



# G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment

## Special Lecture Series

### Lecture-6

21<sup>st</sup> November 2023 (Tuesday)

10:30 am (Hybrid mode)

## **Vulnerability, Disaster Risk and Sustainability of Himalayan states**



**Prof. (Dr.) Vinod K. Sharma**



**Welcome**  
**Prof. Sunil Nautiyal**  
**Director, NIHE**

Prof Sharma is a senior Professor of Disaster Management and Consultant at Indian Institute of Public Administration, and Vice Chairman, Disaster Management Authority, Govt. of Sikkim. He is member of Science, Technology and Innovation Policy of Govt. of India (STIP-2020) and founder coordinator of National Center for disaster management. He also served as Associate Professor at University of Benghazi, University of Sulaymaniyah and Salahuddin University Erbil, Consultant at University of Delaware and visiting professor at Kyoto University. He is resource person at Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration. Further, he has played editorial roles for Resource Book on Disaster Management, Disaster Response and Management Journal, NIU International Journal on Human Rights and Journal of Plant Development Science.



**About Speaker**  
**Dr. Rajesh Joshi**



**Vote of thanks**  
**Dr. Arun Jugran**



**Moderator**  
**Dr. Suresh Rana**

**Webex link:** <https://gbpnihehq.my.webex.com/gbpnihehq.my/j.php?MTID=m52aa78127c0aa7a0322d6e99a1b92516>  
**Meeting ID:** 2644 763 8305  
**Password:** Himalaya@2023

# Vulnerability, Disaster Risk and Sustainability of Himalayan states

**Vinod K. Sharma**

Senior Professor, Disaster Management, Indian Institute of Public Administration,  
New Delhi and Vice Chairman, Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority,  
Gangtok, Sikkim

## **Abstract**

The Himalayan states grapple with a complex web of challenges arising from vulnerability, disaster risk, and sustainability issues. With nearly 50% of the region's population directly dependent on agriculture, the susceptibility to climate change-induced events like erratic rainfall and glacial retreat is a significant concern. According to studies, the Himalayan region has witnessed an alarming rise in the frequency and intensity of natural disasters, including floods and landslides, attributed to climate change impacts. Additionally, the region's seismic vulnerability is underscored by the fact that it falls under the seismically active zone, with the potential for devastating earthquakes.

These challenges are compounded by socio-economic factors such as poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and the limited capacity of local communities to cope with disasters. The aftermath of events like the 2013 Uttarakhand flash floods and the 2015 Nepal earthquake vividly illustrates the region's vulnerability. Addressing these issues necessitates a comprehensive strategy that integrates disaster risk reduction with sustainable development. Initiatives like afforestation to prevent landslides, community-based early warning systems, and the promotion of climate-resilient agricultural practices are crucial for enhancing resilience.

International collaboration, investment in infrastructure, and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge are integral to navigating the way forward for the Himalayan states, ensuring a sustainable and secure future for the region.