

Together, towards a safer India

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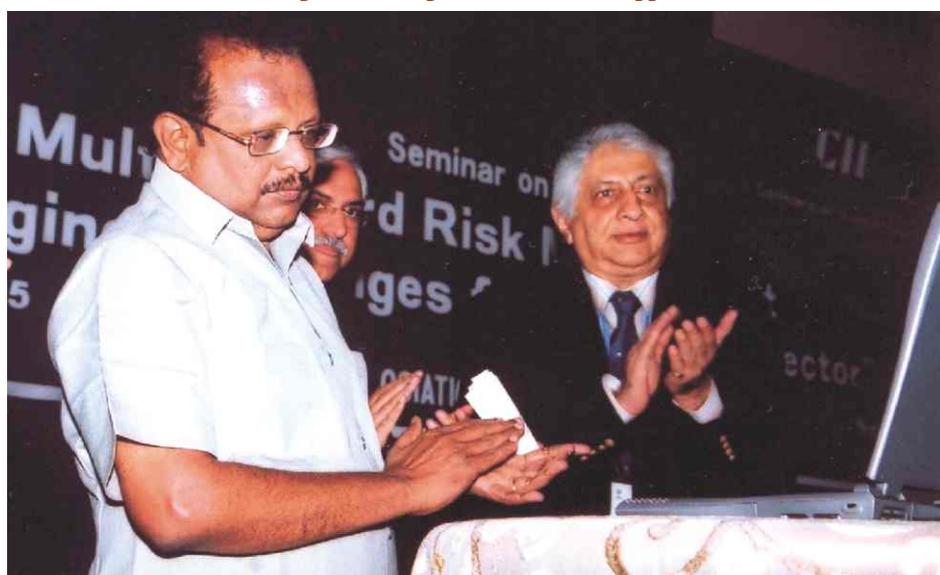
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Launch of module for corporate sector link on the India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) and release of Handbook on "Disaster Risk Management for the Corporate Sector -- A Primer for CEOs and Industrialists" by Shri S.Regupathy, Minister of State for Home Affairs, GoI



Shri S. Regupathy, Minister of State for Home Affairs, Government of India launched the module for the corporate sector contribution in terms of uploading of resources, equipments and skilled man-power available with them for complementing the governmental efforts at a speedier and efficacious disaster response. The module is embedded in the existing India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN), a web-enabled resource inventory with over 80,000 records uploaded from different Central and State Government departments, agencies and organizations. The activation of the link for the corporate sector is a unique example of public-private partnership in the field of disaster management and is one of the major action points in the joint work plan evolved between the Ministry of Home Affairs and the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) for mainstreaming disaster risk reduction agenda in the corporate sector.

The occasion was the National Seminar organized by CII on "Multi-hazard Risk Management: Emerging Challenges for the Corporate Sector" in New Delhi.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Regupathy said that recent disasters have made it imperative for all of us in every walk of life, especially the corporate world, to redefine our approach towards disaster management.

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The Government has accorded due importance to developing capabilities for holistic disaster management at all levels. He enumerated numerous initiatives launched addressing an entire gamut of issues connected with disaster management cycle. Reiterating that efficacious disaster management mandated a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach, he urged the corporate world to take up this agenda in right earnest as it constituted a vital segment of our socio-economic life and the well-being of the society was intimately linked with the stability and growth of corporates. It was imperative that the industrial and commercial establishments as well as the production processes are made disaster-resistant and that industrial operation does not imperil the neighboring communities. The industries need to develop their on-site and off-site disaster management plans, train and orient their personnel in preventing and handling disaster situations and also contribute towards generating awareness in the communities.

Shri Regupathy complimented the CII for its initiatives in integrating disaster management concerns in the corporate sector and hoped that the corporates would make substantial contribution to the national efforts towards disaster risk reduction.

Shri Regupathy also released a Handbook on “Disaster Risk Management for the Corporate Sector - A Primer for CEOs and Industrialists” which will serve as a primary reference for the senior management in the corporate sector to assess the vulnerability and take appropriate disaster risk reduction measures to safeguard their industrial premises and the personnel. The handbook addresses various hazards containing relevant information on their impact on corporate sector and the possible mitigation measures to minimize their impact.



Shri Sunil Kant Munjal, President, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and CMD, Hero Corporate Services, Shri A.K. Rastogi, Special Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Shri Ajit Gulabchand, Chairman, CII National Committee on Disaster Management and Shri Jo Scheuer, Senior Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP also addressed the gathering during the Inauguration ceremony.



An Exhibition of products and services necessary for responding to or mitigating the impact of natural and man-made disasters was also organized as a component of the Seminar and many manufacturers and service providers participated in the Exhibition which was visited by participants with keen interest.



Shri Regupathy, MOS (Home) evinced deep interest in the products displayed in the Exhibition and also saw a practical demonstration of the utility of some of the products in a disaster situation.

The deliberations at the Seminar focused on emerging challenges for the corporate sector; mitigating impact of disasters through creation of safer industrial infrastructure; industrial and chemical hazards and preparedness for effective response. Eminent resource persons with vast experience in the respective fields interacted with the participants.

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A Session on 'Disaster Management and the Construction Sector' in XXI National Convention of Builders' Association of India

Recognizing that the safety of built environment was critical to mitigating the impact of disasters, the Ministry of Home Affairs had initiated interaction with the construction sector organizations for integration of disaster-resistant and safe construction practices in upcoming constructions. Discussions have been held with the Builders' Association of India (BAI) and the Construction Federation of India (CFI), with a combined membership of over forty thousand construction companies for securing their association with the DM framework.

In furtherance of that objective, resource persons under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme were deputed to participate in the National Convention of the Builders' Association of India held in New Delhi from 18-20 February, 2005 and a session on 'Disaster Management and the Construction Sector' was incorporated in the agenda. The construction fraternity was apprised of the Disaster Management Concepts, Vulnerabilities, Framework and the GoI Initiatives by Shri Rajeev Issar; 'Safer Construction Practices' by Shri Anup Karanth and 'India Disaster Resource Network for the BAI' by Shri Sujit Mohanty. The construction sector was urged to accord due attention to incorporation of disaster-resistant construction features and techniques to ensure the safety of the built environment. The presentations were well received and many construction companies desired to have relevant information relating to safer construction practices.

An article on 'Promoting Safer Constructions' written by Shri Rajeev Issar and Shri Anup Karanth was printed in the Technical Volume brought out to mark the occasion and the procedure for uploading data on the IDRN was also explained in an article on 'Online Inventory of Emergency Resources' by Shri Sujit Mohanty and Shri Niranjana Biswal.

Uttaranchal unveils a 'Disaster Preparedness Calendar'

Under the UEVRP initiative in the city of Dehradun (Uttaranchal), a Calendar focusing on Disaster Preparedness measures has been brought out in association with the Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre (DMMC) for circulation in the city. The pictorial illustrations list the preparedness steps which can be taken by individuals, family and community for disaster safety.

'Community Based Disaster Preparedness' – The Dhanbad Experience

In order to reduce vulnerabilities and to minimize risk of disasters by moving from a culture of inaction to pro-active approach, the District Administration, Dhanbad has initiated community based disaster preparedness activities under the Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Reduction Project (UEVRP). The City Disaster Management Committee (CDMC) had decided to sensitize two volunteers each (one male and one female) from each of the 32 wards and that Municipality Special Officer, ward councilors and tax collectors would provide due support in this regard. Sixty four volunteers of Literacy Mission sensitized the community in ward-level meetings and identified the issues to be addressed viz. lack of resources and trained man-power, communication gap, absence of effective community institutions to face a disaster etc.

To meet the challenge, the Dhanbad District Administration adopted a three-pronged approach

- i. Develop Community Based Disaster Preparedness (CBDP) plan at ward level through participatory approach.
- ii. Institutionalize it through a chain of volunteers.
- iii. Form Quick Response Teams (QRTs) at neighborhood level and train them in DM.

Having created a force of 64 key volunteers at city level, the implementation strategy envisages ---

- a. Organizing 2nd phase of community consultation meetings in each ward and motivate 15-20 volunteers for conducting CBDP in a sustainable way.
- b. Forming DM Clubs with 2 key volunteers each and register 570 volunteers for resource inventorization, data collection and mapping exercise
- c. Ward-level social map, hazard identification map, vulnerability map and resource inventory map to be prepared.
- d. Formation of ward-level Disaster Management Committees (DMCs)
- e. Formation of QRTs in each neighborhood, their training, conduct of community-level mock-drills, their coordination with DMCs.
- f. Uploading of CBDP plan and the ward-wise resource inventory in the city level website being launched by NIC, Dhanbad.

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Uttar Pradesh develops an 'Implementation Manual' for Trainers

Under the Disaster Risk Management Programme, the Government of Uttar Pradesh has developed an 'Implementation Manual' for Trainers enumerating the role of voluntary organizations, public representatives and the community in DM and also details of the kind of training to be imparted for effective disaster management. It also enlists the roles and responsibilities of Government Departments. Apart from using catchy illustrations to explain the concepts, the manual also incorporates do's and don'ts for different disasters and a model Village Disaster Management Plan as a ready reckoner.

Progress of Work under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Programme

- **UP** : A three-day workshop for generating awareness on local level risk management through folk troupes was organized in collaboration with Directorate of Information & Public Relations and more than 180 troupe members were trained in generating awareness on preparedness and mitigation activities with active involvement of District Project Officers (DPOs). The troupes would now organize 25 village level awareness programmes per district and disseminate the need for village-level DM planning.
- **DELHI** : Under the DRM programme, formats for disaster management planning for communities and business establishments have been developed to facilitate DM planning by urban communities and business establishments. These formats are proposed to be used by the Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs) and Market Traders Associations (MTAs) for preparation of DM plans. In another initiative in North-East District, 104 school DM plans have been prepared in Government and aided schools and sensitization-cum-training programmes for principals and teachers have also been conducted.
- **TAMIL NADU** : The guidelines for reconstruction of houses affected by Tsunami in Tamil Nadu have been hosted on the website of the Department of Relief, Government of Tamil Nadu at <http://www.tn.gov.in/tsunami> and part-2 is being prepared under the guidance of IIT, Chennai.

- **GUJARAT** : (i) The Industrial Association of Dahej, District Bharuch has constituted a Local Crisis Group for preparing off-site emergency plans, undertake awareness generation activities and to conduct mock-drills. (ii) Vadodara Municipal Corporation organized a first-aid training with participation of 10 women in a group of 50 drawn from amongst the community. (iii) Surat Municipal Corporation conducted an orientation programme for school principals of 328 schools in the city with a view to developing school safety plans and for better interface between schools and surrounding communities. (iv) a GIS-based Chemical Disaster Prevention Information System (CDPIS) has been developed for Bharuch district to help respond to chemical disasters effectively. Through this system, the Administration and the industries will be able to track any incident and also reduce response time. (v) A four-day DM awareness generation-cum-orientation programme was organized in Bhavnagar district in which nearly 2000 students, including 500 girls, and 50 teachers participated displaying posters, skits on DM etc. on different hazards.



Drama on Disaster Awareness—performed by students



Cyclone Model



World Vulnerability

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