

Editorial Board

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Highlights

NIDM observed World Environment Day on 5 June 2012

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Message

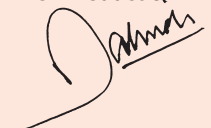
Millennium Assessment Report (2005) identified environmental degradation as a major factor leading to the increased vulnerability. Since strong inter-linkages exist between environmental degradation and disaster risks, conserving environment and natural resources can play significant role in addressing hazards and reducing vulnerability. Environmentally sustainable mitigation option and the concept of 'Greening Disaster Response' and 'Sustainable-Recovery' is yet to be promoted within the Disaster Risk Management Framework.

At the global level, there is a growing consensus towards linking disaster risk reduction with environmental management. Disaster management highlights the interdependence of the economy, environment and inclusive development. Since the beginning of United Nations International Decade of Disaster Risk Reduction in 1990s and following Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA) in 2005, countries started paying greater attention to Disaster Risk Management as compared to the previous relief centric approach. HFA (2005-2015) provided the basis for intense advocacy for disaster risk reduction funding and the mainstreaming of disaster risk reduction in sectoral planning process. HFA further calls for efforts to "encourage the sustainable use and management of ecosystems, through better land-use planning and development activities to reduce risk and vulnerabilities.

It is worthwhile to mention that "Disaster Management Act 2005" of India also recognizes damage to or destruction of environment as disaster. The National Disaster Management Authority, the apex organization on disaster management in India, has developed a number of guidelines on disaster management which prescribe for various environmental approaches in disaster mitigation and post-disaster management. Under the Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Programme of GOI & UNDP, Environment' is identified as a key sector with manifold significance for mainstreaming disaster management. NIDM has recently developed tools and guidelines for integrating DRR in environment sector.

To attract national attention on the issue, National Institute of Disaster Management, observed "World Environment Day" on 5th June 2012 with the objective of generating awareness on "Safe guarding Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction". The focus of the event was on climate change and its impact on hydro-meteorological disasters like floods, drought, forest fire, cyclone and epidemics.

I hope, NIDM through various projects, programmes, training and research would be contributing significantly to policy integration, education and awareness generation in the arena of Conserving Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction.



(Satendra)

Observing World Environment Day

New Delhi, 5 June 2012

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) observed the "World Environment Day" on the theme "Safeguard Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction" on 5th June 2012 at the Auditorium of SCOPE Complex, Lodi Road, New Delhi. The objective of the event was to generate awareness on safeguarding environment for disaster risk reduction. The focus of the event was on climate change and its impact on hydro-meteorological disasters like floods, drought, forest fire, cyclone and epidemics.

Presiding the function, Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Hon'ble Member of the National Disaster Management Authority, reiterated the need to integrate the environmental protection for disaster risk reduction. Informing the international and national initiatives on disaster risk management in environment sector and the proposed guidelines on ecosystem approach to disaster risk reduction, Dr. Ahmad pointed out the need of capacity building and education on environment based disaster risk management, especially in the context of natural and water related disasters. He praised NIDM for its collaboration with the United Nations Partnership for Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction (UN-PEDRR) involving UNEP, UNDP, CADRI, UN-IUCN etc. Presenting the welcome note, Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM, highlighted the need of policy integration of environment and disaster management through education and awareness campaigns. He informed about the development of new guidelines and tools for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into environment sector. A special talk was delivered by Dr. Leena Srivastava, Executive Director of TERI (The Energy and Resources Institute) and Vice-chancellor of TERI University,



Dr. Muzaffar Ahmad, Hon'ble Member of the National Disaster Management Authority awarding prizes to the student winners of poem and slogan competitions on Safe Guard Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Release of work book on Disaster Management for school children during the World Environment Day function.

on the theme of 'Environment, Climate-Change and Disasters'. She focused on the need of scientific research targeting local and regional levels by involving academic institutions across the nation. The event was also an occasion of release of three publications of NIDM (i) Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (ii) Environmental Extremes and Disaster Management and a (iii) Work Book on Disaster Management, for school children. The key attraction of the programme was prizes to the students winners of competitions on slogan writing and poem writing in Hindi and English on the theme "Safeguard Environment for Disaster Risk Reduction". First prize winners in different categories were from Guru Tegh Bahadur Centenary Public School Delhi; Om Shanti Senior Secondary School Sonipat, Cambridge School Indrapuram; Jain Bharati Mrigavati Vidyalaya, Delhi; Dayanand Public School Shimla, Evergreen Public School Ghaziabad; Long view public School Nainital; Sachdeva Public School Rohini; St. Luke's Sr. Secondary School, Solan (HP); Delhi Public School, RK Puram Delhi, Govt Girls Sr. Secondary School Solan (HP).

Director General of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) Shri Prakash Mishra, was a Special Guest to grace the occasion. He focused on the awareness on environmental protection particularly in hill areas, river basins and coastal areas, and the cities. He shared his experience and emphasized on role of NDRF in disaster response. Prof. V. K. Sharma, Hon'ble Vice-chairman of the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority and Professor of Disaster Management at Indian Institute of Public Administration, delivered special address on the occasion. Sharing his experience of disaster management and

environment awareness in India, he discussed the role of students and youth. He mentioned that India was a role model in environment management in the past but has become a worst sufferer of environmental degradation due to the blind race of development keeping aside the concerns of natural resources and ecology, which is now resulting in increased disaster damages.

Dr. Anil Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor of Policy Planning at the National Institute of Disaster Management proposed vote

of thanks at the end of the programme. Eminent experts on disaster management from Nepal Mr. Amod Mani Dixit was also present. Besides Dr. T.N Gupta, former Executive Director of Building Materials Technology Promotion Council, Dr. Sunil Pandey, Sri Mukul Goel, Inspector General of NDRF, Mr. Prashant Kumar, I.G., ITBP, Brig. Dr. Khanna, and many other delegates graced the occasion. About 300 delegates including Government officials, NGOs, professionals, teachers and students attended the programme.

Validation Consultation for customized Modules of Incident Response System

New Delhi, 04-15 June 2012

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), the nodal Institution for training and institutionalization of Incident Response System (IRS), organized the Validation Consultation for customized modules of IRS in collaboration with United States Agency for international Development (USAID) and the U.S. Forest Service (USFS). The validation consultation was held at Hotel Taj Vivanta, New Delhi during 4-8, June and at National Institute of Disaster Management, during 11-15 June. The objective of the Consultation was to ensure that the IRS training modules are customized to suit Indian Administrative System. The event was inaugurated by Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM on 4th June. Mr. Garry Robbins of USAID highlighted on the progress made in IRS training and institutionalization in India under the collaborative arrangement. Shri Arun Sahdeo, Consultant, made a presentation on the objective and methodology of the consultation. The event was attended by the consultants involved in customization of the modules, invited resource persons from state governments,



Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM, Mr. Garry Robbin, USAID, consultants and representatives from NDMA, MHA, NIDM and States participating in the validation consultation on 4 June 2012.

USFS resource persons and representatives from the NDMA, MHA, NIDM and USAID.

Workshop on "How prepared we are? Lessons learnt-Post Earthquake 4/11"

New Delhi, 16 May 2012

A workshop on "How prepared we are? Lessons learnt - Post Earthquake" was conducted by NIDM on 16th May 2012. Aim of the workshop was to capture and collate the learnings and experiences of various stakeholders like responders at state level and at center, humanitarian organizations and corporate and UN partners. The event was inaugurated by Mr. K. M. Singh, Hon'ble Member NDMA, addressed by Mr. T. Srinivas Kumar, INCOIS and coordinated by Prof. Santosh Kumar.

An 8.6 magnitude earthquake near the Indonesian Coastline on Wednesday, 11th April 2012, triggered the apprehension of tsunami. The first earthquake of magnitude 8.6 quake, struck at 2:38 p.m. (local time, Indonesia). The Pacific Tsunami Warning Center declared a tsunami watch for the entire Indian Ocean and 28 individual countries, including Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and India. According to the US Geological Survey, the quake struck 308 miles (500 km) southwest of the city of

Banda Aceh, on the northern tip of Indonesia's Sumatra Island, at a depth of 20.5 miles (33 km). A second, 8.2 magnitude quake struck two hours later roughly 120 miles south of the first quake's epicenter. A second, 8.2 magnitude quake struck two hours later roughly 120 miles south of the first quake's epicenter. As the earthquakes shook Indonesia's western coast and tremors felt in several Indian cities, a tsunami was expected to ripple westward across the Indian Ocean and slam eastern coastline in India. Although, the earthquake was the eleventh largest since 1900, fortunately, there was no tsunami. However the event i.e. the massive earthquake followed by the tsunami warning helped in getting better insights about the exiting preparedness and early warning systems, their strengths and gaps.



Mr. K.M. Singh, Hon'ble Member NDMA, addressing the delegates during the inaugural session of the Workshop

Workshop on Disaster Management in SAARC Nations

Dhaka, Bangladesh, 22-24 May 2012

The International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG) organised a three days workshop on disaster management in SAARC nations at Dhaka, Bangladesh. The workshop was attended by about 40 senior level officers of SAARC member states. The inaugural programme was presided over by Ms. Sahara Khatun, Hon'ble Minister of Home, Bangladesh. She said that an agreement on rapid response to natural disaster has been signed in the SAARC 17th Summit to ensure that no member state is overwhelmed by a natural calamity. The closing ceremony of the workshop was presided over by Brig. Gen (Retd) Abu Nayeem Md. Shahidullah, Director General of Fire Service and Civil Defence and Disaster Management and Relief Division Secretary, Dr. M. Aslam Alam, Mr. Neal Walker and UN resident coordinator present were the other key dignitaries. The Director General – National Disaster Response Force, Executive Director- NIDM & Director of SAARC Disaster Management Centre and Joint Secretary,



Hon'ble Minister of Home, Bangladesh delivering inaugural address during the workshop on Disaster Management in SAARC Nations.

National Disaster Management Authority, GOI participated in the workshop.

Training Programmes

Training programme for MCD Engineers of Delhi on "Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Screening"

New Delhi, 24-27 April 2012

Every now and then, cases of building collapse are mounting up in the state of Delhi. Many buildings in Delhi need monitoring

on regular basis. There is no registered experts/agencies in Delhi, who can check structural safety of building stocks on

regular basis. In order to augment earthquake resilient infrastructure development, there is an urgent need to develop the capacity of the engineers and architects, so that they monitor the structural safety and can come out with suitable option to reduce the risk. In view of the above, National Institute of Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi organized a state level Training programme on "Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Screening", during 24-27 April 2012 for MCD Engineers of Delhi. The programme was inaugurated by Shri Tejendra Khanna, Hon'ble Lt. Governor Delhi and presided over by Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, and National Disaster Management Authority.



Shri Tejendra Khanna, Hon'ble Lt. Governor, Delhi, addressing the dignitaries and participants during the inaugural session of the training.

Training Programme on Human Resource Development Platform : Authoring, Handling and Administration

NIDM, New Delhi, 14-18 May 2012

NIDM and GIZ in technical collaboration with Hoffmann and Reif and Ifanos, Germany organized a five days hands on training on "Human Resource Development Platform: Authoring, Handling and Administration" at NIDM during 14-18 May 2012. Twelve Participants from NIDM, NCDC Nagpur, DMI Bhopal , HIPA, Shimla and Indo-German Environment Programme participated in the training programme. The key objective of the course is to develop the skills of authors and administrators for the use of the HRDP-Platform as a tool for " Human Resource Development & Management" in their respective organizations. For details visit <http://nidm.hrdp-network.com/e41867/e41869/e41870/e41878>.



Participants attending the five days course on Human Resource Development Platform.

Training Programme on Emergency Operation Centres (EOC)

New Delhi, June 25 - 29, 2012

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) in collaboration with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) conducted a five days Training Programme on Emergency Operation Centres (EOC) during June 25 - 29, 2012 at NIDM under Disaster Management Support (DMS) Project being implemented by the Ministry of

Home Affairs. The Course was inaugurated by Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM on 25th June 2012. Mr. Garry Robbins of USAID highlighted on the progress made in IRS training and institutionalization in India under the collaborative arrangement. The objective of the said training programme is to impart necessary knowledge and skill to the participants in functioning

of the EOCs/Control Rooms in post-disaster as well as pre-disaster phases. The programme was facilitated by Resource Persons from the United States Forest Service (USFS) and coordinated by Shri Arun Sahdeo, Consultant, NIDM. The first three days of the course were focused on training followed by helping GoI in developing a framework of the manual of the EOC. The following two days were devoted to Group Activity for developing the framework for the manual for EOCs specific to Indian conditions. The course was attended by 39 participants from the State Government and Central Government, including those from NDMA, NIDM and NDRF, All India Services, State Civil Services, administrative services and faculty members of state ATIs.



Mr. Steve Heil, USFS, conducting sessions during the training programme.

Training of Trainers Programme on School Safety



Group photo of Training of Master Trainers for School Safety Programme from 14-18, May, 2012

Statistics on past disasters clearly depicts that schools, particularly young children, are exposed to various kinds of hazards and vulnerabilities. This is evident from events like Gujarat earthquake (2001) where 971 children died and Kumbakonam School Fire (2004) where 94 children were charred to death. Keeping the vulnerabilities of young children in view, Government of India approved National School Safety Program (NSSP) - a demonstration project to be implemented by NDMA in partnership of Ministry of Human Resource Development, State/UT governments, National and International Agencies. Under NSSP, NIDM has been entrusted with the two key responsibilities (i) to impart training to Master Trainers (ii) develop ToT Module on School Safety. Based on the training schedule developed in consultation with NDMA, NIDM has already conducted 7 training programs for Master Trainers and trained 169 participants. To facilitate the task of development of TOT module on School Safety, NIDM is organizing a workshop on 3rd August 2012.

NIDM Participated in IPCC SREX Event

New Delhi, June 25 - 29, 2012

Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM along with Prof. Santosh Kumar and Dr. Anil Gupta participated in the event "Managing the Risks of Climate Extremes and Disasters in Asia - What can we learn from the IPCC Special Report?" held at Le Meridien Hotel, New Delhi, India on 2-3 May 2012. The new IPCC Special report on Managing the Risks of Extreme Events and Disasters to Advance Climate Change Adaptation (SREX) was tabled in the event. Executive Director, NIDM, made a presentation on various initiatives taken by the institute in the field of Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation.



Executive Director, NIDM presented initiatives taken by institute in the field of Climate Change mitigation and adaptation.

3rd NIDM –UNSPIDER Training Workshop on Space Technology Applications in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response

NIDM and UNSPIDER jointly organized the 3rd training workshop on "Space Technology Applications in Disaster Management And Emergency Response" during 2-4th April 2012 at NIDM, New Delhi. This workshop was aimed at bridging the gap between the disaster management functionaries and providers of space based data and geo-spatial applications. The workshop offered a platform for the disaster managers and data providers of space-based and geospatial information to discuss about the effective use of geospatial data and technologies in disaster risk management and emergency response. Fifteen participants from various states, including Principal Secretary Disaster Management, Manipur attended the workshop. Dr. P.P. Nageswara Rao, ISRO HQ, Shri. V. Bhanumurthy, NRSC, Dr. Shirish Ravan, UNSPIDER and Col. B.B.Singh, NDMA were the key resource persons for the training programme.



Group photo of the three days training programme on space Technology Applications in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response 2-4 April, 2012

NIDM in International Forum

- Dr. Satendra, Executive Director, NIDM participated in the workshop on disaster management in SAARC nations at Dhaka, Bangladesh organized by the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG). organised the workshop on disaster management in SAARC nations at Dhaka, Bangladesh during 22-24, May, 2012.
- Dr. K. J. Anandha Kumar, Associate Professor attended 8th International Training Course on GIS for Disaster Risk Management, organised by ADPC in association with ITC, AIT, UNOSAT held at Bangkok, Thailand during 7-18, May, 2012.
- Dr. Surya Parkash, Associate Professor, NIDM has been sponsored by ICL to participate the ICL-UNESCO meeting of landslide experts from different countries during 14-16 June 2012 at Kyoto - Japan, to create teaching tools on landslide risk reduction for Asia and Pacific region.

Delegation Visited

Visit of Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan

04th May 2012

Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan visited NIDM & SDMC on 04th May 2012. He was accompanied by Mr. Ali Tauqeer Sheikh, CEO, LEAD, Pakistan. During his visit the Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan interacted with the faculty & officers of NIDM & SDMC. He was briefed about the activities of NIDM and SDMC. Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan explained to the faculty & officers about the measures taken by NDMA, Pakistan to reduce the disaster risks.



ED NIDM Presenting memento to Dr. Zafar Iqbal Qadir, Chairman, NDMA, Pakistan

Publications

Work Book on Disaster Management

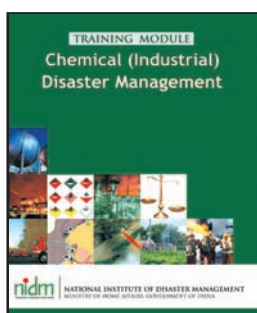
Authors : Irfana Beghum, Surya Prakash & Rita

A work book on Disaster Management is developed jointly by NIDM and Vigyan Prasar to generate awareness amongst the school children regarding the hazards, vulnerability and disasters. This book also provide "do's and dont's " for specific hazards like earthquake,flood, fire, landslides etc.



Training Module on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster Management.

Authors: Anil K. Gupta & Sreeja S. Nair



Training Module on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster Management is developed by the institute for the use by institutions engaged in training on Chemical (Industrial) Disaster Management. The module gives description of the learning units, objective, target group, duration, training and performance aids and tips for the trainers. This publication is having 5 modules, viz. Introduction, Legal Framework for Chemical Disaster Management, Field Exposure and Onsite Planning, Tools, techniques and Methods. The module contains sample schedule, pre-training assessment and evaluation formats as its annexure.

Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction

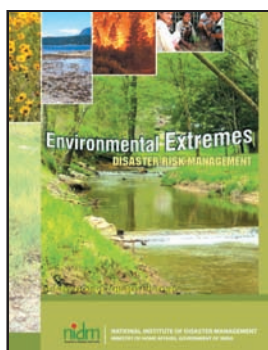
Editors : Anil K. Gupta & Sreeja S. Nair

This book is an overview of the concept of Ecosystem Approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (Eco-DRR), with case studies on natural resource management and disaster linkages, focussing on Eco-DRR concepts in various phases of disaster management, including post disaster recovery in wide range of human environmental settings. Chapters cover coastal, mountain and urban ecosystems and specific hydro-meteorological risks like floods, forest fire, epidemics, EIA and post disaster environmental management aspects.



Environmental Extremes and Disaster management : Addressing Climate Change

Editors : Anil K. Gupta & Sreeja S Nair



This publication gives a glimpse of climate change related disaster management issues in South Asia, and more particularly in India. This publication is built on the theme chosen by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) for the world environment day, "Safeguard the environment for disaster risk reduction," which reflects the pressing need for arresting environmental degradation and improving management of ecosystems and natural resources for achieving disaster risk reduction and adapting to climate risks. It is intended to be used as a reference for the local policy makers and planners, and in general for people at large who try to concise on challenges, issues and solutions for climate change – adaptation and its integration with disaster risk management.

Disasters of this Quarter

Boat Capsize Incident Near Medartari Ghat of Dhubri District

Assam, 30 April 2012

On 30th April, 2012, the ill-fated boat "SB Panch Bhai" bearing registration No. 'Assam 322, started its journey from Dhubri Kachari Ghat at about 3:00 PM with 214 Numbers of passengers, including that of crew members and cargo weighing about 12 (Twelve) quintals, approximately. The boat capsized in Bura-Buri channel of Brahmaputra River near Medartari Ghat of Dhubri District. The cause of the accident was a severe storm that caught the ferry in midstream. Rescue operations were carried out immediately after the event by

BSF, Army and NDRF personnel. As per report of local Administration, 41 dead bodies were recovered, 35 persons injured, 8 persons missing and 163 persons approximately swam ashore or were rescued by the community. Prof. Chandan Ghosh has been deputed by NIDM to visit the accident site and submit an analytical review report. He visited some of the Ferry Ghats at the Dhubri town during 9-10th June 2012, about 285 km west of the state capital Guwahati, identified vulnerable spots during ferry operations on 10th June, along with the



Medartari Ghat, south bank of river Brahmaputra, where the boat was to reach by 4:30 PM on 30th April 2012 but cyclonic storm made it into pieces, killing 41 and injuring 35.

staffs from Inland Water Transport Department and Dhubri District Disaster Management Cell. In Assam, where inland water transport through Brahmaputra and its tributaries is a lifeline for thousands, over aged boats still ply overcrowded not only with people, but also carrying vehicles, animals and other daily necessities. It was found that the ill fated ferry was operating without a proper permit since 1994.

There are about 4500 boats operating in Assam, without safety checks for years. These boats run without life jackets or tubes, engines are not checked for fitness, and there is blatant violation of rules on the river highways of Assam. At the Dhubri Ghats, there is hardly any infrastructures amenable to passenger's comfort. Inputs from district ADM, DC, BSF water wing, ASDMA, have been collected and now being presented in the form of a report

Assam Floods

April – June 2012

Floods are a recurring phenomenon in Assam, as 45% of its area is prone to floods. Apart from the heavy rainfall that occurs in the State, the Brahmaputra and its tributaries and the Barak river and their tributaries swell up during the monsoon on account of rains in the upper reaches of the catchment areas of various rivers which include China, Myanmar and Bhutan,

besides the neighbouring states of Arunachal Pradesh, Meghalaya, Nagaland etc. Pre-monsoon period (April – May, 2012) was also marked by high winds and storms that caused huge damage to houses and other properties.

First wave of floods occurred in the district of Karimganj in April 2012. Later in May a flood occurred in Lakhimpur district and

subsequently, in early June, spread to other districts. The most devastating phase came on 24th June due to incessant rainfall in the catchment areas of Brahmaputra (particularly in China and Arunachal Pradesh) and its tributaries originating from Arunachal Pradesh and Bhutan. Water levels of all rivers started rising and on 21st June crossed the danger level mark. The rivers in the Barak Valley were also flowing well above the danger mark. Even on 30th June, the Brahmaputra was flowing well above the danger mark near Dhubri. The Barak and Kushiara rivers in the Barak Valley were also above the danger mark.

The rainfall during the month of June 2012 was 528.8 mm, which was 24 % above normal (427.3 mm). The high water level of the Brahmaputra during the June flood was the highest since the levels in 1988, 1998 and 2004 in different locations. The river Brahmaputra which crossed the danger mark at Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Tezpur, Guwahati, Goalpara & Dhubri caused floods in the districts of Dibrugarh, Jorhat, Sonitpur, Nagaon, Morigaon, Kamrup (M), Kamrup, Goalpara, Dhubri, Bongaigaon, Barpeta, Darrang, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji & Tinsukia. Besides the river Brahmaputra, the tributaries Dikhow, Jiabharali, Kopili, Bharalu, Puthimari, Champamati, Aai, Gaurang, Beki, Manas, Pagladia, Saktola, Nonoi, Subhansiri, Singra, Charikhuria, Dikrong, Durpang, Jiadhal, caused floods in Sibsagar, Sonitpur, Nagaon, Karbi Anglong, Kamrup (M) Kamrup, Bongaigaon, Kokrajhar Chirang Barpeta, Baksa, Nalbari, Darrang, Udalguri, Lakhimpur, Dhemaji. The Barak river and its tributaries Kushiara, Kathakal & Matijuri caused floods in the three districts of Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj.

The inundation that occurred during the June Floods was on account of the Brahmaputra and its tributaries overtopping the embankments at several places. In addition, the embankments of various rivers were breached at 43 places, causing large scale inundation within a very short time. As the breaches widened with time, more areas were affected over a few days. Nearly 23, 91,369 population were affected in 4540 villages of Assam and the total area affected was



Damage due to floods & Landslides in 2012, Assam

approximately 9.35 lakh hectares. 105 people lost their lives during the June floods. Heavy rainfall also triggered 27 landslides in three districts of Assam, worst affected were Dima Hasao and Kamrup (Metro). 16 people lost their lives in these landslides. During June, 2012 flood inundated many areas suddenly on account of breaches in embankments. This resulted in many areas remaining cut off from rest of the landmass for 1-3 days. In the initial phase, Amarpur and Laika areas of Sadiya subdivision in Tinsukia district and later certain parts of Sonitpur district could not be approached for 1 or 2 days. The district administration supported strongly by NDRF, Army and Air Force did a commendable job in rescuing and evacuating people to safer areas. It is estimated that over 16,000 people were rescued all over the state using boats from the Army, NDRF and private boats. In some areas of Tinsukia and Sonitpur districts food packets were air-dropped. 16 teams of NDRF (678 persons) were deployed in 9 districts, 7 army columns and 18 SDRF teams (180 persons) also rendered assistance in rescue and relief work.

(Source: Assam State Disaster Management Authority)

Blast in Visakhapatnam Steel Plant

The worst-ever accident in the history of Visakhapatnam Steel Plant (VSP), happened at 8.45 PM on 13 June 2012. Nineteen persons including senior officers, were burnt alive following a huge explosion in the recently commissioned oxygen plant in the steel melting in unit III. About 20 workers were injured seriously. The explosion occurred when the officials were conducting a trial run of the oxygen plant. The three-member high-level committee headed by former SAIL Chairman-cum-Managing Director Mr. S.R. Jain, carried out investigation of the event. According to the report, inadequate flow of oxygen resulting in friction in the pipes could be one of the causes. The action recommended include specific orientation and awareness programmes for all those connected with design, testing, construction, cleaning, testing and commissioning and operation of oxygen supply systems

(Source : Factories Department Vishakhapatnam and The Times of India)



Fire followed by explosion in the oxygen plant at VSP on 13 June 2012. (Source: Time of India, Hyderabad)

Forest Fires in Uttarakhand

After a couple of years of relative calm, fires have again ravaged the forests of Uttarakhand during 2012 May and June. Many blazes were reported and more forest area affected this season than the past two years put together, as an unusually hot and dry summer turned the state's pine woods into tinderboxes. According to Uttarakhand forest department, forest fires had destroyed a sizable part of the reserve forest areas under the Pauri and Kedarnath forest divisions. Forest fires had also destroyed forests in Chamoli, Rudraprayag, Tehri and Haridwar districts. In Dang and its nearby six villages, lying in the Uttarakashi district, three cows were burnt alive and two others

suffered serious burns after their shed caught fire due to a fast spreading forest fire. A senior IFS officer said that teams of forest guards had been constituted to ascertain the number of casualties of wild animals and losses of other forest properties, including medicinal plants gutted in the fire. According to forest department officials, forest panchayats and the villagers voluntarily set their forests on fire to burn dry grass so that new grass grows. According to the state's forest department, as many as 1,316 cases of fires have been reported till June 24 this summer. Fires have burnt 2,808 hectares of forests, more than 80% of these in the susceptible pine zone.

Training Programmes Conducted

(April – June 2012)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. NIDM- UNSPIDER, 3rd Training Workshop on Space Technology Application in Disaster Risk Reduction and Emergency Response, NIDM, 2-4 April. 2. Training Programme on Disaster management in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Vigyan Prasar Delhi, 17-18 April. 3. Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Survey, NIDM, 24-27 April. 4. IRS: Basic & Intermediate, NIDM, 30 April-4 May. 5. Regional ToT: Reproductive & Child Health in Humanitarian Action, MCRHRD Hyderabad, 30 April-3 May. 6. Flood Disaster Management: Agenda for Action in collaboration with National Water Academy (NWA), Pune, 30 April-4 May. 7. ToT on School Safety for Teachers, NIDM, 7-11 May. 8. Earthquake Risk Evaluation & Management, ATI, Himachal Pradesh, 7-11 May. 9. Regional ToT: Reproductive & Child Health in Humanitarian Action, AASC, Assam, 8-11 May. 10. ToT on School Safety for School Management, NIDM, 14-18 May. 11. ToT on School Safety for Disaster Education Officers, NIDM, 21-25 May. 12. Managing Flood Disaster under Changing Climate, UPAAM, 21-25 May. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 13. ToT on School Safety for Teachers, NIDM, 28 May-1 June. 14. ToT on School Safety for School Management, NIDM, 4-8 June. 15. Training Programme on Disaster management in collaboration with Vigyan Prasar, Delhi, 7-8 June. 16. Disaster Preparedness for people with Disabilities, NIDM, 11-15 June. 17. ToT on School Safety for Disaster Education Officers, NIDM, 11-15 June. 18. Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan: Plan and Process, ATI Chhattisgarh, 18-22 June. 19. Flood Disaster Management, ATI, Gujarat, 18-22 June. 20. ToT on School Safety for School Management, NIDM, 18-22 June. 21. Programme on Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs), NIDM, 25-29 June. 22. Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Survey, NIDM, 27-29 June. |
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Online Training Programmes

- NIDM - GFDRR - Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework, 28th May-06th July, 2012
- NIDM - GFDRR - Comprehensive Disaster Risk Management Framework, 11th June-20th July, 2012

Upcoming Events

Upcoming Training Programmes

(July- September, 2012)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Road Accidents & its Safety NIDM, 2-3 July. 2. Reconstruction and Rehabilitation of Disaster affected Areas, Sikkim, 2-6 July. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Legal Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, ATI Orissa, 2-4 July. 4. Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Survey, NIDM, 11-13 July. |
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5. Gender Sensitive Disaster Management, NIDM, 16-20 July.
6. Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Survey, NIDM, 25-27 July.
7. Health Care for all in Emergencies, ATI- Bihar, 6-9 August.
8. Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings in Delhi by Rapid Visual Survey, NIDM, 7-9 August.
9. IRS: Operations Section Chief Course, NIDM, 3-5 September.
10. Formulation of District Disaster Management Plan, ATI- Rajasthan, 3-7 September.
11. Application of Geo Informatics in Disaster Management, ATI- Karnataka, 3-7 September.
12. Cyclone Risk Mitigation & Management, ATI- West Bengal, 10-14 September.
13. Disaster Risk Reduction and Media, NIDM, 12-14 September.
14. Needs for Children in Disasters, NIDM, 17-21 September.
15. Programme on DM for NCC and NSS officers, NIDM, 17-21, September.
16. Formulation of Village DM Plan, NIDM, 24-28 September.
17. Flash Flood Disaster Management, ATI-Kerala, 24-28 September.
18. Climate Change & Drought Risk Management, NIDM, 24-28 September.

Online Training Programmes

- Earthquake Risk Mitigation, 23rd July-17th August, 2012 (4 weeks)
- Safe Cities, 20th August -14th September, 2012 (4 weeks)
- Climate Change and Disaster Risks, 17th September – 12th October, 2012 (4 weeks)

Observing Van Mahotsava

NIDM will be observing Van Mahotsava on 23rd July 2012. Objective of the event is to sensitize officials about its intricate linkages with forest management and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) leading towards an environment sensitive DRR planning.

Workshop under NSSP

NIDM will be organizing a workshop on 3rd August 2012 to facilitate the development of TOT module on School Safety under National School Safety Programme.

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



Address for communication

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