



**National Webinar**  
**On**  
**HIMALAYAN DAY**

**9 September 2024**

**Plenary Speaker**



**Global Environmental Changes and Himalaya: Impacts, Responses and Options for Sustainable Development**

**Prof. Prakash C. Tiwari**

**Former Professor and Head, Department of Geography, Kumaun University, Nainital.**



**Himalaya: What, Why and How Long**

**Prof A.K. Biyani**

**Former Professor and Head, Department of Geology, DBS College Dehradun**

**SEMINAR MODE : ONLINE**

**TIME : 11:30 AM ONWARDS**

**Organized By**

**Geographical Society of Central Himalaya**

**Uttarakhand**

**[www.gsch.co.in](http://www.gsch.co.in)**



**Message**  
***HIMALAYAN DAY***

**A**bout one fourth land area of our planet earth lies under mountains of varied nature. Himalaya mountain becomes significant for being young folded mountain of complex geological structure and high peaks, snow coverage and heavy precipitation, rich flora, fauna and natural hazards. In addition to rich and diversified bio-physical distinction, the Himalaya attains its spiritual dimensions to magnificent level in Sanatan Hindu Scriptures. Long before the upcoming of the most of the religions of the world, the Hindu saints-sages travelled the interiors of the Himalaya and named the unique mountains, rivers, glaciers, valleys, gorges and confluences etc. as per their properties. The sanctification process of the sources of river Ganga and its tributaries laid the foundation of Hindu pilgrimage of four Dhams. The Himalaya appropriately finds its place in the earth eco system as Energy Tower of the planet.

The Himalayan Day celebration on 9th September, is an occasion to pay our gratitude for such supreme creation by the almighty nature in India. The location of the Himalaya mountain in the north of Bharat between Tibetan Tableland (hidden mystery) and the Gangetic plain (perennial spiritual being) has given it meta physical dimensions. It has occupied the mind and heart of common Sanatan Hindu as living God. In present day context, the Himalaya is the embodiment of soothing cool spiritual breeze of Eternal Supreme to calm down the sufferings of humanity in the current atmosphere of physical, mental and psychological turmoil.

Objectively speaking in geo ecological terms, the Himalaya represents high energy environment of the world and very high density (mountain relative) of human population. In the sub-tropical climate there comes up rich variety of flora and fauna which suffered/ degenerated by the manifold exploitation through extension of arable land, over grazing, over logging in forest fringe areas and over exploitation of alpine land sub-alpine zone for herbs collection and grazing etc. Similarly urbanization-rurbanisation and marketing practices are posing serious challenges to the clean and serene environment of the Himalayan region. Monsoon related land slide hazards and safety of infrastructure are among current serious problems.

Problems related with Himalaya are there but it is necessary to evaluate the current status. Even if everything is left to nature. There is a need to monitor the individual phenomenon. During the last ten years, we started receiving evidences about the presence of snow leopards in Uttarakhand, which were not reported earlier. During 1970-2000, the bio-ecological environment of the sub-temperate zone(1000-2000m) has been depleted and there was huge concern of NGOs and academic community. Now permanent migration of rural population from this zone on the middle basins of major rivers has reversed the process and the regeneration of vegetation is noteworthy as reflected in the State of Forest Report.

Strategy for Commemoration-On the eve of Himalayan Day, The Society (GSCH) proposes a long-term programme on the changing aspect of the Himalaya-Monitoring Himalaya Environment Drive (MHED). There is no clear knowledge about the various micro aspects of Himalayan ecology. We may rely on GIS methodology for deciphering the current status and the direction of change of the individual component of environment in the Himalayan region. The feasibility of such investigation will be finally decided by the GIS expert and methodology will follow. As a lay man spatial analyst we perceive to monitor this investigation programme on/around 2000 nodes(1 sq.km each) in case of Uttarakhand Himalaya. We may classify these nodes for the different aspects of the Geo-ecology of the Himalaya as per interest and specialization of experts concerned.



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