

2021

KERALA STATE DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



MONSOON TALK SERIES 2021

Introduction

Kerala State Disaster Management Authority has always taken efforts to create awareness for the general public on various subjects on DRR. Monsoon talk series was scheduled from 9th June 2021 as one of the major online public awareness programmes. COVID 19 and Monsoon preparedness talks series (first phase) was inaugurated by Dr. Sekhar L Kuriakose, Member Secretary, KSDMA. He mentioned about the importance of having public knowledge and awareness on any disaster situations especially on preparing for monsoon 2021. Being into the pandemic situation the entire series sessions went online mode, using Webex online platform and the same was streamed live on KSDMA YouTube channel.

KSDMA Monsoon series phase one covered seven different topics which were related to Monsoon preparedness.

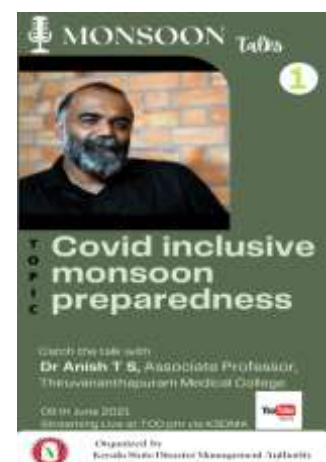
- Covid Inclusive Monsoon preparedness
- Dam Management
- Care for Housing during Monsoon
- Disability Inclusive Monsoon Preparedness
- Monsoon - What to expect ?
- Future of Disaster Management
- Landslide Preparedness

Covid Inclusive Monsoon Preparedness by Dr Anish TS

The first session on the monsoon preparedness talk series was on June 9th. The session was led by Dr. Anish TS, Associate Professor, Community Medicine, Trivandrum Medical College. Major topics covered in the session included,

- The history of Covid 19 and its impacts
- The second wave and its adversities
- Vaccine and its effectiveness
- About the expected third wave

What are the preparations during the monsoon season in the context of Covid 19. The camp arrangements, the waste segregation, and its disposal. The mental well being of covid patients and the measures taken by Health department to reduce the impact of the pandemic. The entire session was in Malayalam. The programme was moderated by Dr. Pratheesh Mammen, Project



Coordinator, KSDMA - UNICEF and anchored by Ms. Amrutha N, Hazard Analyst (Environment) KSDMA. After the session, there was a Q & A session. Dr. Anish answered all the questions from the viewers in an efficient way.

Dam Management by Mr James Wilson

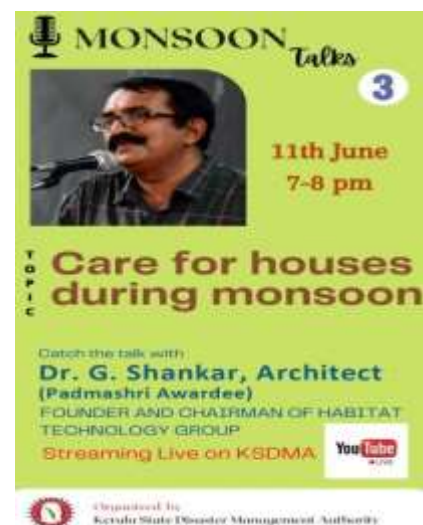


On the second day of the Monsoon talk series, the session was on Dam Management delivered by Sri. James Wilson, Assistant Executive Engineer (KSEB). He is also a member of the Mullaperiyar Special Cell. The talk was really informative, which comprised different topics such as Rule curve in reservoirs, Emergency Action Plan undertaken for the dams, Silting and sedimentation in reservoirs, Preparedness measures to be undertaken for the sudden release from a reservoir etc. The session also advocated the significance of different alert systems

that have to be followed during an emergency situation in the case of reservoir operation. The detailed information of the reservoirs as well as dams in Kerala were also discussed and enumerated in a precise presentation. Above all, the different doubts as well as clarifications of the viewers regarding the operational scenario of the hydel power stations, safety measures undertaken were also elaborated and cleared within the stipulated time. The session was moderated by Mr Pradeep GS, Hazard and Risk Analyst and anchored by Ms Lakshmi, Hydrologist, KSDMA.

Care for houses during Monsoon, by Dr G Shankar, Architect, Habitat

The topic for day 3 of Monsoon talks organized by KSDMA was 'Care for house during monsoon'. The talk was anchored by Mr. Gokul A, Hazard Analyst (Civil) and moderated by Ms Indu V, Architect of KSDMA. The topic was explained by the renowned Architect Padmashree Dr. G Shankar, the founder and Chairman of Habitat Technology Groups. He talked about various precautions house owners could take before/during the monsoon season starts so as to make the homes more resilient. He also answered some questions which were asked by the audience. Due to some technical issues, he could not attend all the questions which



were asked. The video was edited later to make sure that the ending of the programme was not affected by the technical error.

Disability Inclusive Monsoon Preparedness, by Dr Mohammed Asheel

June 14th 2021, the fourth day of Monsoon Talks, dealt with Disability Inclusive Monsoon –



Covid preparedness, delivered by Dr. Mohammed Asheel, a pioneer in the field. The session was moderated by Mr. Joe John George and anchored by Ms. Soorya Nair. The session commenced at 7.05 pm. Dr Asheel explained in detail that persons with disabilities need much care and protection and it is the society's responsibility to provide appropriate and adequate help to them with dignity and without and discrimination.

He emphasized the importance of setting an Emergency kit containing all their equipment (assistive devices) like cochlear implants so that at the time of disasters they don't feel at helpless.

He highlighted the importance of "Social Bubble", where the persons in close contact with differently abled persons especially mentally challenged persons have to restrain themselves from social commitments and adhere strictly to the new safety norms so as to prevent the exposure of the virus to these persons. He actively took part in the Q&A series which followed the session and cleared all their queries enthusiastically. The session was wrapped up at 8.00pm.

Monsoon – What to Expect? By Dr Roxy Mathew Koll

June 15th 2021, the fifth day of Monsoon Talks was presented by Dr. Roxy Mathew Koll, Climate Scientist-Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology. He talked in detail about climate change, Monsoon and Cyclones. The session was moderated by Dr (Ms) Shinu Sheela Wilson and anchored by Ms. Geethu S S. The session commenced at 7.00 pm.

Dr Roxy had prepared a very simple and informative presentation including memes which helped in reaching to layman's level and was much appreciated for it too. He has also made a suggestion that the whole platform including posters maybe done in Malayalam since



the focus group was general public. He explained in detail about cyclones, their causes and had very elaborate statistics showcasing the same. He has also given a brief about the climatic conditions of our State and scientific explanations of it.

He actively took part in the Q&A series which followed the session and cleared all their queries enthusiastically. We had many questions from the public regarding the topic and many messages appreciating the talk. The session was wrapped up 8pm.

Future of Disaster Management by Dr Muralee Thummarukudy



Second last day of Monsoon series talks, that is 16th June 2021 was on Future of Disaster Management by Dr. Muralee Thummarukudy. Dr. Thummarukudy is the chief of Disasters and Conflict Branch – United Nations Environment Programme. He explained on the importance of adapting new technologies and innovative projects in the field of Disaster Management. He also emphasized the relevance on having government, and people coordination especially on risk informed planning based on the state specifications. He actively took part in the Q&A series which followed the session and cleared all queries. The session was moderated by Mr. Fahad Marzook (Hazard Analyst, KSDMA), and anchored by Ms. Vyshnavi V K (Social Capacity Specialist – KSDMA)

Landslide Preparedness by Mr G Sankar

The 7 days programme online monsoon talk series hosted by Kerala State Disaster Management Authority ended on 17-06-2021 with a talk entitled “Landslide Preparedness”. The talk on landslide Preparedness was given by eminent scientist Shri. Shankar. He is a retired scientist from NCESS, Thiruvananthapuram. The talk was moderated by Mr. Ajin. R. S, hazard analyst (Geology) and anchored by Dr. Aswathy. S. Nair, Agriculture Specialist (KSDMA). The talk focussed on various aspects of landslide preparedness need to be taken by common



people residing over land slide prone areas. The session also covered basic concepts and practical aspects of soil piping. The session was very informative and topic oriented. He also answered the questions asked by the audience in a simple manner. As it was the final day of

monsoon talk series, Mr. Sathya Kumar, H.A (Disaster Management) had a brief talk about the 7 days monsoon talk series. The session ended with vote of thanks given by anchor.

Monsoon series talk was enriching in terms of its content base and the subject delivery. 7 days sessions were filled with active public participation and coordination. The below chart shows the general programme viewership in YouTube from 9th to 17th June 2021.



Report Consolidated By

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