

# VIMARSH

Capturing the essence of Kumaun University

The Official Newsletter of Kumaun University



June-July 2025



**Vice Chancellor Adorns NCC Uniform as Honorary Colonel in Prestigious Pipping Ceremony**



**Kumaun University Partners with Setu Aayog, TATA & Govt Bodies to Launch Pioneering Skill Center**

**HDFC Internship Drive at KU**  
26 students shortlisted for HDFC Bank internships after a screening test and GD round conducted by the Placement Cell.

## “Emergency Was an Earthquake on Democracy” - Vice President Dhankhar in Nainital



During his visit to Nainital for the golden jubilee celebration of Kumaun University, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar strongly condemned the 1975 Emergency, calling it a democratic “earthquake” and a dark chapter in Indian history. He highlighted the judiciary’s role, the misuse of power, and urged the youth to remain vigilant and constitutionally aware. The event witnessed the presence of dignitaries, faculty, and students in large numbers.

## From the Hills to the High Court: An Inspiring Conversation with Hon’ble Justice R.C. Khulbe (Retd.)

An insightful conversation with Hon’ble Justice R.C. Khulbe (Retd.), alumnus of Kumaun University and former Judge of the Uttarakhand High Court, reflecting on his journey from the hills to the halls of justice.

## Governor of Uttarakhand Visits DSB Campus, Honours Faculty and Reviews Progress

The Honourable Governor of Uttarakhand and Chancellor of Kumaun University visited DSB Campus, where he interacted with PhD students, reviewed research projects at the Nano Science and Geology labs, and held meetings with university officials. Faculty and staff were felicitated under his direction for their contributions, and further recognitions are planned.





# MESSAGE *from* THE EDITOR



Dear readers,

It gives me immense joy to present to you the second edition of Vimarsh, a platform shaped by student voices, guided by academic values, and driven by the spirit of thoughtful engagement.

This edition comes at a moment where we, as a university community, are called not just to move forward, but to pause and reflect. It is a time to honour where we've been and reimagine where we are headed together.

We are proud to feature interviews with two distinguished individuals who embody the best of Kumaun University, a respected alumnus and former Hon'ble Judge of Uttarakhand, and a senior academician from our faculty. Their stories offer valuable insight, not just into professional success, but into character, resilience, and purpose.

Our growth as an institution has never been accidental. It has been earned through dedication, sincerity, and teamwork. Academic excellence is not a gift, it is the result of patient, persistent effort by our students, faculty, staff, and visionaries.

As Kumaun University continues to grow in reputation, so does our responsibility—to stay rooted in our values, to uphold academic integrity, and to contribute meaningfully to society.

At the centre of this mission are our students. Your curiosity, energy, and aspirations give life to our classrooms and meaning to our efforts. This university exists not just to educate you, but to walk alongside you, as you discover your voice, your direction, and your purpose.

We also understand that institutions must evolve to stay relevant. Celebrating our past matters, but preparing for the future is essential. Whether through technology, research, or community engagement, we must continue to grow in ways that serve both local and global needs.

In this collective journey, we are especially grateful to our Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Diwan S. Rawat, whose vision, guidance, and constant encouragement continue to inspire us all. His leadership has been instrumental in shaping this platform and energizing the student community to engage in meaningful dialogue.

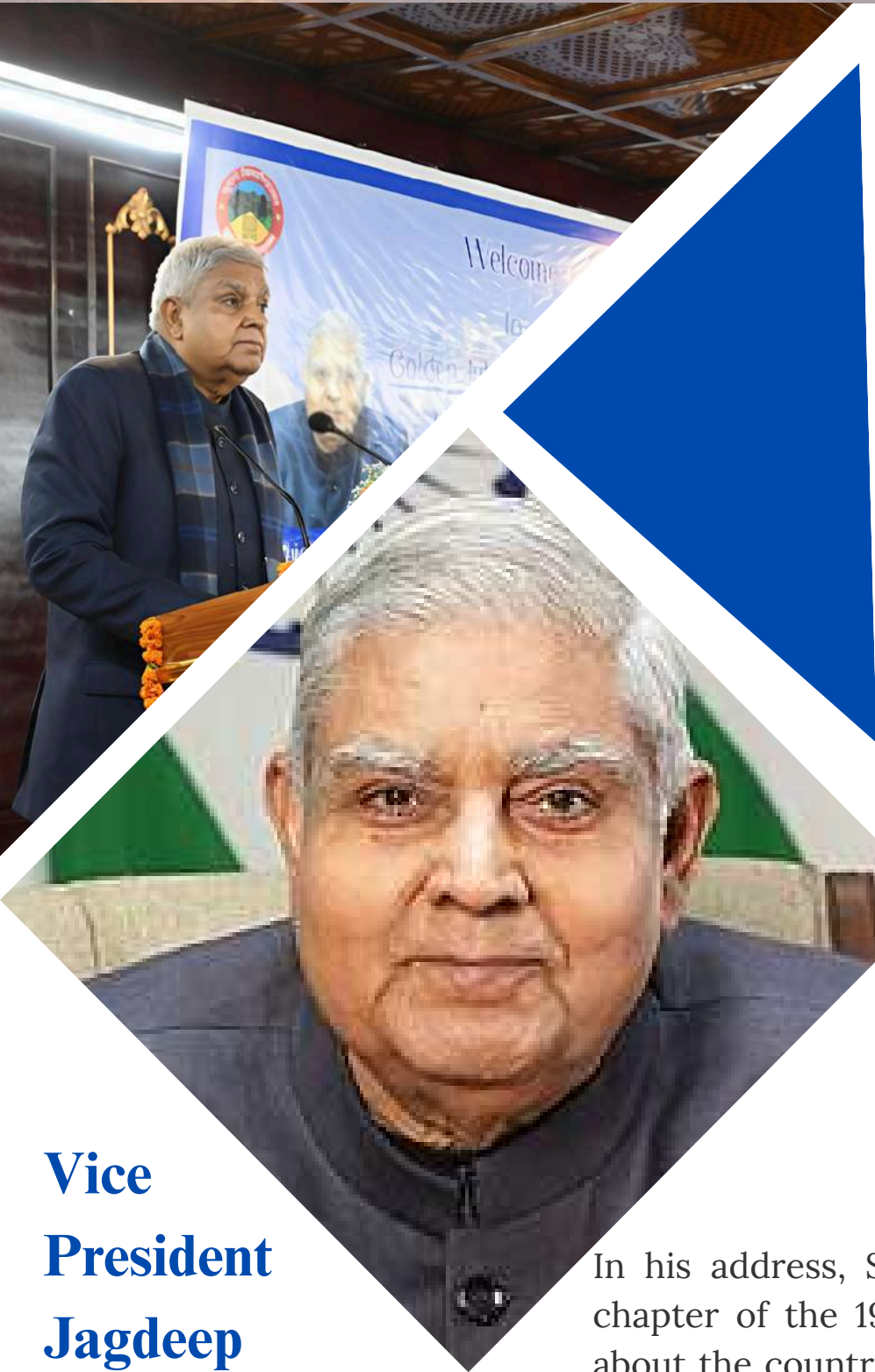
So, as you turn the pages of this second edition, we hope you find more than just updates—we hope you find insight, hope, and inspiration.

Let Vimarsh continue to be a space where reflection leads to imagination and imagination leads to action.

With gratitude,  
Dr. Reetesh Sah  
Editor  
Vimarsh



# JUNE JUNCTION



## Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar Reaches Uttarakhad, Attends Kumaun University's Golden Jubilee, Calls Emergency a Black Chapter



On June 25, 2025, Kumaun University witnessed a moment of great pride and national significance as the Hon'ble Vice President of India, Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, graced the university as the chief guest for its Golden Jubilee Celebration. The event, held at the DSB Campus in Nainital, brought together a large gathering of students, faculty, dignitaries, and academic leaders.

The Vice President's presence marked not just the celebration of 50 glorious years of Kumaun University, but also a profound moment of introspection on the democratic values that form the bedrock of our nation.

In his address, Shri Dhankhar spoke with unwavering clarity about the dark chapter of the 1975 Emergency, urging the youth to stay aware and informed about the country's constitutional history. Reflecting on the events of that time, he stated:

**“Emergency was not just a political event—it was an earthquake on democracy. The Constitution was crippled, civil liberties suspended, and even the right to life was denied. It is a chapter no Indian should ever forget.”**

He called upon the younger generation to understand the value of dissent, the importance of press freedom, and the duty to defend democratic institutions.

### आज

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### नैनीताल समाचार

सप्ताह: 26 जून 2025

## आपातकाल लागू करना लोकतंत्र को नष्ट करने के लिए भूकंप से कम नहीं था

□ आपातकाल के दौरान देश को राष्ट्रीय आपातकाल के भूमिका सुनिश्चित हो गई, 9 लाख व्यापारियों के फैसलों को पारित किया गया

□ आज का युवा उस अधिकांशकाल के अर्थव्यवस्था नहीं रह सकता

□ वैश्वीकरण संस्थापन विचार और नवाचार के व्यापारिक व वैश्वीकरण प्रयोगशाला है

□ निजीकरण में योगदान : उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़

□ भूकंपीय विश्वविद्यालय वैनीताल के स्वर्ण जयंती समारोह में शरीर शक्तिमान हुए मुख्य अतिथि

आज का समाचार केंद्र 12 पृष्ठों पर फैला हुआ है। इसमें समाचार के अलावा विचार, विश्लेषण, और विशेष रिपोर्ट शामिल हैं।

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### विश्व संस्थापन में युवाओं का अग्रणी योगदान

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### एक युवा के रूप में अग्रणी योगदान के लिए भूकंप से कम नहीं था

एक युवा के रूप में अग्रणी योगदान के लिए भूकंप से कम नहीं था। एक युवा के रूप में अग्रणी योगदान के लिए भूकंप से कम नहीं था।

### समाचार में उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ की विशेष भूमिका

समाचार में उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ की विशेष भूमिका। समाचार में उपराष्ट्रपति जगदीप धनखड़ की विशेष भूमिका।

### आपातकाल लोकतंत्र पर भूकंप था: उपराष्ट्रपति धनखड़

आज का समाचार केंद्र 12 पृष्ठों पर फैला हुआ है। इसमें समाचार के अलावा विचार, विश्लेषण, और विशेष रिपोर्ट शामिल हैं।

### परिसर आधारित शिक्षा को सराहा, पूर्व छात्रों के योगदान की बतलाई अभिनयित

परिसर आधारित शिक्षा को सराहा, पूर्व छात्रों के योगदान की बतलाई अभिनयित। परिसर आधारित शिक्षा को सराहा, पूर्व छात्रों के योगदान की बतलाई अभिनयित।

### समारोह में उपराष्ट्रपति की तबीयत बिगड़ी, राजभवन में आराम कर रहे

समारोह में उपराष्ट्रपति की तबीयत बिगड़ी, राजभवन में आराम कर रहे। समारोह में उपराष्ट्रपति की तबीयत बिगड़ी, राजभवन में आराम कर रहे।

### विश्वविद्यालय ने ज्ञान को अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुंचाया: राज्यपाल

विश्वविद्यालय ने ज्ञान को अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुंचाया: राज्यपाल। विश्वविद्यालय ने ज्ञान को अंतिम व्यक्ति तक पहुंचाया: राज्यपाल।



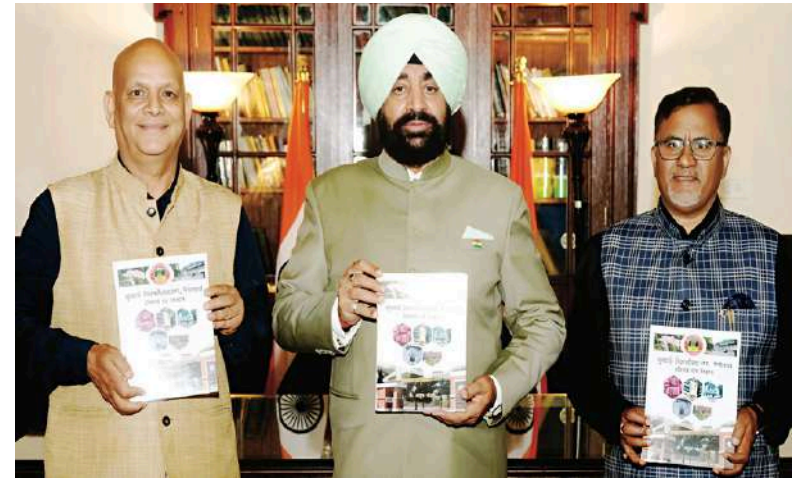
## Hon'ble Governor Visits Kumaun University, Interacts with Students and Honours Faculty



Nainital: The Hon'ble Chancellor of Kumaun University and Governor of Uttarakhand, Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh, visited DSB Campus, inspecting the Nano Science Center and Geology Laboratory. PhD scholars confidently presented their projects, earning appreciation from the Governor. He also held one-on-one meetings with Deans and university officials.

As per the Governor's directive, faculty and non-teaching staff holding key administrative positions were honoured, including the Director of Campus, DSW, Proctor, Former COE, Himalayan Museum In-charge, Dr. Lakshman Rautela, and Pankaj Pathak. This initiative will continue in future phases, recognising academic and institutional contributions. Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat credited the university's progress over the past two years to the dedication of faculty, staff, students, and the support of the Governor and the Uttarakhand Government.

## Governor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh Releases Two Scholarly Books at Raj Bhawan, Nainital



Nainital, June 28: Uttarakhand Governor and Kumaun University Chancellor Lt. Gen. (Retd.) Gurmeet Singh **released two books at Raj Bhawan** — “Kumaun University: History and Development” by Prof. Atul Joshi, and “Role of Women in Post-Independence Uttarakhand” by Prof. Savitri Kaida Jantwal.

Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat was also present at the ceremony and commended the contributions of the authors and faculty.

## Vice Chancellor Adorns NCC Uniform as Honorary Colonel in Prestigious Pipping Ceremony



17th June 2025 marked a proud and historic occasion for Kumaun University as its Vice Chancellor, Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat, was conferred the honorary rank of Colonel by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) in a dignified pipping ceremony held at the DSB Campus, Nainital.

The ceremony was presided over by Commodore B.R. Singh, Group Commander, NCC Group Headquarters, Nainital, who pinned the ranks on the Vice Chancellor's shoulders in the presence of distinguished NCC officers, university officials, cadets, faculty, and students.

## Kumaun University Partners with Setu Aayog, TATA & Govt Bodies to Launch Pioneering Skill Center

Nainital: In a significant move to boost student employability, Kumaun University signed an MoU with Setu Aayog, TATA, and four government departments, including Uttarakhand's Skill Development Department.



Under this initiative, the first skill center of its kind will be established, where the Skill Council will fund training programs and TATA will conduct short-term courses for the hotel industry. Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat termed it a step towards expanding industry partnerships and enhancing career opportunities for Kumaun University students.



# Kumaun University Signs MoU with Japan's JAIST for Student Exchange and Research

In a landmark step towards international collaboration, Kumaun University has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with a leading Japanese institution. This partnership aims to strengthen academic exchange, foster joint research, and enhance global learning opportunities for students and faculty alike.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat expressed, “This MoU marks a new era of global connectivity for Kumaun University. It will enable our students and scholars to grow through cross-cultural academic exposure and research excellence.”

## कुविवि के विद्यार्थियों हेतु खुलेंगे अंतरराष्ट्रीय शोध के द्वार

**जापान के प्रतिष्ठित संस्थान के साथ हुआ समझौता**

आज समाचार सेवा नैनीताल। कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय नैनीताल के लिए यह अवसर गर्व का विषय है कि विश्वविद्यालय ने जापान के जापान एडवॉन्स इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी (जेएआईएसटी) के साथ एक महत्वपूर्ण सहमति-पत्र (समझौता) पर हस्ताक्षर किए हैं। यह समझौता दोनों संस्थानों के बीच शैक्षणिक, अनुसंधान एवं सांस्कृतिक सहयोग को मजबूती प्रदान करेगा। इस समझौते के अंतर्गत कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय के 3 से 4 स्नातक विद्यार्थियों को जापान एडवॉन्स इंस्टिट्यूट ऑफ साइंस एंड टेक्नोलॉजी में इंटरशिप या एक वर्षीय पाठ्यक्रम में अध्ययन करने का अवसर मिलेगा। उल्लेखनीय है कि इन विद्यार्थियों से उस एक वर्षीय कार्यक्रम के दौरान प्रवेश शुल्क, परीक्षा शुल्क और शिक्षण शुल्क नहीं लिया जाएगा। एक वर्षीय कार्यक्रम को सम्पन्नतापूर्वक पूर्ण करने वाले विद्यार्थियों को जेएआईएसटी से स्नातकोत्तर उपाधि (मास्टर्स डिग्री) प्रदान की जाएगी जिससे वे भविष्य में उसी संस्थान में पीएचडी के लिए पात्र हो सकेंगे। यह अवसर इन विद्यार्थियों के लिए अत्यंत लाभकारी होगा जो वैश्विक स्तर पर उच्च शिक्षा एवं शोध कार्य करना चाहते हैं इस समझौते में केवल विद्यार्थियों का नहीं बल्कि शिक्षकों का आदान-प्रदान भी शामिल है। दोनों संस्थान आपस में शिक्षकों को आमंत्रित कर शैक्षणिक विचारों पर अविभाज्यता के दौरान प्रवेश शुल्क, अनुभवों और अनुसंधान पद्धतियों का साझा संघ मुहैया कराएंगे। कुलपति प्रो. दीवान सिंह रावत ने कहा कि जापान के साथ यह सहयोग अपने पहले समय में दोनों संस्थानों के बीच गहरे और स्थायी शैक्षणिक संबंध स्थापित करेगा तथा विश्वविद्यालय को वैश्विक रैंकिंग और प्रतिष्ठा को सुदृढ़ करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा।

अनुभवों और अनुसंधान पद्धतियों का साझा संघ मुहैया कराएंगे। कुलपति प्रो. दीवान सिंह रावत ने कहा कि जापान के साथ यह सहयोग अपने पहले समय में दोनों संस्थानों के बीच गहरे और स्थायी शैक्षणिक संबंध स्थापित करेगा तथा विश्वविद्यालय को वैश्विक रैंकिंग और प्रतिष्ठा को सुदृढ़ करने में सहायक सिद्ध होगा।

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## Kumaun University Installs Solar Energy Panels with 788kW Capacity

Nainital: Kumaun University has installed solar energy panels across its campuses, generating a total capacity of 788kW. This green energy initiative, supported by the Uttarakhand Government, marks a significant step towards sustainable development and energy self-reliance for the university



## Over 26 Kumaun University Students Selected for HDFC Bank Internship

Nainital: Under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat, Kumaon University's Placement Cell organized a screening test for HDFC Bank internships. Out of 122 applicants, over 52 students participated in group discussions and interviews. More than 26 students were selected based on initial assessments. The program was coordinated by Prof. Neeta Bora Sharma, Prof. Divya Joshi, and Dr. Kiran Tiwari, with support from university staff and HDFC Bank's Kumaun region cluster head, Mr. Rajiv, and Mr. Sachin Negi.

### कुविवि प्लेसमेंट सेल ने किया एचडीएफसी बैंक इंटरनशिप हेतु स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट



#### 26 से अधिक विद्यार्थियों का किया गया चयन

आज समाचार सेवा नैनीताल। कुलपति प्रो. दीवान सिंह रावत की दूरदर्शी सोच और मार्गदर्शन में कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय नैनीताल के प्लेसमेंट सेल द्वारा बुधवार को एचसीएफडी बैंक में इंटरनशिप के लिए स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट का सफल आयोजन किया गया। बता दें कि यह पहल विद्यार्थियों के लिए उद्योग से जुड़ाव और कैरियर अवसरों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से प्रारंभ की गई है। कार्यक्रम में

प्रारम्भ में 122 छात्रों द्वारा अधिग्रहण किया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम में 52 से अधिक छात्रछात्राओं ने भाग लिया जिसमें समूह चर्चा और व्यक्तिगत साक्षात्कार जैसे चरण शामिल थे। प्रारंभिक मूल्यांकन के आधार पर 26 से अधिक विद्यार्थियों का चयन किया गया है। इस कार्यक्रम का समन्वयन प्रो. नीता बोरा शर्मा, प्रो. दिव्या जोशी एवं डॉ. किरण तिवारी ने किया। विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से श्री पंकज तथा श्री राजेश और श्री सचिन ने विशेष सहयोग प्रदान किया जबकि एचडीएफसी बैंक की ओर से कुमाऊँ क्षेत्र के क्लस्टर हेड श्री राजीव तथा श्री सचिन नेगी ने चयन प्रक्रिया को सम्पन्न किया और विद्यार्थियों से संवाद किया।

### कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय प्लेसमेंट सेल द्वारा HDFC बैंक इंटरनशिप हेतु स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट आयोजित



संवाददाता प्रकाश पाण्डेय कुलपति प्रो. दीवान एस. रावत की दूरदर्शी सोच और मार्गदर्शन में, कुमाऊँ विश्वविद्यालय के प्लेसमेंट सेल द्वारा एचसीएफडी बैंक में इंटरनशिप के लिए स्क्रीनिंग टेस्ट का सफल आयोजन किया गया। यह पहल विद्यार्थियों के लिए उद्योग से जुड़ाव और करियर अवसरों को बढ़ावा देने के उद्देश्य से प्रारंभ की गई है। कार्यक्रम में प्रारम्भ में 122 छात्रों द्वारा अधिग्रहण किया गया था। इस कार्यक्रम में 52 से अधिक छात्र-छात्राओं ने भाग लिया, जिसमें समूह चर्चा और व्यक्तिगत साक्षात्कार जैसे चरण शामिल थे। प्रारंभिक मूल्यांकन के आधार पर 26 से अधिक विद्यार्थियों का चयन किया गया है। इस कार्यक्रम का समन्वयन प्रो. नीता बोरा शर्मा, प्रो. दिव्या जोशी एवं डॉ. किरण तिवारी ने किया। विश्वविद्यालय की ओर से पंकज, राजेश और सचिन ने विशेष सहयोग प्रदान किया। एचडीएफसी बैंक की ओर से कुमाऊँ क्षेत्र के क्लस्टर हेड राजीव तथा सचिन नेगी ने चयन प्रक्रिया को सम्पन्न किया और विद्यार्थियों से संवाद किया।



# JULY ROUNDUP

Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Rawat was honored to be felicitated by Padma Bhushan Ram Bahadur Rai Ji during the Academic Leaders Conclave, marking five years of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.



## DSB Campus to Get 50 Solar Plants; Himalayan Museum Nears Completion

Vice Chancellor Diwan Rawat inspected ongoing construction work at the DSB Campus. Under the CSR scheme, State Bank of India (SBI) has donated 50 solar plants. Renovation of the Himalayan Museum is also almost complete, marking a major step forward in campus development and sustainability.



## Kumaun University Establishes Nano Center Under Prof. NG Sahoo

Prof. N.G. Sahoo of Kumaun University has partnered with Nobel Prize winner Prof. Konstantin Novoselov on a project focused on plastic waste and hydrogen energy. This global collaboration highlights the university's growing role in cutting-edge research. Vice Chancellor Prof. Diwan Singh Rawat called it “a historic achievement in international scientific cooperation.”

## Kumaun University Students to Intern in Japan with Full Financial Support

In a significant opportunity for students, Kumaun University has partnered with the Japan Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (JAIST). Each year, 2-3 students will be selected for a three-month internship, fully funded by JAIST. Additionally, selected students will have the chance to continue for their Master's or PhD at the institute. Provisions are being made to allow semester-long internships.

## Remembering Corbett: A Legacy Beyond the Jungle

To honour the extraordinary life and legacy of Edward James Corbett—legendary hunter, naturalist, and conservationist—a special commemorative event was jointly organised by the **Department of History, Kumaun University, the Student Club ‘Sankranti’, Kumaun University, and NAASA, Nainital.**

Held under the chairmanship of **Dr. Sanjay Ghildiyal**, the event was graced by **Mr. Yashpal Rawat**, President of NAASA, as the Chief Guest, and **Dr. Reetesh Sah**, President of Sankranti Club. The gathering brought together students, educators, and literary enthusiasts to reflect on Corbett's remarkable contributions and the conservation legacy rooted in the very forests he once roamed.





# First-of-Its-Kind Indoor Firing Range Inaugurated at Kumaun University



A state-of-the-art Indoor Firing Range has been inaugurated at Kumaun University's DSB Campus, marking the first such facility under NCC in Uttarakhand. Built at a cost of ₹21 lakhs, the range was formally opened by NCC Uttarakhand's Director General, Brigadier Sanjay Chauhan. Speaking at the event, Brigadier Chauhan emphasized, "This facility will provide cadets with a solid foundation for excellence and discipline." He praised the university's commitment to holistic cadet training and modern infrastructure.

# Kumaun University Hosts Virtual Alumni Meet to Reconnect and Reflect

Kumaun University hosted an online Alumni Meet on 29th July 2025, led by Vice Chancellor Prof. D.S. Rawat. The event brought together former students and faculty to reconnect, reflect, and strengthen the alumni network.



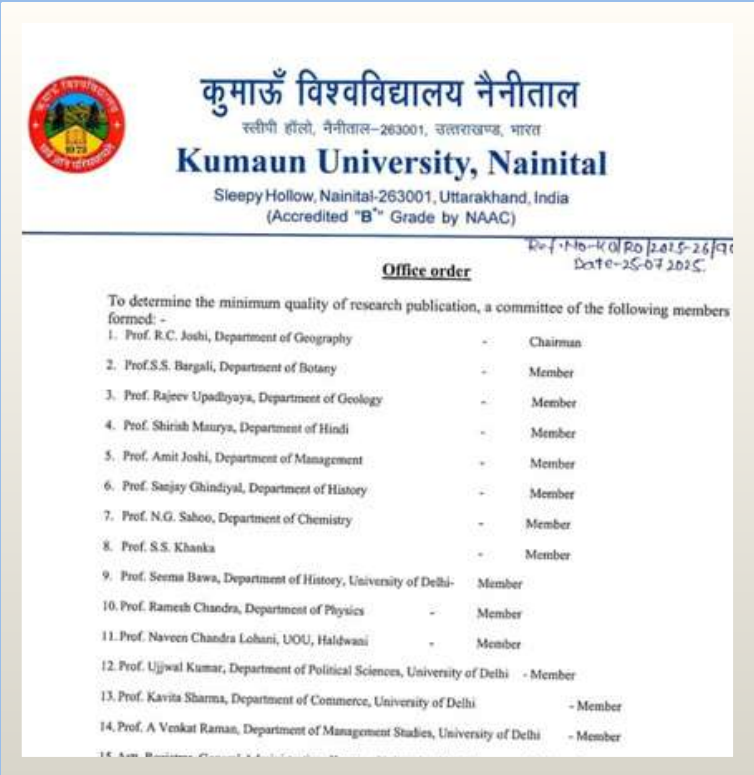
# KU Hosts Second Parent Interaction Meet to Strengthen Student Support



Kumaun University held its second direct interaction with parents, creating a space for open dialogue and valuable feedback. The one-hour session was highly interactive and highlighted key areas for improvement – a step forward in fostering a collaborative academic environment.

# Kumaun University Takes Lead to Ensure Research Quality Amid National Publishing Crisis

As India tops the list for publishing predatory journals and ranks third in paper retractions, Kumaun University has stepped up with a new mechanism to protect research quality. With UGC scrapping the CARE list and growing concerns about weak peer-review practices, KU is setting a strong example. "At Kumaun University, we mean business," said Prof. Diwan Rawat, highlighting the university's firm stand against compromised academic standards.





# The Q&A

## Hon'ble Justice R.C. Khulbe (Retd.)

**1. Sir, it is an honour to feature you in Vimarsh. To begin with, could you share which batch you were part of at Kumaun University and what your area of study was?**

It is my privilege to be part of this dialogue. I joined Kumaun University in 1979, enrolling in the Humanities stream—a path that, though modest in its beginning, became the foundation of my journey into law and public service.

**2. Could you walk us through your educational journey—from your early schooling to your time at Kumaun University—and what inspired you to take up law as a profession?**

My earliest lessons were learned in the humble classrooms of my native village, Chaura, nestled near Dwarahat in the district of Almora. From there, I moved to Government Inter College, Pali—still close to home, yet opening broader intellectual vistas.

In 1979, I entered Kumaun University for undergraduate studies. Upon completing my graduation, I enrolled in the LL.B. program at the Soban Singh Jeena Campus, Almora—then a constituent college of Kumaun University—where I studied from 1981 to 1984

That institution, with its rustic charm and severe infrastructural limitations, became the crucible in which my legal foundations were forged.

After earning my law degree, I appeared for the Provincial Civil Services – Judicial (PCS-J) examination and was fortunate to clear it on my very first attempt. I joined the judiciary as a Judicial Magistrate in 1987 (allotted batch–1985).

As for the flame that lit my path: it was none other than my elder brother, Prof. Dr. R. D. Khulbe—a towering academic who became the first Doctor of Science (D.Sc.) at Kumaun University, achieving this rare milestone at the age of 35. Watching him ascend the academic Everest with discipline and grace filled me with reverence and resolve. His life was a masterclass in diligence. To have a brother who is both a mentor and a moral compass is a gift few are fortunate to receive.

As Aristotle said, “We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act but a habit.”

**3. How would you describe your time at Kumaun University? Were there professors, peers, or moments that left a lasting impression on you?**

Though my elder brother served in the university and remained my unwavering source of support, I must acknowledge that the collective guidance of faculty members—lecturers, readers, professors—



—many of whom shared a collegial bond with him, created a nurturing academic cocoon around me. Their silent encouragement and scholarly example steered me gently through the rigours of legal study. In hindsight, I realise that I was surrounded not merely by educators but by torchbearers of wisdom, whose quiet influence shaped both my intellect and my integrity.

**4. As a student of law, what challenges did you face during those formative years, and how did you overcome them?**

Let me paint an honest picture—one that speaks to perseverance more than privilege.

In those days, the Soban Singh Jeena College lacked even the most basic infrastructure. There were no dedicated classrooms or department buildings. Law classes were held in the evenings to accommodate working professionals, some of whom were in their sixties. Electricity was often a luxury, not a given.

But adversity, as they say, is the best teacher. On holidays or during college closures, I would not squander time. After a simple morning meal, I would carry my law books and find a quiet spot beneath a tree. There, seated on cloth bags, I would immerse myself in study for hours on end—my own personal classroom beneath the open sky, and the rustling leaves my only companions. I lived in a rented room near the college—basic, even austere. There was no water supply. Each morning, I would carry my iron bucket to a nearby naula (mountain spring) for a bath and

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”**



then fetch water for drinking and cooking. Meals were self-prepared, usually a humble bowl of khichdi—a dish as simple as it was sustaining.

I grew up without the presence of my father, whose absence cast a long but inspiring shadow. He was a soldier in Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose’s Indian National Army—a patriot who went missing in action for seven long years. His sacrifice was a silent sermon in service and selflessness, etched forever in my memory.

As Maya Angelou said, **“Out of the huts of history’s shame, I rise... Bringing the gifts that my ancestors gave, I am the dream and the hope of the slave.”**

Truly, we are built by the hopes and sacrifices of those who came before us.

**5. What message or advice would you give to the current students of Kumaun University who wish to pursue law or enter the judicial services?**

To every young mind striving in pursuit of justice and knowledge, I would offer the following:

- Your circumstances do not define your destiny. Whether you rise from a village or a metropolis, it is your resolve that charts your future.
- Consistency in study, unwavering faith, self-discipline, and the blessings of parents and teachers—these are the unseen hands that lift us during trials.
- Adversity is not a wall—it is a mirror. It reflects your character and sharpens your will.

As William Ernest Henley said, **“I am the master of my fate, I am the captain of my soul.”**

*Do not be disheartened by setbacks. Remember, a kite soars highest against the wind, not with it.*

**6.What unique responsibilities and challenges come with serving on the High Court bench, compared to other judicial roles?**

In the lower judiciary, especially up to the post of District Judge, one remains in direct interaction with litigants and is subject to the supervision of the High Court. But once you ascend to the High Court, a profound shift occurs.

As a High Court judge, one is bound only by the majestic supremacy of the Constitution and the solemn weight of one’s conscience.

As a High Court judge, one is bound only by the majestic supremacy of the Constitution and the solemn weight of one’s conscience. There are no external overseers—only the inner voice of integrity and the silent scrutiny of the Almighty.

As the Latin maxim goes, **“Fiat justitia ruat caelum”**—*Let justice be done though the heavens fall. This is not merely a phrase but a guiding light.*

Every High Court or Supreme Court judge works independently, yet all are equally accountable—not just to the nation, but to their inner sense of justice and to the divine. At this juncture, when I also have the benefit of hindsight, I would like to highlight that my journey as a Judge of a constitutional court is an ode to my lifelong mentors, of whom I would like to make a mention of Justice Mr. Sudhanshu Dhulia, Judge Hon’ble Supreme Court of India; Justice Mr. Prafulla Chandra Pant, former Judge Hon’ble Supreme Court of India, Justice Irshad Hussien, former Judge Hon’ble High Court of Uttarakhand; and Justice Rajiv Sharma, former Judge Hon’ble High Court of Uttarakhand. It is their guidance and mentorship that ignited the fire of justice and integrity in me that lights my conscience even to this day.

**7. What was your experience like serving as Legal Advisor to the Governor of Uttarakhand? How did this role differ from your judicial responsibilities?**

The office of the Governor is a high constitutional position, governed strictly by the tenets of the Constitution. It is also entwined with academia, as the Governor serves as Chancellor of state universities.

As Legal Advisor, my responsibility was to provide constitutional clarity and legal direction on matters both complex and sensitive. Often, the Governor may not hail from a legal background, so it becomes imperative that advice is not only accurate but also comprehensible and actionable.

University-related service matters would also come to the Governor’s table—matters requiring careful interpretation of statutes, rules, and precedents.

Over time, I had the privilege of advising three Governors.This offered me the rare opportunity to engage with eminent Vice Chancellors and professors. Without exception, I found in them a rare combination of intellectual refinement and personal humility.

I would like to make a special mention of my tenure under the able leadership of Hon’ble former Governor Mr. K. K. Paul. The time spent in the Governor House during his Governorship made me a better professional by instilling in me the qualities of discipline, punctuality, and conscientiousness. For it, I will be indebted to former Governor Mr. K. K. Paul forever.

As Socrates said, **“True knowledge exists in knowing that you know nothing.”It was in these interactions that I rediscovered the nobility of scholarship and the grace of simple living.**

**8.Were there any landmark judgments or complex cases during your time on the bench that left a deep impact on you?**

Among the many judgments that I had the rare privilege of authoring, I would like to mention two for your readers:

- 1. Order for anti-encroachment drive across Uttarakhand** – Interestingly, my own family members were impacted by this order. A section of the house of my in-laws in Haldwani came under the purview of the anti-encroachment drive. I can say with some degree of satisfaction that I was successful in prioritising duty over relations.
- 2. Second Judgment is related to the Ex-CMs of the state, and the concerned Government** order related to extension of facilities, including life-long access to paid government accommodation, to former Chief Ministers. I was part of the bench that set aside the government order, underlining the principles of propriety and prudent management of tax payers' money.

**Rapid Fire Round**

- 1. One thing you miss the most about your college days?**  
Long walks on Thandi Sadak post classes.
- 2. Book that left a lasting impression on you?**  
Ramcharit Manas and The Autobiography of a Yogi
- 3. Your favorite getaway in the hills?**  
My village—Chaura, Almora
- 4. If not law, what would you have become?**  
A teacher
- 5. One habit that helped you stay grounded through all the years?**  
To be honest in one’s dealings
- 6. Tea or Coffee – what keeps a judge going?**  
Tea
- 7. A quote you live by?**  
“The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.” – Mahatma Gandhi
- 8. One quality every judge must have?**  
Strong moral fibre



# Faculty : In Conversation With Spotlight Dr. Santosh Kumar

EXPLORING WISDOM BEYOND THE CLASSROOM  
WALLS

In this edition, we bring you insights from Dr. Santosh Kumar, an esteemed academician who serves as the Head of the Department of Geology, Dean, Faculty of Science, Coordinator, UGC Centre of Advanced Study in Geology, and is currently serving as Director, Internal Quality Assurance Cell, and also Dean, Academic Affairs at Kumaun University. With a remarkable career spanning research, mentorship, and institutional leadership, Dr. Kumar's journey stands as a testament to curiosity, discipline, and lifelong learning. We sat down with him to learn more about his story, research, and the perspectives he offers to learners from all walks of life.



## Getting to know you

**1. To begin with, could you tell us about your early life—where you were born and how your journey into the world of Earth Sciences began?**

I was born in Ghazipur City, a vibrant town located along the banks of the River Ganges. My late father, Radha Krishna Singh Yadav, a legal practitioner, was not only my mentor but also my idol, providing unwavering support throughout my early life. I attended City High School, where inspiring science teachers ignited my passion for the subject. They consistently engaged us in discussions about scientific principles and laws, often citing natural examples and events that occurred around us. My senior peers, who secured recognition on the state merit list of the U.P. Board Examination, were a great source of inspiration. The intermediate education and learning environment had a profound influence on the journey toward my career in science.

**2. What drew you towards Mineralogy, Petrology, and Geochemistry? Was there a moment or influence that shaped this path?**

During my days, I had the opportunity to visit the campus of Banaras Hindu University (BHU) in Varanasi, located 75 km from my hometown. I was immediately captivated by the vast and well-organized university campus, never imagining that such a prestigious institution of higher learning existed. It was at that moment that I resolved to seek admission to BHU for my undergraduate studies. After being admitted to the BSc program, I discovered that the Campus Faculty of Science housed five distinct departments: Geology, Geophysics, Geography, Metallurgy, and Mining Engineering. This selection of fields differed significantly from the traditional biology and mathematics tracks I had considered. Yet, the combination of earth sciences—geology, geography, and chemistry—piqued my interest, and I chose that path. As my BSc program progressed, I learned that geology served as the foundational department for the development of the

other four science and engineering disciplines. This revelation instilled in me a profound appreciation for the interconnectedness of science and engineering, especially within the realm of geoscience.

Our Geology BSc classes were exclusively taught by professors who not only engaged us in lectures but also took us on enlightening field trips, demonstrating geological processes and their products. Their exemplary guidance was instrumental in fostering my interest in the origins and evolution of minerals and rocks, as well as the Earth's dynamic system. It was thrilling to explore the physical and chemical principles that govern the abundance, distribution, and migration of elements across the various spheres of our planet.

**3. Could you share a bit about your educational journey—your alma maters and how they helped shape your approach to research and teaching?**

Throughout my MSc and PhD studies in India (at BHU) and abroad at Comenius University in Bratislava, I have been profoundly influenced by several remarkable individuals. My teachers—S. K. Agarwal, N. K. Mukherjee, A. K. Bhattacharya, M. S. Srinivasan, R. K. Lal, and R. S. Sharma—and my supervisors, S. G. Karkare, Jan Bapčan, Jozef Veselsky, and Dr. Vojtech Vilinovič, played pivotal roles in my academic development. My mentors, Rishi Narayan Singh and Igor Petřík, along with research contributions from several top researchers in my specialized field—R. A. Weibe, R. H. Vernon, John D. Clemens, and John B. Read—have significantly impacted my career. They have been instrumental in honing my skills in teaching and research.

## Career & Academic Life

**4. You've spent decades in academia and research. Looking back, what have been some of the most fulfilling or defining moments in your career?**

The diverse colors, textures, and optical properties of minerals, combined with the remarkable ability of equipment to generate extensive in-situ elemental and isotopic data at a micron scale within a single rock section, have represented some of the most captivating and defining moments of my career.

The forms and vibrant colorations of minerals and rocks demonstrate a significant correlation with contemporary art and sculpture. The intriguing field features of igneous rock association, which arise from the interaction of coexisting magmas with contrasting temperatures and compositions over time and space, have sparked my research interest.



**5. How has your perspective on teaching and mentorship evolved over the years?**

Teaching involves conveying both established and new knowledge to students, who primarily serve as recipients in this process. In contrast, mentoring focuses on transforming a student into a scholar. While teachers often impart their voice, skills, and preferences into the work and mindset of their students, I have aimed to shape students during their internships by supervising graduate, research, and post-doctoral students. This guidance has ultimately encouraged them to become independent researchers themselves.

**6 If not this path, what other profession do you think might have intrigued you?**

Politics. I would have become an advocate and social activist in the footsteps of my late father, but he did not encourage me.

## Research & Contributions

**7. You’ve delved into enclaves in granitoids and assessed the redox series of granitoids. For our readers less familiar with the subject, can you explain its broader importance and how it links to mineralization potential and geodynamic processes?**

In geology, we identify the sequence of events in chronological order, from older to younger. Previously, dark-colored, fine-grained magmatic enclaves found within granitoids were believed to be older than the granitoids themselves. However, our research has established that both the enclaves and the host granitoids originate from coeval, synchronous magmas, indicating that they must lie within the same stratigraphic horizon. Granitoids are formed in a variety of magmatic environments, which can be either oxidized or reduced. These environments are inherited from their source regions and evolve over time. Factors such as water content, associated rock types, ore element saturation, and tectonic settings play a crucial role in influencing the mineralization potential of granitoids. Granitoids have contributed significantly to the formation of continental crust and its associated mineral resources. In the Kumaun Himalaya, there are granitoid rocks that date back 1.85 billion years, preserving the geoheritage sites.

**8. Having guided several Ph.D. scholars successfully, what do you believe is the most essential trait a researcher—or any learner—should develop? How do you balance guidance with encouraging independence?**

Engaging with texts, reference books, and research articles regularly fosters a profound understanding of the subject and enhances the ability to make informed analytical judgments. This ultimately leads to the generation of quality questions and innovative research. I consistently encourage researchers to independently analyze their results, as this practice helps foster the development of their interpretative skills. In my experience, researchers who do so often produce more creative ideas.

**9.. With numerous publications to your name, how do you sustain your passion for writing and discovery? What advice would you give to anyone hoping to contribute meaningfully to their field through research or writing?**

Writing is a skill of expression—your discovery, idea, thought, reasoning, or analysis cannot be a final and satisfactory version for publication; that is why a review or referral process is adopted in the world of book or journal paper publication. Even an individual writer or author can self-edit and improve the earlier version in a progressive state of evolutionary thinking, a philosophical approach, in the subject matter.

The capacity for continuous thinking is a fundamental characteristic in scientific research, which develops inherently in individuals who possess a genuine passion for their work. This trait is crucial for advancing knowledge and fostering innovation within the field. Whenever thoughts, which occasionally develop, enter the mind, one should write them down immediately.

## Advice for the Curious Mind

**11. What advice would you offer to anyone—regardless of their discipline—who is trying to find purpose and direction in their academic or professional life?**

The inherent value of any academic discipline lies in the ability of creative individuals to define their objectives and responsibilities in a unique way. These individuals consistently strive for innovative and distinctive approaches to problem-solving and addressing various challenges. It is important to set a goal of becoming a professional early in life, focusing and working diligently to achieve that ambition. Don’t be discouraged by the failures and obstacles encountered along the way; remember that no significant achievement comes without struggle and hard work.

**12. In your view, how can one make the most of their formative years—beyond grades and certificates?**

Positive thoughts and constructive thinking emerge from a sound state of mind and optimal physical health. Adhering to ethical work practices and engaging in amicable interactions with the surrounding environment enhances both mental well-being and creativity.

## Rapid Round

**One mineral you find most fascinating?**  
Zircon (ZrSiO<sub>4</sub>)

**Tea or coffee during long hours of reading or writing?**  
Tea

**Field work or desk research—your favorite?**  
Field work

**One word students often use to describe you?**  
Exactly, not known to me.

**If you could explore any natural site or region right now, where would you go?** Greater (Higher) Himalaya

**“Rocks may be silent, but they carry the echoes of Earth’s history.”**



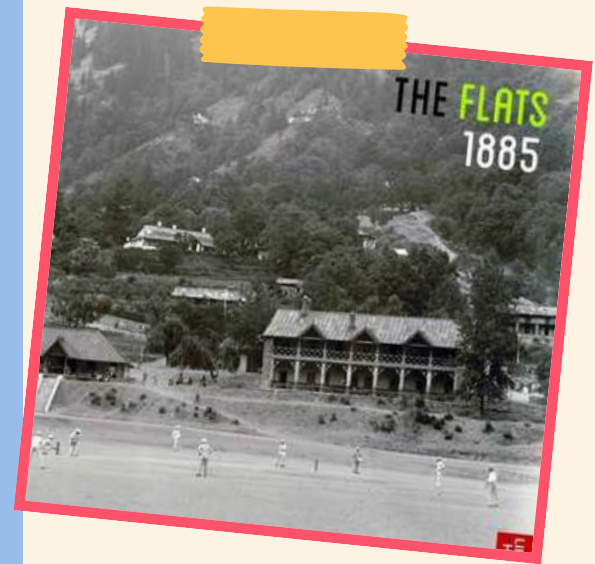
# CREATIVE Corner

## Did you know? (Nainital Edition)

1- The town of Nainital was founded in 1841 by a British sugar trader named P. Barron, who was so enchanted by the lake that he built the first house here, called Pilgrim's Cottage.

2- The Flatts now known for fairs and cricket — was created when a massive landslide in 1880 killed over 150 people and buried a theatre, market, and temple in minutes.

3- Ayarpatta was once called Anyarpatta  
“Anyarpatta” means ‘dark forest hill’ — named for its thick canopy of trees. Early British officers recorded it with this name in the 1840s. Over time, it became Ayarpatta, one of Nainital's seven surrounding hills



## HARELA

Harela, celebrated across Uttarakhand, marks the start of the sowing season and is a tribute to Maa Vasundhara (Mother Earth). Ten days before the festival, grains like barley and mustard are sown. On the tenth day, the green sprouts—Harela—are cut and placed on family members' heads as elders bless them with the words:

**जी रया, जागी रया, फूल जैसा खिल रया।**

**यो दिन, यो मास सबके भेट रया।”**

Harela reminds us to live in harmony with nature, respect the earth, and celebrate renewal and sustainability.



## Mythological Story of Naina Devi Mandir, Nainital

The Naina Devi Temple in Nainital is one of the 51 sacred Shakti Peethas in Hindu mythology. It is believed that when Goddess Sati self-immolated after being insulted by her father, Lord Shiva, overwhelmed with grief, carried her body across the universe. To calm him and save the world from destruction, Lord Vishnu used his Sudarshan Chakra to cut Sati's body into pieces. The spot where her eyes (Naina) fell is where the Naina Devi Temple now stands. The town of Nainital gets its name from this legend — “Naina” meaning eyes and “Tal” meaning lake.

