Art, Cultural Heritage & Creativity in Uttarakhand

Lokesh Ohri
“This is the holy land of Shiva, a land where you find answers (uttar) to the most complex problems life throws at you; every rock (khand) gives you the answers you seek. That is why one keeps returning to Uttarakhand.”

A sadhu on the Kedarnath pilgrimage
Cultural Heritage?

Captain Vikram Batra, 
Param Vir Chakra 
1974-99
Cultural Heritage?

Art, Cultural Heritage & Creativity

IDENTITY

LIBERTY

CREATIVITY
Heritage pervades us…

BUILDINGS CLOTHES FOOD LANGUAGE
PHOTOS GRANDMA’S STORIES PAINTINGS
BOOKS FILMS MUSIC IDIOMS SONGS
GAMES PLANTS INSECTS WILDLIFE ART
& SO MUCH MORE…
HERE, NOW & THEN

Doon Court
Dehra Dun, Uttarakhand
Why is heritage important?

Sir George Everest
1790-1876
EXPLORERS, ADVENTURERS, SCIENTISTS
Places are made

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Positioning of Radiation Belts

Only other places are Machu Pichu & Stonehenge

Kasar Devi
Almora, Uttarakhand
OUR CONNECTION WITH THE PAST

Lakhudiyar
Almora, Uttarakhand

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Cave Paintings

Old Stone Age to the Neo Stone Age.

Paintings, megaliths, menhirs, cup marks, burial graves, cist pottery, beads.

Figures of humans and also tectiforms done with fingers in black, red and white colours.
Ashokan Edict
Kalsi, Uttarakhand

PAST INFLUENCES

FUTURE DECISIONS

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XIIIth Edict

270 BC, Dating.

"Dhamma" victory foremost. Gajottam.

Ptolemy II
Jageshwar
Almora, Uttarakhand

BEAUTY IS GOOD FOR THE BRAIN

Jageshwar Temple
600 to 800 years’ old.
124 Temple Complex
Centre of Lakulesh Shaivism.
EVERY SITE TELLS A STORY, OF HOPE & RESILIENCE

Koti-Banal
Jaunpur, Uttarakhand

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Earthquake Proof Housing
300 to 500 years’ old.
Pherols and Panchpuras.
Locally sourced materials.
Guru Ram Rai Darbar
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

REINVENT THE PAST,
INTERPRET THE PRESENT

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Durbar
Built by Aurangzeb
1707 A.D.
Combines elements of Mughal, Sikh & Pahari Architecture
Garhwal School of Painting
ART GIVES US COURAGE TO FIGHT ADVERSITY

Garhwal School
Garhwal, Uttarakhand

Garhwal School
Pt. Maula Ram Tomar.
1743-1833
Poet, writer, historian, social scientist, philosopher & artist par excellence.
Gartang Gali
Garhwal, Uttarakhand

Walkway on a rock face
Trade Route to Tibet
17th Century
11000 feet above msl
Upper Ganga Canal
Roorkee, Uttarakhand-U.P.

GREAT FOR ECONOMICS

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Sir Proby Cautley
(1802-1871)
The Bridges
Uttarakhand

Remind us of divisions, yet connect

Serve a purpose

Each with its own stories and meanings
F.R.I.
Dehradun, Uttarakhand

LABOUR INTENSIVE
LOCAL SKILLS

Forest Research Institute
Built in 1929
by Bloomfield
Locally available material & skills used
I AM ONLY A COMMON CITIZEN, WHAT CAN I DO?

Know about your heritage.

Take friends along.

Tell others about it.

Question desecration and vandalism.

Take pride in heritage.

Preserve your city’s fabric.

Treat the city/town as a home.