

AGENDA

Multi-Stakeholder Round Table Discussion

Synergistic approaches for tackling challenges in the Himalayan Region

Organized by: Himalayan Institute for Learning and Leadership (HILL), UPES

Date: 10th September, 2025

Venue: Hubble-Trust, UPES, Bidholi Campus, Dehradun

Time: 02:00 PM – 05:30 PM

1. About the Round Table

The Himalayas are home to countless organizations, community groups and unsung heroes who work passionately in fields ranging from conservation and livelihoods to disaster response, education and cultural preservation. As part of Himalaya Calling 2025, the round table brings together grassroots practitioners, NGOs, research institutions and thought leaders on a single platform to foster dialogue and cooperation. The focus is not only to share experiences but to listen, learn and co-create a common understanding of the region's challenges and opportunities. The central aim is to identify synergies and explore a Common Minimum Programme, a shared initiative where diverse stakeholders can work together for meaningful and lasting impact. Beyond discussions, the round table envisions long-term partnerships that link local knowledge with global perspectives, ensuring that Himalayan voices resonate in policy, practice and action. This dialogue is more than a session it is the beginning of a collective journey toward resilience, inclusivity and sustainability in the Himalayas.

2. Purpose of the Round Table

- Provide a common platform for NGOs, grassroots organizations, researchers, and practitioners
- Foster dialogue and exchange of experiences across diverse sectors
- Build mutual understanding of interconnected challenges facing the Himalayas
- Identify synergies and opportunities for collaborative initiatives
- Amplify local voices and integrate community knowledge into broader discussions

3. Expected Outcomes

- Shared understanding of priority issues in the Himalayan region
- Documented insights to inform policy, practice, and research
- Strengthened networks and collaborations for future initiatives
- A forward-looking vision for resilient and sustainable development

4. Agenda Schedule

Time	Session	Details
02:00 – 02:10 PM	Opening Session	Welcome address by Dr. Ram Sharma, Vice Chancellor, UPES
02:10 – 02:25 PM	Participant Introductions	Brief self-introductions by participants
02:25 – 03:45 PM	Round Table Discussion	Each member to share a 7-minute input with key action points
03:45 – 04:00 PM	High Tea Break	Refreshments & informal networking
04:00 – 04:30 PM	Reflections & Way Forward	Participants will share key takeaways, identify areas of convergence and propose directions for joint initiatives, with the moderator consolidating inputs into broad action themes.
04:30 – 04:50 PM	Group Photograph	Group photograph with all participants
04:50 – 05:00 PM	Closing Remarks	Final words by Director HILL, UPES

6. Delegates from Renowned Organisations and Fields

Organisation / Domains	Representative(s)	Designation/ Awards
Himalayan Conservationist	Dr. Prem Chand Sharma	Padma Shri Awardee
Afforestation Pioneer	Dr. Kalyan Singh Rawat	Padma Shri Awardee
Pahari Miniature Painting	Dr. Vijay Sharma	Padma Shri Awardee
Folk Musician & Music	Dr. Madhuri Barthwal	Padma Shri Awardee
Millennium Institute	Dr. Steven Arquitt	Senior Advisor
Global Rise	Mr. John Casillas	Executive Director

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	Dr. Pradeep Mehta	State Programme Lead
International Council for Game and Wildlife Conservation (CIC), Hungary	Mr. Bhraaz Kashyap	Programme Assistant
UCOST	Dr. Bhavtosh Sharma	Scientist
Waste Warriors	Mr. Vishal Kumar Mr. Yuvraj Singh	CEO
Central Himalayan Institute for Nature & Applied Research (CHINAR)	Ms. Geeta Sharma Ms. Yamuna Koranga	Programme Associate
Central Himalayan Rural Action Group (CHIRAG)	Dr. Badrish Singh Mehra	Executive Director
Centre for Ecology Development and Research (CEDAR)	Dr. Vishal Singh	Executive Director
Institute of Himalayan Environmental Research and Education (INHERE)	Mr. Chinmaya Shah	Secretary & Programs Lead
MAD by BTD	Mr. Karan Kapoor	Director
Alaknanda Ghaati Shilpi Federation (AAGAAS Federation)	Mr. J. P. Maithani	Chairperson
Gramya Sikshan Paryavaran Sanstha (GRAMYA)	Mr. Jeet Sanwal	Secretary
Uttaranchal Youth and Rural Development Centre (UYRDC)	Mr. Siddharth Singh Negi	Director
Society for Promotion of Himalayan Indigenous Activities (SOPHIA)	Mr. Praveen Kaushal	Director
People's Science Institute (PSI)	Dr. Debashish Sen	Director
Tata Trusts	Dr. Malavika Chauhan	Former Deputy Director

For any queries, please feel free to contact:

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