

UPES Hosts the Prestigious Global Summit ‘Himalaya Calling’

Global Experts Unite at UPES to Explore Sustainable Solutions for Preserving the Himalayan Ecosystem

Dehradun, 11 September 2024 – UPES successfully hosted the highly-anticipated **Himalaya Calling: Global Summit on Challenges and Opportunities in the Himalayan Region**. The summit held over three days from September 9 to 11, concluded today. The event comprised keynote sessions, exhibitions, and photography displays focused on the fragile Himalayan ecology. The summit witnessed the participation of over 170 eminent speakers, thought leaders, and environmentalists across 18 insightful sessions, engaging in vibrant discussions on sustainability, climate action, and the preservation of the Himalayan ecosystem.

The summit kicked off on September 9 with a keynote on ‘*Himalayan Environment: A Need for Preservation*’ by **Padma Shri Dr. Shailesh Nayak**, Chancellor TERI, and Former Secretary, Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. Key sessions were led by **Padma Shri Dr. Anup Sah**, **Mr. Thresh Kapoor**, and **Prof. Dr. Uwe Truyen**, focusing on the importance of sustainability in the Himalayas. The event also witnessed a photography exhibition, across Kandoli and Bidholi campuses of UPES, showcasing the breathtaking beauty of the Himalayan range and raising awareness about its environmental challenges. There was a display-cum-sale of over 200 Himalayan products, ranging from locally-made food items to handicrafts.

On September 10, **Padma Shri Dr. V.C. Thakur**, Former Research Director, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology (WIHG), delivered a keynote on ‘*Earthquake Hazard in the Himalayan Region and Mitigation for Sustainable Development*’. Speaking at the summit, **Dr. Jitendra K. Pandey**, Founder Director, Himalayan Institute for Learning and Leadership (HILL) at UPES, commented, “*This summit is a major step forward in bringing global attention to the ecological importance of the Himalayas. We facilitate discussions that aim to chart a path forward for sustainable development, ensuring that future generations benefit from the unmatched beauty and resources of this region.*”

The summit’s final day featured addresses by **Padma Bhushan Dr. Anil P. Joshi**, **Dr. Durgesh Pant**, Director General of the Uttarakhand State Council for Science & Technology (UCOST), **Dr. Sunil Rai**, President, UPES, and **Dr. Ram Sharma**, Vice Chancellor, UPES. The discussions centred around the need for actionable steps to conserve the Himalayan ecosystem.

Dr. Sunil Rai, President of UPES, said, “*The summit has provided a unique platform to unite diverse voices that care deeply about the Himalayas. The enthusiasm and passion shared here are a clear signal that we are collectively committed to conserving this region.*”

The summit has been instrumental in raising awareness and encouraging active involvement in addressing the various challenges facing the Himalayan region, from climate change to community resilience.

For more information on the summit proceedings and key takeaways, visit [Hill UPES](#).

About [UPES](#):

Established through the UPES Act, 2003, of the State Legislature of Uttarakhand, UPES is a top-ranked, UGC-recognised, private university. As per the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF) 2024, the Ministry of Education, Government of India, UPES has been ranked 46 among universities, with a rank of 28 in Law, a rank of 41 in Management and a rank of 42 in Engineering. In addition to this, the university has been ranked the No. 1 private university in academic reputation in India by the QS World University Rankings 2024. It is among the top 3% of universities in the world. UPES has also been accredited by NAAC with a grade 'A' and has received 5 stars on Employability (placements), by globally acclaimed QS Rating. The university has had 100% placements over the last five years. Forty-two (42) faculty members of UPES are among the world's top 2% researchers as per Stanford University list.

UPES offers graduate and postgraduate programs through its seven schools: School of Advanced Engineering, School of Computer Science, School of Design, School of Law, School of Business, School of Health Sciences & Technology and School of Liberal Studies and Media with 14000+ students and 1500+ faculty and staff members.