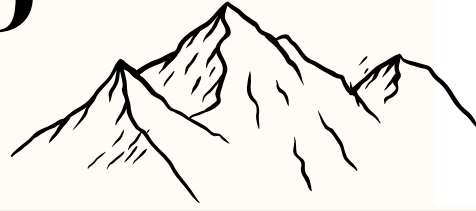


# UTTARAKHAND CHRONICLES



## THE ABODE OF THE GODS !

Uttarakhand (also known as Uttaranchal), remains to be one of the most diverse of places within the. It offers immense natural beauty, and built heritage which leaves one in awe. This hilltop state houses buddhist monasteries, an Ashokan rock edict, bustling hill stations, vernacular architecture, and lots more!

Due to the heavy concentration of temples in the state, it is often dubbed as 'devbhoomi' or abode of the gods. It also nests within itself the river Ganga, which originates from the Garhwal Himalayas of the state.

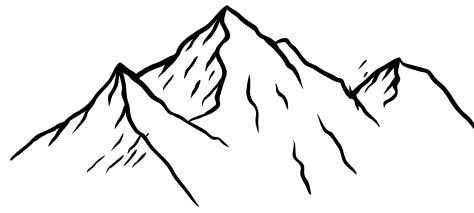
In natural beauty too the state proves its epithet, holding a UNESCO world heritage site—The Valley of flowers. Which was recently reopened for tourists, and shall remain open until October 31st.

Uttarakhand made global headlines recently with the massive influx of over 35 lakh pilgrims during the annual **Char Dham Yatra.**

Uttarakhand is the only state to have **Sanskrit** as an official language!

# EDITORIAL

Vernacular design of the hills

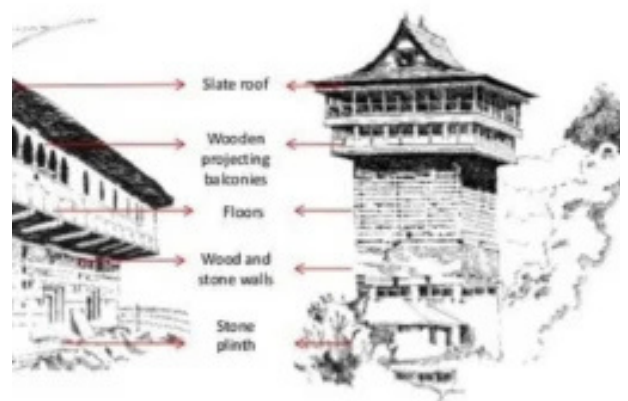


The unprecedented damage which is inflicted upon the nation due to natural disasters remains no secret. It is in such a state of epochal climate change and changing topographies that nations look for solutions to climatic issues, The solution lies often not in the present, but in the past; it lies in the vernacular traditions of our ancestors.

Our state Uttarakhand is home to the 'Koti-banal' vernacular architecture tradition which is famed for being earthquake resistant. Located in a vulnerable seismic zone, this style of architecture emerged through the material necessities of the area. Developed almost a millennium ago, it was crafted with a delicate understanding of the climate, environment and geographic factors.

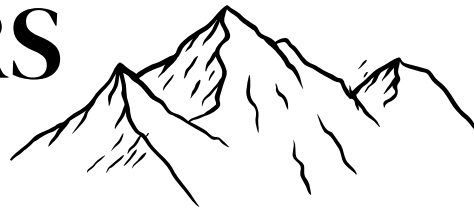
It is characterised by simple geometry, locally available wood, dry stone masonry, rectangular frame. Often constructed on a raised stone platform. It utilizes semi-rigid connections to absorb shock, and displays smaller-reinforced door and window frames. Alternating horizontal courses of wood and stone, with no mortar are used. Villages following this style are ecologically planned, without being formally designed.

This style is very similar to the Kath-Khuni style prevalent in Himachal Pradesh, and is emblematic of the vernacular design of the region.



# BUILT WONDERS

Monumental architecture



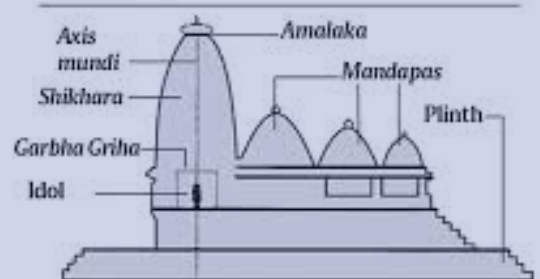
Uttarakhand features within its borders, many majestic temples. Built largely in the **Nagara\*** style of design. The Kedarnath, Bageshwar and Baijnath Temples are examples of such monumental architecture. Every year they attract many devotees and tourists alike.

A semi-royal vernacular architectural form found across the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand is the 'Kotha'— the headquarter for the local 'Thokdar', it served as a centre of socio-political power and the most characteristic feature of them is the Tibari- a decorated verandah with ornate pillars.

## Nagara style

The Nagara style is a north-indian style of temple building. Which in its design tries to replicate the vedic mount Meru. It displays a “*shikhara*” or a rising curvilinear tower, over the “*Garbhagriha*” or the innermost sanctuary. Other features also include a *mandapam* or a pillared hall and a *jagati* which is a raised stone platform, below the temple

### BASICS OF THE NAGARA STYLE



# The two sisters

## Kumaon and Garhwal



The state of Uttarakhand consists of two beautiful contrasting halves. Garhwal and Kumaon are the two distinct cultural, geographical, and administrative divisions that make up the state of Uttarakhand, India. Garhwal sits in the northwestern region with high-altitude temples and trans-Himalayan treks, while Kumaon rests in the southeastern part, known for its scenic lakes, wildlife reserves, and valleys.

Kumaon’s heritage is highly influenced by the Chand dynasty and features vibrant folk arts like Aipan. Garhwal is defined by its 52 ancient forts, indigenous tribal migrations, and massive pilgrimage sites.



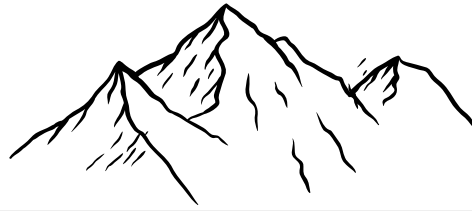
Try and locate which ones of these sites belong in Garhwal and which in Kumaon?

**Garhwal**

**Kumaon**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

# CULTURE AND TRADITION



The folk traditions of Uttarakhand include a variety of aspects; ranging from festivals, traditional dances, music, and even pilgrimage routes which form an important aspect of the state's cultural identity.

Research indicates that such folk rituals are also instruments of conservation of nature. Goddesses like Kotgyari have entire forests dedicated to them where exploitation is restricted; festivals like Harela involve growing and offering traditional crops, preserving agrobiodiversity; sacred groves protect water sources and endangered species.

However such traditions can also empower regressive practices like, lower castes are often excluded from sacred sites and women are barred during menstruation, framing “purity”.

Modernisation has led to many of the folk knowledge being forgotten. The Buksa tribe's medicinal knowledge and Kumaon's frost-resistant grain varieties are among the casualties.

What is a folk tradition observed in your family?

# Activities!

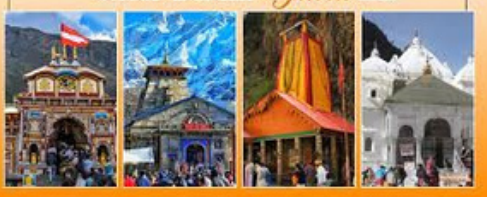


- Uttarakhand is often called "Dev Bhoomi" which means \_\_\_\_\_ in English.
- The famous \_\_\_\_\_ movement of 1973 involved people hugging trees to stop them from being cut down.
- The rivers Ganga and Yamuna both originate from the \_\_\_\_\_ of Uttarakhand.
- Uttarakhand is divided into two main regions called \_\_\_\_\_ and Kumaon.
- Traditional houses in the Himalayan region are built using locally available materials like \_\_\_\_\_ and stone, without the use of cement or mortar.

You read about the natural and built heritage of Uttarakhand, what steps do you believe one should take in preserving our heritage?



## Char Dham Yatra



### Tour Package

contact: 9XX9XX9XX0

## Jim Corbett-Nainital Safari and tour!



# Fact corner!



**Chholiya** is a thousand-year-old traditional sword dance from the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand, India. Originally it belongs to the martial traditions of warring tribes, it is also performed during wedding processions to display valor, and ward off evil spirits. Dancers wear vibrant traditional attire and wield swords and shields, performing energetic mock fights to the rhythmic beats of folk instruments like the dhol and damau.

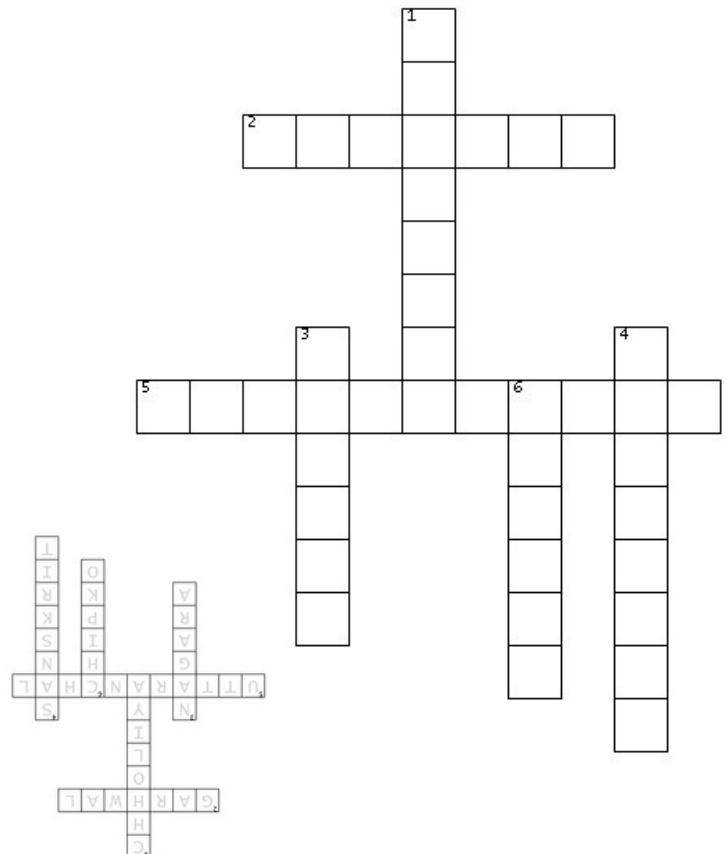
# Crossword!

## ACROSS

2. Northwestern division of Uttarakhand  
5. Other name for Uttarakhand

## DOWN

1. An ancient, thousand-year-old sword dance  
3. Temple design most prevalent in Uttarakhand  
4. An official language of Uttarakhand which is unique to it  
6. A forest conservation movement



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