



# SAMVĀD

NDMA's Newsletter • Vol 1 • Issue 2 • October-December 2015



Capacity building of School Children on Disaster Risk Reduction under NSSP



**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**





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## *Foreword*

This issue of SAMVĀD as NDMA's Newsletter covers the recent key initiatives of the Government for strengthening regional cooperation in disaster preparedness in the subcontinent. It also includes brief overview on the new projects initiated by NDMA in partnership with States and stakeholders. We have introduced a new section in this edition which features DRR efforts being undertaken by the States. I would request the State Governments and other stakeholders to share their experiences on disaster risk reduction efforts and contribute to the future issues of SAMVĀD to make it more useful and dynamic channel/platform of communication and information sharing.

**R. K. Jain (IAS-Retd.)**  
**Member NDMA**



## ACTION ON THE GROUND:

### (A) First Joint Exercise for SAARC Member Countries & Regional Workshop on Disaster Risk Reduction



The Government of India hosted the first “South Asian Annual Disaster Management Exercise” (SAADMEx-2015) from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 26<sup>th</sup> November 2015 in the National Capital Region/Delhi to provide a platform for strengthening regional disaster response mechanism amongst the SAARC countries. The exercise witnessed the participation of delegations & rescue teams from each of the eight SAARC Nations (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka). The exercise was conducted by the NDRF in the National Capital Region.



After four days of intensive interaction through tabletop and joint simulation exercises during the SAADMEx, all the eight SAARC member countries got together to discuss and deliberate upon the best practices on disaster risk reduction on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2015 at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi. This Regional

Workshop was hosted by the Government of India. The workshop had technical sessions where issues pertaining to best practices on disaster risk reduction and strengthening of regional disaster response in the backdrop of Sendai Framework were deliberated in detail by member countries.

### (B) Assistance to the Government of Tamil Nadu (Chennai Floods) in Rescue and Relief Efforts

Chennai was hit by an unprecedented flood situation during December 2015. Most of the localities were underwater affecting subways, hospitals, roads and lifeline infrastructure. A Joint Advisor was deputed from NDMA to Chennai from 3<sup>rd</sup> to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2015 while team of senior officers at NDMA were monitoring and coordinating Inter-Ministerial efforts from Delhi. The Control Room was manned by senior officers of NDMA from 2<sup>nd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> December 2015. Messages received on the Email, through Telephone and Twitter Handle of NDMA were collated and forwarded for necessary action. NDMA also took up the matter with Ministry of Railways to allow transportation of relief materials mobilised by various Govt. Organizations, Govt. Aided Agencies, NGOs and associations to be sent to Chennai free of cost. An order was issued by Ministry of Railways on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2015 and the same was conveyed to all the Chief Secretaries to facilitate smooth transportation of relief materials from various corners of the country. Advisories on Dos and Don'ts were prepared and shared with Govt. of Tamil Nadu.

### (C) Support to the State of Jammu and Kashmir in the aftermath of 2014 Floods:

The State of Jammu & Kashmir witnessed one of the most devastating floods in the history of the state in the month of September 2014. NDMA is coordinating the disbursement of Financial Assistance from the Prime Minister National Relief Fund directly to the bank accounts of the affected community, whose houses were

damaged due to floods. Till date, about Rs. 490 Cr. has been credited directly to the bank accounts of around 1.5 lakh beneficiaries through direct benefit transfer facility. NDMA is also coordinating the procurement of Medical Equipments for hospitals in Srinagar, Jammu and Leh. Till date NDMA has monitored the procurement, installation and commissioning of 1278 equipments (217 line items) through M/s HLL Life Care Ltd at a cost of Rs. 111.54 Cr. In addition, the J & K Govt. has also procured 71 line items of medical equipments valued at Rs. 15.72 Cr.

## COUNTRY PREPARATIONS FOR HOSTING THE FIRST ASIAN MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON DISASTER RISK REDUCTION POST SENDAI IN 2016

### (A) 2nd International Asian Partnership (IAP) Meeting - 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November 2015

The Asian Leaders' Meeting towards implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) in Asia and 2<sup>nd</sup> ISDR Asia Partnership (IAP) meeting - 2015 was organized at Hotel Ashok, New Delhi from 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> November 2015. **This meeting was inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh, Hon'ble Union Home Minister**, who emphasized that multi-dimensional aspects of disaster related risks, should be dealt with affirmative action.

On the occasion, the Special Representative to the Secretary General of the United



Nations, Ms. Margarita Wahlstrom, stressed the importance of regional partnerships as a foundation for the effective implementation of the SFDRR over the next 15 years and the need to integrate DRR in all development programmes.

### Asia Leader Award for Disaster Risk Reduction

Ms. Margarita Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary General for Disaster Risk Reduction conferred **Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Union Minister of State for Home Affairs** with the Asia Leader for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Award on behalf of the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR). Shri Rijiju was conferred as the first regional champion for DRR after the Sendai Agreement, giving an impetus to Government of India's efforts to facilitate regional support towards enabling community resilience in the Asia Pacific region.



## FROM THE POLICY DESK:

### (A) Core Group to formulate guidelines for disaster preparedness in Museums

A Committee was constituted on 13<sup>th</sup> August 2015 under the chairmanship of Shri Kamal Kishore, Member, NDMA for framing guidelines for disaster preparedness in Museums. The Committee consists of representatives from Ministry of Culture, Govt. of India, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Archeological Survey of India, Victoria Memorial Hall, Kolkata and experts in the field of Museum Studies, Conservation and

Curation. Nine museums have been identified all over the country which will be visited by the Committee Members, for preparation of respective Disaster Risk Management Plans.

### (B) Scheme on 'Strengthening of State Disaster Management Authorities and District Disaster Management Authorities'

The National Disaster Management Authority is implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of "Strengthening of State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs)" at a cost of Rs. 42.50 Crores during 2015-17 for 36 SDMAs and 256 DDMAs. The Scheme aims at providing human resources to the SDMAs and DDMAs for technical support towards disaster preparedness and mitigation activities. 26 States and 4 UTs have signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for implementation of the scheme so far, and funds have already been released to 17 States & UTs.

### FROM THE AWARENESS DESK:

#### (A) Observance of 11<sup>th</sup> Formation Day of NDMA

NDMA observed its 11<sup>th</sup> Formation Day on 28<sup>th</sup> September 2015 along-with Stakeholders to take stock of the activities and initiatives undertaken by the Authority in the past and to chart out roadmap for future. **Shri Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs** inaugurated the event and released **NDMA's Training Manual on "How to conduct Emergency Management Exercises"**. The manual has been developed with the aim to help State Governments and other stakeholders to conduct Emergency Management Exercises, with a view to improve speed, efficiency and effectiveness in post disaster response. He also released **NDMA's Quarterly Newsletter "Samvād"** which will play an important role in informing and educating various stakeholders about each other's activities for integrated disaster risk reduction.



**Dr. P. K. Mishra, Additional Principal Secretary to the Hon'ble Prime Minister**, delivered the valedictory address, where he pointed out that work done by NDMA towards disaster risk reduction, often not visible to public, has proactively contributed in effective management of disasters in the country.

The discussions and deliberations of the day led to identification of key action points and future projects for long term risk reduction especially with respect to earthquake and flood mitigation. Deliberations also highlighted the need for redundancy in communication systems, early warning and last mile connectivity for effective disaster management.



#### (B) Participation by NDMA at the 35<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair 2015

NDMA participated at the 35<sup>th</sup> India International Trade Fair, 2015 from 14<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> November at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi to bring about awareness amongst general public, students and various stakeholders about managing different kinds of disasters by putting up information panels, kiosks, and organizing quiz & painting competitions

amongst visiting children. On an average, 40,000 people visited the stall everyday.



## FROM THE CAPACITY BUILDING DESK:

### (A) Project on strengthening capacities for advanced trauma life support in India

In the recent past, NDMA has successfully implemented a Pilot Project on strengthening capacities of the medical and paramedical fraternity in advanced trauma life support for 3 States (Assam, Andhra Pradesh & Bihar). Based on the successful completion of the pilot project, the said project has been further up-scaled to be implemented in 10 more multi-hazard prone States of India namely Himachal Pradesh, Jharkhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Maharashtra, Odisha, Sikkim, Rajasthan, Tamilnadu, Uttar Pradesh and NCT of Delhi. The project aims to develop a dedicated team of doctors, nurses and paramedics for Trauma Life Support in these states. The total project outlay is of Rs. 4.328 Cr. and will be implemented in 31 months.

### (B) Sustainable reduction in disaster risk in 10 multi-hazard prone districts in 5 States of India

The project aims to strengthen community and local self-governments' preparedness and response in 10 most multi-hazard vulnerable districts, 2 each in 5 identified States (Uttarakhand, Assam, Bihar, Himachal Pradesh and Jammu & Kashmir). The total cost of the project is Rs. 6.074 Cr. spread

over a period of 2 years starting 2016. Some of outcomes envisaged under the project include comprehensive disaster risk reduction /recovery plan for each district; awareness & publicity campaigns throughout the selected district; preparation of training modules in community based disaster management; formation of disaster management teams at district levels; training of Trainers/Stakeholders on CBDM and conduct of mock drills in these selected districts.

## FROM THE MITIGATION DESK:

### (A) Establishment of Geographical Information System (GIS) Server and creation of Geo- Database in NDMA

Keeping in view the relevance of GIS during various phases of Disaster Management like mitigation, preparedness, response, damage assessment, relief management, and resource creation, availability of Geo-database system and GIS Server is an essential input for effective disaster management. NDMA has conceptualized a project named "Establishment of GIS Server and creation of Geo-Database in NDMA". The estimated cost of the project is Rs. 3.30 Crore. The duration of the project is 24 months. The project has been sanctioned recently and is under implementation.

### (B) Preparation of Upgraded Earthquake Hazard Maps

NDMA has undertaken a project on preparation of upgraded Earthquake Hazard Maps for the Country/State/Districts with Sub-Division boundaries. The project was assigned to Building Material Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) at an estimated cost of Rs 76.83 Lakh. After obtaining approval of Survey of India, the printing of Maps and Atlases is under progress. The upgraded Maps and Atlases shall be immensely useful for house owners, architects, engineers, town planners and disaster managers of the districts for earthquake risk mitigation.



### (C) Construction of Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters in West Bengal under PMNRF

50 Multipurpose Cyclone Shelters for the community, to be used as shelter during cyclone, in West Bengal are under construction with the assistance of Prime Minister National Relief fund (PMNRF) at a cost of Rs. 138.65 Crore. Out of these, 37 shelters have already been completed and work on balance 13 shelters is expected to get completed by December 2016.

### FROM THE OPERATIONS DESK:

#### (A) Conduct of Mock Exercises at various vulnerable locations of the country

A total of 31 Mock Exercises on Earthquake, Floods, Cyclone, Chemical (Industrial) Disaster preparedness, Mass Casualty Management & Stampede etc. have been conducted in different States during the year 2015.



#### (B) Table Top Exercise for Stakeholders of Central Departments and Ministries for Effective Disaster Response

A Table top exercise on interagency coordination and disaster response was conducted by NDMA on 16<sup>th</sup> October 2015 in New Delhi involving Nodal Departments / Ministries of Central Government. The principles of Incident Response System were discussed for effective resource management, setting up of unified command for multi agency coordination and deliberations on the roles and responsibilities of all related stakeholders.



### FROM THE STATES:

#### (A) National School Safety Programme (NSSP) in Tripura

NSSP was successfully implemented in 400 schools falling under the West Tripura and North Tripura districts of the State between 2012 and 2015.



The programme contributed towards enhancing disaster preparedness of the school education fraternity. Following the successful implementation of the project in the State, the School Safety Programme has been extended by the State Government to cover all districts. The State Government has taken a decision to conduct the school evacuation drill on third Saturday of every month. Out of 5% of State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), a portion of fund has been earmarked for School Safety activities. All future school construction works are being assessed from disaster risk lens by a team of engineers of the State department. The programme has provided various IEC materials for the schools which are now being used for various awareness programmes. The school department has now a pool of Resource Persons who are being used for dissemination of the training to other schools as and

when required. Sub-Divisional Magistrates have been advised by the State to organize minimum five school awareness programmes in a month in a sub-division.



### Impact of the Programme: Reflections from the State:

*On 25<sup>th</sup> April 2015, a devastating earthquake of 7.6 magnitude rocked Nepal causing more than 8000 deaths and over 22,000 injuries. Tremors were felt in many States of India including Tripura. Tremors of short duration were registered in Tripura twice, but there were no reports of any damage or casualty.*

*As the day was a working day for schools, reports came from different parts of the State that, many school authorities had evacuated the students safely from class rooms to a pre-identified safe open place as per SDMP after the tremors had stopped.*

*During the time of tremors, class teachers instructed the students to take shelter under the desks and benches and follow "Drop, Cover and Hold" procedure. Regular mock drills in the schools have led to the adoption of "Drop, Cover & Hold" method as a standard procedure for safe and timely evacuation of students. It would not have been possible without the implementation of NSSP.*

#### Editorial Committee for the Newsletter

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- (vi) Shri Nawal Prakash  
SRO, NDMA

## 2. Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise (GEMEx):

The Guwahati Emergency Management Exercise (GEMEx 2015) was a week-long disaster preparedness exercise conducted by the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) and District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Kamrup Metro from 14<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015. This was the second exercise organized in Guwahati after 2012. The 2012 GEMEx was held jointly by NDMA and ASDMA where NDMA provided technical resource persons for all the trainings, table-top and drills.



This weeklong learning and capacity building exercise had eleven parallel training tracks held at various venues for the first three days of the event. On the fourth day, all the trained participants came together for a table-top exercise followed by a major incident-simulation drill on the fifth day which was on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2015. A debriefing session called "Hotwash" was held on the fifth day as well. A Total of 842 participants were trained at the GEMEx 2015.

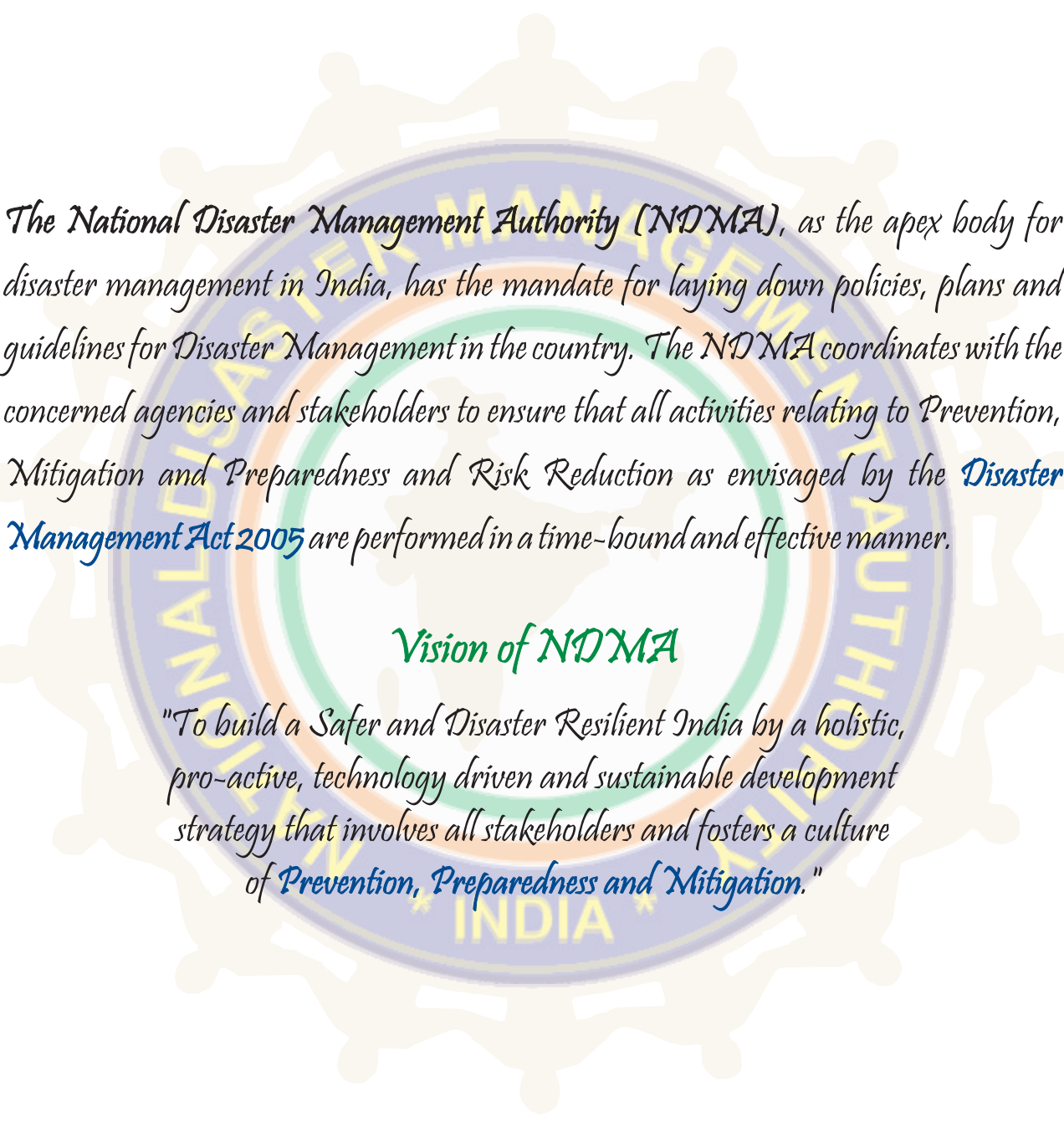
#### EDITOR'S NOTE:

The editorial committee takes this opportunity to express heartfelt gratitude to all Members of NDMA for their able guidance and support for this initiative. The committee is also thankful to all the officers and consultants for their valuable contribution and inputs. We also take this opportunity to thank the Assam and Tripura SDMAs for contributing content for this edition.

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The background features a large, semi-transparent watermark of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) logo. The logo is circular with a gear-like border and contains silhouettes of people holding hands. The text 'NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY' is written around the inner circle, and 'INDIA' is at the bottom. The text is in shades of blue, green, and yellow.

*The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), as the apex body for disaster management in India, has the mandate for laying down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management in the country. The NDMA coordinates with the concerned agencies and stakeholders to ensure that all activities relating to Prevention, Mitigation and Preparedness and Risk Reduction as envisaged by the **Disaster Management Act 2005** are performed in a time-bound and effective manner.*

### *Vision of NDMA*

*"To build a Safer and Disaster Resilient India by a holistic, pro-active, technology driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of **Prevention, Preparedness and Mitigation.**"*

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