

# IMI BULLETIN

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
INTEGRATED MOUNTAIN INITIATIVE

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## From the Editor's desk

### *Greetings from IMI!*

It brings us great pleasure to bring back the second volume of IMI's newsletter which was very well received in the past. The primary purpose of this newsletter is to update all our members on IMI and it's state chapters' activities to keep everyone in the loop.

In this issue, we cover some important events that have taken place over the last quarter, the most notable among them being the Conclave of the Himalayan States held in Mussoorie in July. This issue also covers some activities undertaken by our members and state chapters.

Going forward we have an exciting period coming up with Water Future Conference and SMDS-VIII lined up.

We look forward to your sustained feedback and suggestions for improvement.

Cheers.



## Meet of the Mountain States

*18 Feb 2019 | New Delhi*

The 7th edition of IMI's Annual Meet of the Mountain States (MoMS- VII) was held in New Delhi on 18th February, 2019. The meet followed up on the 7th SMDS, organized at Shoolini University, Solan, Himachal Pradesh, the theme of which was "Wellbeing of the Next Generation of Farmers in the context of Climate Change".

The objectives of MoMS-VII were -

- To engage on working on solutions and bringing in mountain perspectives to discourses on a National level.
- To explore new pathways of collaboration in the development of Indian mountain states.
- To interlink policies, innovations and fund flows into development planning and interventions for IHR.
- To give a platform to various stakeholders, youth and government departments to collaborate and to hear each other out for the sustainable development of the mountains.

The MOMs- VII was inaugurated by Shri Ramnganing Muivah, IAS, Secretary, North Eastern Council (NEC), who released the proceedings of SMDS VII and the policy briefs of the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) project on "Understanding Mountain Peoples' Approach and Practices to Combating Climate Change in the IHR".

The meet also gave an opportunity for discussion on emerging discourses on Mountain policies and reports.

In this light, the event was further divided to incorporate panel discussions on the 15th Finance Commission and group discussions on the five NITI Aayog working reports as well as a presentation on the Hindu Kush Himalaya Assessment Reports.



# THE HIMALAYAN CLEANUP

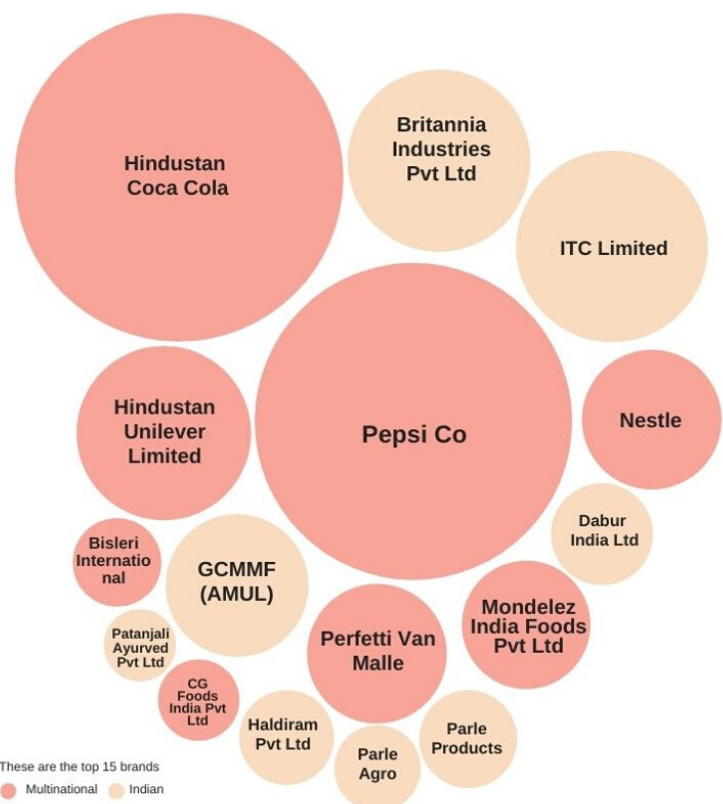
May 26 2019

## THE BIGGEST POLLUTERS:

The Himalayan Cleanup was held across the 12 mountain states mobilising 15,000 volunteers across 200 sites, sorting and recycling waste and raising awareness locally as well as amongst the travel, transport and tourism sectors.

The Indian Himalaya is part of a global biodiversity hotspot with a high percentage of protected and community conserved areas, as well as being an important source of water for millions of people. Due to ever-increasing tourist footfall and changing consumption patterns, plastics have entered the remotest mountain environments where the terrain makes it extremely difficult, if not impossible to retrieve and/or dispose of plastic waste.

Lack of awareness leads to burning of waste, dumping down hillsides or into streams and rivers. Wildlife including red pandas and black bears consume plastic through food left in plastic packaging.







## Conclave of the Himalayan States

28 July 2019 | Mussoorie, Uttarakhand

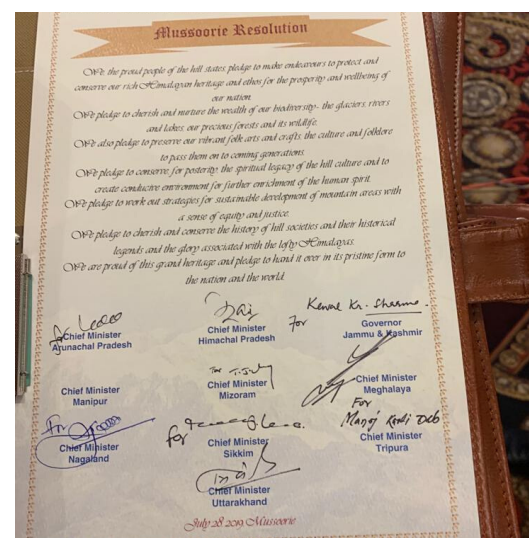
The Conclave of Himalayan States was held to discuss the priorities of Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) and ways to address the unique problems they face in the 15th Finance Commission. It was possible due to the initiative of the Government of Uttarakhand under the guidance of Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand. The Conclave brought together all stakeholders at the highest level.

The Conclave was attended by Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, 15th Finance Commission Chairman Mr. N.K Singh, NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Dr. Rajiv Kumar along with Chief Minister of Uttarakhand Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Chief Minister of Himachal Pradesh Shri Jai Ram Thakur, Chief Minister of Meghalaya Shri Conrad K Sangma, Chief Minister of Nagaland Shri Neiphiu Rio and Deputy CM of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Chowna Mein. Other IHR states were also represented at the senior level.

The Conclave concluded with the adoption of the **Mussoorie Resolution 2019** to work out strategies for Sustainable Development of Mountain areas in a collaborative manner.

### Key discussion points

- Improvement of border infrastructure in IHR to mitigate migration from these areas.
- Institutionalisation of the platform of the Himalayan Conclave to take the concerns of the IHR forward in the national development agenda.
- Promotion of youth start-ups to find local solutions to mountain issues.
- Need to factor in higher cost for development and maintenance costs, and historical infrastructure gap.
- Demand for a higher percentage in horizontal devolution than the 7.5% for forest cover in the 14th Finance Commission.
- Green Bonus to IHR states considering their contributions to environmental conservation.
- Need to pay crucial attention to Water Resource Management, Climate Change, Agriculture, and Human Resource Development and Disaster Risk Reduction.



## Green Hill Habitat Workshop

23 August 2019 | IIT Roorkee

The First National Workshop on Green Hill Habitat, jointly organised by CII's Indian Green Building Council (IGBC) and Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Roorkee, was held on August 23rd, 2019 at IIT Roorkee. The event saw more than 150 delegates from across India - including our very own Dr. Lalbiak Mawia Ngente and STS Lepcha.

As the Vice President of IMI, Dr. Lalbiak was invited to be one of the Speakers under the theme 'Green Development in Mountain Ecosystem - Need for a holistic approach addressing the geological and climatological concern', where he spoke on 'The Himalayan Cleanup (THC) - Collaborative initiative of diverse participants', which left a laudable impression on the participants.

## IMI's remarkable achievement in Arunachal Pradesh

On the pursuance of SDFA/IMI, Government of Arunachal Pradesh has decided to have proper landfill sites for solid wastes. All roadside/river side dumping of solid waste will be stopped and proper sites away from pollution, roads and habitation will be identified and developed. In the State Budget for 2019-20, Rs. 6 Crore provided for acquiring alternate landfill site for Capital Itanagar and Rs. 35 Crore for other cities of the State.

This is another feather in IMI's cap for successfully driving policy in the area of waste management.





## Upcoming events



*24-27th September 2019,  
Bangalore*

A special session on 'Water Solutions for the 21st century in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR) is going to be chaired by IMI in the International Conference of Future of Water Earth, "Towards Sustainable Water Future" in Bangalore.

This session, curated and chaired by IMI, will highlight problems and focus on the latest efforts in research, policies, and practices in this field to deal with this looming crisis of the 21st century.

The themes include:

- Water Governance in IHR – challenges and need for new paradigm
- Climate Change and Water in IHR
- The political economy of Water in IHR
- Water and traditional Knowledge Systems in North East India
- Water Policy in North East India
- Urban Water Systems in IHR

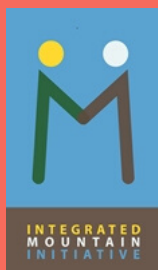
## Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS) - VIII

*4-7th November 2019, Shillong*

The SMDS-VIII is being held at Shillong in Meghalaya, integrating action based on outcomes of previous summits which focused on issues such as climate change, forests, mountain agriculture and other livelihoods, water, disasters, sustainable cities and drivers of change which threaten the region's ecological, social and economic well-being.

The chosen theme for this year is "Sustainable Mountain Initiative for Livelihoods and Entrepreneurship for Youth" to find workable solutions and realize the new opportunities by harnessing the aspirations and entrepreneurship of the youth. It is the call for action to the mountain youth to determine the future they inherit.

The SMDS-VIII will be hosted by MIMDI, the IMI-Meghalaya chapter in Shillong.



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