



**Report of the First Session of State Platform for Disaster
Risk Reduction
22nd September 2016**

**Organized by Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management
Authority, Disaster Management Cell- Revenue Department,
Government of Himachal Pradesh and
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).**

Background & Introduction

The need to reduce the impact of disasters by means of systematic efforts has been gaining recognition and commitment among State Governments, Nationwide. Disaster Risk Reduction is a cross cutting development issue. It requires political and legal commitment, scientific knowledge, careful development planning, and application of technology, law enforcement, community participation, early warning systems and effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. There is a need to foster an enabling environment for developing a culture of prevention and to enable concerted measures to facilitate the integration of disaster management into development planning in various sectors. It is therefore desirable that the State Government departments, district administration, Educational Institutions and various other stakeholders in the field of disaster management and people representing different interests in the area should evolve a participatory process of decision making in disaster management, which will not only strengthen the disaster management structure and institutions all over the State but will also enhance the federal structure of our polity.

On the line of NPDRR, the Government of Himachal Pradesh has accordingly decided to constitute a multi –stakeholder State Level Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (SPDRR) vide Government’s Resolution No- Rev (DMC) (F) 11-45/2016 dated 24th February 2016. The SPDRR has been constituted with the Hon’ble Chief Minister as Chairperson, Hon’ble Revenue Minister as Vice Chairperson, Additional Chief Secretaries/Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of various Government Departments as representatives of the State Government departments, ex-officio members, heads of Educational institutions, representatives from Industry, media, civil society and international organisations, with Additional Chief Secretary (Rev- DM) as the convener. The goal of the SPDRR is to establish a multi-sectoral, multi agency and multi disciplinary mechanism for building partnerships with involvement of all stakeholders.



Objectives

- a) To anchor the knowledge research technologies, innovations and best practices to provide greater interaction and interface amongst various disciplines of Disaster Management.
- b) To enlarge the perspectives and to provide a holistic framework for Disaster Management related research and education.
- c) To create a pool of resources of scientists, practitioners, technocrats and other professionals on DRR.
- d) To bring together organisations and individuals of diverse disciplines and sectors for synthesizing, managing and further disseminating knowledge on DRR.
- e) To provide a platform where all stakeholders shall meet, share their work, debate on the Issues related to lessons learnt, challenges encountered, shortcomings opportunities and draw future action plans.
- f) To Implement Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction.

The First Session of SPDRR was organized on the theme of “Disaster Resilience Development”, at the Armsdale Conference Hall, Himachal Pradesh Government Secretariat, Shimla in Himachal Pradesh on 22 September 2016.



Inaugural Session

The first session of the SPDRR was inaugurated at Armsdale Conference Hall, HP Secretariat, Shimla on 22nd September 2016. The inaugural function started with the arrival of the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh, Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Himachal Pradesh and Member, National Disaster Management Authority.

Shri Dev Dutt Sharma, Special Secretary (Rev-DMC) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh, has briefed about the Objectives and expected outcomes of the First Session of the State Platform on Disaster Risk Reduction.

Shri Tarun Shridhar, Additional Chief Secretary (Rev-DMC) to the Government of Himachal Pradesh welcomed Shri Virbhadr Singh Ji, the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Revenue Minister, Government of Himachal Pradesh, Shri V.C. Pharka, Chief Secretary, Government of Himachal Pradesh and Lt. Gen N.C. Marwah, Member NDMA. He also extended warm welcome to all the dignitaries, distinguished participants and the media.

Lt. Gen N.C. Marwah (Member, NDMA) in his special address discussed about the various initiatives taken by the National Disaster Management Authority including successful implementation of the National School Safety Programme in Himachal Pradesh. He praised the efforts of the Himachal Pradesh State Disaster Management Authority in Disaster Risk Reduction Sector including Launch of HRVA and SPDRR.

Shri Kaul Singh Thakur, Hon'ble Health, Revenue Minister and Law Minister, Himachal Pradesh said that Disaster Risk Reduction is a cross cutting development issue. It requires political and legal commitment, scientific knowledge, careful development planning, and application of technology, law enforcement, community participation, early warning systems and effective disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. There is a need to foster an enabling environment for developing a culture of prevention and to enable concerted measures to facilitate the integration of disaster management into development planning in various sectors. It is therefore desirable that the State Government departments, district administration, Educational Institutions and various other stakeholders in the field of disaster

management and people representing different interests in the area should evolve a participatory process of decision making in disaster management, which will not only strengthen the disaster management structure and institutions all over the State but will also enhance the federal structure of our polity. He is also elaborated the objectives of the SPDRR.

Shri Virbhadra Singh, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Himachal Pradesh congratulated the Revenue-DM department for creation of the SPDRR and sincerely hope that it will help us to minimize the risk of disasters in HP and would also be helpful to achieve the targets of SFDRR.

He further stated that the Government of Himachal Pradesh is proactive to take actions towards making resilient state. So far State has prepared the Hazard, Vulnerability and Risk Assessment (HVRA) Atlas; Himachal Pradesh is the only Himalayan State which has prepared HVRA Atlas in the country. State Emergency Operation Centre is also now operating 24X7 to deal with the emergencies. We have also prepared Maiden Report on Disaster Analysis and Management. This will provide Policy Makers, Researchers and Other Stakeholders a Comprehensive Data on Disaster Issues which will be of immense use to them.

He further directed the Revenue –DM department must disseminate the Information, Education and Communication (IEC) material on Disaster Risk Reduction to the general public.

Following sessions were taken by the distinguished speakers:-

Dr Anil Kumar Sinha- Strengthen the effectiveness of Decision Making in Disaster Risk Reduction System **Shri Dev Dutt Sharma, Special Secretary (Rev-DMC)** - Mainstreaming of Disaster Risk Reduction into Development Schemes/Projects/Programmes- Emerging Issues, Concerns and Way forward.

Session on Strengthening of Partnership between Government agencies, Multilateral/Bilateral and Non Governmental Organizations was taken by the following representatives of -

United Nations Development Programme- Mr. G. Padmanabhan,

Swiss Development Cooperation- Dr Sirish Sinha, Dy Director

GIZ- Ms. Sabine Preuss, Director- Environment & Climate Change,

SEEDS India- Mr. Manu Gupta, Director- SEEDS India

Shri V.C Pharka, Chief Secretary to the Government of Himachal Pradesh in his valedictory speech sincerely hope that the SPDRR will bring together organizations and individuals of diverse disciplines and sectors to share their experiences , debate on issues relating to disaster risk reduction and draw future action plans. Disaster Risk Reduction- Mainstreaming in developmental Policies, plan and Projects at all levels by the departments, organizations and agencies is essential aspect of mitigation. He also empathized and show commitment for the implementation of Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Himachal Pradesh.

Keys Decisions Taken:-

Following decisions were taken in the First Session of the SPDRR, which are mentioned below:-

- Development of Roadmap and Guidelines on Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction (SFDRR) for the State of Himachal Pradesh including 2 Days Workshop on Implementation of SFDRR in December 2016 or January 2017 in collaboration with United Nations Development Programme India(UNDP). The workshop may be organized based on the thematic working groups involving Members of SPDRR.
- Printing of Calendars in Hindi on Do's and Don'ts in Natural and Human Induced Disaster for general public and wide distribution at Village/Panchayat level.
- Mainstreaming and Integration of DRR in all development programmes for empowering sustainable development in the State.
- Development of guidelines for utilization of Flexi funds under Centrally Sponsored Schemes with the support of United Nations Development Programme- India.
- Strengthening of Partnership between Multilateral/Bilateral and Non Governmental Organizations for better coordination and response during/after disasters.

The Platform was ended by the vote of thanks from the chair.