

August 2018



# AAPDA SAMVAAD



**India at #AMCDRR2018**

### World Congress on Environment & Climate Change



Lt. Gen. N. C. Marwah (Retd.), Member, NDMA, delivered a special address during the inaugural session at India's 20th World Congress on Environment Management and Climate Change in New Delhi, which was held on July 6-7, 2018.

"Managing climate-related risks is a key enabler of development. Identifying and reducing risks associated with climate-related hazards can help to protect people, their livelihoods and assets, thereby promoting achievement of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)," he said while urging participants to redefine their corporate strategy to support their business interests with Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaptation initiatives.

### Workshop on Application of GIS



NDMA conducted a two-day workshop on Geographical Information System (GIS) for managing DRR on July 12-13, 2018. The workshop aimed to "provide in-depth knowledge about the utility of GIS during a disaster," said Dr. D. N. Sharma, Member, NDMA.

The training enabled the participants to understand how the web-based GIS would help in dissemination of information through an integrated platform.

A total of 22 participants from National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Department of Telecommunications, Assam, Nagaland, Sikkim, Haryana, Mizoram and Odisha attended the workshop.

### Training Programme on NDMS Pilot Project

NDMA conducted a two-day training programme on July 26-27, 2018 to familiarise and enable State/District personnel to handle the equipment related to National Disaster Management Services (NDMS). Middle-level officials with working experience in the State/District Emergency Operation Centres (SEOCs/DEOCs) were trained in using advanced technology such as Very Small Aperture Terminal (VSAT), voice calls, Internet, email, video, satellite phones and High Frequency Radios, among others.



NDMS is a pilot project for connecting the Control Rooms of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), NDMA, headquarters of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), all the States and Union Territories as well as 81 hazard-prone districts. It aims to provide failsafe communication infrastructure and technical support for EOCs in the case of a disaster.

### Trainings/Lectures on DM

NDMA conducted a part of the Disaster Management (DM) module for the Phase-II training of Indian Police Services (IPS) Probationers of the 2016 batch on July 24, 2018. The module consisted of the entire spectrum of Disaster Management.

The Authority also delivered a lecture on disaster management at the Indian Railways Institute of Traffic Management in Lucknow on July 3, 2018. The lecture talked about planning and coordination for Disaster Response besides explaining the Incident Response System (IRS) and how it could be adapted in the context of Railways.

Yet another lecture was delivered on "Management of CBRN emergencies" at the Indian Air Force Institute of NBC Protection, New Delhi, on July 26, 2018. The broad threat perception and adaptation of IRS for CBRN incident management were discussed.



# India at #AMCDRR2018

*Asian Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR) is a regional platform in Asia aimed at creating, sustaining and strengthening shared political commitments towards DRR in the region. A biennial conference, it has been jointly organised by different Asian countries and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) since 2005.*



**D**isasters, more often than not, affect communities separated by political boundaries. This means that efforts of nations towards disaster risk reduction are connected with as well as inter-dependent on each other. This spirit of interconnectedness and cooperation have remained a constant theme in the global frameworks for DRR with the Hyogo Framework for Action (HFA 2005-2015) and its successor, the Sendai Framework (2015-2030).

One platform to further this spirit of cooperation is the Asian Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (AMCDRR). The second AMCDRR after the SFDRR was held from July 3-6, 2018 at Ulaanbaatar in Mongolia. Its theme was 'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development'.

Disaster Risk Reduction is critical to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, as highlighted in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. To discuss the roadmap for action towards the same in the Asian region, the Conference brought together more than 3,500 people from over 1,500 organisations, including representatives from more than 50 countries. A high-level Indian delegation, led by Shri Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home Affairs, also participated in the Conference.

Presenting the country statement, Shri Rijiju reaffirmed India's commitment and support towards implementation of the SFDRR and the Asia Regional Plan. He said India believes in working together with other with countries, learning from their experiences and sharing its experiences on DRR.

The Minister also highlighted the need to ensure that new infrastructure should be resilient to

disaster, and urged governments to make it an integral part of their national budgeting process. He also underlined the need to systemise data and setting up national disaster databases.

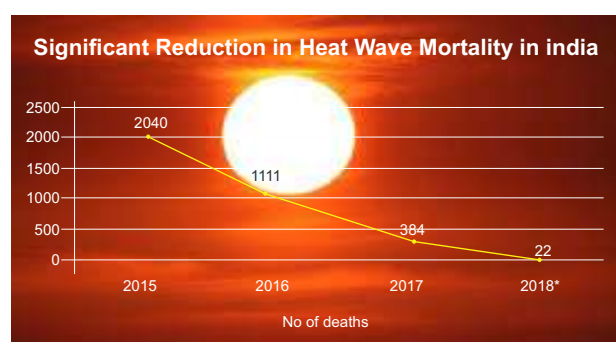
Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister, co-led a discussion on 'Strengthening Disaster Resilient Infrastructure and Urban Resilience'. He emphasised that to achieve the loss reduction targets enshrined in the SFDRR, mainstreaming of DRR in development is a must.

Citing the annual meeting on the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) held in Mumbai in June this year, he highlighted that Asia's appetite for investment in infrastructure is growing, and it was important that this investment is made in a manner that it is safe from disasters.

***A significant reduction in heat related deaths is one such success story from India - from more than 2,000 heat related deaths in 2015, the numbers this year have come down to 22***

While disaster resilient infrastructure calls for huge investments, there are certain areas where tangible results can be achieved with advanced planning and preparedness, and very little investment. A significant reduction in heat related deaths is one such success story from India. The story was narrated by Shri R. K. Jain, Member, NDMA, during the thematic event on Early Warning and Early Action.

Effective implementation of the NDMA Guidelines on Prevention and Management of Heat Waves by heat-prone States, timely and accurate early warning and its wide dissemination, regular follow-up and monitoring, and extensive awareness generation campaigns in local languages across various media have been able to reduce the risks. The numbers speak for themselves - from more than 2,000 heat related deaths in 2015, the numbers this year have come down to 22 (as per numbers reported by States till June 2018).



## WHO SAID WHAT



We reaffirm our commitment and support towards implementation of SFDRR and Asia Regional Plan. In this endeavour, we look for opportunities to collaborate with countries, learn from their experiences and share what we have learnt on DRR.

**- Shri Kiren Rijiju, MoS, Home Affairs**



Without mainstreaming of DRR in development, it will be impossible to achieve loss reduction targets enshrined in the SFDRR.

**- Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister**



The pursuit of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is a clear necessity for this region.

**-Mongolian Prime Minister Khurelsukh Ukhnaa**



This conference is about reducing and mitigating the risk of disasters and aligning risk reduction activities with the Sustainable Development Goals.

**- Mongolian Deputy Prime Minister Enkhtuvshin Ulziisaikhan**



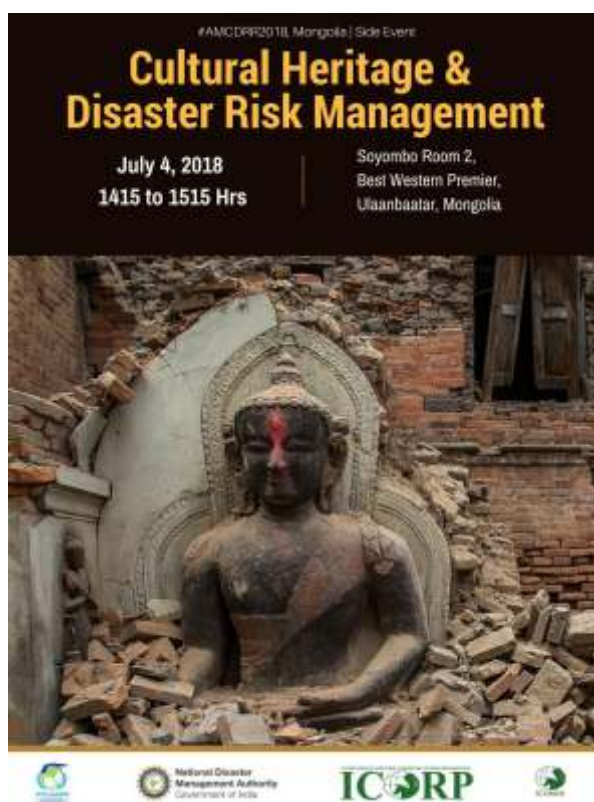
We need to hear the voices of those who suffer disproportionately in disaster events. People living with disabilities, older persons, women, children and indigenous groups need to be consulted and engaged as agents of change in their own communities.

**- UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for DRR Mami Mizutori**



Our aim is to tackle disaster risk by engaging all sectors of society. We want an inclusive approach that brings coherence to DRR plans and approaches at the regional, national and local levels

**- Loretta Hieber-Girardet, Chief of UNISDR's regional office in Asia Pacific**



### Side Event on 'Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Management (DRM)'

Focusing the spotlight on preserving cultural heritage, the Government of India in collaboration with the International Council for Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS) led a special session on 'Cultural Heritage and Disaster Risk Management (DRM)' that brought together leading experts from India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Japan, Turkey and Thailand to discuss challenges in protecting cultural heritage from disasters. It served as a platform to share good practices on strengthening resilience of cultural heritage sites and museums through engagement of stakeholders, including local communities. The session discussed cases of post-disaster recovery in the heritage sector after major disaster events, including the Bam Earthquake (Iran 2003), Yogyakarta Earthquake (Indonesia 2006) and Gorkha Earthquake (Nepal 2015).

"When it comes to dealing with Cultural Heritage in the context of disasters, it requires a multidisciplinary approach. There is a need to go beyond the physical aspect and look at the impact of not preserving cultural heritage from risk on the social and economic systems," said Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA, who moderated the session.

Disaster risks don't exist in vacuum. They are a result of the interplay between natural hazards and human activities. Only collaborative efforts can address these risks, strengthen resilience and help us move towards a better and safer world. Participating countries at AMCDRR 2018 showed their commitment to this collaboration by adopting the 'Ulaanbaatar Declaration' - aimed at preventing and reducing disaster risk, and strengthening the resilience of communities, nations and the Asian region.

The roadmap to this political commitment was drawn in the 'Asian Regional Plan 2018-2020', which focuses on the action needed to meet the most immediate deadline of the Sendai Framework - target (e) - which is to substantially increase the number of countries with national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020. Participating stakeholder groups with focus on niche aspects of DRR also pledged voluntary statements of action towards initiatives to reduce disaster risk.

The outcomes of AMCDRR 2018 have laid a clear roadmap for the implementation of SFDRR in the Asia-Pacific region. As the region is home to 88% of the world's disaster-affected population, the better the implementation of the Sendai Framework in this region, the better the overall world picture would be.

The next edition of this biennial conference will be held in Australia. Announcing this at the closing ceremony, Australia's Minister for International Development and the Pacific, Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells, said "We will shine a spotlight on the Sendai Framework's fourth priority; in particular, how to prepare for disaster resilience."

### Indian teenager's "Waves of Heat" wins award

A short films competition on the theme of 'Preventing Disaster Risk: Protecting Sustainable Development' was organised at the AMCDRR 2018. A 17-year-old from Ahmedabad, Rameshwar Mihir Bhatt's film "Waves of Heat" won in the Amateur Category. Bhatt was felicitated by Mongolia's Deputy Prime Minister during the closing ceremony.



# KIREN RIJIJU ON AMCDRR 2018

***I***ndia's delegation to AMCDRR 2018 was led by Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State, Home Affairs. Aapda Samvaad spoke with Shri Rijiju, who is also the Asia Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), to understand India's perspective on regional and global DRR landscape.

**Q. Tell us about your experience at AMCDRR 2018.**

A. The journey from AMCDRR 2016, which was held in New Delhi, to Ulaanbaatar this year has been such a wonderful experience. A lot of progress has been made in different areas of DRR during these years. AMCDRR 2018 gave a new impetus to our efforts towards the same.

Targets enshrined in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) 2015-2030 are closely linked with the Sustainable Development Goals. These can be achieved only if we mitigate losses - both in terms of lives and livelihoods, create resilient infrastructure, and equip ourselves to deal with the imminent impacts of disasters and climate change. Towards these, Ulaanbaatar has shown the Asian region the right direction.

It is for the first time that a landlocked country like Mongolia organised such a Conference in Asia. It brought together more than 50 countries, and discussed and produced both political as well as technical content. Impending issues such as the Target E of SFDRR (that is, to "Substantially increase the number of countries with national and local DRR strategies by 2020") were discussed.

The Conference proved to be a good occasion to reaffirm what we have achieved so far and what needs to be done in future.

**Q. While making the country statement at AMCDRR 2018, you mentioned about the Prime Minister's 10-point agenda on DRR outlined during AMCDRR 2016 in New Delhi? How far have we come on that?**

A. The Prime Minister's 10-point agenda is relevant not only for India but for the global community. The 15-year timeline of the Sendai Framework entails that all signatory countries adopt strategies to ensure that the targets enshrined in the Framework are met. Prime Minister's focus on things such as an international coalition wherein all the stakeholders come together to work towards common goals, reaching out to people and sectors that are yet untouched, creating a resilient infrastructure and involving communities at various levels defines things on which India is making progress. Moreover, these are in complete alignment with the SFDRR.

We are well on course and are progressing in the right direction towards its objective to give a real push to the implementation of the Sendai Framework.

**Q. You also spoke about the setting up of a national-level disaster database by 2020. How will such a database help our people? What are the challenges involved in creating this database and ensuring its accuracy?**

A. Unlike the Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015), the Sendai Framework commits its signatories to outcomes – there are seven targets out of which four are loss reduction targets – and our success in 2030 will be determined by the reduction in mortality, economic losses, number of people affected and infrastructure losses. So, to be able to measure our progress, we need a baseline. This baseline can only be created if we have data. This need for a baseline is implicit in the framing of the SFDRR, which in turn makes creating a national disaster database essential.

Currently, we focus only on the big disasters which

make national or international headlines; however, there are several small or medium scale disasters which happen very frequently. The cumulative impact of these disasters is quite significant, and at times, it can even be greater than that of a major disaster. It is extremely important to capture these events as they can paint the story of accumulation of risk.

There are a number of challenges in creating such a database. There is a need for retrospective data to us to be able to do a trend analysis, but the past data may be uneven and unreliable. So, a major challenge is how to construct or capture historical data across the country so that we not only have a baseline but are able to see the trends.

Secondly, there is the challenge of attribution. Some disasters are linked with the primary event causing a number of secondary events. Of these, which event should a particular loss be attributed to remains a big challenge.

Yet another challenge is the issue of capacity at the local level - right up to the block and village level - to have a common understanding of what a disaster database is, and to develop a system which links different levels of the government so that data collection is done in a consistent



manner and there is a common understanding of risks, hazards and impacts.

For some disasters, there is also the challenge of the cut-off point at which it is to be decided that the data for a certain event is final. For example, for a particular flood event, the losses increase progressively. So, to decide that point at which the loss numbers are finalised is a difficult thing to do.

However, these are not insurmountable challenges and can be addressed.

**Q. In a disaster situation, lives, livelihoods, restoration of public infrastructure and essential services take centre stage and aspects of cultural heritage take a backseat. How is India strengthening the capacity of its museums and heritage sites to deal with disasters?**



A. The Government of India has issued two guidelines - Guidelines on Museums and Guidelines on Cultural Heritage Sites and Precincts. The key is to look at heritage not just as something sentimental but also as something which is closely linked to people's lives livelihoods and culture.

There is an economic angle as well – say, if a cultural heritage entity is affected by a disaster, it will translate into loss of jobs and livelihood besides the loss to the asset itself and the amount of money it would take to restore it. As our social fabric is woven around our cultural heritage with people living in, out or around the cultural heritage sites, we need to look at heritage and resilience in an integrated, holistic way.

**Q. “Leave no one behind” is the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. How do we plan to ensure inclusiveness in DRR?**



A. The most affected people in a disaster situation are the weaker and the most vulnerable sections of society - poor, women, children, disabled. We need to build leadership at the ground level and empower the poorer sections of society. Once we achieve that, we can say that whole of society - the entire country - is disaster-resilient.

We are moving very well towards our target but we have to ensure that we move along with every section of society. We really have to reduce losses across all socio-



economic classes with a specific focus on the most vulnerable.

Our Prime Minister's 10-point agenda also touches upon this concept. In fact, two points – the one on women's leadership and not just partnership or participation, and the one propounding focus at the local level – have the spirit of “Leave no one behind”.

**Q. Coherence among SFDRR, SDGs and COP21 is vital for reducing the existing risks, reducing the creation of future and new risks. How far have we come on achieving this coherence?**

A. Some of the targets under the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are closely aligned with the Sendai Framework. In the leadership of the NITI Aayog, we have made sure that there is an alignment between the disaster-related elements of SDGs and what is enshrined in the SFDRR. NDMA has been working very closely with NITI Aayog in this direction.

**Q. How do you see India on the global DRR stage?**

A. India is a subcontinent. We have almost all kinds of disasters - from floods to droughts, earthquakes, tsunami, cyclone, landslides, thunderstorms, and

cloudbursts, etc. - that occur on our planet. We have one of the highest population in the world. Along with China, we are roughly about two-fifths of humanity. If India fails, the globe will fail. If India succeeds, it is a global success. India matters because of the sheer size of the country. Moreover, the intensity and impact of disasters is very high in the Asia-Pacific. India, therefore, has to take a leadership role and develop a strong political intent and a favourable system which aids DRR; there is no other option.

The government has taken a very pro-active role towards DRR. Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA), the nodal Ministry for Disaster Management, is taking all possible steps to ensure disaster risk reduction.

NDMA, the apex disaster management body in the country, is taking a lead role in coordinating efforts among all stakeholders at all levels of government. It is guiding the vision and lending support to all stakeholders to work towards common goals. NDMA has also prepared India's National Disaster Management Plan, which was launched by the Prime Minister in 2016. India became one of the first countries in the world to align its national plan with the four priority themes of the Sendai Framework.

## PM's 10-point agenda on DRR

**First**, all development sectors must imbibe principles of disaster risk management. This ensure that all development projects - ports, roads, canals, hospitals, schools, bridges – are built to appropriate standards and contribute to the resilience of communities they seek to serve.

**Second**, risk coverage for all – starting from poor households to small and medium enterprises to multi-national corporations to nation states.

**Third**, encourage greater involvement and leadership of women in disaster risk management.

**Fourth**, invest in risk mapping globally. This will help us ensure that we have a common understanding of the nature and severity of disaster risks in different parts of the world.

**Fifth**, leverage technology to enhance the efficiency of our disaster risk management efforts. An e-platform that brings together organizations and individuals and helps them map and exchange expertise, technology and resources would go a long way in maximizing our collective impact.

**Sixth**, develop a network of universities to work on disaster issues.

**Seventh**, utilize the opportunities provided by social media and mobile technologies.

**Eighth**, build on local capacity and initiative.

**Ninth**, ensure that the opportunity to learn from a disaster is not wasted. After every disaster, there are papers and reports on lessons learnt that are rarely applied.

**And finally**, bring about greater cohesion in international response to disasters.





# LANDSLIDE

## Are you prepared?

### Before

- Grow More trees that can hold the Soil Together;
- Listen to Radio/ Watch T.V and Newspaper for any alerts;
- Keep drains clean, Keep holes open;
- Watch out for any warning signs such as subsidence of building, cracks on rocks, muddy river water;
- DO NOT Construct near Steep slopes and near drainage path.

### During

- Stay calm, DO NOT panic, ignore rumours;
- Stay together- with your companions;
- if you notice any warning signs such as unusual sounds like trees cracking or boulders knocking together;
  - Move away from landslip path or downstream valley quickly;
  - Inform nearest Tehsil/ District HQ.

### After

- DO NOT Touch / Walk over loose material and electrical Wires or Poles;
- Move away from landslip path and downstream valley quickly;
- Check for Injured and Trapped Person;
- DO NOT move an Injured person without rendering first aid unless he/she is in immediate danger;
- DO NOT drink contaminated water directly from rivers, springs, wells etc.



## Be Smart, Be Prepared



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