

# 10 more rivers in forest areas may see mining

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Dehradun: The Forest Corporation of Uttarakhand plans to include ten more river stretches in its mining areas. Currently, 10 river stretches that pass through forest areas witness mining in Uttarakhand.

The corporation earned Rs 150 crore between October 2022 and September 2023 through mining in rivers of forest areas.

“These mining materials are manually picked and if left in the forest they get washed away with rain. Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh’s forest authorities have approached the Uttarakhand Forest Corporation to explore mining in forest areas.

Stretches of 10 rivers may be included in the mining ambit if

stakeholder agencies, including the pollution control board, ministry of environment and mining department, provide clearances,” said SP Subudhi, MD, Forest Corporation of Uttarakhand.

From October 1, mining has been initiated in six river stretches passing through forest areas of Dehradun, Haridwar and Kumaon.

Meanwhile, Kosi, Gola, Sharda and Dabka are yet to see mining as per sources due to legalities of forest corporation authorities.

Notably, this year, the mining department has set an ambitious target of Rs 875 crore revenue.

The corporation which generated around Rs 500 crore the previous year, primarily by logging (Rs 300 crore) and mining works, aims to diversify its activities.

“We’ll endeavour to buy tree logs from farmers so that they start planting trees on their land which would enhance the green landscape of Uttarakhand. It would also reduce their dependence on forests for fodder or firewood,” Subudhi said.

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