



# Bhimtal Lake

## Why in News?

In response to a severe forest fire close to **Nainital district** headquarters the state government deployed the **Army's MI 17 helicopters** to fetch water from Bhimtal Lake and spray it over the affected forests.

## Key Points

- Bhimtal Lake is the **largest lake in the Nainital district**, in the state of **Uttarakhand**. It is the largest lake in the **Kumaon region**, known as the "**lake district of India**".
  - It is named after the second **Pandava called Bhima** of the famous epic Mahabharata.
- It is a **natural lake** and its origin is attributed to **several faults** that occurred due to the shifting of the **Earth's crust**.
- The lake was built during **British time in 1883** and has a **masonry dam** built on it.
- The lake has rich flora and fauna around it and thick forests of **pine and oak** cover the hill slopes around the lake.
  - It is home to **a number of migratory birds** in the winter months.
  - Famous species found in the area include **bulbul, wall creeper, Emerald Dove, Black Eagle, and Tawny fish owl**.
- The lake has **an island at its centre** developed as a tourist attraction **with an aquarium**.



