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Defence Literature Festival

22nd & 23rd March

2025 Dehradun Chapter

Co Curator & Bookstore Partner

Conceptualized & Executed By



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THRIVE

Trust for Heritage,
Research, Innovation,
Vocation & Education

Venue: Doon University, Dehradun

Schedule

22 March 2025

Sn.	Session Details	Time
01	Registration	10:00 am
02	Welcome address	10:20 am
03	Echoes of Valor - From Colonial Garrisons to Indian Glory <i>Tracing India's military evolution from colonial rule to modern strength, exploring battles,& strategic independence, with insights on Uttarakhand's rich martial legacy and Dehradun's historic role in shaping India's defense forces.</i> Book : Kupwara Codes By Maj. Manik M Jolly (Retd.) Speaker : Lokesh Ohri Discussant : Namita Singh	10:30 am
04	Spirituality in Military Leadership <i>Exploring the Indian military's shift towards holistic soldier development, this session delves into the integration of yoga & mindfulness in training, decision-making, and mental fortitude for modern warfare challenges.</i> Book : Beyond the Battalefield By Lt. Gen. AK Singh (Retd.) Speaker : Lt. Gen. AK Singh (Retd.)	11:00 am
05	Battles of the Brave: India's Grit Amidst Challenges in the 1960s <i>In its early years, India faced two wars (1962 & 1965) against stronger adversaries. With limited resources but unyielding courage, India fought back, overcame immense challenges, and reshaped its defense strategy for the future.</i> Book : The Secret of Leifeng Pagoda By Prof. (Dr.) Ruby Gupta Prof. Humanities & HOD, English, Indian Military Academy Book : Airwarriors By Wing Commander Arijit Ghosh (Retd.) Discussant : Maj. Gen. Dev Arvind Chaturvedi (Retd.)	11:15 am
06	26/11 – Lessons for India's Security Future <i>The 26/11 Mumbai attacks weren't just a terror strike; they were a reality check on India's security preparedness. This session examines its lasting impact, evolving threats, and India's defense readiness today.</i> Speaker : Dr. K.R. Nautiyal, ADG, Coast Guard (Retd.) Speaker : Dr. Ashok Kumar, DGP, Uttarakhand (Retd.) Discussant : Dr. Kuldeep Datta	11:45 am
07	Bravehearts of War - PVC <i>Honoring India's bravest, this discussion delves into book on Param Vir Chakra awardee Maj. Dhan Singh Thapa exploring his extraordinary courage, sacrifice, and battlefield heroics.</i> Book : The Warrior Gorkha By Madhulika Thapa Monga Discussant : Pooja Marwah	12:15pm
08	Shifting Frontiers: Demographics & National Security <i>Demographic shifts in India's border states pose strategic challenges, impacting both internal stability & external defense. This session explores their implications on national security, sovereignty & the geopolitical landscape of the region.</i> Speaker : Lt. Gen. (Dr.) J S Negi, Former Commandant IMA (Retd.) Speaker : Dr. Ashok Kumar, DGP, Uttarakhand (Retd.) Discussant : Dr. Kuldeep Datta	12:30pm
09	Defenders of Tomorrow: Fueling Patriotism & Purpose Speaker : Col. Ajay Kothiyal, KC, SC, VSM (Retd.)	01:00 pm

*The Dignitaries, Writers & Speakers Mentioned in the Brochure are Proposed and yet to be Confirmed.

- 10 Patriotism in Frames** **10:30 am**
From war epics to heroic rescues, cinema shapes our perception of defense and adventure. This session explores how films portray military valor, real-life inspirations, and the balance between authenticity and creative storytelling.
Book : The Girl Who Loved a Spy By Kulpreet Yadav
Book : Pandemic Pursuit By Maj. Gen. Dev Arvind Chaturvedi (Retd.)
Discussant : Col. Bhaskar Bharti (Retd.)
- 11 Thick in Action - 1971** **11:00 am**
Amidst the chaos of 1971, India's military strategy, battlefield decisions, and heroic tales shaped Bangladesh's liberation. This session revisits untold stories and the war's lasting impact on history.
Book : 1971: Charge of the Gorkhas & Other Stories By Rachna Bisht Rawat
Book : The Liberators of Bangladesh: Glorious Battles from the 1971 Indo-Pak War By Deepak Surana
Book : Men of Steel By Tanushree Podder
Discussant : Prof. (Dr.) Ruby Gupta Prof. Humanities & HOD, English, Indian Military Academy
- 12 War Front to Future - Innovations in Defence Technology** **11:30 am**
From battlefield strategies to cutting-edge innovations, this discussion explores India's defense technology advancements, global comparisons, and Uttarakhand's role in fostering startups and MSMEs for a resilient and self-reliant future.
Book : Global Tumult: India As A Pole Star By Amb. Sujan Chinoy (Retd.)
Speaker : Dr. Sanjeev Joshi Sr. Scientist, DRDO Head DIBER, Haldwani, Nainital
Discussant : Mr. Ajay Shad
- 13 Thick in Action - Kargill 1999** **12:00 pm**
High-altitude battles, unyielding courage, and strategic brilliance defined 1999. This session uncovers untold stories, experiences, and the war's significance in shaping India's military doctrine and national consciousness.
Book : Nimbu Saab: The Barefoot Naga Kargil Hero By Neha & Diksha Dwivedi
Discussant : Prof. (Dr.) Ruby Gupta Prof. Humanities & HOD, English, Indian Military Academy
- 14 The Warrior's Legacy - Remembering General Bipin Rawat** **12:30 pm**
India's first Chief of Defence Staff, General Bipin Rawat, left an indelible mark on national security. This session reflects on his leadership, vision, and enduring legacy, especially his deep connection to Uttarakhand.
Speaker : Brig. Shivendra Singh (Retd.)
Speaker : Tarini Rawat
Speaker : Col. Satyapal Parmar (Retd.)
Discussant : Prof. (Dr.) Surekha Dangwal, VC, Doon University
- 15 Women of Valor** **01:00 pm**
Behind every brave soldier stands a woman of resilience—mothers, daughters, & wives who sacrifice, serve, and inspire. This session honors their courage, strength, & unwavering commitment to the nation.
Book : The Saga of a Braveheart: Lt Col Ajit V Bhandarkar Shaurya Chakra By Shakuntala Ajit Bhandarkar
Book : I Am A Soldier's Wife: The Life and Love of Toni Liddar By Geetika Liddar
Discussant : Pooja Marwah
- 16 Closing Session** **01:30 pm**



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1st SHAURYA SAGA

The Shaurya Saga Literature Festival is a two-day event dedicated to honoring the valor and sacrifices of the Indian Defence Forces. With a special emphasis on Uttarakhand's military legacy, the festival brings together writers, military dignitaries, and youth to inspire patriotism and pride in India's defense history.

Date:

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Venue:

Doon University, Dehradun

More Info :

www.shauryasaga.in

Join us to honor the courage, sacrifices, and rich legacy of India's defense forces through literature!

