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Two Days International Conference

On

From Tradition to Transformation: Cultural and Historical Paradigm Shifts in Uttarakhand

November 23 & 24, 2026



Jointly Organised by

Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology

&

Research Development Cell

Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University), Haridwar

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Dr. Prachi Ranga, Dr. Divyanshu Bisht

Venue: Auditorium, Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology Department

About the Department

The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture & Archaeology has a rich academic legacy spanning more than six decades. Established in 1962, the department is presently a constituent of the Faculty of Oriental Studies. From its inception, the department has been committed to promoting the interdisciplinary study of archaeology, history, and culture, with a particular emphasis on the diverse cultural heritage and historical development of India through the ages.

The department has established a distinctive position in the field of higher education by offering specialised courses in Archaeology and Museology at the undergraduate level, making it one of the few departments in the country to provide such an academic programme. It also offers foundational and advanced courses in Ancient Indian History, Culture, and Archaeology. The department promotes knowledge generation through archaeological fieldwork, explorations, heritage studies, and various academic and outreach activities aimed at creating greater awareness and appreciation of India's rich cultural heritage.

Research and Academic Contributions

The research undertaken by the department has made significant contributions to the development of Indological studies in India. Over the years, distinguished scholars and faculty members associated with the Department—including Acharya Ram Dev, Chandragupta Vedalankar, Jayachandra Vidyalankar, Haridutta Vedalankar, Styaketu Vidyalankar, and B. C. Sinha—have made notable scholarly contributions through their extensive research and publications on various aspects of the history and culture of South Asia and Southeast Asia.

In the field of archaeology, the department has undertaken extensive archaeological explorations in Western Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand. These investigations have contributed substantially to our understanding of the archaeological and cultural heritage of the Upper Gangetic Plain and have helped develop a broader picture of its historical and archaeological development.

The Department continues to advance its academic and research activities through field explorations, interdisciplinary research, heritage documentation, archaeological studies, and cultural awareness programmes, thereby contributing to the preservation, interpretation, and dissemination of India's archaeological and cultural heritage.

About the Seminar

Nestled amidst the majestic peaks of the Himalayas, Uttarakhand has long been perceived primarily through the prism of its sacred geography and enduring pilgrimage traditions. Yet the history of the region extends far beyond the confines of a purely sacred landscape. This conference seeks to broaden that conventional narrative by bringing together historians, archaeologists, art historians, and scholars of culture to examine and reconstruct the rich, complex, and multilayered past of Uttarakhand.

Drawing upon archaeological evidence, epigraphic records, art-historical traditions, literary sources, and living cultural practices, the seminar will explore the region as an important historical and cultural corridor through which trade, migration, religious movements, and intellectual exchanges connected the Indian subcontinent with Central and Inner Asia. Particular attention will be devoted to the development of temple architecture, sculptural and iconographic traditions, sacred landscapes, and the region's tangible and intangible cultural heritage.

The conference will endeavour to situate Uttarakhand not merely as a peripheral or exclusively sacred territory, but as an active participant in the wider historical, artistic, intellectual, and cultural currents of ancient and medieval India. It will also encourage a critical examination of the interactions between the Himalayan region and the broader cultural networks of the subcontinent.

Through an interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars from diverse fields, the seminar aims to deepen our understanding of Uttarakhand's contribution to the cultural and civilizational history of India, while simultaneously bringing into sharper focus the region's distinctive historical traditions, cultural expressions, and evolving identity.

Call for Papers

The Department of Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology, Gurukula Kangri (Deemed to be University), invites research papers for a two days International Conference on "From Tradition to Transformation: Cultural and Historical Paradigm Shifts in Uttarakhand."

The conference seeks to examine Uttarakhand as a dynamic historical landscape shaped by pilgrimage, trade, migration, political interaction, religious traditions, artistic expression, and cultural exchange. Scholars, Researchers, Faculty members, and Students are invited to present original research on the cultural and historical heritage of Uttarakhand.

Thematic Areas

- Archaeological Explorations in Uttarakhand: New Discoveries and Reinterpretations
- Temple Architecture and Sacred Spaces of the Central Himalaya
- Trade Routes and Trans-Himalayan Connectivity
- Epigraphy, Numismatics, and Textual Sources for Regional History
- Folk Deities, Local Cults, and Living Religious Traditions
- Intangible Cultural Heritage: Oral Traditions, Rituals, and Performing Arts
- Art and Iconography of the Central Himalayan Region
- Ethnography and Material Culture of Himalayan Communities
- Conservation, Museology, and Heritage Management in Uttarakhand
- Colonial and Post-Colonial History & Historiography of Uttarakhand

Registration & Submission Timeline

- Last Date for Registration: October 15, 2026
- Last Date for Abstract Submission: October 25, 2026
- Last Date for Full Paper Submission: November 5, 2026
- Notification of Acceptance: November 10, 2026

Registration Link:
https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSeoRh5iv7STaTvWUiZNGtrAES0DBqaNAFS33HGKj1mJfIYtlg/viewform?usp=header

All Participants are requested to kindly submit their abstract and research papers via email to: history@gkv.ac.in

Registration Fee Details

Category	Fee
PG Students	₹100
Research Scholars	₹500
Faculty Members	₹600

Mode of Payment

QR Code



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