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JU course in disaster management

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KOLKATA: To tackle natural disasters in a better way, [Jadavpur University](#) is planning a post-graduate course on natural disaster management in collaboration with the army, [vice-chancellor Pradip Narayan Ghosh](#) said.

"This is the brain child of our vice chancellor. The idea is still at a nascent stage. We are yet to form a committee in this regard," Rajat Acharya, head of the department of economics said. He was speaking on the sidelines of MICRODIS-Jadavpur University Symposium, the two-day programme that began on Friday.

The main departments that would be involved with the study of natural disaster management are civil engineering, geology, oceanography, economics and sociology. "Knowledge of economics and sociology help in assessing the damage or losses caused by natural disasters," Tuhin K Das, principal investigator, [MICRODIS](#) at JU said.

MICRODIS is an European Union-funded project, in association with 19 partners among which JU is one. It is involved with the micro-study of disasters. The project was started in 2007 and would terminate in this month.

Asked about the other universities in the country that teach natural disaster management in the post-graduate level, PC Joshi, professor of social anthropology, [Delhi University](#) said there is hardly any university in the country teaching natural disaster management in the post graduate level. "It is mostly taught as certificate or diploma course. There is a need for seriously teaching this in university level," he said.

JU is also participating in writing a book on natural disaster management along with 22 universities across 17 Asian countries, which would be published under the logo of Asian University Network of Environment and Disaster Management, Das said.

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