

## Editorial Board

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## Highlights

**1<sup>st</sup> Session of NPDRR during 13-14 May  
at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi**

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## Message

Heavy rainfall during the second and third week of June resulted in devastating floods and landslides in the state of Uttarakhand and is considered as India's biggest natural disaster since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami. Uttarakhand disaster is unique since the disaster affected people from all states of India. Though parts of Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh in India, some regions of Western Nepal, and some parts of Western Tibet also experienced heavy rainfall, over 95% of the casualties occurred in Uttarakhand. According to the Ministry of Home Affairs situation reports, 580 persons were perished and still more than 5,748 persons are missing. More than 1600 villages affected by floods and landslides in Uttarakhand alone.

Although the Kedarnath Temple had not been damaged much, the temple inundated with water, mud and boulders from the landslides resulting in several deaths. Many hotels, rest houses and shops around the temple in Kedarnath township were completely destroyed, resulting in several casualties. Most of the destruction at Kedarnath was probably caused by a sudden rapid melting of ice and snow on the Kedarnath Mountain which flooded the Charbari lake (upstream) and then Kedarnath. Entire villages and settlements such as Gaurikund and the market town of Ram Bara, a transition point to Kedarnath, have been washed away, Public infrastructures such as roads and vital bridges, houses and administrative buildings, schools and health centres, have been badly damaged. Besides huge damage to lives and infrastructure, the floods and landslides adversely affected the livelihoods of rural people in the affected areas. For Uttarakhand's local population, whose homes and villages have been swept away by the raging flood waters, life has been irrevocably altered and displaced from their homes and left without any livelihood options.

Despite major constraints like difficult terrain and adverse weather conditions our response agencies especially Indian Army, NDRF, ITBP and BRO did exemplary tasks and rescued more than one lakh people stranded. Now, is the time to learn lessons from the tragedy and to set an agenda for recovery immediately. The agenda should not be restricted by the provision of relief, or compensation to victims, it should be aimed at sustainable recovery based on a systematic assessment of the situation. Recovery priorities should be defined and provisions for adequate technical and financial resources to implement these priorities should be made available. Recovery programme should be characterized by the concerns of equity, efficiency and integrity. DRR concerns should be integrated in the rebuilding process to build back a better and safe community.

  
(Satendra)

# First Session of National Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction

13-14 May 2013, VigyanBhawan, New Delhi

Government of India has constituted a multi-stakeholder National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction vide Government's Resolution No.47-31/2012-DM-III dated 26<sup>th</sup> February 2013. The NPDRR has been constituted with the Hon'ble Home Minister as Chairperson, Vice Chairman NDMA and Minister of State (Home) as Vice Chairpersons, 15 Cabinet ministers and Deputy Chairman Planning Commission, Ministers from States and Union Territories responsible for disaster management representatives of local self-government, Members of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha, ex-officio members, heads of national institutions, representatives from Industry, media, civil society organisations and international organisations, with Secretary (Border Management) as the convener.

The functions of the NPDRR are to review the progress made in the field of disaster management, advice regarding coordination among DRR shareholders, appraise the extent and manner in which the disaster management policy has been implemented, and share the knowledge and experiences of disaster managers. The output from the National Platform will offer a strategic direction and a road map for firm governance towards disaster mitigation. The First Session of NPDRR was organised on the theme of "Mainstreaming DRR in Development: from Risk to Resilience" at the VigyanBhawan in New Delhi on 13 - 14 May 2013.



Hon'ble Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inaugurating the first session of National Platform at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.



Dignitaries on dais during the inaugural session of the NPDRR

The session was inaugurated by Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh and addressed by Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde, Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri M. Shashidhar Reddy, Hon'ble Vice Chairman, National Disaster Management Authority and Sh. Mullapally Ramachandran, Hon'ble MoS, Ministry of Home Affairs. The session was attended by more than 1000 delegates from Central and State Governments, NGOs, Public Sector, CBOs and other stakeholders.

The session was followed by plenary session with the theme "Mainstreaming DRR in Development: Achievements and way Ahead".

## The plenary session was followed by 6 thematic sessions:

(i) Harnessing Technology for DRR (ii) Making Our Cities Safe (iii) Risk Financing mechanisms (iv) Long Term Recovery & Rehabilitation (v) Public Policy and Governance and (vi) Multi-stakeholder Consultation.

During the plenary and thematic sessions, various issues related to Disaster Risk Reduction Mainstreaming in Development were discussed and views were shared by various stakeholders. In the plenary session 2, Hon'ble Ministers from 7 states and 2 Vice Chairmen from State Disaster Management Authorities participated.

A mega exhibition showcasing various products and services related to Disaster Risk Reduction was organized in collaboration with FICCI in Vigyan Bhawan Campus, where number of stakeholders, including NDRF, NIDM, GSDMA, BSDMA etc. displayed various tools, publications and IEC material related to DRR. NIDM distributed hundreds of IEC material to the visitors and this effort was appreciated by the visitors and also by the Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde. Three stalls along with NIDM were awarded for their good performance in the exhibition.

In addition to the first session of NPDRR and Exhibition, four Pre-events had also been organized on different themes and outcomes of these Pre-events were also amalgamated as a part of the main thematic sessions.

## The Pre-events were organized on the following themes:

1. Gender & Disaster : NIDM in collaboration with Women Development Cell, Shivaji College, University of Delhi & Women's Study and Development Centre, University of Delhi organized first pre-event as first session for NPDRR at Conference Centre of University of Delhi on 2nd April 2013 on "Gender and Disasters".

2. Risk Transfer Mechanism : NIDM organized the 2<sup>nd</sup> Pre-event , a National Workshop on Risk Transfer Mechanism in Disaster Management India, on 17<sup>th</sup> April 2013 at International Centre Annex, New Delhi

3. Post HFA 2015 Framework: UNDP, in consultation with the MHA, organized a one-day National Workshop on Post-2015 Framework for DRR on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2013 in New Delhi at International Centre Annex, New Delhi. This workshop was organized to discuss "Post HFA DRR framework, looking beyond 2015" and the way ahead for India.

4. Child Centered DRR and Adaptation. The 4<sup>th</sup> pre- event was held on 11<sup>th</sup> May at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi focusing on child centered DRR and adaptation. Valedictory Session of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction took place in the Plenary Hall, Vigyan Bhawan on 14<sup>th</sup> May 2013. Hon'ble Vice Chairman, NDMA chaired the session.

Sh. G. V. V. Sharma, Joint Secretary (DM), gave welcome address followed by detailed coverage of the NPDRR goals and objectives in line with extensive interactions held throughout the platform by Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal, Secretary, NDMA. The Secretary BM briefed about the outcome of the session and future strategies. Hon'ble Vice Chairman NDMA shared about the achievements of the first session. The session ended with the vote of thanks by Executive Director, NIDM. About 1200 distinguished guests/delegates, including seven Ministers from States and two Vice-Chairmen of SDMAs, participants from various government and non-government organisations, academia, science and technology, and UN organisations attended the session. For the first time in the country, Presence of all stakeholders across the nation on one common platform was a great effort on the part of Indian Government. Eighteen key recommendations, i.e., action points, emerged as outcome of the first session. The Secretariat of NPDRR should continue to function at NIDM and shall facilitate developing repository of information as well as to follow up on the recommendations of NPDRR and the action taken thereof. Proceedings of the first session of the NPDRR is available at <http://nidm.gov.in/npdrr/>



Hon'ble Home Minister Shri Sushil Kumar Shinde visiting mega exhibition showcasing various products and services related to Disaster Risk Reduction



Valedictory Session of the National Platform

## NIDM participation in 4<sup>th</sup> Session Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

May 19-23, 2013, Geneva, Switzerland

The Fourth Session of Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction was Centre International De Conferences Geneve (CICG), Geneva, Switzerland during May 19-23, 2013. The event was organized by UNISDR. Indian delegation led by Shri A. K. Mangotra, Secretary (BM), MHA and comprising of Dr. Shyam S. Agarwal, Secretary NDMA, Dr. P. M. Nair, DG NDRF, Prof. Santosh Kumar NIDM, Shri Sanjay Agarwal, Director, MHA, Shri Shekher Chaturvedi, NIDM and Shri S. K. Tiwari, NIDM attended the event and participated in various sessions. Shri Shekher Chaturvedi and Shri Santosh Kumar Tiwari of NIDM managed the NIDM booth at the market place of the event and displayed/distributed the DRR documents & IEC material developed by NIDM, NDMA & NDRF to the participants of the event, who visited the booth. During the event,



hundreds of delegates of various countries visited the booth and inquired about the Institute, structure of disaster management in the country and initiatives of DRR in the country. These queries were dealt with, by the officials of NIDM managing the booth. This is the first time that India participated in exhibition at Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction. The sole credit goes to NIDM faculty and staff members.

# Disasters of this Quarter

## Uttarakhand Disaster

The monsoon hit Uttarakhand 20 days in advance with continuous rainfall during 14-17 June 2013. This resulted in increasing water level and flow of two main rivers, Alaknanda and Bhagirathi. Incidents of cloudbursts and landslides at various locations also added to the devastation. Weekly Percent Departures of Rainfall data of India Meteorology Department during the 3<sup>rd</sup> week (12-26) June 2013 depict that the rainfall during the period was 847% of the normal.

Five out of 13 Districts of Uttarakhand i.e. Dehradun, TehriGarhwal, Hardwar, Bageshwar and Uttarakashi received more than 1300 percent of normal. Details given the following table.

Table 1: Weekly Percent Departures of Rainfall during 12-26 June 2013.

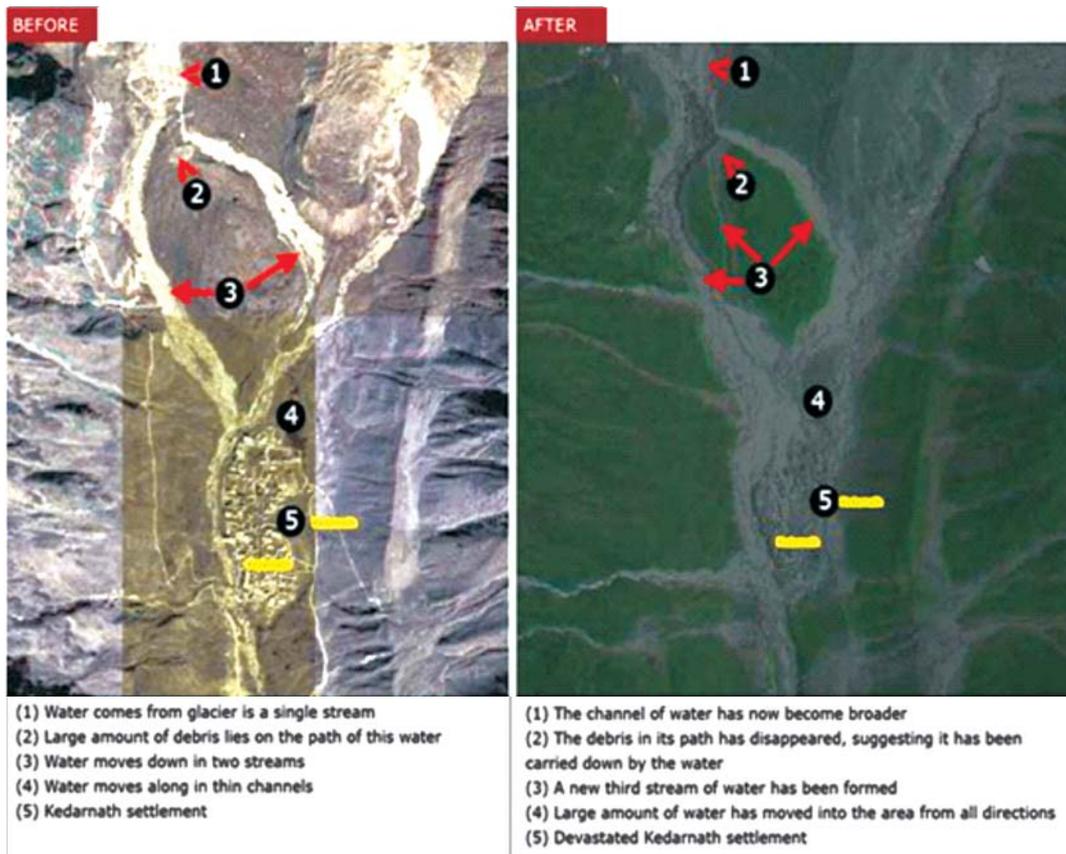
UTTARAKHAND		100%	847%	37%
		12 JUN 2013	19 JUN 2013	26 JUN 2013
SI No	District			
1	ALMORA	-36%	694%	18%
2	BAGESHWAR	137%	1387%	-58%
3	CHAMOLI	185%	1302%	111%
4	CHAMPAWAT	99%	948%	13%
5	DEHRADUN	236%	1436%	183%
6	GARHWAL PAURI	242%	847%	-22%
7	GARHWAL TEHRI	4%	1390%	65%
8	HARDWAR	132%	1283%	-73%
9	NAINITAL	139%	1205%	66%
10	PITHORAGARH	13%	238%	-41%
11	RUDRAPRAYAG	213%	580%	74%
12	UDHAM SINGH NAGAR	139%	292%	329%
13	UTTARKASHI	112%	1356%	-1%

<b>EXCESS</b>	<b>NORMAL</b>	<b>DEFICIENT</b>	<b>SCANTY</b>

Source: [http://www.imd.gov.in/section/nhac/dynamic/Monsoon\\_frame.htm](http://www.imd.gov.in/section/nhac/dynamic/Monsoon_frame.htm)

The antecedent rainfall saturated the area and suddenly exceeded the limit on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June which is one of the reasons for activation of landslide and flash flood in the region that caused huge damage to lives and property in the Mandakini Valley. The torrential rains triggered a massive landslide that hit shrine in Kedarnath, which is located just a short distance from the snout of two mountain glaciers. Heavy rainfall and the snow cover in the area had raised the water level of the lake which triggered the streams and lakes to over flow by saturating the moraines. The satellite data analysis shows that there was no signature of Glacier changes in the Chaurabari and Companion, these glaciers are still intact in the valley and only one middle moraine debris has washed-out by single stream due to heavy rainfall.

All the 13 districts were affected. Pre and post satellite data indicates maximum damage has been observed in Kedarnath, Guriaya, Lenchuri, Ghindurpani, Rambara, Gaurikund and downstream area up to Rudraprayag. 1603 villages were affected. Major habitations & towns affected due to floods are- Mundkata Ganesh, Sonprayag, Rail, Sitapur, Rampur, Khat, Byung, Jugrani, ChunniVidyapeeth, Semi, Kund, Kakda, Bheeri, Banswada, Temariya, Chandrapuri, Bhatwari, Sauri, Bedubagarchatti, Baniyari, Vijaynagar, Agastmuni, Si Hi, Gangtal, Rampur, Tilwara&Rudraprayag. Apart from buildings and roads, bridges were also damaged in the entire area, i.e., Sonprayag, Railgaon, Kund, Vidyapeeth, Kakdagad, Bheeri, Chandrapuri, Sauri, Agastmuni, Tilwara. As per government report 580 persons lost lives and more than 1 lakh people were affected and approximately 9000 cattle perished (ndmindia.nic.in).



### NIDM Teams visited disaster affected areas

NIDM has initiated the documentation process of Uttarakhand disaster with an objective to understand the causes, impact and lessons learnt from this disaster. To compile primary information about the disaster including views of various stakeholders, NIDM team visited Uttarakhand disaster affected areas twice. The first visit was made by Dr. Surya Prakash, Associate Professor during June 22-24, 2013. During the visit Dr. Prakash made observations about the causes and impact of the disaster, including the rescue and relief operations being carried out by the Army, para-military forces, NDRF, local administration, etc. The second visit was carried out by a team of experts consisting of Executive Director, Dr. Satendra, Prof. Chandan Ghosh, Associate Prof. Dr. Surya Prakash and Consultant Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma during July 10-14, 2013. The team extensively visited the affected areas, interacted with various stakeholders, role players including policy makers, administrators, academicians, responders, etc. To collect basic primary information from various stakeholders / role players, NIDM developed questionnaires of 7 categories and extensive survey was carried out under the leadership of Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Consultant, NIDM. The primary data collected from these different categories will be analyzed and incorporated in the final document to be developed by NIDM.

### Major Building Collapse in Mumra, Thane Maharashtra

On 4<sup>th</sup> April 2013, a building collapsed on tribal land in Mumra, a suburb of Thane in Maharashtra, India. It has been considered to be one of the worst building collapse in the area. Seventy four people including 18 children, 23 women, and 33 men died. The search for survivors ended on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2013. The building was under construction and did not have an occupancy certificate for its residents. The site construction workers and families were living in this building. It was reported that the building was illegally constructed and the standard practices were not followed for safe, lawful construction; land acquisition and resident occupancy. By 11<sup>th</sup> April, a total of 15 suspects were arrested, which included builders, engineers, municipal officials and other responsible parties. Governmental records indicate that there were two orders to manage the number of illegal buildings in the area: a 2005 Maharashtra state order to use remote sensing and a 2010 Bombay High Court order. The complaints were made to state and municipal officials regarding the situation. On 9<sup>th</sup> April, a campaign was started by the Thane Municipal Corporation to demolish illegal buildings in the area and first focusing on "dangerous" buildings. The forest department said that it will address encroachment of forest land in the Thane district. A call center was established by the Thane Municipal Corporation to accept and track resolution of caller complaints about illegal buildings.

Source: [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013\\_Thane\\_building\\_collapse](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/2013_Thane_building_collapse)

## Landslides and building collapse claims 17 lives in Aizawl

Huge landslide was triggered when a massive concrete building belonging to State Public Work Department, housing staff quarters, collapsed and slide down a hillside, destroying ten houses, including the local church's hall, on its way down following torrential downpour on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2013 at the adjoining area of Laipuitlang and Ramhlun locality, Aizawl. Eight persons were rescued from the collapsed buildings on Saturday and seventeen bodies have been recovered from the debris of the buildings. Personnel of Mizoram Fire & Emergency Services and State Disaster Response Force (from 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Bn of Mizoram Armed Police) along with Sport and Youth Services (Adventure Wing) staff and state level NGO viz. Young Mizo Association DM Volunteer) are engaged in around-the-clock rescue operations since Saturday morning while inclement weather has hampered rescue works. The collapsed building included four cement concrete buildings and six Assam type buildings. Seventeen vehicles, including eight four-wheelers, have been buried under the debris. The torrential rains, accompanied by strong winds also made it difficult for them to fell the buildings. The PWD building that stood on top of the hillside, had shown visible cracks in October, 2012 following which Aizawl District Disaster Management Committee inspected it on October 12 and 13 and had been declared as unsafe and recommended demolition



An Assam type building next to cement concrete building, which also belonged to the SPWD was demolished by the local community at their own initiatives. Sources said the department floated tender for demolition of the building and Work order for demolition of the building was issued only on April 9, 2013. Had the demolition work been carried out on time and before monsoon sets in, such a major disaster could have been evaded according to the local people.

(by Dr. Lalrokima Chenkual, Head Faculty, DMC, ATI, Mizoram)

## India Disaster Resource Network

IDRN, a web based platform for managing the inventory of equipments, skilled human resources and critical supplies for emergency response developed under the GOI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme, launched in 2004. The primary focus is to enable the decision makers to access equipment and human resources required to combat any emergency situation all though the resources can be useful for preparation of DRM Plans. This database will also enable them to assess the level of preparedness. The portal is recently revamped and the it can be accessed using multiple browsers IE explorer, Crome, Mozilla, etc. Further the district database was updated and new districts formed after 2004 were added in it. NIDM already sent communications to all the states (SDMAs) with IDRN pamphlet brief about functioning, uses and users, administration data updating etc. Four regional training programs with the objective of generating awareness about the portal and to develop skills of the technical professionals to maintain the data up to date are scheduled in the training calendar for the year 2013-14 out of which two are already organized in April and June, 2013 respectively.

IDRN is currently monitored and maintained by NIDM centrally and its responsibility is limited to user administration and portal maintenance. District Collector /Magistrate are the authorized officer for facilitating data collection and updating information from the district level. Department of Disaster Management/ State Disaster Management Authorities are responsible for facilitation and monitoring of state level data. In case of difficulty in accessing/ updating data or portal administration issues like username and password, contact IDRN Administrator, National Institute Of Disaster Management,5-B, IIPA Campus, IP Estate, Mahatma Gandhi Marg, New Delhi – 110002, email: admin.idrn@nic.in

## Regional Training Programmes on IDRN

First regional training on IDRN was organized on 17 April 2013 at NIDM (National Institute of Disaster Management) New Delhi. Officials from 9 north Indian States & UT's (Jammu Kashmir, Himachal Pradesh, Punjab, Delhi, Haryana, Uttar Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Chandigarh and Bihar) were invited for this training program. Forty eight officials attended the course. Officials from district administration and NIC officials participated in the course and they were introduced to the IDRN portal. Besides a half day hands on session was organized for familiarizing the participants with the IDRN portal, user login, data uploading, various formats, data accessing etc. Second regional (South Indian states) training on IDRN was organized on 21 June-2013 at MCRHRD Hyderabad. Twenty four officials attended the course. The third training programme is scheduled at Gujarat Institute of Disaster Management (GIDM), Gandhinagar on 30th August 2013 targeting about 50 officials from western states and UTs.



## Training Programmes Conducted

(April – June 2013)

- IRS –Training and Simulation, Shimla Municipal Corporation, 1-5 April
- Ecosystem approach to DRR, 8-12 April
- Regional training on India Disaster Resource Network, NIDM 17 April.
- Course for NDRF Commanders, NIDM 15-18 April
- Formulation of Village Disaster Management Plan, SIRD, UP 15-19 April
- Regional Training Programme for India Disaster Resource Network, NIDM, 17 April
- Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings by Rapid Visual Survey, Agartala 16-18 April
- Legal Framework for DRR NIDM, 25-27 April
- Formulation of City Disaster Management Plan, Rajkot, Gujarat, 29 April -3 May
- School Safety Programme for Teachers, NIDM, 29 April -3 May
- Flood Management Planning and Response, GIDM, Gujarat, 14-18 May
- Comprehensive Landslide Risk Management, Nagaland, 20-24 May
- IRS Basic & Intermediate Course, YASHADA, Pune, 16-18 May 2013
- Disaster Management Plan for KOLDAM, NTPC, Koldam, Bilaspur, HP, 31-May – 1 June, 13
- School Safety for Teachers, NIDM, 10-14 June
- Seismic Safety Assessment of Buildings by Rapid Visual Survey, Goutam Buddha Nagar University, NOIDA, 19-21 June
- Programme for India Disaster Resource Network, MCRHRD, AP, 21 June
- Safe Hill Area Development, ATI Mizoram, 26-28 June

## Upcoming Events

### Training Programmes (July – September 2013)

- Geoinformatics in Disaster Management, NIDM, 8-12 July
- IRS - Operations Section Chief, NIDM, 8-12 July
- Role of Forestry Sector in Disaster Management, FRI, Dehradun, 15-19 July
- Office Disaster Management Plan, NIDM/UTCS Delhi, 24-26 July
- School Safety for Teachers, NIDM, 29 July-2 Aug.
- ToT on Disaster Management, UPAAM, Lucknow, 29 July-2 August.
- ToT on Basic Disaster Management, NIDM, 19-23 August.
- Needs for Children in Disaster, NIDM, 2-6 September.
- Drought Management in Agriculture, CRIDA, Hyderabad, 3-6 September
- IRS - Basic & Intermediate, Car Nicobar, 9-13 September
- Media & Disaster Management, NIDM, 11-13 September
- Earthquake Risk Mitigation & Management, HIPA, Himachal Pradesh, 16-20 September
- Preparedness Planning for District level Officers, Port Blair, 25-27 September
- School Safety, NIDM, 23-27 September
- Chemical (Industrial) Disaster Management, 23-27 September

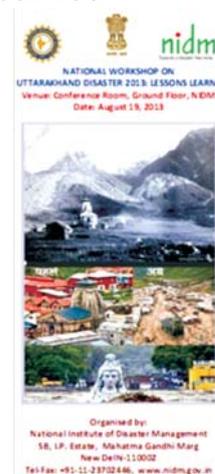
## National Workshop on Uttarakhand Disaster 2013 : Lessons Learned

19 August, 2013 at NIDM

Uttarakhand state in Northern India was severely hit by flash floods and landslides on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> June, 2013, resulting into huge loss to lives and properties. The heavy rainfall, according to IMD, was 4-9 times of normal for the week of June 13-19, 2013. NIDM has initiated documentation of the Uttarakhand disaster 2013 to understand the causes, impacts and lessons learned. The unfolding tragedy in Uttarakhand has raised the inevitable questions. How much of it was avoidable? Was this merely nature's fury or man-made disaster? In order to share the learning experience from all the government and non-government organisations involved in the rescue, relief and rehabilitation, NIDM is organising one day workshop on August 19, 2013.

Key objectives of the workshop are (i) to collate information and share knowledge and experience about the causes (ii) to document various lessons learned by stake holders at National and State levels (iii) to develop future strategy for short and long term recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction (iv) to formulate a framework for DRR based on Uttarakhand experience. The workshop will have three technical sessions in addition to the inaugural and valedictory sessions.

For details visit <http://nidm.gov.in/pdf/ukw-13.pdf>



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