

Sukhatal lake

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The Uttarakhand High Court directed the State to stop all construction activities on the Sukhatal lakebed.



[Ref-CounterCurrents]

Sukhatal lake

- It is **dry lake** located half a km from **lake of Nainital**.
- It is a **freshwater lake** having a length of 150 meters and is 10 meters deep.
- The lake is **surrounded by dense pine and oak forests**.
- It was **earlier known as Khudariya Tal** and was renamed as Sukha Tal because the **entire water from this lake was drained in the extreme region of the Nainital Lake**.

Why is Sukhatal important?

- It is believed that Sukhatal is a **feeder lake for Naini Lake**, as it acts as **upstream storage for Naini Lake during monsoon** by holding the runoff from the catchment of water.
- Studies show **encroachment and dumping of construction** and other waste have led to an **unprecedented deterioration of the Sukhatal lakebed** and its ability to recharge Naini Lake.
- Since 2000, **Naini Lake has reached zero level** —minimum water level to be maintained — on at least 10 occasions.