IIT Mandi discusses landslide mitigation

STATESMAN NEWS SERVICE
SHIMLA, 19 NOVEMBER

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Mandi, in Himachal Pradesh held a training programme aimed at creating a pool of experts in the area of landslide mitigation and technical know-how on various post-disaster rehabilitation measures.

Organised under the aegis of State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA), Himachal Pradesh, last week, the training focussed on Kotropi landslide (2017) in Paddar area of Mandi, where two buses carrying passengers were buried under the debris.

The training was intended for working professionals from Public Works Department, Irrigation and Public Health and other government agencies, who were asked to develop mitigation and rehabilitation measures, given the major disaster in the state last year.

Experts like Prof. Vikas Thakur, Norwegian Institute of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway; and, Dr K V Uday, Dr Varun Dutt, Dr D P Shukla from IIT Mandi; among others were present.

Prof Thakur covered topics like landslide risk reduction, triggering factors and rehabilitation measures. He focused on disaster risk reduction, which can be achieved by proper engineering measures including structural and non-structural.

Dr Varun Dutt empha-sised on the importance of installing sensors in landslide-prone areas and introduced non-structural measures by means of monitoring, early warning, and low-cost sensor development.

Dr K V Uday from School of Engineering, IIT Mandi, said landslide mitigation is a multi-faceted issue, along with the cause, effect and adaptability, a multi-disciplinary approach is very important.

He discussed the importance of soil investigations, stability analysis, and landslide structural mitigation measures. An expert in geological studies, Dr DP Shukla, spoke about Himalayan geology and underlined the geological contributions for the repeated landslide disasters in the Himachal state and Mandi region.

Prof Thakur said landslide hazards are unavoidable, but, landslide disasters are not.