

**Aspire IAS** *The name associated with excellence*

**Guess paper MAINS 2019**



**ASPIRE IAS**

*The Name Associated with Excellence*

**GUESS PAPER SERIES**

**SESSION - 14**

**DATE- 12 August 2019**

**Himalayan State Region Council**

**Copyright © Aspire IAS** *All rights are reserved. No part of this document may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without prior permission of Aspire IAS.*

**Aspire IAS** *The name associated with excellence*

10/70 old Rajender nagar N.DELHI [www.aspireias.com](http://www.aspireias.com) 8010068998/011-47561070

©2019 ASPIRE IAS. All right reserved

Page | 1

## Guess paper MAINS 2019

### HIMALAYAN STATE REGIONAL COUNCIL

#### Context

NITI Aayog has constituted Himalayan State Regional Council (HSRC) for the Sustainable Development of Indian Himalayan Region.

#### About

##### HSRC

- Recognizing the uniqueness of the Himalayas and the challenges for sustainable development, **Five Working Groups** were constituted by NITI Aayog in June 2017.
- These groups were established along thematic areas to prepare a roadmap for action.

The **HSRC** has been constituted to review and implement identified action points based on the reports of these five Working Groups.

##### Five Thematic Areas

- Inventory and Revival of Springs in Himalayas for Water Security
- Sustainable Tourism in Indian Himalayan Region
- Shifting Cultivation: Towards Transformation Approach
- Strengthening Skill & Entrepreneurship (E&S) Landscape in Himalayas
- Data/Information for Informed Decision Making.

##### Composition of the HSRC

The Himalayan State Regional Council will consist of :

- Chairman-Niti Aayog member

## Guess paper MAINS 2019

- Chief Secretaries of the Himalayan States
- Secretaries of key Central Ministries
- senior officers of NITI Aayog
- Special invitees.

### **Mandate of HSRC**

- The **HSRC** will be the nodal agency for the Sustainable development in the Himalayan Region consisting 12 States of India.
- It will monitor the implementation of action points for Central Ministries, Institutions and Himalayan State Governments in Indian Himalayan Region.
- The developmental projects to be monitored include:
  - River basin development and regional cooperation
  - Spring mapping and revival across Himalayas in phased manner for water security;
  - Develop, implement and monitor tourism sector standards
  - Strengthen skill & entrepreneurship with focus on identified priority sectors.

### **Significance**

The establishment of HSRC is significant for the holistic development of the Himalayan region. The council can become a linchpin in bringing coordination of the Himalaya states and can bring convergence of the developmental projects.

#### **Indian Himalayan Region**

- **The Indian Himalayan Region (IHR)** is spreading on 10 states (administrative regions) namely, Jammu & Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, and hill regions of 2

## Guess paper MAINS 2019

states viz. Assam and West Bengal of Indian Republic.

- Starting from foot-hills in the south (Siwaliks) the region extends to Tibetan plateau in the north (trans-Himalaya) comprising about 95 districts of the country.
- The region occupies the strategic position of entire northern boundary (North-West to North-East) of the nation and touches almost all the international borders (7 countries) with India.
- It contributes about 16.2% of India's total geographical area, and most of the area is covered by snow-clad peaks, glaciers of higher Himalaya, dense forest cover of mid-Himalaya.
- The IHR shows a thin and dispersed human population as compared to the national figures due to its physiographic condition and poor infrastructure development but the growth rate is much higher than the national average.

## Why the Centre must listen to the demands of the Himalayan states

**Last week, at a conclave in Mussoorie, Uttarakhand, representatives of 10 Himalayan states placed two demands before the Union finance minister, Nirmala Sitharaman.**

**First**, the creation of a separate ministry to deal with problems of the region;

**second**, a green bonus for these ecologically fragile states.

This is the first time that these states — Jammu and Kashmir, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Tripura, Mizoram, and Manipur (10 of 12

## Guess paper MAINS 2019

Indian Himalayan Region states) — have come together on a common platform to voice their demands.

**They had to do this because their developmental and ecological demands are unique, but, unfortunately, a holistic understanding of the mountain ecology has been missing in India's policymaking.**

In the past few years, however, there has been some movement to redress this situation.

In 2018, the NITI Aayog constituted the Himalayan State Regional Council to ensure sustainable development of the region. It set up five working groups to prepare a road map for the region on water security, sustainable agriculture, green tourism, skill development, and data-led governance.

**The Aayog also floated the idea of a “green tax” on tourists visiting these states. The Bharatiya Janata Party's 2019 manifesto also promised a “green bonus” to the states.**

**The demands of the Himalayan states are justified.**

**This is because their economic, social and environmental challenges** are very different from the country's other regions, and they are becoming even more critical because of climate change, and the increasing anthropogenic pressure on these states.

**For mainland India, the region is important because it plays a significant role in influencing the country's climate; is the source of our major rivers; and has huge forest wealth.**

Additionally, the region **has huge tourist potential**, though it has its own set of problems.

**To tackle these issues,**

the government needs to think about a **pan-Himalayan development strategy** that is based on the region's natural resources, culture, and traditional knowledge.

A new ministry and a green bonus could help streamline these strategies, and align financial resources required to roll out these plans in a timebound manner.

**Aspire IAS** *The name associated with excellence*

**Guess paper MAINS 2019**

ASPIRE IAS

**Aspire IAS** *The name associated with excellence*

10/70 old Rajender nagar N.DELHI [www.aspireias.com](http://www.aspireias.com) 8010068998/011-47561070

©2019 ASPIRE IAS. All right reserved

Page | 6