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Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC



Department of Science & Technology
Ministry of Science & Technology
Government of India

NMSHE NATIONAL MISSION FOR
SUSTAINING THE HIMALAYAN
ECOSYSTEM

Call for Entries

DST-SDC Media Fellowship for Reporting on Climate Change Impacts and Adaptation in the Indian Himalayan Region

Fellowship Programme:

The Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP), a project of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in partnership with the Department of Science and Technology (DST), Government of India and the Centre for Media Studies (CMS) invite environment journalists to apply for a three-month Fellowship to report in depth about climate change impacts on Himalayan communities and how they are responding and coping with the impacts. The Fellowship is open to journalists working in print, electronic and digital media. A total of twelve Fellowships will be granted to selected candidates over three years.

Objective:

The Fellowships are aimed at improving the quality of reporting on climate change, capturing the voices of the Himalayan communities, increasing scientific accuracy of media reports on climate change and thereby facilitating effective communication about mountain communities vulnerable to impacts of climate change. The overall objective of the Fellowship is to facilitate a deeper understanding among journalists and enhance public awareness on issues related to climate change and sustainable mountain development.

The Fellowship:

A total of four Fellowships will be awarded during 2017 from across the country for reporting on climate change impacts and adaptation in the Indian Himalayan Region.

It is planned that each Fellowship will be for three months starting from July to September in 2017, 2018 and 2019. Fellows will be expected to undertake at least a two-week-long field visit related to subjects they choose.

The value of the Fellowship, inclusive of honorarium, travel, research, insurance, and contingency grant is Rs. 60,000.

The Fellow will be reimbursed up to Rs 15,000 for their field work research. This is subject to submission of actual bills for travel, lodging and boarding, in original.

The best story/ies emerging from the Fellowships will be awarded at the CMS Vatavaran Film Festival 2019.

Fellows Engagement:

- Fellows will be expected to write a minimum of three in-depth stories during the Fellowship programme and should be published/broadcast before November.
- Fellows will have to carry out field trips for at least two weeks, one week in a month in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Who can Apply?

Applicants should have at least five years of experience in journalism.

Mid-career and senior journalists from print, electronic and digital media are eligible to apply.

Applicants may or may not belong to the Himalayan region but should do his or her Fellowship work in the Himalayan region only.

The candidates should have a demonstrated commitment to career in journalism and should have covered environmental issues in the past.

The Fellowship is only for individuals who are Indian citizens.

More than one journalist from the same media house may apply.

Journalists working in non-English media are welcome to apply, but must indicate proficiency in English, as English is the working language of the Fellowship.

Freelancers are eligible to apply provided they fulfil all other conditions.

Criteria for selection of fellows:

- Story ideas and experience in covering environment issues.
- Stories for the Fellowship should be done in the Himalayan region.
- Writing/reporting skills- like in-depth stories, human interest stories, features, etc.

How to Apply:

Applicants must submit the following items to mediaapplications@cmsindia.org by 31 May 2017.

- i. A 300-350 words proposal outlining story ideas and proposed plan for field visit.
- ii. Updated CV (containing information on relevant work experience, designations held, approximate number of stories published/broadcast, educational qualifications).
- iii. An undertaking that, in the event of their selection, the applicant will produce a letter of support from their respective editor/competent authorities, indicating support during the Fellowship. The letter must also mention that they are on contract with an established, mainstream media outlet in India.
- iv. Two recent examples of their work published in newspapers or on website or portals/broadcast.

The subject line of your email should read: **APPLICANT'S FULL NAME Application – DST-SDC MEDIA FELLOWSHIP.** Only shortlisted candidates will be notified via email.

Selection Procedure:

An independent jury will be established to review the applications. The decisions of the jury will be final and binding. Results of the jury will be announced by second week of June.

One Fellowship each in 2017 is reserved for women journalists and for journalists from North-East India.

Important Dates:

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| Deadline for Submitting Applications | 31 May 2017 |
| Announcement of Fellowships | Second Week of June 2017 |
| Fellowship Duration | July – September 2017 |
| Publication/Broadcast of Stories | Before November 2017 |

About DST

The Department of Science & Technology, Ministry of Science & Technology has been entrusted with the responsibility of coordinating two out of eight national missions launched under the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC). These are:

- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE)
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change (NMSKCC)

National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Ecosystem (NMSHE) is one of the eight missions under India's National Action Plan on Climate Change. The Mission is being coordinated by Department of Science and Technology, Government of India. The broad objectives of NMSHE include - understanding of the complex processes affecting the Himalayan Ecosystem and evolve suitable management and policy measures for sustaining and safeguarding the Himalayan ecosystem, creating and building capacities in different domains, networking of knowledge institutions engaged in research and development of a coherent data base on Himalayan ecosystem, detecting and decoupling natural and anthropogenic induced signals of global environmental changes in mountain ecosystems, studying traditional knowledge systems for community participation in adaptation, mitigation and coping mechanisms inclusive of farming and traditional health care systems and developing regional cooperation with neighbouring countries, to generate a strong data base through monitoring and analysis, to eventually create a knowledge base for policy interventions. <http://www.knowledgeportal-nmshe.in/>

About SDC in India

The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) has been a partner of India for more than fifty years. Since 2011, SDC's programme focuses specifically on the issue of climate change. It supports innovative climate change adaptation and mitigation projects, facilitates the generation and dissemination of knowledge and actively engages in climate change related policy processes. <https://www.eda.admin.ch/countries/india/en/home/international-cooperation.html>

About IHCAP

Indian Himalayas Climate Adaptation Programme (IHCAP) is a project under Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCCE) of the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC). In India it is anchored under the Framework Agreement on Scientific and Technical Cooperation (2003) between the Government of India and Government of Switzerland and is being implemented as a bilateral cooperation programme with Department of Science & Technology. The IHCAP builds on capacity and knowledge enhancement related to three pillars—scientific and technical knowledge cooperation between Indian and Swiss scientific institutions; adaptation measures for vulnerable communities; and mainstreaming adaptation policies for improved action in the Indian Himalayan Region. www.ihcap.in

About CMS

CMS is a multi-disciplinary development research and facilitative think-tank. It endeavours to work towards responsive, governance and equitable development through research, advocacy and capacity building in social development, environment, governance, communication and media issues. www.cmsindia.org