**Formation of Uttarakhand**

**Introduction**

**Uttarakhand**, formerly **Uttaranchal**, state of [India](https://www.britannica.com/place/India), located in the northwestern part of the country. It is bordered to the northwest by the Indian state of [Himachal Pradesh](https://www.britannica.com/place/Himachal-Pradesh), to the northeast by the [Tibet](https://www.britannica.com/place/Tibet) [Autonomous](https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/Autonomous) Region of [China](https://www.britannica.com/place/China), to the southeast by [Nepal](https://www.britannica.com/place/Nepal), and to the south and southwest by the Indian state of [Uttar Pradesh](https://www.britannica.com/place/Uttar-Pradesh). Its capital is the north-western city of [Dehra Dun](https://www.britannica.com/place/Dehra-Dun).

**State Formation**

A strong demand from the people for a hill-centric development triggered an agitation for a separate hill state in the mid-1990s. It led to police firings that resulted in several deaths and maiming of statehood activists before Uttarakhand was carved out of Uttar Pradesh. 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.