

## **SEMINAR NOTICE**

**Topic:** *Collective Efforts of People to Reduce Natural Disasters: A Study of the Sundarban Islands.*

**Speaker:** **Dr. Mohan Kumar Bera, SRT Fellow, Institute of Economic Growth**

**Date & time:** Friday, July 14, 2017 at 3.30 p.m.

**Venue:** A.M. Khusro Room, Institute of Economic Growth,  
University of Delhi Enclave, North Campus, Delhi - 110 007

**Chair:** Professor Amita Baviskar

All are welcome.

**(Sabyasachi Kar)**  
**Seminar Convenor**

### **Abstract:**

People from chronic flood-affected areas in the Sundarban islands do not immediately leave the place because they are aware of the difficulties faced by their neighbours, friends, and relatives who have become environmental refugees. Therefore, they take proactive measures to minimize the impact of floods before turning to the government and non-governmental organizations for support. They understand that individual efforts are not sufficient to deal with the floods of increasing magnitude caused by tidal waves in coastal areas. The perception of disaster risk influence them to engage in collective activities and develop strategies to mitigate flood disaster. By working as a group, the affected villagers are also in a better position to negotiate with the government so that their needs and demands may be fulfilled. However, as the perception of disaster risk varies with socio-economic activities and risk appraisal, there are also many villagers who do not participate in collective disaster-management activities. This paper explores the factors of homogeneity that motivate people to work together to reduce the impact of natural hazards. In what ways do these efforts reduce the loss of lives and livelihoods during different phases of the disaster? What is their relevance in avoiding the adverse effects of natural hazards? How do these efforts enhance the adaptive capacity of people to achieve common goals and ensure a secure future? Finally, how are these collective initiatives applicable in a larger context for the effective management of disasters?