



Survey of Flood Affected Areas | Uttarakhand | 29 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, Uttarakhand Chief Minister directed the officials to **immediately identify "sensitive" villages and relocate the affected people to safer places** in view of [heavy rains and landslides](#) in parts of the state.

Key Points

- According to the officials, [Cloudbursts](#) in **Pauri Garhwal's Toli, Bodh Kedar, and Tehri Garhwa's Jakhana and Tingarh** caused **massive destruction**.
- Action is being taken to **streamline the electricity and drinking water arrangements in the disaster affected area** and **Rs 57,500** have also been given to [livestock](#) owners for **animal loss**.

Cloudbursts

- **About:**
 - Cloudbursts are **short-duration, intense rainfall events over a small area**.
 - It is a weather phenomenon with unexpected **precipitation exceeding 100 mm/h over a geographical region of approximately 20-30 square km**.
 - In the Indian Subcontinent, it **generally occurs when a monsoon cloud drifts northwards**, from the **Bay of Bengal** or [the Arabian Sea](#) across the plains then on to the Himalaya that sometimes brings 75 millimeters of rain per hour.
- **Occurrence:**
 - The **relative humidity and cloud cover is at the maximum level with low temperature and slow winds** because of which a high amount of clouds may get condensed at a very rapid rate and result in a cloudburst.
 - **As temperatures increase, the atmosphere can hold more and more moisture and this moisture comes down as a short very intense rainfall for a short duration** probably half an hour or one hour resulting in flash floods in the mountainous areas and urban floods in the cities.

Study on House Sparrows | Uttarakhand | 29 Jul 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a study conducted by the [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) emphasizes the unique bond between [house sparrows](#) and villagers in the high-altitude regions of the [Indian Himalayas](#).

Key Points

- The study found that the house **sparrow populations in Uttarakhand migrate with the local people**, leaving the deserted summer villages when the locals move down to their winter villages and returning when the villagers come back in the summer.
 - The **study aims to understand the altitudinal movements and adaptation of house sparrows** to the cold climatic conditions in these high-altitude areas.
- **Adaptations of House Sparrows to High-Altitude Conditions:**
 - House sparrow populations in Uttarakhand are found to occur at altitudes as high as 3,500 meters, which is unique.
 - The study found that the **house sparrows of the high-altitude villages are larger in body size as an adaptation to the cold climatic conditions**, compared to sparrows of lower elevations.
- **Conservation Efforts and Awareness:**
 - To make **local people aware about sparrow conservation, nest boxes have been distributed in many places**, including Purola, Rudrapur, and Haridwar.
 - The study is **creating extensive awareness among local people** about the importance of house sparrow conservation, and many people are actively engaged in the effort, monitoring nest boxes and contributing to data collection.

House Sparrows



- **Scientific Name- *Passer domesticus***
- **Conservation Status- *Least Concern* on the Red List of The [International Union for Conservation of Nature \(IUCN\)](#).**
- **Habitat and Distribution:**
 - The house sparrow is widespread across the world, inhabiting every continent, **except Antarctica, China and Japan**. It is **native to Eurasia and North Africa**.
 - It is the **State bird of Bihar and Delhi**.
 - It is known to **stay close to human habitations**, and is therefore among the most commonly found bird species in urban cities.
- Some of the **causes for decline in its population** are as follow:
 - Unfriendly architecture of our homes.
 - The use of chemical fertilisers in crops.
 - Noise pollution.

- Exhaust fumes from vehicles.

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