**Abstract**

The Himalayas is the largest and tallest mountain range in the world, bordering 8 countries and baing the origin for 9 major perennial rivers. Nearly 1.5 billion people depend on the Himalayas for water, food and energy. The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) consists of 10 Hilly States viz., [Jammu & Kashmir](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jammu_%26_Kashmir), [Himachal Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Himachal_Pradesh), [Uttarakhand](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Uttarakhand), [Sikkim](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sikkim), [Arunachal Pradesh](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Arunachal_Pradesh), Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland and two partial hill states - [Assam](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Assam) and [West Bengal](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bengal). Nearly 50 million people reside in the IHR alone.

The Department of Science & Technology is implementing the National Mission for Sustaining the Himalaya Ecosystem (NMSHE) as part of National Action Plan on Climate Change to develop an understanding of the complex processes affecting the Himalayan Ecosystem and evolve suitable management and policy measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan eco-system, creating and building S&T capacities in different domains, networking of knowledge institutions engaged in research and development of a coherent data base on Himalayan ecosystems, detecting and decoupling natural and anthropogenic induced signals of global environmental changes in mountain ecosystems, etc.

A number of programmes have been launched as part of the mission initiative. These include; the establishment of a Centre of Himalayan Glaciology; Thematic Task Forces anchored around 6 lead institutions, State CC Cells in 11 out of 12 Himalayan States; Human capacity building programmes in glaciology under Indo-Swiss collaboration, etc. The paper presents outlines of programmes initiated so far, outcomes from these programmes and the new initiatives planned and the vision for the future.