

Extension Programmes/ Trainings/Workshops/Capacity Building Programmes Conducted by the Department of Geography & Disaster Management, University of Kashmir

The University of Kashmir's Department of Geography & Disaster Management has been offering a Masters Programme in Disaster Management since 2014, given the region's vulnerability to various types of disasters. The Department collaborates with national institutions and organizes training programs for various stakeholders, including government officials, academicians, and NGOs, to raise awareness about disaster mitigation measures. The Department aims to collaborate with different agencies to promote disaster risk awareness and risk reduction. From 2019 to 2023, the Department organized numerous programs and events in line with the recommendations of the previous NAAC Committee.

Programs conducted from 2019 to 2023

➤ Capacity Building Workshop on School Safety, 15 to 19 July, 2019

The Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, organised a Capacity Building Workshop on School Safety on 15 to 19 July, 2019. The workshop was organised in collaboration with the World Bank and Institute for Risk and Disaster Reduction (IRDR), University College London (UCL), United Kingdom. This training programme focused on school safety from the disaster risk perspective and stressed on need for building the innovative and effective mechanism for the safety of education infrastructure in general and schools in particular. More than 100 participants



participated in this programme drawn particularly from School Education Department. Prof. Peter Sammonds, Director, IRDR. UCL and Mr. Iftekhar Ahmad Hakeem, Chief Town Planner, Kashmir were among the notable resource persons.



- **A 3-Day Online Training Programme on Climate Change and Future Trends in Disaster Management.** The program was jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. The program was conducted for 3 days from *January 27-29, 2021*.

The focus of the training programme was to build peoples capacities & develop a culture of resilience by identifying emerging problems & providing potent solutions to evolving cascading risks associated with the hydro-meteorological hazards under changing climatic regime. Eminent scientists, experts in the field of climate and disaster risk management, geographers and environmentalists from India and abroad were part of this programme. More than 400 participants across the globe from varied backgrounds, especially DM professionals/government officials/students/researchers/representatives from media/and others dealing with the subject in different capacities were part of the programme. The sessions highlighted the challenges and recommended the need of short and long-term mitigation strategies in a multi-hazard environment. An updated course content was developed and presented so that all the participants could understand the complex concepts in much simpler way & thus enhance the *knowledge base of the subject of Disaster Management. The participants also provided feedback about the programme, its contents and how they enhanced their knowledge through such trainings.* Considerable media coverage was given so that more stakeholders are encouraged to participate in such programmes in future. The participants gained knowledge about the global climate change and the effects on water resources and its sustainable management in the Himalayas. This helps in building resilience among the human resources for tackling problems related to such disasters through nature-

based climate solutions for disaster risk reduction.

[Report1.pdf](#)

- **One-Week Training Programme on Multi-Hazard Risk Management in Changing Climate: Sustaining Economic Development and Livelihood in Western Himalaya. The program was conducted in the offline mode for five days between 8th to 12th November 2021, jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.**

The aim of the programme was to assess the multi-hazard risk and propagate climate & disaster risk awareness for disaster risk reduction in the fragile Himalayan region in context of sustainable livelihood and better economy. The programme focused on the risks associated with hydro-meteorological hazards under the changing climate impacting the livelihood and local economy. The programme was conducted with the involvement of experts from the field of climate change studies and disaster risk reduction. The capacity building programme highlighted the challenges and need of short and long-term mitigation

strategies in a multi-hazard environment. More than 100 participants across Jammu and Kashmir coming from various backgrounds, especially government officials from various departments such as Revenue, Health, Education, Rural Development, Public Works, Fire and Emergency Services, DM professionals from J & K Disaster Management Authority, students, scholars, media, etc. participated in the programme. The course content was presented in the best possible way to make the members understand the complex concepts through practical demonstration and mock exercises etc. This training program propagated the current scenario of climate change in the region as well its consequences and emerging challenges on the economy and livelihoods of people. The experts and participants discussed about data gaps, thrust and various innovative solutions for the implementation of International frameworks such as Sendai Framework as well as IPCC.



[Report3.pdf](#)

- **Earthquake Risk Mitigation and Management, jointly organized by the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir and National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Delhi. The programme was organized between 17th to 21st October, 2022.**

The five-days training programme provided training to the officials of the Government departments like SDMA, DDMA, Higher Education, Housing and Planning, Geology and Mining, Irrigation and Flood Control, NGOs, Urban local bodies and people from academia of Jammu and Kashmir (UT). The offline programme was organized keeping in view the high susceptibility of Kashmir region to earthquake hazard. During the programme, more than 100 participants engaged in the activities related to earthquake and disaster management. The entire programme generated a pool of knowledge and future plans of action on the problem for the government-driven initiatives in different capacities. The key learnings include building people's capacities, designing and constructing earthquake resistant structures, implementation of building codes, building by-laws, acquiring indigenous knowledge and solutions for earthquake resistant infrastructure, comprehensive risk assessments, micro-zonation studies and equally important raising a culture of earthquake hazard and disaster resilience.



[Report2.pdf](#)

➤ **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction Day -2022**

The Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, celebrated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction on **13 October, 2022** with the theme “Early warning and Early action for all” in line with ‘Target G’ of the Sendai Framework: “Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030. This was a day-long activity and covered talks, quiz and poster presentations by stakeholders representing a range of sectors.



➤ **Urban Resilience: Community Awareness Campaign for Resilient Srinagar related to ‘My Town, My Pride’ initiative of J&K Government, 06 December, 2022**

The Department of Geography and Disaster Management conducted an awareness campaign on urban resilience under the slogan ‘Community Awareness Campaign for Resilient Srinagar’ in Mir Behri area of the city as part of its ongoing celebrations related to the UT administration’s ‘My Town, My Pride’ initiative.

Prof. Pervez Ahmed, Head of the Department led the campaign with active involvement of PG students of Disaster Management course, PhD researchers and faculty members. The programme was coordinated by Dr Akhtar Alam.



➤ **Y20 Consultation event held at University of Kashmir**

As a part of India's G20 Presidency, the Youth 20 (Y20) group's Y20 Consultation was held at University of Kashmir from **10th – 11th May, 2023** to consult the youth of the nation on ideas for a better tomorrow and draft an agenda for action on 'Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life', one of the five Y20 themes. This theme was quite carefully selected so that the youth of the country are apprised about the long term ramifications of the Climate Change and the discuss the strategies that need to be adopted for Disaster Risk Reduction based on the principles of sustainability.

The Y20 Consultation was inaugurated by Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, JKUT and Chancellor, University of Kashmir. It was also graced by the presence of Sh. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, J&K; Sh. Pankaj Kumar Singh, Director, Department of Youth Affairs, GOI; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir; Prof Manzoor A. Shah, Y20 Chair, University of Kashmir and Sh. Guru Prakash Paswan, Sr. Faculty, Patna University.

17 Youth delegates from G20 countries like Indonesia, Mexico, Turkey, Russia, Japan, Republic of Korea, United States, Brazil and Nigeria participated in the two-day Y20 Consultation at University of Kashmir in Srinagar, Jammu and Kashmir.

108 students from University of Kashmir, 34 students from schools around J&K, 57 students from colleges around Srinagar, 11 students colleges and universities in Jammu, 33 DoYA delegates, 25 Y20 Secretariat delegates and 25 student activists also participated in the Y20 Consultation. This event was again an attempt to showcase the readiness and awareness of the U.T.



➤ **7th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Earthquake Science (ISES) and the National Symposium on “Earthquake, Landslide, and Glacial Hazards”**

The Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir, Srinagar hosted the 7th Annual Convention of the Indian Society of Earthquake Science (ISES) and the National Symposium on “Earthquake, Landslide, and Glacial Hazards”. This significant event, which ran from **25th to 28th May, 2023**, was conducted in the presence of three Padma Shri awardees among other distinguished scientists and students. The symposium, sponsored by the Ministry of Earth Sciences and CSIR 4PI Lab., Bangalore, was timely, addressing the pressing needs for natural disaster management in the highly vulnerable region of Jammu & Kashmir.

The convention covered a wide range of critical themes, from Earth’s structure and seismotectonics to disaster management and risk reduction. The highlight of this convention was the array of presentations, including 50 oral presentations across nine sessions and over 20 posters, showcasing cutting-edge research from both seasoned and young researchers.

The symposium at the University of Kashmir offered a robust agenda, featuring a diverse array of discussions and presentations geared towards enhancing understanding and response strategies for earthquake, landslide, and glacial hazards. Each session was designed to cater to different levels of expertise and aspects of disaster management, providing comprehensive insights into both the scientific and strategic dimensions of hazard mitigation.

The recommendations issued at the end of symposium emphasized the urgent need for multidisciplinary approaches and the establishment of a Centre of Excellence in Jammu & Kashmir to integrate and enhance research and practical measures against natural disasters. This initiative is expected to forge significant advancements in managing and mitigating risks associated with natural disasters in the region.







➤ **International day for Disaster Risk Reduction-2023.**

The programme was jointly organized by J&K Disaster Management Authority and the Department of Geography and Disaster Management, University of Kashmir at the University of Kashmir.

The one-day programme was organized keeping in view of the theme and importance of the UN-International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction, which is conducted globally each year on 13th October. The programme was conducted this year on **17th of October 2023** with theme 'a resilient future requires equality'. The programme was a gathering of huge personalities from state and central agencies. His Excellency Lt. Governor of the UT J&K Sri. Manoj Sinha addressed the huge gathering of more than 1700 persons from various schools, colleges, universities, and state departments. The Lt. Governor suggested the constitution of disaster management committee in every Panchayat falling under disaster-prone areas with the inclusion of members of youth clubs, voluntary organizations, elected public representatives and Aapda Mitra with the aim of Jan-Bhagidari for preparedness and disaster risk reduction in the U.T. of Jammu and Kashmir. Number of disaster risk reductions reports and methodologies were also presented, which include, a report on the Earthquake Risk Assessment by the Geological Survey of India and a report on the Socio-economic impact Assessment of PMGSY in Kashmir Division. The LG also dedicated huge snow clearance equipment including heavy vehicles to the R&B department of J&K. Mr. Kunal Satyarthi, Joint Secretary, National Disaster Management Authority; Prof. Nilofer Khan, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir, Mr. Nazim Zai Khan (IAS), Secretary, Department of Disaster Management, Relief, Rehabilitation & Reconstruction, J & K Govt., Professors of the Department of Geography & Disaster Management, senior officials of UT and Police administration, and students of the University were also present.

The University of Kashmir is continuously striving to spread awareness, built resilience by capacity building and provide professional academic support to prepare disaster mitigation plans for the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir.





The YouTube Link:

<https://youtu.be/Mxqb5g6qrg8?si=fDuqcThfyDO7Jx5>