

**Proceeding of the Meeting/Video Conferencing to review “the status of winter preparedness 2020-21” held on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020 under the Chairmanship of Chief Secretary, Himachal Pradesh**

The List of participants is attached as **Annexure-I**

At the outset, Sh. RD Dhiman, Add. Chief Secretary (Rev-DM) to the Govt. of Himachal Pradesh welcomed the Chair, Deputy Commissioners, participants from line departments and other agencies. He further added that winter preparedness should be conducted up to the Block level, to engage the grass root level officials and which gives the sign that the State is ready for the winter season. He stated that the HPSDMA has prepared Snow Manual for the snow bound areas of the State and advised that each provision of this manual should be implemented at the ground level. The action plan prepared in the meeting be tested in the field and lessons learnt be documented for future reference. Winter management may gear up the mobility, ensure the safety of public for the winter season 2020-21. Although it's a routine drill to have winter preparedness meetings and consultations, but due to current COVID-19 situation, this winter would be challenging. So, the preparedness level has to be geared up at field level.

Thereafter, agenda points of the meeting were taken up by Sh. Sudesh Kumar Mokhta, Director-cum-Special Secretary (Rev-DM):

**I. Implementation of the provisions of Snow Manual.**

All Deputy Commissioners of snow bound districts apprised the Chair that the respective District has already conducted the winter preparedness meeting and appropriate directions have been issued to the concerned department as per the snow manual.

Following are the key discussion points:

- 1) DC Kullu shared that the Jalori pass falls in two division of PWD (Pandoh/ Rampur). Due to this the clearing and maintenance work is hampered during the winter season. She requested that the maintenance of the road traversing the pass should be done by a single PWD division so that vehicular activities may also be assured in the winter season. ENC, HPPWD informed that 3 heavy duty snow blowers are under process of procurement for Pangi, Atal tunnel & Jalori pass. Once this snow blower is installed it will solve this problem considerably. Moreover, standing instructions have been issued that whichever team crosses the pass first should continue snow clearance on the other side of the pass till the entire road is clear of snow. **(Action: ENC, HPPWD)**
- 2) DC Kullu also shared that main issue in Atal tunnel for passing of LPG/Oil Tanker has been taken up with Indian Oil Corporation and Tunnel Authority. After detailed discussion one window 2.00 PM to 3:30 PM on Sundays has been reserved for movement of these vehicles.
- 3) Shelter (stay arrangement) for police personnel deputed for this tunnel that has been provided by BRO is not appropriate, therefore, District Administration is planning to move the existing prefab structure placed at Marhi to Palchan Area of Manali Sub-

division as per the recommendation of Police Department. The issue of providing toilet facility for the tourists has been put in place at South side of the Tunnel.

- 4) Sh. K.P. Purushothaman, Chief Engineer, BRO at Atal Tunnel apprised the Chair that the Tunnel Authority is ensuring close coordination with both the district administration of Kullu and Lahaul & Spiti to ensure smooth passage across the tunnel.
- 5) Col. Uma Shanker, Commander, BRO informed that the main problem for vehicular movement is icing on road surface which can cause accidents in Lahaul Valley. Therefore, Snow Chained and 4x4 drive vehicles only may be allowed in the Valley to minimize the possibility of the road accidents. LPG/Oil/Ambulance vehicles be advised to use the snow chain to avoid any hindrance in operations.
- 6) DC, Lahaul & Spiti apprised the Chair that necessary directions have been issued to the authority concerned and line agencies for the vehicular movement. The District administration has decided that only 4x4, snow chained vehicles are to be allowed to ply in the valley during snow. The Rescue Post which was earlier placed at Koksar has been shifted to Sissu with the help of Director, Atal Bihari Mountaineering Institute, Manali which is fully functional with all required logistic where health personnel were also deputed to deal with medical emergency.

**(Action: DC/SP-Kullu, Lahaul & Spiti, CE Atal Tunnel, Commander BRO)**

**Directions by the Chair**

1. DDMA meeting for winter preparedness has not been conducted in some districts It should be done within a week and the proceedings of the same be communicated to DM-Cell. Further periodic review of important measures be taken time to time.
2. Each provision of Snow manual should be implemented at the ground level (details are at Annexure A).
3. Ensure that the Ambulatory services are operational during the snow season with proper snow chains. Additional resources may also be planned and mobilized in view of current COVID-19 situation.
4. The fund requirement by the Deputy Commissioners shall be intimated to the DM Cell at the earliest.
5. Atal Tunnel authority may ensure that the road surface is safe and of motorable quality. If the weather condition in the winter season, make motor driving dangerous the details should be shared with the local Police on regular basis so that people may not endanger their lives who are not familiar with hilly terrains roads
6. DC Lahaul & Spiti will identify the place with the help of SP Lahaul where prefabricated structure may put in place for Police personnel and make sure the proper heating arrangement is also put in place. Meanwhile, he should hire an accommodation for police at Sissu so that they have proper building to stay. The site for prefab accommodation should be safe from avalanches & other natural hazards.

7. Activation of District Emergency Operation Centres may be done. Activate Emergency response system and Inter agency Groups (NGOs). Check warning and Communication systems. Stocking of essential items, fuel and relief items. Ensure adequate Relief fund availability and its immediate disbursal.
8. HPSEBL may ensure power supply and its early restoration in case of any disruption, as the water supply is also dependent on their power supply.

**(Action by: All Deputy Commissioners, Line Departments)**

**Meanwhile, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh also joined the meeting by Video Conferencing to discuss the current COVID-19 situation in the State and specific response related to this challenge along with winter preparedness. Following were the directions given by Hon'ble CM:**

- i. Hon'ble CM emphasized that in the State COVID-19 cases has increased very rapidly in past few days.
- ii. He directed that the Bed capacity in Hospitals need to be increased and apart from government hospitals, private hospitals be also roped in.
- iii. Proper arrangement for all COVID-19 positive cases and their attendants in the Hospitals be ensured, including heating, warm food and water, medicines and periodic check up by medical staff on duty.
- iv. The availability of adequate Staff in the Hospitals (i.e Doctors & Paramedical etc.) be ensured at the earliest. The availability of sufficient oxygen supplies and medicines be also ensured.
- v. Looking into the recent large nos. of COVID Positive cases, the norms for containment zones need to be reworked so that effective containment of the virus is ensured.
- vi. An action plan for management of Bus/Passenger Vehicles in night curfew needs reconsideration.
- vii. Release and handling of COVID Positive dead bodies by the hospitals needs to be simplified/streamlined. Any kind of delay must be avoided.
- viii. Accessibility & arrangements for COVID positive patients requiring specific tertiary & advance health care need to be developed in the hospital.
- ix. HPSEBL may ensure adequate power supply to the hospitals and COVID Centers including making standby arrangements.
- x. Hospital Administration shall check all the power backup facilities and make provision of alternate power supply.

**(Action by Health Department, Deputy Commissioners, HPSEBL)**



## **II. Scrutiny and preparedness of the communication systems especially in Tribal and Far-flung Areas.**

Disaster Management Cell has provided I-SAT satellite phones for all the District Headquarters, tribal and far-flung areas with an intention to keep two-way communication operational during emergencies. Therefore, testing may be conducted on daily basis within districts, Wireless Teams be deployed strategically. Mobile Network also needs to be functional.

**(Action by All the Deputy Commissioners, HP Police Wireless,  
Department of Telecom)**

## **III. Disseminations of early warning**

Special attention needs to be paid for dissemination of weather advisories, early warning and weather forecast issued by the IMD and SASE. "Nowcast" advisories issued by IMD at a notice of 3-4 hours also need to be disseminated quickly. There should be warning signals should be which are clear and understandable. Vulnerable population should be shifted/evacuated, wherever and whenever needed. The early warnings issued by the SASE be also seen regularly. The public may be informed using electronic and print media.

**(Action by All Deputy Commissioners, IMD & SASE)**

## **IV. Stockpile of essential items especially for snow bound areas**

Essential items for relief may be stored for emergency situations especially the areas which usually get cut-off due to snow. Pre-contracting for relief items may also be done as per the provisions of the DM Act, 2005 and keeping in view the requirement of districts and past experiences.

**(Action by All Deputy Commissioners)**

## **V. IEC activities for winter preparedness**

Effective and extensive IEC activities for Cold Waves and Avalanches may be carried out by:

1. Communication, Awareness Generation and Early Warning
2. Testing of communication network channels for issuing warning and sharing of forecasts.
3. Reaching out to locals e.g. people living/working near Avalanche prone and heavy Snow bound areas.
4. NDMA Videos, Do's & Don'ts may be shared with the social print and electronic media for wide publicity.
5. Sharing information with State Emergency Operation Center.
6. All the advisories/warnings issued by IMD/SASE may also be disseminated through IEC and should reach at village level.

**(Action by MPP & Power, DoE, IPR & all Deputy Commissioners)**

## **VI. Formation of Quick Response Teams (QRTs)**

In order to respond to emergencies effectively, there is a need to keep Search and Rescue QRTs on alert. The companies of Home Guards located in different parts of the State be kept ready. Fire services may also be used for emergency response.

**(Action by all Deputy Commissioners, Home Guards, Fire Services)**

## **VII. Conducting of Mock drill to check the functioning of all Mode of Communication (Mobile, Landlines, ISAT, VSAT)**

To comply with the directions of the State Executive Committee (SEC), DM-cell will conduct a Mock Exercise to check the functioning of all mode of communication within a week. All stakeholders must actively participate and contribute to the success of this drill.

**(Action by Police Department and Deputy Commissioners)**

## **VIII. Cold wave preparedness by low lying area of the State.**

All concerned in low altitude areas were directed to take action to deal with the impact of Cold Wave especially for those area where fog like situation is a general phenomenon and both people & crops/fruit trees could be adversely impacted.

**(Action by Deputy Commissioners and Stakeholder Department especially for low lying Districts of HP)**

## **IX. Memorandum of Damages and Losses and Daily Reports must be ensuring through Digital initiatives of HPSDMA.**

The HPSDMA has started online portal on 26.12.2019 for reporting of damage and loss which their respective jurisdictions. Login ID and Passwords were shared with the concerned with an intention that these department will submit the same through online portal. Therefore, all the districts and departments are requested to fill the same in the online portal for this winter season-2020.

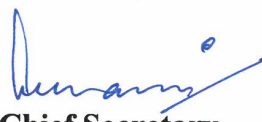
**(Action by All Deputy Commissioners and Stakeholder Department)**

## **X. Requisition of Helicopter for SAR Operation during winter season.**

District Administration may liaise with the nearest Indian Army Units, ITBP and other paramilitary forces units and Private service providers and those who have having charter helicopter/plane to operate in golden hours. Wherever, Indian Air Force support is required, DCs are requested to kindly follow the HADR guidelines of IAF for requisition of the helicopters.

**(Action by GAD/All the Deputy Commissioners)**


The meeting ended with a vote of thanks

  
**Chief Secretary,  
Himachal Pradesh**

Copy for information and necessary action to:-

1. The DGP, HP, Police HQ, Nigam Vihar, Shimla-02
2. The Additional Director General-cum-Commandant General,  
Himachal Pradesh Home Guards, Civil Defence & Fire Services, Shimla
3. The Director (Head of Department), Department of Horticulture/ Agriculture/  
Health/Education/Rural Development/ Urban Development/Food & Civil Supplies, H.P,  
Shimla.
4. The Director, Information & Public Relations, Shimla
5. All Deputy Commissioners, Himachal Pradesh
6. The Engineer-in-Chief, HPPWD
7. The Engineer-in-Chief, I&PH
8. The Managing Director, HPSEB Ltd, Kumar House, Shimla-4
9. The Commissioner, M.C. Shimla, Shimla.
10. The Deputy Inspector General (ITBP), ITBP, Taradevi, Shimla
11. The Chief Engineer, National Highway Authority of India, Shimla.
12. The Director, India Meteorological Department, Shimla
13. The Chief Engineer, Boarder Road Organization, Shimla
14. The Sr. D.D.G, Department of Telecom, Chhotta Shimla-2
15. The Scientist In-Charge, SASE, Bahang, Kullu 175103
16. The Director, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports, Manali  
175131

**Additional Chief Secretary (Revenue) to the  
Government of Himachal Pradesh**

  
Dir.-cum-Spl. Secy.(Revenue)  
Govt. of H.P. Shimla



**Annexure-I**

<b>List of participants</b>			
<b>Sr.No</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Designation &amp; Department/Organization</b>	<b>Contact Detail/E-mail ID</b>
1.	B.K.Sharma	ENC, PWD	94184-88908
2.	A.P. Siddiqui	ADG, Home Guard & Fire Services	9418080611
3.	Manmohan Singh	Director & MD, Shimla	98161-27668
4.	Dr. Amit Mahajan	Jt. Director, Health	98168-89799
5.	Er. R.K. Sharma	MD HPSEBL	94184-82408
6.	Sanjeev Meena	Asstt. Director General (T) DoT, HP	94593-38936
7.	Shashank K. Namdeo	ADET (Rural), DOT, HP	7000073626
8.	Scientist in Charge, SASE	(Virtually)	01902-255010
9.	ENC, Jal Shakti Vibhag	(Virtually)	0177-2655862
10.	Director Education Higher/Elementary	(Virtually)	0177- 2658202
11.	Director Horticulture	(Virtually)	0177-2844069
12.	Director Agriculture	(Virtually)	0177-2830620
13.	DIG, ITBP-Taradevi	(Virtually)	0177-2777600
14.	Director, Rural Development	(Virtually)	0177-2623820
15.	Director, Urban Development	(Virtually)	0177-2880774
16.	MC Shimla	(Virtually)	0177-2812899
17.	Sh. KP Purushothaman Chief Engineer, Atal Tunnel, Boarder Road Organization	(Virtually)	01900-202316
18.	Director, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Mountaineering Institute, Manali	(Virtually)	
19.	All Deputy Commissioner	(Virtually with representatives of Line Department)	
20.	Sh. Uma Shanker, Commander, BRO	(Virtually)	
21.	Chief Engineer, National Highway Authority of India, Shimla	(Virtually)	
22.	Chief Engineer, Deepak Project, Shimla	(Virtually)	