

WORKSHOP ON

Disaster Preparedness in India - Challenges and Opportunities

16-17 March 2026

IRDM Faculty Centre, Narendrapur, Kolkata- 700103



Organised by

School of Environment and Disaster Management

Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute
(Deemed to be University)



In Collaboration with



Society for Disaster Preparedness
Kolkata

1. Background

Disaster preparedness means preparedness for responding to the residual risks of disasters to save lives and reduce losses. The residual risks are the risks that are neither prevented nor mitigated nor protected under insurance cover. Such risks are huge as only a fragment of the accumulated and cascading risks of disasters can be mitigated by structural and non-structural measures due to financial and capacity constraints. New risks are created through risk insensitive development practices and existing risks are exacerbated by unplanned urbanization and threatening climate change. The level and magnitude of residual risks are particularly alarming in developing countries and emerging economies, where probabilities of disasters – both intensive (high frequency low intensity) and extensive (low frequency high intensity) are increasing – as are evident in consistently rising number of disasters.

India - the largest populated country as well as the fastest growing economy – is exposed to the cascading residual risks of disasters as there are large gaps between risk creation and risk reduction, necessitating high level of disaster preparedness. For the past two decades, India has taken significant initiatives for disaster preparedness - enacting laws, establishing institutions, formulating plans and operating procedures, developing capacity across sectors and at all levels, and employing state of art technology and tools for early warning generation and dissemination, evacuation, search and rescue, medical response, humanitarian relief etc. These have resulted in significant reduction in loss of lives but damages to houses, infrastructure and livelihoods of vulnerable people have increased.

In this backdrop, this workshop has been organised to discuss the various issues of disaster preparedness in India, with special reference to West Bengal, to expose the participants to the achievements and constraints, challenges and opportunities of disaster preparedness.

2. Objective:

This 2-day workshop aims to create awareness, build capacity, and provide exposure to the participants to various issues of disaster preparedness in India. It will bring together scientists, administrators, researchers and policy makers from various organisations and institutions involved in disaster preparedness to give lectures, presentations, demonstrations and hands on exercises on disaster preparedness in India.

3. Structure

Day-1: 16 MARCH 2026		
10 to 10:30 AM	Registration	
10:30 to 11 AM	Inaugural Function: Setting the Context	
11 AM to 12 PM	Dr. P G Dhar Chakrabarti	Disaster Preparedness in India
12 PM to 1 PM	Government of West Bengal	Disaster Preparedness in West Bengal
1 PM to 2 PM	Lunch Break	
2 PM to 3 PM	India Meteorological Department	Early Warning of Disasters
3 PM to 5 PM	West Bengal Fire Department	Preparations for Responding to Major Fires
Day-2: 17 MARCH 2026		
10 AM to 11 AM	Dr Sumanta Das	Science & Technology for Disaster Preparedness
11 AM to 1 PM	National Disaster Response Force	Disaster Evacuation, Research and Rescue
12 PM to 1 PM	Lunch Break	
2 PM to 3 PM	Dr. Saurabh Kole	Disaster Health and Mass Casualty Management
3 PM to 4 PM	Dr. Malini Roy Chaudhuri	Community Based Disaster Preparedness
4 PM to 5 PM	Dr P G Dhar Chakrabarti	Preparing for Disaster Relief & Rehabilitation
5 PM to 5:30 PM	Feedback and Closing Session followed by high tea	

4. Faculty

1. Dr P G Dhar Chakrabarti IAS (retd) Professor Emeritus, Environment and Disaster Management, RKMVERI, Narendrapur
2. Dr. Saurabh Kole, Secretary Society for Disaster Preparedness, Kolkata
3. Director, Regional Centre, India Meteorological Department, Kolkata
4. Commanding Officer, Second Battalion, National Disaster Response Force
5. Deputy Inspector General of Police, Fire Services Department
6. Dr. Sumanta Das, Assistant Professor, Environment and Disaster Management, RKMVERI
7. Dr. Malini Roy Chaudhary, Assistant Professor, Environment and Disaster Management, RKMVERI, Narendrapur

5. Expected Outcomes:

1. Enhanced understanding of the challenges and opportunities of disaster preparedness in India
2. A capacity-building framework for researchers and practitioners on disaster preparedness
3. Networking platform to foster collaborative research and project formulation

6. Venue:

The venue of the workshop is Seminar Room of IRDM Faculty Centre, Ramakrishna Mission Vivekananda Educational and Research Institute, Narendrapur Campus, Kolkata- 700103. The campus is located on Garia-Baruipur Road, 3 km south of Garia (Kavi Nazrul) Metro Station.

7. Registration:

Only registered candidates shall be allowed to attend this training workshop. Registration can be done online through the RKMVERI portal <https://narendrapur.rkmvu.ac.in/workshop-disaster-preparedness-in-india-mar-2026/>

Registration fees of Rs. 500 shall be charged for attending the workshop which will be conducted on a hybrid mode. Candidates joining physically shall be required to pay additional Rs. 500 for tea, snacks and lunch for two days in the canteen of the University.

Accommodation shall be provided on request to outstation candidates at Narendrapur Ramakrishna Mission Guest House for which an amount of Rs 1000 per night shall be charged for one single bed AC room. The charge shall be inclusive of breakfast and dinner.

All lecture sessions shall be conducted on physical mode. Online participants shall be provided a zoom link for attending the sessions remotely.

8. Resource Materials:

Soft copies of presentation and reading materials shall be provided to all participants

9. Certificates:

Certificates shall be issued to all participating candidates

10. Further Details:

For further details please contact

1. Dr Saurabh Kole, Secretary, Society for Disaster Preparedness, Kolkata, 9331041679
2. Dr. Mahadev Bera, Teaching and Research Assistant, RKMVERI, 6290646050
3. Shri Sujan Mandal, PhD Scholar, RKMVERI, 8910216287
4. Ms. Suchismita Roy, PhD Scholar, RKMVERI, 8900468279