



Webinar on
Role of First Responders in Disaster Risk Reduction
(July 13, 2021)

Report



Conducted by
National Institute of Disaster Management
(Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India)
Plot No. 15, Pocket 3, Block B, Sector 29, Rohini, Delhi – 110 042
<https://nidm.gov.in>

In collaboration with
Pragya India Gurugram, Haryana
<https://www.pragya.org/>

Webinar on Role of First Responders in Disaster Risk Reduction (Report)

About NIDM

National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), upgraded from the National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) which was created by Government of India, got statutory status under an Act of Parliament viz Disaster Management Act 2005, with a vision to play the role of a premier institute for capacity development in India and the region. 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.

The Institute believes that by developing and promoting "Culture of Prevention", it can ensure involvement of all stakeholders and work towards fulfillment of its mandate. The Institute firmly believes that the goals can only be met with coordination and partnerships with various stakeholders such as ministries and departments of the central, state and local governments, academic, research and technical organizations and other bi-lateral and multi-lateral international agencies.

NIDM provides Capacity Building support to various National and State level agencies in the field of 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.

About Pragya India

Pragya takes a practical and culturally-sensitive and ecologically sustainable approach to development. Our work is grounded in long-term community partnerships where communities engage in creating the change they want to see, and ensure that their environment is protected. Working through a combination of grassroots initiatives, scientific and policy research, and advocacy, Pragya enhances the capacities of individuals, communities and institutions to create more humane and equitable societies.

Pragya (India) is registered as a Trust under the Indian Trusts Act, and has an FCRA (Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, India) certification. Pragya has 17 offices in India: the India Coordinating Office is at Gurgaon and the field offices are at: Salumber, Dungarpur, Rudraprayag, Joshimath, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh, Narayanpur, Tezpur, Biswanath Chairali, East Khasi Hills, Chamba, Kangra, Keylong, Leh, Madhepura, Araria,

Pragya is recognized as a **Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation** (SIRO) by the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology, Government of India. Pragya has **Special Consultative Status** with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). More information on Pragya can be had by browsing at www.pragya.org

Context of the Webinar

Frequency of disaster is on rise and India due to its climatic and geographical location is prone to almost every type of hazard, be it natural or manmade. Police, Civil Defence, Home Guards and Fire Services have been constantly contributing in disaster response as a first responder. Search and rescue is the most critical task during disaster, whether major or smaller. For swift and smart response, it is important to build the local capacity and for which a comprehensive capacity development program for local players need to be taken.

In order to utilize the local capacity of community as they are recognized as first responders, NIDM in collaboration with Pragya, conducted a webinar on Role of First Responders in Disaster Risk Reduction on July 13, 2021.

Programme Objectives

1. To sensitize on concepts of disaster management and on disaster risk in India and its implication on sustainable development.
2. To appraise on policies, planning and Institutional framework for DRR in India.
3. To mainstreaming DRR into activities of first responders.
4. To discuss on practical and innovative approaches of response through locally available resources.

Session Plan

Time	Topic	Speaker
1400-1405	Welcome Address	Shri Navin Kapoor, Pragya India
1405 - 1410	About the webinar and introduction to subject	Shri Shekher Chaturvedi, Asstt. Prof. NIDM
1410 - 1420	Inaugural address	Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, ED NIDM

1420-1500	Covid 19 protocols & Basics of Disasters and its Management	Shri Arun Verma, YP, NIDM
1500-1530	Types of Hazards in Himalayas and factors affecting them: Floods, Landslide, Forest Fire, Avalanches, Glacial Lake outburst flood, Earthquake, Lightning and Thunderstorm.	Prof. Surya Parkash, NIDM
1530-1600	Role of First Responders in Disaster Risk Reduction and different phases of disaster	Shri Vikram Gurjar, Dy. Commandant NDRF
1600-1630	Mainstreaming DRR into activities of First Responders	Shri Shekher Chaturvedi, NIDM
1630-1645	Simulation based activity session	Shri Shekher Chaturvedi, NIDM Shri Navin Kapoor & Team, Pragya
1645-1655	Open house discussion	
1655-1700	Summing Up and Closing remarks Vote of Thanks	Dr. Pradheeps Muthulingam, Pragya Shri Arun Verma, Young Professional, NIDM

Programme Details

At the outset Shri Navin Kapoor welcomed the panelists and participants for the webinar and expressed his gratitude to Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal for having accepted the request of Pragya to conduct this webinar. Shri Chaturvedi then welcomed the participants and explained the purpose of the webinar and why this webinar has been designed. Shri Chaturvedi then explained the present scenario of the country and placement of NIDM as a strategic organization with a commitment to contribute in the field of disaster risk reduction. He also explained the genesis of NIDM and its functions as envisaged in the DM Act 2005.



In the first session, Shri Arun Verma presented the status of COVID 9 in the

country and its basic do's and don'ts. He highlighted the importance of keeping social distancing, appropriate use of mask and hand washing. He also said that though due to lockdown there have been some positive impact on environment however, largely there has been fear psychosis that has prevailed amongst common man.



Prof. Surya Parkash, HoD GMR Division NIDM shared his experiences about hazards of Himalayas. During his presentation Prof. Parkash explained about the fragility of the Himalayas and proneness towards geological hazards such as earthquake, landslides, mudslides etc. He also highlighted the fact that the upper Himalayas are also prone to avalanches and flash floods. He shared few case studies such as Varnavrat landslide, Uttarakhand flash floods 2013, Malpa landslide, Chamoli earthquake, etc.



Shri Vikram Gurjar, Dy. Commandant NDRF then discussed about the safety protocols which the first responders must adhere to during the response activities. He said that in the multi hazard scenario responders need to follow certain protocols and Covid 19 has led to make the decision makers think about changes that can be brought in these protocols. He emphasized the need for use of proper PPE kits, sanitizers, hand gloves during the response related activities. He however also said that there may be some practical issues in following the laid down protocols but responders must ensure their own safety in addition to safety of survivors. If we include safety of survivors also then dedicated ambulance for Covid suspects and dedicated space for Covid suspects in relief camps, regular checkups for responders and inclusion of medical staff in every team as changes in composition are to be undertaken.



Shri Shekher Chaturvedi, in his session emphasized on the need of mainstreaming disaster risk reduction into the activities of first responders. He said that every activity being performed must have mitigation embedded into it. This will not only reduce the risk but also reduce the burden on exchequer. He said that need of the hour is to strengthen the capacity of community. They must be capacitated for risk auditing, suggesting ways of mitigation and preparedness corresponding to local level needs. He said that first responders and volunteers must be provided with relevant information, proper training and resources to perform their duties.



The technical sessions were followed by question and answer session. Participants raised few questions which were replied by the facilitators. Further

to it, in order to strengthen the learning and a tool for feedback, a virtual answer session based on a set of questions, was organized by NIDM and was facilitated by Pragya.

The key takeaways from the programme were:

1. Safety of first responders must be considered while preparing the DM plans.
2. First responders must be trained to act as facilitators to the external help and respond to the disaster utilizing the golden hour.
3. First responders must gel with the community they are working for in order to utilize the traditional knowledge and available resources.
4. Mainstreaming disaster risk reduction is a must into activities of first responders so that they can also be utilized during no disaster periods.
5. First responders must acquaint themselves with DM Act 2005, DM policy, local regulations and norms of assistance to make common person aware about risk of their area and also work within the purview of rules and regulations.

The webinar ended with thanks to Panelists, ED NIDM, participants, Training cell and support staff.

List of Participants

Sl. No.	Names	Email
1.	A A Sarma	apsarma1@gmail.com
2.	Abhilash	abhilashrggecmba@gmail.com
3.	Abhishek R	rn8.abhishek@gmail.com
4.	Abhishek Srivastava	abhi.sun97@gmail.com
5.	Aiay	ajayajay91414@gmail.com
6.	Ajaya Dalai	ajayadalai6@gmail.com
7.	Akshayjit Podder	chem.akshayjit.aus@gmail.com
8.	Alimpika Boruah	alimpikaboruha@gmail.com
9.	Aman Lonchepa	amanlonchenpa6@gmail.com
10.	Amit Chabla	amitchabla@gmail.com
11.	Amit Kumar Das	amitd0215@gmail.com
12.	Anisha Jakhwal	anishajakhwal11@gmail.com
13.	Ankit Sharma	shahanki300@gmail.com
14.	Ankurmoni And Chitra	bchitra522@gmail.com
15.	Anuka Doley	anukatayug123@gmil.com
16.	Arijit Mete	arijitmete0@gmail.com
17.	Aruna Dalai	aruna7876@gmail.com
18.	Arup Dhar	atdrva2019@gmail.com
19.	Arvind Chauhan	arvindchauhan.chauhan081@gmail.com
20.	Ashar Quadri	ashar.gsdma@gmail.com
21.	Ashutosh Tiwari	at4855972@gimal.com
22.	Austin Joseph	austin.justin@kerryindev.com
23.	Balaji Gajula	balaji@lailanutra.com
24.	Balwinder Singh	balvinder_2812@yahoo.co.in
25.	BAROT HITESHKUMAR R.	barothitesh13188@gmail.com
26.	Bhagendra Singh	bhagendra2016.uki@gmail.com
27.	Bhagywardhan Singh Rathore	bhagywardhan786@gmail.com
28.	Bijit Rabha	bijitrabha322@gmail.com
29.	Bikash Chetry	bikashjmg58@gmail.com
30.	Bikram Dewan	bikramdewan414@gmail.com
31.	Biraj Das	birajdas986272@gmail.com
32.	Bobby Pudukaden	bobbypaul22873@gmail.com
33.	Deachan Angmo	deachan@gmail.com
34.	Dechen Yangdol	dechenyangdol9@gmail.com
35.	Devendra Singh Chauhan	devic6045@gmail.com
36.	Dharam Prakash	dharamprakash435@gmail.com

37.	Dhiraj Patil	dhirajp2@hexaware.com
38.	Dig Vijay Katoch	vijaykatoch1479@gmail.com
39.	Dinesh Rawat	dineshrawat10592@gmail.com
40.	Dipankar Sarkar	dipankar98546@gmail.com
41.	Diptanu	diptanusaha0257@gmail.com
42.	Dr Pradheeps Muthulingam	pradheep@pragya.org
43.	Dr.Manavalan Ilakkuvan	imanavalan56@gmail.com
44.	Dr.Tamasmita Basu	drtamasmitabasu@gmail.com
45.	Ehtisham Ahmad Khan	eakhan1@gmail.com
46.	Er.Mukesh Kumar Saubhagya	mukesh_saubhagya124@rediffmail.com
47.	Gajendra Singh Baghel	gajendrasing555@gmail.com
48.	Garima Goswamy	garimanitaria@yahoo.co.in
49.	Gonbo Dorje	gonbo95@gmail.com
50.	Gourav Kumar Jha	gauravjha343@gmail.com
51.	Gurudev Singh Rana	gurudevsingh10993@gmail.com
52.	Hanslal Prajapati	prajapati.hanslal@gmail.com
53.	Harbakhsh Singh	hs.civildefence@gmail.com
54.	Hari Prasad Kurmi	hpkurmi@gmail.com
55.	Hemant Singh	hemantpanwar74251@gmail.com
56.	J Lawrence	lawrence.lawru@gmail.com
57.	Jeet Baramhaputra	jeetnath16995@gmail.com
58.	Jigmat Yangchan	jigmatachan909@gmail.com
59.	Jigmet Angchuk	jigmetangchuk580@gmail.com
60.	Jigmet Gyalpo	jigmet@gmail.com
61.	Jigmet Mentok	jigmetmentok@gmail.com
62.	Jinesh Saini	jineshsaini89@gmail.com
63.	Jitu Moni	jeetnath16995@gmail.com
64.	Joyanta Pal	joyantapal10@gmail.com
65.	Jyoti Bikash Datta	jyotibikashblg@gmail.com
66.	Jyoti Panwar	ranajyoti416@gmail.com
67.	Jyoti Parna Das	zubeendas52@gmail.com
68.	Kamal Paul Debbarma	kamalpauldd@gmail.com
69.	Kamal Shukla	kamalshukla@ipsacademy.org
70.	Kanta Sabar	kantasabarbnc@gmail.com
71.	Khanindra Das	khanindradas255@gmail.com
72.	Kottani Ramakrishna	ramkottani@gmail.com
73.	Kunzang Dorje	kdorje716@gmail.com
74.	Kunzes Dooma	kunzesdolma@gmail.com
75.	Lakshmi Devasena C	ldevasena@ibsindia.org
76.	Lakshmi Narayana Nagisetty	grcnln@gmail.com
77.	Latif Khan	latifkhan10031992@gmail.com

78.	M Gomes	studies.director1@icmai.in
79.	M. Reza Rafat	rafat.masumi@gmail.com
80.	Mahipal Lal Mahi	mahipallalmahi@gmail.com
81.	Majohn Chalakkal Varghese	majohn.c.v@gmail.com
82.	Maneesh Singh	techmanni740904@gmail.com
83.	Maniruzzaman Sk	maniruzzamansk@gmail.com
84.	Manish Rana	manishmanishr60@gmail.com
85.	Manmohan	ms9622758@gmail.com
86.	Minakhi Boruah	minakhiboruah111@gmail.com
87.	Mohammad Yousuf	ahangeryousuf22@gmail.com
88.	Mohd Shahwaz Husain	shawazraza1111@gmail.com
89.	Monika Bodh	dolmadechen226@gmail.com
90.	Mr Amit Hari Gurav	amit.h.gurav@gmail.com
91.	Mr.Shiladitya Purakayasths	shilapgeo@gmail.com
92.	Muhammed Sabir	cpmsabir@gmail.com
93.	Murari Sahu	achievermurari@pragya.org
94.	Mustakim Khan	mk.fse101@gmail.com
95.	Naba Kanta Das	nabakantadas222@gmail.com
96.	Narayan Acharya	narayanacharya305@gmail.com
97.	Naveen Chandra Panwar	naveenpanwar371998@gmail.com
98.	Navin Kapoor	dm@pragya.org
99.	Nawang Kesang	amanmalpa27@gmail.com
100.	Nawang Tanzin	tanzinnawang31@gmail.com
101.	Nihal Sonowal	sonowalnihal92@gmail.com
102.	Niku Moni Koch	kochnikumoni@gail.com
103.	Nilesh Panchal	nileshp2009@rediffmail.com
104.	Nishant Misra	nmishra.pratapgarh@gmail.com
105.	Nitin Kumar	nitinkumar.dun@gmail.com
106.	Nobokanta das	nobokantadas5@gmail.com
107.	Om Satish Kawale	omsatish21@gmail.com
108.	Padma Rigzing	padmarigzing213@gmail.com
109.	Padma Skkitzim	padmaskitzom711@gmail.com
110.	Paldan Jolingpa	paldanjolingpa@gmail.com
111.	Pallabi Patar	patarp572@gmail.com
112.	Pankaj Katoch	katochpanjaj808@gmail.com
113.	Parag Jyoti Borah	paragborah811@gmail.com
114.	Parasuraman E	parasuramantheepan887@gmail.com
115.	Phuntsok Diskit	phuntsokdiskit@gmail.com
116.	Pooja	poojasissu@gmail.com
117.	Prabhakara Rao K	koduri653@gmail.com
118.	Pradeep Kumar Duarah	pradeep.duarah@sisindia.com

119.	Pragya Mishra	pragya.mishra8315@gmail.com
120.	Prashant Kukreti	pkukreti7@gmail.com
121.	Pratik Pandey	pratikpandey8456@gmail.com
122.	Pratyuse Pavan Sarmah	pratyusepavan4@gmail.com
123.	Praveen Bogtapa	exotickaka@gmail.com
124.	Praveen Kishor	arpraveen.iitr@gmail.com
125.	Priteesh Kumar	priteesh96@gmail.com
126.	Prof.Dr.I.Manavalan Ilakkuvan	imanavalan56@gmail.com
127.	Punam Devi	punammizar95@gmail.com
128.	Purushottam Kumar Upadhyay	kumarpurushottam73@gmail.com
129.	Raghvendra Singh	singhyogendra048@gmail.com
130.	Rahul	rahuldalang@gmail.com
131.	Rajan Kumar	rajan.sharmanov1991@gmail.com
132.	Rajender Kumar	justinraj920@gmail.com
133.	Rajendra Prasad	rajudimridimri@gmail.com
134.	Rajesh Chetry	rajeshchetry083@gmail.com
135.	Rajesh Ghalwan	divyanshughalwan3@gmail.com
136.	Rajiv	rajivlote90@gmail.com
137.	Raju Roy	rajulive24@gmail.com
138.	Rakesh	rakeshsarkar9102@gmail.com
139.	Rakesh Budera	buderarakesh@gmail.com
140.	Rama Krishna Rao Lenka	ramakrishnarao.l@ramky.com
141.	Ramanpreet Singh	ramanpreetsareen@gmail.com
142.	Ramesh D	ramesh.durai@arci.res.in
143.	Ramesh Kumar	rameshindwan000@gmail.com
144.	Ramesh Mendi	ramesh.mendi@ramky.com
145.	Rashna Saikia	rashnasaikia12345@gmail.com
146.	Ravindra Reddy M	ravindraoudeptsw@gmail.com
147.	Rekha Patel	patel.rekha1416@gmail.com
148.	Rishabh Kaith	rishabhkaith650@gmail.com
149.	Rita	rajubhuyanb20@gamail.com
150.	Ritu Rabha	ritumoni0008@gmail.com
151.	Rohit Kumar	rohitpukhri@gmail.com
152.	Rosamma Jose	josejosephft@yahoo.com
153.	Samir Ghosh	samir@pragya.org
154.	Samrat Das	samratdas9932@gmail.com
155.	Sandeep Verma	sandeepverma2286@gmail.com
156.	Sandhya Cheeli	sandhya.cheeli22@gmail.com
157.	Sanjay Apar	language.3@billimorihighschool.com
158.	Sanjay Bosamiya	sbosamiya8976@gmail.com
159.	Saran Karthick S	s.sarankarthick@rocketmail.com

160.	Saraswati Hazwary	sarohazwary.2@gmail.com
161.	Sasi Illimattathil	sasii@bharatpetroleum.in
162.	Savita Rawat	savitarawat90794@gmail.com
163.	Sayuri Wagner	sankoozy777@gmail.com
164.	Shantam Jaiswal	dm@pragya.org
165.	Sharab Gyacho	sharbggyacho3@gmail.com
166.	Shashi Bhushan Gupta	shashigupt0@gmail.com
167.	Shashi Mohan Rawat	shashimohanrawat472@gmail.com
168.	Shivanshu Kaletha	shivanshukaletha993@gmail.com
169.	Shrikant Jayprakash Bagwe	bagweshrikant12@gmail.com
170.	Skalzung Dorje	skalzung7@gmail.com
171.	Skalzung Wangail	wangail@gmail.com
172.	Sonam Angchuk	sachuk286@gmail.com
173.	Sonam Angmo	sonamw507@gmail.com
174.	Sonam Chondol	chondolsonam3@gmail.com
175.	Sonam Dawa	sonamdawa730@gmail.com
176.	Sonam Dolma	dolmasonam97@gmail.com
177.	Sri Biraj Das	birajdas986272@gmail.com
178.	Stanzin Chorol	stanzinchorol@gmail.com
179.	Steve Luke	mca552@rajagiri.edu
180.	Subhash Nadikar	subhashnadikar78@gmail.com
181.	Sumit Mishra	sumitmishraa007@gmail.com
182.	Sundararaju Dodda	sundarbiochem@gmail.com
183.	Sunil Bhakri	sunilbhakri.it@gmail.com
184.	Sunil Kumar	20017sunilkumar@gmail.com
185.	Sunil Kumar B K	snlbk043@gmail.com
186.	Suvadeep	shibaibhaskar@gmail.com
187.	Swayang Jena	sbjena08@gmail.com
188.	Tabassum Ayesha	aayeshatabassum077@gmail.com
189.	Tajvar Singh	tajvarpanwar785@gmail.com
190.	Tanzin Yangchen	tanzinyangchen24@gmail.com
191.	Thiyagarajan Radhakrishnan	rashmithiyagu@gmail.com
192.	Tobasum Khatun	tobasum1289@gmail.com
193.	Tsewang Phunchok	tsewangphunchok104@gmail.com
194.	Tsewang Ringchen	tsewangrinchen999@gmail.com
195.	Tundup Namgail	tundupnamgail1997@gmail.com
196.	Ujjwal Debnath	debnathujjwal5@gmail.com
197.	Umesh	uk4052764@gmail.com
198.	Uttam Singh	agri.uttamsingh@gmail.com
199.	Varsha Rana	ranavarsha545@gmail.com
200.	Vekutuhu Vero	veroveroabu@gmail.com

201.	Veluru Ramesh	velunaidu019@gmail.com
202.	Vibhor Gusain	vibhorgusain@gmail.com
203.	Vijaya Devi	amanrakeshbhatt@gmail.com
204.	Vikram	vkatoch11@gmail.com
205.	Vikram Panwar	vikrampanwar8944@gmail.com
206.	Vinod Kumar Yadav	vinnod17383@gmail.com
207.	Vishal	vishalvishalpanwar0786@gmail.com
208.	Vishal Panwar	vishalvishalpanwar0786@gmail.com
209.	Vishnu S Unnithan	vishnulekshmi2016@gmail.com
210.	Yangchan Lamo	yangchanlamo127@gmail.com
211.	Yogeshkumar Kantila Limbachiya	yogeshlimbachiya20@yahoo.com

WEBINAR ON

ROLE OF FIRST RESPONDERS IN DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Prime Minister's 10 Point Agenda No. 1 on DRR

02.00 - 05.00 PM

**13
JULY
2021**



PATRON

Maj Gen M K Bindal
Executive Director,
NIDM, Delhi

Coordinators



Dr. P Muthulingam
Manager, Solution



Shri Samir Ghosh
Manager Programme Support

SPEAKERS



Prof Surya Parkash
Head, GMR
NIDM



Shri Vikram Gurjar
Deputy Commandant
NDRF



Shri Shekher Chaturvedi
Assistant Professor
NIDM, Delhi
(COORDINATOR)



Shri Navin Kapoor
Senior Programme
Manager



Mr Arun Verma
Young Professional
NIDM, Delhi
(MODERATOR)

Organized by

National Institute of Disaster Management

Ministry of Home Affairs, Govt. of India

in collaboration with

Pragya India
Gurugram, Haryana

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**Stay Protected
from Corona**



Wear your Mask
Properly



Follow Proper
Hand Hygiene



Maintain Social
Distancing



Get
Vaccinated