Two Day National Conference on ‘Flood Early Warning for Disaster Risk Reduction’, during 30-31 May 2019, Hyderabad, jointly organised by NRSC and CWC under National Hydrology Project

Flood early warning is one of the most effective non-structural flood disaster damage mitigation methods for disaster Risk Reduction with significant developments in recent times. Spatial flood early warning is one among them, which is gaining momentum due to availability of space based inputs, high resolution digital terrain models, advanced modelling software and high end computing systems. The benefits of Early Warning System includes strengthening overall flood management which includes preparedness, response and recovery, minimizing human fatalities, injuries and health risks, as well as infrastructure damage, and reduce expensive relief efforts.
In view of this, National Conference on Flood Early Warning for Disaster Risk Reduction was therefore an opportunity to deliberate on flood early warning and disaster risk reduction. The inaugural session was chaired by the Chief Guest Lt. Gen. N C Marwah, Member, National Disaster Management Authority, and Sri R K Sinha, Member - RM, CWC was the guest of honour. Nearly 170 delegates were participated from Central & State Government establishments, academia, World Bank and industry, who are active in flood early warning. The conference had 6 technical sessions covering flood early warning, spatial flood early warning, recent trends and techniques in hydrological modeling, urban flood modeling & flash floods, climate change impact on floods, and emergency preparedness & instrumentation. In total 72 abstracts were received, and 29 full papers were accepted for final presentations in the conference. The Proceedings comprising of 29 full papers was released during the inaugural session and the soft copy of the same is kept on NHP web site for wider reach. Each session had a keynote address by reputed scientists/engineers.

The Panel discussion on the concluding day was the keystone of the Conference and it was chaired by Sri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA with keynote speakers as panellists. Important takeaways from the conference were fulfilment of gap areas and way forward which projected towards - 1) creation of integrated and Interoperable and shareable databases 2) Capacity development at various user level 3) Understanding and minimising of forecast uncertainties and 4) Incorporation of futuristic capabilities such as virtual reality, UAV, drones, spatial data collection, etc.
Delegates at the 2-day national conference on 'Flood early warning for disaster risk reduction', 30-31 May 2019, Hyderabad