

January 2019



AAPDA SAMVAAD

Kumbh Mela Mock Exercise



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India-Japan
Cooperation



14th
Formation Day

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Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar

The 8th Battalion of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) clinched the first Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar this year. The award was announced on 23rd January on the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose. The Award carries a certificate and a cash prize of Rs. 51 lakh.

Raised in 2006, this Battalion is a highly specialised Rescue and Response Force.

India-Japan Cooperation on Disaster Risk Reduction

India and Japan are two of the most disaster-prone countries in the world. Japan is situated along the Pacific Ring of Fire and is highly susceptible to earthquakes. Given its long history of devastating earthquakes, Japan has a very high level of community awareness. Its technological know-how, especially in the area of earthquake risk reduction, is among the most advanced in the world.

India is rapidly urbanising and a massive investment in the infrastructure sector is imminent. As nearly 59% of India's landmass is prone to moderate to severe earthquakes, this cooperation will not only save lives in the event of an earthquake but also make for great economic sense that this investment is made earthquake resilient.

To realise the goal of a disaster-resilient Asia-Pacific, it is imperative that India and Japan come together to address disaster risk. Towards this, both the countries signed a Memorandum of Cooperation on disaster risk reduction (DRR) in September 2017 with an aim to develop a specific bilateral Action Plan on areas of cooperation in DRR. This was followed by the first India-Japan workshop on DRR in New Delhi on 14-15 March, 2018.

Based on the outcomes of the aforementioned workshop, the second India- Japan workshop on specific thematic areas was organized in Tokyo on 15 October, 2018. An Indian delegation, led by Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Honourable Prime Minister, visited Japan from 12 to 16 October, 2018 to participate in this workshop.

The 12-member delegation, including representatives from the central government, five State governments, as well as scientists and researchers from premier technical institutions of the country, also participated in a special session on



International Day for Disaster Reduction. The delegation also held high-level bilateral meetings and visited two locations - Kawasaki and Katori - where Urban Flood Control Infrastructure has been developed.

During the opening ceremony of the workshop, both the countries reaffirmed the need for continued collaboration in the area of DRR within the broader context of close ties and strategic co-operation between the two countries. Calling the workshop an important step towards fostering a sustained dialogue and mutual exchange between the two countries on DRR, Dr. Mishra said that despite the progress so far, recent events indicated that we cannot afford to be complacent.

The third India-Japan workshop on DRR will be held in New Delhi in March 2019.

Thanking Japan side for organising this important workshop, India's Ambassador to Japan, Shri Sujan Chinoy, said, "We can work together regionally and globally to save lives and reduce the risk of disasters. There is much that can be done to mitigate loss in all vulnerable countries by building global consensus and cooperation. With our shared values and growing convergence, India and Japan can complement each other's efforts in this regard, with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction lighting the way forward."

The workshop was centered around four main themes: 1) Mock drills, exercises and training; 2) Meteorological hazards; 3) Earthquake early detection and warning systems; and 4) Use of advanced technology in disaster risk management.

At the special session on International Day for Disaster Reduction at Japan's National Conference for Promoting DRR on October 13, 2018, Dr. Mishra

underlined the importance of sharing experience of nurturing local self-reliance besides corporation on scientific and technical aspects.

These interactions have set the stage for a deeper engagement between the scientific and technical institutions of the two countries, with a specific focus on earthquake risk assessment and urban flood risk management. •



Meetings with Cabinet Office and PM Office

Dr. P. K. Mishra led two bilateral meetings - one with Shri Junzo Yamamoto, Minister of State for Disaster Management, Cabinet Office, Japan and the other with Shri Hiroto Izumi, Special Advisor to the Honourable Prime Minister of Japan - for even greater collaboration between the two countries in the coming years.

India's Ambassador to Japan Shri Sujan Chinoy; Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA; Ms. Rajni Sekhri Sibal, Additional Secretary, Disaster Management, Ministry of Home Affairs and Deputy Chief of Mission (Embassy of India in Japan) Mr. Raj Shrivastava attended these meetings.

Dr. Mishra expressed his appreciation for Japan's Global Leadership of Disaster Risk Reduction issues. He also highlighted the need for focusing on disaster resilient infrastructure and sought Japan's support for the Coalition on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Kumbh Mela Mock Exercise



Kumbh Mela 2019, the largest public gathering and collective act of faith, anywhere in the world, is happening from January 15 to March 04, 2019. It draws tens of millions of pilgrims to bathe at the confluence of the Ganga, the Yamuna, and the mystical Sarasvati. The NDMA in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority (UPSDMA) conducted a mock exercise to test emergency preparedness and strengthen response mechanisms.



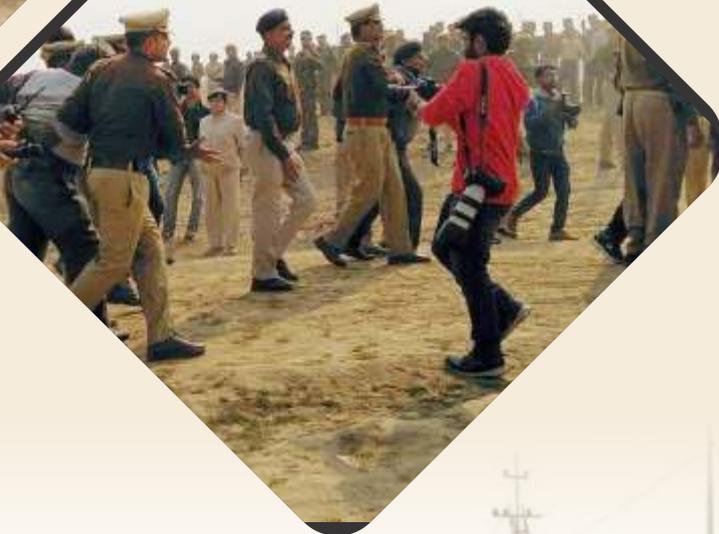




'Aapda Samvaad' spoke with NDMA's Maj. Gen. V. K. Datta (Retd.) to know more about the Kumbh Mela Mock Exercise.

Q. What were the salient features of this mock exercise?

A. All kinds of scenarios that could occur during a mass public gathering of the scale of the Ardh Kumbh were simulated during two mock exercises that were held one after the other. The first exercise was held in December 2018. It was preceded by a coordination conference where stakeholder agencies presented their plans. These plans were reviewed by the NDMA team, headed by Lt. Gen. N. C. Marwah (Retd.), Member, NDMA, so that gaps, if any, could be rectified.



Issues such as the fear of stampedes at multiple locations - one triggered by the other, chances of fire in tented areas where pandals of various akharas are erected or where international visitors are staying, drowning in the river during bathing, terrorist attack, and bomb or LPG explosions were taken into consideration. All the response agencies were sensitised about these issues before the conduct of this exercise. However, it was found later that some agencies could not participate. Therefore, on the request of the State government, yet another exercise was conducted on January 11, 2019 February where all the stakeholder agencies participated and observations made after the first exercise were also implemented. Some additional scenarios were also incorporated during the second exercise with an aim was to exercise all the Emergency Support Functions (ESFs).

As a result, the Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj has run successfully so far and will hopefully remain so till the culmination of the event in March.

Q. How was this exercise different from other Kumbh Mock Exercises conducted previously?

A. This exercise, like every other, was very comprehensive. In fact, NDMA has been guiding various State governments on the conduct of mass public gathering events. NDMA reviews arrangements and issues advisories for such events. This exercise was bigger than other such exercises conducted so far. Also, the basics such as positioning of various stakeholders, an Integrated Command Control Centre and

efficient infrastructure was already in place. NDMA had to guide the stakeholders on Unified Command, inter-agency coordination, communication systems, Incident Response System (IRS) for the management of the event.

Q. Please explain the role of NDMA in the exercise briefly.

A. NDMA has given proper guidance to all stakeholders on almost all aspects of the Kumbh Mela - from receiving people at the railway station, construction of holding areas to regulate traffic, management of the snan (bathing) areas, management of the akharas to the role of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Armed Forces, Kumbh Mela Police, Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF), Rapid Action Force (RAF), Railway Protection Force (RPF), local police. •



14th Formation Day

Early Warning for Disasters



Early warning is a major element of disaster risk reduction and can minimise the loss of lives and economic impacts. Timely early warning is key to a structured and efficient response.

To be effective, early warning systems need to involve the communities at risk, generate public awareness, effectively disseminate warnings and ensure there is a constant state of preparedness. Over the years, India has made considerable progress in issuing accurate and timely early warning, especially for cyclones. Very recently, authorities could evacuate thousands before Cyclone Gaja made its landfall as its path was accurately predicted by the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

Despite the progress, a lot needs to be done to further improve our early warning mechanisms, hence the theme chosen for NDMA's 14th Formation Day was 'Early Warning for Disasters'. The Formation Day was celebrated on November 27, 2018 in New Delhi.

Inaugurating the event, Union Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Kiren Rijiju, said, that half the battle against the disasters would be won by increasing disaster awareness and improving early warning systems. He said that the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is taking special interest in making the country more disaster resilient.

In the backdrop of some recent incidents where fishermen were caught unawares despite early warning, issues specific to dissemination of warnings to fishermen at deep sea was discussed in great detail. The functioning of various technological tools such as the NAVIC satellite constellation, which generates alerts for the fishermen in their regional language, was discussed.

Issues in early warning for lightning and thunderstorm, State and district level early warning action plans, the role and participation of communities and media in early warning dissemination were also discussed.

NDMA is working towards creating a uniform,

credible and integrated national-level database with locally obtained and validated data. This is a must for making suitable policy interventions to strengthen disaster resilience. NDMA made a presentation on the subject on the occasion to strengthen consensus on the same.

Stakeholders also discussed the roadmap, their roles and key challenges in issuing timely and accurate early warning and its dissemination to all relevant stakeholders, including the vulnerable communities.

Emphasising upon the need to ensure last-mile connectivity, Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, said, "Any warning, howsoever early, cannot be effective unless there is a robust end-to-end dissemination system."

On the occasion, a manual for training masons on Hazard-resistant Construction and a study report on Gujarat Floods of 2017 was also released. The training manual will enable masons to construct resilient and sustainable houses, which will help reduce the loss of lives and property due to a disaster. The study report documents the best practices and lessons learnt by Gujarat during last year's floods. This study also makes recommendations for

“Half the battle against the disasters would be won by increasing disaster awareness and improving early warning systems”



strengthening institutional arrangements towards further improving the State's resilience.

NDMA Members and officials, senior officials from the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Ministries/Departments of the Central Government, State Governments, civil society, and ex-Members and Advisory Committee members of NDMA participated in the event.

Discussions at the event would go a long way in increasing awareness and aid improvement of our early warning mechanisms for disasters.

Technical Sessions

- Disasters and Early Warning: Scenario, Challenges and Way Forward
- Early Warning: Lightning and Thunderstorm
- Cross Cutting Issues in Early Warning
- Disaster Database Management

IORA Meet on Disaster Risk Management



Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India in collaboration with NDMA and Ministry of Home Affairs is organising a meeting of IORA Cluster Group on Disaster Risk Management (DRM), which will be held on 5-6 February 2019 in New Delhi.

Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) is an intergovernmental organisation and has many disaster-prone countries among its 21 members. DRM is one of its priority areas and its Action Plan (2017-2021) has specific goals to improve resilience in IORA countries.

The two-day meeting will feature interactive sessions and will focus on development of a draft Work Plan for DRM in IORA. It will also deliberate on the need for establishing a DRM Core Group to take forward the agreed objectives under the Work Plan.

It would strengthen cooperation in disaster response interventions, including deployment of response teams and mobilization of relief material to affected countries. Deliberations at the meeting would also aid information exchange, establishment of disaster database(s) and sharing of best practices.

SCO Joint Exercise 2019

A joint exercise of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Urban Earthquake Search & Rescue will be held from February 21-24, 2019 in New Delhi. The four-day exercise will be organised by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The exercise will be based on the guidelines of INSARAG (International Search and Rescue Advisory Group), a network of disaster-prone and disaster-responding countries and organizations dedicated to urban search and rescue and operational field coordination.

Representatives from all eight member countries - India, Kazakhstan, China, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan - will participate in the exercise.

The exercise will provide an opportunity to practice and strengthen national as well as international response, and coordination protocols and methodologies in a major earthquake scenario requiring international assistance. The exercise will also provide an opportunity to share the best practices and test the preparedness and resilience of member countries to address the various challenges while responding to a disaster.

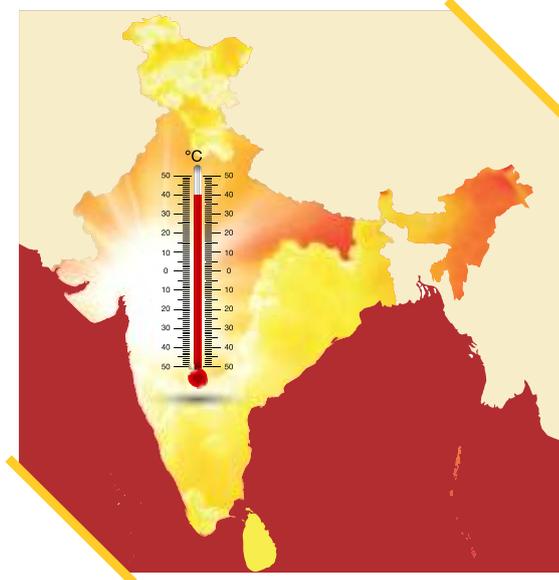
In August 2017, delivering the country statement at the ninth meeting of the heads of government of the SCO dealing with the prevention and elimination of emergency situations at Cholpon Ata in Kyrgyzstan, Union Home Minister Shri Rajnath Singh offered to host a joint earthquake rescue exercise to better respond to natural disasters. To ensure the smooth conduct of the Exercise, a two-day preparatory meeting was also organised by the NDRF in November 2018 in New Delhi. During the preparatory meeting, types of events, modalities, venues, protocol and requirements were worked out for smooth conduct of main exercise.

In an interconnected world where actions in one part of the world affect risks in other parts of the world, it is imperative that SCO countries come together to reduce their disaster risks. The exercise will strengthen regional cooperation and give an added impetus to international efforts on disaster risk reduction.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Workshop on Heat Wave



NDMA in collaboration with the Government of Maharashtra will organise a national workshop on preparedness, mitigation and management of Heat Wave 2019 on 27-28 February 2019 at Nagpur.

Heat wave has emerged as one of the major severe weather events around the globe in recent years. Climate change is driving temperatures higher as well as increasing the frequency and severity of heat waves in India.

NDMA formulated and circulated to the States the 'Guidelines for Preparation of Action Plan – Prevention and Management of Heat-Wave' in 2016. The Guidelines provided a framework for implementation, coordination and evaluation of activities undertaken by local authorities to reduce the adverse effects of extreme heat wave. The Guidelines were further revised in 2017. Its effective implementation by all stakeholders along with close and sustained monitoring significantly brought down the number of heat wave-related deaths in 2016, 2017 and 2018.

Besides aiding the preparation and implementation of Action Plans, the workshop also aims to discuss about the integration of various development plans, including long term measures such as adaptation of cool roofs technology, increasing forest coverage and green areas, to reduce the risk of heat waves as well as climate change impacts.

Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) India, in collaboration with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) is organizing the Second International Workshop on “Disaster Resilient Infrastructure” on March 19-20, 2019 in New Delhi. The workshop will bring together representatives from partner countries representing their disaster risk management agencies, key infrastructure sectors, multilateral development banks, UN agencies, academia, scientific institutions, private sector and policy think tanks.

Investment in disaster resilient infrastructure is essential for achieving all the loss reduction targets enshrined in the Sendai Framework. Over the last two years, India has been advocating for the "Coalition of the Disaster Resilient Infrastructure" at various international platforms, including the G20 summits and the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). CDRI is envisioned as an inter-country knowledge exchange and capacity development partnership.

The workshop will look at the contours of such an inter-country knowledge partnership to be an effective instrument of building disaster resilience of infrastructure. It will also look at concrete action plans for capacity development of partner countries to upgrade their infrastructure assets, data standardization to facilitate knowledge exchange, among others.

In January 2018, the first International Workshop on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (IWDR2018) was held in New Delhi.



SURVIVING COLD WAVE

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS

- Have adequate winter clothing
- Prefer mittens over gloves
- Stay indoors as much as possible
- Drink hot drinks regularly
- Take care of elderly people and children
- Store adequate water as pipes may freeze
- Have emergency supplies ready
- Listen to radio, watch TV, read newspapers for weather updates



Address:

NDMA Bhawan

A-1, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi - 110029

Telephones : +91-11-26701700

Control Room : +91-11-26701728

Helpline Number : 011-1078

Fax : +91-11-26701729