

Record of proceedings of the Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners/ Secretaries, Department of Disaster Management of the States/UTs, 2019

The Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners and Secretaries of the Department of Disaster Management of States/UTs was held to review the status of preparedness before onset of south-west monsoon, 2019 on 21st – 22nd May, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and to discuss important issues related to the strengthening of disaster management system in the country as well as sharing the best practices adopted/practiced in this field by the different States.

2. The Conference was inaugurated by the Union Home Secretary on 21st May, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi. The representatives of the States/UTs, various Central Ministries/Departments and organizations concerned with disaster management as well as representatives of Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces participated in the Conference.

3. The list of participants is annexed at Annexure.

4. Shri Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Joint Secretary (Disaster Management), MHA while welcoming the delegates and participants, highlighted the importance of this annual conference. He stated that in the present era, natural calamities have turned out to be much more extreme and very erratic but we can minimize the loss of human lives and damages to the property by taking proactive preventive measures. He shared that the India's coordinated efforts in handling cyclone 'Fani' with minimum casualties was appreciated in almost all the sessions during the recently concluded Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2019 (GPDRR) at Geneva. He also informed that Dr. P.K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to PM has been awarded with Sasakawa Award 2019 for Disaster Risk Reduction during GPDRR. The United Nations Sasakawa Award is the *most prestigious international award in the area of Disaster Risk Management*. The conference was informed about the whatsapp group, "DM Response Group", maintained and managed by MHA for prompt response to any disaster. Any left out State may inform for inclusion in the group.

5. Shri S.N. Pradhan, DG, NDRF while endorsing the importance of the annual conference said that Cyclone 'Fani' has already given an indication that we should keep ourselves ready to tackle such untimely eventuality. He highlighted three areas which can be very useful for tackling such disaster namely, Prediction, Prepositioning and Partnership. He urged that while requisitioning the services of NDRF, the State Government should provide the bare minimum basic facilities for their personnel, which could be a school building or any other place where they can assemble and start their functioning. He stressed that the NDRF works in a team with their state of art authorized equipments and State should not try to divide them in smaller groups, as the same impact their capability in the rescue and relief operations.

6. Dr D.N Sharma, Member, NDMA applauded the holding of the conference just before the onset of the monsoon season. He informed that NDMA has constituted a task force to study the lightning, thunderstorms and heat waves and NDMA is facilitating the

States in framing up the guidelines on these issues. NDMA is working with the ISRO and NRSC for strengthening the system of cyclone and heat-wave forecasting. NDMA has prepared a 15 years roadmap on prevention of urban flood and also prepared the National Disaster Management Plan. In both the plans, roles and responsibility of each and every authority is dovetailed in a comprehensive way. He also highlighted the role of community participation in disaster management by disseminating the information in a vernacular language and urged the States to take benefits from the different schemes run by NDMA like Aapada Mitra, mock exercise etc.

7. Dr. K.J. Ramesh, DG, IMD while referring the timely prediction in the case of cyclone 'Fani' highlighted that the benchmark for rescue and relief operation has been set very high and now every state is expected to raise the bar higher. He highlighted that IMD is working with different agencies for quality improvement in forecasting the disasters. He stated that the time has come when the State Governments should build the impact based warning system and referred the case of Tamil Nadu which has built up their capacity and Odisha is also catching up very fast.

8. Shri Rajiv Gauba, Union Home Secretary while welcoming all the participants to the Conference expressed satisfaction on handling the cyclone 'Fani'. He mentioned that due to global warming, the disasters have become more erratic and we are among the worst victims of such disasters. Citing a UN Report, the Union Home Secretary said disasters had caused economic losses of US \$3 trillion globally during the last two decades. India alone suffered losses to the tune of \$80 billion during 1997-2017. The recent Cyclone 'Idai' was one of the worst tropical cyclones on record to affect Africa and the Southern Hemisphere leaving more than 1,000 people dead. In comparison, during cyclone 'Fani', we could save many lives due to planned evacuation of 12 lakh people in disaster resilient cyclone shelters, which have been built over the years by consistent planning and management under NCRMP. He applauded the role of IMD for continuous improvement in their prediction capabilities. Stating that our country is prone to various kinds of disasters, Shri Gauba advised all the states for building Disaster Resilient Infrastructure as a long term measure to minimize the economic losses. Due to rapid urbanization, urban flood was also highlighted as a major concern. States need to do necessary effective planning to mitigate this phenomenon. Local bodies should take more responsibility as first responders and States should strengthen their Civil Defence and Fire Services.

9. The Union Home Secretary mentioned that the Government has sanctioned four additional Battalions of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and new Battalions are being set up in J&K, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand and Delhi NCR. He urged constitution of State Disaster Response Force by all the State and to invest more resources for enhancement of their capabilities. He also highlighted the importance of regular mock drills to test the preparedness and urged the States to maintain a record in which the experiences gained in each disaster could be documented. He reaffirmed Centre's full support and informed that more than Rs. 9600 crore have been released in the last year from SDRF and additional Rs.10000 crore have been released from NDRF to severely affected states. He urged for timely submission of Memorandum by the

affected States in line with the extant norms of SDRF/NDRF in order to process the same in a time bound manner by Central Government.

10. After the inauguration, representatives of the Ministries / Departments / agencies of Central Government made presentations on the first day of the conference. The representatives of the State Govt. made their presentations on the 2nd day of the conference. All the presentations are made available on the website of DM Division of MHA (<https://www.ndmindia.nic.in/publications>).

11. During his presentation DG, IMD informed that IMD has now started prediction system for lightening. IMD is also in the process of developing flash flood alert. He stressed the need for development of Common Alert Protocol (CAP) which is very useful during disasters in transmission of localized alert messages. He further informed that IMD is in the process of deploying additional Doppler weather radars in the country -10 in Himalayan region, 14 in North east and another 11 by Indian Air force. By the middle of 2021 the whole country is likely to be covered by Doppler weather radar for real time coverage. In this context Karnataka requested training of manpower for using Radar data.

12. NDMA, during its presentation, mentioned various guidelines issued by NDMA on Floods, Urban Floods, Thunderstorm & Lightning/ Squall/ Dust/ Hailstorm and Strong Winds. NDMA also mentioned Capacity Building Initiatives like Aapdamitra Scheme, Financial Support for Mock Exercises and urged all stakeholders for Mapping & updation of resource inventory. Some other participants suggested NDMA for preparation of panel Consultants for utilization of their services by different States / UTs as they are finding it difficult to avail the services of good professionals due to various factors.

13. In the presentation of Central Water Commission, the flood forecasting setup and details about how data is collected was explained. It was suggested to them to reverse their order for categorization of flood warning since the same does not match with the warning system followed by other forecasting agencies.

14. DG NDRF during his presentation underlined the motto of NDRF i.e. 'Saving Lives and Beyond'. He also informed about the Rescue plus mode being adopted by NDRF during handling of the disasters. He shared the pre-positioning of NDRF teams at vulnerable locations to deal with the coming monsoon season. He also requested the State Governments to procure inventories on the line of NDRF. JS (DM) informed that the specifications of NDRF equipments have already been shared with the State Governments and the same can be circulated once again. DG NDRF requested all the States to constitute dedicated and trained SDRF for handling disasters in their States on the pattern of NDRF.

15. The presentation made by Ministry of Defence covered all aspects of the deployment during disasters and allied issues such as raising of bills for deployment of aeroplanes, etc. He requested all the States to use the services of defence forces judiciously during the disasters.

16. ISRO explained about Disaster Management Support (DMS) programme and National Database for Emergency Management (NDEM) in their presentation in detail and requested the States to use the services for better handling of the disasters. He also informed about ICR - ER (Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response) under process at MHA. Using Airborne synthetic aperture radars (SAR), ISRO is able to provide high resolution data(resolution 50 cm) which will be very useful in post disaster damage assessment.

17. The representative of SASE (Snow and Avalanche Study Establishment), DRDO informed that presently they are confined to Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh and good quality services to the users especially defence forces / paramilitary forces and civil society shall be made available in the North East regions of the country also in future.

18. The representative of GSI informed that landslide early warning system is the mandate of GSI. GSI and Border Road Organisation are working together by way of a MoU for providing services to the communities, which are landslide prone. He also explained the importance of base map and mapping of data for landslide early warning system. The representative of M/o Defence suggested that the service of ground duty personnel of Army could be utilized for better data collection. The representative of ISRO informed that mapping for landslides on pilgrim route in J&K, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand is done by ISRO also.

19. On the 2nd day of the conference, Principal Secretary(DM) of Kerala shared their experience in handling Kerala floods in 2018. He informed that lack of real time dam management was a big issue in handling the floods. About the lessons learnt from the disaster, he stated that awareness of the community and training of first responders (volunteers, community members) are of utmost use for handling the disasters. He also stressed the need for robust and redundant communication network. He informed that PDNA exercise have been undertaken with the help of World Bank and UN agencies for long term rehabilitation of the victims of the disasters. He shared that the State has to reorient its approach towards water management and have to make development planning changes, as suggested by the expert from Netherlands.

20. Special Relief Commissioner, Odisha made his presentation focusing on handling of the recent cyclone Fani which struck the state during this month. He mentioned about the devastating power of the gusting winds during the disaster and highlighted the role of dissemination of information through various communication channels during the disaster and was happy to share that not a single fisherman lost his life during Fani. Credit goes to the last mile connectivity for dissemination of early warning among the communities and timely shifting of people from vulnerable areas to various shelters in safer places.

21. The presentation made by the representative of Andhra Pradesh covered their preparation including inventories available with them for handling disasters in the coming monsoon season and months ahead.

22. The representative of Assam in her presentation shared the experience of Assam floods-2018 and lessons learnt by the State. She also mentioned about the preparations put in place for managing floods which is an annual occurrence in the State.

23. Addl. Chief Secy. & Relief Commissioner, Tamil Nadu in his presentation gave details about TNSMART which is a web GIS based system to strengthen preparedness, response and mitigation measures. The TNSMART, developed in cooperation with ISRO has modules including database, thresholds, hazard forecast, disaster impact forecast, advisory, response planning, risk communication, etc. There is a provision for annual performance audit and the system has attracted more than 70,000 users in a short span of time. This is available free of cost on Google Play Store and can be downloaded by the Android based smart phone users anywhere in the World.

24. The representative of Uttarakhand covered the incidents of Kedarnath floods / landslide of 2013 and how the State has prepared itself for meeting similar eventualities in the future. She specifically mentioned about High Altitude Rescue Team(HART), deep water diving teams trained and maintained by the States keeping in view it's unique terrain and topography. She informed about 107 automatic weather systems (AWS), 100 earthquake sensors and sirens along river Ganga (8 locations) installed in the State which generate warning messages. She also informed about training at different levels. Besides SDRF, they have Mahila Mangal Dal and Yuva Mangal Dal to train volunteers at block level. They conducted their first forest fire mock exercise with NDMA in the State.

25. The representative of Karnataka made his presentation with special focus on the hazards affecting the State i.e. drought, flood and landslides. He informed that they have a GPS enabled system for near real time monitoring and communication of early warning system in the State. There is a village wise customization for usage of early warning messages and they have collected 36 lakh mobile phone numbers of farmers for pushing alerts to them. He also informed that lightening warning system is in place in their state and they are using technology in a very effective and efficient manner for managing disasters in their State. About 15000 emails are sent everyday automatically and they are using all social media platforms effectively for awareness generation and handling of disasters.

26. Sharing of experience and lessons learnt by different States was appreciated by all participants as good learning experience. Meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

Annual Conference of Relief Commissioners/Secretaries, Department of Disaster Management of States/UTs to review the status of preparedness for South-West Monsoon, 2019 on 21st & 22nd May, 2019 at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Central Ministries/Departments

S/Shri

1. Rajiv Gauba, Union Home Secretary
2. D.N.Sharma, Member, NDMA
3. S.N. Pradhan, Director General (NDRF)
4. Dr. K J Ramesh, Director General, (IMD)
5. Sanjeev Kumar Jindal, Joint Secretary (DM), MHA
6. Ravi Joseph, IG (NDRF)
7. Deepak Kumar Sinha, IG, Ministry of Environment Forest & Climate Change
8. Dr. V Bhanumurthy, Associate Director, National Remote Sensing Center, ISRO
9. Dr. M Mohapatra, Scientist- 'G' (Services), India Meteorological Department
10. U C Katara, Chief Engineer, Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
11. B.K.Karjee, Chief Engineer (FMO), Central Water Commission
12. Devendra Kumar Garg, C.E., CPWD, Ministry of Housing & Urban Affairs
13. Maj Gen, Dr. V K Naik, KCM, AVSM, Senior Consultant (CD & NDRF), NDMA
14. Major General (Retd.) V K Datta, Senior Consultant (ME & IRS), NDMA
15. Lokendra Singh, General Manager, Food Corporation of India
16. Dr. N Srinivasa Rao, Economic Adviser, Ministry of rural Development
17. Dr. Abhijit Sarkar, Scientist 'E', Ministry of Earth Science
18. Dr. U B Das, Chief Medical Officer, (EMR), Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
19. Manoj Kumar Yadav, DIG, NDRF
20. Randeep Rana, DIG (NDRF)
21. Brig Anupam Sharma, HQ Integrated Defence Staff, Ministry of Defence
22. Brig Ajay Gangwar, Advisor (Ops & Comn), NDMA
23. Brig. Kuldeep Singh (Retd.), Consultant (ME & IRS), NDMA
24. Dr. Santosh Kumar, Professor, NIDM
25. Smt Raj Kumari Beniwal, Director, Deptt. of Animal Husbandry & Dairying
26. Akhilesh K. Mishra, Director (Budget)
27. Dr. Pankaj Jaiswal, Director
28. Ranjan Pratap Singh, Director (Pers), Ministry of External Affairs
29. Sharad Chandra, Director (FFM), Central Water Commission
30. Ajay Kumar, Director, Ministry of Drinking Water & Sanitation
31. S.K.Rai, Director, MHA
32. Shekhar Gupta, Commandant, BSF
33. G. Srinivasa Rao, Associate Director DPR, EDPO, Indian Space Research Organisation
34. Dr. Manik Chandra Pandit, Deputy Director, Ministry of Rural Development
35. S Lakshminarayanan, Deputy Director, Central Water Commission
36. M S Rawat, Second-in-Command (Ops), ITBP
37. M K Kasana, Second-in-Command, MHA
38. Rohtash Bhankhar, Deputy Secretary, MHA
39. B.P.Bimal, Deputy Secretary (DM), Ministry of Agriculture, Cooperation & Family Welfare
40. Purnendu Kant, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Textiles

41. Murali Bhavaraju, Deputy Secretary, Cabinet Secretariat
42. Surendera Thakur, Under Secretary, MHA
43. A K Singh, Under Secretary, MHA
44. B K Biswas, Under Secretary, MHA
45. Sanjay Singh, Under Secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation
46. Om Prakash, Assistant Director, MHA

States/UTs

47. Ch. Santhiswarup, Executive Director (DM), Andhra Pradesh
48. Sangeet Dubey, Dy Resident Commissioner, Arunachal Pradesh
49. Ashok Kumar Barman, Addl. Secretary (Revenue & DM), Assam
50. Ms Aruna Rajoria, commissioner-cum-Secretary (Revenue & DM), Assam
51. N K Xaxa, Secretary/ Relief Commissioner (DM), Chhattisgarh
52. Anil Kumar, OSD, Goa
53. M R Kothari, Director of Relief & Addl Secy, Gujarat
54. Dharpal Ghangas, Under Secretary (Revenue & DM), Haryana
55. Dr. Om Prakash Mandaiya, SDO (AH&D) Panchkula, Haryana
56. Suresh Kumar, Project Officer (DM & Revenue), Haryana
57. D C Rana, Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev & DM), Himachal Pradesh
58. Pandurang K. Pole, Secretary(DM), Jammu & Kashmir
59. Sunil Agarwal Khatri, Addl DGP, (Fire & Emergency Services), Karnataka
60. Dr. G S Srinivasa Reddy, Director (KSNDMC), Karnataka
61. Sushri Ranjna Patne, Deputy Relief Commissioner, Madhya Pradesh
62. Jitendra Shrivastava, Assistant, Madhya Pradesh
63. Kishor Raje Nimbalkar, Secretary (R&R), Maharashtra
64. K Chandrasekhar Singh, Consultant (R &DM), Manipur
65. T. Dkhar, Commissioner & Secretary (Rev & DM), Meghalaya
66. Ramdinliani, Joint Secretary (DM & Rehabilitation), Mizoram
67. Bishnupada Sethi, Special Relief Commissioner, Odisha
68. Ms. Sucharita Sarangi, OSD, Odisha
69. Tuhin Kanta Pandey, Principal Resident Commissioner, Odisha
70. Premjit Nayak, Joint Resident Commissioner, Odisha
71. Dr. B N Mishra, General Manager (OSDMA), Odisha
72. Rajiv Prashar, Special Secretary (Rev & DM), Punjab
73. Ashutosh A.T. Pednekar, Secretary (DM & CD), Rajasthan
74. Brijender Singh, OSD (DM & CD), Rajasthan
75. Monalisa Dash, Addl. Resident Commissioner, Sikkim
76. Dr. E. Yuvaraj, Disaster Modeling Specialist, Tamil Nadu
77. Barun Kumar Sahu, P:incipal Secretary (Revenue), Tripura
78. Ms. Aditi Umrao, Project Director (Emergency Operation), Uttar Pradesh
79. Amit Negi, Secretary (DM), Uttarakhand
80. Ridhim Aggarwal, Addl. CEO, USDMA, DIG, SDRF, Uttarakhand
81. Dushyant Nariala, Principal Secretary (DM & CD), West Bengal
82. Dr. Angelshati Chauhan, Secretary, Andaman & Nicobar Islands
83. Dr. A.K.Singh, Scientist, New Delhi
84. Dr. Shikha Vardhan, Deputy Director, DGHS, MoHFW, Delhi
85. Dr. Suneet Kaur, Assistant Director (MoHFW), Delhi
86. Rajiv Kumar, Consultant (DM), Delhi
87. Dr. Rameshwar, A/D, DGHS, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
88. Rakesh Singhal, Settlement officer, Lakshadweep

