

Making people of India proud of our mountains

Meet of the Mountain States 2015

Implementing DRR Resolutions



Vishwa Yuvak Kendra. Chanakyapuri. New Delhi.

Report of the Proceedings



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Executive Summary

The Integrated Mountain Initiative convened the fourth edition of its annual Meet of the Mountain States (MoMS 2015) in New Delhi on 11 December 2015, on the occasion of International Mountain Day. The meet was organized at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri. The Meet followed upon the successful conclusion of the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS-IV), which was organised by the Sustainable Development Forum Arunachal Pradesh (SDFA) under the aegis of the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) at Itanagar, from October 7th – 9th, 2015.

The central theme of the Summit was Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), which is particularly crucial for the mountains which face increasingly frequent large- and small-scale disasters such as earthquakes, flash-floods, and landslides. Natural disasters result in loss of lives, and set back the economy of the region by destroying assets, interrupting school education and livelihoods. At the conclusion of the DRR thematic of SMDS-IV, which was anchored by Dr R.S. Tolia, President IMI, three short-term action agendas were identified, amongst other medium and long-term ones.

To follow up the recommendations made during the Summit, MoMS 2015 was held in the format of a workshop with a view to formulate an action plan for implementation of the short-term resolutions. The Meet was attended by Lt Gen N.C. Marwah and Dr Kamal Kishore, Members of the National Disaster Management Authority, as well as representatives from the National Disaster Response Force, the State and Disaster Management Authorities from Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Grassroots organizations working on disasters on the ground, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Delhi and Save the Hills, Kalimpong participated.

The participants formed themselves into three groups and deliberated upon an implementation plan for each of the DRR recommendations. The groups also identified the implementing bodies, liaison mechanism, resources required, and timelines to achieve the stated outcomes. The Chief Guest, Mr Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, recently declared the Champion of DRR for the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations, gave an address espousing his concern about disasters and offering



his full support for mitigation and preparedness measures. He also released the Summit Report from SMDS-IV.

Representatives of the three groups presented their implementation plans before the gathering. Following this, Mr P.D. Rai Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Sikkim updated the gathering about his participation at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, particularly the keen interest in supporting measures for disaster risk reduction in mountain states shown by Margareta Walhstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Meet ended with a Vote of Thanks by Mr P.D. Rai.

Introductory Session

The fourth edition of Meet of the Mountain States was convened by the Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra in Chanakayapuri, New Delhi on 11 December, 2015. The theme of the Meet, organized in the format of a focussed workshop, was **Implementing DRR Resolutions**, was attended by 40 participants, including academicians, political actors, government officials, community organizations, concerned citizens and IMI members.



The meet began with a welcome address by **Mr. Sushil Ramola, Secretary IMI**. Mr. Ramola, in his address, provided a brief evolution of IMI. He appraised the gathering about IMI's vision to make India proud of its mountains. He elucidated on IMI's role as an organization which acts as an "enabler", with the objective of informing and influencing policy formulation in respect of the Indian mountain states.

He shared that IMI organizes annual Sustainable Mountain Development Summits (SMDS) on themes which are relevant to the mountain regions. Mr. Ramola stated that IMI convenes an annual Meet of the Mountain States (MoMS) in New Delhi to disseminate the outcomes of the Summits and create an avenue for advocacy in respect of issues which are critical to the mountains. He informed that the present edition of the MoMS aims to devise a roadmap to implement the resolutions adopted for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) during the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS-IV) held in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in October 2015.

Addressing the meeting, **Dr. Kamal Kishore, Member, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**, related his enriching experience attending SMDS-IV in Itanagar where the unique challenges mountain states faced in disaster risk reduction and response was discussed. Indian mountain states face problems in this regard particularly in relation to connectivity, the availability of building materials and the necessary skills, multiple hazards, amongst others. The outcome of the Summit was

divided into two parts. The first was to look at the five core issues in DRR over the medium and long-term. The second part was to look at three modest, but achievable recommendations in the short-term, which could be completed in a year. He observed that the challenge which network initiatives like IMI face is converting recommendations to actions, and the detailed action plans identified were an effort to overcome this.



5 MEDIUM/LONG TERM INITIATIVES

1. Harmonising Data

A lot of data is being collected across the country related to disasters and there is a need to systematise and harmonise this data. There is strong motion sensing networks in some parts of the country, however the instrumentation is not well maintained. There are many claims based on remote sensing of glaciers, but in terms of thickness of glaciers and what happens to glaciers across seasons, there is no systematic way of collecting data on glaciers.

2. Systematise Hazard Risk & Vulnerability Analysis

Different states are conducting Hazard, Risk, and Vulnerability Analysis (HRVA), and often they use different methodologies. While there is no harm in using slightly different methodologies if the data environment and context are different, it's important that the end result is usable in decision making. HRVA needs to be application oriented to meet risk reduction needs and to understand how new projects can affect the risk environment. In our fragile mountain environments, if we build a road, it can potentially create new landslides, new patterns of drainage, flooding downstream and so on. There is a whole range of effects emanating from development projects themselves. They have to be protected from Disaster Risk, at the same time we need to ensure that they do not lead to new risks.



3. Action planning at different levels

At the time of the summit at Itanagar, out of 160 mountain districts, only 120 had District Disaster Management Plans. For some of our districts, especially the large ones like Lahaul & Spiti, we must plan at an even lower scale than District. Action planning for Early Warning Systems should also be done at a lower level than District. Strengthening institutional arrangements at the lower level is important.

4. Local Capacity

We need to build capacity both inside and outside the government system. Capacity building at the local level should include masons, contractors, and engineers and so on.

5. Focus on Long Term DRR

There are two key themes:

- a. How do we bring together our work on Climate Change Adaptation and DRR?
- b. How do we integrate DRR into Land Use Planning? This includes our building codes on Earthquake Resistant construction, norms on how to build on slopes, and so on.

ONE YEAR ACTION PLAN

1. 100% coverage of DDMPs

Work in collaboration with State governments and Districts for 100% coverage of District Disaster Management Plans. There are guidelines issued by NDMA which can be used, and be improved upon.

2. Local Capacity: One Model DDMA in Every State

As we move across various mountain states, we observe commonalities and differences, for example in building type. This calls for highly localised systems and capacity to address risks. To address the issue of district level mechanism, we need to set up one model DDMA in each state. This model DDMA would have the bare minimum capacity, plans, equipment and engagement with lower levels of government.

3. Structural & Non-Structural Retrofitting of one building for every State

The idea is to pick one or two tangible risk management initiatives relevant to the local context and achieve something concrete, however small. This could include setting up a risk transfer system using insurance, strengthening school or hospital buildings, or implementing a specific technique like the bio-engineering to stabilise slopes tried in Darjeeling. In areas where structural retrofitting is not possible in the next year, can we aim for non-structural retrofitting, like ensuring Oxygen cylinders and cupboards don't fall over people in hospitals and libraries. The important point is to have a tangible initiative which can be used as an example.



Lt Gen Marwah, Member NDMA addressed the gathering, and expressed happiness with IMI's initiative to address DRR and bringing people of the mountain States together. He stated that for the better part of his 40 years in military service, he was in the mountain States relevant to IMI. As a part of the army, he was involved in various Disaster Relief Operations in the mountains. Later, when he was involved in building roads in border areas, he was again involved in planning for relief and rescue for various disasters. He mentioned that in the NDMA he is the single point contact for the mountain states, and he assured the gathering of his presence for future IMI events and interactions related to DRR.

Group Discussions

GROUP ONE

The first group discussed the implementation plan to ensure **100% Coverage of District Disaster Management Plans (DDMPs) across all hill districts**. The group deliberated the reasons for absence of DDMPs in some hill districts, the features of an effective DDMP and the steps required to ensure 100% coverage of DDMPs across all hill districts.



The discussions were moderated by **Mr. Sushil Ramola, Secretary IMI**. The

participants opined that lack of awareness about the importance of a DDMP is the key reason for absence of DDMPs in some hill districts. They also cited lack of capacity amongst district officials to prepare and execute a plan, low priority attributed to DRR by the District Administration and complacency (particularly in districts that have not experienced a disaster) as probable factors.

The members stated that to ensure an effective DDMP, focus on both coverage and quality of the plan is important. They called for the plan to be contextual (specific to needs of district), accountable, easy to understand and actionable. The members advocated further decentralization of the plan to village, block and *mandal* level. The members advocated that the DDMP and Block/Mandal level plan should be given a legal mandate with a dedicated nodal officer responsible for execution at each level. The formulation of the plan must include all stakeholders, including youth and grassroots organizations.

Further, the plan should be evidence based and regularly updated. The members placed the need for generating awareness about the plan at all levels, including grassroots organization, community and youth. The members also called for the need to prepare a framework for disaster focussed skill development.

Key Recommendations for achieving 100% Coverage of District Disaster Management Plans (DDMPs) across all hill districts

- ✓ DDMP and Block/Mandal level plan should be given a legal mandate with a dedicated nodal officer responsible for execution at each level
- ✓ Sensitization about the importance of DDMP and technical support for its execution is key
- ✓ Detailed Roles and Responsibilities for every Department/Ministry/Government organization should be mapped out to enhance accountability
- ✓ Capacity building for grassroots organizations and youth should be undertaken - a framework for disaster focused skill development is required
 - NCC, Civil Defence and NYK can be viewed as partners for creating a dedicated youth cadre
- ✓ Participation of Panchayati Raj Institutions should be encouraged - village disaster management committees should be provided a legal mandate
- ✓ Dedicated Disaster Communication Network being built by NDMA - pilot in 160 districts, should be incorporated in all
- ✓ Financing and human resource issues in existing plans should be ironed out
- ✓ Age appropriate DRR education for schools is needed - JNU can be viewed as partner

GROUP TWO



The second group discussed the implementation plan to ensure **Fully capacitated District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in one district of each mountain state**. The discussions were moderated by **AVM Ajit Tyagi, Former Director General, India Meteorological Department**. The group

members opined that while The Disaster Management Act, 2005 is exhaustive and covers both preparedness and relief, the primary focus of DDMA activities is on relief. They called for a greater focus on disaster preparedness at the district level. The members placed the need to standardise the structure of DDMA's.

They called for a dedicated Officer-in Charge (in the rank of Additional District Magistrate) for effective implementation. Furthermore, they stated that accountability



for failure must be defined. They stated that DDMA should also undertake regular awareness and capacity building programmes to prepare local communities and integrate them in Disaster Management activities.

Key Recommendations to ensure fully capacitated District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) in one district of each mountain state

- ✓ Need an equal, if not greater, focus on risk-preparedness at the district level
- ✓ DDMA's need to be included in the development planning process through vulnerability analysis inputs during site-selection
- ✓ An expert group may study the best practices across DDMA's from Indian Himalayan Region to design a Model DDMA which may be replicated in other States
- ✓ For effective implementation, each DDMA needs to have a dedicated Office-in-charge (in the rank of ADM) who is adequately trained on executing the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005; and accountability for failure must be defined
- ✓ Each DDMA should have a core manpower trained in disaster management
- ✓ DDMA must be provided with failsafe communication systems, which can include community radio systems
- ✓ DDMA should also undertake regular awareness and capacity building programs to prepare local communities and integrate them in Disaster Management activities
- ✓ Adventure Tourism/Mountaineering organizations may be given the mandate by the DDMA to train volunteers from the community in search & rescue skills. An inventory of such persons may be maintained by respective DDMA's

GROUP THREE

The third group discussed the implementation plan to ensure **structural and non-structural retrofitting of at least one public building in each mountain state**. The panellists for this group included **Mr. PD Rai, MP (LS) Sikkim and Councillor IMI and Mrs. Fantry Mein Jaswal, Treasurer IMI and Convenor SMDS-IV**. The group members opined that while sufficient literature and knowledge exists about retrofitting, we lack a system to ensure that retrofitting is as per procedure. The members stated the need to ensure that the new buildings are Disaster Resistant. The members called for knowledge sharing across states and across institutions to share expertise. For example, most new buildings in Sikkim are earthquake resistant.

Stakeholders at the grassroots level can form a platform to discuss and execute. They can select a public building for retrofitting, probably a school or hospital. For example, in the Solar project in Ladakh, the first step was to form a local stakeholders committee, and it fell under the DM to get people together.



The members placed the need to study from Nepal's experience with the Earthquake and understand where the most casualties occurred. The members felt that doing this will enable us to prioritise retrofitting efforts in Indian Mountain States. The members proposed that the Member of Parliament Local Area Development (MPLAD) fund could be used to fund a mandated one retrofitting project per hill constituency during the term of the MP. Further, it was suggested that a district may buy insurance for the entire district for earthquakes above a certain magnitude through reinsurers. The need to identify effectiveness of retrofitting (for example, through simulations) was also highlighted.

Action Plan for implementation of structural and non-structural retrofitting of at least one public building in each mountain state

- ✓ **Key Functionaries:** SDMA or the DDMA shall be the enabler for carrying out the works of retrofitting. SDMA/DDMA shall aid in constituting a committee to execute and monitor the project
- ✓ **Functions of the Committee:**
 - Identification of building
 - Lifeline buildings such as schools or hospitals can be taken up
 - Technical/Knowledge Partners in educational institutions (for example: IIT, Roorkee)
 - Assess buildings that have been prone to disaster risk
- ✓ **Communication Plan:** Integrate the community throughout the process. Videograph the process and show on TV to spread awareness right from the start of the project
- ✓ **Review Mechanism:** Use technical expertise of reputed institutions and local technical bodies
- ✓ **Funding:** MPLAD, SDMA funds

✓ **Timelines:**

Formation of Committee	15 Jan 2016
Identification of building for retrofitting	15 Feb 2016
Technical Report	15 Mar 2016
Procurement/Start of Construction	30 Apr 2016
End of Construction	1 Aug 2016
Testing	1 Sep 2016

After the groups had finalized their implementation plans, representatives from each of the three groups presented their implementation plans before the gathering.



AVM Tyagi, Former DG, IMD



P.K. Srivastava, Commnd 8th Bn NDRF

Rahul Jugran, DMMC Uttarakhand

Address by the Chief Guest

Mrs. Fantry Mein Jaswal, Treasurer IMI and Convenor of SMDS-IV, welcomed the Chief Guest of the session **Mr. Kiren Rijiju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs**. She informed the participants that SMDS IV placed the need for specific policy solutions for Himalayan States which address the unique mountain specificities. The summit witnessed thematic deliberations on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Mountain Agriculture and Forest, she informed. Besides, two parallel events – Legislators Meet and Policy Makers Dialogue – were also held. She thanked the Chief Guest for his inspirational video message for the meet. The Hon'ble Minister proceeded to release the Summit Report of the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit, 2015.



Mr. Kiren Rijiju began his address by congratulating IMI for organizing the Meet of the Mountain States. He remarked that SMDS-IV was an important event which saw participation of leading policy experts. The Chief Guest, recently declared the Champion of DRR for the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations, stated that DRR is an important issue for India as the country loses about 2% of its GDP due to disasters as per World Bank Report. Disasters are a significant set-back for the country, and a priority issue.



...Disaster is a priority for this Government, and disasters will be factored into all policies going forward. The Hon'ble Prime Minister has been inspirational in the time he has devoted to DRR. The most affected by disasters are ordinary people. The private sector needs to be actively involved, particularly through disaster financing. India must take an active role in DRR, and has offered that the SAARC Disaster Office be located in Delhi. The National Disaster Relief Force has 12 Battalions now, with 2 additional battalion headquarters commissioned recently. The NDRF has done a commendable job over the past 18 months. Yet, any support from the Centre has to be supplementary. Each state must put in place its own State Disaster Response Force.

The efforts put in by government will bear fruit only when we take on board advice by people like you. We have been reaching out to the IITs and IIMs in this regard, and are instituting PhD and MPhil courses through a MoU between the National Institute of Disaster Management and JNU. We are therefore pursuing research and scientific inquiry, while also focusing on awareness and resilience-building on the ground.

Life is hard in the mountains. These regions cannot be neglected, and I am very much in agreement with the mandate and focus of the Integrated Mountain Initiative. The Government understands the need for special emphasis on these states. Therefore besides the devolution of more funds, it was decided that the relaxation of norms allowed to the 11 mountain states by the erstwhile Planning Commission would continue. Today state governments receive a better share of the dividends, and this is vital because they are best placed to take stock of their own issues...

...States now have more independence, and it is imperative that they are responsible with their internal resources. Some states are not even considering constituting a State Disaster Response Force. There is technical support available from the UN and other agencies. The initiative needs to be from the states. The Centre provides 50% funds from the State Disaster Response Fund right at the beginning of the year, irrespective of the occurrence of disasters. This is to be used for disaster preparation. If this gets used up, the Centre releases the remaining 50%. If a disaster occurs, the Centre provides from the National Disaster Response Fund.

Money is not the issue. Yet some states continue to make political statements that the Centre does not release enough funds. In some cases, even half the fund given is not utilized. Funds are being used as a political tool. Disasters are not a priority for state governments. Once a disaster occurs, a lot of noise is made. There is little preparatory work or efforts to set up robust systems which can withstand disasters.

Following the 1999 super cyclone which killed thousands of people, early warning measures were put in place which averted large-scale loss of life during Cyclone Hudhud. But why should we accept any loss of life when we can predict these disasters? Of course, some disasters are beyond our comprehension and beyond human capacity to handle. Yet there are others which are completely man-made. It is in our hands to prevent disasters of this nature. My job as Minister is to recognize efforts in this regard and drive people towards further effort.

As a mountain person myself I a responsibility to ensure that there is focus on disasters, especially in mountain states. I assure you of my commitment as a Minister and an individual. I will make myself available for any event connected with disaster management. I am fortunate to be part of this gathering. Your ideas and suggestions will give us guidance and direction. In the near future, we will sit together to identify priority areas within DRR and make clear outlines for future programmes. I thank everyone for taking the time to deliberate this important issue...

Overview of the GLOBE Summit

Mr. PD Rai, MP (Lok Sabha) Sikkim and Councillor IMI, updated the gathering about his participation at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, particularly the keen interest in supporting measures for disaster risk reduction in mountain states shown by Margareta Walhstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Disaster Risk Reduction. He also presented the GLOBE COP21 Legislators Summit Communiqué to the Hon'ble Minister.



The GLOBE COP21 Legislators Summit was hosted by the Assemblée Nationale, France's National Parliament, and supported by GLOBE France in collaboration with the GLOBE International secretariat. The summit was attended by over 221 parliamentarians from over 67 countries. The theme of the summit was TOWARDS COHERENCE & IMPACT: The challenge of Paris and the 2030 Agenda for a prosperous and sustainable world.

The Summit concluded with for more integrated action on the climate and 2030 Agenda, and greater parliamentary engagement in implementation. The legislators committed to:

- i. Ensuring consistency of national legislation and policies on climate and of other societal objectives, such as access to energy, gender equality and financing for development;



- ii. Ensuring that all necessary means are put in place on national level to implement the Paris Agreement through advancing legislative action and strengthening the dialogue with all other stakeholders;
- iii. Reviewing INDCs and/or national climate change action plans to ensure appropriate ambition, funding and coherence with commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction and other related international processes;
- iv. Accelerating the ratification of the Doha Amendment establishing the second commitment period of the Kyoto Protocol, and achieving the ratification of the Paris Agreement by the end of June 2017;
- v. Increasing effective scrutiny of implementing national legislation on climate and improving transparency and accountability on climate action.

Mr. Rai thanked the Chief Guest Mr. Kiren Rijju, Hon'ble Minister of State for Home Affairs, for being a part of the meeting. He noted that the session had contributed to an enhanced understanding of mountain-specific issues with respect to DRR and solutions to address these issues. He thanked the participants for their inputs in strengthening DRR in the Indian Himalayan Region.

Annexure 1: Pre-Summit Workshop



The **How Safe are Our Mountain Habitats?** workshop held on 17 August, 2015 at Kalimpong, Darjeeling District was a curtain raiser to the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit, and was organised by the Darjeeling chapter of Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI), in associating with the Sustainable Development Forum, Arunachal Pradesh.

Experts from around the country including, Hon'ble MP Mr. P.D. Rai and Hon'ble MLA, Darjeeling Mr. Trilok Dewan, Dr Ajit Tyagi former Director General of IMD, Dr Malay Mukul IIT Mumbai, Dr Chandan Ghosh NIDM and Dr Sunil De NEHU were some of the main panellists. The workshop was attended by stakeholders from Arunachal Pradesh, Darjeeling, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim and Tripura.

Some of the key outputs of the discussions of the workshop were:


- i. Rainfall: There are huge information gaps in rainfall maps in the mountains. Moreover the monsoon prediction is more plain area based and there is no prediction on impact of monsoons in the mountains. Early warning systems for disaster in the mountains is necessary



- ii. EQ: The Himalayan states are highly vulnerable to high intensity earthquakes and places like Jammu and Kashmir, Sikkim and Darjeeling are in high-risk zones. More work on Earthquakes need to be done for other states of Northeast India.
- iii. Infrastructure: For rural and urban infrastructure, which is rapidly spreading in the mountains, currently there are sophisticated and simple non-invasive techniques to test buildings for earthquake resistance. Additionally construction of roads, which is a key indicator of development in the mountains, needs to be reviewed thoroughly. Here too there are less stress causing, relatively low cost and simple methods that can be adopted with more engineering science.
- iv. Landslides: Detail maps for landslides are available for some sites and these need to be prepared across all scales from a landscape level to site level and even to a households level. These need to be made available to decision makers in different government sectors so that planning is disaster sensitive.
- v. The bottom line is that mountains are highly vulnerable to disasters and so a paradigm shift in managing disasters is necessary from the current relief centric to more preparedness and risk reduction centric pathways.
- vi. IMI would coordinate and approach with the Governments of Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland to take the panel of experts to these states and interact with Government Department making them aware about impending disasters in the mountain states.
- vii. A similar action was identified as being absolutely necessary for the Darjeeling to make the various sectors of the government aware about the vulnerability of Darjeeling to disasters.
- viii. The meeting agreed that coordination between the different departments of the government is necessary to make disaster risk reduction in the mountains more effective. As of now this cross-sectoral approach does not exist in most mountain states.
- ix. IMI with its local chapter Darjeeling Mountain Initiative would be an enabler in coordinating with the GTA to come up with a Darjeeling Hills specific Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies as per the need identified by the Hon MLA, Darjeeling.

Additionally an assessment of various state-level Disaster Management Plans was also deemed necessary to address mountain specific needs for disaster risk reduction.

Annexure 2: Programme



Making people of India proud of our mountains

Meet of the Mountain States 2015



Indian Mountain States



01. Jammu & Kashmir	07. Manipur
02. Himachal Pradesh	08. Mizoram
03. Uttarakhand	09. Tripura
04. Sikkim	10. Meghalaya
05. Arunachal Pradesh	11. Assam*
06. Nagaland	12. West Bengal*

*Only Hill Districts

The Integrated Mountain Initiative was founded in 2011 as a response to the need for a common platform where diverse stakeholders working on issues pertinent to the Indian mountain states could come together to engage in an informed debate on identified themes, with the objective of informing and influencing policy formulation in respect of the mountain region. The absence of such a space was highlighted by a task force of the Planning Commission constituted to examine issues affecting hill areas in India in 2010.

IMI is a collective initiative for recognizing the value of mountain regions and enabling people to realize its potential by integrating the knowledge and experiences of multiple stakeholders. One of the ways this is operationalized is through convening annual Sustainable Mountain Development Summits. The most recent Summit was held between 7 to 9 October, 2015 in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh.

In order to ensure that the momentum, enthusiasm and recommendations generated during the Summits can be taken towards fruition, it was resolved that a Meet of the Mountain States would be convened between two successive Summits. The Meet is also an avenue for sharing the outcomes of the preceding Summit with a larger audience, at the national capital of New Delhi. It is further a forum for advocacy, particularly directed towards sensitising national policymakers and mountain diaspora about mountain issues. It is for this reason that the Meet is held on International Mountain Day

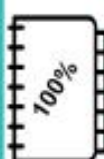




Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakypuri, New Delhi

Implementing DRR Resolutions



The main theme of the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit was Disaster Risk Reduction, the others being Mountain Agriculture and Forests. At the close of the Summit the following were the final resolutions for DRR:



100% coverage of District Disaster Management Plans across all districts of Indian mountain states



Fully capacitated District Disaster Management Authority in 1 district of each mountain state



Structural and non-structural retrofitting of at least 1 public building in each mountain state

MoMS 2015 takes the format of a workshop comprising academics, government officials, IMI members, political actors, and members of community organizations who will formulate an implementation path to achieve these 3 resolutions.

Programme

- 2:00 to 2:30 p.m. Introduction & Setting the Agenda
- 2:30 to 4:15 p.m. Formulation of Implementation Plan by identification of:
 - > Implementing bodies > Liaison mechanism > Resources
 - > Timeline > Review mechanism
- 4:15 to 4:30 p.m. Tea
- 4:30 to 4:35 p.m. Welcoming Chief Guest, Mr Kiren Rijiju
Hon'ble MoS Home Affairs
- 4:35 to 4:50 p.m. Release of Summit Report & Presentation of Implementation Plan
- 4:50 to 5:05 p.m. Address by Chief Guest
- 5:05 to 5:15 p.m. Vote of Thanks

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37	STS Lepcha	Forest Development Corporation, Uttarakhand	stsllepcha@gmail.com
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Mr DD Sharma (Sp Secy HP), Dr RS Tolia and Dr BS Negi (Former Director, GAIL)

Annexure 4: In the Press

IMI celebrates International Mountain Day

SE Report

GANGTOK, December 12: The Integrated Mountain Initiative (IMI) held its annual meet of the mountain states in New Delhi on Friday to observe the International Mountain Day. Minister of State (Home Affairs) Kiren Rijiju was the chief guest on the occasion, informs a press release.

The meet followed up on the successful conclusion of the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit (SMDS-IV) held in Itanagar this October, the release informs. The central theme of the summit was disaster risk reduction, which is particularly crucial for the mountains which face increasingly frequent large- and small-scale disasters such as earthquakes, flash-floods, and landslides.



Sikkim MP (Lok Sabha) P.D. Rai, MoS Home Affairs Kiren Rijiju and others during the function.

To follow up the recommendations made during the summit, the meet of the mountain states at Delhi was held in the format of a workshop which discussed the implementation of these resolutions, by identifying the implementing bodies, liaison mechanism, resources

required, and timelines.

The meet was attended by Lieutenant General Marwah and Dr. Kamal Kishore, members of the National Disaster Management Authority, as well as representatives from the National Disaster Response Force, the State and disaster management

authorities from Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Grassroots organizations working on disasters on the ground, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Delhi and Save the Hills, Kalimpong participated.

Rijiju gave a rousing address espousing his

concern about disasters and offering his full support for mitigation and preparedness measures. He also released the summit report from SMDS-IV.

Sikkim Lok Sabha MP Prem Das Rai updated the gathering about his participation at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, particularly the keen interest in supporting measures for disaster risk reduction in mountain states shown by Margareta Wahlstrom, special representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for disaster risk reduction.

The release mentions that the IMI is a collective initiative of a wide range of stakeholders from across the Indian mountain states, who gather together to deliberate and advocate mountain-centric development policy.

Disaster Risk Reduction discussed at Annual Meet of the Mountain States

By OUR STAFF REPORTER

NEW DELHI, 15 Dec: The Integrated Mountain Initiative held its annual Meet of the Mountain States in New Delhi on 11 December celebrating International Mountain Day, at the Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Chanakyapuri. The Meet followed up on the successful conclusion of the 4th Sustainable Mountain Development Summit held in Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh in October 2015. The central theme of the Summit was Disaster Risk Reduction, which is particularly crucial for the mountains which face increasingly frequent large and small-scale disasters such as earthquakes, flash-floods, and landslides. Natural disasters result in loss of lives, and set back the economy of the region by destroying assets, interrupting school education and livelihoods.

To follow up the recommendations made during the Summit, the Meet of the Mountain States was held in the format of a workshop which discussed the implementation of these resolutions, by identifying the implementing bodies, liaison mechanism, resources required, and timelines.

The Meet was attended by Lt Gen Marwah and Dr Kamal Kishore, Members of the National Disaster Management Authority, as well as



representatives from the National Disaster Response Force, the State and Disaster Management Authorities from Sikkim, Uttarakhand, and Himachal Pradesh. Grassroots organisations working on disasters on the ground, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Delhi and Save the Hills, Kalimpong participated.

The Chief Guest, Kiren Rijiju, Minister of State for Home Affairs, recently declared the Champion of DRR for the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations, gave an address espousing his concern over disasters and offering his full support for mitigation and preparedness measures. P.D. Rai Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Sikkim updated the gathering on his participation at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, particularly the keen interest in supporting measures for disaster

risk reduction in mountain states shown by Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for

Disaster Risk Reduction. IMI is a collective initiative of a wide range of stakeholders from across the Indian mountain

states, who gather together to deliberate and advocate mountain-centric development policy.

CM orders felicitation of conservation conscious School Principal

By OUR STAFF REPORTER

DEHRADUN, 15 Dec: The Chief Minister, Harish Rawat, reviewed the various programmes being operated by UREDA at the Bijapur Guest House on Tuesday. The CM directed launch of the 'Grahani Solar Cooker Sahayata Yojana' in the entire state. Under this scheme, a Dish Solar Cooker will be distributed by UREDA. The solar cooker will be distributed at Rs 500 for BPL families and Rs 900 for others.

The CM sought provision of two thousand small solar energy producers in the state in the next one year. This would increase

energy production. He said that subsidy would be given for 1 to 5 kW plants by the state government. The state government would make arrangements for distributing the produced energy. He also directed establishing industries in Bhimtal and Kotdwara for making solar panels with the support of SIDCUL. He said it was government's priority to solve the problems regarding electricity and water supply in the state.

Rawat ordered felicitation of the Principal, Government Primary School, Tankhet, Ganesh Chandra Paliwal, for preparing the school's midday meals on solar cookers over the last three years. He also

directed installation of small solar plants on wasteland in rural areas.

Principal Secretary Dr Umakant Panwar disclosed that a scheme was being run to provide Dish Solar Cookers for preparation of midday meals in schools and families, also. He said that up to 50 percent LPG gas could be saved by using solar cookers. Given the unavailability of gas in hill regions, the use of solar cookers was a good option.

Chief Principal Secretary Rakesh Sharma and Additional Secretary and Director, UREDA, Ashish Joshi were present on the occasion along with other officials.

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Mail us at:

echoofarunachal@gmail.com

NAME CHANGE
I, Shri Maka Bello, do hereby declare vide an affidavit no. 13030 dt. 18/11/15 in Court of Executive Magistrate Itanagar Capital Complex (A.P.), that I may place my name after my real name Shri Maka Bello. Henceforth, I shall be known as Shri Maka Bello in all purposes.

Home Minister's attention drawn

ITANAGAR, Dec 18: Claiming that FIR lodged by him against former Minister Kalikho Pul for alleged levelling serious allegation against him in a viral audio clip being circulated in the social media was not registered by Itanagar police station, complainant Likha Maj today drew the attention of the State Home Minister.

Maj, in his letter to the Home Minister, claimed that in the alleged audio clip a person reportedly identified as Kalikho Pul leveling serious allegations against him along with few others of asking for Rs 1000 or 2000 from him as pocket money when they were students and became millionaire by indulging in corruption in PDS.

While rubbing off the allegations as totally false and attempt to defame his hard earned reputation and public image, the complainant requested the Home Minister to direct the OC of Itanagar PS to register a case and initiate immediate action against Pul and book him under appropriate sections of law.

Relief materials distributed

NIRJUL, Dec 18: The Toru Panchayat Welfare Association on Thursday distributed relief materials to one Tana Nime whose house was totally engulfed reportedly in a fire accident that took place at the NERIST residential quarter here in the wee hours of December 15 last.

The Association led by its president Tana Nido and general secretary Tana Bado Tara along with the execu-

DA carries out eviction drive



ITANAGAR, Dec 18: Papum Pare district administration today carried out an eviction drive along RoW on Kimin-Potin road at Kimin. Reportedly, few of the affected persons after claiming compensation have been refusing to vacate the building.

Two RCC commercial building and one SPT building were demolished during the drive. It requires a mention here that Border Road Organization (BRO) is carrying out the double lining of 45 Km Kimin-Potin road. In the first phase, BRO is working on 0-20 Km and project is supposed to be completed by 2017. Led by Kimin SDO in-charge Liken Koyu, DLRSO Techit Hitler, OC Kimin PS Nabam Had, sub-inspectors Niri Rama and Hano Chatung along with a police team from STF Yupia and Kimin PS were part of the drive. The district administration appealed to all those people who have already claimed compensation to shift out at the earliest.

"More eviction drive will be carried out along RoW if those who have already collected compensation do not move out. Strict action will be taken against those who create hurdle in the construction of highway," said an official.

The eviction was carried out with the support of the All Kimin Youth Welfare Association. The Association which submitted a memorandum to SDO in-charge, in its six point charter of demands, raised some issues of concern. It alleged that BRO is using outdated machinery and is delaying the project.

"The machinery deployed by BRO authority is outdated and have been hired from other project. So far, they have engaged only three very old tippers, a single Pokland, few mixture machine etc. Also the machines are very old and constantly get destroyed," the Association said.

Meanwhile, the Association appealed to the DC to look into the concern raised by them and threatened to launch a 'boycott' movement against BRO if administration fails to address its demands.

liation mechanism, resources required, and timelines.

The chief guest - Kiren Rijju, Minister of State for Home Affairs, who was recently declared the Champion of DRR for the Asia-Pacific region by the United Nations, gave a rousing address espousing his concern about disasters and offering his full support for mitigation and preparedness measures.

PD Rai, Lok Sabha MP from Sikkim updated the gathering about his participation at the UNFCCC COP 21 in Paris, particularly the keen interest in supporting measures for disaster risk reduction in mountain states shown by Margareta Wahlstrom, Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the UN for Disaster Risk Reduction.

The Meet was attended by Lt Gen Marwah and Dr Kamal Kishore, members of the National Disaster Management Authority, as well as representatives from the National Disaster Response Force, the State and Disaster Management Authorities from Sikkim, Uttarakhand and Himachal Pradesh.

Grassroots organizations working on disasters on the

ground, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Delhi and Save the Hills, Kalimpong participated.

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Indo-Bangla, Indo-Nepal rail connectivity projects underway: Manoj Sinha

NEW DELHI, Dec 18: The 15 km long Agartala to Akhaura project has been sanctioned for providing additional rail connectivity between India and Bangladesh with funding of Indian portion of project which is five km by the Ministry of Development of North Eastern Region (DoNER) and of the Bangladesh portion which is ten km by Ministry of External Affairs, the Rajya Sabha was informed today.

In a written reply, Minister of State for Railways Manoj Sinha said the present cost of this project is Rs 967.85 crore with cost of Bangladesh portion as Rs 387.85 cr and that of India as Rs 580 crore.

As per the MoU signed between the Governments of India and Bangladesh, the

Indian Railways is responsible for construction of the Indian portion and Bangladesh Railways for their portion.

Execution of Indian portion of the project has been entrusted to IRCON. This line will cater to passengers as well as goods traffic, he said.

Besides, the Railways has also taken up two projects for the Indo-Nepal connectivity.

The 18.60 km Joghani-Biratnagar (Nepal) new line project has been taken up at an anticipated cost of Rs 407 crore and is being funded by the Ministry of External Affairs.

Of the 18.60 km, 5.45 km length falls in India and 13.60 km in Nepal. Land for the entire project, except for a length of about 1.8 km falling in Nepal, has been acquired and earthwork

works and others to Mr Sinha informed.

Jaynagar-Bijapur conversion and its up to Bardibas (project was taken in anticipated cost of crore which is also funded by the Mir

External Affairs, which, three km falls and 66 km in Nepal, location survey h completed.

Land plans for Ince tion has been subn the state governme

In Nepal portion, been handed over i in patches.

Earthwork and bri have been taken u stretches where land able, he said. (UNI)

Training of teacher trainers in adolescence education held



ITANAGAR, Dec 18: A five-day training of teacher trainers on 'Arunodaya - Adolescence Education Programme in Arunachal Pradesh' being implemented by Dept of Education, GoAP, UNESCO, New Delhi and Centre for Catalyzing Change (C3), New Delhi was conducted for master trainers of all the districts of the State at two different venues - SCERT, Gohpur Tinali, Itanagar and Bharat Scouts and Guides Headquarter, Polo Colony, Naharlagun that concluded today.

The objective of the training programme was to sensitize and skill-development of the participants in Adolescence Education for the students of classes VIII and IX.

In his address, SCERT Jt Director G Leij, who chaired the inaugural session of the programme at SCERT here, highlighted the significance of the Adolescence Education programme for the students and advised the participants for learning with devotion.

APSACS Project Director Dr Riken Rina, who chaired the programme at BSG HQ, emphasized on the need of coordinated efforts of Dept of Health Services and Education Dept to effectively address the educational needs and issues of the adolescents.

Altogether, 50 par from 15 districts attended training programme. Attending the val function at SCERT, Jt Director of Second Education Moto Nyc away the certificate trainees and advised work with dedication successful conduct of in their respective d

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Poi Pee Mau Tai 2110 celebration concluded

