

# 1. Tehri Lake Project – Geography

Uttarakhand's Tehri Garhwal to get facelift with \$126.4 million; Centre, ADB signs loan agreement to promote tourism . Uttarakhand's Tehri Lake region as a sustainable, climate-resilient tourism destination. This initiative aims to boost the local economy and empower communities while providing a replicable model for eco-tourism in fragile regions.

## The Project – Sustainable Tourism at Tehri Lake

**Core Agreement** – The Government of India and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) have signed a significant loan agreement to promote sustainable and climate-resilient tourism in the Tehri Lake region of Uttarakhand.

**Official Initiative Name** – The project is formally titled the "Sustainable, Inclusive, and Climate-Resilient Tourism Development at Tehri Lake Area Project."

**Parties and Funding** – The agreement was signed between the Department of Economic Affairs (DEA), Ministry of Finance, and the ADB. The project, which will be implemented by the Government of Uttarakhand, is funded by a \$126.42 million loan from the ADB.

**Target Region** – The initiative specifically focuses on the Tehri Garhwal District, an area identified as one of Uttarakhand's most climate-vulnerable and economically disadvantaged regions.

## Core Objectives

**Diversify Uttarakhand's Tourism** – A key objective is to transform Uttarakhand into a diversified, all-weather tourism destination, reducing its dependence on seasonal tourism.

**Create a Model for Sustainability** – The project aims to showcase a replicable model of sustainable tourism, with the massive, man-made Tehri Lake serving as its anchor.

**Boost Resilience and Livelihoods** – It is designed to enhance climate resilience, create sustainable local jobs, and diversify income sources for communities in the vulnerable hill region.

## Key Components of the Project

The project is structured around three main pillars –

1. **Tourism Planning & Resilience** – This involves strengthening institutions and policies for better tourism management. It prioritizes the development of climate-resilient infrastructure, utilizing **nature-based solutions** to mitigate risks from landslides and floods, and improving overall disaster preparedness.
2. **Inclusive & Sustainable Services** – The project aims to foster inclusive tourism by ensuring the active participation of women, youth, and the private sector. It includes upgrading essential services like sanitation and waste management and implementing universal access design to make tourism facilities accessible for persons with disabilities.
3. **Livelihood & Community Empowerment** – Direct financial support will be provided to women, youth, and Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through livelihood matching grants. It will also promote women-led disaster management initiatives in pilot villages to build resilience at the community level.

## Significance and Impact

**Local and Ecological Impact** – The project is expected to directly benefit 87,000 local residents and 2.7 million annual visitors. It is designed to advance rural development while simultaneously safeguarding the fragile Himalayan ecology.

**Wider National Significance** – This initiative offers a replicable model for climate-resilient tourism that can be adapted for other vulnerable mountain and coastal regions across India.

**Alignment with SDGs** – The project is closely aligned with several UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly those focused on climate action (SDG 13), gender equality (SDG 5), and sustainable economic growth (SDG 8).

## About Tehri Lake

**Origin** – Tehri Lake is one of Asia's largest man-made lakes, created by the construction of the Tehri Dam on the Bhagirathi River.

**Tourism Hub** – Situated amidst the Himalayan ranges, the lake is a rapidly emerging destination for water sports, eco-tourism, and adventure activities.

**Strategic Importance** – Beyond tourism, the lake and its associated dam are crucial for hydropower generation, irrigation, and water supply, making them vital assets for the development of Uttarakhand.

Source – <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/uttarakhand/uttarakhands-tehri-garhwal-to-get-facelift-with-1264-million-centre-adb-signs-loan-agreement-to-promote-tourism/article70037662.ece>

