

Name of the Centre : **ENVIS Center on “Himalyan Ecology”**

Host Organisation : **G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development (GBPIHED), Almora, Uttarakhand**

Contact Person :

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Year of Establishment : **1993**

About Host Organisation

G.B. Pant Institute of Himalayan Environment and Development was established in August 1988 as an autonomous Institute of the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Government of India. The Institute is identified as focal agency to advance scientific knowledge, to evolve integrated management strategies, demonstrate their efficacy for conservation of natural resources and to ensure environmentally sound sustainable development in the entire Indian Himalaya in harmony with the local perceptions.

Apart from undertaking research and technology development the Institute has established linkages with National and International Organisations committed to environment and development issues in the mountain regions. The Institute's objectives include identification and strengthening of the local knowledge of the environment and its contribution towards strengthening research of regional relevance in the scientific Institutions/Universities/NGOs/ Voluntary agencies working in the Himalayan region.

Activities of the Centre

- The Centre on Himalayan Ecology is aimed to improve the well being and livelihood of present and future generations of people in mountains in general and Indian Himalaya in particular. GBPIHED collects, compiles, and disseminates information on Himalayan Ecology. The Centre is trying to integrate the available information in the ready to use form for the users of remote hilly regions in particular and for regional planning in broader perspective.
- Other activities of the Center are:
 - ◆ The center has developed a database which contains more than 1200 research papers/ articles/ technical reports exclusively on Himalayas. The database can be searched by entering a keyword, author's name, title etc.
 - ◆ A district database has been developed. It contains data of 95 districts of 12 Himalayan states of India. The database contains demographic parameters collected from secondary sources.

- ◆ An expert database has also been created which contains details of more than 250 experts working exclusively on Himalayas.
- ◆ The library of GBIHED has a collection of more than 600 books on Himalayas. A database on these books has been developed which can be searched by author, title of book, publisher, year, etc.

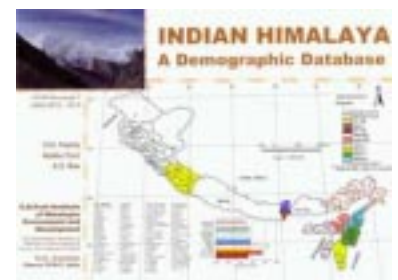
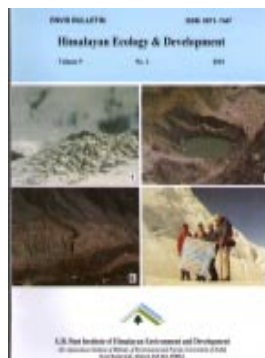
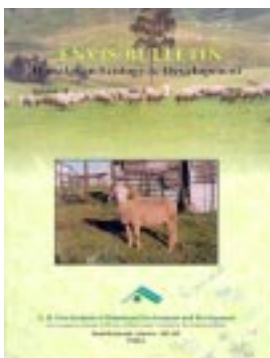
ENVIS Publications

○ ENVIS Bulletin

- ◆ The center publishes ENVIS Bulletin since 1993. The bulletin is a bi-annual non priced publication in English as well as Hindi.

○ Publications

- ◆ **Monograph:** The center has brought out 2 monographs namely;
 - ◆ Natural Resource Management and Development in Himalaya - A Recourse to Issues and Strategies in 1997 &
 - ◆ Indian Himalaya - A Demographic Database in 2000



Services

○ Abstracting Services

- ◆ District-wise demographic data of 95 districts of 12 Himalayan states for 2001 provisional census and selected parameters from 1951 to 1991 census for the respective districts is available at the institute. The center provides Bibliographic services to the scientists working on the problems related to Himalaya. Providing news-clippings service on environment related issues of Indian Himalayan region.

○ Query Answer Services

- ◆ ENVIS center on Himalayan Ecology provides query service to users. All requests for information are processed and replies are given enclosing information. When the desired information is not available, the institute provides source of information to the user. An average of 250 queries were answered per year.

GBPIHED Website (<http://gbpihed.nic.in/envis/envis.html>)

- The site gives brief introduction of the Institute, Ministry and ENVIS. A link is provided to publications which lists out ENVIS Bulletin of the institute till 2002. The site also provides link to MIS/GIS of Himalayas where the GIS application has been used to give geographical information on Indian Himalayan region. A link is given to Environmental MIS which is a hub on Electronic Journal, Patents, Research Projects, Technical Reports Meta Sources and Expert Directories. Searching any specific topic and a guest book for putting comments from the user about the information provided in the site have been included.



Future Plans

- The ENVIS centre at GBPIHED will extend networking with other data collection agencies and develop suitable information technologies for speedy collection and access of data, dissemination of information, which could be shared for broader use.
- Strengthening of spatial database with additional information. The spatial information of block level data and different time-frame attribute data may be integrated through GIS for resource planning in Himalaya.

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- All the information would be available through the website, and user can browse and search/download ENVIS databases through internet.
 - Landuse and landcover change analysis from different time-series, district level data of Indian Himalaya for decision making and planning purpose in the region.
 - Effective communication with other ENVIS Centres for enhancing the collection and management of data and develop a common protocol to store, manage, and retrieval of information for seamless data exchange among users and ENVIS Centres.
 - Strengthening information distribution particularly news clippings on Himalayas more frequently probably in bilingual mode.