



Avalanche Hits Gandhi Sarovar

Why in News?

Recently, a massive [avalanche](#) hit the **Gandhi Sarovar** located four kilometres above the [Kedarnath Dham](#).

- It occurred near the [Chorabari glacier](#) that **fell into the valley** but there was no loss of life or property.

Key points

- The avalanche occurred in the **upper region of the Gandhi Sarovar in [Chorabari glacier](#)**, below the snow-covered [Meru-Sumeru mountain](#) range located at the upper end of Kedarnath valley.
- In 2022, three avalanches hit the area in the months of September and October.
 - Five such incidents of avalanches were reported in the Chorabari glacier in May and June 2023.
- Following this, scientists from the **Indian Institute of Remote Sensing** and the [Wadia Institute](#) took stock of the entire situation by **conducting terrestrial and aerial surveys of the area**.
- The team of scientists **described these incidents as “normal”** in the Himalayan region, but they emphasised on **improving security in the Kedarnath Dham area**.

Chorabari Glacier

- Also known as the Chorabari Bamak Glacier lies in the [Garhwal Himalayan region of Uttarakhand](#).
- The [Mandakini River](#) emerges from the Chorabari Glacier.

Avalanche

- An avalanche is a sudden, rapid flow of **snow, ice, and debris down** a mountain or slope.
- It can be triggered by various factors such as heavy snowfall, rapid temperature changes, or human activity.
- Many regions that are prone to avalanches **have specialized teams that monitor and control avalanche risks** by using various methods such as explosives, snow barriers, and other safety measures.

Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG)

- The Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology is an **autonomous research Institute of the Department of Science & Technology**.
- **Established in June, 1968** as a small nucleus in two rooms of the Botany Department, Delhi University, the Institute was shifted to DehraDun during April, 1976.

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