



**Shri Y. S. Chowdary**

**Hon'ble Minister of State**

**Ministry of Science & Technology and Ministry of Earth Sciences**

Himalayas are the life lines for the people of entire Indian sub-continent. It is a source of fresh river water for millions of people in the region. The Himalayas also play an important role in lending a sub-tropical touch to the climate of India. The lofty Himalaya Mountains form a barrier which affects the climate of India. It prevents the cold winds of north Asia from blowing into India, thus protecting it from severely cold winters. It also traps the Monsoon winds, forcing them to shed their moisture within the sub-continent. The development of Himalayas without affecting this highly esteemed but precarious ecosystem is a national priority. It has become even more important in light of the increase in the frequency of calamities in the region. We will do a great service to the people of Indian Himalayan region if we collate useful data and information about the Himalayan ecosystem at one place and offer it to the end users.

I am pleased to know that Department of science & Technology through its national Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem has set up a knowledge portal to facilitate availability of data and knowledge to the users and community in the Himalayan region. I am sure the people of the Indian Himalayan region will be greatly benefited by this initiative.

I congratulate NMSHE team at DST for this great effort and wish them a great success.