



Climate Change Imprint in Uttarakhand

Why in News?

According to the experts, the [heavy rainfall](#) in **Uttarakhand** was **not a cloudburst**, but shows the **impact of climate change**, highlighting the [Indian Himalayas'](#) **lack of preparedness for such intense rainfall**.

Key Points

- The districts of Rudraprayag, Dehradun, Pauri and Tehri Garhwal reported damage to life and property due to heavy rainfall.
- According to the [Indian Meteorological Department \(IMD\)](#) meteorologist, a '**cloudburst**' is **defined as more than 100 mm of rainfall in one hour**.
 - In this case, there was no cloudburst in Kedarnath, but Nainital and Dehradun recorded over 50 mm in one hour, and Sonprayag received more than 30 mm of rain in an hour.
- The **sensitive geomorphological conditions** of high mountain areas make even **less rainfall cause more damage**.
 - [Landslides](#) occur due to steep slopes, land shape, and soil nature, leading to extensive damage.
- The **geologically-young Himalayan range** is **not built for heavy rainfall**, and the **intensity of both heat and rain is increasing** in the mountains **due to climate change**.

Landslide

- 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**.

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