



Operation Kalnemi | Uttarakhand | 19 Aug 2025

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.