



AAPDA SAMVAAD



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India at GPDRR

An Indian delegation led by Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS, Home Affairs, participated in the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction that was held in Cancun, Mexico from May 22-27, 2017. Shri Rijiju co-chaired a plenary session on 'National and Local DRR Strategies' and a working session on 'Cultural Heritage and Indigenous Knowledge for Building Resilience'. He also presented the official country statement at the summit.

The summit presented the first opportunity since 2015 to review global progress in the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030, which was adopted at the Third UN World Conference on DRR in March 2015 in Sendai, Japan.

Addressing a session on critical infrastructure, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, Dr. P. K. Mishra, emphasized upon the importance of focusing on disaster resilient infrastructure for the achievement of Sendai targets.

Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, in his address on monitoring the progress of Sendai Framework, said the monitoring indicators should align with the system of governance of each partner country.

Dr. Mishra and Shri Kamal Kishore also participated in a roundtable Conference with UN Deputy Secretary General Ms. Amina J. Mohammed.

Dr. V. Thirupuzah, Joint Secretary, NDMA, participated in events on 'Private Sector's Role in DRM' and 'Innovative Actions on Build Back Better' as a speaker. He also made a presentation on innovative lessons learnt from India's reconstruction experience.

NDMA Guidelines on Museums was also launched during the summit.

Other members of the delegation included Shri Sanjeev Jindal, Joint Secretary, MHA; Santosh Kumar, Executive Director, NIDM; Shri Muktesh Pardeshi, Ambassador, Embassy of India to Mexico; Shri Anil Rai, Counselor, Permanent Mission of India (PMI) to UN, Geneva; among others.

Workshop on Crowd Management

India boasts of various cultural, religious and traditional festivals characterised by events of mass gathering, making it vulnerable to crowd-related disasters. It is possible to completely prevent these man-made disasters.

NDMA, in its bid to build capacity of all stakeholders to manage crowds, conducted a national conference on crowd management at Thiruvananthapuram in Kerala on July 11-12, 2017 jointly with the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA).

Shri E. Chadraseskharan, Hon'ble Minister for Revenue and Disaster Management, Govt. of Kerala, inaugurated the conference.

The conference was attended by the Members and senior officials of NDMA, besides representatives of State governments, Shrine Boards, religious trusts, event organisers and response agencies.

National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR)

Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated the two-day National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (NPDRR) in Delhi on May 15, 2017.

NPDRR, a multi-stakeholders National Platform, promotes participatory decision making in disaster management and aims to strengthen our federal policy. This was the second meeting of NPDRR and its theme was



“Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030”.

The meeting was attended by over 1200 persons, including stakeholders from all the administrative levels of government, civil society organizations, academia and the private sector.

India-Pacific Sustainable Development Conference

India organised an India Pacific Islands Sustainable Development Conference in Suva, Fiji on 25-26 May, 2017 to strengthen the resilience of Pacific nations by collaborating with them on DRR activities.

Shri R. K. Jain, Member, NDMA, spoke about India's initiatives in reducing disaster risks and explained how the National Cyclone Risk Mitigation Project (NCRMP) has strengthened our early warning systems and the resilience of



communities.

Other speakers at the sessions on DRR included Dr. M. Mohapatra, India Meteorological Department; Shri R. K. Pachnanda, the then DG, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF); Prof. C. V. R. Murty, Member, Advisory Committee, NDMA & Professor, Indian Institute of Technology, Jodhpur; and Dr. Satheesh C. Shenoi, Director, Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services.

First Mock Exercise on Forest Fire

NDMA conducted a first-of-its-kind State-level mock exercise on forest fire in Uttarakhand in April, 2017 in collaboration with the State Government.

The exercise is significant as almost 70 per cent of the State's geographical area is under forests and incidents of forest fires are commonplace.

In the run-up to this exercise, a coordination conference and a table-top exercise were held with all officials through videoconferencing from Dehradun.

Senior officials from all the important stakeholder departments participated in the exercise.

Reviewing the NDMP

Shri Kiren Rijju, Minister of State (MoS), Home Affairs, inaugurated NDMA's consultative workshop on reviewing the National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP). The workshop was held on April 12-13, 2017 in New Delhi.

The NDMP, India's first-ever national plan for Disaster Management, was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in June last year. The Plan itself provides for periodic reviews to



accommodate emerging global practices and national experiences.

NDMA had sought suggestions on the national plan from all stakeholders to make the review process participatory and inclusive.

Mock Exercise on Earthquake Preparedness

NDMA in collaboration with the Govt. of Delhi conducted a State-level mock exercise on earthquake preparedness in June, 2017. The exercise was conducted simultaneously at multiple select locations to assess the administration's capacity in mobilising resources and reaching out to the affected communities swiftly.

This exercise is significant as Delhi is located in the high intensity seismic zone IV. Such exercises generate awareness among the local population who are the first responders in case of any disaster.



Floods

From 1995 to 2015, floods affected 2.3 billion people across the world (UNISDR)

Flood accounts for 56% for all those affected by weather-related disasters (UNISDR).

Floods with a height of 2 meters of water can float a large vehicle even a bus.

Water-water everywhere but not a drop to drink! – doesn't apply to just oceans and seas anymore. A variety of Man-made and natural factors cause an havoc called Floods. Improper human induced development and climate change have substantiated this disaster to such an extent that on an average there is atleast one habitat in the world which is flooded. Some facts:

Flash floods often carry water as high as 10 to 20 feet.

Just 6 inches of rapidly moving flood water can make-person fall down.

Most people who perished in the flood tried to outrun the waters along their path rather than climbing rocks or going to a place higher up the ranks.

Many deaths caused by floods usually occur in the vehicle, and most happen when drivers make a single fatal mistake trying to navigate through flood waters.



We ought to be smart and prepared to tide over a flood. Some ways:

A) Before Floods

Ignore rumours, Stay calm, Don't panic

- **Stay available** - Keep your mobile phones charged for emergency communication; use SMS
- **Be alert** - Listen to radio, watch TV, read newspapers for weather updates
- **Don't ignore animals** - Keep cattle/animals untied to ensure their safety
- **Survival is key** - Prepare an emergency kit with essential items for safety and survival
- **Save your valuables** - Keep your documents and valuables in water-proof bags

B) During Floods

- **Don't take risk** - Don't enter flood waters. In case you need to, wear suitable footwear
- **Watch your step** - Stay away from sewerage lines, gutters, drains, culverts, etc.
- **Don't get electrocuted** - Stay away from electric poles and fallen power lines to avoid electrocution
- **Remain healthy** - Eat freshly cooked or dry food. Keep your food covered
- **Evade Illness** - Drink boiled/chlorinated water
- **Ensure cleanliness** - Use disinfectants to keep your surroundings clean

C) After Floods

- **Protect children** - Do not allow children to play in or near flood waters. Don't use any damaged electrical goods, get them checked
- **Watch your step** - Watch out for broken electric poles and wires, sharp objects and debris
- **See what you eat** - Do not eat food that has been in flood waters
- **Mosquitoes can kill** - Use mosquito nets to prevent malaria
- **Use clean water** - Don't use the toilet or tap water if the water lines/sewage pipes are damaged

D) If you need to evacuate

- Raise furniture, appliances on beds and tables
- Put sandbags in the toilet bowl and cover all drain holes to prevent sewage back flow
- Turn off power and gas connection
- Move to a higher ground/ safe shelter
- Take the emergency kit, first aid box and valuables with you
- Do not enter deep, unknown waters; use a stick to check water depth
- Come back home only when officials ask you to do so



4 DIGITS OF HELP: 1078

“*M*aine apne ghar ke saamne wali sadak par kabhi itna paani nahi dekha. Balki maine apni life mein kabhi itna paani nahi dekha,” says Narayan Lal Parmar while recounting the harrowing morning of July 24 when his village Dhola in Pali, Rajasthan, woke up to a deluge.

The current was so strong it swept away our belongings but instead of watching helplessly from the rooftops like others, I decided to do something, he adds.

Shri Parmar called up his son Shailesh, who stays in Delhi, informed him about the grim flood situation in the village and asked

him to see if he can contact somebody and ask for help. Shailesh and his friends found out about the National Disaster Helpline Number 1078 (NDMA Control Room) online and decided to give it a try.

‘Instead of watching helplessly from the rooftops like others, I decided to do something’

His phone was answered promptly, the operator sought additional information, asked for a video and some images of the location to gauge the situation and hung up.

"I sent the information and within a few minutes, I received a call from

NDMA. They told me that the information I had sent has been shared with local officials of the Rajasthan Government and that help would reach within half an hour," said Shailesh. The Control Room also shared with him the contact number of officials who would be able to give him live updates on the rescue operations.

A rescue team reached his fellow villagers, airlifted those who were willing, used boats to evacuate those who were hesitant and offered them essentials such as food and drinking water.

"I am thankful to NDMA for the help. My family, friends and neighbours are safe. I am amazed at how a little phone call turned the situation upside down," says an exalted Shailesh. •



KAPIL GUPTA ON URBAN FLOODS



Most of our cities have reached their saturation points and the developmental activities have now shifted to low-lying areas and areas next to the riverbanks thus increasing the risk of urban flooding incidents. Aapda - Samvaad spoke with Dr. Kapil Gupta, who is a Professor at IIT Bombay and an urban flood management expert, to understand how to prepare for urban floods.

Q. What are the major infrastructural improvements that should be brought about in urban planning at various levels to mitigate the risk?

A. Firstly, the existing drainage path should be well demarcated. There should be no encroachments on the natural drainage channel of the city. Secondly, many bridges, flyovers and metro projects are being constructed with their supporting columns located in the existing drainage channels. This can be avoided using proper engineering designs, such as cantilever construction. Construction of water storage tanks at the rooftop, intermediate, ground or underground levels also helps in minimizing the risk of urban flooding.

At the community level, people should spread awareness and be ready to respond to a flood as a community.

Storage or holding ponds should also be provided at judiciously selected locations to store water during heavy rainfall so that it does not cause downstream flooding. Once the rain subsides, the water can be released gradually. Porous pavements, which allow the water to gradually infiltrate into the underlying soil, should be constructed.

Q. Will the instances of urban flooding increase in the future if the current trends continue?

A. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has indicated that in future, there could be an increase in instances of heavy rainfall in shorter spans of time. This means that our existing drainage systems have to be redesigned to accommodate the increased flow levels. This can be done either by resizing the drains or by integrating the best management practices into the drainage infrastructure.

Q. What is that first basic issue that needs to be addressed at the individual, community and authoritative levels?

A. Disasters can happen anytime. We should always be prepared for such eventualities. If we know the flood risk map of our city, then we can avoid living in the low-lying areas. Where this is not possible, people should construct houses on stilts.

At the city level, the authorities should ensure that the building bye-laws are strictly followed. People should also cooperate with municipal authorities.



Q. What is the ratio between the investment needed to avoid an Urban Flood and the actual cost of damage incurred because there was no investment?

A. International studies have shown that the investment needed, in terms of following laws, constructing proper infrastructure, establishing and enforcing mitigation measures, is only about seven per cent of the total cost of damage

Constructing proper infrastructure costs only 7% of the total damage incurred due to non compliance

that would have occurred if the above measures were not put in place.

Q. Is it possible to forecast an imminent urban flood?

A. With the currently available instrumentation technology and information on the Internet, it is quite easy to forecast an urban flood and issue early warnings.

Q. What should people do immediately after they receive a flood warning?

A. Affected people should immediately evacuate to an identified evacuation centre. If such a centre does not exist, they should go to their neighbours staying in higher levels.

Q. What preparations can people living in risk-prone urban centres make in advance to tackle an urban flood?

A. People should take simple measures such as installing the gas connection, water heater, and electric panels high above the ground to brace themselves against flooding incidents. They should also put check valves in sewer traps to prevent floodwater from backing up into the drain. They should also seal the walls in their basements to avoid seepage.

Q. What precautions should one take after the flood water recedes?

A. After the flood water recedes, the threat of epidemics looms large. Water should not be allowed to stagnate to prevent breeding of mosquitoes. People should consume boiled water or, if possible, bottled water to prevent water-borne diseases and gastroenteritis. •





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#RajasthanFloods: Emergency Helpline Number-01412227296

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9:06 AM - 12 Dec 2016
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Replying to @SEOC_Karnataka
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#RajasthanFloods: Emergency Helpline Number-01412227296
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DURING FLOODS: DO's AND DONT's



Don't use electrical equipment while standing on wet floors, especially concrete.

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