

## PREFACE



The majestic Himalaya, which breezes life into all inter-dependent components of ecological systems and environment, needs to be better understood, in particular, availability of 'data' helps in turning simple 'opinions' into 'facts'. And then, analysis of such data-based facts assist in revealing present patterns and predicting future figures. Realizing this fact, a new publication series of "ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology" is an attempt to collect, collate and synthesize available data/information on different aspects in the Indian Himalayan region.

The past and present status quo of various interlinked components such as demography, socio-economy, literacy, land, water, climate, natural resources reveals crucial cues about the past planning status, current pace of developments, and future growth prospects. In India, there exists a number of specialized government agencies and departments which collect and compile such datasets and make available in large volumes through various sources. Treating each Himalayan State as one independent entity, a compilation of these diverse theme-specific datasets in a condensed volume is likely to be more useful for a wide range of information seekers, users and stakeholders.

In the above context, "ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology" at G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development has prepared first informative issue on "Himachal Pradesh". This issue covers temporal trends across important segments, e.g., demography, literacy, land, water, agriculture, horticulture, forest cover, protected areas, weather profiles, etc., which would help in crucial decision-making and policy planning proactively.

I'm sure; this series of information booklets would be useful for comparative understanding of environment and developmental status of the Himalayan States and meeting the broader societal and environmental objectives in the region. I feel extremely happy in putting forward the first issue on "State at a Glance: Himachal Pradesh" and urge the valuable readers to provide comments and views so as to enable us further strengthen the forthcoming issues on other states of IHR. I take this opportunity to thank all colleagues in the Institute for their valuable contribution and MoEF&CC for their generous funding support. The critical review of this issue by readers will guide us to further improve in future.

With best wishes,

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Director

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