

(UTTARAKHAND)

Govt starts listing areas vulnerable to disasters

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DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand government has begun identifying settlements vulnerable to disasters, similar to last year's Dharali tragedy in Uttarakashi, ahead of this year's monsoon season.

A massive mudslide had struck Dharali village in Uttarakashi district on August 5 last year, triggering flash floods that swept through the village. While two bodies were recovered, 67 people — including 25 Nepalese nationals — remain missing.

A scientific panel constituted by the Uttarakhand government to ascertain the possible reasons for the tragedy in its preliminary report in August stated that, Dharali flash floods were not caused by a glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF), but intense heavy localised rainfall at high altitude.

Secretary for disaster management and rehabilitation, Vinod Kumar Sumari, said that the process of identifying vulnerable locations across the state has begun, particularly areas where water in influx could threaten human settlements.

"In the first phase, Uttarakashi, Chamoli and Pithoragarh districts have been identified for the exercise. A team from the state management department was sent to Chamoli district to identify sensitive locations. The district was first surveyed through satellite imagery and later through drone mapping. Based on the assessment of risks, a detailed report has been sub-



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mitted to the Chamoli district administration," he said.

He added that surveys in other districts have also been completed and local administrators have been asked to carry out drone surveys at their level at the earliest.

According to officials, the assessment focuses on identifying settlements vulnerable to cloudbursts, excessive water in streams and runnels, and debris flow during heavy rainfall.

"After the reports are submitted by the districts, decisions will be made on the mitigation measures required in vulnerable areas. Wherever necessary, instruments and monitoring systems will also be installed," Sumari said.

The secretary further said that the department also monitors

the possible impact of water released from dams, including the extent to which the water may travel and the likely rise in water levels downstream.

"Monitoring is being carried out through various mechanisms. Sirens have also been installed at several locations. A meeting was held with dam authorities last year and another meeting has been proposed this year as well. During the meeting, dam authorities will be requested to install sirens wherever required," he said.

He added that the disaster management department has also installed sirens under the earthquake mitigation project in different locations across the state.

Uttarakhand becomes highly vulnerable during the monsoon season due to the fragile Himala-

yan terrain, steep slopes, glacier-fed rivers and increasing human activity in ecologically sensitive areas.

Heavy rainfall and cloudbursts often trigger landslides, flash floods, debris flow and river erosion, especially in districts such as Chamoli, Uttarakashi and Pithoragarh. Unplanned construction, road cutting, deforestation and rapid urbanisation further weaken mountain slopes and obstruct natural drainage systems, increasing disaster risks during intense rainfall.

Climate change has also contributed to more erratic and extreme weather events, making the state increasingly prone to disasters. Floods and slope failures during the monsoon months.

On April 19, when chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami visited Dharali during his trip to Gangotri for the opening of the shrine, residents submitted a memorandum listing their demands.

In their memorandum, villagers flagged that out of 116 commercial hotels, 23 have been marked as being on government land, leading to a delay in relief from the Chief Minister's Relief Fund. They also sought compensation for tenant shopkeepers and restaurant owners, waiver of agricultural loans, and restoration of damaged infrastructure, including the ancient Kalpadev temple.

They also demanded compensation for displaced hoteliers and farmers, and immediate construction of protective walls in vulnerable stretches.

CHAMPAPAT 'FAKE' GANG RAPE CONSPIRACY CASE

Congress hits back at govt after leader booked in case

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DEHRADUN: The Uttarakhand Congress on Saturday said the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government was "shooting the messenger" after the former leader in Champawat was booked for alleged conspiracy in the "fake" minor gang rape case, even as the BJP announced state-wide protests against the Congress for "malicious" the party.

On Friday, Champawat BJP leader Kamal Rawat and his associate, for allegedly conspiring to frame three men, including another district BJP leader, in the gang rape of a minor in the district on May 5.

The accused were identified as Kamal Rawat and his associate Arjun Rai, said district superintendent of police Rohan Kumar Singh. The FIR registered on Friday against Rawat and Rai charged them under multiple sections of the BNS, including wrongful confinement (Section 33(2)), criminal intimidation (35(2)), criminal conspiracy, Local Congress leader Anand Singh Khatri was also named in the FIR for his alleged role in the conspiracy.

"Mahar's only role was that he pushed to the police station after being informed about the matter and urged police to register a case under the POCO Act," said the police.

The eight-year-old leopard, which was killed late Thursday, was brought to the Noida Wildlife Division office in Pauri for post-mortem examination, they said.

"They said only after the post-mortem report would it be possible to conclusively determine whether the leopard was a man-eater."

About a fortnight ago, two guards attacked 65-year-old Devi while she was cutting grass in the fields in the same village and dragged her towards the forest.

POLICE ARRESTED AN EX-BJP LEADER, HIS ASSOCIATE ON FRIDAY FOR CONSPIRING TO FRAME 3 MEN, INCLUDING A DISTRICT BJP LEADER

allegations amounts to an offence, will everyone now face action under the POCO Act?," Congress leader and former CM Harish Rawat asked in a Facebook post on Saturday.

He alleged that the government was trying to "shoot the messenger" and attempting to "unlawfully arrest the Congress into what he described as a purely BJP-linked matter."

Three men — Vinod Singh Rawat, Naveen Singh Rawat and BJP leader Purnima Rawat — were earlier booked for alleged conspiracy in the gang rape of a minor on Friday.

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Officials said that the trans-

port department had issued a notice to the school two days earlier regarding alleged irregularities in endorsements for hill driving training.

At Jai Durga Motor Driving School, officials found irregularities in the issuance of certificates for a two-day refresher course.

The schools were also allegedly not using the mandatory online portal for their operations. Officials further said an inquiry was initiated following a complaint regarding the collection of fees in the name of

driving licence renewal. During the probe, authorities found that the certificate of the concerned institution had already been cancelled. The ₹1,000 collected from the complainant was later refunded, officials added.

Singh said the inspection team also found that Nirmal Motor Training School, which had permission to operate only in Ramnagar, had opened an office in Haldwani.

According to the RTO, additional district magistrate (ADM) Vivek Rai directed authorities to halt the operations of Jai Durga, Devbhoomi and Nirmal motor driving training schools.

Notices have been issued to all three institutes and the inspection report has been sent to the transport department headquarters in Dehradun for a final decision regarding permanent cancellation or temporary suspension of their licences.

LABOURER KILLED IN HALDWANI AS BIKE RAMS INTO TRACTOR-TROLLEY

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HALDWANI: A 22-year-old man died while another person was injured after the motorcycle they were travelling on crashed into a tractor-trolley parked along the roadside in Haldwani's Mukhani area on Friday night, police said.

According to police, a localised accident had occurred with a motorcycle and tractor-trolley near Fatehpur Gurudwara in Mukhani. A police team rushed to the spot and shifted the injured person to Dr. Sushila Thakur Government Hospital. Doctors declared one person dead, while the other was referred to a higher centre.

The deceased was identified as Sameer alias Tinku, a resident of Baikunpur in Shakti Farm area (14th Street) Singh Nagar district. The injured man was identified as Chandan Pandey (40), a resident of Kamalwajwani in Mukhani. Both worked as labourers, police said.

Polic said preliminary investigation revealed that they were travelling towards Lamachaur on Friday night when Sameer allegedly lost control of the motorcycle and rammed into the rear side of the tractor-trolley.

The tractor-trolley driver was taken into custody shortly after the incident. Some locals have alleged that illicit liquor is being sold in the area and these allegations are being verified," a police officer said.

Police said the body was handed over to the deceased's family on Saturday and further investigation is underway.

Officials inspect Mansa Devi, Chandi Devi shrines amid increase in footfall

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HARIDWAR: Officials inspected arrangements at Mata Mansa Devi Temple and Mata Chandi Devi Temple in Haridwar district on Saturday to prevent overcrowding and ensure smooth movement of pilgrims amid a steady rise in the number of devotees visiting.

Thousands of devotees, including pilgrims headed for the Char Dham Yatra, are arriving in Haridwar district, leading to heavy footfall at both shrines.

The inspections come in the backdrop of last year's stampede on the footpath leading to Mansa Devi temple on July 27, which resulted in 230 pilgrims killed and around 300 injured.

Mela officials inspected the Mansa Devi shrine area and the pedestrian route which leads to the temple. Pilgrims' safety remains our top priority along with ensuring their convenience and availability of facilities. The footpath leading to the shrine and the Lalitar-Har Ki Puri stretch will also be renovated and widened for smooth movement of devotees," said Sonika, who goes by her first name only.

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Notice: Pursuant to the provisions of the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Rules, 2002, the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Trust, 2002, has been constituted for the purpose of the said Act. The said Trust has been entrusted with the management and control of the said assets and the said Trust has been authorised to sell the said assets in the open market or by private sale or by any other mode or means as may be deemed fit by the said Trust. The said assets are being sold in the open market or by private sale or by any other mode or means as may be deemed fit by the said Trust. The said assets are being sold in the open market or by private sale or by any other mode or means as may be deemed fit by the said Trust.

S. No.	Name of the Account	Description of Properties	Est. Price	Est. Price	Date and Time	Place
1.	Borrower: Mr. Rajesh Kumar Yadav S/o Mr. Mahendra Kumar Yadav, Add: 68/10, M.A. Road, Pargana: Shipur, Tehsil: Sadar, District: Varanasi, Area: 680 Sq. Ft. 63.10	EM of land and building at Arzi No. 50 situated at Mauza: Haid, Ward: Samah, Pargana: Shipur, Tehsil: Sadar, District: Varanasi, Area: 680 Sq. Ft. 63.10	Rs. 17,27,72,32/-	Rs. 17,27,72,32/-	26.05.2026	11.00 AM
2.	Borrower: Mr. Mahendra Kumar Yadav S/o Mr. Mahendra Kumar Yadav, Add: 68/10, M.A. Road, Pargana: Shipur, Tehsil: Sadar, District: Varanasi, Area: 680 Sq. Ft. 63.10	EM of land and building at Arzi No. 50 situated at Mauza: Haid, Ward: Samah, Pargana: Shipur, Tehsil: Sadar, District: Varanasi, Area: 680 Sq. Ft. 63.10	Rs. 17,27,72,32/-	Rs. 17,27,72,32/-	26.05.2026	11.00 AM
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