Anthropogenic Natural Disaster in Ecologically fragile Himalayan area (Uttrakhand) of the Ganga Basin

(By C. Singh, 2013)

No words can express the damage to life and property caused by recent (June, 2013) floods in Uttrakhand State of India. Uttrakhand is a mountainous state of North India and its ecology is very fragile.Major industries are Hydro power generation and religious tourism and both of them are putting immense adverse pressure on natural resources.

All forms of Media are trying best to bring a true picture of this destruction to public and different reasons are being assigned to this disaster. Some see it as an impact of unplanned development of tourism infrastructure along the rivers in the State and others as a result of mining done for making dams. Another section of people blames both ‘Type’ and ‘magnitutude’ of tourism being prorogated at these sacred places as cause of this disaster. Traditionally the sacred places located in Himalayas have remained highly respected and pilgrims use to follow a strict code of conduct during pilgrimage. The growth of mass tourism fueled by improved road conditions and accommodation in recent years has resulted in changed visitor profile. Now pilgrimage to these four shrines (Badrinath, Kedernath, Gangotri and Yamunotri) needs qualitative and quantitative restructuring.

The ongoing global dilemma to choose either nature or so called development has only come on surface in light of the tragedy and questions posed by unsustainable development remain same. The policy makers, environmentalist, media and people in general now need to think beyond merely explaining the situation and should take bold steps to improve the ecological governance of the region. As climate change is likely to be more dominant in coming decades and area is most vulnerable one, we need a comprehensive solution based on strict low enforcement, more sustainable model of development and a long term involvement of people. The Himalayas due to most fragile ecology are considered to be the major indictors of Global climate change and recent happenings must be recognized as an unfortunate beginning that may crawl worldwide if a fundamental shift in our highly consumption based economic model is achieved. Here recent material from some of the resources is cites with heading and link of the article for providing you an insight into the situation.

Man-made reasons for Uttarakhand disaster **Author(s):**[Jyotsna Singh](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/author/2092)[@singh\_jyotsna](https://twitter.com/singh_jyotsna), [Soma Basu](http://www.downtoearth.org.in/author/2085)[@sbasu\_in](https://twitter.com/sbasu_in)

*Expansion of hydel projects, roads and tourism is making the Himalaya in Uttarakhand crumble*

<http://www.downtoearth.org.in/content/man-made-reasons-uttarakhand-disaster>

Recipe for disaster in Uttarakhand: 1 crore population, 2.5 crore tourists

[**Subodh Varma**](http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/toireporter/author-Subodh-Varma.cms)**, TNN** Jun 23, 2013, 02.23AM IST

<http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-06-23/india/40146281_1_forest-land-land-revenue-land-use>

A man-made disaster, say environmentalists

AARTI DHAR

<http://www.thehindu.com/sci-tech/energy-and-environment/a-manmade-disaster-say-environmentalists/article4834607.ece>

Uttarakhand floods: Deconstructing a disaster

By [Mayank Aggarwal](http://www.dnaindia.com/authors/mayank-aggarwal)  ,New Delhi | Agency: DNA

Environmentalists say the disaster in Uttarakhand was inevitable due to rampant construction, felling of trees and building of dams in the name of development. They warn it will continue if the state doesn't change tack.

<http://www.dnaindia.com/india/1852688/report-uttarakhand-floods-deconstructing-a-disaster>

## [“People go to Kedarnath only to have fun, without piety or devotion,” says Kedarnath’s chief purohit](http://bharatabharati.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/people-go-to-kedarnath-only-to-have-fun-without-piety-or-devotion-says-kedarnaths-chief-purohit/)

<http://bharatabharati.wordpress.com/2013/06/25/people-go-to-kedarnath-only-to-have-fun-without-piety-or-devotion-says-kedarnaths-chief-purohit/>

## [Uttarakhand Flood Disaster: An unnatural, man-made tragedy – Shankkar Aiyar](http://bharatabharati.wordpress.com/2013/06/23/httpwp-mepei6d-efo/)

<http://bharatabharati.wordpress.com/2013/06/23/httpwp-mepei6d-efo/>

# Uttarakhand needs proper weather forecast mechanism: Himanshu Thakkar

<http://ibnlive.in.com/news/uttarakhand-needs-proper-weather-forecast-mechanism-himanshu-thakkar/400084-3-243.html>

# Check rampant construction, tourism to prevent Himalayan tragedies: Experts

<http://articles.timesofindia.indiatimes.com/2013-06-23/flora-fauna/40146156_1_religious-tourism-himalayan-river-banks>

Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction <http://nidm.gov.in/PDF/Ecosystem%20Approach.pdf>

National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-System

<http://www.dst.gov.in/scientific-programme/NMSHE_June_2010.pdf>