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## **GRT** SCOPE OF ADVENTURE SPORTS IN UTTARAKHAND

**Kulwinder Singh**

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**Abstract:**-Uttarakhand was formed as a separate state on 9 Nov 2000, it was carved out of hilly region of Uttar Pradesh. The neighboring states are Haryana, Punjab and Uttar Pradesh. It shares international boundaries with China and Nepal and thus occupies an important place both geographically and politically. The state inherited several natural gifts and as well as socio-economic problems. It is blessed with immense treasure of nature such as snow clad Peaks, mountains, rivers, glaciers, rich flora and fauna and vibrant wild life. At the same time tuff geographical conditions, lack of irrigation facilities, poor transportation facilities do not makes the area suitable for agriculture and other industries. In such a case tourism could be one of the best solutions. Tourism is on the top priority agenda of the government of Uttarakhand, as the state is blessed with natural beauty, it is believed that state will face a boom in tourism in coming years. The paper aims at analyzing the scope of upcoming adventure tourism in Uttarakhand.

**Keywords:**Glacier, Boom ,Flora and fauna, wildlife.

### **INTRODUCTION**

Uttarakhand was created as separate state on 9 November 2000. It is India's 27th state. Dehradun is its capital. It is popularly known as Devbhoomi. The holy river Ganga and Yamuna originates from Uttarakhand. The most sacred Hindu shrines Kedarnath, Badrinath, Gangotri and Yamnotri are situated in Uttarakhand. The world famous Corbett National Park is situated in Uttarakhand. Other important sanctuaries are Rajaji National Park, Govind National Park and Chilla bird sanctuary. Uttarakhand has a total area of 53,484 km<sup>2</sup> of which 93% is mountainous and 65% is covered by forest. The hills of Uttarakhand has lot to offer for adventure seekers and nature lovers. Some important hill stations of Uttarakhand are Mussorie, Nanital, Uttarkashi, Ranikhet, Kausani etc. Uttarakhand is divided in to two major areas Garhwal and Kumaon

### **Reasons for upcoming trends in adventure sports:**

As the name suggests adventure sports is emerging as popular adventure tourism in Uttarakhand. The country has already successfully hosted Commonwealth Games, World Cup Cricket and similar other events, it is expected that the movement of domestic and international travelers will be enormous in the coming years. The various initiatives taken by the government to promote Incredible India' Uttarakhand Truly Heaven have started yielding positive results. Domestic tourism will flourish in India like anything. The concept of holidaying is catching up fast and now there are enough people not merely within the country but also abroad. Availability of low cost carriers and competitive holiday packages have made it even more attractive to go on vacation.

### **Famous Adventure Activities:**

#### **Adventure sports in Uttarakhand mainly include:**

- (1) White Water Rafting
- (2) Mountaineering
- (3) Trekking
- (4) Rock Climbing
- (5) Nature Camp
- (6) Paragliding
- (7) Skiing

**White Water Rafting:** In Garhwal region Ganga river offers great opportunity for white water rafting. The term white water refers to foaming and whitish appearance of fast flowing water. It is one of the most thrilling sports. The safety norms usually confirm to international standard. It is normally undertaken at Shivpuri and Kaudiyala at Rishikesh. It generally starts in the morning till afternoon. During evening time entertainment activity such as local folklore and music takes place. Travel agency makes proper arrangements for food, tent and first aid. With different kinds of Georges, forests, flowers and wildlife Uttarakhand provides ideal location for white water rafting. Its rapids are from Grade I to Grade IV. The most suitable period for whitewater is from September to November and April to May. The rafting companies provide life jacket, water proof kitbag for keeping cloths and medicines. The instructors are well trained in rescue operation and first aid. Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam has developed Kaudiyala and adjoining forests as rafter's camp.

**Mountaineering:** Mountains not only signify natural beauty but are also a source of spiritual guidance. Uttarakhand with its snow clad peaks and greater heights offer opportunity for mountaineering. The state with its ranges of greater middle and lesser Himalayas offer all kinds of mountaineering experiences. From 3000 to 7000 meters all kinds of mountaineering expeditions can be carried out here, making it an ultimate destination for mountaineering.

**Trekking:** For those fascinated by the unexplored Uttarakhand offers breathtakingly adventurous trekking routes. Trekking is an activity which is picking up very fast among youth and school children. The important treks are Roopkund lake and Gangotri and Badrinath trek, Gangotri to Gomukh. However trek from Gangotri is strenuous and requires proper mountaineering equipment. Another important trek is Valley of Flowers which is 14 km from Govind Ghat. River Pushpavati divides valley in to two parts. There are more than 500 varieties of wild flowers. There is no arrangement for staying. The best time to visit is August to November. In Uttarakhand most of the trek routes may not be accessible prior to April due to snowfall. The best time to visit is last week of April to June when nature is in its full bloom. Trekking provides you an opportunity to get in to the life style, culture, art and handicraft of these people and explore the unexplored.

**Rock Climbing:** The varied geographical conditions at Uttarakhand makes it suitable for rock climbing. The best time for rock climbing is in summer and autumn. The Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Uttarkashi is one of the premier institute of India providing courses in rock climbing, mountaineering, movement on snow and ice. It conducts basic mountaineering course of 4-6 days and advance mountaineering course of 28 days. The main object of basic mountaineering course is to motivate people to take up mountaineering not just as a physical activity but also as an art and fun. Areas around Gangotri, Nainital and Pithoragarh provides the ultimate challenging destination for this

#### **Adventure sport.**

**Nature Camps:** The concept of nature camp is picking up very fast among school children. The contents of the campus are decided based on the age and requirements of the group. Children are camped in tents along with lot of fun and other entertainment activities. Uttarkashi, Dehradun, Nainital are favorite places for camping. These camps bring children close to nature. They are blend of nature, science and art camp. These camps develop care and concern for nature, and children develop a love towards nature and learn to protect and conserve nature. Several companies these days buy adventurism packages for their employees. Corporates enjoys the natural environment, camping on the banks of the river and living without electricity, phone, and television amidst the sound of flowing water.

**Paragliding:** Paragliding is a kind of sports where you can have thrill of having your own wings. It is one of the most popular adventure sports among youth. The state of Uttarakhand offers ample opportunities for paragliding. It offers opportunities both for experienced and novice. There are number of paragliding clubs offering joy rides and training courses in paragliding, prominent ones being Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam and Kumaon Mandal Vikas Nigam. The joy of flying over lush green forest with deep valleys is immeasurable.

**Skiing:** Auli is one of the most important destinations of Uttarakhand. It is 16 km away from Joshimath. It is located in Chamoli district in Garhwal region its slopes can be compared with slopes of Alps mountain and are considered as best ski place in Asia. It provides thrill to professional skier and novice as well. Auli boasts of Asia's longest cable car covering a distance of 4 kms. Auli can be visited round the year except monsoon. The ropeway of Auli connects it with Joshimath. Auli also has 800m long chair lift linking lower ski slopes with upper region. Auli is today a promising ski spot, a perfect health resort and a paradise for ski lovers.

#### **Observation:**

The slopes of Uttarakhand are covered with seasonal snow and are ideal locations for various kinds of adventure sports. Government is planning to develop ski slopes near Kedarnath in Chamoli district. Different kinds of packages for adventure sports enthusiast are provided by Garhwal Mandal Vikas Nigam which includes meals equipments and learning lesson. The Uttarakhand has the credit of successfully organizing South Asian Winter Games 2011. Skiing events were

organized at Auli while Dehradun hosted Ice Skating and Ice Hockey Events

**CONCLUSION:**

Uttarakhand is blessed with divine beauty. The Uttarakhand has the credit of successfully organizing South Asian Winter Games 2011. These games will promote sports culture and will give a new boost to the future of winter sports in Uttarakhand. The infrastructure created at Auli is of international standards, while ice skating facilities created at Dehradun got a big applaud from sports lovers. The government is also planning to build a ski training center, which will attract sports enthusiasts within country and abroad.

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