Sher-e-Kashmir
University of Agricultural Sciences
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JAMMU & KASHMIR AGRICULTURE SCIENCE CONGRESS-2026

13th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit

In Collaboration with
Jammu & Kashmir Council for Science & Technology (J&K ST&IC)

ORGANISING SECRETARIES

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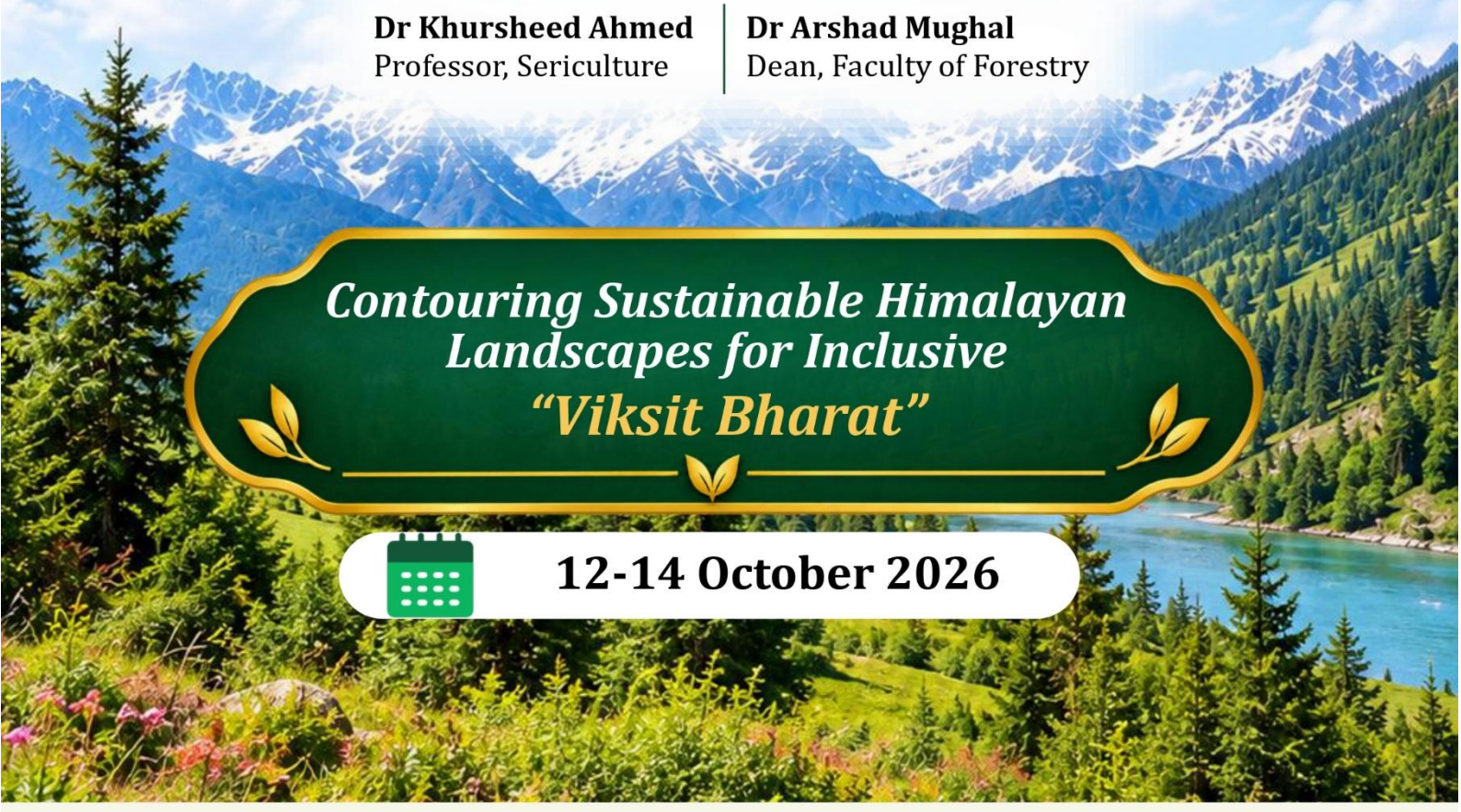

Contouring Sustainable Himalayan Landscapes for Inclusive "Viksit Bharat"

12-14 October 2026

TOWARDS A SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT POLICY FOR J&K

A science-policy dialogue for resilient, inclusive and ecologically secure Himalayan landscapes

The Himalayas are among the world's most fragile, youngest and most dynamic mountain systems. They are also the source of rivers, forests, biodiversity, agriculture, livelihoods and cultural traditions that sustain hundreds of millions of people across the Indian subcontinent — from the mountains themselves to the plains far downstream.

Climate change and global warming are no longer distant projections for the Himalaya — they are the present reality. Rising temperatures, erratic monsoons, glacial retreat and cryospheric instability are driving cloudbursts, flash floods, glacial lake outburst floods and landslides that are becoming more frequent, more intense and more destructive across every Himalayan state, from Jammu & Kashmir and Himachal Pradesh to Uttarakhand, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh.

Jammu & Kashmir is particularly vulnerable. Its steep terrain, young and geologically active mountains, fragile slopes, seismicity, sensitive watersheds and rich biodiversity make development choices far more consequential than in conventional landscapes — and make it a representative case study for the wider Himalayan arc.

The region is already experiencing mounting pressure from climate variability, rapid infrastructure development, tourism, urbanization, extraction and changing land-use patterns — pressures shared, in varying degrees, by every Himalayan state.

THE MOUNTAIN CHALLENGE

- Cloudbursts, flash floods and cascading mountain hazards
- Landslides, slope failures and erosion
- Glacial and cryospheric change and changing water regimes
- Forest degradation, fragmentation and rampant extraction
- Unplanned construction and infrastructure in fragile terrain
- Increasing and sometimes unmanaged tourism and pilgrimage pressure
- Unmanaged solid waste, plastics and wastewater in mountain destinations
- Degradation of springs, streams, watersheds and natural drainage
- Loss of biodiversity and natural habitats
- Changing mountain agriculture, livelihoods and demographic pressures

WHY INDIA NEEDS ITS FIRST SUSTAINABLE MOUNTAIN DEVELOPMENT POLICY

India's Himalayan states each carry sectoral policies and regulations covering tourism, forests, environment, urban development, disaster management, agriculture and infrastructure. What is missing, nationally, is an overarching, mountain-specific policy framework that brings these sectors together around one central principle: the ecological fragility and carrying capacity of mountain landscapes.

Jammu & Kashmir is proposed as the pilot and case study for this national effort. A draft Sustainable Mountain Development Policy for J&K will be placed before the Summit — the first such state-specific policy attempted in the country — as a model that other Himalayan states, and the Union Government, can study, adapt and take forward.

The proposed policy should make development terrain-sensitive, climate-responsive, risk-informed and compatible with the carrying capacity of mountain ecosystems.

THE NEPAL REMINDER

Recent Himalayan disasters are a stark reminder that risk is no longer a distant possibility. We are already late in making mountain development risk-informed, ecologically sensitive and resilient.

FROM SUMMIT TO POLICY ACTION

The challenge is not simply how to respond better after a disaster. It is how to reduce exposure, protect natural buffers, regulate high-risk development and build resilience before hazards cascade into disasters.

The Sustainable Mountain Development Summit 2026 will place a draft Sustainable Mountain Development Policy for Jammu & Kashmir at the centre of national expert deliberation. The draft is intended as a discussion document for rigorous scientific, institutional and policy review before being taken forward through the appropriate Government process.

WHAT THE POLICY SHOULD DELIVER

Mountain Zonation Identification of fragile, sensitive, vulnerable and suitable development zones.	**Carrying Capacity Framework** Scientific limits for tourism, construction, water use, waste generation and infrastructure.
Mountain-Sensitive Land Use Planning based on terrain, slope, geology, hydrology, biodiversity and hazard risk.	**No-Go / Restricted Development** Areas where ecological sensitivity or disaster risk makes development inappropriate.
Mountain Infrastructure Code Terrain-sensitive standards for roads, buildings, drainage, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructure.	**Sustainable Tourism Framework** Destination-specific visitor, water, waste and ecological management.
Mountain Waste Framework Special systems for remote, high-altitude and tourist destinations.	**Watershed & Spring Security** Protection and restoration of critical mountain water systems.
Disaster Risk & Early Warning Integrated monitoring of rainfall, landslides, floods, glaciers and cascading hazards.	**Mountain Livelihood Strategy** Conservation-compatible livelihoods, enterprise, value addition and local economic opportunity.

THE SUMMIT'S SPECIAL POLICY OUTCOME

The Summit will bring together experts from across the country, Himalayan institutions, policymakers, practitioners and community voices to examine, debate and strengthen the draft policy and to develop a consolidated set of recommendations for consideration by the Government of J&K.

A NEW ROLE FOR J&K

J&K can move from being a recipient of mountain policy to becoming a leader in mountain governance.

SUMMIT THEMES • CALL FOR ABSTRACTS • OUTCOMES

THEME I — ECOLOGICAL SECURITY & CLIMATE-RESILIENT MOUNTAINS

- Mountain ecology, biodiversity and ecosystem integrity
- Climate change, cryosphere and Himalayan hydrology
- Forests, rangelands, wetlands and watershed/spring-shed conservation
- Nature-based solutions and ecosystem restoration
- Mountain disaster risk reduction and early warning

THEME II — LAND, INFRASTRUCTURE & ECOLOGICAL CARRYING CAPACITY

- Mountain -sensitive land-use planning and slope-risk assessment
- Roads, tunnels, hydropower and resilient infrastructure
- Carrying -capacity assessment and risk-informed development
- Building standards and planning for mountain settlements
- Urbanisation and hill-town planning

THEME III — RESPONSIBLE TOURISM & MOUNTAIN ECONOMY

- Carrying capacity of tourist and pilgrimage destinations
- Sustainable, community-based and low-impact tourism
- Waste, wastewater and low-impact mobility
- Green and circular economy models for mountains
- Ensuring tourism benefits mountain communities

THEME IV — MOUNTAIN COMMUNITIES, LIVELIHOODS & NATURAL CAPITAL

- Mountain agriculture, horticulture and agroecology
- Livestock, pastoral systems and non-timber forest products
- High-value mountain crops, medicinal and aromatic plants
- Traditional ecological knowledge and community stewardship
- Youth, women, entrepreneurship and payment for ecosystem services

THEME V — SCIENCE, GOVERNANCE & POLICY FOR THE MOUNTAINS

- Sustainable Mountain Development Policy and institutional architecture
- Scienc e–policy–community interface and mountain observatories
- Geospatial monitoring, vulnerability mapping and mountain data systems
- Policy indicators, financing, compliance and enforcement
- Evidenc e-based and measurable pathways to sustainable mountain development

THEME VI— DIGITAL AGRICULTURE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

- Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Big Data in agriculture.
- Smart sericulture practices.
- Internet of Things (IoT), sensors and smart farming
- Robotics, drones, and automation
- Digital Platforms for Farm and Market Intelligence

THEME VII— BIOTECHNOLOGY AND BIO-INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE GROWTH

- Advanced breeding technologies and genomics
- Gene editing and molecular agriculture
- Biofertilizers, biopesticides and microbial technologies
- Synthetic biology and agricultural biotechnology

THEME VIII— CLIMATE-RESILIENT AND RESOURCE-EFFICIENT AGRICULTURE

- Climate-smart agriculture and adaptation strategies
- Water-use efficiency and precision irrigation
- Carbon-smart farming and ecosystem services
- Sustainable soil and natural resource management

THEME IX— BIO-ECONOMY AND CIRCULAR AGRICULTURE

- Biomass valorization and waste-to-wealth technologies
- Bioenergy, biofuels and bio-based products
- Circular economy approaches in agriculture
- Agri-residue management and green technologies

THEME X— SUSTAINABLE FOOD SYSTEMS & NUTRITIONAL SECURITY

- Nutrition-sensitive agriculture
- Functional foods, nutraceuticals and biofortification
- Food safety, quality assurance and traceability
- Sustainable production-consumption systems

THEME XI— AGRI-VALUE CHAINS, ENTREPRENEURSHIP & RURAL BIO-ENTERPRISE

- Agri-startups and innovation ecosystems
- Agribusiness models and bio-based industries
- FPOs and Cooperative innovations
- Market integration and value-chain modernization

THEME XII— POLICY, GOVERNANCE & INSTITUTIONAL INNOVATIONS FOR THE BIO-ECONOMY

- Agricultural policy for technology adoption
- Intellectual property, biosafety, & regulatory frameworks
- Financing innovation and green investments
- Public-private partnerships for agri-transformation

CALL FOR ABSTRACTS / PAPERS

The conference invites scientists, academics, researchers, extension personnel, industry professionals, policymakers, postgraduates, practitioners, civil society organisations, mountain communities and young professionals to contribute to the dialogue on the future of the Himalayas.

Contributions are particularly encouraged where research is translated into policy recommendations, regulatory frameworks, implementation mechanisms, technologies, institutional models and measurable action plans.

IMPORTANT DATES

1 September 2026	Call for abstract submission
08 October 2026	Last date for submission of abstracts
08 October 2026	Notification of acceptance of abstracts

SUMMIT THEMES • CALL FOR ABSTRACTS • OUTCOMES

TECHNICAL SESSIONS & KEYNOTE LECTURES

Keynote addresses, plenary lectures, invited talks and panel discussions by distinguished experts from premier institutions across India and abroad will highlight recent breakthroughs, policy innovations and transformative approaches for sustainable Himalayan landscapes.

THE POLICY TEST: *What to do? • Who will do it? • Where? • By when? • How will success be measured?*

CHIEF PATRONS

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Conference Account Details:
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Account Number: **0628040510000025**
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Registration
Students: **800 INR**
Scientists/Academicians: **1500 INR**
Industry Partners: **3000 INR**
Accompanying Person: **2000 INR**

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