



THE DALAI LAMA

## MESSAGE

I am pleased to learn that a global summit on sustainable development in the Himalayan region is being held by the Himalayan Institute for Learning and Leadership of the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies in Dehradun. It is very timely that one of the themes is the "Himalayan Ancient Wisdom for the Modern Era" addressing the ways that the enduring spiritual and cultural values of the Himalayan people have the potential to guide humanity in today's changing world.

Owing to my own upbringing in the Tibetan Buddhist spiritual environment, I have a deep interest in this issue. We Tibetans as well as many of the communities in the Himalayan region, have inherited the wisdom of Indian masters of the past. What distinguishes Indian spiritual traditions from others is their thorough understanding of the workings of the mind and emotions. This rich and ancient Indian understanding together with meditative techniques of mind training in *karuna* and *ahimsa* and so on is of great relevance today.

Tibetans have been custodians of these traditions for more than a thousand years. Historically Indians were our teachers, but we the disciples have kept the tradition alive. Therefore, I have made it one of my commitments to create a greater awareness of the value of ancient Indian knowledge, especially among young Indians.

It is wonderful that your university is hosting this discussion. I believe that it is good to present ancient Indian knowledge in a secular and academic way. This has long been an exemplary Indian tradition, while treating all spiritual traditions with respect. India has a long history of the pursuit of logic and reasoning. I truly believe that India is the only country that can combine modern education with the ancient Indian understanding of the workings of the mind, and that the whole world urgently needs this. If we all work together, we can make a fresh Indian contribution to the welfare of the entire planet.

I wish the summit all success in your deliberations.

7 August 2025