



**Varun Loomba**  
**Co-Founder and Team Leader Global Himalayan Expedition**

Varun is the Team Leader for Global Himalayan Expedition (GHE) and has been leading trekking expeditions in the Himalayas (India) since 2013 to provide clean energy and education access to remote off-grid communities.

Varun is inspired by cutting edge technologies and applies it to drive sustainable businesses. Since the past three years, Varun and his brother, Paras, along with their team, have been instrumental in setting up 80 DC Solar microgrids and electrifying 20 remote off-grid Himalayan villages, with majority of them located above 12,000ft and usually at an average trek of 3 - 4 days from nearest motorable roads. An engineer by profession, Varun merges technology and passion with an approach to create social technological innovations that are efficient and self-sustainable. Varun is working on creating entrepreneurial models in these remote communities and high altitude areas, advocating use of energy efficient products and promoting village homestays and traditional handicrafts production, including pashmina shawls. The efforts have helped provide stimulus to local economy, reduce local emigration, and preserve age old cultural Himalayan heritage.

In addition to solar electrification, Varun and his team has setup a Digital Education Base (E-Base) in Ladakh, located at 12,500ft in north Kashmir (India). The E-Base is a 100% solar powered center for experiential education through digital learning, serving thousands of students annually from remote Himalayan communities by enabling critical thinking in them to tackle ecological & global challenges.

Varun has also served as a UN sponsored Design for Social Innovation and Leadership Fellow, exploring local and global issues and applying design thinking to re-frame challenges into opportunities. He is a risk management consultant by profession focusing on Capital Markets operations and technology. Apart from being an avid sportsman and aviation enthusiast, Varun enjoys running marathons, trotting the globe, and if not for providing advisory services to clients, he is busy working as a UN volunteer, helping find innovative solutions to serve education needs in rural areas of the world.

Varun has a Masters in Computer Science and a Bachelor of Engineering in Computer Engineering.