

GENERAL INFORMATION ON THE STUDY AREA

Uttarakhand

India

**ADMINISTRATIVE REGION**

Uttarakhand

GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES

Latitude 28°43' N to 31°27' N
 Latitude 77°34' E to 81°02' E

CLIMATE

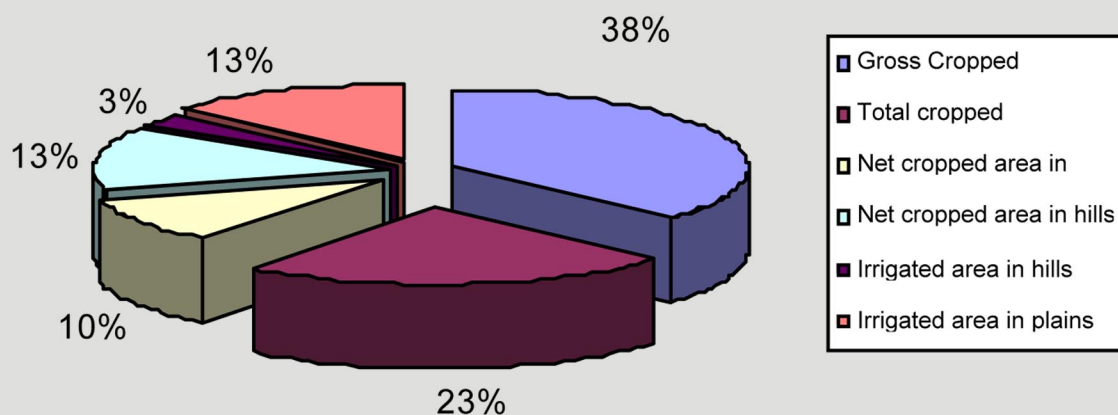
The climate of Uttarakhand is temperate, marked by the seasonal variations in temperature which is also affected by the tropical monsoons.

GEOLOGICAL AND HYDROGRAPHICAL CONTEXT

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 Ganga at Devprayag. Mandakini, Pindar, and Dhauliganga, all principal tributaries of the Alaknanda. To the east the southward-flowing Ramganga and Kosi rivers, and draining to the south-east in the same region are the Sarju and Goriganga, both joining the Kali at eastern border of the state with Nepal.

LAND USE

Australoid, Mongoloid, Europoid, Caucasian, and Negroid find representation among the people of India. India has more than two thousand ethnic groups, and every major religion is represented, as are four major families of languages (Indo-European, Dravidian, Austro-Asiatic and Tibeto-Burman languages) as well as two language isolates (the Nihali language spoken in parts of Maharashtra and the Burushaski language spoken in parts of Jammu and Kashmir).

**ETHNIC GROUPS**

Officially Uttarakhand is home to as many as five tribes which have been scheduled in the Constitution of India, more than four decades back in 1967.

Percentage of STs in Uttarakhand is just 3%. The intra-ST community wise population, in descending order, is the (i) Tharus (82,390), (ii) Jaunsaris (74,656), (iii) Buxas (57,995), (iv) Bhotia (40,407) and (v) Ban Rajis (680).

RELIGIONS

Hindus (92 %), Sikhs (2.5 %), Muslims (2.5 %), Christians (2 %), others including tribal (1.5 %).

LANGUAGES AND DIALECTS

Hindi is the states official language, whereas Garhwali and Kumaoni and other languages spoken by the majority of the people of the state. Other than this Jaunsari, Pahari Bhotia and Nepali are other dialects spoken by people of the state at few places.

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**SOCIO-ECONOMIC CONTEXT REGION**

Almost 75% of the total population of Uttarakhand State is dependent on the agriculture for their livelihood. Agriculture in the region is very complex especially when it is intricately mixed and blended with forests and forestry. Terraced slopes cover about 80% of the hill agriculture land, which is completely dependent on the rain, whereas remaining 20% of the area lies in the valleys and plains, which is fairly irrigated.

LOCAL AND INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS, CONVENTIONS AND ACTIVITIES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HERITAGE

The Antarctic Treaty (Washington, 1959) 402 UNTS 71. Convention on Wetlands of International Importance, Especially as Waterfowl Habitat (Ramsar, 1971). Convention Concerning the Protection of the World Cultural and Natural Heritage (Paris, 1972). Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Washington, 1973), Protocol of 1978 Relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973 (MARPOL) (London, 1978). Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (Bonn, 1979). Convention on the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (Canberra, 1980). United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (Montego Bay, 1982). Convention for the Protection of the Ozone Layer (Vienna, 1985). Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (Montreal, 1987). Amendments to the Montreal Protocol on Substances That Deplete the Ozone Layer (London, 1990). Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (Basel, 1989). United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Convention on Biological Diversity (Rio de Janeiro, 1992). Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa (Paris, 1994). International Tropical Timber Agreement (Geneva, 1994). Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctica Treaty (Madrid, 1991).