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Role of EIACP Activities in Sustainable Mountain Development & Environmental Awareness

Editor's Note



It is a pleasure to present this quarterly edition of the EIACP Newsletter of the EIACP Centre at the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora. This issue highlights the role of EIACP activities in promoting sustainable mountain development and strengthening environmental awareness across the Himalayan region. As you go through the newsletter, you will find reflections of our efforts over the past few months—ranging from awareness programmes and outreach activities to exhibitions and collaborative engagements with diverse stakeholders. This quarter has been marked by meaningful initiatives aimed at disseminating environmental information, encouraging responsible environmental behaviour, and promoting sustainable lifestyles aligned with the vision of Mission LiFE. Each activity reflects our commitment to connecting people with nature and fostering greater understanding of the ecological significance of the Himalayas. What makes these initiatives truly encouraging is the enthusiasm of participants and the dedication of our team and partners, whose efforts continue to translate ideas into impactful actions on the ground. As we move forward, we remain committed to strengthening the link between science, society, and sustainability, and to inspiring collective action for a cleaner, healthier, and more resilient Himalayan region.

Warm regards,
Er. Mahendra Singh Lodhi
EIACP, Coordinator





EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology

EIACP Newsletter

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The "EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology" is housed at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, Uttarakhand, which is an autonomous Institute of Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change (MoEF&CC), Government of India, New Delhi, India.

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The "EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology" collects, collates, compiles and builds quantitative and qualitative databases of information in the fields related to the Himalayan Ecology. The information is disseminated regularly via online as well as hardcopies to several valuable stakeholders and various users such as DICs, universities, institutions along with other EIACP Centres across India to support overall Environmental Information System in India.

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OCTOBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

National Wildlife Week 2025



Date: 07 October, 2025

Venue: Campus School, Almora

Participants: 25

The EIACP Centre observed National Wildlife Week 2025 by organizing an awareness programme for school students at Campus School, Almora, with the aim of fostering environmental consciousness and promoting wildlife conservation among young minds. An informative lecture was delivered by Dr. Ravindra K. Joshi, who emphasized the critical role of wildlife in maintaining ecological balance and sustaining life-supporting ecosystems. He highlighted the importance of biodiversity conservation

and stressed the need for harmonious coexistence between humans and wildlife, particularly in the face of growing environmental challenges. The session encouraged interactive participation, with students actively engaging in discussions and gaining valuable insights into conservation ethics, wildlife protection, and individual responsibility towards nature. The programme successfully enhanced students' understanding of the importance of protecting wildlife and preserving natural habitats for future generations. The event concluded with a strong message reinforcing that awareness, education, and responsible action are key to ensuring the conservation of India's rich wildlife heritage.

Waste Segregation Initiative under Seva Parv

Date: 31 October, 2025

Venue: Kosi Market, Almora

Participants: 45

Partner: Vyapar Mandal, Kosi

Under the Seva Parv initiative, the EIACP Centre carried out a waste segregation activity at Kosi Market, Almora, to promote proper waste management practices in market areas. As part of the activity, four dustbins were installed to facilitate the segregation of biodegradable and non-biodegradable waste. An awareness interaction was held with shopkeepers to sensitize them to the importance of segregation at source and its role in maintaining cleanliness and hygiene in public spaces. The shopkeepers were informed about how proper segregation enables efficient waste collection and disposal, minimizes littering, and fosters environmentally responsible practices. The initiative received active cooperation from the Vyapar Mandal, Kosi, which supported the smooth execution of the activity. The programme also aimed to encourage long-term behavioral change among market stakeholders by promoting daily segregation habits. It emphasized that small, consistent efforts can lead to cleaner and more sustainable surroundings. The initiative highlighted the role of local market communities in strengthening municipal waste management efforts and underlined that sustained awareness and consistent use of segregation bins are crucial for lasting environmental improvement.



NOVEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

MISSION LIFE & EDUCATION



Mission LiFE Awareness Programme

Date: 07 November, 2025

Venue: GBP-NIHE, Almora

Participants: 105

Partner: PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kausani

The EIACP Centre organized a Mission LiFE Awareness Programme to inspire students to live more sustainably and take small, meaningful steps toward protecting the environment. The initiative encouraged participants to see how everyday choices can make a big difference when it comes to building a greener future. Focusing on the seven themes of Mission LiFE, the sessions motivated students to understand, embrace, and bring eco-friendly habits into their daily lives through simple and practical actions. The programme featured interactive sessions and real-life examples that helped students relate sustainability to their daily lives. Discussions on water and energy conservation, waste reduction, curbing single-use plastics, sustainable diets, and e-waste management inspired practical change. Facilitators shared stories showcasing how small actions lead to collective impact. Students reflected on their habits and explored ways to reduce their ecological footprint. Simple steps like using reusable bottles, saving energy, and composting were highlighted as effective measures. The sessions encouraged teamwork and responsibility toward environmental care. The event concluded with a collective pledge to adopt eco-friendly lifestyles. It left a lasting message that sustainable living begins with awareness and shared commitment.

Educational Tour to Surya Kunj

(Ex-situ Conservation Site)

Venue: Surya Kunj, GBP-NIHE

Participants: 105

Partner: PM SHRI Kendriya Vidyalaya, Kausani

As part of its educational outreach activities, students visited Surya Kunj, the ex-situ conservation site of GBPNiHE, Kosi, for an enriching learning experience in a natural setting. The visit provided hands-on exposure to biodiversity conservation and environmental stewardship beyond the classroom. Dr. Ravindra K. Joshi guided the students and introduced them to the rich Himalayan biodiversity. He emphasized the importance of conserving native plant species that support fragile mountain ecosystems. Students observed ongoing conservation practices while walking through the green landscape of the site. The interaction helped them understand the concept of ecological balance in a practical manner. A special session on butterflies highlighted their life cycle and ecological significance. Students also learned to identify common Himalayan butterfly species. The engaging discussions and field observations generated curiosity and enthusiasm among participants. The visit concluded with students gaining a deeper connection with nature and a strengthened sense of environmental responsibility.



NOVEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

CAPACITY BUILDING & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

Capacity Building on NTFP-Based Livelihood Development

Date: 04-07 November, 2025

Venue: Dharchula, Pithoragarh

Participants: 40



The EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology at G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Almora, organised a four-day Capacity Building Programme on “NTFP Product Development, Value Addition, and Market Linkages for Livelihood Diversification” in the border villages of Dharchula, Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand, from 04–07 November 2025. The programme brought together 40 participants—mainly rural women, self-help group (SHG) members, youth,

and forest-dependent families—aiming to enhance community skills in non-timber forest product (NTFP) utilization and enterprise development. The event was inaugurated by Mr. Lalit Mohan Goswami, Block Development Officer, Dharchula, who highlighted the rich NTFP potential of border villages and encouraged participants to engage in value addition for better income opportunities. Mr. Vikram Gandhi, Assistant Development Officer (Horticulture), joined as Guest of Honour and shared insights on emerging market avenues and relevant government schemes. Dr. Shailja Punetha, Scientist, GBPNIHE Almora, served as a key resource person, guiding participants on medicinal and aromatic plants, sustainable harvesting, and product development. Mr. Suraj, Assistant Agriculture Officer, Dharchula, conducted sessions on value addition and market strategies. Participants received hands-on training in harvesting, processing, quality control, packaging, and product diversification, along with guidance on entrepreneurship, SHG-based enterprises, and market linkages through fairs, tourist centres, herbal buyers, and digital platforms. The programme concluded with a field exposure visit, product showcase, and certificate distribution ceremony, leaving participants motivated and equipped with new skills for sustainable livelihood diversification in the fragile Himalayan border region.



NOVEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

Capacity Building on Pine Needle (Pirul) Utilization Programme

Date: 19-22 November, 2025

Venue: Rural Technology Complex (RTC), GBP-NIHE, Almora

Participants: 40

The EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology, G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment organised a four-day Capacity Building Programme on Value Addition and Livelihood Generation through Pine Needle (Pirul) Utilization at RTC, Kosi, Almora from 19 to 22 November 2025. The programme engaged 40 participants, mainly rural women and local villagers, to transform pine needle waste into eco-friendly handmade paper and products. The programme was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Shri Rahmutullah, Block Mission Manager, Hawalbagh, who emphasized women's role in sustainable livelihoods, while Mr. Deepak Bisht, Chairman, SPARDHA, graced the occasion as Guest of Honour. Key technical inputs were provided by Dr. Devendra Chauhan on handmade paper products and Dr. Lalit Giri on ecological benefits of Pirul utilization. Resource persons Dr. Ravindra Joshi and Ms. Geeta Pant, popularly known as the "Pirul Girl of Uttarakhand," guided participants through PRA, processing techniques, and creative product development. Participants learned collection, processing, pulp making, product diversification, branding, and market linkage strategies through hands-on sessions and field exposure visits. The programme concluded with a product showcase and certificate distribution, leaving participants confident to start Pirul-based enterprises. The initiative not only opened new livelihood opportunities but also contributed to forest fire mitigation and sustainable mountain development.



NOVEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

EXHIBITIONS & OUTREACH

LiFE Exhibition on Green Livelihoods - Himalayan Conclave 2025

Date: 13-15 November, 2025

Venue: GBP-NIHE, Almora

Participants: 925



As part of the Himalayan Conclave 2025, the EIACP Centre organised a three-day exhibition to showcase innovative green livelihood models aligned with the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) initiative. The exhibition served as a vibrant platform for sharing sustainable practices and community-driven solutions that promote environmentally responsible living and inspire collective action for a greener future. A total of 23 stalls were set up by trainees and partner institutions, displaying a wide range of eco-friendly products, including handmade items, nature-based goods, and low-carbon alternatives. These exhibits highlighted how traditional knowledge, when combined with modern techniques, can create sustainable livelihood opportunities. The stalls reflected the Centre's continuous efforts to link capacity building with real market exposure, enabling participants to gain confidence in product presentation, communication, and customer interaction. The exhibition was inaugurated by

Ms. Namita Prasad, Joint Secretary, MoEF&CC, who appreciated the Centre's proactive role in promoting sustainable technologies, strengthening local livelihoods, and encouraging responsible consumption among citizens. Her presence added significance to the event and motivated participants to scale up their green initiatives. Throughout the three days, the exhibition witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, researchers, entrepreneurs, officials, and members of the general public. Interactive discussions at the stalls helped visitors understand the environmental benefits and socio-economic impact of green products, while exhibitors received valuable feedback to improve quality and market readiness. The event thus acted not only as a display platform but also as a learning and networking space. Overall, the exhibition emerged as a key outreach activity of the Conclave, reinforcing the message of Mission LiFE and demonstrating how sustainable lifestyles and green livelihoods can go hand in hand in building resilient mountain communities.



NOVEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

Pride of India Expo & State Science Conference 2025

Date: 28-30 November, 2025

Venue: Graphic Era Deemed University, Dehradun

Participants: 15,125



The EIACP Centre actively participated in the 20th Uttarakhand State Science and Technology Conference and the Pride of India Expo 2025, a major state-level platform bringing together innovators, institutions, and the wider public. Through its exhibition stall, the Centre showcased eco-friendly innovations and products developed under its Capacity Building and GSDP programmes. The display highlighted sustainable alternatives, green skills, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern techniques. Visitors showed keen interest and interacted with the team to understand how these models could be replicated for environmental conservation and livelihood enhancement, especially in hill regions. The Centre's stall received encouraging appreciation from distinguished visitors, including former Chief Minister Shri Ramesh Chandra Pokhriyal. The event was organised by UCOST and was attended by Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami and Hon'ble Union Minister Shri Jitendra Singh, providing national-level visibility to the Centre's outreach efforts. Overall, the participation strengthened public engagement and reaffirmed the Centre's commitment to promoting sustainable, community-based innovations.

DECEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS

Mission LiFE Awareness



Date: 09 December, 2025
 Venue: NILC, GBP-NIHE, Almora
 Participants: 25

The EIACP Centre briefly introduced Mission LiFE to 25 students from GIC Jyoli (Almora) who visited NILC, GBP-NIHE. The students were sensitized about adopting eco-friendly lifestyles and sustainable practices. They interacted during the session and shared their views on environmental protection. The activity concluded with a Mission LiFE pledge, encouraging them to act responsibly towards nature.

International Mountain Day 2025

INTERNATIONAL MOUNTAIN DAY 2025

GLACIERS MATTER FOR WATER, FOOD AND LIVELIHOODS IN MOUNTAINS AND BEYOND

69% of Earth's freshwater is stored in glaciers and ice sheets.

5% of global glacier ice has already melted since 2000.

270 billion tonnes of glacier ice are lost each year, raising seas and risking water security.

60% of global river flow comes from mountain "water towers."

1.9 billion people depend on glacier and snow-fed rivers for daily water needs.

EIACP Center on Himalayan Ecology
 G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment
 Kosi-Katarmal, Almora

Date: 11 December, 2025
 Venue: GBP-NIHE, Almora
 Participants: 212



On International Mountain Day 2025, the EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology at the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment, Almora, contributed to the celebration through creative awareness activities. The Centre designed a thematic infographic on the theme "Glaciers Matter for Water, Food and Livelihoods in Mountains and Beyond," highlighting the vital role of glaciers in sustaining rivers, agriculture, and mountain communities while drawing attention to the effects of glacier melt on water security and climate resilience. A photography competition organized by the Mountain Division further promoted appreciation of mountain ecosystems and reinforced the Institute's commitment to sustainable mountain development.

DECEMBER 2025 | HIGHLIGHTS



MISSION LIFE, Parisha pe Charcha & Green Practices in School

Date: 18 December, 2025
 Venue: GIC Shitlakhet, Almora
 Participants: 319

The EIACP Centre of the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBP-NIHE), Kosi-Katarmal, Almora, organized an awareness workshop at Shaheed Mohan Singh Jeena Government Inter College, Shitlakhet (Almora) under the Institute's outreach activities. The programme was conducted in alignment with the 9th edition of "Pariksha Pe Charcha", along with the themes of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) and Green School development. The programme began with a welcome address by Er. M. S. Lodhi, Senior Scientist and Coordinator, EIACP Centre, who highlighted the vision of Pariksha Pe Charcha initiated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister to reduce exam stress and promote joyful learning. Dr. Maheshanand, Programme Officer, EIACP, delivered a session on Mission



LiFE, emphasizing environmentally responsible lifestyles and the impact of human activities on nature. Dr. R. K. Joshi, Project Coordinator, HI-REAP, presented the concept of Green Schools, covering key components such as environmental conservation, energy conservation, water management, waste management, and promoting greenery on campus, along with practices like renewable energy use, rainwater harvesting, plantation, and plastic-free environments. The Principal, Dr. D. R. Arya, and teachers expressed gratitude to the Institute and encouraged students to actively contribute towards a green and sustainable school environment. At the conclusion, Shri Kamal Teta facilitated the registration of teachers, students, and parents on the Pariksha Pe Charcha portal. The programme was supported by the EIACP team, including Shri Rohan Singh Bhakuni and Shri Hem Tiwari, and witnessed participation of 319 teachers, students, and local parents. The Director of GBPNIHE appreciated the EIACP Centre for organizing the awareness activity.



JANUARY 2026 | HIGHLIGHTS

Mission LiFE Awareness & Sensitisation Programmes

Date: 02 & 14-21 January, 2026

Venue: GBPNiHE Almora, GGIC Bageshwar, GIC Lolti, GHSS Sunaun, GIC Tharali, PM Shri GIC Narayanbagar, PM Shri GIC Pipalkoti (Chamoli), Jyotirmath, Selang, Chinka and Bageshwar district

Participants: 1295

The EIACP Centre organised a series of awareness programmes for students and local communities focusing on the seven themes of Mission LiFE. The sessions highlighted sustainable lifestyles, eco-friendly practices, waste management and responsible environmental behaviour. Through interactive discussions and community engagement, participants were sensitised about how small actions can collectively contribute to environmental conservation. The programmes concluded with a Mission LiFE pledge, encouraging participants to adopt sustainable practices in their daily lives.



Swachhata Hi Seva Awareness Programme

Date: 15-16 January, 2026

Venue: Uttarayani Kauthig (Mela), Bageshwar

Participants: 2,565

The EIACP Centre conducted a large-scale awareness programme during the Utrani–Kotik fair to promote cleanliness, waste segregation and responsible waste disposal among local community members, vendors and visitors. The initiative encouraged collective responsibility for maintaining a clean and environmentally sustainable public space.

Plantation Drive under Mission LiFE

Date: 19 & 26 January 2026

Venue: GBP-NIHE, Almora

Participants: 253

The EIACP Centre actively participated in plantation drives under the Mission LiFE initiative with the involvement of scientists, researchers and supporting staff. More than 280 saplings were planted to promote environmentally responsible lifestyles and strengthen collective action towards ecological sustainability.



FEBRUARY 2026 | HIGHLIGHTS

Mission LiFE Awareness Programmes

Date: 02, 03, 05, 06, 09, 11, 20, 23 & 24 February, 2026

Venue: PM Shri GIC Garurabanj, Govt. Polytechnic Danya, PM Shri KV Almore, PM Shri GIC Jainoli, PM Shri Atal Utkrisht GIC Bhujan and PM Shri KV Ranikhet

Participants: 1,205



The EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology, GBPNIHE organised a series of awareness programmes in collaboration with various PM Shri institutions and educational institutes across Almora district. The programmes aimed to sensitise students and faculty members about the importance of adopting sustainable and environmentally responsible lifestyles. During the sessions, the key themes of Mission LiFE—energy conservation, water conservation, waste reduction, avoidance of single-use plastics, sustainable food habits, healthy lifestyles and responsible e-waste management—were discussed in an engaging and practical manner. Real-life examples and simple steps were shared to demonstrate how small behavioural changes can collectively contribute to environmental protection. The programmes witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, teachers and staff members. Interactive discussions and awareness talks encouraged participants to reflect on their responsibilities towards nature. The sessions concluded with a collective Mission LiFE pledge, reaffirming their commitment to adopt eco-friendly practices and spread environmental awareness in their communities.

FEBRUARY 2026 | HIGHLIGHTS

HIM-CONNECT Exhibition – (WSDS) 2026

Date: 25-27 February, 2026

Venue: Taj Palace, New Delhi

Participants: 989



The EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology, GBPNiHE actively participated in the HIM-CONNECT Exhibition organised alongside the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026. The exhibition brought together a wide range of stakeholders, institutions and organisations working towards sustainable development, environmental conservation and climate resilience. During the event, the Centre set up an informative and engaging stall showcasing its key initiatives and activities. The display highlighted the Centre's work under the Green Skill Development Programmes (GSDP) and various Mission LiFE products, reflecting ongoing efforts to promote sustainable practices, ecological restoration and climate resilience in the Indian Himalayan Region. The stall also served as a platform to share knowledge and raise awareness among visitors about the importance of environmentally responsible lifestyles and community-based conservation efforts. Visitors from different institutions, organisations and academic backgrounds interacted with the EIACP team and learned about the Centre's initiatives aimed at strengthening environmental awareness, skill development and sustainable livelihood opportunities in the Himalayan region. A major highlight of the event was the visit of the Hon'ble Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Shri Bhupendra Yadav, who inaugurated the HIM-CONNECT Exhibition and visited the EIACP stall. During his visit, he appreciated the Centre's efforts in promoting green skills and strengthening environmental awareness among Himalayan communities, while encouraging continued initiatives towards sustainable development and environmental stewardship.

Role of EIACP Activities Environmental Awareness for Sustainable Mountain Futures



Mahesha Nand, Kamal Kishore Tamta, Rohan Singh Bhakuni & Hem Tiwari ; GBP-NIHE, Almora

Mountain ecosystems are vital for biodiversity conservation, water security, and livelihoods for millions of people. However, increasing environmental pressures such as climate change, resource degradation, and unsustainable development pose serious challenges to these fragile landscapes. Promoting environmental awareness and sustainable practices is therefore essential for the long-term conservation of mountain ecosystems. The Environmental Information, Awareness, Capacity Building and Livelihood Programme (EIACP) plays an important role in strengthening environmental awareness and promoting sustainable development in the Indian Himalayan Region. The EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology at the G. B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment (GBPNIHE), Almora, actively works towards disseminating environmental information, engaging stakeholders, and encouraging environmentally responsible practices.

Environmental Information Dissemination

One of the key objectives of the EIACP Centre is to collect, compile, and disseminate environmental information related to Himalayan ecology. Through its digital platforms, newsletters, publications, and knowledge-sharing initiatives, the Centre provides updated information on issues such as biodiversity conservation, climate change, and sustainable natural resource management. These efforts help researchers, students, policymakers, and the general public gain better understanding of environmental challenges in the Himalayan region.

Awareness and Outreach Initiatives

The EIACP Centre regularly organizes awareness programmes, exhibitions, and outreach activities to engage different stakeholders in environmental conservation. Such initiatives help bridge the gap between scientific research and society by promoting awareness about ecological sustainability and responsible environmental behaviour. These outreach activities

encourage communities, institutions, and young learners to actively participate in environmental protection and sustainable development efforts.

Participation in National Platforms

The EIACP Centre also contributes to environmental awareness through participation in national platforms and exhibitions. A notable example was the Centre's participation in the HIM-CONNECT Exhibition organised alongside the World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2026 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. During the exhibition, the Centre set up an informative stall showcasing its initiatives related to environmental awareness, sustainable practices, and community-based livelihood activities in the Himalayan region. The display highlighted eco-friendly livelihood products and initiatives aligned with the principles of Mission LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment).

The exhibition brought together a diverse range of institutions, organisations, and stakeholders working towards sustainable development, environmental conservation, and climate resilience. Visitors interacted with the EIACP team and gained insights into the Centre's initiatives aimed at promoting environmental awareness and sustainable livelihoods in mountain communities.

Promoting Sustainable Mountain Development

Through its activities, the EIACP Centre contributes to strengthening environmental awareness, encouraging sustainable lifestyles, and supporting community-based livelihood opportunities in the Himalayan region. By facilitating knowledge dissemination and stakeholder engagement, the Centre plays an important role in promoting sustainable mountain development and environmental stewardship.



अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस और इसका महत्व

महेश चन्द्र सती

वरिष्ठ तकनीकी अधिकारी, गो.ब.प. राष्ट्रीय हिमालयी पर्यावरण संस्थान, कोसी कटारमल, अल्मोड़ा, उत्तराखण्ड

अगर दुनिया में पहाड़ नहीं होते तो ना तो इसमें दुनिया और ना ही जन जीवन की कल्पना की जा सकती थी। आज मानव जाति को जीवन के हर क्षेत्र में उचित सामंजस्य स्थापित करने के लिए पहाड़ों पर ही निर्भर होना पड़ता है। जैसा कि हम सब जानते हैं कि पहाड़ दुनिया की कुल आबादी का 15 प्रतिशत हैं जो दुनिया की आधी जैव विविधता हॉटस्पॉट की मेजबानी करते हैं। पहाड़ों का संरक्षण मानव जाति के लिए ही नहीं बल्कि सम्पूर्ण पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र के लिए बहुत आवश्यक है। बढ़ती जैव विविधता जनसंख्या और संसाधनों के बीच उचित सामंजस्य स्थापित करने के लिए और क्षेत्र के वन्य जीवन को संरक्षित करने तथा जन समुदाय को जागरूक करने के उद्देश्य से प्रति वर्ष अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस का आयोजन किया जाता है।



अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस की उत्पत्ति

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस को मनाने की शुरुआत वर्ष 1992 से हुई। पर्यावरण और विकास पर संयुक्त राष्ट्र सम्मेलन में एजेंडा 21 के चैप्टर 13 जो नाजुक पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र का प्रबंधन, सतत पर्वतीय विकास था, पर चर्चा के उपरान्त दुनिया का ध्यान इस ओर गया कि पर्वतों का संरक्षण हमारे लिए कितना जरूरी है। संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ ने मानव जीवन में पहाड़ों के महत्व और इनकी अहम भूमिका को समझने और संरक्षित करने करने के लिए अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस को मनाने की शुरुआत की और

वर्ष 2002 को अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस घोषित हुआ। 20 दिसम्बर 2002 को अधिकारिक रूप से संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा इसे नामित किया गया। तदोपरान्त 11 दिसम्बर 2003 को प्रथम अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस मनाया गया। वर्ष 2003 से प्रकृति की याद दिलाने के लिए प्रतिवर्ष 11 दिसंबर को अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस मनाया जाता है। जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य अंतरराष्ट्रीय समुदाय से सतत पर्वतीय विकास सुनिश्चित करने और पहाड़ों के संरक्षण को सुनिश्चित करना है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस की थीम

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा प्रत्येक वर्ष अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस हेतु एक विषय दिया जाता है जिसे उस वर्ष हेतु उसकी थीम कहा जाता है। जिसे आधार मानकर सभी राष्ट्रों द्वारा उस वर्ष मानव और पर्वतों के मध्य उचित सामंजस्य बनाकर कार्य किया जाता है।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र महासभा द्वारा अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस हेतु वर्ष 2003 से लेकर अब तक दी गयी थीमें इस प्रकार हैं -

- वर्ष 2003 की थीम माउंटेन सोर्सस ऑफ़ फ्रेशवाटर थी जो जल संरक्षण हेतु जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2004 की थीम पीस: की टू सस्टेनेबल माउंटेन डेवलपमेंट थी जो पर्वतों के विकास हेतु जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2005 की थीम सस्टेनेबल टूरिज्म फॉर पावर्टी ऐलीवीएशन इन माउंटेन एरिया थी जो पर्वतों के संरक्षण और विकास में जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2006 की थीम मैनेजिंग माउंटेन बायोडायवर्सिटी फॉर बेटर लिक्स थी और जैवविविधता के संरक्षण में जन जागरूक करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2007 की थीम फेसिंग चेंज: क्लाइमेट चेंज इन माउंटेन एरिया थी जो पर्वतों के संरक्षण और उनको बचाने हेतु प्रयास से सम्बन्धित थी।
- वर्ष 2008 की थीम फूड सिक्योरिटी इन माउंटेन थी जो पर्वतों के विकास और इनसे पैदा होने वाले खाद्य पदार्थों की सुरक्षा के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2009 की थीम डिजास्टर रिस्क मैनेजमेंट

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस और इसका महत्व

इन माउंटेन थी जो पर्वतों के संरक्षण के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।

- वर्ष 2010 की थीम माउंटेन माइनोंरिटीज एंड इंडिजेनस पीपल थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य जन जातीय लोगों को पर्वतों के प्रति जागरूक करना था।
- वर्ष 2011 की थीम माउंटेन एंड फारेस्ट थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य लोगों को पर्वतों और वनों के संरक्षण के प्रति जागरूक करना था।
- वर्ष 2012 की थीम सस्टेनेबल माउंटेन डेवलपमेंट थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य लोगों को पर्वतों के सतत विकास के प्रति जागरूक करना था।
- वर्ष 2013 की थीम माउंटेन: की टू ए सस्टेनेबल फ्यूचर थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य पर्वतों का मानव जीवन में महत्व के प्रति जागरूक करना था।
- वर्ष 2014 की थीम माउंटेन फार्मिंग थी जो पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में कृषि के प्रति जन जागरूक करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2015 की थीम प्रमोटिंग माउंटेन प्रोडक्ट्स फॉर बेटर लिवलीहुड्स थी जो पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में उत्पन्न होने वाले विभिन्न वस्तुओं के उत्पादन संरक्षण में जागरूक करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2016 की थीम माउंटेन कल्चर: सेलेब्रेटिंग डाइवर्सिटी एंड स्ट्रेंथेनिंग आइडेंटिफाई थी जो पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों की संस्कृति और उसके संरक्षण के लिए जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2017 की थीम माउंटेन अंडर प्रेशर: क्लाइमेट हंगर माइग्रेशन थी जो पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों की जलवायु से हो रहे पलायन में जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2018 की थीम माउंटेन मैटर्स थी जो पर्वतों और इनके संरक्षण में जागरूकता पैदा करने हेतु थी।
- वर्ष 2019 की थीम माउंटेन मैटर्स फॉर यूथ थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य युवा पीढ़ी को पर्वतों के प्रति जागरूक करना था।
- वर्ष 2020 की थीम माउंटेन बायोडाइवर्सिटी थी जो पहाड़ों की विविधता और उन पर आने वाले संकटों पर केंद्रित थी।
- वर्ष 2021 की थीम सस्टेनेबल माउंटेन टूरिज्म

थी जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य पर्यटन के प्रति जनमानस की पहुंच बनाना था।

- वर्ष 2022 की थीम वीमेन मूव माउंटेन थी जो महिलाओं को सशक्त बनाने और उनकी क्षमता विकास को बढ़ाने के लिए थी।
- वर्ष 2023 की थीम रेस्टोरिंग माउंटेन इकोसिस्टम थी। जिसका मुख्य उद्देश्य पहाड़ों के संरक्षण और मानवीय किर्याकलापों से इन्हें पहुंचे नुकसान की क्षति को पूर्ण करना था।
- वर्ष 2024 की थीम माउंटेन सोल्युशंस फॉर ए सस्टेनेबल फ्यूचर थी। जिसका उद्देश्य पहाड़ों के माध्यम से पर्वतीय समुदायों को सशक्त बनाने और पर्वतों के जीवन में महत्व के बारे में जागरूकता बढ़ाना है।
- वर्ष 2025 की थीम ग्लेशियर मैटर्स फॉर वॉटर फूड एण्ड लिवलीहुड्स इन माउंटेन एण्ड बिऑन्ड है। जिसका उद्देश्य हिमालयी क्षेत्रों ग्लेशियरों के संरक्षण और संवर्धन हेतु अधिक से अधिक जन जागरूकता बढ़ाना है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस का महत्व और लाभ

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस को मनाने का मुख्य कारण यह है कि बहुत सारे जीव जंतुओं और पादपों का जीवन पर्वतों से जुड़ा हुआ है। जलवायु और भूमिगत परिवर्तनों के कारण पर्वतों की भौगोलिक स्थिति में निरन्तर परिवर्तन आता जा रहा है। पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों के समुचित विकास के लिए इन क्षेत्रों में पर्यावरण संरक्षण होना अति आवश्यक है। पर्वतों से प्रत्यक्ष और अप्रत्यक्ष रूप से जुड़े सभी लोग पर्वतों के प्रति अपने दायित्वों को समझें और उनके संरक्षण और संवर्धन के लिए कार्य करें। पर्वतों से निम्न मुख्य लाभ हैं-

- पहाड़ प्रकृति द्वारा रचित सबसे खूबसूरत संरचनाओं में एक हैं। जो ढाल बनकर राष्ट्र की विषम परिस्थितियों में रक्षा करते हैं।
- पहाड़ का पारिस्थितिकी तंत्र जैव विविधता संरक्षण में महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाता है।
- पहाड़ जल चक्र में भी अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस और इसका महत्व



निभाते हैं इनसे उत्पन्न होने वाले पानी का पीने, सिंचाई, बिजली इत्यादि रूपों में प्रयोग होता है।

- पहाड़ों में पैदा होने वाली लकड़ी का ईंधन, फर्नीचर इत्यादि रूपों में प्रयोग होता है।
- पहाड़ बर्फ को सिंचित कर न केवल उस समय प्रकृति की रक्षा करते हैं अपितु अन्य मौसमों में भी जब पानी की कमी बनी रहती है पूरा करते हैं।
- पहाड़ पर्यटन और आजीविका संवर्धन के लिए भी अपनी महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाते हैं।
- विभिन्न प्रकार की खेती और औषधीय पादपों का उत्पादन और संरक्षण हेतु भी पहाड़ों का अमूल्य योगदान रहता है।

संरक्षण हेतु आवश्यक कदम

अंतरराष्ट्रीय पर्वत दिवस ने पहाड़ों की पारिस्थितिकी को समझने में अपनी अहम भूमिका निभाई है। हमें पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में पर्यटकों द्वारा किये जा रहे कूड़े हेतु भी उन्हें जागरूक और इसका समाधान करने की अति आवश्यकता है। हर नागरिक का यह कर्तव्य है कि वो अपने पर्यावरण की रक्षा कर जैव विविधता को बनाए रखने में योगदान दे। हमें यह ध्यान रखना चाहिए कि पहाड़ों के अस्तित्व बने रहने में ही मानव और अन्य जीव जन्तुओं तथा पादपों का अस्तित्व है क्योंकि सभी इन पर आश्रित हैं। भोग विलासिता और निजी स्वार्थ के

कारण हो रहे भूकटाव को रोककर इसमें जन जागरूकता की अति आवश्यकता है जो विनाश को रोकने में मील का पत्थर साबित होगा। पर्वतीय क्षेत्रों में पर्यावरण संरक्षण और सामाजिक एवं आर्थिक विकास में महिलाओं की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका रहती है अतः हमें मातृ शक्ति को भी एकजुट और जागरूक कर इस हेतु कार्य करना चाहिए तभी हम अपनी प्राकृतिक सांस्कृतिक और आध्यात्मिक विरासत को संरक्षित कर सकते हैं। स्कूली बच्चों और लोगों को भी समय समय पर शिक्षित और जागरूक करना आवश्यक है जिससे पहाड़ ताज़ा पानी, स्वच्छ ऊर्जा, भोजन और मनोरंजन निरन्तर प्रदान करते रहें।

सन्दर्भ

- विकिपीडिया, एक मुक्त ज्ञानकोष
- संयुक्त राष्ट्र खाद्य एवं कृषि संगठन, रोम, इटली
- अमर उजाला समाचार पत्र
- दैनिक जागरण समाचार पत्र
- हिन्दुस्तान समाचार पत्र
- दृष्टि द विजन, सिविल सेवा संस्थान, नयी दिल्ली

भारत में बढ़ते शहरीकरण व ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन की समस्या के समाधान

अशोक चौधरी

आजादी के बाद भारत ने लगभग हर क्षेत्र में उल्लेखनीय प्रगति की है। कृषि, अंतरिक्ष विज्ञान, चिकित्सा, उद्योग, खनन और ई-कॉमर्स जैसे क्षेत्रों में भारत ने वैश्विक स्तर पर अपनी पहचान बनाई है। विकास की इस यात्रा में भारत आज विश्व के प्रमुख देशों में गिना जाता है। लेकिन तेज़ गति से हो रहे इस विकास के साथ कुछ गंभीर समस्याएँ भी उभरकर सामने आई हैं, जिनमें शहरी ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन एक बड़ी और जटिल चुनौती बन चुका है।

2011 की जनगणना के अनुसार भारत की लगभग 30 प्रतिशत आबादी शहरों में रहती थी, जिसके 2030 तक 40 प्रतिशत तक पहुँचने की संभावना है। शहरी आबादी में निरंतर वृद्धि के कारण आवास, परिवहन, स्वास्थ्य, स्वच्छता और बुनियादी सुविधाओं पर भारी दबाव पड़ा है। इसी का परिणाम है कि शहरों में ठोस कचरे की मात्रा तेजी से बढ़ रही है। आज देश के लगभग सभी बड़े शहरों में कचरे के ढेर आम दृश्य बन चुके हैं। दिल्ली का गाजीपुर और मुंबई का देवनार लैंडफिल इसके प्रमुख उदाहरण हैं, जहाँ कचरा पहाड़ का रूप ले चुका है। इन लैंडफिल स्थलों से निकलने वाली मीथेन जैसी विषैली गैसों आसपास रहने वाले लोगों के स्वास्थ्य पर गंभीर प्रभाव डाल रही हैं। अस्थमा, ब्रॉकाइटिस और अन्य श्वसन रोगों के मामलों में वृद्धि देखी जा रही है। इसके साथ ही मिट्टी, जल और वायु भी बुरी तरह प्रदूषित हो रहे हैं। यह समस्या केवल मानव स्वास्थ्य तक सीमित नहीं है, बल्कि पर्यावरण संतुलन और जलवायु परिवर्तन से भी सीधे तौर पर जुड़ी हुई है।

भारत 'विकसित भारत 2047' के लक्ष्य की ओर बढ़ रहा है, लेकिन ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन इस दिशा में एक बड़ी बाधा बनकर खड़ा है। वर्तमान में देश में प्रति वर्ष लगभग 145 मिलियन टन ठोस कचरा उत्पन्न हो रहा है, जो आने वाले वर्षों में और बढ़ने की संभावना है। स्वच्छ भारत मिशन और गोबरधन जैसी योजनाओं के माध्यम से कचरा प्रबंधन को सुधारने के प्रयास किए जा रहे हैं। साथ ही पर्यावरण संरक्षण

अधिनियम, 1986 और ठोस अपशिष्ट प्रबंधन नियम, 2016 जैसे कानून भी मौजूद हैं, लेकिन इनके प्रभावी क्रियान्वयन की अभी भी कमी महसूस की जाती है। नगर पालिकाएँ घर-घर कचरा संग्रहण की व्यवस्था तो करती हैं, लेकिन समस्या की जड़ घरेलू और संस्थागत स्तर पर कचरे के पृथक्करण की कमी है। गीला, सूखा, प्लास्टिक और ई-कचरा अक्सर एक ही इस्टबिन में डाल दिया जाता है, जिससे आगे चलकर उसका वैज्ञानिक निपटान कठिन हो जाता है। जबकि ठोस कचरे का बड़ा हिस्सा कंपोस्टिंग योग्य होता है और प्लास्टिक, काँच, धातु तथा ई-कचरे को पुनर्चक्रित किया जा सकता है। यदि स्रोत स्तर पर ही कचरे का पृथक्करण शुरू कर दिया जाए, तो डंपिंग स्थलों पर दबाव काफी हद तक कम किया जा सकता है।

इस संदर्भ में इंदौर शहर एक प्रेरणादायक उदाहरण प्रस्तुत करता है। स्वच्छ सर्वेक्षणों में लगातार शीर्ष स्थान प्राप्त करने वाला इंदौर कचरा पृथक्करण, डोर-टू-डोर कलेक्शन, कंपोस्टिंग, बायो-एनर्जी और आधुनिक प्रोसेसिंग तकनीकों के माध्यम से एक सफल मॉडल बन चुका है। यहाँ स्वच्छता को केवल सरकारी जिम्मेदारी नहीं, बल्कि नागरिकों की आदत और सामाजिक मूल्य बना दिया गया है। इंदौर के अनुभव से यह स्पष्ट होता है कि ठोस कचरा प्रबंधन की सफलता का सबसे बड़ा आधार जनभागीदारी और जागरूकता है। यदि देश के अन्य शहरों और गाँवों में भी नागरिक अपने स्तर पर जिम्मेदारी निभाएँ, तो ठोस कचरे की समस्या का स्थायी समाधान संभव है और आने वाली पीढ़ियों के लिए एक स्वच्छ, स्वस्थ और सुरक्षित भविष्य सुनिश्चित किया जा सकता है।

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Capacity Building on Value Addition and Livelihood Generation through Pine Needle (Pirul) Utilization: Handmade Paper and Eco-friendly Product Development



Mahesha Nand, EIACP-GBPNIHE, Almora

Chir pine (*Pinus roxburghii*) is a dominant forest tree species of the western Himalaya, especially in Uttarakhand, where it covers nearly 16.4% of the forest area and occurs between 1,000–1,800 m. It is traditionally valued for resin extraction, timber, and as bedding/thatching material in rural cattle sheds. About 7–8 Mg of resin is collected annually in the state, with a market value of Rs. 6,000–7,000 per 100 kg. Due to drought tolerance, rapid growth, and adaptability to harsh terrain, Chir pine has expanded into areas where broadleaf species such as oak (*Quercus spp.*) are ecologically preferred. Pine forests are often considered inferior to oak forests, as oak provides better firewood, fodder, and ecosystem services like soil and water conservation. Chir pine forests are highly fire-prone because of the accumulation of resin-rich needle litter, locally called Pirul, during dry months. Uttarakhand produces about 1.8 million tons of Pirul annually, increasing fire risk and contributing to air pollution and black carbon emissions. Since 2000, over 44,518 ha of forest have been affected by fires; in 2016 alone, 2,069 major incidents damaged 4,423 ha, causing losses of about Rs. 4.62 million. Despite major investments, including Rs. 16 crore in 2020–21, conventional fire management has shown limited success. To address this sustainably, GBPNIHE, Almora initiated a project in 2018 to convert Pirul into handmade paper and eco-friendly products. By engaging local communities, especially rural women, it created livelihoods while reducing fire hazards. Over 8,000 Pirul-based products have been produced, generating about Rs. 1.75 lakh. Building on this, the EIACP Centre on Himalayan Ecology proposes a four-day capacity-building program to promote pine needle-based enterprises as a replicable model for sustainable rural development. The objective of the programme are (i) to spread awareness of environmental and socio-economic issues, (ii) to develop technical skills in pine needle collection and processing, (iii) to train in the production of value-added pine needle products, (iv) to build capacity for entrepreneurship and market linkages, and (v) To promote community engagement

and sustainable resource management.

Methodology:

The four-day course will follow a participatory and experiential learning approach through a balanced mix of theory, hands-on practice, group discussions, and exposure visits. The program will start with participant orientation and a baseline assessment to clarify course objectives, expected outcomes, and existing knowledge levels. Theoretical sessions will cover the environmental issues caused by pine needle accumulation, its contribution to forest fire risks, and the socio-economic opportunities of pine needle-based value addition through community and women-led enterprises. Practical training will focus on safe collection and processing of pine needles, handmade paper production, development of value-added products, and quality control for market readiness. Entrepreneurship sessions will include business model planning, branding, marketing, and basic financial management. Group activities and exposure visits will promote collaboration, showcase best practices, and support long-term sustainability. The course will conclude with feedback, evaluation, and certification.

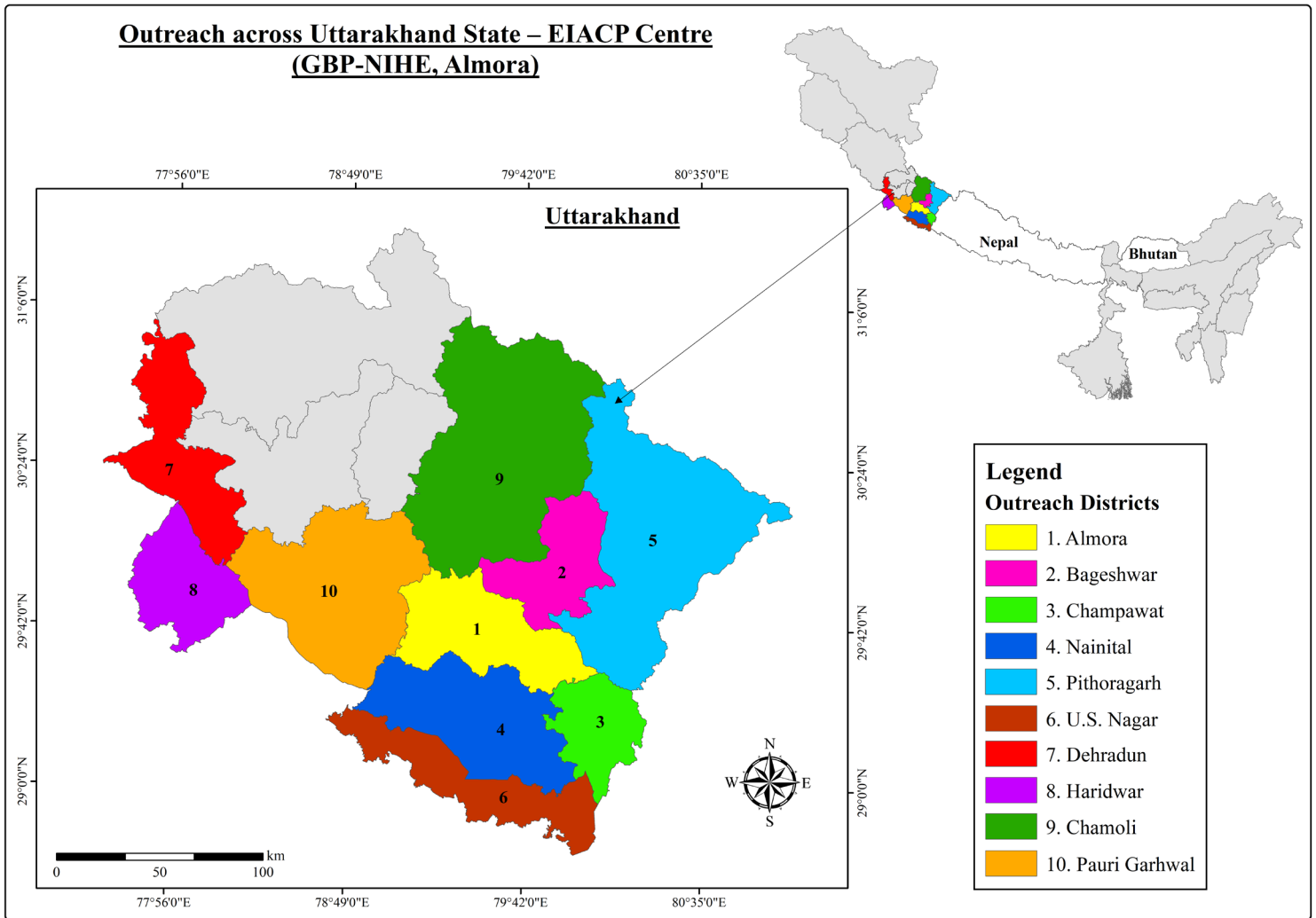
Outcomes:

1. Enhanced Livelihood and Income Generation
2. Women's Empowerment and Community Engagement
3. Forest Fire Mitigation and Environmental Benefits
4. Clean Energy and Sustainable Product Development
5. Entrepreneurial Ecosystem and Market Linkages

Summary:

Participants gain technical, entrepreneurial, and ecological skills to convert pine needle waste into sustainable livelihood opportunities, while promoting forest conservation, women's empowerment, clean energy adoption, and local economic development. The proposal presents an environment-friendly solution by utilizing the annually available Pirul in the Institute's forest premises to produce eco-friendly products, demonstrating sustainable use of this abundant bio-resource, reducing fire hazards on campus, enhancing forest ecosystem services, and supporting a healthy local environment.

Outreach across Uttarakhand State – EIACP Centre (GBP-NIHE, Almora)



Outreach Activities

The EIACP Centre, GBP-NIHE, Almora conducted a wide range of outreach activities across several districts of Uttarakhand to strengthen environmental awareness and promote sustainable practices at the grassroots level. The Centre facilitated access to the Repository of Environmental Knowledge for students, educators, and communities, and organized Capacity Building Programmes on environmental issues, conservation, and climate-resilient practices. Green Skill Development Programmes (GSDP) were also conducted to enhance skills and support sustainable

livelihoods. In addition, cleanliness drives and observance of key environmental days were carried out to promote public awareness and civic responsibility. School-level engagement remained a major focus through environmental competitions and interactive activities to foster eco-conscious values among young learners. Plantation drives under the 'Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam' initiative strengthened community participation, while Mission LiFE activities encouraged sustainable lifestyles. The accompanying map shows the district-wise reach of these outreach initiatives across Uttarakhand.

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