

Landslips in Himachal Pradesh

What is the issue?

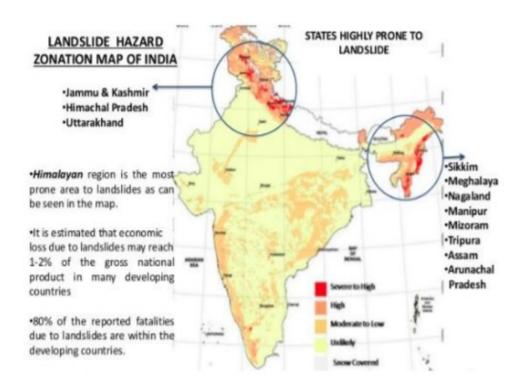
- Himachal Pradesh faces rising instability from environmental factors such as climate change, heavy rainfall and landslides.
- The rising threat calls for a renewed approach to the developmental designs in the State.

What is the recent happening?

- Landslip/Lanslide in the Kinnaur district of Himachal Pradesh killed at least 14 people and buried several others.
- Severe catastrophe as mud, rocks and debris rained down on vehicles.
- A fortnight back, a similar disaster killed a group of tourists.

What are the recurring threatsand the causes?

- Landslips They have become more common.
- Seismic events threaten to increase their frequency and aggravate the impact.
- The <u>Landslide Hazard Zonation Map</u> of India marks over 70% of Himachal Pradesh as 'high risk' and 14% as 'severe' to 'very high risk'.



- **Earthquakes** Mountains here are geologically young and therefore active (unstable).
- 32% of the State is categorised as a high damage risk zone for seismicity.
- Causes
 - 1. Himachal's mountain slopes experience seismicity and rain-induced stresses.

- 2. Heavily engineered structures such as dams and hydropower (involve rock blasting, tree felling and inundating large spaces), building roads.
- 3. With greater rainfall and cloudburst activity, Himachal Pradesh is bound to face greater uncertainty.

What does this call for?

- A new and redesigned development paradigm.
- Greater caution in pursuing disruptive projects, particularly hydropower.
- An updated action plan on climate changethat goes beyond disaster management.
- Long-term remedial measures for the key hazards.
- Harnessing the available support among local communities for sustainable tourism and expansion of the farm-based economy, particularly apple growing.

Source: The Hindu

