



कार्यालय— मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी, स्प्रिंग एण्ड रिवर रिजुविनेशन आथॉरिटी (SARRA),
जलागम प्रबन्ध निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड, इन्दिरा नगर फॉरेस्ट कालोनी, देहरादून।

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देहरादून दिनांक : December, 2025

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) for Conservation & Rejuvenation of Traditional Water Heritage Structures (Naulas & Dharas)

Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA) Govt. of Uttarakhand invites Expression of interest (EOI) from interested agencies (conservation architects, heritage restoration firms, and specialized contractors) for the Restoration and Refurbishment of Traditional Water Bodies (Naulas and Dharas). The project aims to restore functional capacity while strictly adhering to traditional Kumaoni and Garhwali architectural styles to preserve the state's cultural identity. Details of the Eoi can be downloaded from the website sarrauk.in or wmduk.gov.in

Scope of Work

- Preserve traditional knowledge and craftsmanship.
- Sustainable Hydrological Revival of the spring shed.
- Structural Restoration & Architectural Preservation.

Proposal Submission Requirements

Interested agencies shall submit separate Technical and Financial Proposals to SARRA.

Application Timeline

Date of Issue: 24/12/2025

Deadline for Submission: 15/01/2026

Detailed EOI documents can be downloaded from the official website: sarrauk.in or wmduk.gov.in.

Address for Communication:

Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA),
Watershed Management Directorate,
Indira Nagar, Forest Colony, Vasant Vihar,
Dehradun – 248006, Uttarakhand.

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अपर मुख्य कार्यकारी अधिकारी (SARRA)

जलागम प्रबन्ध निदेशालय, उत्तराखण्ड।

EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI)

Conservation & Rejuvenation of Traditional Water Heritage Structures (Naulas & Dharas)



Issued by: Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA)

Anchored in: Watershed Management Directorate, Government of Uttarakhand

Address: Indira Nagar, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Issued Date: December 24, 2025

Last Date for Submission: January 15, 2026

1. INTRODUCTION AND PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.1 Background

The Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA) Govt. of Uttarakhand, established in Nov. 2023 and anchored within the Watershed Management Directorate of the Government of Uttarakhand, is committed to the conservation, rejuvenation, and sustainable management of natural springs and rivers across the state.

The purpose of establishment of Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA) at State level is to identify all the water sources of the state which need to be rejuvenated on priority to ensure increase in water discharge and perenniality of the spring and rain-fed rivers measurement and monitoring by ensuring community participation of local people for sustainable flow of rain-fed rivers.

Uttarakhand is home to a rich heritage of traditional water harvesting systems, particularly the **Naulas and Dharas**—ancient structures that have served communities for centuries. These water bodies represent a unique blend of:

- Engineering excellence rooted in indigenous knowledge systems
- Spiritual and cultural significance deeply embedded in local traditions
- Sustainable hydrological practices adapted to Himalayan topography
- Architectural sophistication reflecting Kumaoni and Garhwali heritage

The Naulas and Dharas of Uttarakhand date back several centuries, with some structures tracing their origins to the **Katyuri and Chand dynasties** (7th to 14th centuries). These water temples continue to serve communities while embodying the sacred relationship between water, culture, and sustainability that characterizes the region.

1.2 Project Vision and Scope

SARRA invites interested agencies—including conservation architects, heritage restoration firms, NGO's and specialized contractors—to participate in the **Conservation and Rejuvenation of Traditional Water Bodies (Naulas and Dharas)** initiative. This comprehensive project aims to revive non-functional or deteriorating

traditional water structures while rigorously maintaining their cultural authenticity and hydrological sustainability.

The scope encompasses:

- **Preserve traditional knowledge and craftsmanship.**
- **Sustainable Hydrological Revival of the spring shed.**
- **Structural Restoration & Architectural Preservation.**
- **Community engagement and capacity building.**

2. PROJECT OBJECTIVES

2.1 Primary Objectives

The Restoration and Refurbishment project is guided by three interconnected objectives that balance heritage preservation with sustainable water management:

Objective 1: Preserve Traditional Knowledge and Craftsmanship

- Maintain and revive traditional **Kumaoni and Garhwali architectural styles** without imposing **contemporary design interventions**.
- Document indigenous construction methodologies, material sourcing practices, and structural engineering principles embedded in centuries-old designs.
- Create opportunities for knowledge transfer and skills development among younger generations.
- Establish best-practice guidelines for heritage restoration that serve as reference models for future projects across the Himalayan region.
- Undertake a state-wide documentation of traditional water systems, with **at least one detailed case study in each district**, using **GIS/GPS mapping, photography, and videography**, integrated into SARRA's existing spatial and monitoring frameworks.
- Create a publicly accessible **Water Heritage Atlas of Uttarakhand** endorsed by SARRA.

Objective 2: Sustainable Hydrological Revival of the Springshed

- Restore the functional capacity of traditional water bodies to capture, store, and distribute groundwater sustainably.
- Conduct comprehensive hydrological assessments using survey and GIS mapping to understand recharge patterns, seasonal variations, and geological conditions.
- Integrate traditional designs with contemporary hydrological science to optimize water security and ecosystem health.
- Preparation of **Detailed Project Reports (DPRs)** for revival/restoration of **two selected priority sites**, integrating hydrogeological, socio-hydrological, cultural, and financial dimensions.

2.2 Alignment with SARRA's Mandate

This project directly supports SARRA's core mission to:

- Identify and prioritize water sources (Dhara-Naula).
- Conserve water source through nature-based and traditional solutions.
- Ensure community participation in planning, implementation, monitoring, and sustainability.
- Address water security challenges through scientific planning integrated with indigenous knowledge systems.

3. SCOPE OF WORK

3.1 Geographic Scope

The project encompasses traditional water bodies (Naulas and Dharas) across districts in Uttarakhand with significant heritage structures, including but not limited to:

- **Kumaon Region:** Almora, Nainital, Bageshwar, Pithoragarh, Champawat, and Udham Singh Nagar districts
- **Garhwal Region:** Tehri Garhwal, Uttarkashi, Chamoli, and Rudrapur districts

3.2 Work Components

Interested agencies will be expected to deliver services across the following categories:

A. Pre-Restoration Phase

Heritage Documentation and Baseline Assessment:

- Longlisting and final selection of culturally important heritage sites (**Dhara-Naula**) (**2 Site/District**) incorporating with SARRA.
- Comprehensive photographic, architectural, and structural documentation.
- Hydrological assessment including survey & GIS mapping, seasonal flow patterns, and recharge zone identification & mapping.
- Historical research on original construction, design intent, and cultural significance.
- Structural assessment reports identifying deterioration modes and conservation priorities.
- Detailed heritage impact assessments considering cultural, ecological, and hydrological values.

B. Restoration and Refurbishment Phase

Structural and Architectural Work:

- Stone repair and replacement matching original material characteristics.
- Structural strengthening adhering to heritage conservation principles (reversibility and minimal intervention).
- Reconstruction of lost architectural features based on historical evidence and surviving precedents.
- Integration of essential modern infrastructure (drainage, water quality safeguards) without compromising heritage fabric.

Hydrological Rehabilitation:

- Spring source development and protection from contamination
- Channel and tank cleaning and de-silting
- Stone lining and sealing of water pathways
- Groundwater recharge enhancement through integrated watershed management.
- Installation of appropriate water distribution systems.
- Implementation of protective measures against seasonal flooding and erosion.

Quality Assurance and Testing:

- Material testing (stone quality, mortar compatibility).
- Water quality testing and periodic monitoring.
- Structural performance monitoring during and after restoration.
- Photographic and measured documentation of work progress.

C. Post-Restoration Phase

Community Engagement and Training:

- Transfer of knowledge to community members on maintenance and sustainable use.
- Establishment of community-based monitoring frameworks.
- Documentation of lessons learned and best practices.

Knowledge Documentation:

- Preparation of detailed case studies.
- Video documentation of restoration processes and traditional techniques.
- Creation of educational materials for heritage awareness.

- Development of maintenance guidelines for long-term sustainability.
- Development of a **digital repository of Heritage Atlas of Uttarakhand**.

Impact Monitoring and Evaluation:

- Baseline and post-restoration hydrological measurements
- Community feedback and benefit assessment
- Long-term sustainability monitoring (minimum 1-year post-completion)

Site Selection Criteria

- Select **(Two Site Dist. Wise)** community-used Naulas/Dharas & it's springshed that clearly reflect traditional **Kumaoni or Garhwali architecture** (stone masonry, local layout, and form), with enough original fabric to allow **authentic conservation**.
- Ensure strong community interest and Gram Panchayat support for participation in springshed treatment, routine maintenance, and protection of cultural practices around the water body.
- Choose **structurally restorable sites** that allow minimum, reversible intervention and adequate surrounding space for safe access and basic amenities **without disturbing the historic core or recharge area**.
- Confirm that selected **Naulas/Dharas are not listed as Monuments of National Importance or centrally protected sites in ASI** or district-wise protected monument lists.

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

4.1 Organization Types

SARRA seeks qualified expressions of interest from:

Eligible agencies may include **Conservation Architects Heritage Restoration Firms, NGOs, Specialized Contractors, or consortia.**

The selected agency will work under the overall guidance of **SARRA** and coordinate closely with designated representatives. Periodic progress updates and review meetings will be required.

4.2 Core Competencies Required

All applicant organizations must demonstrate:

Institutional Capacity:

- Minimum 5 years of experience in heritage restoration, water-related projects, or conservation work.
- Registered with relevant professional councils (Council of Architecture, Institute of Engineers, etc.)
- Financial soundness demonstrated through audited accounts (previous 3 years)
- Demonstrated project management systems and quality assurance protocols.

Technical Expertise:

- Specialized knowledge in traditional water harvesting systems, Himalayan architecture, or heritage conservation.
- Expertise in hydrological assessment, groundwater management, or watershed development.
- Understanding of Kumaoni and Garhwali architectural traditions and construction techniques.

- Capacity for structural analysis, conservation planning, and heritage documentation and hydrological assessment.

Project Delivery Experience:

- Experience in completed projects of similar scale and complexity in heritage restoration, water infrastructure and cultural conservation.
- Capacity for documentation, monitoring, and impact assessment.

5. SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS

5.1 Expression of Interest Components

All applications must include the following documents in the specified sequence:

1. Cover Letter

- Expression of interest in the project
- Brief statement of organizational mission and commitment to heritage conservation

2. Organization Profile

- Organizational history, mission, and vision
- Areas of specialization and expertise
- Organizational structure and key personnel
- Certifications, registrations, and professional affiliations

3. Financial Credentials

- Audited balance sheets or financial statements (3 years)
- Bank references
- Evidence of financial soundness and capacity for project execution

4. Technical Capacity Statement

- Detailed explanation of expertise in heritage restoration, hydrological work, and springshed management.
- Specific experience with traditional water systems, Himalayan architecture, or similar contexts
- Methodology for approaching heritage conservation and community engagement

5. **Proposed Work Approach and Methodology**

- Understanding of project objectives, challenges, and opportunities
- Proposed methodology for heritage documentation, restoration, community engagement
- Approach to ensuring adherence to traditional architectural standards
- Strategy for hydrological assessment and integrated water resource management
- Approach to knowledge documentation and community capacity building
- Risk identification and mitigation strategies
- Timeline and resource requirements (indicative)

6. **Compliance and Integrity Declaration**

- Declaration confirming eligibility and non-blacklist status
- Commitment to adhere to project objectives and standards
- Integrity Pact or similar undertaking
- Any conflict-of-interest disclosures

5.2 **Submission Format**

- **Submission Method:** Hard copy and soft copy (PDF format)
- **Language:** English or Hindi (or bilingual)
- **Organization:** Submit in clearly labeled sections with table of contents
- **Font and Formatting:** Legible font (minimum 12-point), 1.5 line spacing for readability
- **Signatures:** Original signatures by authorized organizational representatives on cover letter and declaration

6. EVALUATION CRITERIA

6.1 EOI Evaluation Framework

EOI applications will be evaluated against the following criteria:

Evaluation Criterion	Key Assessment Factors
Organizational Capacity & Experience	Track record in heritage restoration; experience with water bodies or traditional architecture; financial soundness; professional registrations
Technical Expertise & Specialization	Depth of knowledge in Himalayan/traditional architecture; hydrological and structural expertise; understanding of Kumaoni/Garhwali traditions; team qualifications
Project Portfolio & References	Quality and relevance of completed projects; demonstrated success in heritage conservation; community engagement outcomes; technical innovation
Proposed Methodology & Work Approach	Clarity of understanding of project objectives; appropriateness of restoration methodology; community engagement strategy; knowledge documentation approach
Geographic & Contextual Familiarity	Previous work experience in Uttarakhand or Himalayan region; understanding of local communities and cultural context; ability to work in resource-constrained environments; language capability

6.2 Shortlisting Process

- Selected organizations will be shortlisted for detailed discussions
- Shortlisted organizations may be invited for presentation, site visits, or technical discussions
- Final selection will be based on technical competence, financial credibility, and alignment with project objectives

7. TERMS AND CONDITIONS

7.1 General Provisions

- This EOI is not a binding contract; it serves as an invitation to express interest and demonstrate capacity.
- SARRA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all applications without assigning reasons.
- SARRA will not be responsible for any costs incurred by applicants in preparing or submitting EOI responses.
- Shortlisting does not guarantee contract award; it indicates qualification for further discussions.
- SARRA may request clarifications or additional information from applicants at any stage.
- The organization reserves the right to contact references, clients, and regulatory bodies for verification.
- Applicants must not engage in canvassing or influencing evaluation.
- Confidentiality of submitted information will be maintained throughout the evaluation process.

7.2 Intellectual Property and Documentation

- All project documentation, reports, photographs, and knowledge products generated during project execution will be owned by SARRA.
- Organizations grant SARRA the right to use project outputs for educational, publication, and dissemination purposes.

- Applicants retain ownership of their proprietary methodologies or pre-existing intellectual property not created under the project.
- All beneficiary and community documentation will adhere to privacy and cultural sensitivity standards.

7.3 Liability and Insurance

- Specific insurance requirements will be detailed in subsequent EOI documents.
- Organizations will be responsible for all acts and omissions of their personnel and sub-contractors

7.4 Financial Information

Detailed budget parameters and cost-sharing frameworks will be provided to shortlisted organizations during RFP stage. Organizations are encouraged to propose innovative financing mechanisms and partnership models.

Interested agencies shall submit **separate Technical and Financial Proposals** to SARRA.

Address for Communication:

SARRA Headquarter

Spring and River Rejuvenation Authority (SARRA)

Watershed Management Directorate

Indira Nagar, Dehradun

Uttarakhand – 248006

India

Additional Chief Executive Officer (ACEO), SARRA