

# Workshop on disaster resilience action plan for Gangtok & Shillong

## SE Report

**GANGTOK, February 7:** A stakeholders' workshop was held on Tuesday at Gangtok for the Union government-sponsored project 'Developing disaster resilience action plan through GIS and prioritizing actions for natural disaster risk reduction in urban agglomerations of Shillong and Gangtok'.

The workshop was jointly organised by Integrated Research and Action for Development (IRADe), G.B. Pant National Institute of Himalayan Environment and Sustainable Development (GBPNIHESD), Sikkim Regional Center and North-Eastern Space Applications Centre (NESAC), Shillong, a press release informs.

The major agenda of the workshop was to provide decision-supporting tools for disaster risk reduction in the urban areas of the North East Region, development of cadastral maps for micro zonation of hazard and formulate action plan for disaster resilience with initial emphasis to the Shillong and Gangtok city.

Chief secretary A.K. Shrivastava, in his special address, focused on the vulnerability of Himalayan region to natural disasters (earthquake, landslides) and disaster management mechanisms.

Dr. Jyoti Parikh, Executive Director of the IRADe, briefed about the project significance and objectives.

Senior IRADe advisor Prof. Ajit Tyagi talked about climate change issues and disaster management approached for Himalayan cities.

In his opening remarks, Gangtok Mayor Shakti Singh

Choudhary briefed that the city has experience of disaster since the 2011 earthquake. Now there are more efforts being taken by various organizations for developing disaster resilience policy and action plan for the city, he said.

The inaugural session was followed by three sessions.

The first session focused on the issues and solutions for developing disaster resilience in Gangtok. The discussants of the session presented their expertise views on the vulnerability of Sikkim to various geological and hydrological hazards and its assessment.

A technical presentation formed a part of the second session and focused on the project approach and methodology in the identified sites. In addition, geospatial approaches for high resolution urban hazard mapping formed a major part of the second session.

The third and the final session of the workshop ended on high note with valuable inputs and suggestions from the stakeholders of various departments on the development of disaster resilience action plans.

The workshop was attended by participants from various departments and organizations viz., Land Revenue & Disaster Management department, Gangtok Municipal Corporation, Geological Survey of India (Sikkim Unit), Gangtok Met Centre, Urban Development & Housing department, United Nations Development Programme, Save the Hills, Department of Geology, Sikkim University and Department of Geography, Sikkim University.