

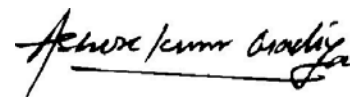
CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE

The Himalayas are not merely the highest and youngest mountain system separating Indian subcontinent from the Asian mainland. Profound significance of Himalayas for the people of South Asia goes much beyond the geopolitical divide and extends deeply into climatological, geological, hydrological, ecological, ethnological, cultural and religious realms. Fortunately the much neglected field of Himalayan studies has received a boost by the decision of the new government at the centre for allocating hundred crore rupees for creation of a national centre for Himalayan studies in its first budget.

It is a matter of great pride for Mewar University that *Journal of Indian Research* has come out with an excellent issue centered on Himalayas and thus becoming the pioneering contributor in the great task of rejuvenation of this project of national and international importance. Binod Singh reviews the ancient literature tracing the depiction of sacred mountains of Kailash Mansarovar in Indian classical literature and mythology. George van Driem's paper presents Eastern Himalayas as a cradle of ethnogenesis while exposing the Mongoloid myth and Sino Tibetan language family. Dr Alana Golmei uses oral history to examine the theories regarding the origin and migration of Zeliangrong ethnic group of Manipur. Glenn Mullin and Suchandana Chatterjee in their articles explore the various aspects of Trans- Himalayan Buddhism as it meets the challenge of existential crisis. Niraj Kumar and Chingngaih Biak argue for reading history of the region through deciphering textile patterns. Geo-strategic aspects of Himalayas have been well covered by Ambassador P. Stobdan, and Professor K. Warikoo. Nitin Gokhale critiques the voices of demilitarization of Siachen glacier. Iftikar Gilani makes a case for regional development of Kashmir region through devolution of political power as a panacea for lasting peace. Buddhist identity politics in Nepal since 1990s has been traced by Tsering Choldan and Raju Thapa analyses the case of Kamaiya emancipation in Nepal. Syed Asghar Mehdi and Balmukund Sharma make out a case for rural tourism in Uttarakhand. River Ganga also finds a place in a paper on ecological impact of flood on fish assemblage.

Our esteemed editor deserves accolades for presenting before us papers of great academic depth contributed by the leading scholars in their respective areas of specialization doing full justice to the great range of subareas constituting the Himalayan studies. As usual, the international nature of JIR can be easily witnessed through the nationalities of our leading contributors.

Like the spread of Himalayas from the Kashmir Valley to the Seven Sisters of North East, Mewar University is spreading its wings and attracting students in large numbers from Kashmir, Ladakh and north- eastern parts of India to contribute in the great task of national integration. A new batch of 300 students from North East has recently become a part of Mewar family. Mewar University's vision encompasses spreading higher education in the Trans-Himalayan region, the bridge of major powers in the coming decades.



Dr. Ashok Kumar Gadiya