

ANNUAL REPORT 2025-26

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM
UTTARANCHAL**

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From the Desk of the Chairman, SDFU



It gives me immense pleasure to present the **Annual Report of the Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU) for the year 2025–26**. The year has been marked by continued efforts towards strengthening dialogue, knowledge exchange and collective action for sustainable and resilient mountain development in Uttarakhand and the wider Himalayan region.

As a mountainous State, Uttarakhand continues to face challenges arising from **climate change, natural disasters, ecological degradation, outmigration and changing livelihood patterns**, particularly affecting rural and mountain communities. These challenges call for integrated approaches that bring together scientific knowledge, policy experience, traditional wisdom and community participation.

During the year, SDFU continued to provide a platform for policymakers, experts, academicians, civil society organisations and community representatives to deliberate on emerging issues and identify practical solutions. The **12th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS–XII)** provided an important platform to discuss climate resilience, changing agro-ecological systems, disaster risks, sustainable livelihoods and policy priorities for the Himalayan region.

Another important initiative was the **8th R.S. Tolia Forum 2025**, which reflected on Uttarakhand's development journey and deliberated on key issues including **governance, migration, education, environment, tourism and mountain livelihoods**. The Forum reinforced the need for development that balances economic progress with ecological sustainability and community well-being.

SDFU also continued to strengthen engagement with **youth, researchers, civil society and other stakeholders**, while working towards strengthening its institutional systems and partnerships. Going forward, SDFU will continue to focus on **climate-resilient livelihoods, sustainable agriculture, responsible tourism, environmental governance, disaster resilience, youth engagement and community-led development**. Greater emphasis will be placed on translating knowledge and recommendations into meaningful policy engagement and collaborative action.

I extend my sincere appreciation to all members, partners, experts, government representatives, civil society organisations and community stakeholders for their continued support and contribution towards the vision of a **greener, resilient and prosperous Uttarakhand**.

I look forward to another year of meaningful dialogue, collaboration and collective action for sustainable mountain development.

SHRI S.T.S. LEPCHA
Chairman, SDFU
& Retd. PCCF, Government of Uttarakhand

PREFACE

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand is a civil society-led network platform with the mission to mainstream the concerns of Uttarakhand and its people in the development dialogue of the state. It functions as a platform to integrate the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders working across Uttarakhand and uses this to inform and influence policy at the state level. SDFU's mission is to integrate the knowledge and experience of multiple stakeholders working on diverse issues across Uttarakhand Mountain independently, this is then used to inform and influence policy, at the state level.

SDFU aims to create a platform where these stakeholders integrate collective knowledge and experience through an informed dialogue on identified themes for catalyzing action for sustainable development. Translating the dialogues further, our objective is to generate action on such themes through informed, relevant policies and action on the ground. SDFU is a decentralized and voluntary initiative of individual members and institutions and is affiliated with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) as the state chapter organization for Uttarakhand, which is a civil society network formed in 2011 with the objective of providing stakeholders from the states of the Indian Himalayas region, a platform to discuss issues related to mountain development.

Sustainable Mountain Development Summit – XII 2025

Changing Agroecological Landscape and Disaster in the Himalaya: Resilience Building and Policy Imperatives for Viksit Bharat

Dates: 26–27 September 2025

Venue: Dr. Nityanand Auditorium, Doon University, Dehradun, Uttarakhand

Partner: Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU), State Chapter in partnership with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)



1. Background and Context

The Himalayan region represents one of the most ecologically significant and environmentally sensitive mountain systems in the world. It supports diverse ecosystems, provides critical water resources, sustains agricultural and pastoral livelihoods, and serves as the home of millions of people whose social, cultural and economic systems have evolved in close relationship with mountain environments.

At the same time, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is experiencing rapid and interconnected changes. Climate variability, changing precipitation patterns, increasing frequency of extreme weather events, degradation of natural resources, changes in agricultural systems, pressure on land and water resources, unplanned infrastructure development and increasing disaster risks are creating new challenges for mountain communities.

In this context, the **12th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS–XII)** was convened at Doon University, Dehradun, on 26–27 September 2025. The Summit brought together legislators, scientists, policymakers, development practitioners, social workers, farmers, students, civil society representatives and community leaders to deliberate on the changing agro-ecological landscape of the Himalaya and the policy imperatives required to strengthen resilience.

The Summit was organized under the aegis of the **Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)**, with the **Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)** participating as a partner with **IMI**, along with several academic, governmental and civil society institutions.

The two-day event provided a platform for dialogue between scientific institutions, policymakers and communities. It particularly emphasized the importance of connecting scientific research and technological innovation with indigenous knowledge, community experience and locally appropriate development approaches.

Approximately **250 participants** attended the Summit, including scientists, policymakers, officials, farmers, social workers, students and representatives of civil society organizations. Farmers from Himalayan states, including Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh and Sikkim, participated actively in the discussions.

A significant feature of the Summit was its focus on the relationship between **agro-ecology, climate change, disasters and livelihoods**. Rather than considering these issues separately, the deliberations recognized them as interconnected dimensions of mountain development. The discussions therefore emphasized integrated approaches to resilience building, sustainable agriculture, ecosystem conservation, disaster preparedness and community participation.

The Summit also provided an opportunity to discuss how mountain development can contribute to the national vision of **Viksit Bharat**, while ensuring that development remains ecologically appropriate, socially inclusive and sensitive to the specific conditions of Himalayan states.



2. Theme of the Summit

The central theme of SMDS–XII was:

“Changing Agro-Ecological Landscape & Disasters in Himalaya: Resilience Building and Policy Imperatives for Viksit Bharat”

The theme reflected the emerging reality that mountain ecosystems and communities are facing multiple and overlapping pressures.

The changing agro-ecological landscape has significant implications for traditional agricultural practices, crop diversity, food and nutritional security, water availability and rural livelihoods. Climate change is further influencing agricultural calendars, rainfall patterns, pest and disease dynamics and the availability of natural resources.

At the same time, the Indian Himalayan Region has witnessed increasing concern regarding climate-induced disasters, including extreme rainfall, landslides, floods, glacial hazards and other forms of environmental risk. These events have consequences not only for infrastructure and settlements but also for agriculture, livestock, local economies and community well-being. The Summit therefore sought to shift the discussion from reactive disaster response towards **anticipatory, preventive and resilience-oriented planning**.

The theme also recognized that a uniform development model cannot adequately address the diverse ecological, geographical and socio-economic conditions of the Himalayan region. Mountain states require policies and interventions that are **region-specific, science-based, participatory and sensitive to local knowledge systems**.

The Summit emphasized that resilience should not be viewed only as the capacity to recover after a disaster. It should also include the capacity of communities and ecosystems to anticipate risks, adapt to changing conditions, diversify livelihoods, conserve natural resources and maintain social and economic well-being.

3. Objectives of SMDS–XII

The Summit was designed to provide a common platform for examining major challenges and opportunities associated with sustainable mountain development.

The broad objectives included:

1. To examine the changing agro-ecological conditions in the Indian Himalayan Region.
2. To understand the implications of climate change and increasing disaster risks for mountain communities.
3. To promote discussion on climate-resilient and sustainable agricultural practices.
4. To highlight the importance of traditional knowledge and indigenous practices in mountain resilience.
5. To facilitate dialogue between scientists, policymakers, legislators, development organizations and community representatives.
6. To explore innovative approaches to climate finance and financing mechanisms for resilience building.
7. To strengthen community participation in mountain development and policy processes.
8. To discuss the need for region-specific and evidence-based policies for Himalayan states.
9. To promote sustainable livelihoods while ensuring conservation of mountain ecosystems.
10. To identify policy priorities for disaster-resilient infrastructure and sustainable development.
11. To encourage inter-state collaboration on common Himalayan challenges.
12. To contribute to a broader policy framework aligned with the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

The Summit thus combined technical deliberations with policy dialogue and community perspectives, enabling the concerns of mountain regions to be discussed from multiple dimensions.

4. Organization and Partnerships

SMDS–XII was organized as a multi-stakeholder platform under the aegis of the **Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI)**.

The **Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)** participated as a **partner with IMI**, contributing to the broader institutional effort to bring sustainable development, mountain livelihoods, ecological resilience and community concerns into the Summit's discussions.

The Summit was supported through collaboration with academic institutions, government departments, research organizations and civil society organizations. The participating institutions included the **Department of Geography and Geology, Doon University; Dr. Nityanand Himalayan Research & Study Center; Government of Arunachal Pradesh; Uttarakhand Van Vikas Nigam; Centre for Public Policy and Good Governance (CPPGG), State Planning Department, Government of Uttarakhand; Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change; Uttarakhand Council for Science & Technology (UCOST); Himmotthan Society; and SARG India.**

The partnership approach was particularly important because the challenges confronting mountain regions cannot be addressed by a single institution or sector. Climate resilience, agriculture, disasters, water management, livelihoods, infrastructure and ecological conservation require coordinated action among different stakeholders.

The participation of SDFU alongside IMI strengthened the platform for discussing sustainable development priorities relevant to Uttarakhand and the wider Himalayan region. The partnership also facilitated the convergence of institutional, scientific and community perspectives.

The Summit demonstrated the value of multi-institutional platforms in bringing together knowledge generated through research, policy experience and the lived experiences of mountain communities.



5. Participation and Representation

Approximately **250 participants** attended the two-day Summit. The participants represented a wide range of sectors and included:

- Legislators and elected representatives;
- Scientists and researchers;
- Government officials;
- Policymakers and planners;
- Farmers;
- Community representatives;
- Social workers;
- Students and youth;
- Development practitioners;
- Civil society organizations;
- Media representatives; and
- Representatives of academic institutions.

Farmers, including both men and women, from **Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** participated in the proceedings. Their presence helped bring grassroots experiences into discussions that otherwise tend to be dominated by policy and technical perspectives.

Community representatives associated with the project's three field sites also participated in the programme.

The participation of farmers and community representatives was especially relevant to the Summit's focus on agro-ecological resilience. Their experiences provided practical insights into changing agricultural conditions, resource availability, climate risks and livelihood challenges.

6. Inaugural Session

The inaugural session of SMDS–XII was held on **26 September 2025** at the **Dr. Nityanand Auditorium, Doon University**.

The Summit was inaugurated by **Shri Subodh Uniyal**, Hon'ble Minister for Forests, Language and Technical Education, Government of Uttarakhand, through the ceremonial lighting of the lamp.

The inaugural session was attended by several distinguished personalities, including:

- **Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta**, ICAR–Roorkee – Keynote Speaker;
- **Prof. Surekha Dangwal**, Vice Chancellor, Doon University;
- **Dr. I.D. Bhatt**, Director, GBPNIHE;
- **Mr. Ramesh Negi (Retd. IAS)**, President, IMI;
- **Mr. Roshan Rai**, Secretary, IMI; and
- **Mrs. Binita Shah**, Treasurer, IMI & Secretary, SDFU

The inaugural proceedings established the broad context for the two-day deliberations.

In his address, Shri Subodh Uniyal highlighted the ecological importance of the Himalayan region and its role in supporting India's water resources. He emphasized the vulnerability of the region to climate-induced disasters and called for an approach that combines scientific knowledge with people-centric development.

The address also emphasized the importance of incorporating traditional knowledge into contemporary development planning. This perspective was consistent with the overall objective of the Summit—to build a development framework that is both scientifically informed and grounded in the realities of mountain communities.

The inaugural ceremony also included a traditional Himalayan welcome song presented by women from Niti Valley. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of people who had lost their lives during recent monsoon disasters.

7. Keynote Address and Major Messages

The keynote address was delivered by **Prof. Anil Kumar Gupta of ICAR–Roorkee**.

A central message emerging from the keynote was the need to harmonize **scientific knowledge and indigenous wisdom**. Mountain communities have historically developed practices adapted to local environmental conditions, and these knowledge systems can provide valuable insights for contemporary resilience-building efforts.

The keynote also highlighted the potential role of emerging technologies, including **Artificial Intelligence**, in disaster management and risk reduction.

The application of modern technology was discussed in the context of improving preparedness, information management and decision-making. At the same time, the discussions emphasized that technological interventions need to complement, rather than replace, local knowledge and community institutions.

The importance of **agro-ecological farming** and innovation-driven entrepreneurship was also highlighted. These approaches can contribute to livelihood diversification while strengthening the ecological sustainability of mountain agriculture.

Prof. Surekha Dangwal emphasized the importance of cross-state research collaboration. Given that many Himalayan environmental processes extend across administrative boundaries, research and policy responses also require collaboration across states.

Mr. Ramesh Negi highlighted the risks associated with unplanned urbanization in fragile mountain ecosystems. The concern is particularly relevant because rapid urban growth can increase pressure on land, water, infrastructure and natural drainage systems.

Together, the inaugural and keynote messages established three interconnected priorities:

Science and innovation + Traditional knowledge + Community participation

These three dimensions formed an important conceptual foundation for the subsequent technical and policy discussions.

8. Technical Sessions – Day 1

The first day of the Summit included three parallel thematic sessions focusing on agro-ecology, climate resilience, climate finance and community perspectives.

8.1 Agro-Ecology Resilience for Climate Change

The session on **Agro-Ecology Resilience for Climate Change** focused on the challenges facing mountain agriculture in the context of climate variability.

Agriculture in Himalayan regions is closely linked with local ecosystems, water availability, soil conditions, biodiversity and traditional knowledge. Changes in these systems can directly affect farm productivity and household livelihoods.

The discussions highlighted the importance of:

- Sustainable mountain farming;
- Conservation of agricultural biodiversity;
- Seed diversity;
- Climate-resilient agricultural practices;
- Agro-ecological innovations;
- Local resource management; and
- Strengthening farmers' adaptive capacity.

Seed diversity was particularly important in the context of climate resilience because diverse crop varieties can provide farmers with options for adapting to changing environmental conditions.

The session also reinforced the importance of moving towards agricultural systems that conserve natural resources while maintaining livelihood opportunities.

Agro-ecology was therefore discussed not merely as an agricultural technique but as a broader approach to managing the relationship between farming systems, natural resources and communities.

For mountain regions, such approaches are particularly relevant because agricultural systems operate within highly variable terrain and ecological conditions.

8.2 Financing Solutions for Building Resilience

The second technical session focused on **Financing Solutions for Building Resilience (Climate Finance)**.

Building resilience requires investment. Communities, local institutions and governments need resources to strengthen agricultural systems, improve infrastructure, conserve ecosystems, develop early-warning systems and prepare for climate-related disasters.

The session explored innovative financial models, green funds and climate-smart investments. A key implication of the discussion was that financing for resilience should not be limited to post-disaster reconstruction. Greater emphasis is required on **preventive investment, adaptation and risk reduction**.

Climate finance can play an important role in supporting:

- Climate-resilient agriculture;
- Ecosystem restoration;
- Water conservation;
- Disaster preparedness;
- Sustainable infrastructure;
- Community-based adaptation; and
- Livelihood diversification.

The session highlighted the importance of ensuring that financial mechanisms reach vulnerable mountain communities and are aligned with local requirements.

8.3 Changing Agro-Ecology: Voices from the Community

The third thematic session, **“Changing Agro-Ecology: Voices from the Community,”** brought grassroots perspectives into the Summit.

Farmers and community representatives from **Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand** shared experiences associated with changing agro-ecological conditions.

The inclusion of community voices was particularly important because environmental change is experienced directly at the local level. Farmers observe changes in rainfall, temperature, crop cycles, water availability, soil conditions and pest patterns through their day-to-day interaction with agricultural systems.

Community participation also highlighted the importance of traditional knowledge.

Mountain communities possess accumulated knowledge regarding local crops, water management, agricultural practices, settlement patterns and natural-resource use. Integrating this knowledge with scientific research can improve the relevance and effectiveness of development interventions.

The session reinforced a central message of the Summit: **resilience must be built with communities and not merely for communities.**

The three technical sessions collectively emphasized that climate resilience requires an integrated approach combining ecological sustainability, appropriate financing, scientific knowledge and community participation.



9. Community Participation and Exhibition

Community participation was a significant component of SMDS–XII.

Representatives from project field sites participated in the Summit, enabling the experiences of communities to be connected with the broader technical and policy discussions.

An exhibition of local products was also organized at the venue. The exhibition included **local food, handicrafts and publications**, showcasing the cultural and ecological diversity of the Himalayan region.

The exhibition served multiple purposes.

First, it provided visibility to local products and community-based livelihood activities.

Second, it demonstrated the diversity of mountain production systems and traditional knowledge.

Third, it created an informal space for interaction between communities, policymakers, researchers and other participants.

Such platforms are important because sustainable mountain development is not limited to environmental conservation. It also requires strengthening the economic opportunities available to mountain communities.

Local products, traditional crafts, indigenous foods and community knowledge can contribute to livelihood diversification when supported through appropriate market linkages, institutional support and sustainable production systems.

The exhibition therefore complemented the technical discussions by providing a tangible representation of the livelihoods and cultural assets of mountain communities.

10. Day 2: Mountain Legislators' Meet

The second day of SMDS–XII focused strongly on policy dialogue and featured the **Mountain Legislators' Meet (MLM)**.



The session was chaired by **Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Hon'ble Speaker of the Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly**. **Guest of Honour** was **Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha), Former Chief Minister, Uttarakhand

The meeting brought together legislators and political representatives from different Himalayan states, including:

Name	Designation / Role	State / Region
Shri Nabam Tuki	Former Chief Minister	Arunachal Pradesh
Shri Munna Singh Chauhan	MLA	Uttarakhand
Shri Kishore Upadhyay	MLA	Uttarakhand

Name	Designation / Role	State / Region
Smt. Savita Kapoor	MLA	Uttarakhand
Shri Brijbhushan Gairola	MLA	Uttarakhand
Smt. Asha Nautiyal	MLA	Uttarakhand
Smt. Anuradha Rana	MLA	Himachal Pradesh
Smt. Hekani Jakhalu	MLA	Nagaland
Shri Wangpang Konyak	MLA	Nagaland
Shri Tikender S. Panwar	Former Mayor	Himachal Pradesh
Shri P.D. Rai	Former MP (Lok Sabha), Former President, IMI	Sikkim
Shri Anoop Nautiyal	Member, State Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU)	Uttarakhand

The session was also attended by representatives of IMI, including **Mr. Ramesh Negi (President, IMI)**, **Mr. P.D. Rai (Founding Member, IMI)**, **Mr. Anoop Nautiyal (Member SDFU)** and other stakeholders.

The central issue discussed was the increasing occurrence of disasters in the Indian Himalayan Region and the need for states to respond differently through improved planning, stronger scientific inputs and community participation.

Smt. Ritu Khanduri emphasized that policies for the Himalayas must incorporate active community participation and integrate science with traditional knowledge.

Chief Guest **Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat**, Hon'ble Member of Parliament and former Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, emphasized that development in the Himalayas should not be assessed only through roads and buildings. He stressed the need to link conservation of natural resources with community livelihoods.

Other legislators highlighted scientific construction practices, traditional settlement systems, the role of scientific institutions, safe settlement areas and the need to prevent environmentally inappropriate construction.

The discussions therefore reinforced the need for development models that are compatible with the ecological carrying capacity and geographical characteristics of mountain regions.

11. Policy Deliberations and Eight-Point Agenda

An important component of the Mountain Legislators' Meet was the presentation of an **eight-point policy agenda for Himalayan states** by **Mr. Anoop Nautiyal**.

The policy discussion emphasized the need for a coordinated and long-term approach to mountain development.

The deliberations recognized that the Himalayan states share several common challenges, including:

- Climate-induced disasters;
- Changing water regimes;
- Fragile mountain ecosystems;
- Infrastructure risks;
- Unplanned urbanization;
- Land-use pressures;
- Changing agricultural systems;
- Livelihood vulnerabilities; and
- Increasing pressure from tourism and development activities.

The policy agenda therefore sought to promote a development model that recognizes the unique environmental and socio-economic context of the Himalayan region.

A recurring theme throughout the discussion was the importance of **science-based planning**. Mountain infrastructure, settlements and other development interventions need to take account of geological conditions, slope stability, hydrology, seismic vulnerability and ecological sensitivity.

The discussions also highlighted the importance of **traditional knowledge**. Traditional settlement patterns, local construction techniques, water-management systems and agricultural practices represent accumulated knowledge developed through generations of interaction with mountain environments.

The integration of such knowledge with contemporary scientific approaches can support more context-specific planning.

Another important issue was inter-state collaboration. Environmental systems such as rivers, glaciers, watersheds and mountain ecosystems do not follow administrative boundaries. Consequently, effective management requires coordination among Himalayan states and institutions.

12. Declaration of Mountain Legislators Meet 2025

The Mountain Legislators Meet resulted in a declaration outlining important priorities for Himalayan development.

The declaration called for the development of a **science-based and resilient Himalayan development model**.

It also emphasized the need to establish a **Centre for Strategic Environmental Planning and Green Infrastructure under NITI Aayog**.

Other important recommendations included:

Glacier Monitoring and GLOF Risk Reduction

The declaration emphasized strengthening glacier monitoring and **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** risk mitigation through real-time monitoring systems.

Environmental Compliance

It called for strict environmental compliance for developmental projects in the Himalayan region.

River-Basin Restoration

The declaration emphasized river-basin restoration and transparent monitoring of projects affecting Himalayan rivers and watersheds.

Responsible Tourism

The declaration supported responsible tourism that respects the ecological carrying capacity of mountain destinations.

Mental Health and Disaster Recovery

It also recommended incorporating mental health considerations into disaster recovery frameworks.

Cross-Border and Community Collaboration

The declaration emphasized stronger collaboration across regions and borders as well as community-led participation.

These recommendations reflected the broader understanding that Himalayan resilience requires action across multiple sectors rather than isolated interventions.



13. Dehradun Declaration 2025

The Summit concluded with the adoption of the **Dehradun Declaration 2025**.

The Declaration represented a collective commitment towards strengthening sustainable and climate-resilient development in the Himalayan region.

The key message emerging from the Declaration was that mountain development must be:

- People-centric;
- Science-driven;
- Agro-ecology-focused;
- Participatory;
- Region-specific;
- Climate-resilient; and
- Inclusive.

The Declaration emphasized the need to elevate the voices of mountain communities and ensure that development policies reflect their experiences and priorities.

It also recognized the importance of integrated water-resource management, disaster preparedness, community-driven resilience and risk-sensitive planning.

One of the significant policy recommendations was the establishment of dedicated mountain policy and decision-making mechanisms at the national level, supported by participatory planning and adequate financial allocation.

The Declaration thus sought to provide a roadmap for addressing the interconnected challenges of climate change, agriculture, disasters, livelihoods and ecosystem conservation.

The adoption of the Declaration was an important outcome of SMDS–XII because it transformed the discussions held during the Summit into a collective policy statement.

14. Valedictory Session

The Summit concluded with a valedictory session attended by senior representatives and experts.

The valedictory session featured concluding addresses by:

- **Dr. Sridhar B. Addanki**, Secretary, Planning, Government of Uttarakhand;
- **Mr. Sushil Ramola**, former President, IMI;
- **Dr. M.P. Sood**, IMI Governing Council; and
- **Mr. Pankaj Naithani**, Member, SDFU.

Mr. Roshan Rai, Secretary, IMI, delivered the vote of thanks and expressed appreciation to Doon University, partner organizations, participating Himalayan states, experts, legislators, community representatives and other stakeholders.

The valedictory discussions reaffirmed the importance of strengthening mountain policies, livelihood initiatives and community resilience across the Indian Himalayan Region.

The concluding session provided an opportunity to reflect on the key messages that had emerged over the two days.

The overall consensus was that the Himalayan region requires development approaches that simultaneously address ecological sustainability, livelihood security, climate resilience and disaster preparedness.

15. Major Outcomes and Policy Implications

SMDS–XII generated several important outcomes.

15.1 Strengthening the Science–Policy–Community Interface

The Summit created a platform for interaction among scientists, policymakers, legislators and communities. This interface is critical for ensuring that scientific evidence is translated into practical policies and that policies reflect local realities.

15.2 Recognition of Community Knowledge

The discussions reinforced the importance of traditional knowledge in mountain development and resilience planning.

15.3 Focus on Climate-Resilient Agriculture

The Summit highlighted agro-ecology and climate-resilient farming as important components of sustainable mountain livelihoods.

15.4 Disaster Risk Reduction

The Summit emphasized preventive and risk-sensitive approaches to disaster management rather than relying primarily on post-disaster response.

15.5 Region-Specific Development Planning

The deliberations demonstrated the need for Himalayan-specific development policies that recognize ecological carrying capacities and geographical differences.

15.6 Improved Environmental Governance

The recommendations called for stronger environmental compliance, scientific validation of infrastructure and improved monitoring of development projects.

15.7 Sustainable Tourism

The discussions recognized the importance of tourism for mountain economies while emphasizing the need to operate within ecological carrying capacities.

15.8 Integrated Water Management

Water resources were recognized as a critical component of Himalayan resilience, requiring integrated planning and river-basin approaches.

15.9 Inter-State Collaboration

The Summit highlighted the need for stronger cooperation among Himalayan states because many environmental and climatic challenges transcend administrative boundaries.

15.10 Climate Finance

The discussions emphasized the need to mobilize appropriate financial resources for adaptation, resilience and sustainable development.



16. Relevance to Climate-Resilient Farming and Mountain Livelihoods

The focus of SMDS–XII was particularly relevant to the challenges of **climate-resilient farming and sustainable mountain livelihoods**.

Mountain agriculture is highly dependent on natural resources and therefore vulnerable to changes in rainfall, temperature, water availability and extreme weather events.

Climate resilience in agriculture requires more than the adoption of individual technologies. It requires strengthening the overall resilience of farming communities.

The Summit's discussions on agro-ecology highlighted several approaches relevant to this objective, including:

- Conservation of local crop diversity;
- Promotion of seed diversity;
- Sustainable use of natural resources;
- Climate-responsive agricultural practices;
- Integration of traditional and scientific knowledge;
- Diversification of rural livelihoods;
- Community participation in resource management; and
- Improved access to finance and institutional support.

The community-focused discussions also reinforced the importance of listening to farmers and local communities when designing climate adaptation interventions.

Mountain livelihoods are often diversified and may depend on agriculture, livestock, forestry, tourism, handicrafts and other activities. Climate resilience therefore requires a livelihood approach that recognizes these interconnections.

The exhibition of local food and handicrafts further demonstrated the potential of community-based products as part of sustainable livelihood strategies.

The Summit consequently provided a broader framework in which **agro-ecology, livelihood security, biodiversity conservation and climate adaptation** can be addressed together.

17. Contribution to the Vision of Viksit Bharat

The Summit's deliberations were closely connected with the vision of **Viksit Bharat**.

A developed India requires development that is economically productive, socially inclusive and environmentally sustainable. For the Himalayan states, this requires recognizing that economic development must be compatible with the ecological characteristics of mountain environments.

The discussions at SMDS–XII highlighted that the Himalayan region should not be viewed simply as a source of natural resources or as an infrastructure frontier. It should be recognized as a living socio-ecological system in which communities, ecosystems, agriculture, water resources and infrastructure are closely interconnected.

The Summit therefore emphasized a model of development based on:

Resilient ecosystems + resilient communities + resilient livelihoods + resilient infrastructure + informed policy

Such a framework can contribute to the national development vision while protecting the natural resources and cultural heritage of Himalayan communities.

Science and innovation can support improved monitoring, forecasting, agricultural technologies and disaster management. Traditional knowledge can provide locally adapted solutions. Community participation can improve ownership and implementation. Policy coordination can ensure that these elements are integrated into development planning.

The Summit thus reinforced the principle that **Viksit Bharat must also be a resilient Bharat**, and that the resilience of the Himalayan region is an important component of India's long-term environmental and economic security.

18. Conclusion and Way Forward

The **12th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS–XII)** provided an important platform for bringing together diverse stakeholders to deliberate on the rapidly changing environmental, agricultural, social and economic conditions of the Indian Himalayan Region. Over two days, approximately 250 participants—including legislators, scientists, policymakers, farmers, community representatives, students, social workers and development practitioners—participated in discussions on climate change, agro-ecology, disaster resilience, climate finance and sustainable mountain livelihoods.

The Summit demonstrated that the challenges confronting the Himalayas are interconnected. Climate change affects agriculture; changes in agriculture affect livelihoods; environmental degradation increases disaster vulnerability; and unplanned development can further increase ecological risks.

Consequently, the response also needs to be integrated.

The Summit emphasized that Himalayan development should be based on **scientific evidence, traditional knowledge, community participation and region-specific planning**.

The participation of **SDFU as a partner with IMI** in SMDS–XII contributed to this multi-stakeholder platform and strengthened the space for dialogue on sustainable development, mountain livelihoods, climate resilience and community concerns.

The **Mountain Legislators' Meet** further strengthened the policy dimension of the Summit by bringing elected representatives and experts into direct discussion on the challenges of Himalayan development.

The **Dehradun Declaration 2025** provided an important collective policy framework, emphasizing people-centric development, science-based planning, agro-ecological resilience, disaster preparedness, integrated water management, environmental compliance and community participation.

Way Forward

Going forward, the following priorities emerge from the Summit:

1. **Strengthen climate-resilient and agro-ecological farming systems** in mountain communities.
2. **Promote conservation of local crop and seed diversity** as an important component of agricultural resilience.
3. **Integrate traditional knowledge with scientific research and modern technologies.**
4. **Strengthen community participation** in planning, implementation and monitoring of development programmes.
5. **Improve disaster preparedness and early-warning systems**, particularly for climate-related mountain hazards.
6. **Promote scientific and environmentally sensitive infrastructure development.**
7. **Strengthen integrated river-basin and water-resource management.**
8. **Develop responsible tourism frameworks** based on ecological carrying capacities.
9. **Mobilize climate finance** for adaptation, ecosystem restoration and livelihood resilience.
10. **Strengthen inter-state cooperation** on shared Himalayan environmental challenges.

11. **Improve coordination between research institutions, government agencies and community organizations.**
12. **Promote sustainable livelihood diversification** through agriculture, local products, handicrafts, tourism and other community-based enterprises.
13. **Strengthen policy mechanisms dedicated to mountain development** at appropriate levels of governance.
14. **Ensure that Himalayan communities remain central stakeholders in development planning.**

The SMDS–XII discussions reaffirmed that the future of the Himalayas depends on the ability to balance development aspirations with ecological realities. A resilient Himalayan region will require long-term investment, evidence-based policy, institutional coordination, local participation and respect for traditional knowledge.

The Summit therefore served not only as a forum for discussion but also as a platform for building a shared vision for a **safe, sustainable, inclusive and climate-resilient Himalaya**.

The adoption of the Dehradun Declaration 2025 marked an important step towards translating this shared vision into policy priorities and collective action. The continued partnership of institutions such as **SDFU and IMI**, along with government agencies, research institutions, civil society organizations and mountain communities, can help advance this agenda in the years ahead.

Ultimately, sustainable Himalayan development must ensure that **ecological resilience and human well-being advance together**. By placing communities, science, sustainable livelihoods and environmental stewardship at the centre of development planning, the Himalayan region can make a meaningful contribution to the broader vision of **Viksit Bharat** while safeguarding its unique natural and cultural heritage for future generations.

Key Quotes from SMDS-XII Participants



Shri Subodh Uniyal, Hon'ble Minister, Forest & Environment, Uttarakhand:

"Development in the Himalayas must be both scientifically sound and people-friendly to ensure a sustainable, safe, and prosperous future for generations to come."

Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Hon'ble MP & Former Chief Minister, Uttarakhand:

"True development in the Himalayas must link conservation of natural resources with the livelihoods of local communities. Roads and buildings alone cannot define progress."

Smt. Ritu Khanduri Bhushan, Speaker, Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly:

"The Himalaya is an extremely sensitive region where life requires resilience. Policies must integrate science, traditional knowledge, and active participation of local communities."

Shri Nabam Tuki, Former Chief Minister, Arunachal Pradesh:

"Scientific construction practices are crucial to safeguard the fragile mountain ecosystem while supporting local communities."

Shri Munna Singh Chauhan, MLA, Uttarakhand:

"We need to revive the traditional wisdom of settlements and housing followed by our ancestors to build resilient mountain communities."

Shri Kishore Upadhyay, MLA, Uttarakhand:

"Synergy between scientists, policymakers, and community participation is essential for effective Himalayan policy-making."

Shri Brijbhushan Gairola, MLA, Uttarakhand:

"Outcomes of such summits must be simplified and communicated for students and the general public."

Ms. Anuradha Rana, MLA, Himachal Pradesh:

"With shrinking availability of safe land, policies must identify secure settlement areas to protect mountain communities."

Ms. Hekani Jakhalu, MLA, Nagaland:

"Construction without scientific validation must be avoided; collective efforts are essential for Himalayan conservation."

Shri Wangpang Konyak, MLA, Nagaland:

"Local communities hold the deepest understanding of the Himalayas, and their knowledge must guide modern development."

Shri Tikender S. Panwar, Former Mayor, Himachal Pradesh:

"We need to redefine development, aspiration, and necessity, avoiding extractive models that harm Himalayan communities."

8th R.S Tolia Forum 2025



Late Dr. Raghunandan Singh Tolia was a visionary son of mountains, scholar and beacon of action. 11th December also happened to be the International Mountain Day. It is noteworthy that one of the major contributions made by Dr. R.S. Tolia in newly established state of Uttarakhand was administrative reforms in forestry working and convergence between forest and rural development.

The **Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU)** organized the **8th RST Forum 2025 on 11 December 2025** to commemorate the **International Mountain Day** at Doon Library & Research Centre. The RST Forum is one of SDFU's flagship initiatives and is organized in memory of **Late Dr. R.S. Tolia**, founder of SDFU and the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI). SDFU functions as the Uttarakhand State Chapter of IMI and provides a platform for bringing together policymakers, academicians, administrators, practitioners and civil society representatives to deliberate on key issues concerning mountain development. A one-day workshop which was attended by over 78 participants representing senior councilors, scholars, representatives of different line agencies and civil society organizations working in the state of Uttarakhand

The **8th RST Forum** was anchored around the recently published volume ***Uttarakhand @ 25: Looking Back – Looking Forward***, which provides a multidimensional assessment of Uttarakhand's 25-year journey since the formation of the State in 2000. The publication brings together contributions from administrators, academicians and activists and examines the State's achievements as well as continuing challenges relating to governance, migration, ecological fragility, disasters, livelihoods, education, environment, tourism and social development. The volume was edited by **Shri N.S. Napalchyal, Shri N. Ravi Shanker and Dr. Sudha Rani Pandey**.

Background and Purpose

The RST Forum has evolved as an important platform for **evidence-based dialogue on sustainable mountain development in Uttarakhand**. Through its lectures, panel discussions, workshops and publications, SDFU seeks to connect research and policy with the lived experiences of communities.

The 8th RST Forum continued this tradition by creating a space for reflection on Uttarakhand's development journey over the first 25 years of statehood. The central objective was not merely to review the achievements of the past but to identify structural challenges and explore pathways for a **resilient, equitable and environmentally sustainable future**.

In his opening remarks, **Shri STS Lepcha, Chairman, SDFU**, emphasized the importance of reflective knowledge-building at a critical stage in Uttarakhand's development. He noted that

the *Uttarakhand @ 25* publication provides both historical context and forward-looking policy recommendations. The discussions around the publication were intended to bridge **research, lived experience and policy action**, while promoting development that balances ecological integrity with livelihood security.

Context Setting and Knowledge Dissemination

Dr. Sudha Rani Pandey, Former Vice Chancellor of Sanskrit University and an academician, formally initiated the proceedings by reflecting on Uttarakhand's developmental journey since state formation.

She acknowledged the progress made in infrastructure and urban development while emphasizing that physical development must be accompanied by preservation of the State's **human, cultural and intellectual heritage**. She highlighted the importance of documenting lived experiences and making knowledge accessible to society. An important point emerging from the discussion was the role of **regional languages, particularly Hindi**, in making research and policy discussions accessible to grassroots communities. The *Uttarakhand @ 25* publication was presented as an example of how knowledge generated by scholars and practitioners can be documented and disseminated for wider public benefit.

The Forum also paid tribute to **Late Dr. R.S. Tolia**, recognizing his contribution to Uttarakhand's development discourse and to the establishment of SDFU and IMI. **Ms. Binita Shah, Secretary, SDFU**, highlighted the continuing relevance of his vision and the role of the RST Forum in maintaining an informed dialogue on mountain development. The Forum also acknowledged the long-standing support of the **Doon Library** in disseminating RST Forum publications and lectures.

Panel Discussion I: Public Policy, Governance and Migration

The first major panel discussion focused on **Public Policy, Governance and Migration** and was moderated by **Mr. Anoop Nautiyal, Member, SDFU**.

The discussion examined the relationship between governance, migration, development and the changing socio-economic landscape of Uttarakhand.

Governance and Institutional Development

Mr. Anil Raturi, Former DGP, Uttarakhand, reflected on the State's journey since its formation in 2000. He emphasized that development should not be assessed solely through economic indicators, as social transformation, cultural identity, governance and public institutions are equally important.

His discussion highlighted the role of law enforcement in maintaining social stability and the importance of strengthening public trust and institutional reform. He argued that while

Uttarakhand has made significant progress in several human-development indicators, important aspirations remain unfulfilled and require continued policy attention.

Migration and Strategic Concerns

Migration emerged as one of the most significant issues discussed during the Forum.

Dr. Kripa Nautiyal, Retd. Additional Director General, Indian Coast Guard, highlighted the wider implications of outmigration from Uttarakhand. He emphasized that migration from strategically sensitive mountain and border areas cannot be considered only as an economic or livelihood issue; it also has implications for **social cohesion, demographic stability and national security**.

The discussion drew attention to depopulation in several border areas and the resulting challenges for local governance and community presence. The need for a multidimensional approach to migration was emphasized, combining employment opportunities, public services, infrastructure and livelihood development.

Dr. S.S. Negi, Retd. IFS, discussed changing migration patterns and highlighted evidence suggesting an increasing tendency among people to remain within Uttarakhand or move to larger towns within the State rather than migrate outside the State.

The emergence of growth centres such as **Haridwar, Kotdwar, Haldwani, Rudrapur, Khatima and Srinagar** was discussed as an indication of changing patterns of internal migration and economic activity. The Forum recognized that these trends should be incorporated into future regional planning and development strategies.

Development, Employment and Livelihoods

The open discussion highlighted **employment, healthcare and education** as critical factors for reducing distress migration.

Participants noted that Uttarakhand has numerous livelihood and development schemes, but fragmented implementation and inadequate coordination can reduce their effectiveness. The discussion also highlighted the need to strengthen local economic opportunities and ensure that development benefits reach communities in remote mountain areas.

The Forum noted the growing contribution of tourism and services to the State economy while also recognizing the need for balanced and sustainable growth.

Participants raised concerns regarding:

- Water scarcity;

- Weak inter-departmental coordination;
- Inadequate micro-level planning;
- Poor last-mile service delivery;
- Land-management challenges;
- Uneven regional development;
- Pressure from tourism; and
- Infrastructure constraints in mountain areas.

The discussion concluded that migration, development, tourism, infrastructure and regional planning need to be addressed through an **integrated policy framework** rather than through isolated departmental interventions.



Panel Discussion II: Education, Environment and Women Empowerment

The second panel discussion was moderated by **Ms. Binita Shah, Secretary, SDFU**, and focused on **Education, Environment and Women Empowerment**.

The panel brought together perspectives on higher education, sustainable tourism, culture, women's participation and environmental sustainability.

Education and Human Development

Dr. Sudha Rani Pandey provided a historical overview of education in Uttarakhand, noting that education in the region was historically rooted in community-based and traditional systems.

While recognizing the expansion of educational institutions after state formation, she raised concerns regarding:

- Uneven institutional quality;
- Faculty shortages;
- Frequent transfers;
- Weak academic leadership;
- Inconsistent implementation of educational reforms;
- Education-driven migration; and
- The increasing influence of digital media on young learners.

She emphasized that education should not be separated from **culture, ethics, governance and social values**. The need for stronger institutional planning and coordinated implementation of education reforms was highlighted.

The discussion also emphasized the importance of making education more accessible to local communities and strengthening the role of regional languages alongside English.

Sustainable Tourism and Environment

Dr. Kiran Sood, Academician, Writer and Poet, discussed sustainable tourism and emphasized that tourism remains a major source of livelihood and economic activity in Uttarakhand.

However, the rapid growth of tourism has also created pressure on fragile mountain ecosystems, infrastructure, transport systems and urban centres. The Forum emphasized that tourism development must be balanced with **environmental and social responsibility**.

The need for stronger implementation, accountability, social audits, visitor orientation, decentralized tourism and improved environmental management was highlighted. The Forum also emphasized the importance of reducing pressure on highly concentrated tourist destinations and promoting a wider range of destinations and livelihood opportunities.

Culture and Mountain Identity

Dr. Data Ram Purohit, Professor and Chairman, Department of English, HNB Garhwal University, discussed the cultural dimensions of Uttarakhand.

He emphasized that Uttarakhand's culture extends beyond rituals and festivals and includes **collective thought, social organization, food practices, traditional institutions, local knowledge and community behaviour**.

The discussion highlighted the relationship between culture and geography, particularly the influence of river systems, traditional settlement patterns, local deities, folk traditions, fairs, festivals, music and theatre.

Concerns were also raised regarding the decline of traditional agricultural landscapes and the need to protect culturally and ecologically significant areas. The discussion emphasized that cultural heritage and ecological conservation should form part of the State's sustainable development strategy.

Key Issues Emerging from the Forum

The discussions across both panels identified several interconnected issues that require continued policy attention.

1. Addressing Outmigration

The Forum emphasized that migration from the hills is influenced by multiple factors, including employment, education, healthcare, infrastructure, water availability and uneven development. Addressing migration therefore requires strengthening local livelihood opportunities and public services.

2. Strengthening Mountain Livelihoods

The need to strengthen agriculture, animal husbandry, fisheries, tourism and other local economic activities was emphasized. Community-based and cooperative approaches were identified as potential pathways for strengthening rural economies.

3. Improving Regional Planning

Development planning needs to be sensitive to the geographical and ecological characteristics of mountain regions. Micro-level planning and better coordination among departments were identified as important requirements.

4. Sustainable Tourism

Tourism must remain economically beneficial while respecting the **ecological carrying capacity** of mountain destinations. Better traffic management, public transport, visitor management, environmental monitoring and diversification of tourism destinations were highlighted as priorities.

5. Education and Youth

Improving the quality and accessibility of education is important not only for human development but also for addressing migration. The Forum emphasized the need for stronger institutions, better academic leadership and education systems that remain connected to local communities.

6. Women's Participation

The discussions highlighted the need to recognize and address the contribution and challenges of rural and agricultural women. Women's participation in local governance, livelihoods and development planning remains essential for inclusive mountain development.

7. Culture and Ecological Heritage

Uttarakhand's cultural traditions, local institutions and agricultural landscapes are important components of its identity and resilience. Their protection needs to be integrated into development planning.

8. Governance and Accountability

The Forum emphasized that policies and programmes can achieve meaningful outcomes only when accompanied by effective implementation, social audits, institutional coordination and grassroots accountability.



The closing remarks by **Ms. Richa Ghansiyal, Treasurer, SDFU**, emphasized the continuing role of SDFU in facilitating informed and inclusive platforms for sustainable development dialogue. She highlighted the importance of collaborative engagement among policymakers, practitioners and civil society and called for development that is **environmentally responsible, socially equitable and economically resilient**.

Overall Outcome

The **8th RST Forum 2025** successfully reinforced SDFU's role as a platform for **knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and collective reflection on mountain development**. By bringing together administrators, academics, practitioners, civil society representatives and other stakeholders, the Forum enabled a multidimensional discussion on Uttarakhand's 25-year development journey and the challenges that lie ahead.

The Forum particularly emphasized that Uttarakhand's future development cannot be separated from its **ecological fragility, demographic changes, cultural heritage and mountain livelihoods**. Sustainable development will require stronger institutions, participatory planning, local economic opportunities, responsible tourism and effective environmental governance.

The discussions around *Uttarakhand @ 25: Looking Back – Looking Forward* provided a valuable foundation for reflecting on past achievements and challenges while identifying pathways for a more **resilient, inclusive and environmentally sustainable Uttarakhand**.

Through the RST Forum, SDFU continued its commitment to bridging **research, policy and lived experience**, thereby contributing to informed public discourse and strengthening the knowledge base for sustainable mountain development.

Way Forward

The 8th RST Forum highlighted the need for a **balanced, inclusive and ecologically sensitive development pathway for Uttarakhand**. Going forward, SDFU will continue to promote dialogue and collaboration among policymakers, researchers, civil society organizations and mountain communities, with emphasis on the following priorities:

- **Strengthening mountain livelihoods** through locally appropriate employment, agriculture, allied activities, entrepreneurship and community-based enterprises.
- **Addressing migration and depopulation** by improving livelihood opportunities, education, healthcare, connectivity and essential services in rural and border areas.
- **Promoting sustainable and responsible tourism** based on ecological carrying capacity, improved visitor management, decentralized tourism and stronger local participation.
- **Strengthening environmental governance** through better implementation of environmental safeguards, social accountability, inter-departmental coordination and evidence-based planning.
- **Encouraging participatory and micro-level planning** that reflects the diverse geographical, ecological and socio-economic conditions of Uttarakhand.

- **Improving education and skill development**, particularly for mountain youth, while strengthening links between education, local employment and regional development.
- **Enhancing women's participation** in livelihoods, local governance and decision-making, recognizing their central role in mountain economies and communities.
- **Protecting cultural and ecological heritage**, including traditional knowledge, local institutions, indigenous practices, agricultural landscapes, folk traditions and community-based conservation systems.
- **Strengthening research–policy–community linkages** so that academic evidence and grassroots experiences can inform practical policy and programme implementation.
- **Promoting institutional convergence and collaboration** among government departments, academic institutions, civil society and community organizations for coordinated mountain development.
- **Strengthening knowledge dissemination** through forums, publications, lectures and other platforms to make research and policy knowledge accessible to wider communities.
- **Building a long-term vision for Uttarakhand** that balances economic development with ecological sustainability, social equity, cultural preservation and resilience of mountain communities.



Annual General Meeting



The Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU) convened its 8th Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 20th August 2025 (Wednesday) at SDFU Office, Dehradun to review the organisation's activities, institutional progress, statutory matters and emerging issues concerning sustainable development in Uttarakhand. The meeting brought together members and councillors of SDFU for deliberations on organisational affairs as well as critical environmental and developmental concerns affecting the Himalayan region. The AGM was chaired by Ms. Vibha Puri Das, with Ms. Binita Shah, Secretary, SDFU, coordinating the proceedings. The required quorum was completed with the participation of members, including those joining virtually.

The meeting began with a two-minute silence in memory of people who had lost their lives in recent disasters in Dharali, Harsil and other parts of Uttarakhand, as well as in Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and Arunachal Pradesh. This reflected the Forum's concern regarding the increasing vulnerability of Himalayan communities to disasters and set the context for subsequent discussions on environmentally sensitive and resilient development.

The AGM was conducted in a hybrid mode, with members participating both physically and online.

The physical meeting was attended by Ms. Vibha Puri Das (Councillor), Dr. G.S. Rawat (Vice Chairman), Ms. Binita Shah (Secretary), Ms. Richa Ghansiyal (Treasurer), Ms. Priyanka Tolia (Member), Dr. Avinash Joshi (Member), Dr. Pankaj Nathani (Member), and Dr. Vinod Bhatt (Member).

The meeting was also attended online by Shri S.T.S. Lepcha (Chairman), Shri N.S. Napalchyal (Councillor), Dr. Rajendra Singh (Member), and Mr. Anoop Nautiyal (Member).

Key Discussion Points:

- Brief discussion on the Action Plan for the Year 2025–26
- Discussion and follow-up on the 12th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS–XII)
- Discussion and planning for the 8th RST Forum 2025
- Discussion on the programme and activities proposed for 11th December 2025
- Discussion on identification and confirmation of speakers, panelists and key stakeholders for the 8th RST Forum.

List of SDFU Councilors / Members

S.no	Name	Designation
1	Shri STS Lepcha	Chairman
2	Dr Gopal Singh Rawat	Vice- Chairman
3	Ms Binita Shah	Secretary
4	Ms Richa Ghansiyal	Treasurer
5	Dr Rajendra P Dobhal	Councilor
6	Ms Vibha Puri Das	Councilor
7	Shri N S Napalchiyal	Councilor
8	Dr.B S Barfal	Councilor
9	Dr B K Joshi	Councilor
10	Shri N Ravi Shanker	Councilor
11	Shri Krishna S. Rautela	Member
12	Shri Anoop Nautiyal	Member
13	Ms Priyanka Tolia	Member
14	Dr. Pankaj Naithani	Member
15	Dr. Avinash C Joshi	Member
16	Dr. Rajendra Bisht	Member
17	Dr. Vinod K Bhatt	Member
18	Ms. Jyoti Chamoli	Member

Auditor's Report & Balance Sheet



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ADROIT & CO
Chartered Accountants
(Formerly known as Tarun Nand & Company)

Offices at New Delhi, Ranchi, Chandigarh, Ghaziabad, Noida, Faridabad & Gurugram

Auditor's Report

1 We have audited the financial statements of **Sustainable Development Forum Uttaranchal (SDFU)**, 5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun (PAN No.: AAQAS8674M), which comprises the Balance Sheet as at **31st March 2026**, the statement of Income & Expenditure A/c for the year then ended, and a Notes to the Accounts and other information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

2 Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements that give a true and fair view of the financial position and financial performance in accordance with the Accounting Standard generally accept in India. This responsibility includes the design, implementation and maintenance of adequate internal financial controls, that were operating effectively for ensuring the accuracy and Completeness of the accounting records, relevant to the preparation & presentation of financial Statements that give a true & fair view and are free from materials misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

3 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with the Standards on Auditing issued by Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI). Those Standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and the disclosures in the financial statements. The procedure selected depends on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessment, the auditor considers internal financial control relevant to the preparation of the financial statements that give a true & fair view in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances.

An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of the accounting policies used and reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management as well as evaluating the overall presentation of financial statements.

Opinion

4 Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit.

In our opinion and information & explanations given to us, the aforesaid financial statements give the information in the manner so required and give a true and fair view in conformity with the accounting principles of the state of affairs as and its surplus for the year ended on that date.

We report, subject to Notes to accounts and our Audit observations to this report of even date that :

- A We have obtained all the information and explanations which, to the best of our knowledge and belief, were necessary for the purpose of the audit.
- B In our opinion, proper books of account have been kept at the office, so far as appears from our examination of the books.
- C In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to the explanations given to us, the said accounts, read with notes thereon, if any, give a true and fair view :-
 - (i) In the case of the Balance Sheet, of the state of the affairs as **31st March, 2026**, and
 - (ii) In the case of Income & Expenditure A/c for the year ended on that date.
 - (iii) In the case of Receipts & Payments A/c for the year ended on that date.

Dated : 30-06-2026



For **ADROIT & CO**
Chartered Accountants

(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner

FRN No.: 006547N / M.No.: 093945
UDIN No.: 26093945WUQOEM5777

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)
5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun

Balance Sheet

As at 31st March 2026

PARTICULARS	Note No.	As at 31st March 2026	As at 31st March 2025
		(in Rs.)	(in Rs.)
Liabilities:			
Capital Account			
Corpus Capital Fund	1	16,097.00	260,040.45
Earmarked Grant Fund	2	-	-
General Surplus Fund	3	-	-
Current Liabilities			
Sundry Creditors & Payables	4	-	-
TOTAL	>>>	16,097.00	260,040.45
Assets			
Fixed Assets			
As per details	5	12,779.84	19,740.84
Current Assets			
Cash & Cash Equivalents	6	3,317.16	240,299.61
TOTAL	>>>	16,097.00	260,040.45

Significant accounting policies and notes to accounts

On behalf of the Board Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)


Chairman


Secretary

Dated : 30-06-2026

For ADROIT & CO
Chartered Accountants





(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner
FRN No.: 006547N / M.No.: 093945
UDIN No.: 26093945WUQOEM5777

Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU)

5/6, New 25, Lane No.3, Teg Bahadur Road, Dehradun

Schedules to the Balance Sheet

Note	Name of the Balance Sheet items	Year 2025-2026			
		As at 31st March 2025	Transactions during the year (Debit/Credit)		As at 31st March 2026
1	Corpus Capital Fund				
1	Corpus Fund	668,258.43	465,489.34	221,545.89	424,314.98
2	Transferred from Income & Expenditure A/c	(408,217.97)	-		(408,217.97)
	Total	260,040.45	465,489.34	221,545.89	16,097.00
2	Earmarked Grant Fund				
1	Grant Name	-			-
2	Others				-
	Total	-	-	-	-
3	General Surplus Fund				
1	Surplus from Income & Expenditure A/c	-	-		-
2	Others				-
	Total	-	-	-	-
4	Current Liabilities				
1	Sundry Creditors	-	-	-	-
2	Other Payables	-	-	-	-
	Total	-	-	-	-
5	Fixed Assets	As at 31-03-2025	Addition	Depreciation	As at 31-03-2026
1	Laptop	3,370.00		1,348.00	2,022.00
2	Printer	4,677.00		1,871.00	2,806.00
3	Computer & Others	7,949.00		3,180.00	4,769.00
4	Office Electric Kettle	1,105.00		166.00	939.00
5	Office Room Heater	2,639.84		396.00	2,243.84
	Total	19,740.84	-	6,961.00	12,779.84
6	Cash & Cash Equivalents	As at 31-03-2025	Debits	Credits	As at 31-03-2026
1	Nainital Bank no. 1552002000003339	240,299.61	396,746.76	633,729.21	3,317.16
2	Cash In Hand	-			-
	Total	240,299.61	396,746.76	633,729.21	3,317.16






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Notes of Accounts and Significant Accounting Policies

As at 31st March 2026

- 1 a The Method of Accounting generally followed is Cash-basis and therefore, Income and expenditure is recognized on receipt basis.
- b The financial statements are based on historical cost convention
- 2 a Revenue is recognized only after it become due.
- b In case of Grant/Budget allocation received from the Government or other agencies the unutilized portion thereof have been treated in the Balance Sheet as liability under the head, "Grant Funds."
- c Expense on the other hand is recognized once the payment for the same have been made.
- 3 Fixed Assets are stated at cost of acquisition or construction less depreciation charged to profit and loss account. Cost is inclusive of duties, taxes, erection/commissioning and incidental expenses.
- 4 a Depreciation on Fixed Assets is charged on written down value method.
- b The depreciation on fixed assets put to use at any time during the year is provided at rates as specified under the Income Tax Act, 1961
- 5 a Sustainable Development Forum Uttarakhand (SDFU) is a group of well-known scholars, former administrators and subject experts who have come together with a view to create a collaborative initiative involving a number of constituents from grassroots to research and policy making committed to and working towards the common vision and mission of sustainable development of the mountains in general and Uttarakhand in particular. The Society acted as a generating ideas for formulating and Implementing policies and programmes of sustainable development encompassing environmental, social and economic domains in mountain areas, especially Uttarakhand.
- b Funds released to Institutions, NGO's & other Agencies under various schemes shown as expenditure in Income & Expenditure Account are subject to utilization certificates.
- c Grant utilized during three year are transferred to Income & Expenditure Account & unutilized portion is shown as grant Fund under liability side of Balance Sheet.

Dated : 30-06-2026



For **ADROIT & CO**
Chartered Accountants

(CA. Tarun Agarwal)
Partner

FRN No.: 006547N / M.No.: 093945
UDIN No.: 26093945WUQOEM5777



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FORUM UTTARANCHAL

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