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## NEWS

### INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR ON IMPACT OF TOURISM ON MOUNTAIN ENVIRONMENT

An International Seminar on the Impact of Tourism on Mountain Environment was organized by Dr. S. C. Singh, Director, Department of Geography, Garhwal University, Srinagar (Garhwal) during March 21-24, 1987. It was inaugurated by Justice Mr. Murtza Husain, Lokayukt, Government of U. P. and presided over by Prof. R. L. Singh, Ex-Vice-Chancellor, Meerut University, Meerut (U.P.)

The response was tremendous and over one hundred papers were presented and discussed in the Seminar by scientists from diverse disciplines, as well as, from governmental organization. Foreign participants from France, U.S.A., Israel, Nepal and Australia also made their contributions. The scholars discussed problems related to various tourist spots in the country and abroad, under various themes as the impact of tourism on the ecological, social, cultural and economic aspects of Mountain Environment in twelve technical sessions. The field excursion to Pauri was fruitful.

In order to pursue the matter further and to apprise the various agencies of the real problems of mountain environment, a 20 member working Group was formed. It will address itself to restoration of Mountain environment and Tourism protraction. Among other things, it will strive to identify the environmentally degraded areas, to evolve appropriate research methodology for the early restoration of such areas, to undertake action oriented research, and to monitor the current development process

in order to make its recommendation to the authorities/agencies concerned. Prof. R. L. Singh has been elected as President and Dr. S. C. Singh as Treasurer of the Working Group.

Following areas have been identified for restoration of Mountain environment was Doon valley, Ganga valley (Gangotri to Hardwar), Kashmir valley, Pokhara valley (Nepal), Mahabaleshwar (M.S.), Amarkantak (M.P.), Subanziri valley (Arunachal Pradesh), Khusiara valley (Assam), Meghalaya, Nagaland, Mizoram, Manipur, Tripura.

The Recommendation Committee has made the following suggestions for promoting tourism :

- (1) Tourism development should be regarded as an integral part of integrated rural development programme (I.R.D.P.).
- (2) Tourist attraction centres should be identified and properly published for tourists of different categories.
- (3) Publication of monographs based on field studies is vital for enhancing understanding of the problems.
- (4) The tourists should be informed through suitable media and hand sheets etc. about rare plants and animal species of the tourist spot/area and in this way awareness should be created among them for preserving the rare flora and fauna.
- (5) Adequate publicity should be given to the importance and preservation of cultural and aesthetic values of the tourist resorts.

S. C. Singh  
Srinagar (Garhwal)

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All correspondence regarding the Institute's membership, bills, purchase of publications should be addressed to the Treasurer. All other correspondence should be addressed to the secretary.

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Dated : 26 June, 1987

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