

# Together, towards a safer India

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## *Inauguration of Integrated Operations Center (IOC) by Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil*



Hon'ble Union Home Minister, Shri Shivraj Patil inaugurated the Integrated Operations Center (IOC) on 30th March, 2005 in the Ministry of Home Affairs, North Block. The IOC consists of an Operations Room (Ops Room), two Control Rooms and a Communications Room with state-of-the-art equipment and essential accessories. Union Home Secretary, Shri Dhirendra Singh, was also present on the occasion along with Shri Saroj Kumar Jha, Director, under whose supervision the upgradation work plan was executed.

The IOC, with 24X7 operability, will provide ----

- i. 4 site audio-video conferencing
- ii. High class DLP Projector system
- iii. Map display system
- iv. Intelligent Rear Projection system
- v. Flat panel LCD TV monitors
- vi. Remote control console
- vii. Lighting and Access Control
- viii. Uninterruptible Power Supply System.

The IOC comprises of two independent control rooms viz. Internal Security and Disaster Management and a communications equipment room.

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Each control room has minimum six telephones (4 PSTN + 1RAX + 1POLNET). It is equipped with Media Center PCs and network printer and satellite radios and Very High Frequency (VHF) communication equipment are also being installed. Communication equipment room has the equipment rack and IDRN web server with space for six additional servers.



With a seating capacity of around 30 persons, the Operations Rooms is suitable for meeting of top government officials and can be upgraded with additional equipment with minimal modifications. The lighting maintains the ambience and consists of spot and diffused lighting systems for operational convenience. A multi-site (up to 4 sites) audio-video conferencing facility is available with Internet Protocol and ISDN dial-up interface. The coding capability is from 64 kbps to 2Mbps. Microphones and loudspeakers provide uniform audio quality from any seat in the Ops Room.



The Display System consists of DLP Projector and screen; flat panel display/TV Unit; map display facilities; rear projection electronic smart board and system interconnection wing. It is also proposed to develop and operationalize a Countrywide Incident Alert Network which will facilitate dissemination of warnings and alerts via SMS, Fax and e-mail.

## *Trainings under National Programmes for Capacity Building in Earthquake Risk Management for Engineers and Architects*

Under the National Programme for Capacity Building of Engineers in Earthquake Risk Management (NPCBEERM), National Resource Institutions (NRIs) [comprising 7 IITs of Delhi, Mumbai, Kanpur, Madras, Kharagpur, Guwahati and Roorkee; BITS Pilani; Indian Institute of Science; Central Building Research Institute, Roorkee and Structural Engineering Research Center, Chennai] have commenced a six-week training schedule for training 420 faculty members of the State Resource Institutions (SRIs) and engineers from Government departments. Ten training programmes training nearly 100 engineers out of a target of 420 have been completed. Training of faculty of SRIs is to be completed by March, 2006. The faculty of SRIs would further undertake training of 10,000 engineers from Government and private sector in a 12-day training capsule.

Similarly, under National Programme for Capacity Building of Architects in Earthquake Risk Management (NPCBAERM), the NRIs [comprising Centre for Environment Planning and Architecture, Ahmedabad; Departments of Architecture, IITs of Kharagpur and Roorkee; School of Planning and Architecture, Delhi; School of Architecture, Manipal School of Architecture, Bhopal; School of Planning & Architecture, Hyderabad] have commenced training of faculty of SRIs and out of a target of 250 faculty, 77 have been trained in six training programmes in the NRIs so far. The remaining faculty members are expected to complete their training by March, 2006.

### **GSDMA launches 'Gujarat School Safety Initiative' (GSSI)**

GSDMA has launched a two-year project, GSSI, to promote a culture of disaster safety in selected 150 schools in Ahmedabad, Vadodara and Jamnagar in association with an NGO, SEEDS. The project envisages risk reduction through structural and non-structural corrections; development of School DM Plans; organize drills, create awareness on safety; establish Emergency Management Responder Committees and Task Forces in schools. It would also prepare tools for training teachers and students in disaster risk reduction.

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## Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) support to Tsunami rehabilitation endeavors

In view of the unprecedented devastation caused by Tsunami, the CII, apart from mobilizing relief materials from its member industries across the country, setting up warehouses for storing and packaging the same through its volunteers and in association with respective State Governments, has also initiated a Tsunami Disaster Rehabilitation Plan with an objective to re-architect the livelihood mechanism of the fishermen community. The Plan envisages ---

- i. getting the fishermen back to sea at the earliest.
- ii. Increasing market reach with investments in cold chains, refrigerated transport etc.
- iii. Develop aquaculture and fish farming option.
- iv. Improve quality and value of the catch with rational mix of fishing boats and modern mechanized fishing methods.
- v. Fund and develop fisheries sector with 'seed money' as a mix of grants and soft loans.
- vi. Communication infrastructure for information on sea conditions, fishing zones.
- vii. Training on alternate livelihood skills and creation of Community Infrastructure for enhanced living standards.

In Phase-I, to be completed by May, 2005, focused attention is being paid to immediate livelihood through servicing of engines and repair of boats in Cuddalore, Nagapattinam, Kanyakumari and Thanjavur districts. So far, 618 engines out of a target of 1200 engines have been serviced and 166 boats out of a target of 500 boats have been repaired.

## Uttar Pradesh circulates the draft 'UP Disaster Management Act'

The draft UP Disaster Management Act has been circulated to the concerned Departments in UP for inputs and comments. The draft Act has also been discussed in the meeting of the State Steering Committee.

The Act, once approved, would define the roles and responsibilities of different departments and officers, the Police, Home Guards, Civil Defence, Fire Services etc. and would also facilitate creation of UP State Disaster Management Authority to function as a planning and monitoring body for disaster management and post-disaster response, rehabilitation and reconstruction. The Act is also proposed to facilitate public-private partnership in the field of disaster management.

## Updates on GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme

- **GUJARAT:** The Government of Gujarat has notified the Gujarat Development Control Regulations (GDCR) inter-alia providing for registration of architects, engineers, structural designers, developers etc. which will be valid for a period of five years and would be renewable. The registration would be liable to revocation if the person is found guilty of negligence or default. It also prescribes duties and responsibilities as well as qualifications in respect of all including owners. It also provides for general requirements for development and defines hazardous materials, natural hazards and hazard-prone areas.

In Bharuch district, local cable network was used for disseminating and explaining the process of development of community based Village Disaster Management Plans (VDMPs) and reached 56,000 houses. A mock fire-drill demonstration, screening of film 'Surviving Nature's Fury' (TIFAC) and presentations on fire mitigation and safety measures was conducted at ITI, Rajkot.

- **MAHARASHTRA:** In Karad city, Satara district, the TIFAC film 'Surviving Nature's Fury' on earthquakes was screened over cable network with the help of Karad Architects and Engineers Association and the Karad Municipal Council and was beamed into over one lakh homes.
- **BIHAR:** The District Administration, Begusarai organized a Masons' Training Programme under the DRM Programme on disaster-resistant construction techniques with low-cost features. This kind of training was undertaken in Bihar for the first time with resource persons from Orissa Development Technocrats' Forum (ODTF).

## Dubbing of 'Surviving Nature's Fury' into regional languages

The TIFAC film 'Surviving Nature's Fury' has been dubbed into Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, Nagamese, Bengali, Gujarati, Kashmiri and Oriya under an initiative of Ministry of Home Affairs to disseminate user-friendly EQ mitigation information to people for generating awareness on disaster-resistant construction practices.



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- **DELHI:** In pursuance of the sensitization-cum-teacher training programme in Raghukul Aryakanya Vidyalaya, Gole Market, a mock-drill was organized with marking of evacuation routes, identification of electrical fittings as danger area for children, practice of 'Drop-Cover-Hold' drill, listing of Emergency contact numbers and development of a School Building Evacuation Plan. The weaknesses in the system were identified and shared with the authorities.

In North-East district, Delhi, 205 School Disaster Management Plans have been developed in Government and public schools and 88 schools have also conducted mock-drills. The District Education Officers are conducting regular follow-up in the matter. It is planned to conduct training programmes in nearly 200 Municipal Schools in the district in coming days.

- **TAMIL NADU:** A building by-laws workshop was organized in Chennai with the Ministry of Home Affairs and Building Material and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) officers interacting with the officials from the State Government and the Chennai Municipal Corporation, Town & Country Planning officers, faculty from IIT Chennai, Structural Engineering Research Center and State Resource Institutions etc. Prof. A.S. Arya, National Seismic Advisor briefed the participants about the salient features of the proposed amendments. The sub-committee of Government of Tamil Nadu also briefed about the suggestions made in Chennai City Building Rules and detailed discussions took place on it. Shri Santhanam, Commissioner Revenue Administration, gave the Valedictory Remarks and mentioned the pro-active work being done in Tamil Nadu for finalizing the Building By-Laws.

## Updates on Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP)

- **DHANBAD:** The District Administration, Dhanbad, has initiated a mass awareness campaign with printing and distribution of 40,000 handbills and 6,000 posters/leaflets in the city with a well-organized distribution strategy. In addition, in every bank branch in the district, a disaster preparedness Calendar has been hung on the wall, poster put up at the gate and leaflets have been placed at the Counter along with deposit/ withdrawal slips. Similarly, material was distributed to 97 resource clusters under Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan and to all 600 Aaganwadis in the district.

For dissemination strategy, a proper study of the potential information dissemination centres was done with identification of 215 offices/organizations where people congregate in large numbers.

In a novel move, the District Administration displayed the hoardings on EQ safety and Community Based Disaster Preparedness, made for Republic Day parade, in front of DC office attracting the attention of passers-by and the same has also been covered in 'The Telegraph' newspaper.



- **LUCKNOW:** In Lucknow Municipal Corporation, an orientation workshop to initiate awareness generation and capacity building programmes was organized with a focus on (i) advocacy on enforcement of building codes, (ii) awareness among Government and communities about EQ mitigation and (iii) ward-level planning. 130 officials including Zonal Engineers/Assistant Engineers/Junior Engineers participated in the programme.

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