



Rescue of Climbers at Chaukhamba III | Uttarakhand | 08 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, two foreign climbers, **Michelle Theresa Dvorak (USA)** and **Fay Jane Manners (UK)**, were rescued from **6,015 meters** height near the [Chaukhamba III peak](#) in Uttarakhand's [Chamoli district](#).

Key Points

- **Chaukhamba:**
 - It is a mountain massif in the [Gangotri Group of the Garhwal Himalayas](#), Uttarakhand, India, located west of [Badrinath](#). It features four summits along a northeast-southwest ridge:
 - Chaukhamba I: 7,138 m (23,419 ft)
 - Chaukhamba II: 7,070 m (23,196 ft)
 - Chaukhamba III: 6,995 m (22,949 ft)
 - Chaukhamba IV: 6,854 m (22,487 ft)
- The mountain lies at the head of the Gangotri Glacier, forming the eastern anchor of the group, with the highest peak, [Chaukhamba I](#), being the tallest in the [Gangotri range](#).



Chamoli District

- Chamoli is a district in Uttarakhand, India, with its administrative headquarters located in **Gopeshwar**.
 - It is bounded by **Tibet in the north** and several Uttarakhand districts, including

Pithoragarh, Bageshwar, Almora, Pauri Garhwal, Rudraprayag, and Uttarkashi.

- Chamoli is renowned for several **religious and tourist destinations**, such as [Badrinath](#), **Hemkund Sahib**, and the [Valley of Flowers](#).
- Historically, Chamoli holds significance as the birthplace of the [Chipko movement](#), a pioneering environmental campaign.

Gangotri Glacier

- Gangotri Glacier is situated in the **Uttarkashi District of Uttarakhand**.
- The **Gangotri glacier** originates at the northern slope of **Chaukhamba range of peaks** in Garhwal Himalayas. It is about **30 km long and 0.5 to 2.5 km wide**.
- Gangotri is not a single valley glacier, but a combination of several other glaciers. This glacier comprises three main tributaries, namely **Raktavaran (15.90 km)**, **Chaturangi (22.45 km)** and **Kirti (11.05 km)** and **more than 18 other tributary glaciers**.
- The **Bhagirathi**, one of the main tributaries of the Ganga, originates from the **gangotri glacier**. The Ganges has five headstreams the **Bhagirathi, the Alaknanda, the Mandakini, the Dhauliganga, and the Pindar** all rise in the mountainous region of northern Uttarakhand.

"Peacock Spotted at 6,500 Feet in Uttarakhand" | Uttarakhand | 08 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, [peacocks](#) were sighted at an unusual altitude of **6,500 feet** in Uttarakhand's [Bageshwar district](#), indicating [ecological changes](#) due to increased human activity.

Key Points

- The peacock, normally seen at **1,600 feet**, was spotted in the **Kafligair** (April) and **Kathayatbara** (October) forest ranges.
- Experts believe **warmer conditions** at higher altitudes, influenced by human expansion, may explain the bird's **altitudinal migration**.
- Experts from [Wildlife Institute of India \(WII\)](#) suggest it may be a **seasonal shift**, as cooler winter temperatures could prompt the bird to retreat.

Peacock



- The collective name for peacocks is peafowl. The male of the variety is called a peacock and the female peafowl is called a peahen.
 - The Indian peacock is also the **National Bird of India**.
 - Peafowl (*Pavo cristatus*) belongs to the **Phasianidae family**. They are among the largest of all birds that fly.
 - Phasianidae is the pheasant family, a bird family that includes among its members the jungle fowl (from which the domestic chicken is descended), partridge, peacock, pheasant, and quail.
 - The two most-recognizable species of peafowl are:
 - **The blue Peacock/ Indian Peacock found in India and Sri Lanka.**
 - **The green or Javanese peacock (*P. muticus*) found in Myanmar (Burma) to Java.**
- **Habitat:**
 - The Indian peafowl is a native of India and some parts of **Pakistan and Sri Lanka**.
 - The **species are currently habituated more in central Kerala**, followed by southeast and northwest parts of the state.
 - **At least 19% of the states' area is suitable habitat for this species and this may increase by 40-50% by 2050.**
 - They are well adapted to living in forest edges and cultivated areas.

Green Nod for Hydro Project in Uttarakhand | Uttarakhand | 08 Oct 2024

Why in News?

Recently, a fresh approval for the [Phata Byung Hydropower Project](#) in Uttarakhand hinges on environmental, forest, and wildlife clearances.

Key Points

- Project:
- It is a 76 MW run-of-the-river project on the [Mandakini River](#) in [Rudraprayag](#).
- The project was extensively damaged during the 2013 floods caused by a [cloudburst](#).
- The [Environment, Forest and Climate Change Ministry](#) stressed **forest** and [National Board for Wildlife \(NBWL\)](#) clearances.
- **Concerns:**
 - [Glacial lake outburst floods](#) are a major concern.
 - There are **24 lakes** near the site and 6 are considered critical.

The Mandakini River

- It is a tributary of the [Alaknanda River](#) in **Uttarakhand**.
- The river runs for approximately 81 kilometers between the [Rudraprayag and Sonprayag](#) areas and emerges from the **Chorabari Glacier**.
- The [Mandakini merges with river Songanga at Sonprayag](#) and flows past the Madhyamaheshwar temple at Ukhimath.
- At the end of its course it drains into the **Alaknanda, which flows into the Ganges**.

Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)

- **About:**
 - A **glacial lake outburst flood (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 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 [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