थे। शनिवार को लोक निर्माण विभाग ऊखीमठ के कर्मियों और मजदूरों द्वारा सड़क से मलबा और बोल्टर हटाने का काम किया जा रहा था। इसी दौरान पुलिस टीम ने जब शवों की तलाश शुरू की

09 लोग आपदा में हुए थे लापता

दो मोबाइल व पर्स भी मिला

गुप्तकारी थाने के पंथरी रजौत खनेड़ा ने बताया कि मलबे से दो मोबाइल फोन और एक पर्स भी बरामद हुआ है जिसमें नेपाल के रुपये रखे हुए थे। उन्होंने पुष्टि की कि शनिवार को पांच शव और एक पैर बरामद हुआ है जबकि शुकवार को दो शव बरामद किए गए थे। अभी तक एक व्यक्ति को ही पहचान हो पाई है अन्य को पहचान के लिए रविवार को परिजन पहुंचेंगे। जिन शवों की पहचान नहीं होगी उनका डीएन टेस्ट कराया जाएगा। उन्होंने बताया कि अभी भी दो लोग लापता हैं, जिनकी खोजबीन जारी है।

तो मौके पर स्थित एक क्षतिग्रस्त मकान से तेज बंदव आने लगी। मकान की सरिया हटाने पर बाहर और अंदर से पांच शव बरामद किए गए जबकि एक पैर का अवशेष भी मिला है। इन शवों की पहचान अभी नहीं हो पाई है।

AMAK UTARA

OCTOBER 26, 2025

5. October 31, 2025: Danger zone every three km on Mussoorie Road:

Dehradun. The journey from Doon to Mussoorie is full of danger these days. After the recent disaster, about 10 danger zones have been created on the 35 km long Doon-Mussoorie road. There is a dangerous turn (danger zone) every three km from Kuthalgate to Mussoorie.

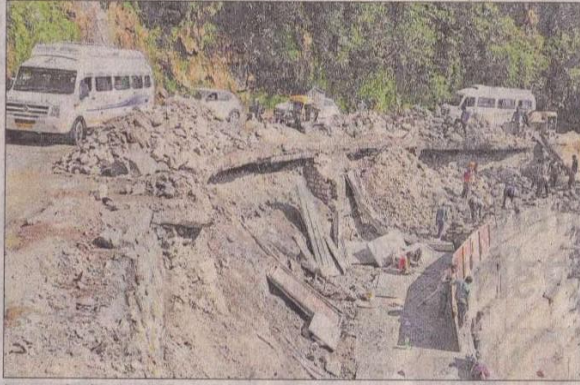
Kolhu Khet, Galogi and Kuthalgate-Shiv Mandir areas are the most risky. Here, there is a danger of road sinking as well as debris falling from the hill. Due to the treatment, there is a daily traffic jam, which is troubling the people. People have to face traffic jams even on weekends. A valley groove was formed when the bridge was damaged during the disaster near Kuthalgate. Due to increased pressure, it has become the cause of the collapse.

आपदा के बाद खतरनाक हो गया दून से मसूरी तक का सफर, कोल्हूखेत में सड़क धंसी, ग्लोगी और वैली ब्रिज बन गए जाम के केंद्र मसूरी रोड पर हर तीन किमी पर डेंजर जोन

पड़ताल

ठाकुर सिंह लेगी

देहरादून। दून से मसूरी का सफर इन दिनों खतर से भरा है। हालिया आपदा के बाद 35 किमी लंबी दून-मसूरी रोड पर करीब 10 डेंजर जोन बन चुके हैं। फुटालगेट से लेकर मसूरी तक हर तीन किमी पर एक खतरनाक मोड़ (डेंजर जोन) है। कोल्हूखेत, ग्लोगी और कुटालगेट-शिव मंदिर क्षेत्र सबसे जोखिम भरे हैं। यहां सड़क धंसने के साथ ही पहाड़ी से मलबा गिरने का खतरा है। ट्रीटमेंट के चलते रोज जाम लग रहा है, जिससे लोग परेशान हैं। वीकेंड पर भी लोगों को जाम से दो-चार होना पड़ता है। फुटालगेट के पास आपदा के समय पुल क्षतिग्रस्त होने पर वैली ब्रिज बना था। दबाव बढ़ने से यह हिस्सा जाम का कारण बना है।



देहरादून-मसूरी मार्ग पर कोल्हूखेत में सड़क के ट्रीटमेंट के कारण आए दिन जाम लग रहा है। यहां दुर्घटना का भी खतरा बना हुआ है।

कोल्हूखेत: ऊपर से झरना, नीचे धंसी सड़क

आपदा में कोल्हूखेत की सड़क धंसी थी। लॉनिथि तैयार और पुरता बनाकर मरम्मत कर रही है, मगर यह सड़क सिंगल लेन है। ऊपर से झरने का पानी सड़क पर गिरता है, जिससे पथर भी गिर सकते हैं। पुलिस दिनभर एक ओर का ट्रैफिक रोक दूसरी ओर से वाहन निकालती है। कई बार दोनों ओर कई किमी लंबा जाम लग जाता है।

इस महीने अंत तक कोल्हूखेत में ट्रीटमेंट का काम पूरा कर लिया जाएगा। फुटालगेट-शिव मंदिर के पास वैली ब्रिज दो लेन है, मुख्य पुल के निर्माण का डिजाइन तैयार किया जा रहा है। ग्लोगी में सड़क किनारे सामग्री जल्द हटाई जाएगी। -राजेश कुमार, ईई-लॉनिथि (प्राथमिक खंड)

ग्लोगी: ट्रीटमेंट के बाद भी बरकरार है खतरा

ग्लोगी क्षेत्र भूस्खलन के लिहाज से बेहद संवेदनशील है। पहाड़ी पर ट्रीटमेंट और पानी निकासी के लिए सीढ़ीनुमा नहर तो बनाई गई, लेकिन काम अधूरा है। भूस्खलन अब भी जारी है। सड़क के किनारे निर्माण सामग्री और नुकिले सरियों के बंदल रखे गए हैं, जो न केवल जाम, बल्कि दुर्घटना का भी कारण बन रहे हैं।

कई स्थानों पर पथर गिरने का भी खतरा

कोल्हूखेत से लेकर मसूरी तक कई जगह पहाड़ी से पथर गिरने का डर बना रहता है। लोक निर्माण विभाग ने संवेदनशील स्थलों पर चेतावनी बोर्ड लगाए हैं। वहीं, स्थानीय लोगों के अनुसार, भट्टा गांव और मसूरी झील के पास चुरखा डिवार्डर क्षतिग्रस्त है, जिससे गहरी खाइयों के ऊपर वाहन चलाना जोखिम भरा है।

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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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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.

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