



Public Statement on the Nepal-Tibet tragedy:

People for Himalaya

September 6th, 2026

[People for Himalaya](#) expresses its deepest solidarity with Nepal and Tibet for the profound and irreversible loss caused by the catastrophe of 26 August 2026. We stand with the families still searching for their loved ones, with the survivors facing displacement and uncertainty, with the migrant workers trapped inside the tunnels and debris, and with the communities and emergency responders continuing the difficult work of rescue and recovery.

As with many of the tragic disasters that have struck the region over the past few years—from 2013 North West Himalayan floods and Chamoli in 2021 to South Lhonak in 2023—trying to isolate a single, [clean trigger remains incredibly difficult](#). Rather than an isolated incident of weather, the 26 August catastrophe sits at a complex, [evolving intersection of geomorphological, tectonic, and climatic forces](#). While early reports pointed to a magnitude 4.4 earthquake triggering a landslide, subsequent seismological and satellite reconstructions suggest the reverse: that a colossal rock-and-ice slope failure, potentially near Langtang Lirung, was itself so violent that it [registered as a magnitude 5.2 seismic event](#). Scientists are still examining whether seismic activity triggered the collapse, if the landslide generated the seismic waves, or if both processes worked in tandem.

Regardless of the immediate trigger, the structural drivers of this tragedy are certain. When a highly dynamic topography is subjected to the compounding pressures of climate change—including record-low winter snow cover, a 2.5°C localized temperature rise since 1940, and the consequent thawing of the permafrost that cements these weak, fractured slopes—the mountains structural integrity was impacted. The [resulting cascade plunged ice, rock, and sediment](#) into the Lhende Khola river, temporarily damming it. When this natural dam collapsed, it sent an inland tsunami down the Bhote Koshi and Trishuli river systems.

The human and economic toll of this hazard chain is immense: more than 900 lives are confirmed lost, over 5,000 people remain missing (including 288 Indian pilgrims on the Kailash Yatra), and critical transboundary infrastructure worth billions has been destroyed, instantly knocking out 431 megawatts—roughly 8%—of Nepal's total generating capacity.

For those who have lost everything, the crisis will continue through the long and difficult questions of recovery and survival. For many of us from the region, the irony is that with each disaster that is considered as exceptional, this reality is normalised, becoming a recurring feature of life in the Himalaya. Events are returning with greater frequency and intensity across a region already shaped by extraordinary tectonic and geological sensitivity.

The trans-Himalayan region of Tibet and the central and western Himalaya — spanning China, Nepal, India, Bhutan, Pakistan and Afghanistan —the area in which the current disaster took place— is connected by ecological and geological processes that surpass political boundaries. Its mountains, glaciers, rivers, forests and valleys form interconnected systems in which changes in one part can have consequences far beyond it. Communities across these landscapes

share exposure to earthquakes, landslides, floods, avalanches, glacial lake outbursts and extreme weather.

Rising temperatures — often two to three times the global average in the high mountains — changing precipitation patterns, accelerating ice loss and more intense extreme weather are altering the conditions under which Himalayan societies are struggling to survive. Scientists are working with increasingly sophisticated observations and models, yet considerable uncertainty remains about how individual hazards will unfold.

But the most significant transformation that the region shares is the rapid remaking of the already geologically dynamic and sensitive Himalayan landscapes in the name of development. Over recent decades the Himalaya has become a major frontier for hydropower, tourism, roads, tunnels, urban expansion and other infrastructure. These interventions may have brought short-term economic opportunities to the region but they have simultaneously irreversibly altered rivers, slopes, floodplains, forests and settlements. They have reshaped where people live, how water flows, how slopes behave and where infrastructure is exposed. Disaster risk is therefore produced through an interaction between geological and climatic processes and the developmental policies and projects that have multiplied the risk manifold in these landscapes. [And every time these infrastructures are collapsing they are being rebuilt and new ones are being introduced into the same terrain.](#)

Additionally the region is marked by political volatility, militarised borders and complex diplomatic relationships. The Himalaya is divided by national boundaries and territorial disputes that shape access to information, resource governance and disaster response. The challenge of Himalayan cooperation is therefore simultaneously ecological and political. Building regional solidarity requires mechanisms that can sustain the sharing of essential environmental and disaster information even amid diplomatic tensions.

We understand that the same Trishuli corridor experienced a major flood in July 2025, also originating from Tibetan territory. Earlier disasters — Cirenmaco in 1981, Gongbatongsha in 2016, the Thame rock-avalanche-triggered lake breach in 2024 and others — form a growing pattern. Across the wider Himalaya–Karakoram–Hindu Kush region, inventories document tens of thousands of glaciers and more than 30,000 glacial lakes in recent High Mountain Asia assessments. Hundreds of these lakes are classified as potentially dangerous. Historical records already list several hundred GLOF events, with frequency and impact rising under accelerated glacier retreat. Across the Himalayas, average glacial loss rates roughly doubled after 2000 compared with the late 20th century.

The region has already seen substantial public investment in climate assessments, disaster studies, hazard mapping, early-warning systems and resilience programmes. Yet critical gaps persist. Real-time monitoring of high-altitude glaciers, lakes and slopes remains limited by remoteness, harsh conditions, cost and connectivity. Existing early-warning systems are often designed for slower monsoon rises rather than rapid-onset ice-rock avalanches or temporary debris dams. Most critically, transboundary data sharing — especially between China and Nepal on cryosphere conditions, river levels and emerging hazards — remains incomplete. Without upstream detection and rapid notification, downstream communities frequently receive warnings only after the surge has already entered their territory, leaving lead times measured in minutes rather than hours.

The immediate actions we demand are:

1. Himalayan countries and states work urgently towards regional cooperation and solidarity. By respecting and establishing transparent mechanisms and institutions for transboundary resource sharing, data sharing, mutual assistance during disasters. This also means building trust and bringing resolution on long-standing conflicts over transboundary issues.

2. The high altitude and trans-Himalaya are declared no-go zones for high-risk mega infrastructures. In geologically sensitive areas and cryospheres hydropower dams and other large scale infrastructure should be prohibited, based on the evident cumulative, cascading and climate-related risk.

3. Strict regulation of tourism and urbanisation which includes bringing tourism, construction and urban growth within the ecological and climatic limits of mountain landscapes through enforceable participatory land-use planning and locally determined thresholds.

4. Community-centred recovery and climate governance ensuring just distribution of relief, compensation, relocation and rehabilitation towards long-term livelihood restoration and mental health and psychosocial support for affected communities and families. Affected people must have meaningful decision-making power over reconstruction, livelihoods, land and future well-being.

5. Transparency and accountability in all climate information and knowledge production. This includes developing early warning systems that draw on both science, lived experience and local knowledge. Combine real-time monitoring with community knowledge, memories of past disasters and systematic localised learning from earlier events is imperative rather than relying on technologies alone. We condemn the lopsided allocation of resources towards top-down and expert centric knowledge production.

6. Safety and rights of workers, including migrant workers, employed in tunnels, hydropower projects, construction sites and other high-risk infrastructure are protected through mandatory risk assessments, emergency preparedness, evacuation protocols, communication systems and safe working conditions.

We support [Nepal's stance](#) that the catastrophe of 26 August is a matter of climate liability, not charity. For decades, global climate discourse has treated Himalayan disasters as tragic acts of nature to be mitigated by international aid, charity, and emergency relief. We, as People for Himalaya, reject this patronizing framework. We demand a legally recognised framework for direct compensation as part of climate loss and damage at the global and country levels. We urge the people of the region to stand in solidarity and work towards collectivising for the future of this region.

We believe that climate justice demands transformative action by the people of Himalaya, for the Himalaya.

Issued by:

People for Himalaya

Endorsed by following organisations:

S. No.	Name of Organisation	Location (Village/Town/City, District & State)
1	#No Means No Campaign	Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
2	Affected Citizens of Teesta	Dzongu, Sikkim
3	All India Kisan Mahasabha	Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh
4	Arpan Sanstha	Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
5	Aravali Bachao	Nimkathana, Rajasthan
6	Awaj	Ekchari Bazar, Bhagalpur, Bihar
7	Azadi Bachao Andolan	Hazaribagh, Jharkhand

8	Bargi Dam Displaced and Affected Persons Association	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
9	Campaign to Defend Nature and People	All India
10	CDNP	Wardha, Maharashtra
11	Centre for Financial Accountability	New Delhi
12	CFF	Jammu
13	Chalakudy Puzha Samrakshana Samithi	Chalakudy, Thrissur, Kerala
14	Climate Front India	India
15	Climate Front Jammu	Jammu
16	Climate Front Telangana	Hyderabad
17	CPI (ML)	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
18	Dharamitra	Wardha, Maharashtra
19	Ek Nari Sangathan	Himachal Pradesh
20	Ekal Mahila Vikas Avam Kisan Kalyan Samiti, Himachal Pradesh	Village Nichla Badoh, PO Jagjit Nagar, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh – 173225
21	Ekal Nari Jan Vikas Sangathan	Dharampur Block, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh
22	Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan, Thangaon	Himachal Pradesh
23	Friends of Ladakh / Friends of Nature	Mumbai, Maharashtra
24	GORJOWNN Somaj Kallyan Sangstha	Dhaka, Bangladesh
25	Gujjar Kalyan Sabha	Village Nanhoui, PO Paliur, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
26	Gen Z of Jammu, Kashmir & Ladakh	Jammu
27	HIAL / SECMOL	Ladakh
28	Himalaya Niti Abhiyan	Banjar, Himachal Pradesh
29	Himalayan Centre for Human Development	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
30	Himdhara Environment Research and Action Collective	Himachal Pradesh
31	Himlok Jagriti Manch	VPO Kalpa, District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
32	ICAN	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
33	India's Nature	Kwairali, Almora, Uttarakhand
34	Indian Community Action Network (ICAN)	Village Sahupur, District Mau, Uttar Pradesh
35	Insani Biradari	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
36	INTACH, Baran Chapter	Baran, Rajasthan
37	Jan Maitri Sangathan, Nainital	Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand
38	Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini, Jharkhand	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
39	Jharkhand Janadhikar Mahasabha	Ranchi, Jharkhand

40	Jharkhandis Organisation for Human Rights (JOHAR)	West Singhbhum, Chaibasa, Jharkhand
41	Janmukti Sangharsh Vahini	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
42	Joint Action for Water	Hyderabad, Telangana
43	Joshimath Bachao Sangharsh Samiti	Joshimath, Chamoli, Uttarakhand
44	Lok Shakti Abhiyan	Odisha
45	Loktantrik Rashtra Nirman Abhiyan	NCT of Delhi
46	Maadhyam	Delhi
47	MAUSAM	All India
48	MGNREGA Mazdoor Union	Rajatalab, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
49	NACEJ and All India Rivers Forum	Pune, Maharashtra
50	National Alliance of People's Movements (NAPM)	All India
51	Native Patterns	Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
52	Navjanwadi Lokmanch	Dimna Road, Mango, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
53	Osai Environmental Organisations	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
54	PEEPAL / Himalaya Niti Abhiyan / DCF	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
55	People for Aravallis	Gurgaon, Haryana
56	People's Campaign for Socio-Economic Equity	Himachal Pradesh
57	People's Union for Civil Liberties (PUCL)	Jaipur, Rajasthan
58	Progressive Writers' Association	Ranchi, Jharkhand
59	Purvi Singhbhum Zila Sarvodaya Mandal	Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand
60	R.T.I. Legal Ambit	Village Todi Jagir, Tehsil Suthaliya, District Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh
61	Sambhava Injor	Ranchi, Jharkhand
62	SANDRP	Bengaluru, Karnataka
63	Sanjha Nagrik Manch	Sonari, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand
64	Sarv Seva Samarpit Samiti	Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
65	Save Lahaul Spiti Society	Village & Post Office Sissu, Tehsil Lahaul, District Lahaul & Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
66	SECMOL	Ladakh
67	Sirmaur Van Adhikar Manch	Sirmaur, Himachal Pradesh
68	Spiti Civil Society	Kaza, Himachal Pradesh
69	The Simla Collective	Himachal Pradesh
70	Uttarakhand Sarvodaya Mandal	Kathgodam, Nainital, Uttarakhand
71	Van Gujjar Tribal Yuva Sanghatan	Uttarakhand
72	Yuva Mandal Sansthan	Baran, Rajasthan
73	Youth For Himalaya	India

74	Zogam Today	Zogam, Manipur
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Endorsed by following individuals:

S. No.	Name	Occupation	Location (Village/Town/City, District & State)
1	Aashish Xaxa	Assistant Professor	Delhi
2	Abhijit Menon-Sen	—	Village Lweshal, District Nainital, Uttarakhand
3	Aman Kant Panta	Researcher	Bamta, Chopal, Himachal Pradesh
4	Amitanshu Verma	Researcher	New Delhi
5	Anshika	Homemaker	Himachal Pradesh
6	Antony	Social Activist and Writer	Ranchi, Jharkhand
7	Aman Gujjar	Social Activist	Haridwar, Uttarakhand
8	Ashok Kumar	Climate Activist	Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
9	Atul Sati	Convener, JBS	Joshimath, Chamoli, Uttarakhand
10	Bageshwar Bagi	Social Activist	Ekchari Bazar, Bhagalpur, Bihar
11	Bhupen Singh	Academic	Brighton, England
12	Bruce K. Thangkhal	Social Activist	Zogam, Manipur
13	Cedric Prakash	Human Rights, Reconciliation and Peace Activist and Writer	Ahmedabad, Gujarat
14	Chithra Viswanathan	Retired Teacher	Chennai, Tamil Nadu
15	Devendra Singh	Researcher	Chamoli, Uttarakhand
16	Dhwani Katagade	Software Engineer	Pune, Maharashtra
17	Dilip Jain	Ecology Conservation and Restoration	Mumbai, Maharashtra
18	Dinesh Kumar	Farmer / Government Contractor	Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
19	Dipak Dholakia	Social Activist	Delhi
20	Dorje Negi	Horticulturist	Village Mallig, PO Nako, Sub-Tehsil Hangrang, District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
21	Donthi Narasimha Reddy	—	Hyderabad, Telangana
22	Dr. Ashok Kumar Somal	Environment, Social and Political Activist	Junat, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
23	Dr. Rakesh Kapoor	Environmental Geologist and Retired Civil Servant	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
24	Dr. S. D. Tiwari	Senior Consultant – Environment and Social Expert	PMGSY, Dehradun, Uttarakhand
25	Dr. Tarak Kate	Scientist	Wardha, Maharashtra
26	Dr. B. N. Prasad	Teacher / Academic	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
27	Emmanuel Theophilus	Citizen	Munsiari, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand

28	Gulab Singh	Social Worker	Kalog, Himachal Pradesh
29	Guman Singh	Horticulture Professional	Banjar, Himachal Pradesh
30	Hassath	—	Village Lweshal, District Nainital, Uttarakhand
31	Himanshu Thakkar	Researcher	Bengaluru, Karnataka
32	Ishwari Prasad Kushwaha	Social Service	Ghazipur, Uttar Pradesh
33	Islam Hussain	Writer	Kathgodam, Nainital, Uttarakhand
34	Jitendra Kumar Sharma	Teacher	Baran, Rajasthan
35	Jiya Lal Negi	Horticulture and Tourism	VPO Kalpa, District Kinnaur, Himachal Pradesh
36	Kamakshi	Student	Ranikhet, Uttarakhand
37	Kavita Srivastava	Activist	Jaipur, Rajasthan
38	Kavita Upadhyay	Journalist and Researcher	Nainital, Uttarakhand
39	Kiran	Social Activist	Ranchi, Jharkhand
40	Kishor Bryce	Farmer	Village (not specified)
41	Kumar Shamy Sharma	Business	Baran, Rajasthan
42	Kumud	Homemaker	Ranchi, Jharkhand
43	Kulbhushan Upmanyu	Environmentalist	Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
44	Lal Chand Meena	Rtd. Teacher	Neemkathana
45	Leela Devi	Activist, Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan	Joginder Nagar, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
46	Maansi V.	Lawyer	Delhi
47	Mahendra Rathaur	Social Worker	Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
48	Manimala	Journalist / Writer	NCT of Delhi
49	Maya Chilwal	Homemaker	Nainital, Uttarakhand
50	Meena Devi	Activist	Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
51	Meenakshi Kapoor	Independent Researcher	Palampur, Himachal Pradesh
52	Meera Sanghamitra	Activist	All India
53	Milapa Devi E.	ENSS, Himachal Pradesh	Bajjnath Block, District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
54	Mohammad Sen	Up-Pradhan	Village Nanhoui, PO Paliur, District Chamba, Himachal Pradesh
55	Mohan Kumar Murugaian	Wildlife Biologist	Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu
56	Soumya Dutta	Educator, Researcher, Author and Activist	All India
57	Mayalmit Lepcha	Environmental Activist	Dzongu, Sikkim
58	Navin	Researcher	Hyderabad, Telangana
59	Navjeev Digra	Self-Employed	Jammu
60	Neelam Ahluwalia	Communication Consultant	Gurgaon, Haryana

61	Nikita Naik	Researcher	Rishikesh, Uttarakhand
62	Nirmala Devi	Social Worker	Village Nichla Badoh, PO Jagjit Nagar, Tehsil Kasauli, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh – 173225
63	Nootan	Retired Headmaster	Wardha, Maharashtra
64	Parineeta Dandekar	Researcher	Pune, Maharashtra
65	Prafulla Samantara	Activist	Odisha
66	Prem Chand	Retired Police Officer	Village & Post Office Sissu, Tehsil Lahaul, District Lahaul and Spiti, Himachal Pradesh
67	P. S. Mukherjee	Social Worker (Individual Capacity)	Kolkata, West Bengal
68	Rachit Tiwari	Researcher	Shahjahanpur, Uttar Pradesh
69	Rajesh Balsaraf	Service	Wardha, Maharashtra
70	Rajesh Ramakrishnan	Convener	All India
71	Rajshree	Homemaker	Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand
72	Ramesh Jerai	Advocate	West Singhbhum, Chaibasa, Jharkhand
73	Ramnarayan	Ecologist	Munsiari, District Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
74	Ravi Chopra	Scientist and Environmentalist	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
75	Ravi S. P.	Activist	Chalakudy, Thrissur, Kerala
76	Sanjida Rahman	Social Worker and Environmental Activist	Dhaka, Bangladesh
77	Santosh Lalwani	Environment, Ecology, Climate Change and Sustainability Supporter	Pune, Maharashtra
78	SDF	Project Coordinator, Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan	Solan, Himachal Pradesh
79	Smita Snehi	Social Activist	Delhi
80	Sonam Wangchuk	Educator and Activist	Ladakh
81	Sridhar A.	Researcher	Bengaluru, Karnataka
82	Srinivas	Retired	Ranchi, Jharkhand
83	Suma Josson	Service	Nagpur, Maharashtra
84	Suresh Rathaur	Social Worker	Rajatalab, Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh
85	Sushmita	Independent Journalist and Researcher	—
86	Sushil Mohan	Private Sector Employee	Delhi
87	Swapan Kumar Das Roy	Retired from Tata Steel	Sonari, Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand
88	Tanya Vyas	Student	Dehradun, Uttarakhand
89	Trilochan Pandey	Freelance Professional	Singtam, Sikkim
90	Uma Mahajan	Eco-Activist	Himachal Pradesh
91	Virendra Kumar	Social Service	Navi Mumbai, Maharashtra
92	Arvind Murti	Non-Party Political Activist / Small Farmer	Village Sahupur, District Mau, Uttar Pradesh

93	Adiyog	Social Worker	Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh
94	Kanta Devi	Homemaker	Duhak Kalan, Thural, Kangra, Himachal Pradesh – 176075
95	Chandrawati	Social Activist	Dharampur Block, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh
96	Jag Narayan	Social Worker	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
97	Jagdish Singh Negi	Bird and Nature Guide	Kwairali, Almora, Uttarakhand
98	Jaipal Singh Khinchi	Social Worker, RTI Activist and Farmer	Village and Post Todi Jagir, Tehsil Suthaliya, District Rajgarh, Madhya Pradesh
99	Bachi Singh Bisht	Environmental Activist	Haldwani, Nainital, Uttarakhand
100	Manthan	Social Worker	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
101	Mahendra Bhai	Agriculture	Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh
102	Mithilesh Kumar Dangi	Business	Hazaribagh, Jharkhand
103	Mithilesh Singh	Teacher / Writer	Ranchi, Jharkhand
104	Meena Sharma	Organisation Worker	Village Urla, District Mandi, Himachal Pradesh
105	Mrigendra Singh	Social Activist	Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand
106	Rajni Devi	Activist, Ekal Nari Shakti Sangathan	District Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
107	Rajneesh Kumari	Activist	Kangra, Himachal Pradesh
108	Ramesh Chandra	Social Activist	—
109	Raj Kumar Sinha	Social Activist	Jabalpur, Madhya Pradesh
110	Ram Kavindra	—	Dimna Road, Mango, Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
111	Saroj Kumari	—	Village Dhundhan, District Solan, Himachal Pradesh
112	Siya Sharan Sharma	Politics	Jamshedpur, Jharkhand
113	Sukh Chandra Jha	Retired Company Employee	Jamshedpur, East Singhbhum, Jharkhand
114	Takpa tanzin	Activist	Kaza, Himachal Pradesh