

Ministry of Home Affairs
Disaster Management Division
(National Emergency Response Centre)

Brief on the Glacial Outburst at Reni in Chamoli District Uttarakhand as on 11.02.2021
up to 1900 hrs

1. Details of incident : -

On 07.02.2021 at about 1000 hours an avalanche has occurred in the upper catchment of Rishiganga river, a tributary of Alaknanda river in Chamoli District of Uttarakhand, which led to sudden rise in the water level of Rishiganga River. Due to flash flood on account of rising of water levels in the river Rishiganga, a functional Rishiganga small hydro project of 13.2 MW was washed away. The flash flood also affected the under construction 520 MW NTPC Hydro Power Project downstream at Tapovan on the river Dhaul Ganga.

State Government of Uttarakhand has reported that there is no danger of downstream flooding and the rise in water level has been contained. Centre and the State Government have been keeping a strict vigil on the situation.

It is observed from the satellite data (Planet Lab) of 7th February, 2021 in catchment of Rishi Ganga river at the terminus of the glacier at an altitude of 5600 m a landslide triggered a snow avalanche covering approximately 14 sq.km area and causing a flash flood in the downstream of Rishiganga river.

2. Initial Damage reported: -

As per information received from Government of Uttarakhand, out of total 206 missing persons dead body of 36 persons have been recovered, 02 persons have been found alive at their house and 168 persons are still missing and 06 persons got injured. The State Government has gathered this information from different sources and this may be change.

12 persons from NTPC project have been rescued, who were trapped in a tunnel. 15 persons from Rishiganga project have also been rescued. Total loss of animal lives reported 184 till date. State Government has announced an ex-gratia of Rs. 4 lakh each for the next of kin of those who have lost their lives due to the incident.

3. Current Situation:-

- I. Today a meeting was chaired by Union Home Secretary to review the progress of search & rescue operation being carried out in Chamoli district to trace the missing persons and also to review the situation arising due to formation of artificial lake in upper ridges. This meeting was attended by the senior Officers of the Ministry of Power, NDMA, DRDO, IDS (CISC), NTRO, State Government Uttarakhand, ITBP, NDRF, NRSC and NTPC. During this meeting Union Home Secretary assured that all necessary assistance will be extended to State Government of Uttarkhand by all concerned Central Government Agencies/department
- II. The search & rescue operation is still under way at Tapowan, Raini and Lata village area. The teams continued the boring/drilling operation inside the tunnel. However the

work at the tunnel temporarily halted (at 1430 Hrs) as water level in Rishiganga river has considerably increased. Search & rescue work re-started (at 1630 hrs.)

- III. Approximately 25–35 persons are suspected to have been trapped in another tunnel of NTPC project. Rescue operation to evacuate these persons is being carried out on war footing and all out efforts are simultaneously being made for searching the missing persons.
- IV. Search operation is being conducted by ITBP and NDRF dogs at incident site.
- V. Geophysical imaging of the site and the surface below is being done by the National Geophysical Research Institute Hyderabad of the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research on 09/02/2021.
- VI. Heli survey of Rishiganga valley (Nanda Ghonghati Glacier) was taken up by Director (Projects) NTPC and Director (Technical), THDC with Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology's Glaciologists, technical team and Geologists on 09.02.2021.
- VII. Recce of Srinagar Dam carried out by deep divers of Navy on 10/02/2021.
- VIII. NTPC walk down team carried out survey up to 07 kms. Trekking team consisting of NTPC and THDC has been formed and walk down survey restarted on 10/02/2021. However, the survey halted due to bad weather.
- IX. Work for approach road to de-silting chamber started which will help in diversion of river flow away from de-silting chamber. This will also be used for excavation of muck from de-silting chamber for rescue operation.
- X. De-watering pump made available at site. 03 Nos slush removal pumps of capacity (50 HP, 60 HP and 100 HP) along with control panel and SJVNL representatives reached site. Installation of pumps in progress.
- XI. ITBP relief teams continued their effort in transporting ration, medicines and other essentials to villages that are cut off due to washing away of bridge.

4. Steps taken by Central Government:

- i. Situation is being monitored on 24x7 basis by Central Government at the highest level. Hon'ble Prime Minister himself is monitoring the situation closely.
- ii. Both Control Rooms of Ministry of Home Affairs are monitoring the situation 24X7 and all possible help is being provided to the State.
- iii. Deployment of Manpower and Resources by Central Government

a)	NDRF	05 Teams with all necessary rescue relief equipment and team of dog squad
b)	ITBP	425 Personnel with all necessary equipment and team of Dog Squad
c)	SSB	01 Team
d)	Army	08 Teams including 01 ETF, 02 Medical teams and 02 JCB
e)	Navy	01 Deep diving team
f)	Air Force	02 Cheetah Helicopters

g)	DRDO	01 Team
j)	BRO	02 JCB, 01 Wheel Loader, 02 Hydro Excavators (20T/30T)

5. Meeting of National Crisis Management Committee (NCMC):-

On 07.02.2021 at 1630 hours a meeting of NCMC under the chairmanship of Cabinet Secretary was held, wherein all the concerned agencies were directed to work in close coordination and to extend all requisite assistance to the State administration.

6. Steps taken by State Government: -

The district administration, police and disaster management departments of State Government along with all central agencies have been working for rescue and relief work. 02 teams of SDRF have been deployed. 07 Medical teams with 08 ambulances of State Health Department along with Chief Medical Officer have been deployed. Out of 13 villages Electricity has been restored in 11 villages and Water supply has been restored in 10 villages out of 11. Restoration work of 05 completely damaged Bridges has been initiated by PWD and BRO.

7. Status of State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF): -

For the financial year 2020-21, Rs 1041.00 crore has been allocated to the State of Uttarakhand under the State Disaster Risk Management Fund (SDRMF). The both installment of the Central share amounting to Rs 468.50 crore total Rs. 937 Crore each have been released to the State Government.
