DCGA calls off chopper flights for rest of Char Dham season

Amit Bathla and Neha LM Tripathi
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA) has called off charter helicopter services on the Char Dham route for the remainder of the season, which ends on November 16, when the Badrinath temple is set to close its portals.

Earlier, a meeting between DGCA officials, officials with the Uttarakhand Civil Aviation Development Authority (UCADA) and helicopter operators at 11am on Monday failed to resolve a deadlock over the DCGA's fresh rule making co-pilots mandatory on all flights on the Char Dham circuit. It was introduced a day after a helicopter returning from Badrinath crashed near Jyotirmath, killing all six people on board.

Many helicopter operators argued that the two-pilot rule was commercially unviable to implement because of the associated physical modifications to helicopters. Despite the pushback, the DGCA refused to roll back the order.

"The objective (of the rule) was to enable better airspace monitoring with two pilots. However, operators opposed the decision because twin-pilot operations require physical modifications to helicopters, such as installing additional dual controls, and reducing passenger capacity to manage payload limits," said UCADA chief executive officer Prateek Jain.

"With only seven to eight days remaining in the season, carrying out these modifications requires time and is not commercially viable, according to them," he added.

Helicopter operators cite

- Higher operating and logistical costs
- Decreased passenger capacity
- Need to install physical modifications
- Higher crew and accommodation requirements
- Constraints imposed by existing commercial structure





"The objective (of the rule) was to enable better airspace monitoring with two pilots"- **— PRATEEK JAIN, UCADA CEO**

Prior to the scheduled implementation of the new rules on Monday, operators formally opposed the mandate in a letter dated October 31 addressed to the DGCA, announcing their decision to suspend operations.

"While we fully acknowledge and appreciate the regulatory authorities' responsibility towards maintaining the highest standards of aviation safety, we believe that the introduction of mandatory twin-pilot operations, without adequate consultation with operators and assessment of its commercial and operational implications, will make the continuation of operations financially unviable for all operators," the letter read.

"The mandatory deployment of two pilots on every charter sortie will substantially increase operating costs, crew requirements, accommodation, logistical expenses, and overall operational commitments. Given the existing commercial structure, prevailing charter rates, and limited operational margins, these additional costs cannot be reasonably absorbed by operators, nor is it commercially feasible to pass the entire burden onto customers," it added.

Jain said that operational guidelines for charter flights in the upcoming season will be discussed separately.

He added that shuttle services for Kedarnath Dham will continue operating as normal until the end of the season.

"The crash was deeply unfortunate. Both the DGCA and UCADA were making every effort to prevent accidents, and investigations are ongoing to ascertain the exact cause of the crash," he added. The helicopter, operated by Trans Bharat Aviation, was returning to Dehradun's Sahastradhara helipad from Badrinath when it crashed near Chayee village in Jyotirmath. Officials said the crash may have been caused by inclement weather and heavy rain which severely impaired visibility along the flight path.

State Cong leaders, top brass chart poll strategy

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Senior state Congress leaders, with the notable exception of former chief minister Harish Rawat, met the party's high command at national president Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Monday to chart strategies for the upcoming assembly elections in 2027.

Leader of the Opposition (LoP) in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi, party general secretary (organisation) KC Venugopal, and general secretary in-charge of Uttarakhand Kumari Selja were present at the meeting. Key state leaders present included co-in-charges Surender Sharma and Manoj Yadav, state party chief Ganesh Godiyal, state assembly LoP Yashpal Arya, election campaign committee chairman and Chakrata MLA Pritam Singh, and election management committee chairman Dr Harak Singh Rawat.

"Discussions at the meeting centered on key socio-political issues facing Uttarakhand, grassroot organisational readiness, and formulating an exhaustive strategy for the upcoming state assembly polls" Godiyal later wrote on Facebook.

"The ten years of the BJP's double-engine government in Uttarakhand have betrayed the hopes and aspirations of the state's people. The completely collapsed law and order situation, grave concerns over women's safety, the arrogance of power, and a constant tendency to shirk accountability have deeply disappointed the citizens of the state," Kharge wrote on social media platform X after the meeting.



Senior state Congress leaders meet the high command at party chief Mallikarjun Kharge's residence in New Delhi on Monday. HT

Speaking to reporters after the meeting, Godiyal said: "The central leadership's focus for the upcoming elections in Uttarakhand is clear.... Congress must win this election. Today's meeting was centered on this very objective, where Rahul Gandhi, Mallikarjun Kharge, and KC Venugopal engaged in detailed discussions to prepare us with an exhaustive strategy. We are confident that under their guidance, Congress will contest the elections with renewed strength."

When asked about Harish Rawat's absence, he said, "The meeting was specifically convened for office bearers of the state unit and key committee heads. Moving forward, Rawat ji will be present in future meetings as required."

The meeting came a day after the INDIA bloc held a major rally at Delhi's Ramlila Maidan to demand Chief Election Commissioner Gyanesh Kumar's resignation and arrest over irregularities in the functioning of the Election Commission and the conduct of nationwide Special Intensive Revision (SIR) exercise.

Selja told reporters that the public was eager for a political transition in Uttarakhand.

"Over the past nearly 10 years, the BJP government in Uttarakhand has completely failed on every major issue, including law and order, education, health, women's safety, unemployment, and migration. The people of Devbhoomi, tormented by the failures of the BJP government and its anti-people policies, have now made up their minds for change."

CM launches 'Devbhoomi Parivar Portal', unveils '47 vision document

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami launched the '*Devbhoomi Parivar Portal*' and unveiled the 'Viksit Uttarakhand Vision-2047' document at the chief minister's camp office in Dehradun on Monday.

He said that both initiatives will play a critical role in strengthening good governance, ensuring the delivery of scheme benefits to eligible citizens, and providing a clear long-term direction for development.

He said the *Devbhoomi Parivar Portal* aims to make government services simpler, more transparent, and citizen-centric.



Pushkar Singh Dhami

Dhami said that under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, the country was advancing toward the goal of a developed nation by 2047.

He said that the state government was working relentlessly to place Uttarakhand among the leading states in the country.

Dhami said that 'Viksit Uttarakhand Vision-2047' is not just a document of targets, but an roadmap for overall development. He said the double-engine government has accelerated expansion across road, rail, air connectivity, and basic utilities in the state. Key projects such as the Delhi-Dehradun Economic Corridor, Rishikesh-Karnaprayag rail line, and the Char Dham Road Project are strengthening connectivity, Dhami said.

"Alongside ongoing redevelopments at Kedarnath and Badrinath Dham, work is progressing on the Manaskhand Mandir Mala Mission and other religious tourism projects. Winter tourism is also being promoted to drive round-the-year economic activity," he added.

MAN BLUDGEONS RELATIVES TO DEATH OVER LAND DISPUTE, HELD

HALDWANI: A 52-year-old man was arrested on Monday after allegedly bludgeoning his aunt and uncle to death with an iron rod over an ongoing property dispute at a village in Bageshwar district late on Sunday, police said. Their daughter-in-law was also injured after she intervened to try and save them, they added.

Four teams were deployed to trace the suspect, identified as Govind Ballabh Kholiya, said Bajinath SHO Kailash Negi. The deceased were identified as 70-year-old Puran Chandra Kholiya and his 62-year-old wife Bhagwati Devi. The incident took place in Nargodi village.

"The preliminary probe revealed that the accused frequently harassed and abused relatives while drunk. A complaint was lodged against him five to six months ago, which was settled between the parties," he said. Investigators said Negi allegedly barged into an upstairs room and attacked his aunt before going downstairs to strike his uncle

The accused fled the scene after villagers gathered at the house, added police. HTC

'Census in state will proceed on schedule'

DEHRADUN: State director of census operations Eva Ashish Srivastava on Monday said that the Census 2027 operations in Uttarakhand will be conducted as per the pre-determined schedule from December 1 to January 4, 2027. Refuting "rumours" regarding any delay, Srivastava said that news circulating about a revised notification for other non-poll-bound states in India should not be linked to Uttarakhand's schedule.

She said that there has been no change, revision, or postponement in the census schedule fixed for the state. Prior to the field exercise, the self-enumeration facility will be available to citizens from November 16 to November 30, she said.

Nainital's lower mall road reopens after repairs over 1 year

RUDRAPUR: Nainital's lower mall road reopened on Monday after it was closed for around a year after a 40-metre stretch developed cracks. Delays in the repairs were the subject of recent demonstrations including an indefinite strike by a trade union president. The Kumaon commissioner in September ordered CCTV cameras to monitor the repairs. Officials said the road would reopen after debris were cleaned.

Key operative in Tramadol smuggling ring arrested: STF

DEHRADUN: The Special Task Force (STF) has arrested an alleged key member of an organised Tramadol smuggling racket, taking the arrest tally in the case to five, officers said on Monday.

The accused was identified as Farooq, a resident of Bharapur village in Haridwar district. Officers said he operated as a receiver and distributor for the alleged primary handlers of the smuggling racket.

Fresh snow at Badrinath



Fresh snowfall blankets the peaks surrounding Badrinath Dham in Chamoli district on Monday. ANI

SEARCH FOR EIGHT TREKKERS MISSING ON KEDAR TAL ROUTE UNDERWAY

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: A group of seven trekkers and a guide who went missing after an avalanche on the Kedar Tal trek route on October 29 remained untraced on Monday, despite extensive search operations which recovered tents and bags near Kedar Kharak, the trail's second major campsite on its 4,000 metre-point.

The missing trekkers include five men from West Bengal and two women from Uttar Pradesh and a guide from Uttarkashi. SDRF commandant Arpan Yaduvanshi said "six personnel from the high-altitude rescue unit, four people from the Nehru Institute of Mountaineering were heli-dropped at Kedar Kharak. Another team reached the site on foot."

He added that heavy snowfall amounting to "whiteout" conditions hampered the search. "There is around 5 to 6 feet of snow in the area. However, we are trying our best to trace them. We have halted the operation for the day due to bad weather. The teams are currently camping at Kedar Kharak and will resume the search as soon as the weather improves," added Yaduvanshi.

A statement from the District Emergency Operation Centre said the missing trekkers' family members have been informed.

The avalanche struck near Kedar Kharak on October 29 while the group was descending from Kedartal.

Four support staff members who managed to return to Gangotri on October 30 alerted officials about the incident.

DEBTS RECOVERY TRIBUNAL, DEHRADUN
Government of India, Ministry of Finance, (Deptt of Financial Services)
2nd Floor, Paras Tower, Mazra, Saharanpur Road, Dehradun, UK. 248171

PUBLICATION NOTICE
IN O.A. No. 152 OF 2026

SUMMONS UNDER SUB-SECTION (4) OF SECTION 19 OF THE RECOVERY OF DEBTS AND BANKRUPTCY ACT, 1993, READ WITH SUB-RULE (2A) OF RULE 5 OF THE DEBT RECOVERY TRIBUNAL (PROCEDURE) RULES, 1993 AS AMENDED FROM TIME TO TIME)

Dy. No. 990/2026 Date : 16.09.2026

Bank of Baroda V/s M/s Shree Ji Enterprises & Anr.

To,

1. **M/s Shree Ji Enterprises (Proprietorship Firm) Through Sh. Amit Sharma (Sole Proprietor) Khet No.- 611, Shukla Farms, Kichha Byepass Road Near MG Hector Showroom, Tehsil+ P.O.- Rudrapur Distt.- Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand - 263153**
2. **Sh. Amit Sharma S/o Sh. Ashok Sharma R/o H.No. G-24, Idea Colony, Lalpur P.O.-Lalpur, Tehsil - Kichha Distt. - Udham Singh Nagar, Uttarakhand 263148**
   Also At: H.No. 792/8, Escort Colony, Village +P.O.- Dadri, Railway Road, Distt. Gautam Budhh Nagar, Uttar Pradesh - 203207

Whereas the above named Applicant Bank has instituted **OA No. 152 of 2026** against you for recovery of debts of **Rs. 22,96,011.61/-** in which Hon'ble Tribunal was pleased to Issue Summons/Notice U/s 19(4) of the Recovery of Debts and Bankruptcy Act, 1993 and was listed before the Hon'ble Presiding Officer on **08.09.2026.**

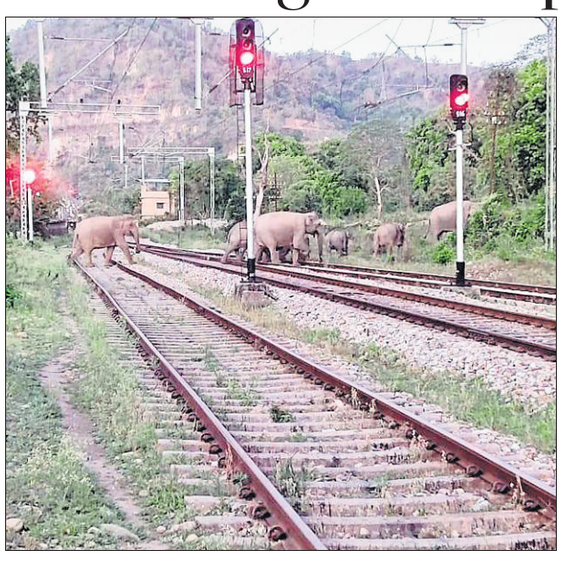
Whereas, it has been shown to the satisfaction of the Tribunal that it is not possible to serve you in ordinary way. Therefore, this notice is given by way of this publication directing you to appear in person or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner before the Tribunal on **07.12.2026 at 10:30 A.M.** Further, you are required to show cause as to why the relief(s) prayed for in OA should not be granted and to file reply, if any, in your defence in a paper book form in sets and produce all the documents and affidavits under which your defence or claim for set off, counter claim, in this Tribunal personally or through your duly authorized agent or legal practitioner within 30 days from the date of the publication of this notice.

Take notice that in case of default of your appearance on the specified day and time before the Tribunal, the case shall be heard and decided in your absence.

Given under my hand and seal of this Tribunal on this the **16th day of September, 2026.**

By order of Tribunal
Registrar
Debts Recovery Tribunal, Dehradun

Unions flag man-elephant conflict at meet



A herd of elephants crossing a railway track near a residential colony in Haridwar district. HT FILE

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

HARIDWAR: Major farmer union Uttarakhand Kisan Morcha in Haridwar on Monday held a Kisan Panchayat,where representatives flagged crop damage and property losses arising out of human-elephant conflict in recent weeks.

"Wild elephants regularly damage sugarcane and other major crops. They often intrude in and around residential habitats, farms and highways," said Uttarakhand Kisan Morcha chief Gulshan Rod.

"We demand that the forest department install adequate safety measures to secure human life and agricultural, livestock and agricultural fields from wild elephants," he added.

BHEL union leaders also expressed concern over elephant intrusions in BHEL township, the newest case of which was reported on Sunday, when a wild elephant was spotted at an intersection on BHEL-Roshanabad-SIIDCUL road at Sector-4. "BHEL residential area is almost a mini township in itself where thousands of people live. The movement of elephants on main intersections, road sand near residential complexes scares residents,"said union leader Rajbeer Singh.

Forest officials said that they are monitoring the movement of elephants in the area.

"As soon as we are tipped off about the movement of elephants or any other wild animal, a team is sent to the area and elephants are shooed back to the forest carefully.As BHEL township is situated nexr to the Rajaji Tiger Reserve,elephants often bypass the safety wall near residential settlements," said ranger Sheeshpal Singh

Bank of Baroda — Regional Stressed Assets Recovery Branch, Rudrapur, 1st Floor, Regional Office, Rudrapur, Near Gaba Chowk, Kashipur Road, Rudrapur -263153 — **E-AUCTION SALE NOTICE**

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE/MOVABLE PROPERTIES "APPENDIX- IV-A [See proviso to Rule 6(2) and/or 8(6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/Movable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to 6(2) and/or 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and In particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of Bank of Baroda, Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As Is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned account/s. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s /Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below -

Sl. No.	Name & Address of the Borrowers/Guarantors	Details of Movable/Immovable Property	Reserve Price	Date and Time of Commencement of E-Auction	Date of Demand Notice / Date of Possession / Outstanding Amount
STATUTORY 30 DAYS SALE NOTICE UNDER SARFAESI ACT, 2002.					
1.	**1. Mr. Shiv Ram S/o Mr. Dhani Ram (Borrower),** Add: PN-71, Arjun Vihar Colony, Jainagar 4, Dineshpur, District- Udham Singh Nagar- 263153. **2. Mr. Devendra S/o Mr. Shiv Ram (Co-Borrower),** Add: PN-71, Arjun Vihar Colony, Jainagar 4, Dineshpur, District- Udham Singh Nagar- 263153. **3. Mrs. Pushpa Devi W/o Mr. Devendra (Co-Borrower),** Add: PN-71, Arjun Vihar Colony, Jainagar 4, Dineshpur, District- Udham Singh Nagar- 263153.	Equitable Mortgage of Resi. House in the name of Devendra S/o Shiv Ram & Pushpa Devi W/o Devendra, situated at Khasra no. 184 Gha, Plot no. 71, Village- Jainagar, Tehsil- Rudrapur, District- Udham Singh Nagar, Area 167.28 Sq. Meter, Registered at Bahi no. 01, Jild 1625, Pages 247 to 268, serial no. 8169 dated 09.12.2019 at sub registrar office Rudrapur. Bounded by as per Sale Deed:- East: Land of others, West: 9.14 meter wide Way, North: Land of others, South: Land of others.	₹ 90,00,000.00 EMD ₹ 9,00,000.00 Minimum Bid Increment Amount ₹ 25,000.00	05.12.2026 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM Status of Possession Symbolic	29.04.2026 22.07.2026 ₹ 30,43,722.25 (Rupees Thirty Lakh Forty Three Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Two & Paise Twenty Five Only) + (Unrealized interest) + unapplied interest + Legal charges + Other charges (w.e.f 05.01.2026) (less deposit after 05.01.2026 if any)

For details terms & conditions of sale, please refer to the link provided in : https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction.html and https://baanknet.com. Prospective bidders may contact the authorized officer on Tel No. : 8477000519, 8477009621.

For Terms & Condition Please Scan the QR

Property Inspection Date & Time : 27.11.2026 from 12:00 PM to 05:00 PM

The borrowers/guarantors are hereby notified to pay the sum as mentioned above along with upto date interest & ancillary expenses before date of auction, failing which the property will be auctioned/sold & balance dues, if any, will be recovered with interest & cost.

Date : 31.10.2026 Place : Bank of Baroda, Regional Stressed Asset Recovery Branch, Rudrapur **Authorised Officer**

IIT-Roorkee researchers helping Tehri village battle water scarcity

HT Correspondent
letters@hindustantimes.com

DEHRADUN: Researchers from the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) have developed a new water spring in Unchawan village in Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal district.

Officials said the spring has effectively doubled the lean-season drinking water availability in the area, boosting output from 500 liters to 1,000 liters or more per day.

Himalayan springs serve as critical drinking water sources for remote settlements. Officials, however, said that nearly 50% of regional springs have either dried up or experienced drastically reduced flow, particularly in summer.

The effort is part of the project titled "Rejuvenation of Drying Springs in Takoli Gad Catchment of Tehri District," funded by Namami Gange, and the Centre's National Mission for Clean Ganga (NMCG)

IIT Roorkee serves as the lead institution, with Prof Abhay Anand Singh Maurya from the Department of Earth Sciences acting as principal investigator.

THE INITIATIVE STEMS FROM FINDINGS PUBLISHED IN TWO STUDIES EXAMINING THE TAKOLI GAD CATCHMENT

The initiative stems from findings published in two studies examining the 143-square kilometre Takoli Gad catchment within the Alaknanda River basin.

An official release from IIT Roorkee said that using stable isotopes and tritium measurements, the study revealed that monsoon rainfall contributes nearly 82% of spring recharge, while winter and pre-monsoon precipitation account for 10% and 8%, respectively.

Based on the study's findings,a controlled outlet was engineered at the identified water-bearing zone, drawing groundwater safely to the surface along the newly built road leading toward the Chandrabadni temple in Unchawan village, added the release.