

## Uttaranchal or Uttarakhand in *Current Science*: let research find a solution

Uttarakhand is regarded as a leading sacred destination for pilgrims from India and around the world. However, the state has also maintained its unique culture, developmental needs and educational progress. A search was conducted in *Current Science* to find out the facts that are narrated by intellectuals from various research fields with special reference to Uttaranchal or Uttarakhand<sup>1</sup>. A total of 52 publications of all categories, having reference to 'Uttaranchal' or 'Uttarakhand' in their title were found. After creation of Uttarakhand as a small hill state on 9 November 2000, the first paper having Uttaranchal in title appeared in the issue of 25 May 2002, regarding the status and distribution of some commercially exploited medicinal and aromatic plants in a part of the western Himalaya. The latest article appeared in the 10 March 2014 issue regarding colonization of some *Lichens* over a synthetic medium. Possibly, these two articles are enough to indicate the potential and dynamics of vegetational wealth of Uttarakhand. Other useful studies about assessment of bacterial diversity in the Gangetic river system, bio-prospecting, cyanobacterial diversity in thermal springs, drought and flash floods, dynamics of oak forest, evaluation of groundwater resources, fortuitous changes in lifestyle-dependent return of biodiversity, genetic diversity of *Rhizobium*, identification of recharge area of springs for rainwater harvesting, impact of habitat enrichment on avian diversity, impacts of outreach programmes, impacts of river rafting, indications of neotectonic activities, land-

use and land-cover change in this region, lessons from Kedarnath disaster, phyto-diversity in different forest types, 'Save Ganga' campaign and hydroelectric projects, seismic vulnerability and risk in the Himalaya, strategy for development of medicinal plants sector in Uttarakhand, succession in buffer zone of Corbett Tiger Reserve, utilization of geothermal energy, water quality assessment, and women in science and technology are the important research contributions from Uttaranchal or Uttarakhand in the past 13½ years. It is interesting to note that out of 52 publications containing 'Uttaranchal' or 'Uttarakhand' in the title, 16 (almost 30.77%) are related to landslides, lessons from natural calamities, dynamics of glaciers, hydrological events, earthquake and seismic vulnerability, cloud-burst calamities and need for early warning systems. In fact, all of these publications are vital for upcoming research and development in Uttarakhand. However, in spite of brilliant opportunity to publish excellent multidisciplinary research work in *Current Science*, it was difficult to find the work on cultural peculiarities, hill agriculture, temperate horticulture, animal husbandry, value link development for traditional cash crops, development of natural resources-based small-scale industries, air quality analysis, ecological impact of road widening, effects of pollution caused by heavy inflow of vehicles and solid waste, and stability of mountain ecosystem with special reference to Uttarakhand. Such work may be available without 'Uttaranchal' or 'Uttara-

rakhand' in the title elsewhere in the journal or researchers may have preferred to publish their work in specific area journals. Based on this exercise, it seems earth and biological sciences, especially botany, are the preferred topic for researchers in Uttarakhand. In fact, both of these subjects are valuable for the mountain ecosystem, but work on enhancing productivity, industrial development and ecosystem management that will result in employment generation and environmental conservation is also essential. Researchers who have worked in specific areas of science will certainly have some idea regarding the solution of the problem they have studied, discussed or described. There is a necessity to establish a 'research publication bank' for utilizing research work in the regional development and to interlink the research with development activities. Let the researchers through multidisciplinary researches contribute to the development in Uttarakhand for mitigation of its problems. However, strengthening appropriate institutions and creating scholastic environment in the remote mountain areas is also important.

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1. <http://www.currentscience.ac.in/php/search-box-result.php>
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