

STATEMENT BY PRESIDENT – INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION REGARDING 22 TREKKERS FROM KARNATAKA STRANDED AT SAHAstra TAL - MAYALI STRECH.

1. On 04 June, 2024, the INDIAN MOUNTAINEERING FOUNDATION received message of a shocking tragedy in the Uttarakhand Himalaya. The information was that, 22 members of Karnataka Mountaineering Association, Bengaluru were stranded on the high Himalayas while on a trek to Sahastra Tal in Uttarkashi district. The trekkers encountered sudden weather change accompanied by heavy snowfall, winds and white-out conditions on their way back to the Base Camp which forced the exhausted team to take shelter among the rocks for the night under freezing cold conditions. By the morning, four members of the team had passed away, while seven of the members managed to proceed and reach the base camp. The four dead members and 9 others were stuck below Kokhli top on the route towards the Base Camp.

2. This information was received by Shri Keerthi Pais, Hony Secretary on the night of 04 June 2024 around 7:51 PM. He immediately contacted the District Magistrate and SDRF Officials at Uttarkashi to get the first hand information.

He also contacted Col Anshuman Bhadauria, Principal-Nehru Institute of Mountaineering(NIM) who acted swiftly and made necessary arrangements with the Uttarkashi district administration and passed on suitable inputs to Mr.Keerthi Pais, who had, in the mean time appraised the Chief Secretary Govt of Karnataka in the matter requesting for Karnataka State Govt support and help. The Chief Secretary, Karnataka assured every possible help for helicopter rescue mission in the early hours of 05 June, 2024, he also spoke to Principal Secretary, Disaster management, Govt of Uttarakhand and requested for help.



3. IMF requested DM, Uttarkashi to initiate a requisition for Heli rescue by the Indian Air Force through the Ministry of Defence which was carried out without any loss of time. Maj Gen G S Chowdhury, the officiating Joint Secretary (Air) in the Ministry of Defence was contacted and Air Force (WAC) approved the rescue sortie through Sarsawa.

4. At 8:40 AM on 5th June, 2024, three helicopters, one MI-17 and two Cheetah, reached Matli helipad. The air rescue operation was thereafter monitored by the combined efforts of IMF, DM, SSP, SDRF & NIM officials for rescuing the stranded trekkers as well as communication.

5. Meantime, five more trekkers had died when the Heli-rescue team reached the spot. The rescue team brought the four highly exhausted trekkers down to the helipad by the noon of 5th June 2024. The five dead bodies were brought down later.

6. Meanwhile on 04/05 June, 2024, four teams from NIM, ITBP, SDRF and the Sport Department, Govt of Uttarakhand set out on foot to locate and rescue the trekkers. The ITBP team could intercept two trekkers from this team who were coming down. The heli operations was called off due to bad weather and 4 bodies were air lifted in the morning on 6th June.

7. IMF is grateful to all the officials of Government of Uttarakhand, Government of Karnataka, Ministry of Defence, Indian Air Force, Nehru Institute of Mountaineering, Tourism and Sports Departments -



Govt of Uttarakhand, District Magistrate, Superintendent of Police Uttarkashi, SDRF Uttarakhand, 12th Battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police, and the locals, whose unflinching and timely support resulted in the success of this rescue mission.

8. The Revenue Minister of the Government of Karnataka Shri Krishna Byre Gowda along with senior officials of the GOK reached Dehradun on the evening of 5th June 2024 to oversee the rescue work. The GOK has also organised a chartered aircraft to transport the nine dead bodies and those who are recovering. It is likely that the deceased and the rescued persons will reach Bengaluru late on 6th Night or on the early hours of 7th.

The details of the rescued and the deceased are as follows.

Sl. No	Name	Status	Age	Gender
1	Bharat Bommanagoudar	Safe, Rescued	53	Male
2	Asha Sudhakar	Deceased	71	Female
3	Padmanabha Kundapur Krishnamurthy	Deceased	50	Male
4	Vivek Sridhar	Safe, Rescued	38	Male
5	Soumya Kanale	Safe, Rescued	37	Female
6	Jayaprakash BS	Safe, Rescued	61	Male
7	S.Sudhakar	Safe, Rescued	65	Male
8	Sindhu Vakekalam	Deceased	44	Female
9	Rittika Jindal	Safe, Rescued	37	Female
10	Naveen A	Safe, Rescued	39	Male
11	S Shiva Jyothi	Safe, Rescued	45	Female
12	Vinay M K	Safe, Rescued	47	Male
13	Sheena Lakshmi	Safe, Rescued	47	Female
14	Venkatesha Prasad K N	Deceased	53	Male
15	ANITA RANGAPPA	Deceased	60	Female
16	Padmini Hegde	Deceased	34	Female
17	Madhu Kiran Reddy	Safe, Rescued	52	Male
18	Chitra praneeth	Deceased	48	Female
19	Vinayak Mungurwadi	Deceased	55	Male
20	Sujatha Mungurwadi	Deceased	52	Male
21	Smruti Dolas	Safe, Rescued	40	Female
22	Anil Jammatige Arunachala Bhatta	Safe, Rescued	52	Male

