

Centre for Himalayan Studies

JESUS AND MARY COLLEGE



On this
80th



INDEPENDENCE DAY

Join us for the

HIGHLAND ODYSSEY

A Journey into Himalayan Culture, Heritage and Sustainability

PARTICIPATION CERTIFICATE INCLUDED!



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Honourable Speakers

- **Keynote Address by Prof Chetan Singh**, formerly at the Department of History, Himachal Pradesh University, HP
- **Dr Sanjeeva Pandey**, Forestry, Biodiversity Conservation, Climate Resilience and Forest Landscape Restoration Specialist, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Himachal Pradesh, India
- **Prof Sudha Vasan**, Department of Sociology, Delhi School of Economics, University of Delhi
- **Dr Vasudha Pande**, formerly at Lady Shriram College for Women, University of Delhi
- **Dr Aniket Alam**, Highland Histories Lab, IIIT Hyderabad and President, Oral History Association of India
- **Dr Manish Kumar**, Associate Professor, Jindal School of Environment and Sustainability, O.P. Jindal Global University
- **Dr Mona Chettri**, Researcher and Co-Founder, Reading Himalaya: Research and Policy and Senior Research Fellow (Adjunct), School of Arts and Social Sciences (Malaysia), Monash University, Australia
- **Dr Aditya Kiran Kakati**, Lecturer in International Relations and International Organizations, University of Groningen; and Affiliate Research Fellow, International Institute for Asian Studies, IIAS, Leiden University

LAST DATE TO APPLY: 10TH AUGUST 2026

Patron: Prof (Sr) Molly K.A., Principal, JMC

Convenor Dr. Richa Raj (+9810677005) and Co-Convenor Dr. Ruchi Mishra (+9560190476).



The Himalaya, also referred to as the Sentinel in India's poetic-patriotic imagination, has shaped India's civilisational imagination for millennia, standing at once as sacred geography, ecological lifeline, and, since independence, as the nation's guardian. Held online from 15th August 2026, India's 80th Independence Day, the two-day workshop organised by the Centre for Himalayan Studies, Jesus and Mary College, University of Delhi, deliberately situates the Himalaya within the story of the nation itself, inviting participants to reflect on the mountains as both cultural inheritance and living, fragile ecology.

Designed for students, early-career researchers, and anyone new to Himalayan Studies, the workshop aims to build foundational literacy: familiarising participants with key concepts, debates, and scholarly approaches that will allow them to engage further with the region, whether through future coursework, research, or personal interest. Sessions will combine expert presentations with open discussion, encouraging participants to ask foundational questions without the pressure of prior expertise.

In bringing together culture, heritage, environment, and sustainability under one introductory frame, the workshop hopes to spark a lasting curiosity about the Himalaya, and to lay the groundwork for deeper engagement with the region in the years ahead.

Faculty Highlanders

Dr. Richa Raj, Convener, CHS • **Dr. Ruchi Mishra**, Co-convenor, CHS •
Dr. Anupama Srivastava, Member, CHS • **Dr. Sanghamitra R Verman**, Member, CHS •
Dr. Divya Agarwal, Member, CHS

Student Highlanders

Annu • Bisworupa Mohanty • Gayatri kumari • Janhvi Talwar • Jennica Jacob • Khushi Pandey •
Mansi Sharma • Manvi sahani • Naina • Nandini Kumar • Pratishtha Semwal • Rebecca Rai •
Rishika • Sanjana Rawat • Shraddha Angelina • Toshika Pandey • Vidushi Rawat • Vivet

