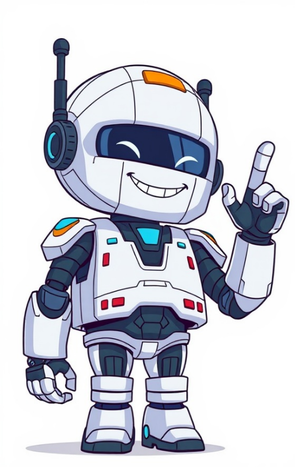
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Geography & Travel States & Other Subdivisions Formerly: Uttaranchal Where is Uttarakhand located in India? When was Uttarakhand established as a separate state? What are some major geographical features of Uttarakhand? Why is Uttarakhand known as the 'Land of the Gods'? What are the main economic activities in Uttarakhand? What are some traditional festivals celebrated in Uttarakhand? What types of wildlife can be found in Uttarakhand's national parks? How is education structured in Uttarakhand compared to other Indian states? Uttarakhand, state of India, located in the northwestern part of the country. It is bordered to the northwest by the Indian state of Himachal Pradesh, to the northeast by the Tibet Autonomous Region of China, to the southeast by Nepal, and to the south and southwest by the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh. Its capital is the northwestern city of Dehra Dun.On November 9, 2000, the state of Uttaranchal—the 27th state of India—was carved out of Uttar Pradesh, and in January 2007 the new state changed its name to Uttarakhand, meaning “northern region,” which was the traditional name for the area. Area 19,739 square miles (51,125 square km). Pop. (2011) 10,116,752. Uttarakhand has a highly varied topography, with snow-covered peaks, glaciers, deep canyons, roaring streams, beautiful lakes, and a few patches of dusty plains in the south. Some of the highest mountains in the world are found in Uttarakhand. Most notably, these include Nanda Devi (25,646 feet [7,817 meters]), which is the second highest peak in India, Kamet (25,446 feet [7,756 meters]), and Badrinath (23,420 feet [7,138 meters]). Uttarakhand can be divided into several physiographic zones, all running parallel to each other from northwest to southeast. The northern zone, popularly known as the Himadri, contains segments of the Zanskar and the Great Himalaya ranges, with elevations ranging roughly from 10,000 to 25,000 feet (3,000 to 7,600 meters). Most of the major peaks are located in this zone. Adjacent to and south of the Great Himalayas is a zone containing the Lesser Himalayas, known popularly as the Himachal, with elevations between about 6,500 and 10,000 feet (2,000 to 3,000 meters); the zone has two linear ranges—the Mussoorie and the Nag Tibba. To the south of the Himachal is a stretch of the Siwalik Range. The entire area containing the Himadri, the Himachal, and the Siwaliks is broadly known as the Kumaun Himalayas. The southern edge of the Siwalik Range merges with a narrow bed of gravel and alluvium known as the Bhabar, which interfaces to the southeast with the marshy terrain known as the Tarai. The combined Siwalik-Bhabar-Tarai area ranges in elevation from 1,000 to 10,000 feet (300 to 3,000 meters). South of the Siwaliks are found flat-floored depressions, known locally as duns, such as the Dehra Dun. The state is drained by various rivers of the Ganges (Ganga) system. The westernmost watershed is formed by the Yamuna River and its major tributary, the Tons. The land to the east of this basin is drained by the Bhagirathi and the Alaknanda—which join to form the Ganges at the town of Devaprayag—and the Mandakini, Pindar, and Dhauliganga, all principal tributaries of the Alaknanda. To the east again are the southward-flowing Ramganga and Kosi rivers, and draining to the southeast in the same region are the Sarju and Goriganga, both of which join the Kali at Uttarakhand’s eastern border with Nepal. Uttarakhand has various types of soil, all of which are susceptible to soil erosion. In the north, the soil ranges from gravel (debris from glaciers) to stiff clay. Brown forest soil—often shallow, gravelly, and rich in organic content—is found farther to the south. The Bhabar area is characterized by soils that are coarse-textured, sandy to gravelly, highly porous, and largely infertile. In the extreme southeastern part of the state, the Tarai soils are mostly rich, clayey loams, mixed to varying degrees with fine sand and humus; they are well suited to the cultivation of rice and sugarcane. The climate of Uttarakhand is temperate, marked by seasonal variations in temperature but also affected by tropical monsoons. January is the coldest month, with daily high temperatures averaging below freezing in the north and near 70 °F (21 °C) in the southeast. In the north, July is the hottest month, with temperatures typically rising from the mid-40s F (about 7 °C) to about 70 °F daily. In the southeast, May is the warmest month, with daily temperatures normally reaching the low 100s F (about 38 °C) from a low around 80 °F (27 °C). Most of the state’s roughly 60 inches (1,500 mm) of annual precipitation is brought by the southwest monsoon, which blows from July through September. Floods and landslides are problems during the rainy season in the lower stretches of the valleys. In the northern parts of the state, 10 to 15 feet (3 to 5 meters) of snowfall is common between December and March. Four major forest types are found in the Uttarakhand, including alpine meadows in the extreme north, temperate forests in the Great Himalayas, tropical deciduous forests in the Lesser Himalayas, and thorn forests in the Siwalik Range and in parts of the Tarai. According to official statistics, more than 60 percent of Uttarakhand is under forest cover; in actuality, however, the coverage is much less. The forests provide not only timber and fuel wood but also extensive grazing land for livestock. Only a small portion of the state’s total land area has permanent pastures. Common tree species of the temperate forests include Himalayan cedar (Deodar cedar), Himalayan (blue) pine, oak, silver fir, spruce, chestnut, elm, poplar, birch, yew, cypress, and rhododendron. Tropical deciduous forests of sal, teak, and shisham—all hardwoods—occur in the submontane tract. Thorn forests of dhak (a type of flowering tree), babul (a type of acacia), and various bushes occur in the south. Uttarakhand has a rich array of animal life. Tigers, leopards, elephants, wild boars, and sloth bears are among the state’s large mammals. Common birds include pigeons, doves, ducks, partridges, peacocks, jays, quail, and woodpeckers. Crocodiles are found in some areas. Lions and rhinoceroses have become extinct in the region. A number of national parks and sanctuaries have been established to preserve Uttarakhand’s wildlife. Location Flag Quick Facts Capital Dehradun(capital) Government Indian State Currency Indian rupee (INR) Area 53,484 km2 Population 10,116,752(2011 est.) Language Official:Hindi, SanskritRegionally Spoken:Garhwali, Kumaoni, Jaunsari Religion Hinduism 85%, Islam 11.9%, Sikhism 2.9%, Other 0.6% Electricity 230V/50Hz, Indian (Old British)/European plugs Time Zone UTC +5:30 Uttarakhand (Hindi: □□□□□□□□□□) [1], until 2007 known as Uttaranchal, is a stunningly beautiful state in the Himalayan North of India. It is broken up into a western part, named "Garhwal", and an eastern part named "Kumaon". Regions[edit] Two main regions of Uttarakhand are : Each region has its own distinct culture and language. Cities[edit] Trayambakeshwar Temple, Lakshman Jhula. Meadows & Clouds at Chopta. Camps at Har Ki Dun Valley,Uttarkashi. Highest Shiva Temple,Tungnath/Chopta, built by Pandavs/Adi Shankaracharya. Pauri at dawn, Himalayas as the last upper ridge in the background. Dunagiri. Experience Serenity, Divinity, Eternity. Himalayas near Ukhimath,Rudraprayag. Kedarnath & Neelkanth peaks from Ukhimath, Rudraprayag. Chamba Town & Valley, near Mussoorie. Dehradun - the capital, nicknamed the "Oxford of India", known for boarding schools. Important government agencies like the Indian Military Academy, Survey of India and ONGC are headquartered here. Forest Research Institute, Rajaji National Park & lots of other beautiful picnic places and many government/ educational Institutions can also be found. Almora - a hill station, cultural town. Chamba - near Mussoorie, provides a great view of Chamba Valley and the Bhagirathi River (the Ganga). It's a paradise for nature lovers, as it's surrounded by Alpine forests. Its proximity to Dehradun, Rishikesh and Tehri Dam is a great benefit as traveling to Chamba is easier than to other towns. Haridwar - a holy city on the Ganges and one of the sites of Kumbh Mela, the world's largest festival Mukteshwar, hill station famous for orchards Mussoorie - hill station, also known as 'The Queen of Hills'. It provides panoramic views of both the Himalayas and Doon Valley. Nainital - a popular hill station in the Himalayas; excellent connectivity and bird's-eye view from hills all around; easy access to the Lake District. Pithoragarh, hill station, en route Kailash-Mansarovar Rishikesh - the Yoga capital of the world, the biggest agglomeration of ashrams, meditation centers and temples. Other destinations[edit] Understand[edit] Uttarakhand, in the Himalayan region, is one of the most picturesque states of the country and has in store several tourist destinations that range from hill stations to popular towns to pilgrim destinations. Talk[edit] The local languages are Kumaoni and Garhwali, but everyone also speaks Hindi, except in remote villages in north and eastern Kumaon. English is not so common, but well-understood and spoken, especially in Garhwal. Get in[edit] Kumaon[edit] If you are interested in visiting the Kumauni regions you can either take a direct train from Delhi to Kathgodam or come by air from Delhi to Pantnagar. From these places you will have to go around by taxi or bus due to the fact that the hill regions do not have any other forms of transportation. Nainital is very close to both of these stations and would be a good first place to visit. If you are interested in seeing the extreme areas of the Himalaya and in knowing local people, then you can go to Munshyari via Chokori. Garhwal[edit] You can enter the Garhwal region directly using planes via Haridwar and Dehradun. People usually opt for Dehradun due to its accessibility to nearby regions. Another popular form of travel is by car/taxi/bus. Such vehicles usually enter through Haridwar, and continue to Dehradun. A railway line that connects Dehradun with Haridwar forms a junction near Laksar, providing direct access to cities like Roorkee and Saharanpur. Get around[edit] See[edit] Nainital, Mussoorie and Ranikhet Uttarkashi though it's better to treat these slightly overcrowded only in summers, touristy 'hill stations' as base camps to explore lots of other hidden jewels further afield. There are some peaceful places you might want to visit in Kumaun which are Chokori, Berinag, Munsyari. Although these places are a little far and you might not get better facilities but they are worth visiting and the local people are amazing. In Garhwal, Pauri and Gwaldam there are very peaceful & scenic places. In the Kumaon region if you are near Almora and want to stay in a secluded area, try Peora or Mukteshwar. Dunagiri in Almora district is a stunningly beautiful area off the beaten track. But do remember in Uttarakhand the journey itself is destination. Bhowali: 11kms, from Nainital, at an altitude of 1706 meters, it provides a panoramic view of nature. This place is famous for its panoramic view as well as hill fruit mart, which was established in 1912. Dunagiri: Few places are left where we can enjoy nature experiences in such pristine, tranquil and calm environment amidst ancient forests. A spot of stunning natural splendor, being one with nature is easy to do at Dunagiri Nature Retreat. Its greatness lies not merely in its fascinating history and captivating beauty, but also the serene and spiritual atmosphere of this place. Known by various names such as Drongiri, Dronagiri and Doonagiri. Kuflon: Quietly nestled in the heart of the Garhwal Himalayas, half an hour from Uttarkashi, Kuflon is a postcard village with a population of less than 30 people, set amid pristine terraced valleys. A place to get away from civilization (literally for there is little phone connectivity and no shops here), enjoy the grandeur of the snow-capped Himalayas and the warm hospitality of the locals. Kuflon Mountain Homestay, perched on the edge of the village and run by a friendly couple, offers unexpected indulgence and comforts at this altitude. Rajaji National Park: Rajaji National park always attracts to wildlife enthusiasts and nature lovers. This place is located around 208km from Delhi and around 9 km from Haridwar. This park remains open from November to June for the tourists. The tourists can book a jungle-safari from Different Places Like Rishikesh. Badrinath Temple: This beautiful temple is located near to Alaknanda River, at an altitude of 3133 meters above from the sea level. This temple is dedicated to the Lord Vishnu. Dehradun: Dehradun is the capital city of the Uttaranchal state. This is one of the oldest cities of India, located in mountain range of Himalayan. This city is also termed as the “Oxford of India”, as it is best known educational centres of India. Do[edit] Uttarakhand is a great place for trekking. At the lower levels, there are forests and wildlife. At the upper reaches, you go past the tree line to snow-clad mountains. There are many trip designs that can be conceived of, but there are perhaps around 20 trips that are the most popular. See also: Leave-no-trace camping and Wilderness backpacking Roopkund/The Mystery Lake - Bedni Bugyal, Chamoli District - one of the most popular treks. Roopkund, also known as Mystery Lake, is a clear water Himalayan lake. Roopkund starts from Debal. This beautiful lake is surrounded by majestic Himalayan peaks covered with snow and glaciers. Panwali Bugyal Trek, Tehri District - it leads to Triguninarayan, a place where the eternal flame of Shiva's and Sati's (Parvati's previous incarnation) marriage is still kindling. Gangotri Glacier Trek - Tapovan (meditation ground of Gods), Gaumukh (source of Ganga) and Shivling Mountain Satopanth Swargarohini Trek - near Badrinath, one of the most pristine treks. Satopanth Tal is a lake at an altitude of 4600m. Pindari glacier trip Chandrashila Trek, Chopta - Chandrashila commands the most beautiful view of the Himalayas in the whole region, especially Chaukhamba and Nanda Devi. There's one of the Panch Kedars - Tungnath's temple - the highest temple of Shiva Madmaheshwar Trek, near Ukhimath, Rudraprayag - one of the most beautiful treks leading to a Panch Kedar, it's at the base of Chaukhamba Peak (7300 m/23,950 ft). Kuari Pass Trek - near Auli, quite popular with foreign tourists Khatling Glacier, near Gangotri Valley of Flowers Trek, Valley of Flowers is a fairy-land situated high in the Himalayas of the Uttarakhand, at an altitude of 3,600 meters above the sea-level, protected by snowy mountains. Near Badrinath - the most beautiful valley Har ki doon[2] - very scenic trek, near to Swargrohini peak, from where Pandavas went to the heaven. Trekking and Jungle safari inside Nanda Devi Sanctuary Sunder dhunga trek Thailisan - Binsar Trek in Pauri, an uplifting trek, providing a panoramic view of Himalayas Milam glacier trek Kafni glacier trek Kalindni Pass Trek - Gangotri to Badrinath - a lifetime dream for many an adventurer. Deoriatal Trek - Deoriatal Trek is one of the famous trekking destinations in Uttarakhand. One can drive up to the Sari village near Ukhimath, from where it is a short 4 km walk to the lake. Trekking can be done for the entire year in Deoriatal. Nag Tibba Trek (Nag Tibba Trek), ☎ +917902130130 (). There are many destinations for trekking in Uttarakhand but Nag Tibba is a special one. Nag Tibba is a relatively easy trek near Mussoorie with a maximum altitude of 9910 ft. This trek lies in the Garhwal region of the mighty Himalayas. It is considered as a weekend getaway trek as it is short and best suited for people with limited time. Deoriatal Trek (Deoriatal Trek), ☎ +909760923032,. Best setting for a winter trek with some amazing views of the mountain peaks and pine and maple trees in the surroundings and hiking on snow covered trails Reputable tourism Provoders Near Deoriatal are Forest eco Resort , Chopta Meadows Heritage Camps , Pebble hills KedarkanthaTrek. Kedarkantha is a mountain peak of the Himalayas in Uttarakhand, India. Its elevation is 12,500 ft (3,800 m). Kedarkantha is located within Govind Wildlife Sanctuary in the Uttarkashi district. The climb to the peak of Kedarkantha starts from a small village called Sankri. There are a total of 13 peaks of the Himalayan range visible from the Kedarkantha peak. There is a lake called Juda-ka-Talab, the locals say that once upon a time Lord Shiva meditated at Kedarkantha. Its name implies so from the droplet fallen from Shiva's hair to form this lake named as Juda-ka-Talab. It usually takes 4 days to complete the climb of the Kedarkantha peak. For Kedarkantha Trek, one has to reach the quaint village of Sankri which is located 200 km from Dehradun. So, Dehradun, which is at a distance of 248 km from Delhi, is the rendezvous point. Once you reach Sankri, you can start your trek to Kedarkantha, mostly done the next day morning. The locals tell various tales about Lord Shiva’s attachment to Kedarkantha. Legend has it that Lord Shiva sat on the top of Kedarkantha for meditation but due to disturbances from the local villages in the vicinity, ended up evading it and moved to Kedarnath instead. There is a small shrine at the top of Kedarkantha dedicated to Lord Shiva to add life to this tale. Uttarakhand is also a great place to learn yoga of all forms of (as it also encompasses Rishikesh, the world capital of yoga). There are many yoga schools in Rishikesh that offer yoga teacher training certification as a part of a 200-hour program. These programs typically last a month and include room and board, food, and days filled with instruction on the various aspects of yoga. Reputable schools in the Rishikesh area include Vinyasa Yoga School , Ved Niketan Ashram Gyan Gang Yogpeeth Eat[edit] Kumaoni food is very simple but very nutritious completely suits the hard environment of the Himalayas. Pulses like gehet are fashioned into different preparations like ras-bhaat, chains, faanda and thatwaani. All are unique preparations from the same pulse. Jholi or curry seasoned with curd. Bal Mithai is a brown chocolate-like fudge, made with roasted khoya, coated with white sugar balls. Dubka is a simple dish made from various lentils. These are grounded and a curry like dish is prepared from the grounded lentils and made with a few local spices available in the Kumaon hills like jamboo and jakhiya. Its usually made in an iron wok and eaten with rice. Chains is a preparation of whole urad which are first roasted then ground and then seasoned into a soup. Kaap is a dish prepared with spinach leaves crushed into a paste and cooked with other condiments. Jhoi is a curry seasoned with curd and curry leaves. Bhatt ki Churkani is a soup like preparation of bhatt pulses eaten with rice. Saag is a fried dish of green vegetables. It can be made from any of the various green vegetables like palak (spinach), lai, methi and so on. Aaloo gutuk and Pinalu Gutuk are fried potatoes or pinalu seasoned with spices. Kafuli is a delicious type of dish which can also be referred as Spinach Curry. Here, Spinach and Fenugreek leaves are cooked till soft and blitzed to form a smooth paste and then cooked along with Indian spice and thickened with rice flour. Food available includes Garhwali, Indian, Chinese, Tibetan In the tourists centers such as Badrinath, Gujarati, Marwari, other regional cuisines are available for the religious pilgrims that descend on the holy sites every summer. Drink[edit] The drinking age in Uttarakhand is 21. Uttarakhand has high excise taxes on beer and alcohol: a bottle of beer can cost 80-90 rupees, nearly double the price of some other states in India. Quite a few holy towns including Haridwar and Rishikesh are officially dry. Cannabis is illegal, but widely used anyway, especially in Kumaon. Stay safe[edit] The roads are a bit tricky, and taxi rides in the hills may appear dangerous, but otherwise Uttarakhand is a pretty safe place for tourists. However, tourists are known to encounter problems in the urban centers and the plains districts such as Haridwar. Get out[edit] One may take up one of the trekking tours to have a walk in Chopta, Tungnath, Deoria Taal and Chandrashila. Such tours are fun-packed trekking packages for Chopta, Tungnath, Chandrasheela and Deoria Tal by Travel Tour Packages. Visit very spectacular destinations with a crystal clear view of the Himalayan range. Indulge in the beauty of mirror-like reflections of Himalaya from Deoria Tal. Feel the sound of Himalayan mountains at 4000 ft high Chandrashila. Enjoy the warmth of Tungnath temple on way back to Chopta. Or, simply dive in the natural garden of Buransh - a destination considered to be the Switzerland of India. The package includes a night stay in Swiss tents, awesome Himalayan food, photography sessions and support of professional mountaineers. The package is ideal for a group of friends looking out for fun-packed adventurous, exploratory trekking trips. Whitewater rafting on the Ganges can be an exciting experience. Apart from the Ganges, Tons River and Kali River are also good for rafting. There are several other rivers in Uttarakhand. There are a lot of operators offering rafting day trips on the Ganges at Rishikesh. WikiPedia:Uttarakhand World66:asia/southasia/india/uttaranchal Archaeological evidence supports the existence of humans in the region since prehistoric times.[28] Though initially, it was believed that due to harsh climate and mountainous terrain, this was a barren and uninhabited land. But after various excavations and the study of ancient literature, it is now established that the history of Uttarakhand goes back to Stone Age.[29] Evidences of Stone Age settlements have been found in various parts of Kumaon and Garhwal, particularly notable are the rock shelters at Lakhudyar, Almora.[30] Stone age paintings at Lakhudiyar Caves, Almora The region formed a part of the Uttarakuru Kingdom during the Vedic age of Ancient India. Among the first major dynasties of Kumaon were the Kunindas in the second century BCE who practised an early form of Shaivism. Ashokan edicts at Kalsi show the early presence of Buddhism in this region. Ancient rock paintings, rock shelters, paleolithic age stone tools (hundreds of thousands of years old), and megaliths provide evidence that the mountains of the region have been inhabited since prehistoric times. There are also archaeological remains that show the existence of early Vedic (c. 1500 BCE) practices in the area.[31] The Pauravas, Khasas, Kiratas, Nandas, Mauryas, Kushanas, Kunindas, Guptas, Karkotas, Palas, Gurjara-Pratiharas, Katyuris, Raikas, Chands, Parmars or Panwars, Mallas, Shahs and the British have ruled Uttarakhand in turns.[27] Among the first major dynasties of Garhwal and Kumaon were the Kunindas in the second century BCE who practised an early form of Shaivism and traded salt with Western Tibet. It is evident from the Ashokan edict at Kalsi in Western Garhwal that Buddhism made inroads in this region. Shamanic Hindu practices deviating from Hindu orthodoxy also persisted here. However, Garhwal and Kumaon were restored to nominal Vedic Hindu rule due to the travels of Shankaracharya and the arrival of migrants from the plains.[citation needed] Katarmal Sun Temple constructed by the Katyuri Kings in the 9th century CEJageshwar Temples Complex are a group of over 100 Hindu temples dated between 7th and 12th century. Between the 4th and 14th centuries, the Katyuri dynasty dominated lands of varying extents from the Katyur valley (modern-day Baijnath) in Kumaon. The historically significant temples at Jageshwar are believed to have been built by the Katyuris and later remodelled by the Chands. Other peoples of the Tibeto-Burman group known as Kirata are thought to have settled in the northern highlands as well as in pockets throughout the region, and are believed to be ancestors of the modern day Bhotiya, Raji, Jad, and Banrawat people.[32] During the medieval period, the region was consolidated under the Katyuri rulers of Kumaon also known as 'Kurmanchal Kingdom'.[33] After the fall of Katyuris, the region was divided into the Kumaon Kingdom and the Garhwal Kingdom. By the medieval period, the region was consolidated under the Garhwal Kingdom in the west and the Kumaon Kingdom in the east. During this period, learning and new forms of painting (the Pahari school of art) developed.[34] Modern-day Garhwal was likewise unified under the rule of Parmars who, along with many other Rajputs and Brahmins, also arrived from the plains.[35] In 1791, the expanding Gorkha Empire of Nepal overran Almora, the seat of the Kumaon Kingdom. It was annexed to the Kingdom of Nepal by Amar Singh Thapa. In 1803, the Garhwal Kingdom also fell to the Gurkhas. After the Anglo-Nepalese War, this region was ceded to the British as part of the Treaty of Sugauli and the erstwhile Kumaon Kingdom along with the eastern region of Garhwal Kingdom was merged with the Ceded and Conquered Provinces. In 1816, the Garhwal Kingdom was re-established from a smaller region in Tehri as a princely state. Rang Mahal Landhaura Khubar Gurjar In the southern part of Uttarakhand in Haridwar district (earlier part of Saharanpur till 1988) the dominance and kingship (rajya) was exercises by Gurjars, the area was under control of Parmar (Panwar or Khubars) chief in eastern Saharanpur including Haridwar in kingship of Raja Sabha Chandra of Jabarhera (Jhabrera). Gurjar of the Khubar (Panwar) gotra held more than 500 villages there in upper Doab, and that situation was confirmed in 1759 in a grant by a Rohilla governor of 505 villages and 31 hamlets to one Manohar Singh Gurjar (written in some records as Raja Nahar Singh son of Sabha Chandra). In 1792 Ram Dayal and his son Sawai Singh were ruling the area but due to some family reasons Ramdayal left Jhabrera and went to Landhaura village, now some villages were under the control of Raja Ramdayal Singh at Landhaura, and some under his son Sawai Singh at Jhabrera. Hence, there were two branches of Jhabrera State (riyasat) main branch at Jhabrera and the second one at Landhaura, both father and son were ruling simultaneously without any conflicts till the death of Raja Sawai Singh of Jabarhera in 1803. After the death of Sawai Singh total control of powers transferred to Ram Dayal Singh at Landhaura, but some villages were given to descendants of Sawai Singh and her widow to collect revenue.[36][37] By 1803 the Landhaura villages numbered 794 under Raja Ram Dayal Singh. Raja Ram Dayal Singh died on 29 March 1813.[38] These holdings, at least those in the original grant made by the Rohilla governor, were initially recognised by the British in land settlements concluded with Ram Dayal and his heirs. As the years passed, more and more settlements appear to have been made with the village communities, however, and by 1850 little remained of the once vast estate of the Landhaura Khübars.[39] There are many temples and Ghats on Ganga built by Rajas of Landhaura estate of gujars therefore they also famous as ' Haridwari Rajas' in folk history and literature. Famous Dakshamahadev Temple at Kankhal was built by Queen DhanKaur of Landhaura in 1810 A.D.[40] Ram Mahal Timli estate Choker Gurjar Next the Timli estate Founded in Dehradun mid-15th century by Chaudhari Ram Singh, a member of the Chokar family of Hindu Gurjars, the estate remained under the rule of this dynasty until its eventual annexation.[37][41] In 1548, two prominent Chokar gotra Goojur (Gurjar)chieftains, Pohda Singh and Lal Karan, from the Titron region in Saharanpur district, crossed the Sivalik hills, conquered the entire Dehradun area, and established the Timli estate. They also founded a town named Timli Chaudhari Bhagwan Singh have power of magistrate.[42][43][44] Raja Ranjit Singh Khatana of Samthar state, born in 1943, was married at a young age to a princess from the Chokar Gurjar family, which ruled in Timli estate in Dehradun.[45][46] Uttarakhand as a part of the Ceded and Conquered Provinces After India attained independence from the British, the Garhwal Kingdom was merged into the state of Uttar Pradesh, where Uttarakhand composed the Garhwal and Kumaon Divisions.[47] Until 1998, Uttarakhand was the name most commonly used to refer to the region, as various political groups, including the Uttarakhand Kranti Dal (Uttarakhand Revolutionary Party), began agitating for separate statehood under its banner. Although the erstwhile hill kingdoms of Garhwal and Kumaon were traditional rivals the inseparable and complementary nature of their geography, economy, culture, language, and traditions created strong bonds between the two regions.[48] These bonds formed the basis of the new political identity of Uttarakhand, which gained significant momentum in 1994, when demand for separate statehood achieved almost unanimous acceptance among both the local populace and national political parties.[49] The most notable incident during this period was the Rampur Tiraha firing case on the night of 1 October 1994, which led to a public uproar.[50] On 24 September 1998, the Uttar Pradesh Legislative Assembly and Uttar Pradesh Legislative Council passed the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Bill, which began the process of forming a new state.[51] Two years later the Parliament of India passed the Uttar Pradesh Reorganisation Act, 2000 and thus, on 9 November 2000, Uttarakhand became the 27th state of the Republic of India.[52] Uttarakhand is also well known for the mass agitation of the 1970s that led to the formation of the Chipko environmental movement[53] and other social movements. Though primarily a livelihood movement rather than a forest conservation movement, it went on to become a rallying point for many future environmentalists, environmental protests, and movements the world over and created a precedent for non-violent protest.[54] It stirred up the existing civil society in India, which began to address the issues of tribal and marginalised people. So much so that, a quarter of a century later, India Today mentioned the people behind the "forest satyagraha" of the Chipko movement as among "100 people who shaped India".[55] One of Chipko's most salient features was the mass participation of female villagers.[56] It was largely female activists that played pivotal role in the movement. Gaura Devi was the leading activist who started this movement, other participants were Chandi Prasad Bhatt, Sunderlal Bahuguna, and Ghanshyam Raturi, the popular Chipko poet.[57] "header_font_family_name":"Jost","font_family_name":"Jost","font_family_link":"https:\/\/fonts.googleapis.com\/css2?family=Jost:ital,wght@0,100..900;1,100..500","font_family_format":"woff2","header_font_family_link":"https:\/\/fonts.googleapis.com\/css2?family=Jost:ital,wght@0,100..900;1,100..500","header_font_family_format":"woff2","default_font_size":"17","font_color":"#ff0000","map_color":"#c6466c","map_hover_color":"#eeeeee","status":1,"header_dark_mode":0,"footer_dark_mode":1,"created_at":"2024-12-31T01:21:00.000000Z","updated_at":"2025-08-05T11:47:32.000000Z"},"footer":{"hideCopyrightInformation":"true","hideVisitersCount":"true","hideSitemap":"true","hideDesignandCredits":"true","hideVisiterIPAddress":"false","hideSocialLinks":"true","hideAllFooterLogos":"true","copyright":"\u00a9 2025 Uttarakhand Toursim | All Rights Reserved","address":"Uttarakhand Tourism Development Board,\rPt. 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Uttarakhand is home to some of India's most beloved hill stations, each offering unique charm, natural beauty, and recreational opportunities. These destinations have been attracting visitors for over a century, initially serving as summer retreats during the British colonial period and evolving into year-round tourist destinations that cater to diverse interests and preferences. Mussoorie - The Queen of Hills Mussoorie, situated at an elevation of 1,880 meters, holds the distinguished title of "Queen of Hill Stations" and offers spectacular panoramic views of the Doon Valley and distant Himalayan peaks. The town's colonial architecture, pleasant climate, and scenic beauty make it one of India's most popular hill destinations. The famous Mall Road, lined with shops, restaurants, and colonial-era buildings, provides a perfect setting for leisurely walks and shopping for local handicrafts and souvenirs. Key attractions in Mussoorie include Kempty Falls, a spectacular waterfall that provides refreshing swimming opportunities during summer months; Gun Hill, the second-highest peak in Mussoorie offering 360-degree views of the surrounding mountains; and Lal Tibba, the highest point in Mussoorie providing clear views of snow-capped peaks including Kedarnath and Badrinath. The town also serves as a gateway to several trekking routes and offers cable car rides, boating, and other recreational activities. Nainital - The Lake District of India Nainital, built around the beautiful Naini Lake at an elevation of 2,084 meters, is often called the "Lake District of India" due to its numerous natural lakes and scenic beauty. The town's setting in a valley surrounded by mountains creates a perfect bowl-like formation that enhances its natural charm and provides a unique microclimate. The lake, considered sacred and associated with goddess Naina Devi, serves as the town's focal point and offers boating, fishing, and lakeside walks. The town features several viewpoints including Naina Peak (China Peak), the highest point in Nainital offering panoramic views of the Himalayan range; Snow View Point, accessible by cable car and providing excellent mountain vistas; and Tiffin Top (Dorothy's Seat), offering beautiful sunrise and sunset views. The town's Mall Road, lined with hotels, shops, and restaurants, provides excellent shopping opportunities for woolen garments, handicrafts, and local specialties. Almora - Cultural Heart of Kumaon Almora, perched on a horseshoe-shaped ridge at 1,638 meters, represents the cultural heart of the Kumaon region and offers an authentic experience of traditional hill culture. The town is famous for its rich cultural heritage, traditional architecture, and stunning 300-kilometer panoramic view of the Himalayan peaks. The narrow cobbled streets, traditional wooden houses with intricate carvings, and ancient temples create an atmosphere that transports visitors to a bygone era. Almora is renowned for its copper work, woolen textiles, and traditional sweets like Bal Mithai and Singauri. The town serves as a base for several treks and visits to nearby attractions including Kasar Devi, known for its spiritual energy and cosmic radiation; Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, offering excellent bird watching and mountain views; and Jageshwar, a complex of ancient temples dedicated to Lord Shiva. The town's slower pace of life and traditional culture provide a perfect retreat from urban stress and modern life pressures. Ranikhet - Peaceful Retreat Ranikhet, meaning "Queen's Meadow," is a serene hill station at 1,869 meters elevation, known for its peaceful atmosphere, golf course, and regimental centers. The town offers a perfect blend of natural beauty and military heritage, with well-maintained cantonments, clean streets, and spectacular mountain views. The Kumaon Regiment Museum provides insights into the military history of the region and the brave soldiers who have served the nation. The town's attractions include Chaubatia Gardens, famous for apple orchards and research in fruit cultivation; Bhalu Dam, offering boating and picnic opportunities; and Mankameshwar Temple, an ancient Shiva temple with architectural significance. Ranikhet's golf course, one of the highest in Asia, provides a unique golfing experience surrounded by pine forests and mountain vistas. The town's tranquil environment makes it an ideal destination for meditation, yoga retreats, and wellness tourism. Beyond the established hill stations, Uttarakhand offers numerous emerging destinations that provide off-the-beaten-path experiences for adventurous travelers. Places like Munsiyari, known as the "Little Kashmir," offer spectacular views of the Panchmuli peaks and serve as base camps for several high-altitude treks. Chopta, called the "Mini Switzerland of India," provides easy trekking opportunities to Tungnath temple and Chandrashila peak. Abbott Mount, a quiet hill station with colonial-era cottages and churches, offers a glimpse into British India's history and provides peaceful retreats away from crowded tourist areas. Kausani, Mahatma Gandhi's favorite hill station, offers 300-kilometer panoramic views of major Himalayan peaks and serves as an excellent base for nature walks and cultural experiences. These emerging destinations represent the future of sustainable tourism in Uttarakhand, offering authentic experiences while maintaining environmental integrity. Uttarakhand: The Land of Gods Uttarakhand, located in the northern part of India, is often referred to as the “Land of Gods” due to its rich spiritual heritage and numerous temples. The state is renowned for its breathtaking landscapes, encompassing the majestic Himalayan ranges, pristine rivers, lush valleys, and serene hill stations. It is a haven for nature lovers, adventure enthusiasts, and those seeking tranquility and spiritual solace. Geography and Natural Beauty: Uttarakhand is blessed with diverse geographical features, ranging from the snow-capped peaks of the Himalayas to the fertile plains of the Ganga and Yamuna rivers. The state is divided into two main regions: Garhwal and Kumaon, each offering unique landscapes and cultural experiences. The region is home to several prominent hill stations, such as Nainital, Mussoorie, and Almora, known for their scenic beauty, pleasant weather, and colonial-era charm. Spiritual Significance: Uttarakhand holds immense religious importance as it is the home to the Char Dham pilgrimage circuit, consisting of the temples at Yamunotri, Gangotri, Kedarnath, and Badrinath. These sites attract millions of pilgrims every year, especially during the holy months of May to October. The state is also dotted with numerous other sacred shrines and ashrams, including Haridwar and Rishikesh, which are renowned for their connection to Hindu spirituality and yoga. Adventure and Tourism: Uttarakhand is a paradise for adventure enthusiasts, offering activities like trekking, skiing, river rafting, and mountaineering. The Jim Corbett National Park,