

## SYMPOSIUM ON SNOW, ICE AND GLACIERS – A HIMALAYAN PERSPECTIVE

### Aims and Objectives

The lofty Himalayas with its snow clad peaks and over 6000 glaciers is a major source of fresh water for the river systems in the extra-Peninsular and the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains. Himalayan mountain ranges contain one of the largest reserves of snow and ice outside of polar regions. The studies on Himalayan glaciers are important for both the economic as well as environmental considerations.

The Symposium on 'Snow, Ice and Glaciers - A Himalayan Perspective' was organised to commemorate the Silver Jubilee of the establishment of Glaciology Division in Geological Survey of India, which was established on 4th January, 1974 to take up the studies related to snow, ice and glaciers on modern lines.

### Recommendations

- Water resource management should remain the focus for further studies. Mathematical modelling with the integration of data and results of various disciplines should be carried out to fill up the gaps and evaluate the end product. Empirical and predictive modelling in glaciology is to be strengthened.
- Hazard maps should be prepared for the high altitude regions and various monitoring mechanisms should be developed. Such maps should also have a predictive element.
- Geomorphology of the areas downstream of glaciers, palaeoglaciology including dating and quantitative geomorphology should constitute a new thrust area.
- The programmes should be integrated with the need of user agencies and should include societal aspects as well.
- Human resource development including incentives for scientists working on the glaciers should be accorded priority. Induction of young scientists for furtherance of glaciological studies and a good all round support is also desired.
- A 'National Commission on Snow and Ice' be constituted as an advisory body for glaciological research in India.
- Steps need to be taken for the upgradation of technologies with greater emphasis on strengthening the role of remote sensing techniques for glaciological studies.

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