



CULTURAL PROGRAM

Celebrating, promoting, and preserving the cultural heritage of the Uttarakhand Himalayas

HERITAGE & CRAFT INITIATIVES

बारा बन्था, गौणा : नई पीढ़ी को अपनी जड़ों से जोड़ने का प्रयास

Focus: Preserving traditional expressions of the Himalayas through indigenous jewellery, crafts, and attire

A heartfelt initiative that celebrates the timeless beauty of Uttarakhand's traditional attire and jewellery, inspiring the younger generation to reconnect with their cultural roots and take pride in their heritage.

Through our stalls, we also showcase handcrafted key chains, fridge magnets, and canvas paintings inspired by the diverse cultures of Uttarakhand, with the aim of promoting and preserving the vibrant traditions and cultural identity.

HIMWAL Society Participates in Uttarakhand Lok Virasat Programme

Editions: 4th (2024) and 5th (2025)

Venue: Social Baluni Public School, Dehradun

HIMWAL Society proudly participated in the Uttarakhand Lok Virasat Programme, which provided a vibrant platform to celebrate, promote, and preserve the rich cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, and folk traditions of Uttarakhand.

As part of the initiative, HIMWAL Society set up a dedicated stall showcasing the cultural and natural richness of the Himalayan region. The HIMWAL team represented the diverse cultural identity of Uttarakhand by wearing traditional attire associated with different communities and regions of the state.

The stall also showcased a variety of organic and locally sourced products directly procured from the Himalayan communities, highlighting the importance of promoting local products, traditional practices, sustainable livelihoods, and the unique cultural heritage of Uttarakhand.

HIMWAL Society remains committed to working towards the preservation of Uttarakhand's rich cultural heritage while supporting local communities, promoting sustainable livelihoods, and creating greater visibility for the region's traditional knowledge and locally produced goods.

HIMWAL Society Participates in Spring Festival 2025

Venue: Lok Bhavan (formerly Raj Bhavan), Dehradun

HIMWAL Society was proud to participate in the Spring Festival 2025, which provided an



excellent platform to celebrate the rich cultural heritage, traditional art, and local craftsmanship of Uttarakhand.

As part of the event, HIMWAL Society showcased hand-painted cultural artwork inspired by the rich traditions and cultural identity of Uttarakhand, highlighting the artistic expressions and traditional heritage of the Himalayan region.

The HIMWAL Society stall also featured a diverse range of handmade and locally produced products crafted by women from the Joshimath-Niti Valley region, aiming to promote the skills, creativity, and entrepreneurial potential of rural women while providing greater visibility to their traditional products and livelihoods.

HIMWAL Society continues to work towards the promotion of Uttarakhand's cultural heritage, traditional knowledge, local products, and sustainable livelihood opportunities, with a special focus on empowering rural and Himalayan communities.

CULTURAL HERITAGE CONSERVATION INITIATIVE

This initiative is titled the “लोक संस्कृति/विरासत संरक्षण कार्यक्रम”.

Programs Organized

Preserving the Cultural Heritage of Uttarakhand: The Tradition of Dhol

Date: 18th January 2024

Collaboration: Doon Library and Research Centre, Dehradun

HIMWAL Society organized a cultural programme on “Dhol: The Prime Folk Instrument of the Uttarakhand Himalayas” to create awareness about the cultural significance of the Dhol and its role in preserving the state's rich musical heritage.

The event brought together cultural enthusiasts, artists, scholars, and members of the community to discuss the history, traditions, and importance of the Dhol in the social and cultural life of Uttarakhand. Participants shared their experiences and highlighted how the instrument has been an integral part of festivals, religious ceremonies, weddings, and other traditional celebrations for generations.

Celebrating the Cultural Heritage of Painkhanda (Jyotirmath) Region: ‘Uttarain’ in the Uttarakhand Himalayas

Date: 13th January 2025

Collaboration: Doon Library and Research Centre, Dehradun

Local Name: Chunya Tyohar — a unique folk festival of the Painkhanda (Jyotirmath) region

HIMWAL Society organized a cultural programme to celebrate 'Uttarain' in the Uttarakhand Himalayas, with specific reference to the Painkhanda (Jyotirmath) region, where the festival is locally known as Chunya Tyohar.

The programme brought together people from different professions who belong to the Painkhanda region. They shared their memories, traditions, and experiences of



celebrating Chunya Tyohar in their villages, helping the audience understand the cultural significance of this traditional festival.

One of the highlights of the festival is the preparation of Chunya, a traditional sweet made using locally grown millets such as barnyard millet, proso millet, wheat flour, rice flour, black gram flour, maize flour, jaggery, fennel seeds, and coconut. The mixture is shaped and deep-fried to create a delicious festive delicacy — a unique cultural tradition celebrated only in the Painkhanda region.

The programme also introduced participants from other parts of Uttarakhand to this lesser-known festival, creating awareness about the region's unique customs, traditional foods, and local culture. The event concluded with the distribution of Chunya and Arsa, allowing everyone to experience the authentic flavours of this special festival while celebrating the cultural diversity of Uttarakhand.