Proceeding of the 8th Meeting of HP State Disaster Management Authority (HP SDMA) held on 26th August 2023 at 4.00 PM in HP Secretariat, Shimla under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble Chief Minister (Chairperson, HPSDMA), H.P.

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List of Participates is at Annexure-A

8th meeting of the HP State Disaster Management Authority (HP SDMA) constituted under the Disaster Management Act 2005 was held on 26th August, 2023 at 4:00 PM under the Chairmanship of Shri Sukhvinder Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister - cum- Chairman, HPSDMA in Chief Minister's Committee Room in HP Secretariat.

2. At the Outset, Principal Secretary (Revenue), Shri Onkar Chand Sharma welcomed the Hon'ble Chief Minister (Chairperson, HPSDMA) Shri Sukhvinder Singh, Hon'ble Revenue, Horticulture & Tribal Development Minister, Shri Jagat Singh Negi (Co-Chairperson, HPSDMA), Chief Secretary cum CEO SDMA, all esteemed members of the SDMA, Administrative Secretaries and other officers from different departments invited for the 8th Meeting of HPSDMA.

3. Thereafter, the Director-cum-ex-Officio Special Secretary (Rev-DM), Shri DC Rana, through power point presentation gave a detailed presentation that elucidated the roles and responsibilities of the SDMA. He also provided an overview of structure of Disaster Management Setup at National, State and District level and the hazard profile of the State outlining potential hazard, vulnerability and possible disaster scenarios, specifically focusing on landslides, earthquakes, GLOFs and climate change and need for proactive disaster management planning to reduce damages and losses from future losses. Detailed presentation was given highlighting the DM set up, activities of the DMC, schemes being implemented and need to accelerate mitigation and preparedness activities. Further, during the presentation, the Director elaborated on the fund allocated by the 15th Finance Commission to the State of H.P. and the guidelines governing them for its effective utilization.

4. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up for discussion as detailed below:-

Agenda Item No. 8.1: Roles & Responsibilities of SDMA

5. The SDMA Chairperson and members were apprised about the role and responsibility of SDMA as contained in Section 18 of the Disaster Management Act 2005. The structure available for disaster management below SDMA, such as SEC, DDMAs, Local Authorities, etc. was explained.

Decision:

The agenda item is considered and noted.

Agenda Item No. 8.2: Availability of Funds for Disaster Management in the State

6. The SDMA was apprised that under the DM Act, State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) and State Mitigation Fund (SDMF) have been notified. The details of funds available for disaster management during the XVth FC period was shared with SDMA.

7. The allocation of budget to these funds is as per the recommendations of the Finance Commission. The SDRF and SDMF are appropriated by the State Executive Committee.

8. The appraisal of the proposals received under the SDMF is done at the level of Project Appraisal Committee (PAC) and Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) which have been notified as per the provisions of Guidelines notified by the GOI for Mitigation Funds. In order to manage these funds properly, the SDMA has created a PMU.

Decision:

The Agenda items is considered and noted.

Agenda Item No 8.3: Approval of three Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Plan for Sirmaur, Solan & Una.

9. The HPSDMA Chairman and members were apprised that in compliance to **Section 40 of DM Act 2005**, the **National Disaster Management Guidelines on Chemical Disasters 2007, the Rules under Factories Act 1948, Chemical Accident**

(Emergency Planning, Preparedness and Response) Rules 1996, Environmental Protection Act 1986 and Public Liability Insurance Act 1991, DM-Cell, Department of Revenue, has prepared three Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Plans of 3 districts namely, Sirmour, Una, and Solan in close association with **Disaster Management Institute-Bhopal** which has been further updated after due deliberation with respective DDMAs and **tested on 15.10.2020** as per directions lay down by the State Executive Committee in its 14th Meeting:-

a) Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Sirmaur,
b) Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Plan Solan
c) Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Plan for Una

10. In the State, the Off-Site Industrial Disaster Management Plans for these 3 industrial areas have been prepared for the first time. These plans will be updated regularly by the respective departments. The SDMA was requested to approve the plan.

Decision:

SDMA took the note of the action taken and further directed that the Off-site Emergency Plans of three districts i.e. Sirmaur, Solan, and Una may be placed for approval in the next SDMA meeting.

Agenda item No. 8.4: Approval of Annual Accounts of SDMA and DDMAs for the Financial Year 2021-22 to 2022-23 through Chartered Accountants

11. The Chairman and members of HPSDMA were apprised that as per the requirement of the Disaster Management Act 2005 and State DM Rules 2011, the annual accounts/ report of SDMA& DDMAs for the years 2013-14 to 2020-21 have been got prepared from M/SN.K. Bhargava& Co., (CA). As per provision of the Act, Accountant General, HP is required to conduct certification audit of each year. Accordingly, they were requested to conduct the audit for which audit parties had conducted certification audit for the year 2013-14 to 2020-21 at SDM & DDMA level.

12. Now, the Financial Year 2021-22 & 2022-23 has been closed and the final accounts for the same period are required to be prepared at SDMA & DDMAs level. M/S N. K. Bhargava& Co. has been appointed by DM Cell for preparation of annual account/ internal audit of SDMA & DDMA for above period and a work order of Rs.

22.00 Lakh have been issued to M/s N.K. Bhargava& Co. The abovework order have issued to above said firm as per clause 11 of the agreement signed with the firm.

Decision:

The SDMA accorded approval for preparation of the Annual Accounts of HPSDMA from the Chartered Accountants M/S N.K. Bhargava & Co., Chartered Accountants for the Financial Years 2021-22 and 2022-23.

Agenda item 8.5: Adoption and approval of the Annual Accounts and Audit Report for the year 2013-14 to 2020-21 in respect of HPSDMA/DDMAs:

13. The Chairman and members of HPSDMA were apprised that for effective management of disasters and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, the Parliament enacted DisasterManagement Act 2005 which is being implemented in Himachal Pradesh also. To carry out purposes of the Act ibid, Government of HPframed HR State Disaster Management Rules 2011. As per provision of Section 78 of the Act, State Disaster Management Authority was constituted as per provision of Section 14 of the Act under the Chairpersonship of Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP for the implementation of various provisions of the Act. As per Rule 10 and 11 of the Disaster Management Rules, 2011, there is provision for the preparation and submission of Annual Accounts, Annual Report and Audit Report for the approval of State Disaster Management Authority. After approval, same is required to be sent to Accountant General and is also to be laid before HP Legislative Assembly.

14. In view of above, the Annual accounts/report submitted by Chartered Accountant in respect of SDMA and DDMAS for above years were placed before the HP State Disaster Management Authority (HPSDMA) for favour of adoption and approval so that the same could be submitted to the Accountant General (Audit) and Legislative Assembly as per requirement of the DM Act/Rules.

Decision:

The SDMA approved the Annual Accounts of both the SDMA and DDMAs for the financial year 2013-14 to 2020-21 which required to be presented before the Legislative Assembly, in accordance with the provisions outlined in Rule 10 and 11 of the H.P Disaster Management Rule-2011.

Agenda Item No. 8.6: Need to Strengthen Monitoring Network in the State

15. The Chairman and members of HPSDMA were apprised that Himachal Pradesh is prone to various hazards, such as, earthquakes, landslides, flash floods, GLOFs and cloudbursts, etc.Regular monitoring and data collection is key to disaster risk reduction. There is a need to have a robust and good network of monitoring equipment and stations. Existing stations/sensors network are not sufficient to capture all required data and there is a dire need to increase the density. Hon'ble Chief Minister has also requested Ministry of Earth Sciences to increase the density of automatic weather stations (AWS), EQ data centers, add 2 more Doppler weather radars in the State. There is need to increase density of surface field observatories such as optical rain gauge and AWS, automatic rain gauges and snow gauges, seismic sensors, etc. IMD has already set up 3 weather doppler radars in State.

16. IIT Roorkee has installed 100 sensors in Kumaun region apart from 98 already installed in Garhwal region for providing earthquake early warning in Uttarakhand. The similar work should also be considered for the Himachal Pradesh as the State lies on the earthquake seismic zone IV and V and we have very low density of earthquake sensor networks and observatories. State Government may request Ministry of Earth Sciences, Government of India to provide support to install such sensors and observatories for better monitoring and response of earthquake events.

17. The Director IMD gave a detailed presentation about the IMD network in the State, plan to expand the existing network in future.

Decision:

a) The Chairman directed the Director IMD Meteorological Centre, Shimla to expedite the process of establishing 2 Doppler Radars, Data Centers at Hamirpur and Dharamshala and weather observatories across the State.It was desired that DO letter to Union Minister be also sent from the Hon'ble Chief Minister.
b) Simultaneously, it is recommended that the National Seismic Centre be formally approached to expand their network within Himachal Pradesh. This expansion can also enhance seismic monitoring in the State.
c) Digital weather observatories network needs to be increased in the State. It can significantly improve the efficiency, accuracy, and accessibility of weather information in a real-time basis facilitating meteorologists and relevant

authorities to receive immediate updates on changing weather conditions. This is crucial for timely response to severe weather events and emergencies

d) Furthermore, it is essential to trace and integrate the networks established by various departments. By consolidating these individual efforts, a comprehensive and unified network can be developed for the State. This approach ensures an efficient sharing of resources and information, resulting in a more effective disaster preparedness and response strategy.

e) The Director IMD shall prepare a roadmap for the State so that EWS in the state can be improved.

f) The Chairman directed that there is need of not only broadening the scope of data collection and monitoring capabilities but also facilitating the real-time dissemination of crucial information to the general public.

Agenda Item No. 8.7: Strengthening of Civil Defence Structure in the State for DRR

18. The Chairman, HPSDMA was apprised that currently Civil Defence structure is confined to Shimla City only. In order to improve DRR in the State Civil Defence Structure has been further notified as under:-

- ✓ DCs as Controller of the District
- ✓ SDMs as Assistant Controllers
- ✓ Commandant Home Guards of districts as Deputy Controller
- ✓ The Pradhans of each Panchayat have been designated Wardens for their respective jurisdiction.

19. The State has trained around 15,000 disaster response volunteer who are trained in SAR& MFA. There is aim to train at least 50,000/- such volunteers. This Civil Defence structure notified aims at managing the cadre of volunteers being created at Panchayat level in the State. Under the Civil Defence Act, 1% of the population should be trained in civil defence. That can take this figure to around 70,000. There is need for Home Guard and Civil Defence Department to work in tandem with the SDMA so that this ambitious but achievable target can be reached within next 2 years or so.

Decision:

a) The Civil Defence structure shall be implemented in all the districts of the State utilizing the set up and infrastructure of Home Guards.

b) The funds for training of 1% of population in Civil Defence shall be provided by the HP SDMA from the Preparedness and Capacity Building window of State Disaster Response Fund.

c) The DM-Cell shall train NCC cadets, NSS volunteers and Yuvak Mandal, etc. under the State notified scheme. In addition, the DM-Cell should also plan mechanisms such as certificates, awards or public acknowledgment to appreciate and motivate the volunteers. This can help foster a culture of community engagement. Furthermore, there should be a communication mechanism to keep volunteers informed, engaged and updated about disaster management activities.

Agenda Item No. 8.8: Ensuring Safe Construction Practices & Reducing Built-up Risk andmitigating effects of other hazards in the State

20. Further, the State Disaster Management Authority was apprised with the factum that "earthquakes don't kill, unsafe structures do." and it was emphasized that without ensuring safe construction practices, it is futile to talk about disaster risk reduction. In order to promote safe construction practices, the SDMA has been training masons. A scheme to this effect was notified on 29th September 2018 and launched on 13th October, 2018 with initial target to train 16,130 Masons (5 Masons each in Panchayat). Around 1000 plus masons have been trained till now. Training activities were disrupted due to COVID 19. The districts were also facing issue of Master Trainers. Now new Master Trainers are being trained through CBRI Roorkee. This training activity is has resumed and likely to pick up shortly.

21. A lot of stress was laid that there is need to enforce building bye laws in all ULBs. Model Building Bye-Laws were circulated by SDMA in 2012 for all ULBs should be adopted immediately. The UD Department should be directed to implement building bye laws and report compliance. Similarly, the RD and PR Department has also be asked to adopt safe construction practices for rural areas. The response from the department is yet to be received.

22. The SDMA was also informed that in view of the multi-hazard vulnerability of the State to various hazards, it is very important to ensure safe construction practices in the State. The Department of Rural Development & PR, Urban Development and Education need to take immediate call in this regard. Besides, there is need to reduce huge exiting built up risk piled up over the years. Key activities which need to be undertaken may include the following:-

a) Risk based land use planning
b) Enforcing Techno-legal Regime in the State: Adoption of Model Building Bye Laws by all the ULBs and strict enforcement thereof
c) Ensuring safe construction practices in rural areas – Private and Public sector constructions.
d) Retrofitting of critical infrastructure like Schools, hospitals, lifeline buildings, etc.
e) Implementation of specific strategy to deal with earthquake risk
f) Setting up of Hazard Safety Cell to appraise large projects and promote safe construction practices.
g) Regulating hill slope cutting, management of muck/ construction debris
h) Ensuring slope stabilization measures – roads and other locations
i) Assessment, provisions and maintenance of drainage
j) Ensuring DRR integration in development planning and processes – Guidelines prepared under DM Act 2005 in 2012 may be re-iterated.
k) Hydro meteorological early warning system in all river basins.

Decision:

a) The SDMA took the note of the agenda and detailed discussion took place on the need to regulate construction activities in the State for reducing built-up risk and accorded its approval for the key activities to be implemented to make the State disaster resilient.
b) The Department of TCP, UD, RD and other departments were directed to take action immediately.
c) It was approved that the TCP regulations and provisions of Fire Act should be applicable for all commercial activities being undertaken in rural areas.
d) The Guidelines for DRR integrations were approved for fresh circulation and strict implementation by all the Departments. ATR may be shared in the next meeting of the SDMA.

Agenda Item No. 8.9: Strengthening of Disaster Management Set up in the State

23. Further, the State Disaster Management Authority was informed that in order to protect the developmental gains, the State needs effective and robust disaster management set up. Even during the routine small scale disasters, the State has been suffering huge losses in terms of men, material and infrastructure. However, large scale disasters like earthquake can cause huge loss in the state given the current state

of vulnerability and readiness. In order to reduce future disaster losses, there is need to strengthen DRR set up in the State. Some of the actions for DRR strengthening are as under:-

- Strengthening of DMC and DDMAs
- Allotment of adequate space for DMC in HP Secretariat to accommodate more manpower
- Strengthening of Fire Services, Home Guard and Civil Defence
- Strengthening of State Disaster Response Force
- Early construction of infrastructure of NDRF
- Setting up State Institute of Disaster Management for training and capacity building
- Focusing on Infrastructure Building for disaster management

24. In order to achieve the above actions, the DMC has posed two projects for external assistance. One Project worth 100 million Euros has been posed to AFD and another project worth 150 Million USD has been posed to the World Bank. These projects will help develop requisite infrastructure for DRR and also help build capacity of the disaster management agencies and institutions. The DPR of AFD project will be ready by August and the project will be ready for negotiation and signing by January 2024 and ready for roll out by April 2024.

25. A detailed presentation about the HP DRR Project proposed with the assistance of ADF was made.

Decision

a) SDMA took the note of the agenda items and recognized the need to improve DRR set up in the State.
b) The SDMA approved the proposed components of the HP DRR Project and also recommended it to be sent to Department of Economic Affairs GOI for rolling it out in April 2024.

Agenda Item No. 8.10: Circulation of revised Norms of Assistance notified by the NDM Division of MHA, GOI for SDRF/NDRF.

26. Further, the State Disaster Management Authority was apprised that the Ministry of Home Affair has revised relief norms vide No.33-03/2020-NDM-I dated 11th July 2023 for relief and restoration measures under SDRF/NDRF. Comparison of

revised norms and existing relief norms has been prepared and it is found that the rate of assistance of some items have been changed/removed whereas the state has increased rate of assistance in some items and in some cases we are giving relief over and above MHA norms.

34. Further, as per guidelines of SDRF the expenditure for providing relief to the victims of State-specific natural disasters within the local context in the State, which are not included in the Government of India (GOI) notified list of disasters, issued by MHA, as per approved norms, may be met from SDRF within the permissible limit of 10 percent fund of the annual allocation of funding window of the SDRF. However, this flexibility would be applicable only after the State has listed the natural disasters properly for inclusion and notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines for disaster relief for such disasters with the approval of the SEC. Any amount spent by the State for such local natural disasters over and above the ceiling would be borne out of its own resources and would be subject to the same accounting norms.

35. The assistance being provided over and above MHA norms by the State may be allowed to be borne by the StateGovt.

37. That the new norms of assistance notified by MHA may be circulated to all concerned along with retaining the provisions of extra relief being already paid by the State. For all such excess expenditure, the State needs to bear the extra cost. Besides, there is excess expenditure in state specific disasters against the ceiling of 10%. May take up the matter with MHA, GOI to accord relaxation and also increase this allocation to at least 20%.

Decision:

a) SDMA took note of the agenda and issued directions to hold a separate meeting focused on norms of assistance wherein DMC may make a power point presentation.
b) Hon'ble Chief Minister desired that the matter may be taken with GOI to include road accidents as national disaster for hill states like HP, in view of the geographic conditions of the State. Request may also be made to increase the ceiling of 10% to 30% for state specific disasters.

Other items with the Permission of the Chair

Agenda Item No. 8.11: Strengthening Disaster Response in Police Department

38. In order to strengthen disaster response system in the State, the DGP emphasized upon the need to strengthen the Police Department in the State. His suggestions were as under:-

a) **Aapda Mitra Scheme**: Thee is need to lay stress on effective capacity building of all our police personnel to tackle disaster situations by introduction of a disaster response module for under-trainee Constables currently enrolled at PTC Daroh under the *Aapda Mitra* Scheme. This is a National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) scheme. We request the State Disaster Management Authority to please coordinate with NDMA for operationalizing this scheme.

b) All Police Stations are to be equipped with **basic disaster response equipments including communication equipments**. Respective DDMAs may be asked to bear expenses for equipping and training of the Police Station personnel in first-line disaster response. I nominate the HP State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) to be the nodal for coordinating this.

c) **Risk allowance** for the personnel of HP SDRF: Given the high-risk nature of HP SDRF work, every single operation throws a fresh set of challenges before the members of HP SDRF. These challenges are on various counts – including, threat to life, physiological and social threats. We propose a risk allowance of 15 % for the personnel of HP SDRF. Several HP SDRF personnel continue to experience health challenges like increased susceptibility to conjunctivitis and chronic nausea following the recovery of dead bodies in the Summer Hill operation.

d) **Communication Equipment:** HP SDRF is to be equipped with the latest communication equipment - satellite and VHS sets to enable communication during disaster situations. The recent Kullu disaster chapter is a learning point for us. A list of communication equipment needed has already been sent by HP SDRF to SDMA.

e) **Provision of 4 Wheel Drive Vehicles:** The rescue operations carried out, especially Chandratal in Lahaul & Spiti, outlined the need for more 4 wheel drive vehicles for HP SDRF.

f) **Infrastructure Development of SDRF:** It was stressed to fund the HP SDRF for developing a world-class infrastructure in Kangra District.

Decision:

Hon'ble Chief Minister cum Chairm HPSDMA, issued directions to take appropriate action wrt the suggestions put forth by the DGP to improve response capacity of the state by strengthening Police Department.

39. At the end, Hon'ble Chief Minister issued the following directions:-

a) <u>Identification of sites for Muck Disposal</u>:

i. The Deputy Commissioners shall liaise with relevant departments and local authorities to identify suitable sites for muck disposal of construction debris, or similar situations.
ii. Executing Agencies to consider environmental impact and accessibility while selecting these sites.
iii. The Urban Development shall also implemented Construction and Demolition Waste Management Rules notified by the MoEF & CC.

b) <u>Conduct Studies on Cloudburst</u>:

i. Initiate studies to identify causes of cloudburst events in the State through Department of Environment, Science and Technology.
ii. Collaborate with meteorological experts and institutions to analyze historical data, identify vulnerable areas, and understand the potential impacts of cloudbursts.

c) **Integrate 1100CM Helpline Extension in SEOC and DEOC:**

i. Integrate the existing 1100CM helpline number to the State Emergency Operations Center (SEOC) and District Emergency Operations Centers (DEOCs). This ensures effective/unified communication and coordination during emergencies.

d) **Conduct Workshop on Earthquake & Landslide Hazard:**

i. Plan and organize a comprehensive workshop on earthquake & landslide hazards.
ii. Involve experts, interactive sessions, and hands-on activities to educate participants about earthquake & landslide risks, preparedness, and response.

e) **Popularizing Mobile Apps Among the Public:**

i. Promote Sachet, Mausam, and Meghdoot mobile apps among the general public.
ii. Utilize social media, community outreach, and public awareness campaigns to inform people about these apps' features and benefits for disaster-related information.

40. The Hon'ble Chief Minster expressed concern over large number of death being caused by road accidents every year. The DM-Cell was directed to refer the matter to MHA (in D.O. letter from HCM to Hon'ble Home Minister) for including the road accident in centre specific disasters and to increase expenditure on State specific disaster from 10% to 30%.

41. Hon'ble Chief Minister stressed upon the need to use technology to mitigate the effects of climate change related disaster risk reduction. If need be, funds from state may be mobilized to improve the hydro-meteorological network in the State. We need state of the art early warning system so that loss of life and property can be reduced. There is need to carry out studies to identify causes of such a large scale devastation which took place in the State during involving expert institutions. The studies should

also suggest remedial measures so that mitigation measures can be undertaken to reduce disaster risk.

The meeting ended with the vote of thanks to and from the Chair.

Approved by,

(Prabodh Saxena)
Chief Secretary-Cum- Chairman
State Executive Committee, HP.

Endst.No. Rev (DMC)(F) 11-45/2012-III Dated: 04th September,2023

Copy forwarded for information and necessary action to:-

1. All the Administrative Secretaries to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.
2. All the Members of the State Executive Committee.
3. All the Deputy Commissioners cum Chairmen DDMAs in Himachal Pradesh.
4. All the Divisional Commissioner in Himachal Pradesh
5. All the Head of Departments in Himachal Pradesh
6. The Pr. PS-cum-Spl.Secy, to Hon'ble Chief Minister, HP (Chairperson, HPSDMA)
7. Sr. PS to the Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh.

(Onkar Chand Sharma)
Principal Secretary (Rev) to the
Government of Himachal Pradesh.
Member Secretary, SEC

Annexure-A

List of the Participants

1. Sh. Jagat Singh Negi Hon'ble Revenue, Horticulture and Tribal Development Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Shimla-2
2. Sh. Prabodh Saxena, Chief Secretary GoHP Shimla-02.
3. Sh. Sanjay Kundu, IPS Director General of Police, GoHP Shimla-02.
4. Sh. Onkar Chand Sharma, Principal Secretary Revenue GoHP Shimla-02.
5. Sh. Devesh Kumar, Pr. Secretary (UD/T&CP)to the GoHP,Shimla-02.
6. Sh. AkshaySood, Secretary (Finance) to the GoHP Shimla-02
7. Dr. Abhishek Jain Secretary, Secretary (Home) to the GoHP Shimla-02.
8. Ms. M Sudha Devi, Secretary (Health) to the GoHP Shimla-02.
9. Sh. Abhishek Trvedi, IPS ADGP law & Order GoHP Shimla-02.
10. Sh. D.C.Rana Director cum Special Secretary (Rev-DM) GoHP Shimla-02.
11. Er. Ajay Gupta Engineer-in-Chief, HPPWD Shimla-02.
12. Sh. Balwan Singh Joint Secretary, Disaster Management, GoHP Shimla-02.
13. Sh. Surender Paul, Director IMD Shimla
14. Sh. S.S.Randhawa, PSO, CCC, HIMCOSTE, Shimla-1
15. Sh. AnujTomar, Dy. Commandant General, Home Guards, Shimla-1
16. Sh. Vinod Sharma, Section Officer, DM-Cell, Shimla-2
17. Dr. Rohit Chauhan, RS&GSI, DM-Cell, Shimla-2
18. Sh. Praveen Bhardwaj, DMS, DM-Cell, Shimla-2
19. Sh. Nitin Sharma, T&CBC, DM-Cell, Shimla-2