

Together, towards a safer India

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Inauguration of National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) by Hon'ble Home Minister on 11th August, 2004

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), envisioned as a center of excellence in the field of training and capacity building for disaster risk mitigation and management, was inaugurated by Shri Shivraj Patil, Hon'ble Union Home Minister on 11th August, 2004. The inaugural ceremony was attended by various dignitaries of UN agencies, Government officials and the NGOs.



Shri Shivraj Patil released the Newsletter 'NIDM Tidings' containing information related to the Institute as well as other latest developments in the field of disaster management. The website www.nidm.net was also launched focusing on the training programmes and other relevant material. Hon'ble Home Minister was apprised of the functioning of the Institute and the facilities and expertise being created for developing it as the premier center for learning, knowledge management and training and capacity building encompassing all facets of disaster management. It is proposed to develop the Institute as a think-tank for generating ideas and approaches for providing guidance to the practitioners and implementers of disaster management. It will also study and document the best practices in different areas and help disseminate the same for reference and guidance.

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It is proposed to develop the Institute as a think-tank for generating ideas and approaches for providing guidance to the practitioners and implementers of disaster management. It will provide advice and facilitate capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, systems development and expertise promotion for effective disaster preparedness and mitigation. The overall strategy being to build the Institute as a national hub for sharing and learning and for creating a critical mass of institutions, trainers and trained professionals.

The primary objectives of NIDM are to undertake quality research covering both natural and human induced disasters, with a multi-hazard approach; to work as a national resource center for the central and state governments through effective knowledge management and sharing of best practices; to professionalize disaster risk reduction and emergency management in India and other neighboring countries by developing an independent cadre of professionally trained emergency and mitigation managers; to promote formal training and education for disaster management in India and in the region and to build working partnerships with the Government, universities, NGOs, corporate bodies and other national and international institutes of eminence.

In addition, NIDM would primarily target developing and training a pool



of skilled and professional personnel at all levels in the Government as well as in the voluntary and corporate sectors for initiating, undertaking and sustaining disaster management activities in their respective organizations. It is well recognized that an effective human resource development plan would go a long way in institutionalizing and sustaining various initiatives for a comprehensive and wholesome disaster management and NIDM would play a catalytic role in implementing the HR Plan. The NIDM would complement the efforts of the Central and the State Governments in addressing the key sectoral issues for disaster risk reduction and in building disaster resilient communities.

Shri S. Reghupathy, Minister of State (Home) also visited the Institute on 5th October, 2004.

The Hon'ble Minister was apprised about the various activities and programmes of the Institute. He was also briefed about the various

collaborations being entered into with many national and international organizations and institutes to develop expertise in specialized areas.

Development and dissemination of slogans / messages for awareness generation through government stationery

The National Disaster Management Framework has identified awareness generation as the key for disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness strategy and envisages use of all possible means of communicating the message of disaster risk reduction to every segment of the population.

The Ministry has developed various messages/ slogans targeted at common people highlighting the need to initiate and adopt a culture of holistic disaster management. With the objective of utilizing the government stationery especially of

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departments/organizations having regular interface with the common people viz. postal, railways, airlines and banks, the slogans/messages developed have been shared with the Ministries of Railways, Civil Aviation, Posts and the Indian Banks Association for having these slogans/ messages printed on their respective stationery for generating awareness among masses.

Sensitization programme in Jamshedpur for disaster risk reduction measures for industries by the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

In pursuance of the work plan evolved with the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) organized a sensitization programme in Jamshedpur (Jharkhand), the industrial hub of the State.

In his Welcome Address, Shri H.M. Nerurkar, Chairman, CII Jharkhand State urged the industrialists to develop a mindset of safety, make the industrial infrastructure and

processes inherently safe.

Inaugurating the programme, Shri Jayant Munigala, Secretary (Relief and Rehabilitation), Jharkhand said that in addition to governments initiatives, collective efforts by the community especially the corporate sector were required for effective disaster management. He informed that the State was in the process of drafting a DM Act and a Policy and that a Disaster Management Authority was also being set up. The construction of Emergency Operations Centres (EOCs) was proceeding apace and uploading of data on IDRN was also being undertaken to develop effective response capabilities.

Presentations were made by resource persons on the Gol initiatives; Chemical and Fire hazard; earthquake risk management; development of on site and off-site DM plans and structural and non-structural aspects of industrial safety. In the Road Ahead session, it was decided that the industries would develop their DM plans and take the nearby community in confidence about their

operations and that media, the voluntary organizations and other stakeholders would be involved in various initiatives for disaster safety.

The programme was attended by many industrialists, senior Govt. officers, District Magistrates of seven districts, police and para-military officers and community-based organizations. The programme received extensive coverage in the media and special supplements were brought out by newspapers.

Integration of disaster management in school education by the Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE)

As part of its initiative to integrate teaching of disaster management in school education, CBSE organized a two-day training programme for teachers at Chinmaya Vidyalaya, Bokaro. More than 160 teachers from CBSE affiliated schools of Jharkhand participated.

The programme was inaugurated by SP, Bokaro who highlighted the need for school preparedness in view of



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high vulnerability of our country. Apart from acquiring requisite skills and knowledge for teaching disaster management in the class, the teachers were also apprised of importance of school DM plans.

Teachers' training programmes were also held in Bhopal and Amritsar with participation of 120 and 116 teachers, respectively.

PROGRESS OF WORK UNDER THE GoI-UNDP DISASTER RISK MANAGEMENT (DRM) PROGRAMME

DELHI: A sensitization programme was held in Nirmal Public School and nearly 370 children and the Staff of the school were sensitized about the steps to be taken to protect oneself during a disaster situation and the importance of DM plans and regular drills to enhance preparedness levels.

UTTARANCHAL: A workshop was organized in association with Indian Medical Association (IMA) in Dehradun for developing emergency response systems and staff training hospitals to meet any disaster situation. Over 25 Doctors participated in the programme. Presentations were made on 'Earthquake Scenario in Himalayas' by Wadia Institute; 'Structural Behavior during Earthquakes' by Irrigation Department; 'Need for Medical Response' by ONGC Hospital and the importance of emergency planning for hospitals.

ARUNACHAL PRADESH: District Disaster Management Committees

have been formed in all fifteen (15) districts of the State. City Disaster Management Committees for Itanagar and Naharlagun have also been constituted.

TAMIL NADU: (a) Anna University has included EQ engineering in its Civil Engineering curricula. (b) Tamil Nadu is the only State which has started implementing disaster management agenda in non-DRM districts with constitution of District Disaster Management Committees in 30 districts including 6 DRM districts. (c) A workshop on Emergency Health management was organized with participation of 35 Doctors from State institutions and hospitals.

MEGHALAYA: District Disaster Management Committees have been formed in all 7 districts and a Committee has been constituted to develop the State DM Plan.

SIKKIM: An orientation for members of District Disaster Management Committees was organized with 80 participants.

PROGRESS OF WORK UNDER THE URBAN EARTHQUAKE VULNERABILITY REDUCTION PROJECT (UEVRP)

DHANBAD: A meeting was organized to impart training for preparation of ward-level multi-hazard disaster management plans for District-level officers of various departments.

A sensitization-cum-demonstration meeting was held in the Railway

Primary School for tips to children and teachers about earthquake safety aspects and the need to prepare school safety and preparedness plans.



CURTAIN-RAISER

The Central Board of Secondary Education (CBSE) has initiated the process of preparing the textbook on disaster management for Class X. The book lays emphasis on practical knowledge being imparted to the students to manage disasters and discusses search and rescue skills, first-aid, alternate communication systems during a major disaster, disaster-resistant construction practices, role of government and non-governmental organizations in disaster management. The book would also contain guidelines for preparing a village DM plan and seeks to inculcate a spirit of volunteerism among the students.

The textbook will be introduced from the next academic year.

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