



**One-Week Compulsory Training Course  
on  
Forestry Issues Related to Himalayan Ecology and Ecotourism  
for  
Indian Forest Service (IFS) Officers  
(October 9-13, 2023)**



**PATRON**

Prof Sunil Nautiyal, Director, NIHE

**COURSE COODINATORS**

J.C. Kuniyal I.D. Bhatt  
Scientist - G Scientist - F

**CONVENORS**

K. S. Kanwal Sumit Rai  
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Kapil Kesarwani M.S. Lodhi  
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**ORGANINING COMMITTEE**

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***Organized by***

**G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE)**

(An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Govt. of India)  
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora - 263 643, Uttarakhand, INDIA



### About the training programme

The Himalayan region, renowned for its majestic mountain ranges and rich biodiversity, is home to a unique and fragile ecosystem. It plays a critical role in providing vital ecosystem services such as freshwater resources, climate regulation, and habitat for a wide array of plant and animal species. However, this delicate balance is increasingly threatened by a range of forestry issues that demand urgent attention and sustainable management practices. The area is currently dealing with a number of issues like rapid land use changes, habitat fragmentation, excessive use of forest resources, soil erosion, landslides, a decrease in forest density and cover, disruption of wildlife corridors, and disruption of natural processes as a result of rising population and infrastructure development. The number of tourists visiting the area has multiplied over the past few decades, adding to the burden on infrastructural growth and solid waste generation. As a result, incorporating ecotourism and sustainable development principles into the current forestry paradigm will offer a viable strategy for addressing the actual problems associated with the management of forests and tourism in the Himalaya.

Given the critical importance of the Himalayan region, it is imperative to address the forestry issues through effective training programs. The training course on "Forestry Issues related to Himalayan Ecology and Ecotourism" seeks to disseminate and explore the information and abilities required to meet these difficulties sustainably. The training program will cover a wide range of topics, including Himalayan Forest ecology, forest conservation and management, forest policy and governance, community engagement and livelihoods, Ecotourism and sustainable practices, climate change adaptation and resilience, sustainable use and access and benefits sharing of bioresources, etc. A team of national level experts with experience in forestry, ecology, policy governance, ecotourism, and sustainable development has been invited to deliver lectures and participate in panel discussion during this training. Thus, participants will have the opportunity to learn on emerging forestry and climate change issues from the experts as well as from each other through experience sharing. This training programme seeks to equip forest officers with the knowledge they need to take informed action to address the forestry problems affecting the area by promoting a deeper understanding of the connections between forest protection, Himalayan ecology, and ecotourism. It seeks to promote a collaborative approach, bringing together diverse stakeholders to work towards a sustainable future for the Himalayan ecosystem, while also supporting local communities and promoting responsible tourism practices. The training program will be held in Almora, a picturesque hill-station also known as cultural capital of Kumaon, Uttarakhand where participants will have the opportunity to experience the beauty of the Himalaya and learn about the challenges and opportunities facing the region.

**VENUE:** Govind Ballabh Pant 'National Institute of Himalayan Environment' (NIHE), Almora – 263643, Uttarakhand.

Location Coordinates : Lat 29.639920°, Long 79.622768°  
Google Map Link : <https://goo.gl/maps/Eq657U3Q2UQn5coWA>

### **IMPORTANT DATES**

Training Dates: October 9-13, 2023 (05 days)

**BOARDING & LODGING:** Suitable boarding & lodging will be provided to all the participants.

### **ABOUT ALMORA & ITS GENERAL CLIMATE**

Almora is situated on a ridge at the southern edge of the Kumaon hills of the Central Himalayan range in the shape of a horse saddle hillock. In summer, Almora is largely under the influence of moist, maritime airflow from the western side of the subtropical anticyclonic cells over low-latitude ocean waters. The average temperature in Almora during July is 23.5°C with average rainfall of 318 mm.

### **HOW TO REACH**

The Institute is well connected with Almora town. It is almost 14 km away from Almora town on Almora-Ranikhet Road.

**By Air:** The nearest airport for Almora is Pantnagar. Taxis are available to Almora from Pantnagar Airport (approx. distance 115 km).

**By Rail:** Kathgodam is the nearest railway station to Almora at a distance of 83 km. The station is well connected with major destinations of India like Delhi, Lucknow, Kolkata, etc. Buses and Taxis are available to Almora from Kathgodam.

**By Road:** Almora town is well connected by motorable roads with major cities in northern India. The distance from Delhi to Almora is 365 km (via Moradabad and Bilaspur) which may be covered in 9-10 hours of time.

### **FOR ANY QUERIES: CONTACT PERSON**

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*We look forward to welcoming you at Almora in October 2023...!!*



## G.B. Pant 'National Institute of Himalayan Environment' (NIHE), Almora, Uttarakhand



*G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (NIHE)* established in 1988-89, is an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India. NIHE which is identified as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, to evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and to ensure environmentally sound development in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Institute attempts to maintain a balance of intricate linkages

between socio-cultural, ecological, economic, and physical systems that could lead to sustainability in the IHR. To achieve this, the Institute follows a multidisciplinary and holistic approach in all its Research and Development programmes with emphasis on interlinking natural and social sciences. In this effort, particular attention is given to the preservation of fragile mountain ecosystems, indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable use of natural resources. A conscious effort is made to ensure participation of local inhabitants for long-term acceptance and success of various programmes. Training, environmental education and awareness to different stakeholders are essential components of all the R&D programmes of the Institute. The Institute functions in a decentralized manner having 40 scientists and about 200 Research Scholars. R&D programmes of the institute are majorly based on the stakeholder needs and is carried out by 05 Regional Centres across the IHR. These are located from the north-western to north-eastern Himalaya are: (i) Ladakh Regional Centre (Leh, Ladakh), (ii) Himachal Regional Centre (Kullu, Himachal Pradesh), (iii) Garhwal Regional Centre (Srinagar-Garhwal, Uttarakhand), (iv) Sikkim Regional Centre (Pangthang, Sikkim), and (v) North-East Regional Centre (Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh) along with headquarters at Almora (Uttarakhand) and Mountain Division at MoEF&CC in New Delhi.

### Near Almora, worthwhile tourist destinations

Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Jageshwar Temple, Kasar Devi Temple, Chitai Golu Devta Temple, Katarmal Sun Temple, Deer Park, Kausani, Ranikhet, Martola, Kalimah, Kumaon Regimental Centre Museum.



**Training Programme  
on  
Forestry Issues Related to Himalayan Ecology and Ecotourism  
October 9-13, 2023**

**Programme Schedule**

<b>Day 1: October 9, 2023, Inaugural session</b>	
<b>09:00 AM – 09:30 AM</b>	Registration
<b>09:30 AM – 10:00 AM</b>	Welcome & About the Institute – Prof. Sunil Nautiyal, Director, NIHE
<b>10:00 AM – 10:15 AM</b>	Overview of the Training Programme – Dr. J.C. Kuniyal, Scientist-G & Head, CEA&CC, NIHE
<b>10:15 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	Introduction of the Participants
<b>11:00 AM – 11:20 AM</b>	Remarks by Special Guest Prof. P.C. Tiwari, Professor Emeritus, Kumaon University, Nainital
<b>11:20 AM – 11:40 AM</b>	Remarks by Chief Guest Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Professor, NIDM, New Delhi
<b>11:40 AM – 11:45 AM</b>	Vote of Thanks – Dr. I.D. Bhatt, Scientist-F & Head, CBCM, NIHE
<b>11:45 AM – 12:00 PM</b>	----- HIGH-TEA -----
<b>Technical Session I: Climate change and Himalayan Forest Resources</b>	
<b>12:00 PM – 01:00 PM</b>	Prof. P.C. Tiwari, Professor Emeritus, Kumaon University, Nainital
<b>01:00 PM – 01:30 PM</b>	----- LUNCH BREAK -----
<b>Technical Session II: Climate Change, forest management and local development- new models and international best practices</b>	
<b>01:30 PM – 02:30 PM</b>	Shri Shankar Gopalakrishnan, Secretary, Survival and Dignity campaign A National Platform of Tribal and Forest Dwellers' Organizations, New Delhi
<b>02:30 PM – 05:30 PM</b>	<b>Field visit to Suryakunj forest eco-restoration model and Sun Temple, Katarmal</b>
<b>Day 2: October 10, 2023</b>	
<b>07:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Yoga Session (Art of Living)</b>	
<b>Technical Session-III: Exploring possibilities of ecotourism in the Himalaya</b>	
<b>10:00 AM – 11:00 AM</b>	Prof. S.C. Bagri, Former VC, Himgiri Zee University, Uttarakhand
<b>11:00 AM – 11:15 AM</b>	----- TEA BREAK -----
<b>Technical Session-IV: Waste to energy Initiatives for promoting ecotourism in the Himalaya</b>	
<b>11:15 AM – 12:15 PM</b>	Dr. J.C. Kuniyal, Scientist-G & Head- CEA&CC, NIHE
<b>12:15 PM – 05:30 PM</b>	<b>Field visit to Community Forest management at Sitalkhet</b> Community Interaction on assisted natural regeneration, forest fire mitigation, biotic pressure reduction, etc. ( <i>Lunch will be served in the field</i> ).

**Day 3: October 11, 2023****07:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Yoga Session (Art of Living)****Technical Session-V: Initiatives under National Mission on Himalaya Studies (NMHS)****10:00 AM – 11:00 AM** Er Kireet Kumar, Scientist-G and Head, CLWRM, NIHE**11:00 AM – 11:15 PM** ----- TEA BREAK -----**Technical Session VI: Landscape Approach for Conservation and Sustainable Development****11:15 AM – 12:15 PM** Rajan Kotru, LEAD Strategist at Redefined Sustainable Thinking REST, Nepal**12:15 PM – 01:15 PM** Visit to Rural Technology Centre of NIHE**01:15 PM – 02:00 PM** ----- LUNCH BREAK -----**02:00 PM – 05:30 PM** Field visit to Mirtola ashram and sacred deodar forest at Jageshwar Dham**Day 4: October 12, 2023****07:00 AM – 8:30 AM: Yoga Session (Art of Living)****Technical Session-VIII: Multidisciplinary Framework for Human Wildlife Co-existence in the Western Himalaya****10:00 AM – 11:00 AM** Dr. Himani Nautiyal, Howard University Washington D.C., USA & National Institute of Advanced Studies, India**11:00 AM – 11:15 AM** ----- TEA BREAK -----**11:15 AM – 05:30 PM** Field visit to Binsar Wildlife Sanctuary, Almora (*Lunch will be served in the field*).**Day 5: October 13, 2023****07:30 AM – 8:30 AM: Yoga Session (Art of Living)****Technical Session-IX: Policy issues with special reference to forestry in the Himalaya****10:00 AM – 10:45 AM** Shri B.D. Suyal, IFS (Retd.), Former Director, FSI, Shimla**10:45 AM – 11:00 AM** ----- TEA BREAK -----**Technical Session-X: A Vision for Ecological Security in the Indian Subcontinent vis-a-vis Mountains****11:00 AM – 11:45 AM** Dr. Eklabya Sharma (FNA), Former DDG, ICIMOD, Nepal**11:45 AM – 01:00 PM** **Panel Discussion:** Improvement in the working of Forest Departments: Need for career development through training and skills**01:00 PM – 01:30 PM** **Valedictory Session - Experience Sharing**