



**CENTRE FOR NORTH EAST STUDIES AND POLICY RESEARCH
JAMIA MILLIA ISLAMIA (A CENTRAL UNIVERSITY), NEW DELHI-110025**

CALL FOR PAPERS

***National conference cum workshop on
Disaster Management and Climate Change: Perspectives from India's
North East***

Concept note

Tales of transition of ecosystems and civilizations since time immemorial has been attributed to change in climatic conditions or drastic catastrophic situations wherein normalcy of ordinary existence gets disrupted. Globally climate related disasters are intensifying pushing people to the brink, thereby probing a section to enquire into the validity of Malthusian logic. The growing perception of threat is justified by some as undeniably apocalyptic whereas others have catered to an Aristotelian approach of rationality. The role of man in the ecosystem of nature, nurture and exploitation has time and again been reiterated resulting in the anthropomorphic perspective of disasters. With the enhancement in sphere of operation of the nation state and market; meadow, rivers and mines have become drivers of development. Resources from the ecosystem are exploited and usurped leaving behind a vacuum, often filled by disasters. Today landslides are a common feature in the hill districts of the North East as stretches of terrain lay barren after rampant deforestation. A simple monsoon shower has the potential to aggravate into a ferocious flood and jittery topography. A global rise in precariousness is indeed true but risk is not homogenously distributed as some pockets are more vulnerable than the others. India's north east because of its unique geographical and demographic composition continue to walk the tightrope, dwindling between catastrophe and safety. The distress and dismay which annual floods beget is almost normalized today but for the victims of the deluge the rhythm of life, land and memories is disrupted year after year until they decide to migrate in search of fresh pasture. Guided by Weber's model of bureaucracy we may speak of pre or post disaster interventions besides delineating on planning, preparedness and prevention but actual management of disasters lay in understanding its causes. Preparing a GIS map or imparting mock drill trainings are not enough unless indigenous knowledge of communities for resilience is taken into account. Risk reduction is not a mere responsibility of the state but of each actor in the precarious terrain.

This one of a kind programme seeks to bridge the theory & practice gap by clubbing the component of conference with workshop. The aim is to explore disasters and climate change especially in context of India's North East from an interdisciplinary perspective, *that is*, to bring the role of army in harmony of role of the panchayat or municipality ward in a common platform. Urbanization in the North East is deemed as one of the fastest in the country, this conference seeks to understand the impact and correlation of such development on the ecosystem. This conference explores possibilities to reimagine disasters and climate change in context of the society keeping in mind the inter-sectionality of ethnicity, gender, regional identity, unique ecosystem and traditions of oral history. Defining catastrophes as also climate change from a particular vantage point limits the scope for holistic understanding of a topic therefore the attempt is to cater to a diverse set of definition from various set of actors associated with the question of disaster and climate change.

Themes

- Perspectives on catastrophe and climate change
- Anthropomorphic disasters and development
- Disaster Management and Proactive Approach
- Community based disaster management and resilience
- Indigenous knowledge systems- cases & contestations
- Role of responders post-catastrophe
- Rehabilitation, humanitarian crisis and migration
- Risk mitigation and vulnerability
- India's North East: A precarious co-existence with threat

Stakeholders

This national conference cum workshop seeks to mitigate the theory practice gap and thus proposed to be inter-disciplinary in character. The aim here is to create a platform where scholars, researchers, academicians, practitioners and government officials can meet, present their research papers, develop and understanding of trends of research on the topic, debate on possibilities, discuss the areas of mutual alliance thereby developing a road maps for the future as also come up with an edited volume.

The organizing committee therefore invites abstracts (summary of paper) of about 300 words from across disciplines of persons engaged in the domain of disaster and climate change. The abstracts are to be submitted at disastermanagementworkshop2019@gmail.com On or before 15th September 2019. The authors should clearly indicate their names, institution of affiliation along with email id and phone number. Interested scholars/ practitioners from outside Delhi may also apply before the said date. Only the shortlisted abstracts will be contacted to develop original papers for possible inclusion in the proposed edited volume.