June 2024 Uttarakhand Disaster & Accident Analysis Initiative (UDAAI) Monthly Reports

Social Development for Communities (SDC) Foundation Dehradun, Uttarakhand

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About UDAAI Monthly Reports

Uttarakhand Disaster & 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 of a holistic disaster management and accident minimization 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 process of planning of climate actions and disaster management in Uttarakhand.

June 6, 2024: Kumaon Road Accident

Travelling from Haldwani to Putpudi, a vehicle lost control and fell into a gorge near Patlok. Seven people, including the driver, a couple and their daughter died, while six were injured. The incident took place at 6.30 in the evening on June 5, 2024. People from nearby villages climbed down the gorge to help.

On getting information about the incident, police, a team of the revenue department that was nearby, as well as MLA Ram Singh Kaida put in their efforts as well. The wounded were brought to the primary health centre in Patlok, and were then referred to Sushila Tiwari Hospital in Haldwani through an ambulance. The names of those who died in the incident are: Mahesh Chandra Pargai (36), his wife Parvati Devi (33),

their daughter Kavita (13), driver Bhuvan Chandra Bhatt (30), Mamta Bhatt (19), Umesh Pargai (38), and Mahesh Chandra Rekhadi (45).



June 6, 2024 : Nine dead as trekking team runs into bad weather in Uttarkashi

Nine members of a 22 member trekking team died after they lost their way due to bad weather during the Sahastra Tal trek in the upper Himalayas in Uttarkashi district.

A joint air-ground operation was launched by the Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) and local authorities. Of the 13 trekkers rescued from the trek on Uttarkashi-Tehri border, eight were airlifted to Dehradun on June 5, 2024.

A 22-member trekking team was sent by Himalayan View Trekking Agency, Maneri, on May 29 on a 35-km long trek from Uttarkashi. The team comprised 18 trekkers from Karnataka and one from Maharashtra, besides three local guides. The trekkers

were to return by June 7, but lost their way due to bad weather from Sahastratal towards the base camp.

Giving information related to the Sahastra Tal Track Rescue Operation, Uttarakhand Mountaineer Organization President Bishnu Prasad Semwal said that as soon as the administration received information about the trekkers being stranded at Sahastra Tal, the rescue operation was started. This is the reason that 13 people from the 22-member trekkers team were rescued safely.

9 dead as trekking team runs into bad weather in Uttarkas

DEHRADUN: Nine members of a 22-member trekking team died after they lost their way due to bad weather during the Sahastra Tal trek in the upper Himalayas in Uttarkashi district of Uttara khand. officials said on Wednes-day, adding the remaining 12 relevers have been rescued. trekkers have been rescued

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A joint air-ground operation was launched by the Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and local authorities, officials said. Of the 13 trekkers rescued from the trek on Uttarkashi-Tehri border, eight were airlifted to Dehradun on Wednesday.

"Nine people have been killed, while 13 have been successfully rescued. We have brought 5 bodies down, remaining 4 will better were down, remaining 4 will better to be a weather today," a senior SDRF official said, declining to be named.

A 22-member trekking team,

A 22-member trekking team, including 18 trekkers from Kar-nataka and one from Maharashtre besides three local guides, tr? besides three local gludes, wts sent by Himalayan View Trekking Agency, Maneri, on May 29 on a 35-km long trek to Silla-Kushkaiyan-Sahastra Tal, a medium-sized high-alitude lake located at an alitude of around 4,600 metres, from Uttarkashi.



SDRF team with the rescued trekkers in Dehradun.

The team was scheduled to return by June 7, but shy its way due to bad weather while trekking down from Sahastra Tal towards the base camp, said Uttarkashi district disaster management officer (DDMO) Devendra Patwal. After receiving the information, Uttarkashi district magistrate Meharban Singh Bisht asked the SDRF headquarters to dispatch rescue teams immediately and asked local rescue teams to reach the site. Bisht also asked the heli rescue opera-The team was scheduled to also asked the heli rescue opera tions through the Indian Air Force to rescue the stranded

trekkers.
On Wednesday, two Chetak helicopters of air force and a private chopper were deployed to rescue the stranded trekkers on the trek route. The SDRF also dispatched its high altitude two teams — one each from Dehradun and Uttarkashi.
"The 22-member trekking group, including three guides was expected to leave for the Sahastra Tal on May 29, two of them stayed back at the base camp due to bad health. Twenty of them reached the summit. While trekking down, the group

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met with the bad weather and lost their way," said SDRF Com-mandant Manikant Mishra. While 13 members, including the two from the base camp, were rescued, five others were freed death the official added.

were rescued, five others were found dead, the official added. "We along with other rescue teams rescued II trekkers using the choppers. Of the II trekkers, eight were sent to Dehradun in a chopper and three were brought to Bhatwari. Two more were on their back to Silla village under the guidance of local guides." the guidance of local guides,' Mishra added.

The deceased trekkers have

been identified as Sindhu Vake-kalam (45). Asha Sudhakar (71). Sujata Mungurwadi (51). Vinayak Mungurwadi (54). Chitra Praneeth (48). Padman-abha Kundapur Krishnamurthy (50). Venkatesha Prasad KN (53). Anita Rangappa (60) and Pad-mini Hegde (34), all residents of Bengaluru in Karnataka. The office of chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami shared on X that he was in regular touch with senior officials for the res-cue operation.

cue operation.

cue operation.
Those rescued have been identified as Sudhakar S (64). Vinay MK (47), Vivek Sridhar (37), Naveen A (40), Rittika Jindal (37), Soumya Kanale (31), Sheena Lakshmi (48), S Shiva Jyothi (45), Anil Jammatige Arunachala Bhatta (52), Madhu Kiran Reddy (52), Jayaprakash SS (67), Bharat Bommanagoudar BS (61). Bharat Bommanagouda (53), all from Bengaluru, and Smruti Dolas (45), a resident of

Smrutt Dolas (45), a resident of Pune in Maharashtra. On May 28, a 38-year-old trek-ker from West Bengal died on Sankri-Kyarkoti- Harsil trek route in Uttarkashi district. The trekker, identified as Devrat, was

trekker, identified as Devrait, was part of an II-member group tak-ing trekking to Kyarkoti-Harsil at an altitude of 3,489 metres. Many mountaineers and trek-kers have lost their 1 ves in the state, after they went missing or were caught in extreme weather events during mountaineering and trekking.

HINDUSTAN TIMES JUNE 6, 2024

June 14, 2024: Four forest personnel killed while dousing fire in Binsar reserve

Four forest department employees died while dousing fire in Uttarakhand's Almora district on June 13, 2024. Four others were severely injured and were moved to hospital.

According to the information, a forest department vehicle caught fire in the Binsar wildlife sanctuary, Almora, around 3.30 pm on June 13. On information, forest department employees and PRD jawans took a vehicle to reach the spot.

Chief Minister Pushkar Singh Dhami announced an ex gratia of ₹10 lakh to the families of deceased. "In this hour of grief, the entire Uttarakhand government stands with the families of the forest workers. I have instructed the officials to immediately airlift the four forest workers who were injured to Haldwani Base Hospital or to AIIMS Rishikesh," he added.

Those who died were Forest Beat Officer of Binsar Range, Trilok Singh Mehta (40), a daily wage labourer Diwan Ram (35) who was assisting the Forest department in controlling forest fires, fire watcher Karan Arya (21) and Prantiya Rakshak Dal (PRD) Jawan Puran Singh (50).

Almora has witnessed the highest number of deaths in forest fire incidents during the ongoing season. On May 3, 2024, four labourers were killed after getting caught in a forest fire in Someshwar Tehsil in Almora.

Uttarakhand has witnessed 1,220 forest fire incidents in this season, which started from November 2023. As many as 1,675 hectares of forest land was gutted in the fire this year and 10 people have lost their lives.



injuries have been shifted to
the nearby hospital. The
deceased include a forest
guard, a PRD (Prantiya RakPRD (Prantiya RakPRD (Prantiya Rakand a daily wager engaged by
the forest department.

The deceased have been
identified as Dewan Ram (35),
forest department employee.

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Mehraf52), PRD Jawan
The injured are Krishna
Kumar (21), forest department
Kumar (21), forest department
(28), forest department
employee. Railash Bhatt (44),
forest department
employee, Kailash Bhatt (44),
forest department



BOMIT HATZVOHILL JUNE 14 2024

June 16, 2024: Fourteen killed after tempo falls into river in Rudraprayag

Fourteen people were killed and 12 others were injured when a tempo traveller with 26 people onboard skidded off the road and fell into the Alaknanda river on the Rishikesh-Badrinath national highway in the Rudraprayag district on 15 June, 2024

Uttarakhand State Disaster Response Force commandant Manikant Mishra added that the death toll might go up as some of those injured were in serious condition. He added that 10 died on the spot, two each at AIIMS Rishikesh and Rudraprayag district hospital during treatment. Of the 12 injured, five were receiving treatment in AIIMS Rishikesh and seven in Rudraprayag district hospital.

District Disaster Management Officer Nandan Singh Rajwar said the accident happened around 11am, and police and SDRF teams rushed to the spot and started relief and rescue operations. He said the vehicle fell on the banks of Alaknanda river about 250 metres below the road.

14 killed after tempo falls into river in Rudraprayag

DEHRADUN: Fourteen people were killed and 12 others were njured on Saturday after a tempo raveller met with an accident and fell into the Alakmanda River in Rudraprayag district of Uttara-chand, officials familiar with the

Rudraprayag distriet of Ultramichand, officials familiar with the matter said.

Officials said a vehicle carrying 26 people from Delhi to Chopta in Rudraprayag district met with an accident around IL30am on the Rushikesh-Badrinath highway near Raitoli, and teams of adminication of the Rushikesh-Badrinath highway near Raitoli, and teams of adminication of the Rushikesh-Badrinath highway near Raitoli, and teams of adminication of the Rushikesh-Badrinath of the Rushikesh of the Spot for relief and rescue operations.

SDRF commandant Manikam Mishra said that 10 of the passengers died on the spot, while we all India Institute of Medical Sciences (AlIMS) in Rishikesh and Rudraprayag district hospital. Among those injured, five are receiving treatment at AlIMS Rishikesh, and seven at the district hospital, he, dede.

While the cause of the accident is all Prima facie, it appears that the driver was tired, and lost control of the vehicle during a turn."



Mangled remains of the tempo traveller after it fell into the deep gorge, killing at least 14 people in Rudraprayag on Saturday. ANI

gorge, killing at least 14 people in a At the time of filing the report, the identities of the deceased and injured were yet to be shared by the authorities.

Expressing grief over the accident, Prime Minister Narendra Modiannounced an expada of a Modiannounced an expada of a Modiannounced and expada of the injured. "The road accident in Rudraprayag. Uttarakhand is heartbreaking, My deepest condolences to the bereaved familles who lost their loved ones. Along with this, I wish speedy recovery of all the injured. Under the supervision of the state government, the local administration is ergaged in providing all possible help to the victims," the Prime Minister's

Office said in a post on X.

President Droupadi Murmu condoled the loss of lives in the accident and prayed for the speedy recovery of the injured. The news of the death of several people in a reference that it is full appropriate the condolences to the bereaved families and pray for the speedy recovery of those injured. She said.

Union home minister Amit Shah, too, expressed condolences to the families of those who lost their lives in the accident. Received the said news of the road accident in Rudraprayag, Uttara-khand, My condolences are with the families of those who lost their lives in the accident.

work and all possible help is being provided to the injured. I pray to God for the speedy recovery of the injured. The posted of the injured. The posted injured. The posted injured is provided in the injured and the injured and directed Rudraprayag district magistrate Dr Saurabh Gaharwar to order an inquiry into the accident. In a post on X, he said that the local administration and the local administration and the control of the said that the local administration and the control of the said that the local administration and the control of the said that the local administration and the said that the local administration and the said that the local administration and the rescue operations and that the injured have been admitted to the nearest medical centre. "We are fully committed to provide all possible help to the injured."

One of the survivors of the accident agroup outling as it was a long weekend. We were coming from Delhi and going to Tungnath. I don't know how the accident happened. I don't remember anything, Most of the passengers were from Varanasi. Chandigarh. and Jasas Shank, 'another passenger undergoing creatment at the district hospital, said: 'I was sitting at the back, when the vehicle suddenly started rolling down while taking a turn. I can't remember what happened thereafter."

HIMOUSTAH TIMES JUNG 16, 2014

June 25, 2024: Cracks in Joshimath houses spell trouble in monsoons, weakened houses may crumble

The cracks in houses in Joshimath continue to widen, the drainage system has not been repaired, and the dangers of rainwater percolating into the hillside remain. Apart from this, more than 800 houses in 14 pockets in the town are standing precariously and adding to the pressures on the hillside. With monsoons at the doorstep, no real steps have been taken to address the situation here, even though scientists and experts who have studied the situation have demanded immediate action. It is worth mentioning here that after land subsistence, 40 new cracks have been observed.

In January 2023, innumerable houses in Joshimath developed cracks and crevasses in their floors and walls when underground water sprouted out from the hillsides. Homes had to be evacuated at a moment's notice. Hotels that were a risk were demolished. Scientists from several technical institutions studied the situation and handed over a report to the National Disaster Management Authority, which urged work to be carried out to stabilise the hill slopes. According to a report by CBRI Roorkee, three to four metre deep 40 such cracks along the ground were observed. The report stated that most cracks in the houses were at least 5 mm wide.

CBRI Scientist Dr Ajay Chaurasia who had studied 2,3000 houses during the beginning phase of land subsistence, said that at least 800 houses were in the red zone and extremely fragile. They needed to be demolished and the material needs to be offloaded so as to reduce the strain on the hillside. What's more, people need to be relocated to other places. The report also stated that the danger has increased due to inadequate drainage system, and asks for a better drainage plan, as well as construction of retaining walls. With monsoons coming soon, the dangers to the region have increased.



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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