



PRESS NOTE

Digital India Ask Our Experts

- **Flood Safety: Preparedness, Early Warnings and Community Action Can Save Lives**
- **Episode 54 highlights safety measures before, during and after floods**

New Delhi: Floods can take different forms and their impact can extend well beyond the period when floodwaters recede. The 54th episode of Digital India Ask Our Experts featured Prof. (Dr.) Dinesh Kumar Aswal, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), who explained how citizens and communities can prepare for floods, respond to warnings and stay safe from secondary hazards.

The episode highlights the importance of understanding different types of floods, including Glacial Lake Outburst Floods (GLOFs), riverine floods, urban floods and cyclone-induced coastal floods. While each type of flood has different causes and characteristics, preparedness, timely warnings and appropriate response can help reduce risks.

Watch the episode on <https://www.youtube.com/live/AscgvFDlj1s?si=oWSp2CrEpyVv1ZT3>



The episode particularly emphasised that the danger does not end when floodwaters begin to recede. Citizens returning to affected areas need to remain alert to secondary hazards such as submerged

electrical wires, damaged gas pipelines, weakened buildings and displaced wildlife. Residents are advised to check the structural safety of their homes before entering and avoid contact with potentially contaminated water. Drinking water should be boiled or appropriately treated with chlorine, while food that has come into contact with floodwater should not be consumed.

Community preparedness is an important component of flood resilience. Local communities can prepare by identifying safe locations and high-ground shelters, developing local response plans and maintaining essential supplies.

The episode also highlights the role citizens can play in reducing the risk of urban flooding. Improper disposal of plastic and other waste can block drainage systems and contribute to waterlogging during heavy rainfall. Responsible waste disposal and keeping drains clear are therefore important aspects of flood preparedness. Dr. Aswal also urged citizens to take official warnings seriously and follow advisories issued through verified government channels, even when earlier warnings may not have resulted in a major event.

India's disaster-management framework increasingly uses technology and scientific data to strengthen flood forecasting and early warning systems. Information from agencies including the India Meteorological Department (IMD), Central Water Commission (CWC) and ISRO contributes to monitoring weather conditions, river levels and other indicators.

The episode also highlights digital tools such as the Sachet app and the CWC's C-Flood portal, along with emerging cell-broadcast systems that can enable targeted emergency alerts. Artificial Intelligence and machine learning are also being explored alongside high-performance computing to process large volumes of data and support more precise forecasting. In an emergency evacuation, citizens are advised to focus on essentials rather than belongings. Important items include identity documents, essential medicines, some cash and minimal clothing. The episode emphasises that no material possession is worth putting one's life at risk.

The episode of Digital India Ask Our Experts provides citizens with practical guidance on preparing for floods, responding to warnings and staying safe during the recovery phase, while highlighting the role of technology and community participation in building disaster resilience.

Digital India Ask Our Experts provides citizens with an opportunity to interact with experts and gain credible, practical information on subjects relevant to their everyday lives. The programme continues to bring experts and citizens together through accessible and interactive conversations.

The Digital India Ask Our Experts is a LIVE interactive programme streamed on Digital India's YouTube channel. For more information on upcoming episodes and Digital India initiatives, visit www.digitalindia.gov.in and www.negd.gov.in.