

MEET OF THE MOUNTAIN STATES
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Executive Summary

The Integrated Mountain Initiative convened the Fifth edition of its annual Meet of the Mountain States (MoMS-V) in New Delhi on 10 February 2017. The meet was organized at the WWF India Secretariat in Lodhi Estate. The Meet followed up on the 5th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS-V), organized by the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) and Snow Leopard Foundation in collaboration with the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) at Sindhu Sanskriti Kendra in Leh from 20th to 23rd September 2016.

The three day Summit at Leh had deliberated on subjects of water security and skill for development in the mountains. Various issues on these themes were discussed by glaciologists, specialists, researchers and from across the country including speakers from within Ladakh itself. These technical sessions provided a platform to mountain states to exchange ideas, share knowledge and learn from success and failures of tried and tested models. With the vision of holistic and sustainable development, the aim was to draw upon scholarly inputs and meaningful experiences involving the leaders so that the summit resulted in actionable outcomes. The objective of the MoMS-V was to share these outcomes with the members of IMI community, particularly the policy makers and thought leaders from different domains.

MoMS-V was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju. Members of Parliament, Dr Thokchom Meinya (Manipur), Shri Vincent Pala (Meghalaya), Shri Jitendra Chaudhury (Tripura), Shri. P.D. Rai (Sikkim) and former Member of Parliament Shri Tarun Vijay were also in attendance. Shri Rijiju released the proceedings of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit - V held in September 2016 in Leh. Shri Rijiju stressed on the need to work in convergence to ensure sustainable development in the mountain regions of India. He also highlighted the dilemmas of livelihoods in the development context and environmental consequences of development facing the mountain cities which has led to severe damage in valleys of Kullu and Manali and hill cities of Mussoorie, Nainital amongst others. As a part of the Meet, a legislators' dialogue was also held. All Members of Parliament insisted on the need to focus on research in mountain subjects such as glaciology, hydrology, renewable energy, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity.

Shri P.D. Rai also shared the path followed by Sikkim towards sustainable development. He also mentioned that the state is moving to build a legislation to mainstream the subject in all departments and amongst the citizens.

Several eminent leaders of the development sector from organisations such as FAO (UN), NECTAR, UNDP, NSDC, ICIMOD, SDC, WWF and senior officials from ministries and government departments were in attendance. Sharing of ideas by the officials and the development agencies with respect to building collaborative action plan for mountains emphasized the need for stronger mountain partnerships and integration of sustainable development goals into mountain development. Skill development and entrepreneurship emerged as one of the areas where there is immense scope to sustainably leverage the natural resources and history of the mountains. The need for concrete and contextualised action in these areas to counter the problems of out-migration from the mountain states was prominently highlighted.

Understanding the importance and urgency to focus and build informed action based on the recommendations from SMDS and MoMS, IMI has formed a Members' Task Force for planning the action on skill development for mountain areas. The Task Force comprises IMI members who have been actively involved in planning and leading skill development initiatives and gathered substantial experience in this area. The objective of this Task Force is to actively engage with and contribute towards spearheading the efforts being taken for Skill Development in the IHR by government and non-governmental agencies in the country. Some of the action points prioritised by the Task Force focus on state wise prioritisation of needs and documentation of existing initiatives and contribute to developing an evidence base which can be used to guide the strategies that will be covered in the 'Sustainable Skill Development Plan'. The IMI Task Force is also represented on NITI Aayog's Working Group on 'Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship (E&S) Landscape in Himalayas' formed for 'Sustainable Development in Mountains of Indian Himalayan Region'.

Introductory Session

In his welcome address, **Mr. Alemtemshi Jamir**, President IMI remembered ‘man of the mountains’ Dr R.S. Tolia and his immense contribution to bringing the issues and concerns of mountains and mountain people in India to the forefront. He spoke about the ecological significance of the mountains of India. He also highlighted the ecological and socio-economic tensions faced by the mountain people in India which are also leading to social tensions in the region and referred to the recent tensions in Nagaland. He emphasised the role of IMI in such context, to strengthen not just capabilities but also cultural proximity amongst people from mountain states.



Mr. Alemtemshi Jamir, President IMI delivering the welcome address

Speaking about SMDS and MoMS, Mr Jamir shared that IMI organizes annual Sustainable Mountain Development Summits (SMDS) on themes which are relevant to the mountain regions and convenes an annual Meet of the Mountain States (MoMS) in New Delhi to disseminate the outcomes of the Summits and create an avenue for advocacy in respect of issues which are critical to the mountains. He said that starting in 2011 the Summits have come a long way in focussing on a range of issues and the need to create a systematic body of research to evolve strategies. He shared the recent developments in IMI’s work aligned to achieving sustainable development goals. He welcomed all the dignitaries in attendance and expressed gratitude on behalf of IMI.

Proceedings of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-V, Leh: Mr Jigmet Takpa, IFS, Convener, SMDS - V

Mr Jigmet Takpa, Convener, SMDS - V, shared the proceedings and policy recommendations from the SMDS -V which was held in September 2016 in Leh and focussed on the themes of water security and skills for Development in the Mountains.

He shared that the Day One of the summit revolved around the discussion of water security in the mountains, where the large consensus was the need to explore and map the resources available in the mountain states



Mr Jigmet Takpa, Convener, SMDS – V, sharing the proceedings of the Summit

1. The first session of the day was based on Receding Glaciers and Snow Cover Areas; the important outcomes and policy recommendations of the session were
 - a. The need to prioritize long-term monitoring of glaciers to generate accurate and reliable data on changes and potential risks of water scarcity and disasters
 - b. An urgent need to build scientific capacity amongst mountain communities as they are one of the main stakeholders in achieving water security, to help monitor the health of snow fields, glaciers and permafrost
 - c. Develop glacial research centres across the Himalayas which will work with local communities around the world to share data, findings and relevant knowledge and skills
 - d. Ensure that artificial glaciers are built closer to natural glaciers to augment their cover.
 - e. Develop simple strategies such as snow fences using stone walls to increase the extent and period of snow cover
 - f. Increase the area of recharge in the head water regions of streams, rivers by using natural recessional features of the mountains
 - g. The urgent need to map and study mountain permafrost across the Himalayas was highlighted in the session

The second session took on the subject of Water for Mountain Agriculture, the policy recommendations from the session include:

- a. Integration of processes for equitable distribution of water and should include active participation by local communities
- b. The need to rationalize policies and regulations for groundwater extraction through deep bore wells in mountain regions.
- c. Document and acknowledge urban springs to initiate measures to conserve them and delineate critical zones of recharge for environmental management
- d. Involve communities in the collection of data
- e. Change design of various national and state driven programmes to make them community driven and ensure that they are in tune with the geological reality of the area
- f. Traditional farming skills and practices need to be rationalized and added to school curricula in mountain regions
- g. Government and non-governmental agencies must spread awareness about rain-water harvesting techniques to allow people to benefit from them
- h. The rights and responsibilities of irrigation systems should be documented in new government records.

Session 3 focused on Water Conservation Techniques – Traditional and New – the policy recommendations from the session were:

- a. The urgent need to explore overlaps between science, technology and traditional ecological knowledge and practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change
- b. The need to collate and learn from successful practices in different mountain regions and be included in policy framework to manage vital resources
- c. Planning, implementation and management of irrigation and water systems should include active and vital participation of the local communities

The second theme that was taken up during SMDS-V was Skills for development in the mountains, and a consensus was built on the need for context-specific policies for skill development and the importance of involving different stakeholders in any scheme for skill development. Day two of the summit began the session of Skills required in the Mountains. Policy recommendations from the session were:

- a. Need for context-specific policies for skill development

- b. The importance of separating the aspirations of youth and address job placements and self-employment separately.
- c. Increase skills in traditional and non-traditional sectors to diversify skill sets, preserve local culture and provide dispersed employment opportunities
- d. Ensure convergence across departments at all levels of the state and central government to provide maximum impact with minimum expense.
- e. Address limitations, especially in terms of infrastructure in mountain regions, connectivity and service delivery
- f. Focus on improving skills across sectors
- g. Replicate success stories in other regions after careful examination and context-specific adaptations. This can be initiated as a pilot model before being scaled up.

The second session on Skills focused on the integration of institutional and individual capability building for enhancing sustainable agriculture in mountain states. The recommendations as such were:

- a. The critical need to study current agricultural practices in the mountains
- b. Integration of traditional practices to make agriculture more sustainable
- c. Build linkages with different institutions and stakeholders in planning and execution of agricultural reforms in the mountains

Session 3 on Day two showcased various entrepreneurship and success stories from the mountain regions. Policy recommendations from the session include:

- d. The need to improve the quality of Sea buckthorn by using specific varieties and new methods of cultivation
- e. Emphasize on projects that use local materials, work at a small scale and are decentralized as these enjoy greater success in the mountain regions.
- f. Enhance economic and social security measures to promote ecosystem regeneration
- g. Create conducive platforms for consumer education and facilitate interface between craft producer and consumers
- h. Support community institutional building and provide incentives to farmers who grow their own raw material
- i. Gender transformation and gender inclusive policy interventions are needed to address gaps and rights in mountainous regions.

Mr Takpa also shared the highlights from the Policymakers and Legislators Meet which was held as parallel event on the first day of the summit and was divided into two sessions, theme based and topic specific discussions. From the theme based sessions the policy recommendations and consensus that was drawn were:

1. Explore ways to bridge the gap between knowledge and data, while also improving access to information for all stakeholders
2. The need for the 11 mountain states to work together to ensure that mountain specific policies and schemes are adopted by the Government of India for the Himalayan regions
3. The need to regulate and sensitize hotels, guest houses and other users about the sustainable use of water
4. The need to enhance skills amongst local communities and provide opportunities to use these skills meaningfully.
5. The need to rationalize policies and schemes with localized needs and knowledge in the mountain regions.

Mr Takpa also shared that topic specific discussions were discussions based on UNDP ‘Secure the Himalayas project’ and the WWF project on management of free ranging dogs in the Himalayan context. The UNDP presentation highlighted the importance of Himalayan ecosystems and the main objective of the project to secure the Himalayas as a source for fresh water, hydropower, unique livestock breeds, mineral resources, and medicinal plants while conserving its rich diversity of culture. The project aims to address the challenges by strengthening institutions and management practices and develop livelihood strategies to promote socio-ecological resilience. WWF presented on the rapidly increasing population of feral dogs, especially around army camps who compete with natural predators and pose a significant threat to other biodiversity. The presentation focused on the urgent need to consider the scale of the problem and its impact in the Himalayan communities and biodiversity. Proactive dialogue with security forces to reduce the number of feral dogs was agreed upon as an urgent requirement.

Following key action points emerged from the SMDS V proceedings:

1. Prioritize long-term monitoring of glaciers to generate accurate and reliable data on changes and potential risks of water scarcity and disasters.
2. Develop glacial research centres across the Himalayas.
3. Map and study mountain permafrost across the Himalayas.

4. Document and acknowledge urban springs to initiate measures to conserve them and delineate critical zones of recharge for environmental management.
5. Delineate and document the rights and responsibilities of irrigation systems in new government records.
6. Explore overlaps between science, technology and traditional ecological knowledge and practices to mitigate the impacts of climate change.
7. Ensure convergence across departments for maximising the impact for skill development initiatives.
8. Increase skills in traditional and non-traditional sectors.
9. Study current agricultural practices in the mountains.
10. Build linkages with different institutions and stakeholders in planning and execution of agricultural reforms in the mountains.

Proceedings of Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Kohima: Mr Amba Jamir, Councillor, IMI

Mr Amba Jamir, shared the outcomes that emerged from DRR Workshop held by IMI and SDFN in Kohima in July 2016 in collaboration with NECTAR and with support from Government of Nagaland. The workshop had DRR experts from all over the country who gave their inputs on various aspects of DRR as well as representatives from all the departments of the Nagaland state government who deliberated on how each of the department can respond in the wake of any disaster and do things in collaboration with other departments.

Community is the first responder. Community resilience, community's social capital are strengths to be built upon. Second issue was how to look at capabilities of communities, into community collaboration with state and other agencies and the resources available to support such collaborations.



Mr Amba Jamir sharing Proceedings of Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Kohima

One of the bigger challenges highlighted in this workshop was the lack of availability of reliable and consistent data. Mr Jamir said that it is important to generate and manage data to establishing baselines for predictions as well as for mitigations and adaptations. Such processes will also go a long way in building capacities of institutions in the state and individuals at grass roots.

The third issue that came up during the workshop was the need to focus on use of appropriate technology which can be used for forecasting, assessing, managing issues with regard to both mitigation and adaptation.

Mr Jamir shared the following action points that emerged in from the two days' workshop:

1. Strong convergence of science & technology, community and the government both in terms of planning as well as response
2. DRR planning needs to be streamlined into the government departmental planning. Community members also recognised that community development plan also need to undertake DRR action plans
3. Mechanisms of generating and managing reliable and consistent data need to be worked out

Mr Jamir shared that in a session of experience sharing by communities and development agencies that work on disasters, one of the reflections from the participants was that often the capabilities of communities facing disasters and institutions working on DRR at grassroots are not being capitalised on.

The session on disaster risk financing was another major highlight of the workshop. It was anchored by representatives from KfW Development Bank, Swiss Re and Micro Insurance Academy. The highlights from this session are as follows:

1. The two models were proposed in this session. Firstly, the disaster risk financing can happen at two levels- national or state. Alternatively "Community-Based Micro Insurance (CBMI)" mechanisms can be brought about to capitalise on the huge corpus of resources accumulated collectively by the communities. The realisation from participants was that once the insurance is under community's control, it is not limited to just immediate disaster relief but it goes beyond to cover post-calamity reconstruction and other related expenses.
2. KfW with Swiss Re suggested the establishment of a special New Insurance Entity (NIE) as a novel and efficient insurance mechanism against extreme weather events, which would

provide complementary insurance and additional risk buffers against extreme weather events.

3. The communities need to be made aware of the concepts of community level insurance and their needs.

Mr Jamir also shared that the state government has taken forward this idea and planned a community based disaster financing initiative in collaboration with the agencies that participated in the workshop and it has been presented to the Central Government for approval.

Legislators' Dialogue: MPs' Roundtable

Before beginning the Legislators' Dialogue, Mr PD Rai Member of Parliament, Sikkim and Councillor, IMI emphasised that one of IMI's strength lies in its active engagement with the legislators on issues of critical importance to the mountains in India. He also elaborated that the SMDSs are preceded by consultative processes within the states to decide what themes the Summit will focus on. He shared that in Leh, during pre-Summit consultations with local development bodies and individuals, water security and skill development emerged as topics that required attention which is why they were taken up as themes of discussions during SMDS V.



Figure 1 Mr Vincent Pala, MP, Shillong sharing his concerns about the water security and data in the mountains

Commenting on the importance of relevant data for development planning in the mountains, **Mr Vincent Pala**, MP, Meghalaya shared that Centre Water Commission (CWC) is a good source of data and can be approached to build collaboration for data backed planning. Similarly he suggested North Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC) and NECTAR are institutions that can be leveraged for data. Mr Pala also suggested that there is dearth of research on rain and water in the mountains which is one of the most critical issues. He said that though

researchers from IIT and NEHU are involved in conducting research on this, there needs to be a more organised method to consolidate their efforts and the research which IMI can do.

Dr Thokchom Meinya highlighted the problem of environmental deterioration which is leading to degradation of water bodies in Manipur and other mountain states. He said that we need more structured research on this issue to break the chain of ecological disturbance. He cited the sharing by the Mr Jigmet Takpa to



Dr Thokchom Meinya, MP, Imphal West spoke about the importance of cultural knowledge and traditions for conservation

highlight the importance of original ideas and the need to include the knowledge of culture and traditions of conservation of our natural resources by mountain people, in the school curriculum. This is very important for cultural integration and conservation of natural resources, Mr Meinya said.

Mr Tarun Vijay, said that mountains, especially in Uttarakhand, are under threat from the relentless and poorly planned development projects which are violating the sanctity of Himalayas. He also highlighted that hydro power projects that are poorly planned and hastily implemented, are deteriorating our water reservoirs. He also touched upon the need to relook the anti-people and anti-people tourism, development and forest policies of the Uttarakhand which are poorly implemented and taking the life out of Himalayas.

Mr Jitendra Chaudhury brought up the issues of alternative livelihoods for mountain people, citing the growing dependence of people in Tripura on rubber plantation. He also said that Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change must focus on exhaustively nurturing of research, community participation, and community knowledge while educating people on environmental issues.

Address by Chief Guest: Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State, Home Affairs

Mr PD Rai, Member of Parliament, Sikkim and Councillor, IMI thanked all the legislators for bringing up issues of concern and adding their suggestions and comments to the Meet. He also invited Shri Kiren Rijiju, whom he addressed as the “man of the mountains”, to release the proceedings of SMDS V and share with the audience, his thoughts on the development for mountains.



(L-R) Mr Alemtemshi Jamir, President, IMI; Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State, Home Affairs; Mr PD Rai, Member of Parliament, Sikkim and Councillor, IMI released the proceedings of SMDS V held in Leh from 20th to 23rd September 2016

Shri Rijiju began his address by clarifying that he comes to the Meet of the Mountain States not only as a minister but also as a man from the mountains; not just as a chief guest but as part of the forum, to integrate himself as part of the issues and find ways to move forward by working together.



“India has good system of making nice policies, good concept papers and our parliament has the record of making the maximum legislations in the world. The problem however is in the execution of policies that have been made.

We need to understand the mountains. The mountain communities know it and people who love mountains understand it. Irony, these days is that people who live in the mountains in pursuit of their needs, greed has taken over – we have become as reason for our self-destruction. The concept of hill stations created by the British has resulted in traffic jams, population, crowd, and concrete jungle – not what Himalaya is meant to be. It is meant to be, pristine and pure but that is not true anymore. Within our lifetime we have changed so much that we have moved towards destruction; we are witnessing extreme water level variation in river flows – maximum increase at one time and dry during the other time, variability of rainfall towards extremity – maximum rainfall or driest year. This maybe a natural phenomenon but humans are speeding it up and we are leading ourselves towards destruction.

When I went to Kullu and Manali in Himachal Pradesh last year, I was approached by many people asking me to intervene for tourist regulation. The National Green Tribunal is a

paradox; activities need to start to generate employment and on the other hand same activities are destroying our own habitat. The result of progress is not as planned or as it should have been. Thus we need to understand that success of policy implementation is not in imposition but should come naturally but in India it is made compulsory

We don't know how to progress. I visit Gulchi on the way to Kailash. It is pristine and one of the most beautiful places in India. Inaccessibility of the place is an issue because there are no roads leading to it. At the same time, building roads to the place will create the damage to the region/area, taking away the beauty. It would have become like Kullu, Manali and Mussoorie by now. In this context I really admire Bhutan and its development. One doesn't just see it but can feel it as well. There is so much to learn from them. The greed has not taken over the needs of people. There is a policy that 60% of Bhutan will be covered with forests for the future generations and it is a national commitment, not just the legislative or constitutional provision. It is a commitment of the people and the king himself

India's population is almost 1.3 billion – five times that of US population and we are one third of China in terms of geographical size. The natural resources ratio of India to US is 1:20. We used to hear about family planning in 1950s to early 80s but we no longer hear this. This is because human greed has taken over human need. Corporate greed benefits from rampant consumerism. TV, newspapers propel MNCs' products. Youth and employment opportunities are focus of much planning these days but the future risks are not being considered seriously. The growing population of Indians in the 30s will shift to 40-50s in the next 15-20 years. Consumption of natural resources will increase and if there are not as many jobs and employability then they become a liability. Therefore, we need to consider the optimum leveraging of demographic dividend and the risks associated with it.

'Conservation vs human rights' is always a dilemma. There is a need to understand the fragile balance between human and wildlife and the difficulty to maintain this balance in the current circumstances with increase in population which will increase consumption. The mountain communities have always maintained the balance, for example through jhum cultivation- a method of subsistence agriculture, a system different from intensive farming. The emotional attachment to the land is as a result of living the mountains unlike the people in the plains who don't see the importance of the mountains. I am not blaming the people in plains as well because they haven't lived and experienced mountains. Mountain people's life, livelihoods and culture are shaped by their emotional attachment to mountains

It is becoming difficult to sustain the energy needs of people in present times. The projects on hydro power can be beautiful, positive environmental friendly like the medium sized power projects in Sweden and Norway which have merged with the power generation with sustainability of the environment. They are actually tourist attraction. If visiting 'Porjus Hydro Power Station' on the way to Kiruna, Sweden, one can witness 1 man handling 500 Mw capacity power project. Machines are arranged as per historical timeline and it feels like walking through the corridors of history on hydro power. We need to think that mega projects that operate without social and environmental impact assessment and without taking the requirement of the region in consideration, will kill the area. Such projects need to take care of the needs of the people.

There is immense beauty in being natural. I have noticed the increasing use of CGI sheets for housing in villages. Not only do they look ugly, they have also led to destruction of natural heritage- the traditional way of making houses. Traditionally built house not only look beautiful but they are also disaster resilient. The traditional way of life has scientific reason behind it and it has always added to our survival. There is a need to identify and recognise risks that are brought about by individuals who go abroad, obtain ideas and abuse traditional systems.

I personally feel that IMI is a great initiative. We all - civil society, government and traditional people- need to work in close tandem to make the Himalayan region resilient. Incidentally, I happen to be the first Indian to be the disaster champion for the Asia and Pacific Region. Over the last two years, I have dealt with this subject honestly. The award by the UN is for my sincere efforts and not because of my expertise or knowledge. India a signatory of the Sendai Framework and I will be leading the Indian delegation in Cancun to present a case on the Indian Himalayan Region. I look forward to working on DRR which is one of my interest areas and I will be doing a lot of things on that front. I appreciate the DRR workshop that happened in Kohima. The outcomes reflect that IMI has well thought out its efforts on issues in hand and taken it up as a challenge. I will be more than happy to associate myself with the effort.

I have not come here as a chief guest but as a member of the community and will be happy to be associated in the years to come and contribute, to share and to learn."

Mr Sushil Ramola, Secretary, IMI thanked Shri Rijiju for sharing his thoughts and experience and said that it will be our privilege to seek his guidance on DRR in future. He presented a calendar published in memory of IMI's founding president Dr RS Tolia to Shri Rijiju. He also extended IMI's gratitude to Members of the Parliament present for their presence and contribution to the Meet. He especially acknowledged Mr PD Rai's role and contribution in getting different stakeholders together. Mr Ramola thanked Dr Amita Prasad and Ms Jyotsna Sitling for rich sharing of ideas.

Way Forward for Collaborative Mountain Development

This session focussed on finding sustainable solutions to the issues highlighted in the proceedings of SMDS - V, though collective effort of the relevant ministries and government departments and agencies, development agencies and IMI.

Sharing by Key Ministries

Dr Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change spoke about the challenges faced by the Indian Himalayan Region and Ministry's plans and actions to address these challenges.

She highlighted the following challenges faced by the Indian Himalayan Region:

- a. No Mountain specific Policy and strategy even though Planning Commission 2013 Report has specifically recommended
- b. On-going Schemes of Government of India do not specifically address mountain related issues
- c. The development in IHR lack coherence causing degradation of environment, deforestation, soil erosion, floods, poverty, out-migration, vanishing of loss of biodiversity and cultural heritage, vanishing of traditional systems of community management
- d. Extent of funds and their coverage under various Schemes and programmes of the GOI in the Himalayan States is negligible



Dr Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change

- e. Mountains as region need to be covered by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- f. The cross cutting issues include Poverty, Water, Food , Energy, Environmental Stability, Climate Change, Natural Disaster, Gender, Livelihood need more attention
- g. Comprehensive Status and a consolidated database are not available for IHR

She shared that MoEF&CC is developing a **Sustainable Mountain Policy for Development** and seeks to address all of the following aspects:

- a. Strengthening of Knowledge about Mountain ecosystems
- b. Inter-disciplinary and holistic management strategies for environmental conservation and sustainable development
- c. Dissemination and realistic and accurate information on the IHR
- d. Attention to urban aspects of Mountains and promotion of green technologies
- e. Attention to Man-Animal conflicts and destruction to mountain ecosystem
- f. Maintenance and development of cultural diversity
- g. Promoting integrated watershed development
- h. Capacity Building of Mountain communities and alternative livelihood options
- i. Empowerment of local communities especially women

Dr Prasad gave overview of some of the initiatives of MoEF&CC on Mountain Region, primary being the efforts of Ministry on **Disaster Risk Reduction** and **Skill Development**. She emphasised the importance of use of data and sharing of knowledge, resource sharing between mountain states, enhancing human and institutional capacity, adoption of mountain friendly policy and best practices areas where she said IMI can help the ministry with. In addition she highlighted gender and inclusive growth, supporting heritage and culture of communities, human –wildlife conflict and coexistence and preserving natural resources as focus areas while moving forward.

Key action points that emerged from Dr Prasad’s session are:

1. Dissemination and realistic and accurate information on the IHR
2. Development of a comprehensive and a consolidated database for IHR on the different challenges faced by the region



Ms Jyotsna Sitling, Joint Secretary, MSDE

Ms Jyotsna Sitling, Joint Secretary, MSDE spoke about skill development and the need for developing entrepreneurship in the mountains especially in the context of heavy out migration and the transition being faced by people with respect to the out-migration. She especially highlighted the state of Uttarakhand where the whole ecosystem is changing and the lives of women are getting affected because of migration and the man-animal conflict. She emphasised the need to develop the value chain systems in such context and develop the products and services through skill development. She said that

the MSDE will be focussing on this while also highlighting the importance of creating a niche value and branding for the products from mountain regions. Another aspect pointed out by her was infrastructural facilities that are required for skilling in the mountains. She shared that MSDE is using mobile school containers for mass mobilisation and developing regional curriculum with mountain specificity. At the same time, job roles pertinent to the sustainability of mountain region, supporting the livelihoods and make the markets work for the mountains, are being developed.

Sharing by Mountain Development Agencies



(L-R) Mr Sushil Ramola, Secretary IMI; Dr Sanjiv Nair, DG, NECTAR; Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India; Mr Shyam Khadka, Representative in India, FAO; Dr Divya Nambiar, MSDE; Mr Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, Country Focal Person, ICIMOD; Dr Mustafa Ali Khan, Team Leader, IHCAP

Mr Shyam Khadka, Representative in India, Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO), speaking about the knowledge gaps in the mountain development efforts, highlighted the significance of communities' knowledge as well as the need to leverage it in finding solutions to the problems in the mountains. He stated that Information on the mountain systems is very limited and hence establishing Mountain Partnership could help generate this knowledge base which is limited to the mountain communities at the moment and added that we need partnerships not just on the knowledge base but also on genetic resource base of the regions. He further spoke about different agriculture systems in the Western and North-eastern Himalayas – Jhum and Terrace; and said that there is a need to understand the importance of the cultivation systems that are region specific and are integral to the conservation traditions of particular communities. He stressed that sustainable conservation will come only from the partners not just through laboratories. He elaborated that IMI's duty comes in this front to fill in those knowledge gaps of the mountains in different sectors such as the agro-biodiversity (Highest in the mountain states – Micro climatic systems) which is losing at a rapid scale and that it needs to facilitate the process between the various communities and stakeholders.

Mr Ravi Singh, Secretary General and CEO, WWF-India said that through a combination of introduction of CSR law in India and emphasis on SDGs, conversations that are happening on state and national level are unprecedented and there is hope that it will lead to some points of action. He stressed that conservation of ecosystems- water and forest systems- is the key to nurturing the quality of life in the country and hence the infrastructural development should be protective of the ecosystems. At the same time, any conservation effort should integrate community knowledge and encourage their participation to be sustainable. Mr Singh suggested that we need better focus on developing education and awareness mechanisms for ourselves as conservers. He said that India has rich biodiversity and an equally rich and diverse culture which is why it is of utmost important for people to come together and make the conservation of our ecosystems priority; engagement with different segments is needed.

Dr Sanjiv Nair, IAS, Director General, NECTAR shared the initiatives that NECTAR is taking to leverage innovations in technology for better water systems management, skill development and DRR. NECTAR in collaboration with Nagaland GIS is making use of drones for high resolution images/maps for demarcation of watersheds. NECTAR is developing low cost device to provide meteorological data which can be used for EWS and DRR and creating network through strengthened communication systems; Kohima is connected with 14 weather stations, DC office in Sikkim with Sikkim SDMA. Mr Nair shared that micro insurance at the community level in collaboration with Micro Insurance Academy is also being undertaken in 2 districts of Nagaland. With respect to water security, Mr Nair said there is a need for better water planning, citing the example of Meghalaya, Mizoram, and Kohima which, despite high rainfalls in the monsoons face the unavailability of water in the non-monsoon seasons.

Mr Brij Mohan Singh Rathore, Chief Policy Advisor, Natural Resource Management & Country Focal Person (India), International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD) began by emphasising that the sociocultural environmental aspect of the Himalayas should be incorporated into developmental planning. He also brought up the necessity to incorporate conservation tradition and culture in educational curriculums like Bhutan has managed to do. He spoke about transforming shifting cultivation without compromising traditional mechanisms of food security, ecological security. In the context of water security, Mr Rathore said there is a need to take up watershed mapping and develop a watershed Atlas for the Himalayas and to focus on natural springs and aquifers. For skill development in mountains he highlighted creation of value chains for sustainable employment opportunities

and entrepreneurship and network of entrepreneurs in mountain states as one of the key action areas.

Mr Rathore also shared his thought about building an IMI-ICIMOD collaboration and also enumerated the ways in which both can further the work along different themes for development work in mountain states. He suggested that along the lines of Community based Early Warning System being implemented by NECTAR in Assam, Nagaland for DRR, IMI can focus on setting up networks for similar sectorial works. He also spoke about ICIMOD's 'Trans boundary landscape programmes' which are unfolding now and where both can work in collaboration. He especially pointed out IMI's strength in its networks with the partners and its strong State chapters.

Dr Divya Nambiar, Senior Consultant, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship gave some detailed inputs on how to move forward with Skill Development planning for the mountains. She made the following critical comments on this issues:

1. Given the unique contextual environment of mountain states it would be a good idea to prepare a 'Sustainable Skill Development Plan for Mountain States'. This plan would outline some of the key priority areas for these states (taking into account the skills gaps, local industry requirements etc. and would also cut across sectors. Importantly, this plan must also align closely with other key policy documents made for mountain states (including environmental plans/policies; infrastructure development/industrial plans etc; education policies for the region etc.) to ensure convergence between various policies. This Plan must be developed on the basis of a solid evidence base, drawing from local experiences of skill training initiatives and the regional skill requirements.
2. The Sustainable Skill Development Plan for Mountain States, should begin by questioning some fundamental assumptions about skills training and skills training institutions. It will come up with innovative new ideas to scale up skill training initiatives in the region in a manner that is responsive to local requirements and at the same time sustainable, over time. Importantly, it must also align with the aspirations of young citizens in the region. Hence, it should begin by questioning some basic assumptions about skills training.

Some key questions/issues that this Plan could explore could include:

- a. Can we rethink the idea of what a skill training centre is? Is it merely a site for training or could this be expanded into a centre which not only provides fresh training - but also offers the chance for career counselling, mentorship and skills upgradation.

- b. How can we create a pool of trainers and assessors by leveraging the skills of the local population?
- c. Which sectors should skill training focus on? A majority of current skills training programmes in mountain states focus largely on service sector job roles. Employment opportunities, post training take place in other parts of the country. The focus therefore is largely on servicing the needs of other parts of the country and in the process local skill requirements are neglected. There is an urgent need to rethink the sectors and job roles in which training is offered. Could we identify the new job roles that are in high demand in the region and train people who can add value to the local economy? For example, could we include job roles in disaster risk mitigation and response, water conservation and management, solar energy, energy efficient construction, paramedics and health care technicians etc?
- d. Could we think of innovative multi skilled job roles? For example, an ambulance driver who could also be trained in basic first aid/paramedics can play an important role in saving the lives of accident victims. In fact, could modules on first-aid training, disaster and risk management, entrepreneurship, etc. be included in the soft skills course curriculum in the region, as these additional skills will not only boost the employability of young people but will also add value to the local population. How can we deliver high quality skill training programmes in job roles, which specifically address challenges in this region?
- e. What are the innovative outreach and mobilisation strategies which we can leverage in mountain states - so that we can reach out to young people in some of the most remote areas? What communication strategies are most effective in this region?
- f. What kinds of innovative models can we develop for training of trainers and assessors in the region?
- g. We need to not only prepare young people for skills that are in high demand in the future - but in the process, we should make sure that we preserve the valuable skills that people already possess (such as knowledge of traditional agricultural and water management practices; handloom weaving and handicraft work that are a part of the cultural heritage of the region). Can we document these skills and ensure that these skills are not lost in the process of acquiring new, employability skills.
- h. We need to think of sustainable skill development as an opportunity for innovation, rather than as a challenge to be overcome. What new models of skills delivery can we try out? How can we adapt the course curriculum to be relevant to local needs? What new partnerships can we envisage? Which organisations should come together?

- i. Lastly, this plan must translate into a clear and coherent programme of action, which can be implemented in a clear time-frame to deliver high quality training outcomes in the region.

Dr Nambiar also shared how IMI can contribute on the issue. She said that IMI could play an important role in bringing together a network of different actors in this sector, to collectively find answers to the above questions. It could also assist in documentation of existing initiatives and contribute to developing an evidence base which can be used to guide the strategies that will be covered in the sustainable skill development plan.

Dr Mustafa Ali Khan, Team Leader, IHCAP shared that IHCAP's larger and more sustained impact in the mountain states and in the entire IHR would require connect with the policymakers can be done in collaboration with IMI through its various platforms

Briefing on SMDS-VI, Mizoram: Dr Lalbiak Mawia Ngente, Councillor, IMI

Dr Lalbiak Mawia Ngente presented the concept note on the Sustainable Mountain Development Summit VI to be held in Aizawl, Mizoram and hosted by Mizoram Sustainable Development Foundation (MSDF) on tentatively on 20-22 September, 2017. He shared that the Mizoram Summit is to be organized in two stages: Pre-summit Stage which will encompass a 'Youth Summit' and a 'Consolidation & Stocktaking Workshop' and the Summit Stage. The Summit will focus on two themes: Climate Change and Sustainable Mountain Cities with Mountain Partnerships as the cross cutting theme across the two. Dr Ngente cordially invited all the participants to not only attend the Summit but also to engage with MSDF at the Pre-Summit organising stage.

Concluding Remarks: Mr PD Rai, Member of Parliament & Councillor, IMI



Mr PD Rai, Member of Parliament & Councillor, IMI delivering the concluding remarks

Mr PD Rai thanked all the participants for investing their afternoon in the Meet. He remembered Dr RS Tolia on the occasion and said that much of where IMI is and where it is intending to move forward to, is because of his hard work and sincere commitment to the mountains and people in the mountains. He shared with the gathering that IMI has embarked on a journey to ground the SDGs in Sikkim through a legislative framework and that the process has garnered support from various development agencies. He also mentioned that the project has secured funding from UNDP at very record speed. Mr Rai shared that the law is being drafted by Cyril Amarchand Mangaldas. The law needs to be local and therefore the consultations for the legislation have been going on in Delhi and Sikkim with different stakeholders in the state like legislators, Panchayati Raj Institution members, teachers etc. Mr Rai highlighted two main points about the process. Firstly, the framework for SDGs and an understanding of how their manifestations play out on local levels, need to be understood for all the 17 goals. Secondly, since IMI is anchoring the process, it will have a follow-up effect for other mountain states through forums like MoMS, SMDS where perhaps next year we will be able to report how to initiate similar process for other states. Mr Rai shared that a consultative nature is central to the process of developing this legislation and IMI's role has been important to integrate inputs and efforts from all quarters.

Vote of Thanks: Ms Fantry Mein Jaswal, Councillor, IMI

Ms Fantry Mein Jaswal, Councillor, IMI presented the vote of thanks to the distinguished representatives from government departments and development agencies, members of IMI and the organising team in the IMI secretariat. She extended IMI's gratitude to Mr Ravi Singh, for WWF India's unwavering support for IMI's activities. She congratulated all those present for successful deliberations, expressing that IMI hopes to build action based on the inputs provided by the participants and work jointly with them.

Annexure 1: Programme Schedule

10 February 2017, Friday

Time: 02.00-5.30 p.m.

Venue: WWF India Auditorium, 172 B, Lodhi Estate, New Delhi – 110 003

Session I: Proceedings of SMDS - V & Legislators' Dialogue (02.00– 03.45 p.m.)

02:00 – 02:10	Welcome address: Mr Alemtemshi Jamir, IAS (Retd.) President, IMI
02:10 – 02:25	Proceedings of Sustainable Mountain Development Summit-V, Leh: Mr Jigmet Takpa, IFS, Convener, SMDS- V
02:25 – 02:40	Presentation on Outcomes from Disaster Risk Reduction Workshop, Kohima: Mr Amba Jamir, Councillor, IMI
02.40 – 03.10	Legislators' Dialogue: MPs' Roundtable
03.10 – 03.20	Address by Chief Guest: Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State, Home Affairs
03.20 – 03.25	Vote of Thanks: Mr Sushil Ramola, Secretary, IMI
03.25 – 03.45	Tea Break

Session II: Way Forward for Collaborative Mountain Development (03.45-05.00 p.m.)

03.45 – 03.50	Chair's Address
03.50 – 04.20	Sharing by Key Ministries
04.20 – 04.50	Sharing by Development and Donor Agencies
04.50 – 05.00	Discussion/Q&A

Concluding Session (05.00-05.30 p.m.)

05.00 – 05.10	Briefing on SMDS-VI, Mizoram: Dr LalbiakMawia Ngente, Councillor, IMI
05.10 – 05.20	Concluding Remarks: Mr PD Rai, Member of Parliament/ Councillor, IMI
05.20 – 05.30	Vote of Thanks: Ms Fantry Mein Jaswal, Councillor, IMI

Annexure 2: List of Abbreviations

CWC	Centre Water Commission
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organisation
ICIMOD	International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development
IHCAP	Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme
IHR	Indian Himalayan Region
IIT	Indian Institute of Technology
MoEF&CC	Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
MoMS	Meet of the Mountain States
MSDE	Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship
NECTAR	North East Centre for Technology Application and Reach
NEHU	North Eastern Hill University
NESAC	North Eastern Space Applications Centre
NSDC	National Skill Development Corporation
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SDFN	Sustainable Development Forum Nagaland
SMDS	Sustainable Mountain Development Summit
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WWF	World Wildlife Fund

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Annexure 4: In the Press

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March 2017 Vol 03 Issue 06

By GovernanceToday Mar 7th, 2017 0 Comments 543 Views



Integrating Sustainable Development Goals to Mountain Development

Fifth Edition of Meet of the Twelve Mountain States in New Delhi

Today, the Indian Himalayan Region accounts for 11 full-fledged states along with the district of Darjeeling out of 30 states in India. Barring a few, the mountain states are not only bereft of technical institutions, but also of basic infrastructure and facilities. A collective vision is the need of the time to attend the crucial mountain issues like water security and skills for development in the mountains.

To facilitate that collective vision, the fifth edition of the Meet of the Mountain States was organized by the Integrated Mountain Initiative was held on 10 February 2017 at WWF India Secretariat in New Delhi. The Meet deliberated on subjects of water security, skill development and disaster risk reduction in the mountains. The Meet was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijju, Members of Parliament, Dr. Thakur Mohan (Manipur), Shri Vincent Pala (Meghalaya), Shri Jitendra Chaudhary (Tripura), Shri P. D. Sarkin (Sikkim) and former

Member of Parliament Shri Tarun Vijay was also in attendance.

They were also in attendance at the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) is a civil society organisation formed in 2011, aimed at redefining the architecture of sustainable development across the 12 mountain states in the Indian Himalayan region, comprising 10 states of Arunachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Meghalaya, Manipur, Mizoram, Nagaland, Tripura, Sikkim, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir and the Hill districts of West Bengal and Assam. It is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realise its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders. IMI operationalizes this platform through its annual Sustainability Development Summits (SDMS) and Meet of Mountain States (MoMS) by engaging different stakeholders to come together and engage in informed debates on themes relevant to the mountain regions.

Shi Riliu stressed on the need

to work in convergence to ensure sustainable development in the mountain regions of India. He also highlighted the dilemmas of livelihoods in the development context and environmental consequences of development facing the mountain cities which has led to severe damage in valleys of Kullu and Manali and hill cities of Mussoorie, Nainital amongst others.

As a part of the Meet, a legislators' dialogue was also held. All Members of Parliament insisted on the need to focus on research in mountain subjects such as glaciology, hydrology, renewable energy, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity.

Shri P D Rai also shared the path followed by Sikkim towards sustainable development. He also mentioned that the state is moving to build a legislation to mainstream the subject in all departments and amongst the citizens.

The Meet was convened by Shri Alemtsehi Jamir, President of IMI and former Chief Secretary of Nagaland. Several eminent leaders of the development sector from organizations such as FAO (UN), NECTAR, UNDP, NSIC, ICIMOD, SCF, WAF and senior officials from ministries and government departments were in attendance. They emphasized the need for stronger mountain partnerships and integration of sustainable development goals into mountain development. It was pointed out that skill building needs to factor in the socio-cultural and geographical features of mountains and focus on self-employment and entrepreneurship. Disaster risk reduction measures need to be community based and managed

The need to focus on sustainable mountain cities and climate change was also a recurrent theme. IMI announced that the next Sustainable Mountain Development Summit which will be held in Sep, 2017 in Alzawl, Mizoram will take up these issues for further deliberation.



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MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT

Mountains Need to be Covered by SDGs



Dr. Amita Prasad

Dr. Amita Prasad, Additional Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, shares about the peculiarity of the problems in mountain and hilly states and the need to address issues for these areas in a more localised manner with active involvement of various stakeholders...

Indian Himalayan Region covers 10 states of Arunachal Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu & Kashmir, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura, Uttarakhand and 2 partial States i.e. Assam & West Bengal. The Region has 7 Biosphere Reserves spread over 26,421 km² area, and 25 National Parks & 98 Sanctuaries. One of the 34 Biodiversity Hotspots of the World, the region has 44-51% of total plant species in the country, which provide important ecological, economical services to communities including medicinal plants, fuel, fodder and various mountain products.

On the Gaps and Challenges in Mountain Region

The issues to be highlighted are critical. There is no Mountain specific policy and strategy available, although Planning Commission 2013 Report has specifically recommended for this. There are some on-going

Schemes of government of India, but those do not specifically address mountain related issues. Mountains as region need to be covered by the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The cross cutting issues here include Poverty, Water, Food, Energy, Environmental Stability, Climate Change, Natural Disaster, Gender and Livelihood among others, which need more attention. Comprehensive Status and a consolidated database are not available for this region. Also, the extent of funds and their coverage under various Schemes and programmes of the government in the Himalayan States is negligible.

On Sustainable Mountain Policy for Development

Another shortcoming seen with these regions has been their lack of focus on sustainability. There is no dearth of planning and research but the policies remain the main challenge for sustainable development in the mountains.

It's important to strengthen the knowledge about Mountain ecosystems and share and disseminate realistic and accurate information on the regions. There is need to give attention to urban aspects of Mountains and promotion of green technologies and promotion of integrated watershed development. Capacity building of Mountain communities, especially women for alternative livelihood options is also crucial.

On Initiatives of Ministry on Mountain Region

The National Policy on Mountain is being prepared which will look at the Conservation, Management and Sustainable Development of Mountain Resources and Livelihoods. The Strategy, Scheme and Action Plans are also being prepared. The need is to frame and implement through greater stakeholder participation, and also to involve State Government, local communities, researcher, NGOs for

Linking with SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)

SDGs / SDG Targets	Suggested Action
1. End poverty, in all its forms everywhere	Continuously Livelihood Enhancement
2. End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture	National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture Biodiversity Promotion through Long Term Monitoring
3. Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all	National Water Mission Understanding, identifying and protecting areas of hydrological importance Regeneration of Springs and Spring-fed streams Promotion of Sustainable Irrigation, Water, Soil and Geochemical Energy Biodiversity Management and strategies
4. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all	Human Resources Development through skill development of Mountain Communities especially Youth
5. Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusion and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation	National Mission for Sustainable Energy Efficiency Biodiversity Conservation through Monitoring and Reporting system
6. Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable	National Mission on Sustainable Habitat Promotion of Green Technologies
7. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns	National Solar Mission Improving fuel use and energy and promoting strong networks Collection and utilisation of ecosystem services and village level biodiversity
8. Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts	National Mission for Sustainable Himalayan Ecosystems National Mission on Strategic Knowledge on Climate Change Building Community and Ecosystem based Adaptation to combat Climate Change with impacts
9. Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss	Biodiversity Mission Survey, Mapping and analysis of Monitoring of Biodiversity

Sustainable development of the Himalayan Region

Under the nomination of UNESCO transboundary World Heritage Site (WHS), there are initiatives which emphasize the importance of promoting the transboundary landscape approach to generate both ecosystem and livelihood co-outcomes. Kalash Sacred landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KSLCDI) is one in progress which is a collaborative programme being implemented across the borders of China, India, and Nepal, Kanchenjunga Landscape Conservation and Development Initiative (KLCDDI) to achieve conservation and development goals in the landscape and Far-eastern Himalayan Landscape (FHLIFE) across India, China and Myanmar come under this International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development implements six Regional Programmes with 8 Member Countries of Hindu Kush Himalayas including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, India, Myanmar, Nepal, and Pakistan, strengthening Regional Cooperation.

The Himalayan Region is

On Disaster Risk Reduction



highly prone to geological & climatological hazards like earthquakes, landslides and floods. Despite recent advances in seismology and instrumentation, earthquakes remain the most

unpredictable phenomenon among natural disasters. Cloud burst during the rainy season leads to flash floods triggering landslides causing enormous loss of life, property and environmental



Meet of the Mountain States organized

February 13, 2017


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ITANAGAR, Feb 12: The fourth edition of the Meet of the Mountain States, organized by the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) was held on Friday at WWF India Secretariat in New Delhi.

Inaugurated by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju, the meet deliberated on subjects of water security, skill development and disaster risk reduction in the mountains. The IMI is a civil society organisation formed in 2011, aimed at redefining the architecture of sustainable development across the 12 mountain states in the Indian Himalayan region. It is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realise its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders.

The IMI operationalizes this platform through its annual Sustainable Development Summits and Meet of Mountain States by engaging different stakeholders to come together and engage in informed debates on themes relevant to the mountain regions.

Speaking on the occasion, Rijiju stressed on the need to work in convergence to ensure sustainable development in the mountain regions of India. He also highlighted the As a part of the meet, a legislators' dialogue was also held, where all the Members of Parliament insisted on the need to focus on research in mountain subjects, such as glaciology, hydrology, renewable energy, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity.

MP PD Rai also shared the path followed by Sikkim towards sustainable development. He also mentioned that the state is moving to build a legislation to mainstream the subject in all departments and amongst the citizens.

The meet was convened by Alemtemshi Jamir, President of IMI and former Chief Secretary of Nagaland.

Members of Parliament Dr Thokchom Meinya (Manipur), Vincent Pala (Meghalaya), Jitendra Chaudhury (Tripura), PD Rai (Sikkim) and former Member of Parliament Tarun Vijay were also in attendance, besides several eminent leaders of the development sector from organisations, such as FAO (UN), NECTAR, NSDC, ICIMOD, SDC, and WWF.

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Work in convergence to ensure sustainable development: Rijju

From Our Correspondent

Itanagar, Feb 12: To ensure sustainable development in the mountain regions of the country, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijju on Saturday stressed on the need to work in convergence.

Rijju was addressing the fourth edition of Meet of the Mountain States at the WWF India Secretariat in New Delhi, an official communiqué informed.

The minister on the occasion also highlighted the dilemmas of livelihoods in the development context and environmental consequences of development facing the mountain cities which have led to severe damage in valleys of Kullu and Manali and hill cities of Mussoorie, Nainital amongst others. The meet organized by the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) deliberated on subjects of water security, skill development, and disaster risk reduction in the mountains. The meet was also participated by MPs Dr Thokchom Meinya (Manipur), Vincent Pala (Meghalaya), Jitendra Chaudhury (Tripura), P D Rai (Sikkim) and former MP Tarun Vijay. While sharing the path followed by Sikkim towards sustainable development, Rai state that the state was moving to build a legislation to mainstream the subject in all departments and amongst citizens.

The meet was convened by IMI president Alemtemshi Jamir. Several eminent leaders of the development sector from organizations such as FAO (UN), NECTAR, NSDC, ICIMOD, SDC and WWF were also present. IMI, a civil society organization formed in 2011, aims at redefining the architecture of sustainable development across the 12 mountain states in the Indian Himalayan Region. It is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realize its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders.

IMI operationalizes this platform through its annual Sustainable Development Summits (SMDS) and Meet of Mountain States (MoMS) by engaging different stakeholders to come together and engage in informed debates on themes relevant to the mountain regions, the communiqué added.

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Meet of Mountain States underscores need for more research on mountain subjects

**SUMMIT REPORT
GANGTOK, 12 FEB:**

The fourth edition of the Meet of the Mountain States organized by the Integrated Mountain Initiative was held on 10 Feb at World Wildlife Fund India Secretariat in New Delhi.

The Meet deliberated the subjects of water security, skill development and disaster risk reduction in the mountains and was inaugurated by Minister of State for Home Affairs, Kiren Rijiju.

Members of Parliament, Dr Thokchom-

Meinya (Manipur), Vincent Pala (Meghalaya), Jitendra Chaudhury (Tripura), PD Rai (Sikkim) and former Member of Parliament, Tarun Vijay were also in attendance, a press release informs.

The Integrated Mountain Initiative is a civil society organisation formed in 2011 aimed at "redefining the architecture of sustainable development across the 12 mountain states in the Indian Himalayan Region".

It is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain re-

gions and enabling people to realise its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders. IMI operationalizes this platform through its annual Sustainable Development Summits (SMDS) and Meet of Mountain States (MoMS) by engaging different stakeholders to come together and engage in informed debates on themes relevant to the mountain regions.

Mr Rijiju stressed on the need to work in convergence to ensure sustainable development

in the mountain regions of India. He also highlighted the dilemmas of livelihoods in the development context and environmental consequences of development facing the mountain cities which has led to severe damage in valleys of Kullu and Manali and hill cities of Mussoorie, Nainital amongst others.

As a part of the Meet, a legislators' dialogue was also held. All Members of Parliament insisted on the need to focus on research in mountain

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NEWS

Fourth edition of meet of the mountain States held

SE Report

GANGTOK, February 12: The fourth edition of the meet of the mountain States organized by the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) was held at WWF India Secretariat, New Delhi on Friday. The meet deliberated on subjects of water security, skill development and disaster risk reduction in the mountains, informs a press release.

The meet inaugurated by Minister of State for Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju was attended by MPs Thokchom Meinya of Manipur, Vincent Pala of Meghalaya, Jitendra Chaudhury of Tripura, P.D. Rai of Sikkim and former MP Tarun Vijay.

Addressing the meeting, MoS Rijiju stressed on the need to work in convergence



to ensure sustainable development in the mountain regions of India. He also highlighted the dilemmas of livelihoods in the development context and environmental consequences of development facing the mountain cities which has led to severe

damage in valleys of Kullu and Manali and hill cities of Mussoorie, Nainital amongst others.

As a part of the meet, a legislators' dialogue was also held. All MPs insisted on the need to focus on research in mountain subjects such as

glaciology, hydrology, renewable energy, human-wildlife conflict and biodiversity.

Lok Sabha MP P.D. Rai also shared the path followed by Sikkim towards sustainable development. He mentioned that the State is moving to build

a legislation to mainstream the subject in all departments and amongst the citizens.

The meet was convened by IMI president Alemtemshi Jamir and attended by several eminent leaders of the development sector from organisations such as FAO (UN), NECTAR, NSDC, ICIMOD, SDC and WWF.

The IMI is a civil society organisation formed in 2011 aimed at redefining the architecture of sustainable development across the 12 mountain States in the Indian Himalayan region. It is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realize its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders.

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