

Editorial Board

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HIGHLIGHTS

Major Building Collapse in Delhi

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Message

Wish You a Happy New Year 2011!

The Lalita Park building collapse occurred at 8:15 p.m. local time on 15 November 2010 in the Indian capital of New Delhi. The 15-year-old building was in the Lalita Park neighborhood, near Lakshmi Nagar in East Delhi close to the Yamuna River. The building housed about 200 people, mostly poor migrant families, but also some small businesses.

A fifth floor was under construction. The building was two floors higher than legally allowed, and its foundation had been weakened due to September 2010 flooding in the region. At least 71 people were killed and 65 were injured in the collapse. Rescue efforts were slow because ambulances needed to mobilize the injured and heavy equipment needed to clear the rubble could not easily navigate in the narrow alleys in the congested, neighborhood. Workers, neighbors and residents used hammers and bare hands to dig through the concrete. A magisterial inquiry into the incident was ordered by Government of Delhi.

The Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee, has been asked by Delhi Government to do a survey of the congested Shahadra municipal zone in East Delhi and any building found unsafe will be considered for retro-fitting. After the Lalita Park building collapse Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD) had intensified the drive against illegal structures and also conducted a joint survey with the National Institute of Disaster Management, Delhi to identify such buildings and make an inventory of them. Building bylaws for special areas, including the Walled City, had been prepared in accordance with the Delhi Master Plan (MPD)-2021 but they are yet to be enforced.

As per the reports, a sizeable number of the colonies in East and North East Delhi are unauthorized. Construction of majority of the buildings therein seems far below the prescribed specifications and norms. Interestingly, all the areas/colonies are under the jurisdiction of some officers of the local body as per the organization charts of the local body. Unfortunately agencies are blaming each other for the tragedy. It is the time for all to find out solutions soon for the benefits of the people who are affected by the tragedy and the innocent people who are not aware of the vulnerable conditions where they are living.

Santosh Kumar

Country's First Floating Disaster Response Base

October 18, 2010

The country's first floating disaster response base of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), anchored on the banks of the Brahmaputra, was inaugurated by the NDRF Director-General in October 2010 in Guwahati. The base of the NDRF's 1st Battalion has 45 trained personnel, including three deep divers, a fleet of 12 Fibre Reinforced Plastic (FRP) speedboats, four rubberized speedboats and equipment such as earthquake collapse structure search and rescue equipment and life detecting equipment. The base has been set up in coordination with State Disaster Management Authority and Inland Water Transport Authority, which will help to reduce the response time for any rescue mission from the existing one-and-half hours to less than five minutes. Till now, the response teams were required to move from their

headquarters at Patgaon on the outskirts of the city.

Such a base was a long felt need as there were a lot of drowning incidents along the Brahmaputra. In the past nearly two years, as many as 34 incidents of drowning in the river in and around the city bank line were reported. The 1st Battalion NDRF has so far rescued 10,786 persons in operations in the northeast and Bihar. Also, from the disaster point of view the Brahmaputra had to be watched round-the-clock. The battalion was chalking out a coordination plan with all the stakeholders such as the Inland Water Transport, River Police, 108 emergency ambulance service, district administration and the police to rush victims to hospital in time out of the eight battalions of the



NDRF, four were trained and equipped with equipment to detect hazardous Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) material and the other four battalions, including the 1st Battalion NDRF, which has operational jurisdiction in the northeast, would also be gradually trained and equipped to handle CBRN emergencies.

Source: The Hindu, 18th October 2010

Cyclone 'Jal'

October 2010

As per IMD, a Severe Cyclonic Storm "Jal" is the fifth named cyclonic storm and the fourth Severe Cyclonic Storm of the 2010 Indian Ocean Cyclone season.. Jal developed from a low pressure area in the South China Sea that organized into a Tropical Depression on October 28th 2010. Cyclone Jal brought down more thunder showers and heavy rains over Tamil Nadu, Puducherry, Andhra Pradesh and Karnataka, as per records of the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD).

The deep depression over southwest Bay of Bengal moved northwestwards,

crossed north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh coasts close to north of Chennai between 2230 and 2330 hrs IST and lay centred at 2330 hrs IST of 7th November 2010, over coastal areas of north Tamil Nadu and south Andhra Pradesh near Lat.13.50N and Long. 80.00E, about 60 km northwest of Chennai. Later, It moved west-northwestwards and weakened gradually.

Under the influence of the cyclone, north Tamil Nadu and Puducherry received rains and thundershowers, while Rayalaseema and South Coastal Andhra Pradesh regions received heavy to very heavy rains.

Selected areas in south interior and coastal Karnataka also saw heavy

to very heavy rain falls. The severe cyclonic storm, 'JAL' in Bay of Bengal then moved northwestwards and had weakened into a cyclonic storm. It lay centered over southwest Bay of Bengal 250 km east-southeast of Chennai and 350 km south-southeast of Nellore. The State Government had declared holiday for schools and colleges for few days. In Chennai, four relief camps had to be put up. In Andhra Pradesh, Chief Minister K. Rosaiah reviewed the situation in Hyderabad and directed district authorities to complete evacuation operations in vulnerable villages and nearly 300 villages were identified for evacuation in Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna and Chittoor districts.

Delhi Building Collapse

November 2010

In Delhi, Lalita Park building collapse occurred on November 15, 2010. The entire structure came crashing down around 8.15 PM local time. The building was a four-storey 15-year-old structure located at the Lalita Park neighborhood, near Lakshmi Nagar, in East Delhi close to the Yamuna River, where the fifth floor was under construction. The building housed about 200 people, mostly poor migrant's families, and some small businesses also operated there. The building was two floors higher than legally allowed, and with a foundation that had been weakened by water damage from the flooding season (June-August) in New Delhi.

Over 60 families, mostly labourers from West Bengal and Bihar, were living in the cramped quarters of the 15-year-old building, where an illegal fifth floor was under construction. The four-storey building collapse in East Delhi had claimed about 71 lives and left 65 injured in one of the worst such disasters in the capital, as massive rescue operations were on to pull out those trapped under the debris. The injured were receiving treatment at various hospitals in the city. The dead included 29 women and 17 children. Fire and Medical Officers were working round the clock along with search and rescue teams. A 250-member disaster management team has been deployed to help in rescue effort.

The Delhi Government announced

an ex-gratia of Rs two lakh each to the families of those killed and Rs one lakh to the injured. The Delhi Government had also appointed a one-member judicial commission to probe the incident "in view of the scale of the mishap, large number of casualties and number of complex issues connected with the incident." The inquiry would be conducted by former Delhi High Court judge Justice Lokeshwar Prashad. He will probe all aspects of the incident including whether there was any procedural, administrative and statutory lapses that led to the tragedy. He has been asked to file his report within three months. Following this incidence, the MCD has also asked the occupants of as many as 38 "dangerous" buildings in the East Delhi area to evacuate immediately after a survey it conducted in the area following directions from Delhi Government.



Heavy Rains in Tamil Nadu and Andhra Pradesh

While northern India was reeling under cold in 2010, southern India suffered from incessant rainfalls during the months of October-November 2010. Continuous downpour had flooded many low-lying areas and housing colonies and many houses were seen submerged in floodwater. Residents were seen wading through the water to carry out their daily chores. In Tamil Nadu, heavy rains played havoc in the coastal districts disrupting normal life in the monsoon season from mid October and November. Heavy rainfall since mid October onwards, was above than normal, and took a toll on the normal functioning in many districts.

Official sources have put the death toll in rain related incidents to 170. There was no respite from the fury of the rain, as more downpours had been forecast for the coastal districts of Tamil Nadu. Schools in 12 districts including, Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur, were declared closed for few days during the second week of November.

Meanwhile, Senior State Government officials visited the rain affected Villupuram, Tirunelveli, Rameswaram, Cuddalore, Thanjavur, Tiruvarur, Nagapattinam, Tuticorin and Sivaganga districts interacting with the affected people to have first hand information about the damages and to make an on-the-spot assessment on the extent of damages. Later, the State Cabinet met to discuss the assessment report and reviewed the status of relief works being carried out. Nearly 300 villages have been identified for evacuation in Nellore, Prakasam, Guntur, Krishna and Chittoor districts. Medical teams had been rushed

to the rain-hit areas to prevent spread of contagious diseases like diah horea.

Similarly, incessant rains were experienced in many parts of Andhra Pradesh as well during October 2010. The toll due to heavy rains in Andhra Pradesh rose to 35 by 5th of November, with more deaths reported from the coastal districts of the state, even as standing crops particularly paddy in over 2.83 lakh hectares were damaged. At least 14 persons lost their lives in East Godavari district in the rain-related incidents followed by Visakhapatnam (11), Prakasam (3), West Godavari, Nellore, Anantapur (2 each) and Chittoor (1), according to Disaster Management authorities.

At least three persons went missing in East Godavari while five persons suffered injuries in Srikakulam (2) and Visakhapatnam (3). With rains continuing to lash the coastal districts and parts of Rayalseema region of the state for more than six-days at a stretch, over 10,000 houses were fully damaged while 1,39,436 houses in 443 villages were inundated. A total of 1,082 villages were affected in the coastal districts affecting over 6.64 lakh people in the five districts of East Godavari, Krishna, West Godavari, Prakasam and Nellore. The officials had set up 121 relief camps and nearly 56,695 persons were given shelter in these camps at East Godavari, Visakhapatnam, Krishna, Prakasam, West Godavari and Nellore. Heavy rains had also damaged standing crops in 2.83 lakh hectares besides affecting horticulture crops in 3,145 hectares, the officials said, adding 1,608 tanks were also breached.

Two day Sensiti

21st – 22nd December 20

India Water Partnership (IWP) in collaboration with National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India is organizing a Two Day Sensitization Programme for Zonal Water Partners on Climate induced Flood & Drought Mitigation and Management on 21st & 22nd December, 2010.

The key objectives of this programme :

- ♦ To provide the participants an overview on flood and drought scenario of India and concepts of flood & drought management.
- ♦ To enhance understanding concerning the nature, extent of

Sensitization Program

NIDM organized a one day sensitization programme for Delhi Judicial Service Officers on Sunday 19th December 2010 in the premises of Delhi High Court. 25 Officers of Delhi Judicial Service attended the programme which included overview of concepts and frameworks on disaster management, disaster management laws and exercises on disaster scenarios in Delhi. Justice Gita Mittal inaugurated the programme, while Chief Justice Deepak Mishra gave the

ization Programme for Zonal Water Partners on Climate induced Flood & Drought Mitigation and Management

010, Institute for Studies in Industrial Development, Institutional Area, Vasant Kunj, New Delhi

the threats and the value of counter measures to combat the adverse impact of flood/drought.

- ◆ To mainstream disaster risk reduction in the developmental activities.
- ◆ To provide forum for developing the requisite behavioral skills and attributes through exchange of technical and practical ideas and sharing of experiences among the participants.

Drought is one of the most costly hazards affecting India and thus has a major impact on the Indian society and economy. From time immemorial, drought had severe and catastrophic effects on the vital activities of mankind. The Indian agriculture

vitaly linked to the monsoon performance has suffered several onslaughts from recurring droughts. Drought management is always a measure of responsiveness and resourcefulness of governments at different levels. It requires a strong institutional structure to monitor and provide a timely response to drought. Thus this calls for efficient management of water resources involving all the stakeholders to take a different perspective on water resource management to make multiple gains in ensuring food security, reducing poverty, creating opportunity for livelihood diversification, conserving



eco-system integrity and creating resilience to climate change. In order to cope-up with these challenges, there is an urgent need for capacity building of community by sensitizing them on Climate induced flood and drought disasters for taking preparedness and mitigation measures.

Programme on Disaster Management for Delhi Judicial Service Officers

19 December 2010, New Delhi

valedictory address. The programme is expected to be followed up with development of a template disaster management plan for the courts based on which detailed contingency plans for disaster management shall be developed by the courts in Delhi. Similar initiative shall also be taken in other States. NIDM Team comprised of the following members, Prof. Santosh Kumar, Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Dr. Amir Ali Khan, Mr. Shekher Chaturvedi and Dr. Sushma Guleria



NIDM in International Forum

- ◆ International Workshop on Avalanche Dynamics and Avalanche Hazard Mapping during 1-4 November 2010, was organized at Manali (H.P.) by Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment, Chandigarh jointly with Swiss Experts and NIDM.
- ◆ Dr. Surya Prakash visited Paris to participate in the meeting of International Program on Landslides and International Consortium on Landslides between 16 and 19 November 2010 where NIDM's proposal on landslides risk management (IPL-166) was presented.
- ◆ Ms Sreeja S. Nair participated in the International Symposium on Benefiting from earth observation for adaptation to Climate Change in the Hindukush Himalayan Region, organized by ICIMOD from 1-6 October, 2010 at Katmandu, Nepal.
- ◆ Dr Anil K. Gupta delivered special key note in the International Conference Green Summit-2010 Hyderabad 12-13 Nov. 2011 and contributed as a panelist for the discussion on Climate-change Issues and Concerns.

Papers

Journal

- ◆ R K Mall, K K Singh, R S Singh and AK Srivastava (2010). Evaluation of CANEGRO-Sugarcane simulation model in East Uttar Pradesh, India. *Journal of Agrometeorology*, 12(2): p 181-186 .
- ◆ Anil K. Gupta , Sreeja S. Nair (2010). Flood Risk in the context of Land use – Chennai Case Study. *Journal of Geography and Regional Planning* Vol. 3(12), pp. 365-372,
- ◆ Vivek Kumar Singh, Rajat Satpathy, Sreeja S.Nair & Reshma Praveen (2010). Vegetation and Agricultural Health Monitoring using World view-II Satellite derived vegetation Indices: An Approach for drought assessment in Jharkhand, India. *Disaster and development* . Vol IV, No.2.

Proceedings/ presentations

- ◆ K.J.Anandha Kumar and R.K.Mall. "Groundwater resources depletion and need for development of sustainable communities" — National Seminar on Sustainable Consumption, Climate Change and Consumers- Towards a Better Future, held in IIPA, November 11-12, 2010.
- ◆ Mall R. K. ‘Vulnerability of India’s Energy Systems to Extreme Weather: Future Challenges, in the International Conference on Geophysical Sciences; Energy, Climate Change and Evaluation of Human Society (ICON GSECES-2010), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, December 21-23, 2010.
- ◆ Gupta, Anil K., Co-chaired Thematic Session on “Climate-

change and Adaptation”; delivered talk on “Agriculture Sector Disaster Risk Management – Role of Agro-Information Systems” In the International Conference on Geophysical Sciences; Energy, Climate Change and Evaluation of Human Society (ICON GSECES-2010), Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi, December 21-23, 2010.

- ◆ Prof. Chandan Ghosh, Dr. Anil K. Gupta and Dr. R.K. Mall participated and made presentations during International Conference on Geophysical Sciences – Energy, Climate Change and Evolution of Human Society (ICON GSECES-2010), December 21-23, 2010 organized at Department of Geophysics, Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi.

Major Activities of NIDM (October- December 2010)

Training Programmes

- ◆ Drought Mitigation and Management, Maharashtra, 4-8 October
- ◆ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, Jammu & Kashmir, 11-15 October
- ◆ Risk Assessment & Vulnerability Analysis, NIDM, 20-22 October
- ◆ Gender Issues in Disaster Management, NIDM, 25-29 October
- ◆ Integrated Emergency Management Course (IEMC) on Earthquake Response and Recovery Himachal Pradesh, 26-28 October
- ◆ Effective Dissemination of Early Warning, NIDM, 25-29 October
- ◆ Management of Industrial and Chemical Disasters, Chhattisgarh, 25-29 October
- ◆ SATCOM based CBDM, Madhya Pradesh, 26-29 October
- ◆ Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI, Punjab, 8-12 November
- ◆ Flood Risk Mitigation & Management, AMRAPARD, 8-12 November
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, SIRD, ODISHA, 8-12 November
- ◆ Training Prog. on Disaster Management for NDRF officers, NIDM, 8-12 November
- ◆ Orientation Programme on Disaster Management for MPs and other elected representatives, 12 November 2010, NIDM
- ◆ Disaster Health Care Management, NIDM, 22-26 November
- ◆ Forest Fire Management, FRI Dehradun, 6-10 December
- ◆ Management of Serial Bomb Blast, NIDM, 29 November- 1 December
- ◆ Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, ATI – Tripura, 29 November- 3 Dec.
- ◆ Comprehensive Landslide Risk Mitigation and Management, NIDM, 6-10 December
- ◆ Integration of DRR in JNNURM, NIDM, 6-10 December
- ◆ CBDRM, HCMRIPA, Rajasthan, 6-10 December
- ◆ Management of Stampedes, NIDM, 15-16 December
- ◆ Retrofitting of Lifeline Structures: Technical and Managerial Issues, Kerala, 20-24 December
- ◆ Mitigation of Risk of Cultural Heritage Properties, NIDM, 20-24 December
- ◆ Disaster Psycho-social Care, NIDM, 27-31 December
- ◆ Application of Geoinformatics in Disaster Management, Mizoram, 13-16 December 2010

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ◆ Third Basic Course on Comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management Framework (duration: 6 weeks) September 13- October 23, 2010
- ◆ Community Based Disaster Risk Management, Dec. 6-Jan. 1, 2011
- ◆ Financial Strategies for Managing Economic Impacts of Disasters November 22- December 24, 2010

Upcoming Events (January – March 2011)

Workshops

- ◆ Annual Training Conference, (14-15 February 2011)
- ◆ Workshop for Review of Andaman and Nicobar Islands Disaster Management Plan (22-24 February 2011, Port Blair)
- ◆ National Conference on Earthquake Risk Management Strategy in North East (Guwahati, 24-25 Feb. 2011)

Training Programmes

- ◆ Disaster and Disabilities, 21-25 February 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Training of Trainers on Community Based Disaster Risk Management, 21-25 February 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management, 28 February- 04 March 2011, SIRD, Tamil Nadu
- ◆ Training of Trainers Programme on Climate Change and Disaster Management, 28 February- 04 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Integration of DRR in JNNURM, 03-04 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Management of Industrial and Chemical Disasters, MDC-SHE, 07-11 March 2011, Bhubaneswar

- ◆ Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction in Development (Directors/ DS level officers of GOI), 14-18 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Disasters, 21-25 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Application of Geo-informatics in Disaster Management in collaboration with UNSPIDER, 28-30 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Management of Stampedes, 29-30 March 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Disaster Management for DMs/ADMs of Multi-hazard Districts, 02-04

February 2011, AIM, Tamil Nadu

- ◆ Application of Geo-informatics in Chemical Disaster Management, CEPT, Ahmedabad 31 Jan-04 Feb 2011
- ◆ Blended Learning on Environmental Statistics for Disaster Risk Management, 27-28 Jan. 2011, NIDM
- ◆ Cyclone Risk Mitigation and Management, MCRHRD, 17-21 Jan. 2011, Andhra Pradesh
- ◆ International Training Programme on Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management for Officers of African Countries, HIPA, Gurgaon 10-21 Jan. 2011, Haryana

Online Training Programme with WBI

- ◆ Basic Course: Comprehensive Natural Disaster Risk Management Framework- January 10-February 19, 2011
- ◆ Safe Cities- February 7- March 4, 2011
- ◆ Climate Change and Disaster Management- January 3- January 29, 2011
- ◆ Earthquake Risk Mitigation- February 28- March 26, 2011

We welcome comments / responses / articles from readers of our Newsletter



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