



## Webinar Report

On

### Concurrent Disasters in Uttarakhand: Management & Best Practices

Wednesday, 29th September 2021 (03.00 PM to 05.00 PM)

Jointly Organised

By

Government Degree College Chaubattakhal,  
(Pauri Gharwal) Uttarakhand

&



National Institute of Disaster Management  
Ministry of Home Affairs, New Delhi

## **Organizing Team:**

### **Patron**

**Maj. Gen. Manoj Kumar Bindal, VSM**

Executive Director, NIDM, New Delhi

**Prof. (Dr.) D. S. Negi**

Principal

Government Degree College Chaubattakhal, (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand

### **Organiser:**

**Dr. Ajinder Walia**

Assistant Professor,

NIDM, New Delhi.

**Dr. Praveen Kumar Dobhal**

Assistant Professor

Department of Botany

Government Degree College Chaubattakhal, (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand

### **Co-Coordinator:**

**Professor (Dr.) Vimal Kukreti**

H.O.D., Department of Chemistry,

Govt. Degree College Chaubattakhal (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand

**Dr Pallvi Sharma**

Young Professional

NIDM, New Delhi

**Mr.N.KarpoorasundaraPandian**

Young Professional

NIDM, New Delhi

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<b>Name of Programme</b>	<b>Concurrent Disasters in Uttarakhand: Management &amp; Best Practices</b>	
<b>Date and Time</b>	<b>29th September 2021</b>	<b>03.00 PM to 05.00 PM</b>
<b>No. of Participants</b>	<b>114</b>	

### **Background:**

Uttarakhand state in the Indian Himalaya being the place of major Hindu shrines like Badrinath, Kedarnath, Gangotri and Yamunotri and also the place of origin of many sacred rivers including the Ganges, at present, is best known for the religious tourism. Though, the state population is about 10 million, over 25 million tourists visited here in 2011 (according to census 2011) despite the fact that the state remains under frequent natural hazards in the forms of landslides, earthquakes and flash floods mainly during monsoon. Further, on 16 and 17 June 2013, the torrential downpour and subsequent flooding had wreaked havoc that not only swallowed vast swathes of Uttarakhand but also took life of thousands of pilgrims and tourists. The cloudburst, heavy rainfall and subsequent landslides are the natural disasters but this disaster in Uttarakhand was mainly attributed by masses as a human-induced disaster due to unregulated tourism and unplanned construction.

Disaster management is an important aspect for any tourism destination (especially in the face of a crisis). The specific contingencies such as war, terrorism, crime waves, epidemic and natural disasters have devastating impacts on any community, region, state or nation. Any potential destination is exposed to one or more of the above threats, which can question the safety of residents, tourists and can hamper the market perception of that destination.

In view of the above National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi and Government Degree College Chaubattakhal, (Pauri Gharwal) Uttarakhand jointly organized one day webinar on “Concurrent Disasters in Uttarakhand: Management & Best Practices”.

### **Objectives:**

The main objectives of the webinar were to:

- understand the impact of concurrent disasters in Uttarakhand.

- highlight the specific problems faced by the local community in a disaster situation
- identify the impact of disasters on ecology and environment
- analyse the future challenges & sustainable survival

### Webinar Schedule:

Speaker	Session	Time
Dr Pallvi Sharma Young Professional National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi	Welcome Address	03:00 PM – 03: 05 PM
Dr Ajinder Walia Assistant Professor National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi	About the Programme	03:05 PM – 03:10 PM
Prof. D.S. Negi Principal Government Degree College Chaubattakhal, (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand	Inaugural Address	03:10 PM – 03:15 PM
Prof P. K. Pathak Director Higher Education Uttarakhand	Special Address by Chief Guest	03:15 PM – 03:20 PM
<b>Technical Sessions</b>		
Prof. D. C. Goswai Department of Geography Sri Dev Suman Uttrakhand University, Rishikesh Campus, Uttarakhand	Disasters and their Management with Reference to Uttarakhand	03 :20 PM – 03:50 PM
Dr Praveen Kumar Dobhal Assistant Professor Department of Botany Government Degree College Chaubattakhal (Pauri Garhwal) Uttarakhand	Invasive Alien Species: A disaster for natural ecosystems	03: 50 PM - 4: 20 PM
<b>Q &amp; A Open House (04:50 PM - 04:55 PM)</b>		
Dr Pallvi Sharma Young Professional National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi	Vote of Thanks	04:55 PM – 05:00 PM

## Welcome Address



Dr Pallvi Sharma, Young Professional, NIDM welcomed patron, chief guest, organisers, programme coordinators, eminent speakers, panellists and all participants who joined webinar virtually through Google Meet.

## Introduction of Programme

Dr Ajinder Walia, Assistant Professor, Centre for Gender Issues and Special Needs/Psychological Issues & Trauma Care, National Institute of Disaster Management, New Delhi extended a warm welcome to all the participants and briefed them about the programme. She explained the vulnerability profile of Uttarakhand and impact of COVID-19 in Uttarakhand.



## Inaugural Address



Prof. D.S. Negi, Principal, Government Degree College Chaubattakhal, (Pauri Garhwal), Uttarakhand addressed the inaugural session. He explained that how various disasters like earthquakes, floods and landslides have affected the people who are living in Utrakashi, Chamoli and Kedarnath.

## Special Address

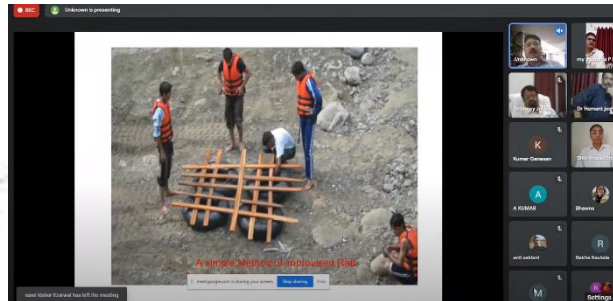
Prof P. K. Pathak, Director Higher Education, Uttarakhand was the Chief Guest for the session. He gave the special address in the programme. He started his address by welcoming the organising team of the programme. He expressed that being Himalayan state, Uttarakhand is facing natural disasters in form of earthquakes along with floods, cloudbursts and landslides. He has also shared his own experiences of disasters during his tenure in Uttarkashi.



## Technical Session 1



Prof. D. C. Goswai, Department of Geography, Sri Dev Suman Uttarakhand University, Rihikesh Campus, Uttarakhand gave presentation on “Disasters and their Management with Reference to Uttarakhand”. He pointed out that the entire region of Uttarakhand is very sensitive as far as the natural disasters are concerned. He also explained how simple improvement can save life and property.



## Technical Session 2

The second session was focused on “Invasive Alien Species: A disaster for natural ecosystems”. Dr Praveen Kumar Dobhal, Assistant Professor, Department of Botany, Government Degree College Chaubattakhal (Pauri Garhwal), Uttarakhand was the speaker for the



session. He discussed the very important aspect of disaster where the invasive species are destroying the original and useful species or plants. Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and other mountain regions are being effected from these invasive

species. He concluded that a lot of research and analysis is required on this aspect of disaster particularly in a country like India where we give too much emphasis to the agriculture and forests.

In the end, Dr Pallvi Sharma, Young Professional, NIDM gave vote of thanks to the patron, organisers, eminent speakers, panellists and all participants who joined the webinar programme.

**Banner**



GOVERNMENT DEGREE COLLEGE CHAUBATTAKHAL, (PAURI GHARWAL) UTTARAKHAND

&

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DISASTER MANAGEMENT, MHA, GOI

Jointly Organizing a National Webinar Programme on

**Concurrent Disasters in Uttarakhand: Management & Best Practices**

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> September 2021 | Time: 03.00 PM to 05.00 PM

**Chief Patron**



Maj Gen Manoj Kumar Bindal  
Executive Director,  
NIDM, MHA, GoI

**Chief Guest**



Prof. P.K. Pathak,  
Director Higher Education,  
Uttarakhand

**Speakers**



Prof. D.C. Goswami  
Department of Geography  
Sri Dev Suman Uttarakhand University,  
Rishikesh Campus,  
Uttarakhand



Dr Praveen Kumar Dobhal  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Botany  
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**Patron**



Prof. (Dr) D. S. Negi  
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**Programme Organizer**



Dr. Ajinder Walia  
Assistant Professor  
NIDM, MHA, GoI

**Co-Organizer**



Professor (Dr.) Nimal Kukreti,  
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**Moderator**



Dr Pallvi Sharma  
Young Professional  
NIDM, MHA, GoI

**Registration Link**  
<https://training.nidm.gov.in>

You tube live streaming link  
<https://youtu.be/HaQZZmJPaH0>



Stay Protected from Corona



Wear mask properly



Wash Hands with Soap



Maintain safe distance



Get Vaccinated

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## **Key Takeaways:**

The Webinar was streamed through Google Meet and witnessed the participation of 114 students, teachers, researchers and other professionals. The following are the key takeaways from

- Uttarakhand state is highly vulnerable to multi-hazards viz. earthquake, landslides, flash-floods, avalanches, Dam Burst, drought, but particularly Earthquake, as the state falls in the highest seismic risk zones of the country i.e. Zone V and IV.
- In case of Uttarakhand (2013 Floods), the devastation and consequent collapse cannot be attributed to ‘Act of God’ alone. Political apathy, economic imprudence and poor environment management played an important role.
- These were further amplified by the inadequate state of preparedness, mitigation and response of various disaster management agencies during the crisis.
- Leisure, adventure, and religious tourism play a prominent role in Uttarakhand's economy. The unplanned development at certain scenic or religious spots, coupled with inadequate management planning, increase in traffic and pollution has not only had a severe and negative impact on the environment but also exponentially increased the vulnerability to disasters.
- Disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief measures along with environmental protection policies are imperative for implementation of sustainable developmental process.
- In Uttarakhand, landslides and floods are primarily happening due to human interventions. Blatant violation of building laws and land use, roads and settlements along rivers and reclamation of river have increased the State's vulnerability to disasters.
- Prevention is better than cure, hence simple improvements and awareness of *do and don'ts* can save life and property.
- The invasive species are destroying the original and useful species or plants. The mountainous states like Uttarakhand are being effected from these invasive species. Hence a multidisciplinary research is required to go deep in these aspects of unconventional disasters.