

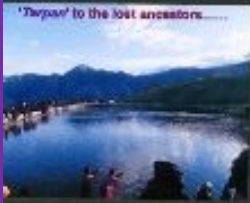
# NANDA DEVI RAJ JAT 2014

Nanda Devi Raj Jat is an old traditional pilgrimage of 21 days which passes through the villages and high altitude meadows of the Himalaya in Chamoli district. The journey is traditionally led by "*Chausingya Khhadoo*" (a four horned ram) up to the base of Mt Trishul where, it is said that, the ram climbs upward slope and disappears. Large number of devotees of Nanda from different villages of Uttarakhand participates in this on-foot journey and many of them carry "*Chhantoli*" (a parasol woven of hill bamboo). Few devotees from selected villages also carry "*Doli of Nanda*" (palanquin carrying idol of Nanda Devi). After the 13<sup>th</sup> stay at Wan village rest of the stays are in uninhabited areas. This pilgrimage passes through the picturesque alpine meadow of Vedini, crosses a formidable mountain pass at Junra Gali (4880 m) just above the mystery lake Roopkund and stay in the wilderness of Shila Samudra alpine meadow at the feet of Mt Trishul ridge. At the end of this procession on 18<sup>th</sup> day all the four horned rams depart at Homkundi after the last *Havan*. After the farewell of rams all the devotees return back to Nauti village and disperse after distribution of "*prasada*".

Though this journey is religious it offers bountiful opportunities to see and experience the Himalaya. Soaring peaks and slumbering glaciers, verdant meadows and barren rocks, delicate alpine flowers and immaculate streams, placid lakes and deep dark gorges, all combine here to offer a mountain beauty, unsurpassed. Truly, this journey is a lifetime experience of thrill, adventure, and closeness to Nature and God.

TODAY AT 4 PM in Conference Hall of Environmental Sciences

# **NANDA DEVI RAJ JAT 2014** A Journey through the Alpine Himalaya



'Yajna' to the lost ancestors.....



Chilled morning but people started moving



Oxygen and port



Why Nanda Devi Raj Jat is Organized?  
Nanda Devi Raj and Nanda Devi Raj  
Jat  
Every 12 years!

.....a slide show by **D.S. Rawat**

# NANDA DEVI RAJ JAT 2014

## A Journey Through the Alpine Himalaya

A lens-eye view



# Why Nanda Devi Raj Jat is Organized?

**‘Nanda Jat’ and ‘Nanda Devi Raj Jat’**

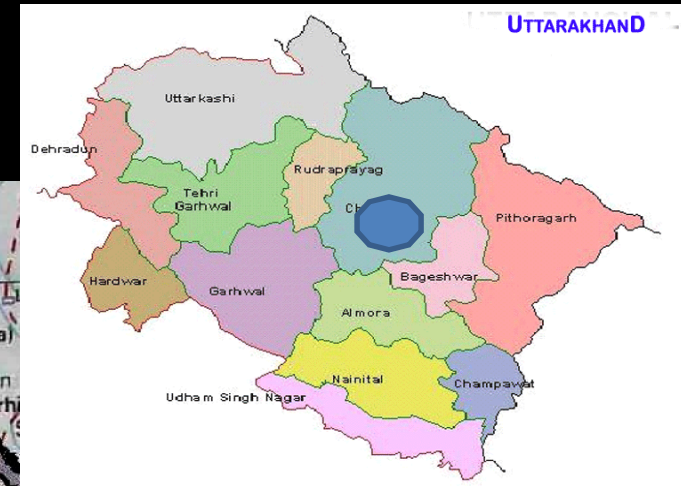
**Every 12 years?**

**Earlier Jat – 1905, 1925, 1951, 1968, 1987, 2000, 2014**

**Start at Kansua and ends at Nauti after 20 days, 280 kms**



# Nanda Jat: Where in Uttarakhand?



## Night Stays

1. Nauti
2. Ira Badhani
3. Nauti
4. Kansua
5. Sem
6. Koti
7. Bhagoti
8. Kulsari
9. Chepduen
10. Nand Kesari
11. Faldiagaon
12. Mundoli
13. Wan
14. Garoli Pattal
15. Vedini
16. Pattar Nachauniya
17. Shila Samudra
18. Chandaniya Ghutt
19. Sutol
20. Ghat
21. Nauti

Taken from map of Uttaranchal by Survey of India 2001



The last  
leg of  
Nanda  
Raj Jat  
2014:  
How it  
looks  
from sky

# Why Again After 27 Years ?

- *Religious fervour*
  - *Call of Mountains*
  - *Collection of plant species and their photographs from the area*
  - *Knowledge of vegetation of the area*
- And*
- *Recharging of mind by the 'tonic' of high altitudes*

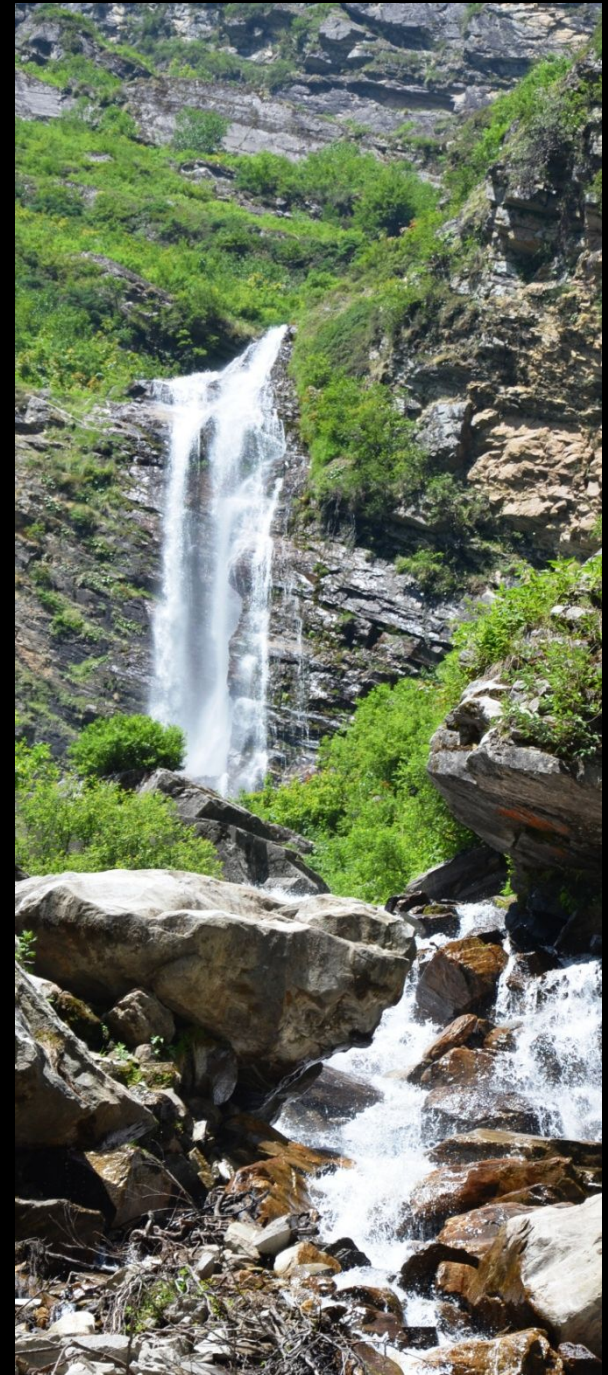
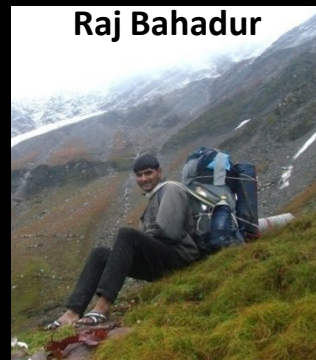
Team for  
the  
Venture



Satish



Raj Bahadur



# Nanda Devi Raj Jat

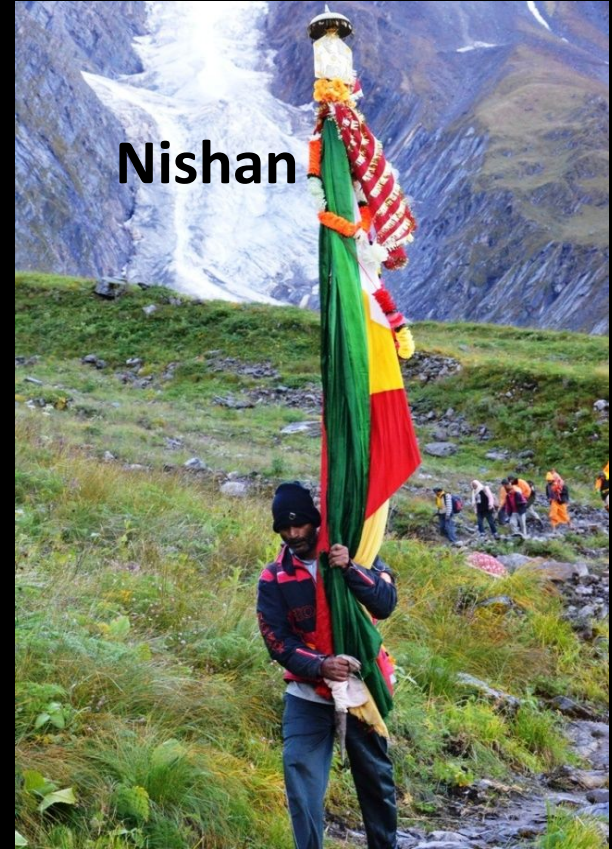
A Tale of Doli, Chhantoli, Nishan, Chausingya Khadoo and Bugyals



Doli



Chhantoli



Nishan



Chausingya Khadoo



Bugyal or Alpine Meadow



# We Joined the Procession at Wan Village



# Early Morning in the temple at Wan



# Graceful conifer along the track



One of them had a message...  
.....track must be difficult ahead

**श्री नन्दा देवी राजजात यात्रा 2014**

देख चढ़ाई मत घबराना, धीरे-धीरे कदम बढ़ाना,  
बन कछुआ मजिल का पाना,  
खरगोशी जहमत न उठाना।



एस.डी.आर.एफ., उत्तराखण्ड पुलिस

# Ran-ki-Dhaar: the ridge of fierce battle



# Crossing Neel Ganga and uphill climb



# Through the woods, heading towards Garoli Pattal



# Garoli Pattal: another battle field





# Climbing to reach Vedni Bugyal



**Almost reached there**



**Rolling slopes of Vedini bugyal and  
colourful tents all around.....**



**We also pitched our tent on alpine turf..**



# Nature's welcome message: rainbow over verdant meadow



# Trident of Shiva.... Illuminated by dying sun



**Evening in the Vedini Bugyal... soon darkness enveloped the panorama**



# Early morning and Nanda Ghungti peak





**Chilled morning but people started moving**



**We were also ready to move**



***'Tarpan'*** to the lost ancestors.....



**Everyone wish to become sin free by taking a dip in holy but ice-cold water of *Vaitarani Kund***





**Eye pleasing but environmentally damaging tent colony at  
Vedini Bugyal**

# Broad view of Vedini Bugyal



# Moving ahead of Vedini Bugyal



# *Thodi thakaan mita len phir chalte hain!*





**Some take rest while others move**



# A common view of alpine meadows



Flower in a flower



# ***Ghora Lautani Dhaar***



# Tracks to Sutol and Pattar Nachauniya bifurcate here



*Chhantoli* and *Nisan* move ahead over the ridge



# Flowers along the track



# In proximity of Pattar Nachauniya





# Pattar Nachauniya .....where dancers petrified



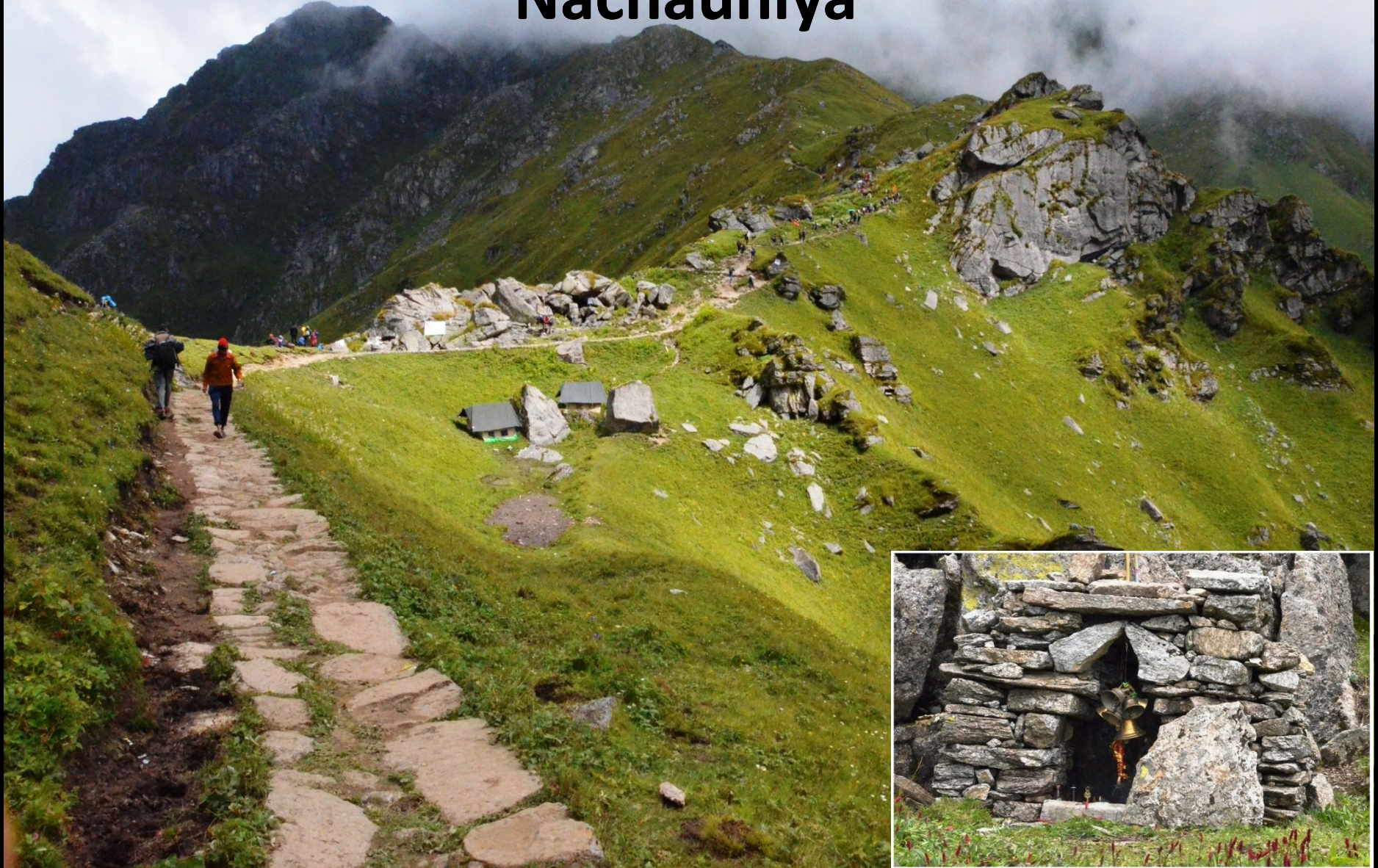
# SDRF registering names of pilgrims



# *Chhantolies* on their own



# Tough climb starts a little ahead of Pattar Nachauniya



# At Kailva Vinayak



# Balampa's labour room... cause of curse



# *Floral Profusion in Alpine Meadows*



# An emotional appeal... but who cares





**Some pitched their tents on a windy  
ridge-top at Bhagwabasa**



**We pitched our tent along the track**



**After a tiring track tea was much needed  
to a teetotaler**



# Nanda Ghungti peak from Bhagwabasa



# Clouds fill the lower valleys



# Fog starts spreading



**In a freezing morning people start moving  
towards Roopkund**



# We left Bhagwabasa and moved ahead





# Climbing a rock wall to reach Chidiya Nag



# A long queue of pilgrims



# At Chidiya Nag and view from there



*Saussurea glacialis*, *Pegaeophyton purii* and  
*Saxifraga microphylla*

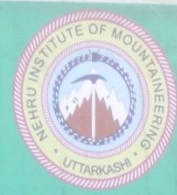


# Disciplined pilgrims creeping over the barren slope





उत्तराखण्ड राज्य



नेहरू पर्वतारोहण  
संस्थान

# रूप कुण्ड

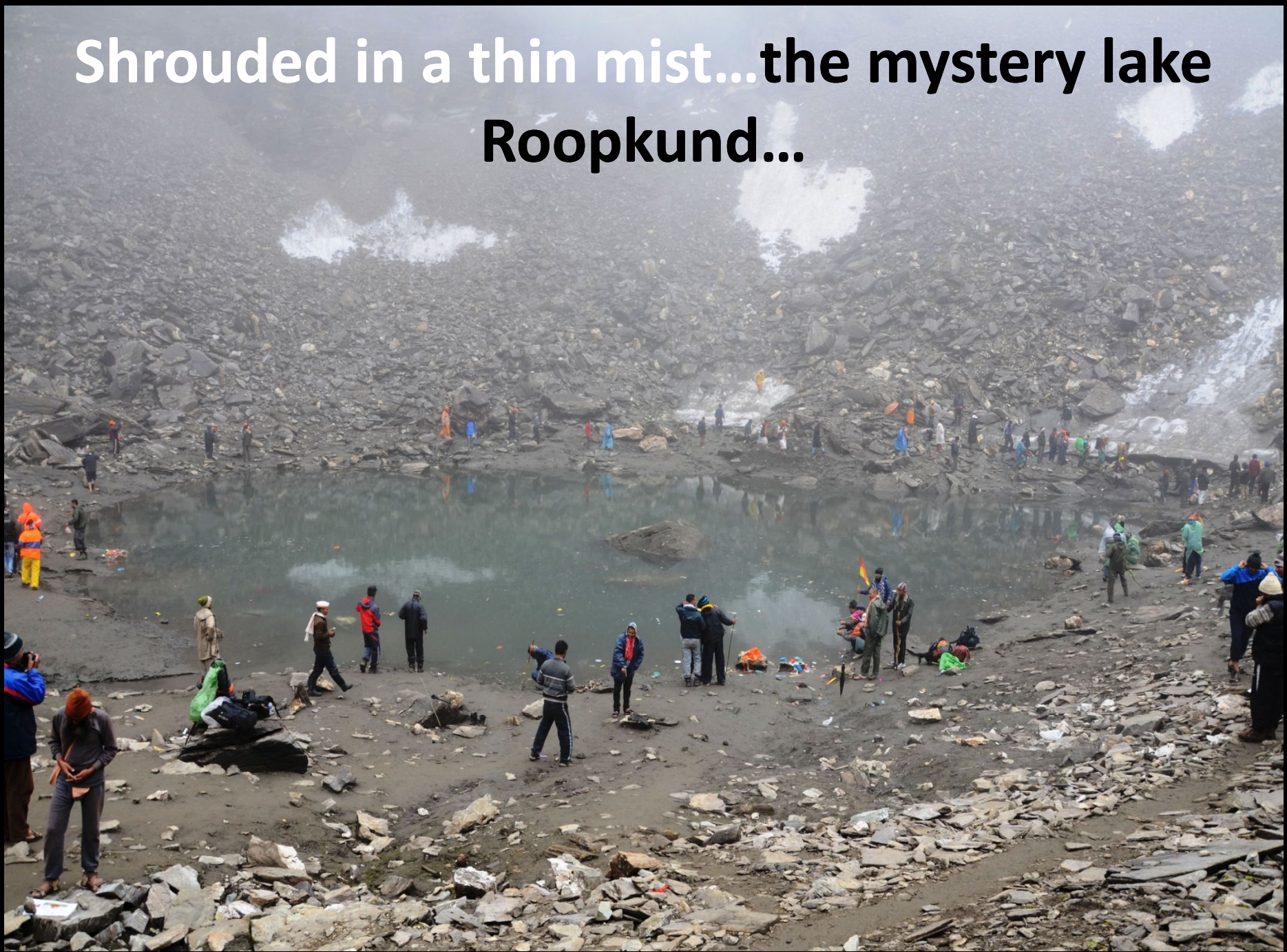
(ऊँचाई 15091 फीट)

जूरा गली - 0.4 कि०मी०  
शिला समुन्दर - 03 कि०मी०  
होम कुण्ड - 05 कि०मी०

जिलाधिकारी  
चमोली



Shrouded in a thin mist...the mystery lake  
**Roopkund...**



# Awe-inspiring view







← **Mist became denser**  
**A temple near Roopkund** →  
**A wider panorama of Roopkund environ**



# Parikrama



# Who were they? Lost ancestors?



# At Junragali: (The Alley of Death)



# At 4880m... Junragali



# Steep descending track ahead of Junragali



# A *doli* hurriedly descend on the track



**Nature still pleased... a rainbow welcomes**





# Reaching Shila Samudra Bugyal



# Mountain panorama in early morning



# Freezing morning at Shila Samudra



# Glacier and peak



**Once again a long queue....**



# Procession of pilgrims start at Shila Samudra



**... and two giant eyes watch the procession**



# Queue and trail of litter...





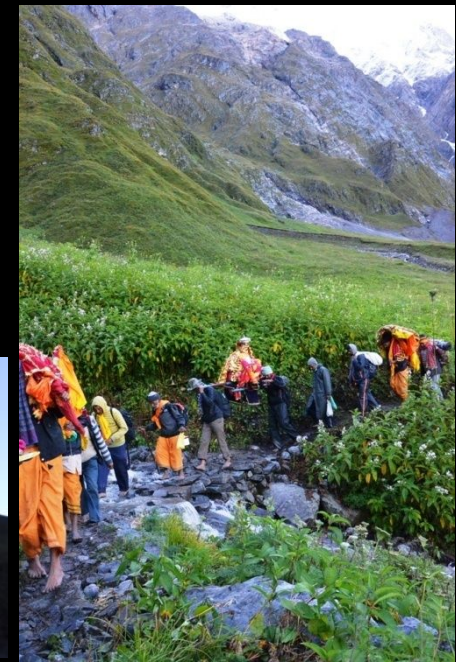
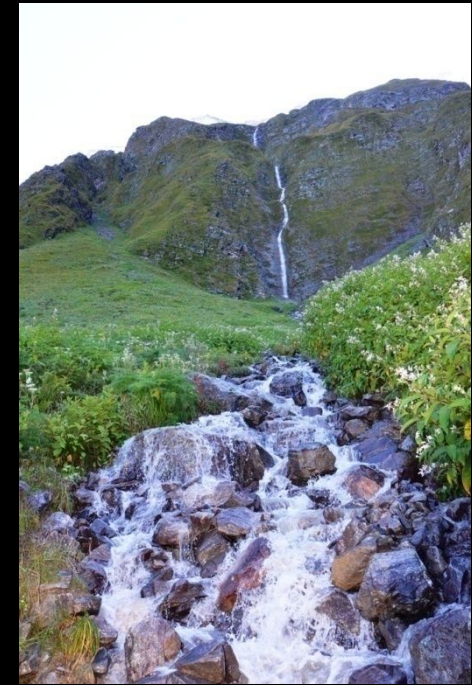
# Moving towards Nanda Ghungti in the shadow of Trishul



# Lower end of Shila Samudra glacier



# Flowers, stream and mountain



# Gheu Thapna



# Nanda Ghungti enveloped in clouds



# At the bank of immaculate Nandakini



# Some starts their last rituals along Nandakini



# Looking back to Junragali





# Pilgrims have reached Homkundi



# Anxiously waiting for last rituals



## Posing for the last picture at Homkundi



## Final *havan* at Homkundi



It is over now



# One *Khhadoo* driven to up slopes



# Congregation at Homkundi



# Doli of Maa Nanda





# Another Doli of Maa Nanda





**Khhadoo from Nauti has to leave now**

Other carried *Chhantoli*, he a **tricolour**



# Struggle for *prasad*



The return journey starts



**Retreat from**

**Homkundi**



# The last leg of trekking



# SDRF at work and a village view





# Sutol, the last road head in Nandakini valley... here ends the trekking



# Botanical results.....

Three new species to science  
One species new to India



*Saxifraga* sp.-1



*Saxifraga* sp.-2



*Arenaria* sp



*Stellaria congestiflora*

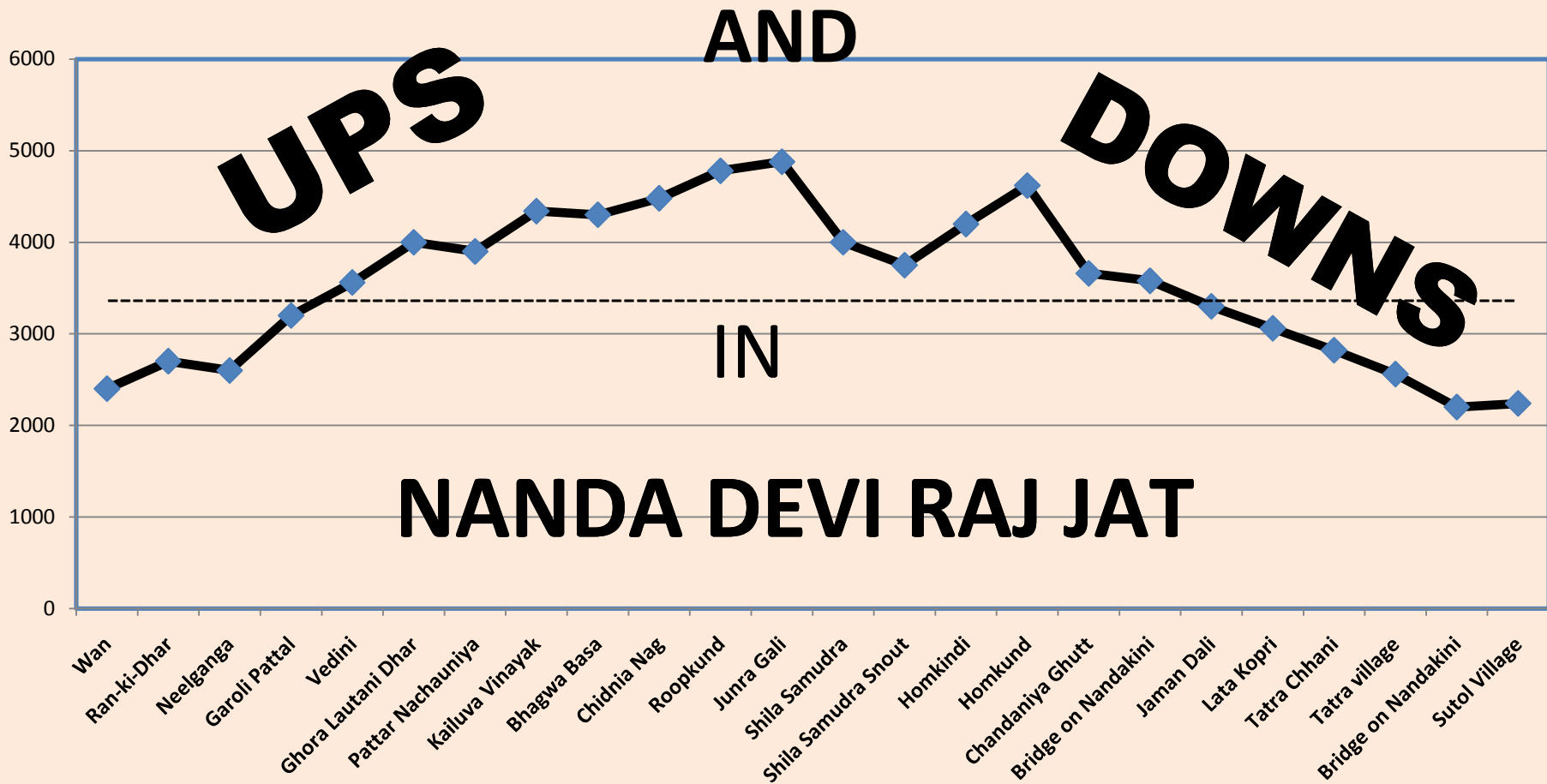
# Botanical results....

# *Medicinal Flora*



**Just to show that I was right there till end!**





# THANK YOU !



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**Department of Biological Sciences, CBSH, G.B. Pant University, Pantnagar, Uttarakhand, INDIA**





Dear Friends!

Thank you very much for watching, liking, commenting and making queries on these pictures of Nanda Jat 2014. Those who were there in the **yatra** will cherish these memories for long, and those who were not in this **yatra** will be able to understand the mood and moments of it. The **yatra** this time was overcrowded by adventure loving people and true spirit was restricted to very few. There were conflicts among the people supporting different dolies. A new **padav** (stoppage) at Vedni bugyal was added this time, women accompanied the procession up to the last destination and people reached at every **padav** even before the dolies (otherwise **Chausingya Khhadoo, Latoo ka Nishan** and **Dolies** leads the way). Many traditions were shattered.

**However, I firmly believe that those who were pure in their faith will be blessed and rewarded by Maa Nanda.**

Next Nanda Jat (bigger) will be organized after 12 years. Alas! I will not be able to join.

D.S.Rawat Pantnagar