



Landslide in Dharchula

Why in News?

Recently, A severe [landslide](#) has completely **blocked the road to Dharchula in Pithoragarh district** of Uttarakhand.

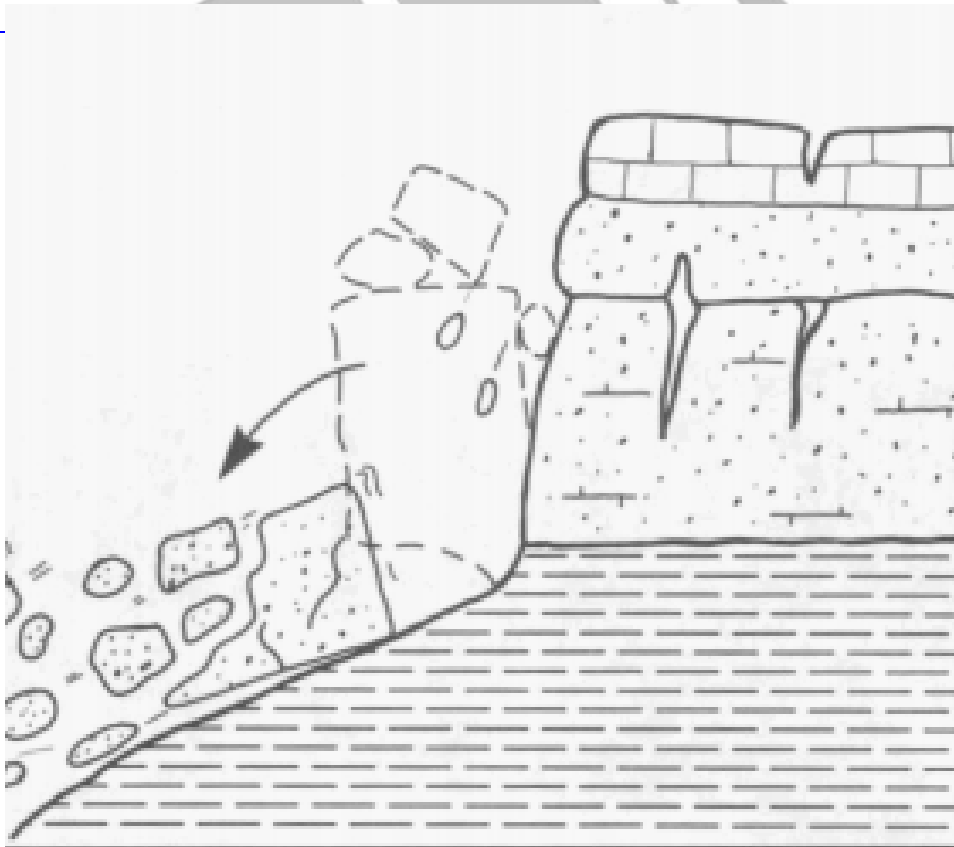
- Due to [heavy rain](#), six highways and 96 roads are closed in Uttarakhand. Landslides have blocked 47 rural roads.

Key Points

- **Heavy rainfall causes landslides and [accidents](#)**, posing a significant challenge for Uttarakhand every monsoon.
 - In 2023, nearly 100 people died and many went missing from June to September.
- The CM Pushkar Dhami called for a **safety audit of all transformers during the [monsoon](#)** and urged for **rapid development of industrial institutions in the state to boost power generation**.

Landslide

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- A [landslide](#) is defined as the **movement of a mass of rock, debris, or earth down a slope.**
- They are a **type of mass wasting**, which denotes any downward movement of soil and rock under the direct influence of gravity.
- The term landslide encompasses **five modes of slope movement: falls, topples, slides, spreads, and flows.**
- **Causes:**
 - Slope movement occurs **when forces acting downward** (mainly due to gravity) exceed the strength of the earth materials that compose the slope.
 - Landslides are caused due to three major factors: [geology](#), [morphology](#), and **human activity.**
 - **Geology** refers to characteristics of the material. The earth or rock might be weak or fractured, or different layers may have **different strengths and stiffness.**
 - **Morphology refers to the structure** of the land. For example, slopes that lose their vegetation to fire or drought are more vulnerable to landslides.
 - Vegetation holds soil in place, and without the root systems of trees, bushes, and other plants, the land is more likely to slide away.
 - **Human activity** which includes agriculture and construction increases the risk of a landslide.
- **Landslide-Prone Areas:**
 - The entire [Himalayan](#) tract, hills/mountains in [sub-Himalayan terrains](#) of **North-east India**, [Western Ghats](#), the [Nilgiris](#) in **Tamil Nadu Konkan areas** are landslide-prone.

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