



# भारत बोध

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## संगोष्ठी-कार्यक्रम और प्रस्तुतियाँ

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## Mainstreaming Indigenous Knowledge Systems for Sustainable Development in Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)

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### Abstract

The Himalaya, the youngest and the loftiest mountain chain in the world, spreads over 16% of Indian geographical area along its northern boundary which is home to nearly 25% of the total indigenous communities of the country. These indigenous communities are repositories of a vast array of traditional knowledge. In the recent past, several factors such as increasing population, acculturation, globalization and more importantly climate change impinge on the sustainable development of the region. Scientific evidences indicate that the Himalayan region is warming more than the global average rate which may enhance the magnitude of natural hazards such as cloudbursts, avalanches, flash flood, Glacial Lake Outburst Floods, landslide/landslips and drought. The traditional institutions of indigenous communities across IHR such as Dzumsa, Kebang, Mei, Tso, Nyel, Putu, Menden, Buliang, Morung, Village Councils, Van/ Lath Panchayat, Amchi System (Sowa-Rigpa), Gowa Syiemship, Doloiship, Tangkhuls, Sacred Groves and so on reflect on the robust social capital in the region playing a significant role in sustainable utilization and management of local resources. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2014), India's Biological Diversity Act (2002) and Rules (2004) and Traditional Knowledge Digital Library (TKDL) recognize the potential of traditional/indigenous knowledge system that may help informing formal systems to respond to multiple challenges of present times more effectively. Studies on traditional farming, agroforestry, human-wildlife conflict management, agro-pastoralism, seed storage and exchange, ethno-mycology, health care systems and on many more aspects have been undertaken as part of larger ongoing Network Programme under National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE), one of 08 missions of India's National Action Plan on Climate Change. The paper will attempt to highlight some of the interesting yet preliminary findings of the programme.

**Keywords:** Climate Change, Traditional Knowledge Systems, Eco-cultural Zone, Knowledge Preservation & Protection, Best Practices