



STATE PCS CA CONSOLIDATION

UTTARAKHAND



AUGUST 2025



C-171/2,
Block-A,
Sector-15,
Noida



641, Mukherjee Nagar,
Opp. Signature
View Apartment,
New Delhi



21,
Pusa Road,
Karol Bagh
New Delhi



Tashkent Marg,
Civil Lines,
Prayagraj,
Uttar Pradesh



Tonk Road,
Vasundhara Colony,
Jaipur,
Rajasthan



Burlington Arcade Mall,
Burlington Chauraha,
Vidhan Sabha Marg,
Lucknow



12, Main AB Road,
Bhawar Kuan,
Indore,
Madhya Pradesh

Content

• Flash Floods in Uttarkashi District	3
• Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill 2025	4
• Operation Kalnemi.....	4

Flash Floods in Uttarkashi District

Why in News?

Flash floods, triggered by heavy rainfall, have caused widespread devastation along the **Kheer Ganga river** in Uttarkashi district, Uttarakhand.

- The floods, which hit the town of **Dharali**, a **popular tourist spot** situated 8,600 feet above sea level, have resulted in significant loss of life, with many others feared missing.

Key Points

Reasons for Flash Floods:

- Experts suggest that a **glacier collapse** or a **glacial lake outburst (GLOF)** upstream, rather than a cloudburst, likely triggered the flash flood in **Dharali village**.
- The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** recorded minimal rainfall during the disaster, well below the typical levels that cause cloudburst-induced flooding, leading experts to suggest the possibility of a glacier burst or GLOF, supported by satellite images showing significant glaciers and glacial lakes above Dharali.

Disaster Risk:

- According to the **Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology**, Uttarakhand is home to **1,266 glacial lakes**, ranging from small to large bodies of water, some of which pose **significant downstream threats**.
- The **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)** has identified **13 glacial lakes** as high-risk, with **five** classified as **extremely dangerous**.
- Such disasters occur when water accumulates at high elevations and is suddenly released—**heavy rainfall alone cannot trigger such catastrophic events**.

Flash Flood

Definition: Flash floods are sudden increases in water levels **during or immediately after intense rainfall**. They are **highly localized** and short-lived events, typically occurring within 6 hours of rainfall.

Causes:

- Flash floods are primarily **caused by intense rainfall** that overwhelms the soil's absorption capacity and drainage systems.
- Apart from heavy rain, flash floods can also result from **rapid snowmelt due to sudden temperature rise**, dam or levee breaches, ice or debris jams, and sudden glacial lake outbursts.
- Additionally, **urbanisation with impervious surfaces** like roads and buildings increases runoff, reducing water absorption and intensifying flood risks.

Glacial Lake Outburst (GLOF)

About: A GLOF is a type of catastrophic flood that occurs when the **dam containing a glacial lake fails**, releasing a large volume of water.

- This type of flood is typically caused by the rapid melting of glaciers or the buildup of water in the lake due to heavy precipitation or the inflow of meltwater.
- In February 2021, **Chamoli district in Uttarakhand witnessed flash floods** which are suspected to have been caused by GLOFs.

Causes:

- These floods can be triggered by a number of factors, including changes in the volume of the glacier, changes in the water level of the lake, and earthquakes.
- According to the **NDMA (National Disaster Management Authority)**, glacial retreat due to climate change occurring in most parts of the **Hindu Kush Himalayas** has given rise to the formation of numerous new glacial lakes, which are the major cause of GLOFs.

Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill 2025

Why in News?

The Uttarakhand Cabinet has approved the **Uttarakhand Freedom of Religion (Amendment) Bill 2025**, introducing tougher penalties for forced, fraudulent, or coercive religious conversions.

- 💡 The new amendments include **life imprisonment**, **hefty fines**, and increased provisions for protecting victims of illegal conversions.

Key Points

💡 Stricter Penalties:

- ✦ The amended bill proposes **life imprisonment** for the gravest cases of forced conversions, alongside fines up to **₹10 lakh**.
- ✦ **General offences** will carry **3 to 10 years** imprisonment, while **crimes involving sensitive classes** such as minors or women will face **5 to 14 years** imprisonment.
- ✦ **Promotion through Digital Platforms:** The bill criminalizes promoting conversions through **social media, messaging apps**, and other online channels.

- 💡 **Expanded Definition of Inducement:** The bill broadens the definition of **"inducement"**, now including **gifts, cash, goods, employment offers**, promises of marriage, or portraying another religion negatively.

- 💡 **Protecting Victims:** The bill includes **provisions for victim protection, rehabilitation**, financial assistance for medical care and travel, as well as **legal aid** for victims of forced conversions.

- 💡 **Marriage and False Identity:** It criminalizes **marriage under false pretenses**, where an individual conceals their religion, with penalties of **3 to 10 years** in prison and fines of **₹3 lakh**.

- 💡 **Asset Seizure and Warrants:** Authorities will have the power to **seize assets** acquired through illegal conversions.

- ✦ **Arrests** can be **made without a warrant** in these cases (**cognizable offenses**), and **bail** will only be granted if the accused is not found guilty or is not likely to repeat the offense.

Operation Kalnemi

Uttarakhand's **"Operation Kalnemi,"** aimed at **cracking down on fake sadhus** deceiving the public, has been **strengthened with new directives** from the state government.

- 💡 Now, those caught impersonating religious figures **will face arrests through criminal charges, not just detention**. The move comes after several incidents of fraudulent activities disguised as religious acts.

Key Points

- 💡 **Enhanced Legal Action:** Under the new guidelines, the police are instructed to file cases against imposters under relevant laws, such as the **Drugs and Magic Remedies (Objectionable Advertisements) Act, 1954**, the **BNS Act 2023** (for fake identity cards), the **Information Technology Act, 2000** (for cyber fraud and fake social media profiles), and the **Foreigners Act, 1946** (for foreign nationals residing on fake documents).

- 💡 **Awareness Campaign:** To prevent people from falling prey to fraudulent religious figures, the government has launched a public awareness campaign, including social media outreach.

- ✦ The goal is to educate citizens about the dangers of fake sadhus and the associated crimes.

- 💡 **Background:** Uttarakhand's Chief Minister launched **Operation Kalnemi** ahead of the **Kanwar Yatra** to **combat fake sadhus exploiting religious identity**.

- ✦ **Inspired by the demon Kalnemi from Hindu mythology**, the operation aims to protect Sanatan Dharma and uphold social harmony.



Prepare with DrishtiIAS

UPSC
Mains
Test Series
2025



UPSC
Classroom
Courses



IAS Current
Affairs Module
Course



Drishti
Learning
App



Key Points

Details

Summary

--

Key Points

Details

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

Summary

Summary