

Him-CONNECT 2026, Objectives, Features, Significance, NMHS

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Him-CONNECT is a strategic initiative launched by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change on the sidelines of the **World Sustainable Development Summit 2026** in New Delhi from 25-27 February 2026. It is designed to connect Himalayan research with industry, policy and finance ecosystems. The platform focuses on scaling innovations developed under the **National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)** for sustainable development in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Him-CONNECT Objectives

Him-CONNECT aims to create a collaborative ecosystem linking science, enterprise and governance for Himalayan sustainability. It promotes innovation adoption, partnerships and funding access.

- The platform presents NMHS supported technologies, prototypes and patents to demonstrate their practical application in sectors like water, energy and livelihoods for real world deployment.
- It enables start ups and enterprises to adopt and scale research outputs, ensuring scientific innovations transition from laboratories to commercially viable and field ready solutions.

- Him-CONNECT facilitates connections with investors, incubators and funding agencies, creating structured pathways for financing, mentorship and long term sustainability of innovations.
- The initiative strengthens coordination between policymakers, industry leaders and communities to align development strategies with environmental sustainability in mountain regions.

Him-CONNECT Features

Him-CONNECT functions as a curated innovation platform showcasing technologies and enabling collaboration among stakeholders through exhibitions, discussions and investment engagement.

- Innovation: More than 24 technologies, patents and pilot projects developed under NMHS are displayed, focusing on areas like climate adaptation, water security and waste management.
- Institutional Participation: Innovations are presented by premier institutions including IITs (Guwahati, Roorkee, Jodhpur, Jammu, Ropar, Mandi), CSIR, NITs, Central Agricultural University and other universities.
- Stakeholder Engagement: Over 100 start ups, investors, incubators, policymakers and industry representatives participate, creating a diverse ecosystem for collaboration and knowledge exchange.
- Thematic Coverage: Solutions span sectors such as **Renewable Energy**, **Sustainable Construction**, **Bio Resources**, **Waste to Wealth** and **Climate Resilient Infrastructure** tailored for Himalayan conditions.
- Innovations: Technologies include eco friendly road construction, **hydroponic farming** using treated wastewater, pine needle wastewater treatment, yak milk processing and low cost water purification systems.
- Knowledge Exchange: Activities like flash talks and mentorship sessions allow innovators to present ideas, refine business models and explore regulatory and market pathways.

Him-CONNECT Significance

Him-CONNECT plays a crucial role in bridging the gap between research and real world implementation in the fragile Himalayan ecosystem while supporting sustainable development goals.

- Strengthening Innovation Ecosystem: It connects research institutions with markets, ensuring NMHS supported innovations move beyond prototypes into scalable and impactful solutions for regional challenges.
- Climate Resilience: By focusing on climate adaptation technologies and sustainable practices, the platform contributes to resilience in the Himalayan region, which acts as a climate regulator for Asia.
- Economic Opportunities: Promotion of green enterprises and local innovations supports livelihood generation, reduces out migration and builds self reliant mountain economies aligned with national development goals.
- Global Relevance: Him-CONNECT reflects India's commitment to climate leadership and **South-South Cooperation** by offering scalable models for other mountain and fragile ecosystems worldwide.
- Policy Integration: It enables evidence based policymaking by linking scientific research with governance frameworks, ensuring sustainable resource management and environmental conservation.
- Impact: By aligning science, finance and policy, Him-CONNECT accelerates the transition of innovations into practical applications, enhancing ecological sustainability and community well being in the Himalayas.

National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

The National Mission on Himalayan Studies is a flagship initiative of the Ministry of Environment, Forest and **Climate Change** launched in 2015-16 to address environmental, developmental and climate challenges of the **Indian Himalayan Region**.

- Vision and Mission: NMHS aims to sustain and enhance ecological, natural, cultural and socio-economic assets of the Himalaya through innovative research and knowledge based interventions supporting long term environmental security and livelihoods.
- Geographic Scope: The Mission covers **11 Himalayan States** as well as **2 Union Territories** and addresses the interaction between fragile ecosystems and socio-economic aspirations of communities dependent on mountain resources.
- Achievements: Over 250 action research and demonstration projects have been supported, along with 175 Himalayan Research Fellowships, leading to patents, publications and technologies such as water purification and eco-friendly construction.
- Community Engagement: Establishment of **Him-Nature Learning Centres** has strengthened environmental education, capacity building and local participation through initiatives like ecotourism, agroforestry and spring rejuvenation models.
- Economic and Policy Impact: The Mission promotes green enterprises, skill development and resource efficient technologies aligned with **Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan**, supporting sustainable livelihoods and policy integration for mountain development.
- Strategic Importance: NMHS contributes to **India's climate action**, biodiversity conservation and **Sustainable Development Goals** while advancing the vision of climate resilient growth under **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

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