

SPECIAL EDITION



20th CONVOCATION



**Hon'ble President of India
as Chief Guest**

**Kumaun University,
Nainital**

President Droupadi Murmu Graces Kumaun University's 20th Convocation Ceremony

The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, graced the 20th Convocation Ceremony of Kumaun University, Nainital, as the Chief Guest.

During the ceremony, the Hon'ble President conferred gold medals and degrees upon students in recognition of their outstanding academic achievements. Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), was also present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the President emphasized that education is the foundation of a nation's development. She stated that the true objective of education extends beyond the acquisition of knowledge and skills to include the strengthening of moral values and character. Education, she said, makes individuals self-reliant while instilling humility and a sense of responsibility toward society and the nation.

The President urged students to dedicate their education and abilities to serving the underprivileged and contributing to nation-building, describing such service as the highest form of dharma that brings lasting happiness and fulfillment.

Highlighting India's rapidly growing economy, the President noted that the Government of India has implemented several policy initiatives to ensure sustained development. These initiatives, she observed, are creating numerous opportunities for the youth, and higher educational institutions must motivate students to fully utilize these opportunities.

She also stressed the importance of promoting research, innovation, and entrepreneurship in the country. Expressing satisfaction with Kumaun University's commitment to excellence in education, research, and innovation, the President underscored the significance of a multidisciplinary approach for the effective application of knowledge and research, and expressed confidence in the university's continued progress.

Referring to the Himalayan ecosystem, the President remarked that the Himalayas are a vital source of life-sustaining resources and that their conservation is a collective responsibility. She appreciated the university's efforts toward environmental protection and conservation.





The President further highlighted the social responsibility of academic institutions, urging teachers and students to actively engage with nearby villages, understand local issues, and work toward practical solutions for community development.

She reiterated India's vision of becoming a developed nation by 2047 and emphasized that the youth of institutions like Kumaun University would play a crucial role in achieving this goal. Expressing confidence in the students, she stated that they would fulfill this responsibility with dedication and talent.

Speaking on the occasion, Governor Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.) expressed pride on behalf of the people of Uttarakhand that the President of India had graced the convocation ceremony with her esteemed presence and inspiring guidance. He extended a warm welcome and heartfelt gratitude to the Hon'ble President.

Addressing the students, the Governor stated that degrees attain true value when combined with service, integrity, and compassion. He emphasized that the purpose of education lies not only in intellectual development but also in character building. "Knowledge becomes meaningful only when accompanied by morality," he said, stressing the importance of honesty, discipline, and responsibility in today's dynamic world.

He cautioned students against all forms of intoxication and substance abuse, stating that true joy lies in achievement, service, and creativity rather than addiction. He described a truly educated individual as one who contributes positively to both personal growth and societal well-being. The Governor also noted that the present era is marked by rapid technological advancement, with artificial intelligence, data science, digitization, and cybersecurity becoming integral to daily life. Embracing technology, he said, is essential for progress. Concluding his address, he advised students to continue learning throughout life, respect parents and teachers, value time, uphold truth and integrity, and remain rooted in their cultural values, stating that those who understand their roots rise the highest.

The event was attended by Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, Minister for Higher Education; Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat, Vice-Chancellor of Kumaun University; Commissioner of Kumaun Division, Deepak Rawat; Inspector General Riddhim Agarwal; members of the University's Executive and Academic Councils; as well as faculty members and students.

Vice-Chancellor Highlights Major Achievements and Developments at Kumaun University

The Vice-Chancellor of Kumaun University, Professor Divanshu Rawat, highlighted significant achievements and developmental milestones accomplished by the university over the past 52 years, reflecting its steady progress in academics, research, infrastructure, and skill development.

Professor Rawat informed that Kumaun University has received a grant of ₹100 crore under the prestigious MERU Project from the Ministry of Education, Government of India. With this achievement, the university has become one of only 26 institutions across the country to be selected for this initiative, marking a major step toward academic and research excellence.

He further announced that the university has secured the ANRF Pair Project in collaboration with the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru. This multi-institutional research project has a total outlay of ₹100 crore, with Kumaun University playing a key partnering role, thereby strengthening its research ecosystem and national academic collaborations.

On the infrastructure front, the Vice-Chancellor stated that Kumaun University has acquired 26.4 acres of land at Patwa Dangar with the cooperation and support of the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. This land will be developed as a new campus, to be known as the MERU Campus, which will significantly enhance the university's academic and research capacity.

Addressing the condition of existing infrastructure, Professor Rawat noted that as the university is over five decades old and situated in a hilly region with heavy rainfall, several buildings had deteriorated over time. To address this, five buildings at the DSB Campus are currently under construction or renovation. These include the Mathematics Department building and a new building for the i-PAD programme at Argal Ford, aimed at modernizing academic facilities.

The Vice-Chancellor also highlighted the expansion of academic departments. New academic blocks are being constructed for the university's dream project, the Hotel Management Course, at Son Village. In addition, construction work is underway for a dedicated building for the Law Faculty and an academic block for the Pharmacy Department. He added that two advanced research laboratories have already been prepared for the Pharmacy Department. Emphasizing the importance of research and innovation, Professor Rawat stated that the university has established a dedicated Research Corpus Fund of ₹10 crore. This fund has been created from savings accumulated over the past two years and is being utilized to provide internal research funding to faculty members, thereby encouraging high-quality research output.

Speaking on faculty achievements, the Vice-Chancellor expressed pride in the growing quality and global recognition of research publications from the university.

Professor N.G. Sahoo of the Chemistry Department was awarded the NASI Fellowship, becoming the first Chemistry professor from Kumaun University and the third from Uttarakhand to receive this honour. Additionally, Professor S.S. Bargali and Professor N.G. Sahoo have been included in the list of the world's top 2 percent scientists. Professor Rawat also shared that he himself was honoured with the National Academy of Sciences Fellowship after 46 years, marking a historic moment for the institution.

Highlighting skill development initiatives, the Vice-Chancellor stated that Kumaun University has introduced several skill-based courses and established dedicated skill centers. These include a Biofloc Fish Technology Centre in the Department of Zoology, a Hydroponic Research Centre in the Department of Botany, and units for Herbal Tea Manufacturing and Herbal Cosmetic Production at Bhimtal, aimed at enhancing employability and entrepreneurship among students.

Professor Rawat also addressed the long-standing issue of delays in degree issuance. He informed that, since last year, the university has implemented a policy to ensure that students receive their degrees in the same year in which they pass their examinations, shortly after the convocation. All degrees of students who passed in 2024 have already been dispatched to their homes. Furthermore, the degrees of 16,183 undergraduate and postgraduate students of the current academic year are presently in the printing stage and will be mailed within two months of the convocation ceremony.

These achievements, the Vice-Chancellor stated, reflect Kumaun University's commitment to academic excellence, research innovation, infrastructure development, and student-centric reforms.



Significant Achievements

The convocation ceremony also witnessed the celebration of exceptional academic excellence, as several meritorious students were honoured with prestigious gold medals and awards conferred by the Hon'ble President of India. These recognitions reflect the dedication, perseverance, and scholarly brilliance of the students.

Aditi Goel was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal along with the C. N. R. Rao Foundation Incentive Award for her outstanding academic performance.

Aparna Joshi received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal, while **Omkala Negi** was honoured with the Gaura Devi Gold Medal.

Harsh Tiwari was conferred the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Shri Murari Lal Maheshwari Smriti Gold Medal.

Harshit Joshi received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal, the Padma Shri Sukhdev Pandey Smarak Gold Medal, and the Late Shri Pushkar Chandra Pathak Gold Medal.

Harshita Kabadial was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal, while **Harshita Saxena** received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Prof. Ganga Bisht Smriti Gold Medal.

Himani Chausani was honoured with the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal.

Khushi Deval received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal, and Khushi Khati was also conferred the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal along with the Gaura Devi Gold Medal.



Lovely Negi was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal, the Kothari Ekta Dharma Shiksha Shri Puraskar, and the Om Kamla Negi Devi Gold Medal.

Meetu Goel received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal, the Gaura Devi Gold Medal, and the Thakur Inder Singh Nayal Memorial Gold Medal.

Neha Dobhal was conferred the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal.

Nikhil Bisht received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal along with the Sita Ram Jindal Foundation Gold Medal, while **Nikita Singh** was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Kalavati Sahitya Puraskar Trust Gold Medal.

Pooja Bisht received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Prof. Mahima Joshi Smriti Vidya Bhushan Samman.

Priyanka Rawat was honoured with the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Om Bhagwati Prem Singh Negi Gold Medal.

Rashi Upreti received the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal along with the Sita Ram Jindal Foundation Gold Medal.

Renu Negi was awarded the Vice-Chancellor's Gold Medal and the Gaura Devi Gold Medal.

