



## NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT

(Ministry of Home Affairs; Government of India)

Format for preparation of abridged Report of the Course by the Course Coordinator for uploading in the website of NIDM

1. **Name of the workshop:** WEBINAR ON NEW NORMAL: Earthquake and COVID-19
2. **Venue:** WebEx
3. **Date:** 18 June 2020
4. **Duration:** 2 hours
5. **Concept of the workshop:** The countries worldwide are grappling with unprecedented and astoundingly grim realities of the deadly pandemic crisis; another catastrophe would involve higher stakes looming largely over the community. While the immediate priority for the country would be to battle COVID-19 and the country's disaster management would also be working over-capacity, a new calamity would only lead to venturing to unmask glaring vulnerabilities in the healthcare, economic and political systems. In this context and in the current situation, the recurring tremors and shocks that are being felt in the NCT region, this dual disaster scenario poses a great threat and challenge. So far, 11 mild earthquakes in Delhi (since May) have raised speculation about a big one, but scientists say these are not unusual. These recent earthquakes have thus triggered discussions on the possibility of increased seismicity around Delhi, and fears of an impending big earthquake sometime soon. Although none of these apprehensions have any scientific basis. In this perspective, various questions arise such as; why predicting an earthquake is difficult, and how an area should stay prepared is a very important issue that needs to be addressed. Supposing we know that a magnitude 5.9 earthquake is going to occur in Delhi at 1pm tomorrow. What can we do after that? Can we get the entire city evacuated? Is that possible? How will social distancing be maintained during this time? What all precautions should one take for this dual disaster? What would be the response for individual and agencies?

Prediction is not going to make us safe against earthquakes. What is important is that we need to make our structures earthquake resistant, we need to follow prescribed drills when an event happens, everyone must know what is the best place to run to when we are in office, or at home, or in open spaces. It is these kinds of discussions that are meaningful. Instead, what we see is speculation, rumours and half-baked information in public discussions, a big earthquake is very much possible in Delhi. No one is ruling out that possibility. But they would occur when they have to. Earthquakes still like to come unannounced. They do not like to knock on our doors with foreshocks. Also, with a special focus on COVID-19, as we are in an unprecedented situation. COVID-19 is challenging international, national, and institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms to respond to disasters such as the earthquake. All this highlights the importance to reduce the vulnerabilities within the built environment and

enhance its capacity for disaster mitigation and reconstruction to achieve resilience to disasters. This clearly indicates that we have to live with the disasters. We also need to plan and prepare and need to respond to disasters with more than a rebuilding program. We need to analyse the causes and consider rebuilding, differently. In other words, we need to stop pretending we can always 'build back'. Sometimes we need to stop, think and rebuild differently. In other words, our cities and people need to adapt 'to the new normal'.

#### Objectives of the workshop:

- How to deal with a situation of twin disaster with its cascading effect?
  - How will the preparedness situation of an earthquake and COVID-19 be handled by the people who are adhering to Covid-19 protocol?
  - What should be a quick guide for a common person occupying different structure when earthquake would strike?
  - What Immediate policy guidelines would be helpful in mitigating the impact by coordinated governance (common boundaries states)?
  - What would be the preparedness and response of individual and response agencies?
6. **Participants:** The participants are drawn from government sector, private sector, students, and researchers
7. **Methodology:** Panel Discussion
8. **Key points by speakers**
- The case study of Nepal earthquake has been discussed. Its response mechanism and recovery plan
  - The Indian government had a huge role in recovery of Nepal, post 2015 earthquake
  - The response plan to earthquake in the midst of COVID-19 pandemic has been discussed
  - The preparedness of NDMA for earthquake response has been discussed
  - The capacity of SDRF has been highlighted
  - The recovery plan of NDRF has been discussed
  - The webinar panellist discussed about the 'building-by-laws' for the infrastructure resilience
  - The key points of earthquake do and don't has been discussed during the webinar
9. **Key takeaways**
- The importance of do's and don'ts for earthquake has been discussed
  - The building resilience has been put forwarded during the webinar
  - The NDRF plan for search and rescue during multiple hazards
  - In the new normal circumstances, it is required to prepare for multi-hazards

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## 11. Schedule

<p><b>PROGRAM SCHEDULE</b></p> <p>Introductory Remarks Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM, ED, NIDM</p> <p>Speakers ( Panel Discussion)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dr Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA</li> <li>• Dr. V. Thirupuggah, Additional Secretary, NDMA</li> <li>• Dr. Amod Mani Dixit , GS, NSET, Kathmandu, Nepal</li> <li>• Shri O P Singh, Former DG, NDRF</li> </ul> <p>Moderator Prof Santosh Kumar, National Institute of Disaster Management</p>
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## 12. Brochure

Webinar- Brochure  
 New Normal: Earthquake & COVID-19  
 The 53 seconds....and the Response  
 Date: 18th June 2020 Time: 2:00 pm - 4:00pm (IST)

### About the Institute

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT (NIDM) was constituted under an act of Parliament with a vision to play the role of a premier institute for capacity development in India and the region. The efforts in this direction that began with the formation of the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 gained impetus with its re-designation as the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) for training and capacity development. Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, NIDM has been assigned nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management.

Both as a National Centre and then as the National Institute, NIDM has performed a crucial role in bringing disaster risk reduction to the forefront of the national agenda. The Institute believes that disaster risk reduction is possible only through promotion of a "Culture of Prevention" involving all stakeholders. The Institute works through strategic partnerships with various ministries and departments of the central, state and local governments, academic,

research and technical organizations in India and abroad and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral international agencies.

NIDM is proud to have a multi-disciplinary core team of professionals working in various aspects of disaster management. In its endeavour to facilitate training and capacity development, the Institute has state-of-the-art facilities like classrooms, seminar hall and video-conferencing facilities etc. The Institute has a well-stocked library exclusively on the theme of disaster management and mitigation. The Institute provides training in face-to-face, on-line and self-learning mode as well as satellite-based training. In-house and off-campus face-to-face training to the officials of the state governments is provided free of charge including modest boarding and lodging facilities.

NIDM provides Capacity Building support to various National and State level agencies in the field of Disaster Management & Disaster Risk Reduction. The Institute's vision is to create a Disaster Resilient India by building the capacity at all levels for disaster prevention and preparedness.

## Context

In today's world, the concept of new normal basically emphasizes on the humanity's biggest crises that the world is facing. Almost every country mapped on the globe has been affected by the novel coronavirus disease (COVID-19). With its epicenter in Wuhan, China it has spread to Europe, Asia, United States, and many other countries. Other than the human lives lost, economic loss and disaster response cost is mind blowing. With no physical damage to the infrastructure, the economic loss may be running into trillions and trillions of dollars. The entire population of the countries have been asked to maintain certain measures such as staying at home, maintaining social distancing, wearing of mask, washing hands, no to social gathering, no to handshakes, no physical contact, maintaining personal hygiene etc. These practices are now getting converted into a new way of life and gradually it will become a habit and get institutionalized as the "New Normal". On the other hand, the world is a multi-hazard prone place and disasters are inevitable and thus bound to happen. Disasters are not time bound and neither restricted to a particular region. Thus, making different countries vulnerable to many disasters and making disasters as the new normal. Earthquakes are the biggest natural nasties in terms of direct impacts on humankind and outbursts of seismic energy, that now pose a threat to around one third of the planet's population. The threat is on the increase due to unrelenting population encroachment upon seismically-unstable lands. Earthquakes are usually active in the belt of the Ring of Fire which is considered to be the largest and the most active fault line in the world, stretching from New Zealand, all around the east coast of Asia, over to Canada and the USA and all the way down to the southern tip of South America and causes more than 90 percent of the world's earthquakes.

For years, seismological establishment researchers have been at work trying to develop more reliable methods of calculating when an earthquake will happen. Although some of their forecasts have achieved degrees of accuracy, there has been no winning breakthrough technique that some observers feel the discipline should have delivered by now. Localised warning systems, though available in some vulnerable regions, have not acquired the installed base or build-out scale that would enable them to markedly increase likelihood of lives saved in a quake striking a densely populated district. The countries worldwide are grappling with

unprecedented and astoundingly grim realities of the deadly pandemic crisis, another catastrophe would involve higher stakes looming largely over the community. While the immediate priority for the country would be to battle COVID-19 and the country's disaster management would also be working over-capacity, a new calamity would only lead to venturing to unmask glaring vulnerabilities in the healthcare, economic and political systems. In this context and in the current situation, the recurring tremors and shocks that are being felt in the NCT region, this dual disaster scenario poses a great threat and challenge. So far, 11 mild earthquakes in Delhi (since May) have raised speculation about a big one, but scientists say these are not unusual. These recent earthquakes have thus triggered discussions on the possibility of increased seismicity around Delhi, and fears of an impending big earthquake sometime soon. Although none of these apprehensions have any scientific basis. In this perspective, various questions arise such as; why predicting an earthquake is difficult, and how an area should stay prepared is a very important issue that needs to be addressed. Supposing we know that a magnitude 5.9 earthquake is going to occur in Delhi at 1pm tomorrow. What can we do after that? Can we get the entire city evacuated? Is that possible? How will social distancing be maintained during this time? What all precautions should one take for this dual disaster? What would be the response for individual and agencies? Prediction is not going to make us safe against earthquakes. What is important is that we need to make our structures earthquake resistant, we need to follow prescribed drills when an event happens, everyone must know what is the best place to run to when we are in office, or at home, or in open spaces. It is these kinds of discussions that are meaningful. Instead, what we see is speculation, rumours and half-baked information in public discussions, a big earthquake is very much possible in Delhi. No one is ruling out that possibility. But they would occur when they have to. Earthquakes still like to come unannounced. They do not like to knock on our doors with foreshocks. Also, with a special focus on COVID-19, as we are in an unprecedented situation. COVID-19 is challenging international, national, and institutional capacities and coordination mechanisms to respond to disasters such as the earthquake. All this highlights the importance to reduce the vulnerabilities within the built environment and enhance its capacity for disaster mitigation and reconstruction to achieve resilience to disasters. This clearly indicates that we have to live with the disasters. We also need to plan and prepare and need to respond to disasters with more than a rebuilding program. We need to analyse the causes and consider rebuilding, differently. In other words, we need to stop pretending we can always 'build back'. Sometimes we need to stop, think and rebuild differently. In other words, our cities and people need to adapt 'to the new normal'.

Thus, the webinar focuses extensively on the preparedness activities for earthquake in the light of COVID-19 and of the dual disaster that poses a great challenge.

### The Key Issues

The issues to be discussed in the webinar are:

- How to deal with a situation of twin disaster with its cascading effect?
- How will the preparedness situation of an earthquake and COVID-19 be handled by the people who are adhering to Covid-19 protocol?
- What should be a quick guide for a common person occupying different structure when earthquake would strike?
- What Immediate policy guidelines would be helpful in mitigating the impact by coordinated governance (common boundaries states)?

- What would be the preparedness and response of individual and response agencies?

#### Webinar Registration

Registration for the webinar is through google forms. All participants are requested to fill the forms free of cost at the link below; Url Link for Registration: <https://forms.gle/BZku8mKnH9mZbbpz9>

The webinar shall be conducted on WebEx platform. The link shall be shared to the Delegates/ Participants on the morning of 18th June 2020. It is requested to all to kindly download the app and be ready to join the link 10 minutes before the commencement of the webinar.

#### Date and Time

Date: 18th June 2020 Time: 2:00 pm to 4.00 (IST) pm Duration:120 mins.

#### NIDM

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM  
Executive Director, NIDM

Major General M. K. Bindal is presently the Executive Director, National Institute of Disaster Management. He was commissioned into the Corps of Army Air Defence in December 1985. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Major General M. K. Bindal is a graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and has attended the prestigious Higher Command Course at the Army War College besides excelling in all other career courses in the army. He holds a masters degree in Defence and Strategic Studies as well as Masters of Philosophy in Defence and Management Studies. During his more than three decades of service he has held important command and staff assignments. Having held all echelons of command within an Air Defence Regiment in diverse theatres, he commanded an Air Defence Regiment and an Air Defense Brigade in the Kashmir region against the backdrop of counter insurgency operations. He was General Officer Commanding of a sensitive Sub Area in the North East. He has been on the staff of a Mountain Brigade deployed in counter insurgency ops and in High Altitude area, an Armoured Division deployed in the plains, a Desert Corps and in a Corps HQ in High Altitude Areas. He has also been posted as Deputy Director General in Directorate of Army Air Defence where he was dealing with operations, Training, Air Defence Control & Reporting and Air Intelligence issues. Major General M. K. Bindal served as the Provost Marshall in the United Nations Mission in Mozambique where he was deeply involved in the liquidation of the mission. He has been the Director, Centre for United Nations Peacekeeping (CUNPK) New Delhi. For three years he was also the Secretary of the International Association of Peacekeeping Training Centres.

Prof Santosh Kumar  
Head, GIDRR, NIDM

Prof Santosh Kumar Currently the Head of the Governance, Policy Planning & Inclusive DRR division at NIDM. A Disaster Risk Reduction, Policy Planning and Capacity Development expert with 25 years of experience in different positions in the Development Planning and DRR

Sector. A PhD. in Economics, he studied Gender & Development in IDS, Sussex, UK and received professional training in Disaster Risk Management from Israel , backed with International work exposure at The World Bank and Intergovernmental body of SAARC . He has also worked at state levels in different capacities in UP Academy of Administration, Nainital.

### Speakers Profile

Dr Krishna Vatsa, Member, National Disaster Management Authority

Krishna S. Vatsa has worked in the area of disaster risk reduction and recovery for the last 25 years. Prior to joining as Member, NDMA, Krishna Vatsa worked as Policy Advisor, Disaster Recovery, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support (BPPS), UNDP in New York and Nairobi during the years between 2015-2020. He served as the Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor, South & South- West Asia in New Delhi from 2008 to 2014. He joined UNDP in 2007 as an Recovery Coordinator in the Philippines. As a career, civil servant, Krishna Vatsa joined the Maharashtra Emergency Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme in the state of Maharashtra, India in 1995, and implemented a large-scale earthquake recovery programme during the next four years. He has also served as Secretary to the Government of Maharashtra, Relief and Rehabilitation from 2003 to 2006, and then as Secretary, Rural Development & Panchayati Raj from 2006 to 2007. In course of his career, he has extensively consulted for several national and international organizations in the area of disaster risk reduction and recovery. Krishna Vatsa has a doctor of Science in Disaster Risk Management from the George Washington University, Washington, DC and published extensively on the subject.

Dr. V Thiruppugazh, Additional Secretary, NDMA

The 1991 batch IAS of Gujarat cadre, Ph.D on Disaster Management, Australia. Mr. Thiruppugazh is the additional Secretary in NDMA. Earlier he was appointed as Adviser in the NDMA in September 2015. Subsequently, he was deputed to Nepal on foreign assignment for Nepal Earthquake Recovery program. Mr. Thiruppugazh served as Hon'ble Prime Minister's secretary in 2005-06 when Mr. Modi was the Chief Minister of Gujarat. In Gujarat, he worked on various assignments including in state disaster management authority in 2015. He worked as a joint CEO in GSDMA for long term recovery and reconstruction. He has vast experience in disaster management fields and have worked extensively in Gujarat and at the Centre.

Dr. Amod Mani Dixit, General Secretary, National Society for Earthquake Technology, Nepal

Dr. Amod Mani Dixit (Nepal) is a veteran earthquake disaster management professional, involved in this field for the 35 years. A geologist by academic background, Dr. Dixit has demonstrated to the world, especially to the nations that have tremendously suffered from earthquake disasters or hold a high risk of earthquake disaster in near future that an individual desire can always make a change. He founded and lead National Society for Earthquake Technology- Nepal (NSET), a non-governmental organization, which since its Founding in 1994, has demonstrated that a well-managed and dedicated organization can help the people and the government in DRR even in a least developed country like Nepal. Dr. Dixit received his Doctor in Engineering from the Ehime University of Japan (2014) for his research in aspects of earthquake disaster risk management in Nepal. He has a Master degree from the Leningrad Mining University, Russia (1973), another Master of Science degree from Asian

Institute of Technology, Bangkok. He briefly studied Management of Non-profits of GSB, Stanford (2003). Dr Dixit is the recipient of the prestigious Disaster Management Award by Government of India (2009). His work experience includes 20 years with Department of Mines and Geology, Nepal, 11 years of parallel consulting service with an engineering consulting firm, and 25 years with NSET, which he founded, as its General Secretary and Executive Director. Dr Dixit is currently the chair of the Asian Disaster reduction and Response Network (ADRRN) of 53 CSOs from 20 countries of Asia and the Pacific. He worked extensively in all countries of SAARC.

Shri Om Prakash, Former DG NDRF

The Officer served as Director General of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), India's premier federal, specialized force for responding to natural disasters and CBRN emergencies. He was also the director general of Uttar Pradesh police, and had previously served as the Director General of CISF. He is a senior official with the Indian Police Service since 1983. He has vast experience and deep insight into the functioning of law enforcement, security, intelligence and crime prevention, managing mega events and criminal investigation. He has also served in various organizations in Government of India such as Special Protection Group (PM's security), CRPF dealing with issues connected with internal security of the country as well as CISF looking after security of 59 airports of the country.

#### NIDM TEAM

##### Overall Guidance

Major General Manoj Kumar Bindal VSM,  
Executive Director, NIDM

For Further Details Please feel free to contact:

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### 13. Panellist

- Dr Krishna Vatsa, Member, NDMA
- Dr. V. Thirupuggah, Additional Secretary, NDMA
- Dr. Amod Mani Dixit , GS, NSET, Kathmandu, Nepal
- Shri O P Singh, Former DG, NDRF

14. Poster

The poster is for a webinar titled "NEW NORMAL : EARTHQUAKE & COVID-19" with the subtitle "The 53 seconds....and the Response". It is organized by the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India. The event is scheduled for Thursday, 18 June 2020, from 02:00 PM to 04:00 PM. The poster lists several participants: an introductory remark by Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, a moderator Prof. Santosh Kumar, and a panel of speakers including Dr. Krishna Vatsa, Dr. V Thirupugazh, Shri O. P. Singh, Mr. Amod Mani Dixit, and Shri Anil Kumar Sinha. A discussant, Prof. Ravi Sinha, is also listed. Registration is available at a specific URL, and social media links for Facebook, LinkedIn, YouTube, and Twitter are provided at the bottom.

 **Webinar on**

**NEW NORMAL : EARTHQUAKE & COVID-19**  
**The 53 seconds....and the Response**

 Resilient India - Disaster Free India

**THURSDAY, 18 JUNE 2020**  
**TIME: 02:00 PM – 04:00 PM**

Registration at  
<https://forms.gle/BZku8mKnH9mZbbpz9>

Organized by  
**National Institute of Disaster Management**  
Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

**Introductory remarks by**  
Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal  
Executive Director, NIDM

**Moderator**  
Prof. Santosh Kumar  
Head, GIDRR Division, NIDM

**Speakers**

Dr. Krishna Vatsa  
Member, NDMA

Dr. V Thirupugazh  
Additional Secretary, NDMA

Shri O. P. Singh  
Former DGP UP,  
Former DG, NDRF

Mr. Amod Mani Dixit  
General Secretary  
NSET, Nepal

Shri Anil Kumar Sinha, IAS (Retd.)  
Former Vice Chairman, BSDMA

**Discussant**

Prof. Ravi Sinha  
Jt. Member &  
Member, MSDMA

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