

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' that helps in turning simple 'opinions' into 'facts' and then, analyses of such data-base reveals present patterns and assist in future projections. Realizing this fact, a new publication series of "ENVIS Centre on Himalayan Ecology" has been initiated with an attempt to collect, collate and synthesize available data/information on different aspects in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

The past and present status of various interlinked components such as demography, socio-economy, literacy, land, water, climate, natural resources, etc. reveals crucial *cues* about the past planning status, current pace of development and future growth prospects. In India, there exist a number of specialized government agencies and departments which collect and compile such datasets and make them available through various mechanisms. In these endeavours, treating each Himalayan State as one independent entity and compilation of 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 this issue on "Jammu and Kashmir". This publication, the third in its series (as the first on Himachal Pradesh and second on Arunachal Pradesh) covers temporal trends across important segments, e.g., Society, Education, Health and Family welfare, Climate, Land, Water, Agriculture, Horticulture, Livestock, Forests, Minerals and Petroleum, Industry, Road and Transport profile, etc., which would help in crucial decision-making and policy planning proactively.

I am hopeful that this compendium based on secondary information would be useful for understanding of environment and developmental status of this Himalayan State and cater to the need of various stakeholders. I urge the readers to provide comments and views so as to enable us to further strengthen the forthcoming similar issues on other states of IHR. I take this opportunity to thank all colleagues in the Institute, particularly the ENVIS team 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 other similar publications in future.

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