

About the Side Event organized during CoP22

1. The 22nd session of Conference of Parties (CoP 22) in Marrakech, Morocco, the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD) organized a Side Event 'Impact of Climate Change on the Himalayan Ecosystem' so that the importance of Himalayan Ecosystem under changing climate scenario felt across the world.
2. The Minister of State (Independent Charge), Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India, Shri Anil Madav Dave, while addressing the gathering during this side event mentioned that the Himalaya is king of mountains but it has not received global attention as much it deserves. Therefore, efforts are being made to make Himalayan presence felt across the globe. Shri Dave mentioned that the Himalaya needs to be considered as a unit and integrated body all across its west to east extent and needs to be seen in a holistic manner. Himalaya is unique and complex system; any treatment with this system therefore requires proper understanding of uniqueness and complexity which is often missing with people/agencies who talk about the Himalaya.
3. The Secretary, Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Govt of India, Shri A.N. Jha, Recognizing the importance of Himalayan ecosystem for ecological security of the Indian sub-continent, the Government of India has accorded the Himalaya a high priority. In this context, under its National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), among on-going eight National Missions one 'National Mission for Sustaining Himalayan Ecosystem –NMSHE' specifically targets the issues of Himalayan sustainability under changing climate. However, recognizing that there is further need to understand this ecosystem more deeply, the Government of India through Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEF&CC) has launched the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) to support innovative studies towards the sustenance and enhancement of the natural and human capital in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).
4. Dr. P.P. Dhyani, Director GBPNIHESD, Dr. Kailash Chandra, Director Zoological Survey of India, Dr. R.S. Rawal, Scientist GBPNIHESD and Ms Neha Pahuja of the Energy Institute, through their panel presentations, highlighted the importance of Himalayan Ecosystem, the wide ranging implications of its increasing vulnerability to climate change, and the initiatives that are on to address challenges of climate change impacts on Himalayan Ecosystem.
5. As way forward of the event, Dr. P.P. Dhyani, Director GBPNIHESD, emphasized that the efforts need to continued for increasing awareness on Climate Change issues and making values of the Himalaya better recognized through global advocacy for proclaiming International Himalayan Year and Day, and Developing Network of Himalayan Partnerships. Also, vigorous follow-up needs to be ensured by engaging with multiple stakeholders for action at different levels.
6. The Side Event was attended by over 65 participants representing various parties and other stakeholders including Civil Society organizations and representative of business and private sector.