



Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change
Government of India



National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)

1st Call for Demand-Driven Action Research Projects 2026-27

Recognizing the importance of the Himalayas to the nation's sustainable development, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, Government of India, has been implementing the “National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS)” since 2015-16. The mission aims to support the preservation and enhancement of the ecological, natural, cultural, and socio-economic assets and values of the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR).

For the year 2026-27, project proposals are being invited under the National Mission on Himalayan Studies (NMHS) from distinguished professionals associated with reputable institutions, universities, or organizations that possess adequate resources and a proven track record in demand-driven action research and development (R&D). The research proposals should focus on one or more of the identified thrust areas within specific Broad Thematic Areas (BTAs). Proposals submitted under NMHS should align with national campaigns such as “Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE),” “Self-Reliant Bharat,” and “Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan,” while also contributing to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and India’s Nationally Determined Contributions (INDCs) in the Indian Himalayan Region (IHR). The proposal must illustrate scalability, community adoption, and the potential for policy integration, accompanied by measurable outcomes. Furthermore, project proposals should take into account the NMHS cross-cutting themes of gender equality and climate change.

The identified Thrust Areas for submission of proposals under different BTAs of NMHS are as follows:

S#	Identified Thrust Areas	BTAs
1.	• Ecosystem services and minimum flow concerns. • Impact of climate change on river flow regimes in Himalayan basins. • Glacier retreat and its implications for long-term water security. • Changing snowfall patterns and water availability • Snow cover dynamics and seasonal water availability. • River basin planning under climate uncertainty. • Water supply challenges in rapidly growing hill towns. • Tourism-induced pressure on mountain water resources. • Urban groundwater management in Himalayan cities.	Water Resource Management (WRM) <i>Complementing & Supplementing – SDG 6, SDG 13, and SDG 15</i>

2.	• Altitudinal shifts in species distribution under changing climate conditions. • Climate refugia for threatened Himalayan species. • Vulnerability assessment of endemic species to climate change. • Phenological changes in Himalayan flora and fauna. • Climate adaptation strategies for protected area management.	Biodiversity Conservation and Management (BCM) <i>Complementing & Supplementing –SDG 2, SDG 12, SDG 14, and SDG 15</i>
3.	• Human-induced slope destabilization and mitigation • Community-based access and alternative mobility • Wildlife-friendly road and rail infrastructure • Last-mile connectivity challenges in remote Himalayan villages. • Urban mobility and congestion in hill cities.	Physical Connectivity (PC) <i>Complementing & Supplementing –SDG 9, SDG 11</i>
4.	• Market-Oriented Agri-Entrepreneurship and Sustainable Livelihoods through High-Value Mountain Products • Eco-Tourism and Community-Based Employment • Climate-Resilient Green Livelihoods through Medicinal Plants and Renewable Energy in Mountain Communities • Sustainable Tourism and Homestay Enterprises for Rural Employment Generation • Women-Led and Community-Based Tourism for Sustainable Livelihoods in Mountain Regions.	Livelihood Options and Employment Generation (LOEG) <i>Complementing & Supplementing –SDG 1, SDG 8, SDG 9, SDG 11</i>
5.	• Digital and Mountain-Specific Skill Development for Sustainable Livelihoods and Employment • Integrated farming systems and agriculture transformation • Inclusive Skill Development through Traditional Knowledge and Women's Empowerment in Mountain Communities • Forest–livelihood equilibrium and natural resource management • Green skilling requirements for Himalayan youth. • Sustainable adventure tourism and livelihoods.	Skill Development and Capacity Building (SDCB) <i>Complementing & Supplementing –SDG 1, SDG 5, SDG 10, and SDG 12</i>
6.	• Climate-Resilient Plastic and Waste Management for Sustainable Tourism and Circular Economy • Zero-Waste Tourism and Climate-Resilient Waste Systems for Himalayan Communities • Community-Based Waste-to-Energy Solutions and Capacity Building • Assessment of black carbon and its mitigation in the Himalayan region. • Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) implementation in mountain regions.	Handling of Waste (HW) <i>Complementing & Supplementing –SDG 12, SDG 11, SDG 13, SDG 15</i>

	• Debris management after landslides and floods.	
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Interested professionals may submit the research proposal in the prescribed format for their area(s) of expertise, along with the Endorsement Certificate from the Head of the Institution and detailed biodata of the PI and Co-PIs. The detailed project submission guidelines and prescribed formats for preparing the Project Proposal are available on the websites of the NMHS-PMU: <http://nmhs.org.in>; <https://gbpihed.gov.in/index.php>; and <https://moef.gov.in/>

Proposal Submission Procedure: The complete proposal, prepared in the prescribed NMHS format in any of the aforementioned Identified Thrust Areas, should be submitted through the Online Portal of NMHS: <https://newprojectsubmission.nmhs-himal.res.in/> before 05:30 PM, **August 31st, 2026**.

**Administrative Officer
GBPNiHE**