Established in 1973, Kumaun University consists of three campuses at Almora, Nainital and Bhimtal; 35 affiliated government colleges; and almost equal number of affiliated self-financed private institutions spread across the Kumaun region. The total area covered by the university thus far is an impressive 160 acres. The beautifully designed colleges blend in perfectly with the surrounding architecture and complete the breath-taking scenery. In order to cater the technical, professional and vocational education, another campus of the University is being developed at Bhimtal. Special emphasis is placed by Kumaun University to uphold the motto of excellent teaching and high quality research. In the residential and affiliated campuses, both teaching and research activities are equally important factors that support the curriculum and contribute to the student's learning habits. Kumaun University, a residential-cum-affiliating university, was established on 1st December 1973 under the Act of State Legislature (U P State Universities Act), and is a permanent member of the Association of Indian Universities (AIU). Kumaun University has been awarded FOUR Stars status by the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC). Kumaun University is an ISO 9001-2008 certified institution, which follows International Quality Management System. Kumaun University is spread over in three campuses (DSB Campus, Bhimtal Campus and SS Jena Campus) with an area of 5,31,373 sq. mt. (160 acres) and built-up area of 3,00,000 sq. mt. The location of the university in Uttarakhand offers excellent research and teaching due to its landscape which is on undulating high ground. There are many herbs, shrubs and trees as well as rocks and minerals constituting eco-systems that can be studied. The university is known for its research and teaching in Geology, Forestry, Ecology, Particle Physics and Chemistry, Economics and Management as well as boasts of several centres that offer interesting research. Furthermore it continues to raise awareness regarding a variety of topics including economic resources, medicinal plants, environment, development of tribes, human rights and symmetries and conservation. Kumaun University has been imparting quality education in the disciplines of Arts (Languages, Literatures, Social Sciences, and Humanities), Commerce & Management, Education, Law, Medicine, Sciences, and Technology under the Clause 12 (B). The University Grants Commission (UGC) granted full recognition to the University on June 30, 1984. Ever since its inception, Kumaun University has always held a place of pride among the state universities. Over the years, by innovating and making several structural changes in its functioning, the University has given a new direction and dimension to the higher studies in this region. The University was granted permanent membership of the Association of Indian Universities and was awarded the special rank of Four Star by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) in 2000. The main focus of the University has been to include the courses which are relevant and facilitate the learners in developing skills for easy job access.