

Together, towards a safer India

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Launch of Disaster Management Support Project



A Government of India-United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Disaster Management Support (DMS) Project was launched on 19th January, 2003 at a function in the Ministry of Home Affairs. The project focuses on capacity building in all phases of disaster management cycle. It will be a part of the efforts towards disaster prevention and response planning to reduce vulnerability to disasters in high-risk areas. The Project would principally focus on natural disasters but could potentially address man-made disasters as well. Through its components, the Project will contribute, in a holistic way, to the development of improved systems for disaster management. The main components of the Project are:

A. Capacity Building in the Public Sector: The DMS Project would equip disaster managers and decision makers with requisite tools to prepare for, respond to and develop plans for long-term mitigation of disasters, especially in the areas of Incident Command System, Emergency Operations Centers and Search and Rescue.

B. Climate Forecasting System (CFS): CFS component will focus on reducing vulnerability to hydro-meteorological disasters like floods, cyclones, droughts etc. and use climate forecasts for allocation of natural resources, better decision-making and strengthen Early Warning Systems.

C. Disaster Initiatives: This component will support establishment of sustainable systems for disaster management at all levels under the Ministry of Home Affairs' National Disaster Management Framework.

D. Disaster Response: In the event of a disaster, the response would be organized in accordance with the procedures of Government of India.

The DMS Project will be implemented at national, state and local levels and after institutionalization of capacity building systems, it will shift focus to few selected States to be identified in consultation with MHA.

A Project Advisory Committee (PAC) comprising representatives from MHA, Deptt. of Economic Affairs, USAID and other key stakeholders shall oversee Project strategy, methodology and implementation.

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Development of Rapid Visual Screening (RVS) format for seismic vulnerability assessment of buildings in various zones

A group of eminent resource persons in EQ Engineering have developed an earthquake risk assessment Rapid Visual Screening format for seismic assessment of buildings in various zones in India. The methodology proposed is based on the classification of buildings as per MSK Intensity scale as well as new European Intensity scale, as modified on the basis of experience of buildings in India. The grades of damages are also based on the two Intensity scales taken together. The relationship of MSK Intensities and European scale have been studied and made use of in developing the table of damage grades of various building types under Intensities VI to IX. Based on this table, a format for rapid visual screening of buildings in various seismic zones has been arrived at.

From the vulnerability point of view, buildings have been classified into Masonry load bearing wall buildings, Reinforced Concrete Frame (RCF) buildings and Steel Frame (SF) buildings. Grades of damages have been determined as per the type and vulnerability of buildings including soil conditions.

Rapid Visual Screening format has, accordingly, been developed by working out the relationship of seismic intensity, building type and damage grades.

IDRN UPDATE:

India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) has so far recorded over 60,000 entries from 485 districts across the country.

CII Sensitization Session for Industrial and High-rise Buildings in Coimbatore

Continuing its initiative to sensitize the industry on pre-disaster measures necessary for earthquakes and fire hazards in industrial and high-rise buildings, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a session in Coimbatore on 20th January, 2004 in association with Ministry of Home Affairs, UNDP and Coimbatore District Small Scale Industries Association (CODISSIA).

Inaugurating the Session, Shri R. Santhanam, IAS Special Commissioner, Revenue Admn., Disaster Management and Mitigation Deptt., Govt. of Tamil Nadu spoke about the initiatives being taken by the Government of Tamil Nadu under DRM Programme.

Shri N. Muruganandham, DC, Coimbatore stressed the need to spread awareness in the society about disaster mitigation measures and urged the industry to take the lead for welfare of the community.

Shri V. Paramasivam, Chairman, CII Coimbatore Zone, appealed to industry to work towards minimization of disaster risk and asked them to spread the message of disaster mitigation.

Prof. A.S. Arya, Capacity Building Advisor, MHA made a presentation on EQ vulnerability, Risk Assessment and Risk Reduction in industrial and high-rise buildings. He stressed that retrofitting was not expensive and that it cost only 2 to 6 percent of the current cost of construction.

Prof. A.R. Santha Kumar, Deptt. of Civil Engineering, IIT Chennai talked about EQ code safety requirements for industrial structures. United India Insurance Co. Ltd. made a presentation on the insurance

schemes available for covering EQ risk.



Meeting of the Committee on Cyclone Monitoring & Mitigation

The meeting of the Committee on Cyclone Monitoring and Mitigation was held on 27th January under the Chairmanship of JS (DM), MHA and after reviewing the action taken on points raised in the last meeting, the Committee took the following decisions:-

- (i) Generators be provided to AIR stations relevant for cyclone warning for alternate power supply
- (ii) IMD to make two-hourly alerts in case of cyclonic storms being more than 300 kms away and hourly ones thereafter
- (iii) Coastal States to be advised to post police wireless operators in regional offices of IMD
- (iv) Deptt. of Science & Technology to replace existing cyclone warning radars with Doppler radars
- (v) IMD to develop integrated tropical cyclone model
- (vi) to develop Storm surge models for vulnerable coastal states.
- (vii) to constitute a Group under DG, IMD for developing inundation model.
- (viii) to develop user-friendly warning format indicating possible damage.

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INITIATIVES BY STATES

- **DELHI:** The Government of Delhi organized a one-day Seminar on "Role of Architects Towards Seismically Safe Built Environment" on 6th January in association with Indian Institute of Architects and PHD-Chamber of Commerce and Industry with a participation of nearly 250 architects from Central and State Government organizations and private practitioners. Inaugurating the Seminar, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Delhi, Shrimati Sheila Dixit spoke of non-engineered building stock and densely populated areas compounding the vulnerability of Delhi. She announced the constitution of Delhi Disaster Management Authority under the leadership of Lt. Governor of Delhi and emphasized the role of architects in ensuring construction of safe habitats.



CM inaugurating the programme by lighting traditional lamp, also seen Divisional Commissioner Smt. Sidhushree Khullar

Shri R.K. Singh, JS (DM) gave an overview of DRM Programme and spoke of various Gol initiatives. Sh. Balbir Verma, President, Indian Institute of Architects spoke of continuous education of architects to sensitize them about their critical role. Prof. CVR Murthy, Deptt. of Civil Engineering,

IIT Kanpur and Prof. Amit Bose made informative presentations to motivate architects to develop a synergy across the country to build EQ-resistant structures.

The Govt. of Delhi also organized a two-day Workshop on "Seismic Design of Reinforced Concrete Buildings" on 9-10 January for training practicing engineers from government & private institutions in designing EQ-resistant reinforced concrete buildings. It was inaugurated by Smt. Sindhushree Khullar, Divisional Commissioner, GoD who said that Engineers should design and construct new buildings with care to make them withstand disasters. Prof. Sudhir Jain and Prof. CVR Murthy from Deptt. of Civil Engineering, IIT Kanpur gave an overview of the EQ scenario in India and the lessons learnt from Bhuj EQ. The participants were trained in EQ-resistant designs of masonry buildings and RC frame buildings.

- **MAHARASHTRA:** A 3-day simulation exercise was conducted in association with Mumbai Amateur Radio Society with State EOC as the base centre. Secretary (R&R) and other officials participated in the event. The government officials of the irrigation department were trained on operating basic VHF systems. In IDRN, 34 Districts have made 2,381 entries so far.
- **MIZORAM:** A 2-day orientation and awareness programme was organized by R&R Department and ATI at Aizawl and attended by 40 officers from all 8 districts. It was inaugurated by the State Home Minister who talked of the need for comprehensive planning

for preparedness to deal with any emergency. All 8 districts have formed District Disaster Management Committees and one district has started uploading data on IDRN. Aizawl district has formulated the District Disaster Management Plan and a mock-drill was conducted in Civil Hospital, Aizawl.

- **GUJARAT:** In Jamnagar district, a stall was put up at an exhibition on disaster management from 20-24 Jan The Jamnagar Fire Brigade conducted a drill displaying various maneuvers for urban search and rescue in Jamnagar city on 26th Jan. In Banaskantha District, one-day training of teachers from 13 schools on DM was organized. VDMC of Chanch village of Rajula taluka in Amreli district organized an awareness generation programme with participation of students and villagers including women. A first-aid training was conducted in Bachau city of Kutch district with 40 participants including 14 women. Two first-aid trainings were held in Santalpur taluka of Patan district with 49 and 56 participants, respectively, of which 18 and 21 were women participants.

In Bhavnagar district, Disaster Preparedness Tableau won the first prize in 26th January parade.



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Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project

CHENNAI: One-day training of Engineers was organized by the Corporation of Chennai on 19th Jan. in association with Revenue, Disaster Management and Mitigation Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Anna University, IIT Chennai and SERC, Chennai with participation of 97 Engineers from PWD, Corpn. of Chennai, Chennai Municipal Development Authority and Deptt. of Town and Country Planning. The training included sessions on Basics of EQ-resistant Design, Rapid Visual Screening of Buildings, Ductility Detailing of RC Members, Retrofitting of Existing Multi-storey Buildings etc.



After the training, Engineers conducted the Rapid Visual Screening of the Railway Reservation Office, Chennai on the basis of the RVS format. This format is proposed to be used by the Govt. of Tamil Nadu for vulnerability assessment of lifeline Government buildings in the State.

COIMBATORE: Coimbatore City Municipal Corporation organized a one-day training programme for Engineers on 'Seismic Safety Measures' in association with Revenue Admn., Disaster Management and Mitigation Deptt. on 20th Jan. with the participation of nearly 110 Engineers of Corporation and PWD. It was inaugurated by Spl. Commissioner, Revenue Admn., Disaster Management and Mitigation Department, Govt. of Tamil Nadu and attended by Mayor, Coimbatore, District Collector and Commissioner,

Coimbatore Corporation. Many lecturers from the city engineering colleges also attended the sessions on EQ code safety requirements and the EQ vulnerability assessment of existing buildings by using Rapid Visual Screening format.

LUCKNOW: Under UEVR Project, the process for constitution of City Disaster Management Committee has been initiated. To discuss challenges pertaining to EQ vulnerability, Lucknow Development Authority organized a one-day consultation with a view to initiating preparedness among all stakeholders, to assess and formulate a strategy for awareness, mitigation and techno-legal framework and to mainstream EQ risk management into training and capacity building of government functionaries as well as practicing engineers and architects.

MANGALORE: Two-day workshop on "EQ-Resistant Design and Retrofitting of RC Structures" was organized by National Institute of Technology, Karnataka-Surathkal in association with the District Admn., Dakshina Kannada on 21st and 22nd January with 95 participants from Mangalore Corporation, practicing Engineers and Architects and faculty from Engineering Colleges and other government line departments.

JALLANDHAR: "Earthquake Preparedness and Safety Week" was organized from 26th Jan. to 4th Feb. A Painting Competition, distribution of pamphlets in English and Punjabi on do's and don'ts for earthquakes and a panel discussion on Jalandhar Doordarshan programme 'Baithak' were organized along with other activities during the week.

AMRITSAR: A one-day workshop for Working Groups constituted for implementation of UEVR Project was held on 14th January for awareness generation, preparation of response plans and networking. The Deputy

Commissioner spoke about the initiatives taken in the city. The process for review of building bye-laws has been started.

MAHARASHTRA: The first state level Consultation and Orientation Workshop was held on 12th Jan. in YASHADA, Pune with participation of city engineers, architects, town planners, structural engineers and professors from IIT, Mumbai, Pune Engineering College, National Insurance Company etc.

A National Workshop on "EQ Risk Reduction – The Gujarat Experience" was organized by GSDMA in Ahmedabad. Relief Commissioners from all States in seismic zones III, IV and V and other government officials attended the Workshop and visited Kutch to see post-earthquake reconstruction efforts and activities under the Community Based Disaster Preparedness programme. Chief Minister, Gujarat Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated the Workshop. The sessions focused on EQ scenario in North-East, sharing of best practices and Gujarat's legal/regulatory framework and the capacity building measures.

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