

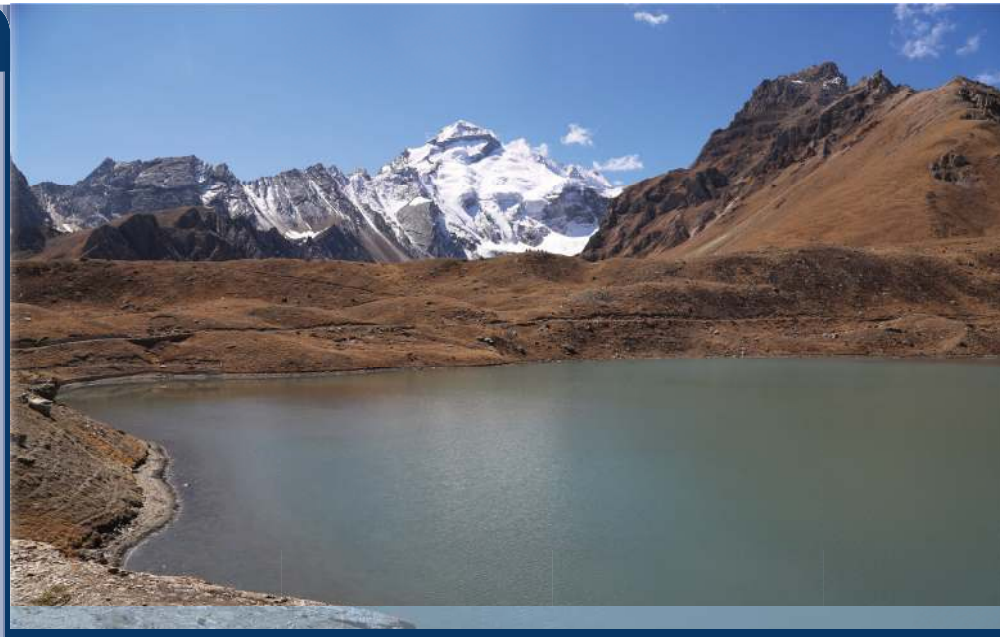
NMHS National Mission on Himalayan Studies

Implemented by: Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India

Nodal Institute: G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD)

A National Priority

The Mission is a National Priority as well as Responsibility under the Central Sector (CS) Grant-in-Aid Scheme of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India. The Mission strategy is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of local communities, in line with "National Environment Policy 2006" of the Govt. of India with a basic principle "sustainable development and enhancement of human well-being" of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).



VISION

To support the sustenance and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic capital assets and values of the IHR.

MISSION

To launch and support innovative studies and related knowledge intervention (that do not tread on the beaten path) towards the sustenance and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic capital assets and values of the IHR.

OBJECTIVES

- To build a body of scientific and traditional knowledge on the identified thematic areas;
- To build a network of practitioners (individuals and institutions) engaged in working solutions to problems in thematic areas;
- To demonstrate workable/ implementable/ replicable solutions to the problems in thematic areas.

Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)



The Target Area – Indian Himalayan Region

With geographical coverage of over 0.53 million km² area, the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) constitutes nearly 17% of geographical area of India and contributes greatly to richness and representativeness of its biodiversity components at all levels. It has been standardized representing 3 bio-geographical zones and 9 bio-geographical provinces. In line with National Environment Policy, 2006, the NMHS targets the IHR comprising 10 Himalayan States fully (i.e. Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura and Uttarakhand) and 2 States partially (i.e. hill districts of Assam and West Bengal).

- A Water Tower of Asia;
- A **Climate Regulator** for much of Asia;
- One among 34 **Global Biodiversity Hotspots**;
- Landscape and Cultural Diversity;
- A **life-support system** for millions of people upland & lowland areas of North India;
- The **Youngest Mountain Chain**, yet evolving with new paradigms;
- Important for **Ecological Security of India** ...



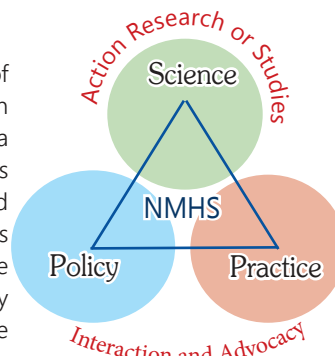
NMHS: A National Priority

Recognizing the significance of Himalaya for Ecological Security of India and as an effective Climate Regulator for much of Asia, the Govt. of India attached highest priority by launching the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) as a Central Sector (CS) Grant-in-Aid scheme in year 2015–16. Thus, accrediting the majestic Himalaya a “National Asset” that nurtures the life-support system(s) for millions of people in uplands and much more in lowland areas of the country.

Through the Mission NMHS, the nation pays well-served attention to the unique and mighty Himalaya.

An Ideal Study System

Aligned with National Environment Policy, 2006 of the Govt. of India, the NMHS strategy is to focus on enhancing livelihoods of local communities, with a basic premise that Ecological and Economic Securities should be reinstated in the IHR. The NMHS is expected to support the 13 monitorable targets towards environment, forests, wildlife and climate change under the Twelfth Plan national priorities, specifically in the context of the IHR. It is envisioned that the NMHS will contribute for achieving the Twelfth Plan goals covering Environment; Forests and Livelihood; Wildlife, Ecotourism and Animal Welfare; and Ecosystem and Biodiversity. Further, the Scheme will help to understand and improve the implementation and effectiveness of various national laws and policies in IHR.



Broad Thematic Groups (BTGs)

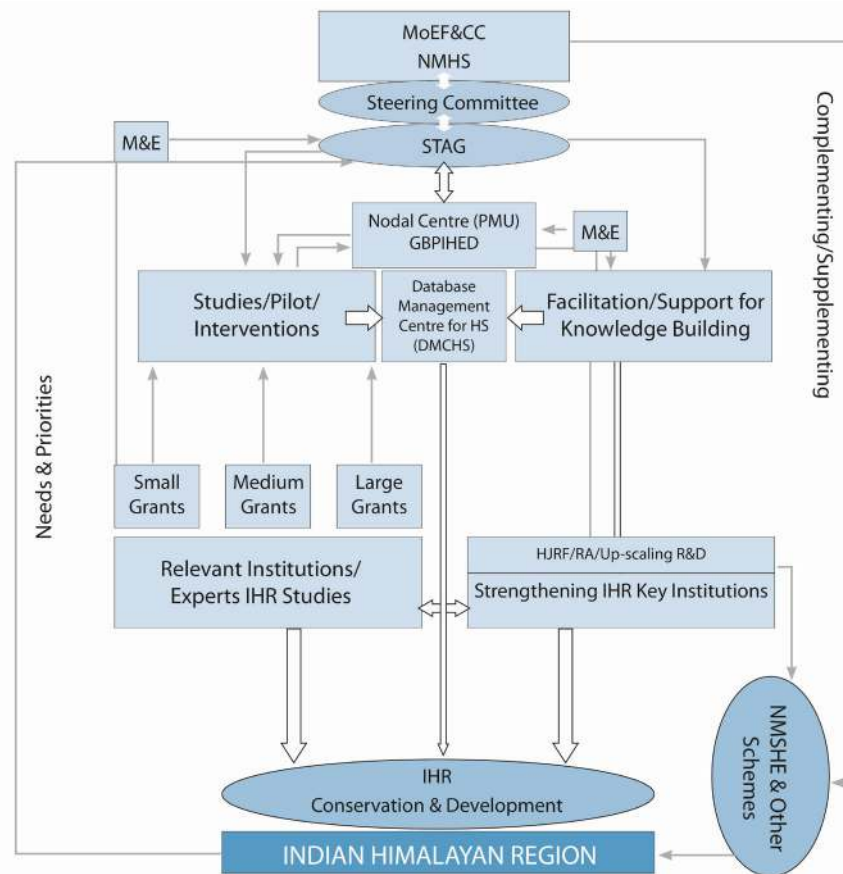
S. No.	Broad Thematic Groups (BTGs)	Identified Thematic Areas of Work (TAWs)
1.	Sustainable management of land and water resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation, sustainable use and equitable benefit-sharing arising out of natural resources utilization Water Management and Soil Conservation including recharge of groundwater, aquifers, etc. Study/ Inventory of Springs/ River systems in the IHR Wetlands Restoration/ Regeneration of pastures and grasslands, and study of permafrost Natural resources accounting Issues related to key resources sharing at local, upstream, downstream and transboundary scales
2.	Environmental assessment & management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Long-term ecological/ environmental monitoring Carrying capacity and Product life cycle analyses Sustainable tourism including Eco-tourism Waste management, including management of hazardous substances Role of traditional institutions in environment protection and development, ecological implication of migration/ depopulation of villages Natural and man-made disaster risk reduction, Cloud burst, Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) and flash flood studies
3.	Conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conservation of genetic resources of rare, endemic, threatened and globally significant flora and fauna including agro-biodiversity(on-farm and off-farm conservation) Invasive alien species (IAS) Multi-purpose trees and other flora: their biology and uses, ecotone studies, especially the timberline ecotone, and pilots for Payment for Ecosystem Services (PES)/reflecting ES in developmental agenda Non-Timber Forest Products (NTFPs), medicinal and aromatic plants, and other high value niche products from the region
4.	Sustainable infrastructure & energy security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Environmental compatibility of infrastructure development including border roads and climate resilience of core infrastructure and basic services delivery assets, dam and road building Energy efficiency, conservation, technology development, geothermal energy, heat pumps Strengthening of the existing institutions in the region Sustainability issues of urban agglomerations (sustainable urbanization)
5.	Supplementary livelihood options	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supplementary livelihood options for local communities and other rural population, market linkages Various facets of Organic Agriculture including value-addition, scientific shifting-cultivation, human-wildlife conflict, geographical indications, etc.
6.	Awareness and capacity building	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Options for education, awareness and outreach Human capacity building including promotion of micro-enterprises and green technologies





Implementation Plan and Institutional Mechanism

The Mission implemented by MoEF&CC has its nodal and serving hub with GBPNIHESD in the form of a fully dedicated Project Management Unit (PMU) with a Database Management Centre for the NMHS.



Strategic Directions, Monitoring and Evaluation

- **Project Grants** - Three grant categories: (1) Small grants (≤ 50 lakhs INR), (2) Medium grants (> 50 lakhs and ≤ 5 crores and INR) and (3) Large grants (> 5 crores INR).
- **Fellowship Grants** - By engaging Research Associates, Junior Research Fellows and Junior Project Fellows on NMHS BTGs and TAWs.
- **Event Sponsorship Grants** - To strengthen the IHR communication strategy, the Mission also extends support for organizing Conferences, Symposia, Workshops, etc.
- All the projects are monitored by **Subject Experts Working Groups (WG)**, **Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG)** and **Steering Committee (SC)** along with BTG-wise NMHS **MLE Missions/ Panels**.

Cross-Cutting Themes

- Climate Proofing or Climate Change | Gender Equality | Communication Strategy

Linking Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations (UN)

In year 2015, the United Nations (UN) declared total 17 SDGs that are to be achieved by the partner nations by the end of 2030. The NMHS also tries to seek conformance on these goals while accepting the projects so that these goals might be achieved at a faster rate in the IHR. In all 9 goals are covered under the projects of the current phase of the NMHS.

Expected Outcomes

- A database/information management centre for IHR under NMHS (e-Library, Online submission, etc.)
- Synthesis of findings for mainstreaming with the ongoing initiatives of the State and Central governments
- Capacity building of various implementing agencies

About the Nodal Institute – GBPNIHESD

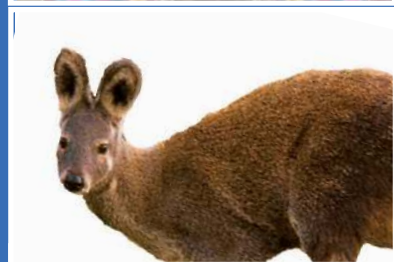
Established in 1988–89 during the birth centenary year of Bharat Ratna Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD) is an Autonomous Institute under the aegis of Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Govt. of India.

The Institute has been identified as a focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources, and ensure environmentally sound management in the entire Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The Institute has Headquarters at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora (Uttarakhand), four Regional Units viz., Himachal Unit at Mohal (Kullu, HP), Garhwal Unit at Srinagar (Garhwal, Uttarakhand), Sikkim Unit at Pangthang (Sikkim) and North-East Unit at Itanagar (Arunachal Pradesh) and Mountain Division at MoEF&CC, New Delhi.

About the NMHS-PMU

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) was launched in year 2015-16 and the responsibilities for its execution and implementation were entrusted with the GBPNIHESD as a Nodal Institute under the Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC) by Government of India.

The Nodal Institute GBPNIHESD established a Project Management Unit (PMU) for the smooth execution and implementation of NMHS at its HQs situated at Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand. To support the Mission, active participation of expert members, resource persons, reviewers, and other eminent members has been ensured by constituting Panel of Subject Experts, Scientific and Technical Advisory Group (STAG) and Steering Committee under the NMHS.



G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment & Sustainable Development

An Autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India

Kosi-Katarmal, Almora 263 643, Uttarakhand, INDIA

Web: <http://gbpihed.gov.in> | NMHS Web: <http://nmhs.org.in> | Phone: +91-5962-241041

For further details, please contact:

Shri Lalit Kapur

Advisor/ Scientist 'G',
Mountain Division
Ministry of Environment, Forest &
Climate Change (MoEF&CC), New Delhi
E-mail: l.kapur@nic.in

Dr. Subrata Bose

Additional Director/ Scientist 'E'
Convener-NMHS
Mountain Division MoEF&CC, New Delhi
E-mail: subrata.bose@nic.in

Dr. P.P. Dhyani

Director, G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan
Environment & Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD)
Kosi-Katarmal, Almora
Uttarakhand
E-mail: psdir@gbpihed.nic.in

Er. Kireet Kumar

Scientist 'G' & Nodal Officer, NMHS-PMU
National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)
GBPNIHESD HQs, Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand
E-mail: nmhspmu2016@gmail.com