

## SPECIAL ARTICLE: 20<sup>TH</sup> FORMATION DAY OF NDMA

**THEME: EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION THROUGH AWARENESS FOR BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE**



**New Delhi, Oct 28<sup>th</sup>, 2024:** The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) marked its 20<sup>th</sup> Formation Day and organized a grand ceremony inaugurated by the Union Home Secretary, Sh. Govind Mohan as Chief Guest, at the Sushma Swaraj Bhawan in New Delhi, on 28<sup>th</sup> Oct, 2024.

The ceremony was focused on enhancing community resilience against disasters with its central theme 'Empowering Communities for Disaster Risk Reduction Through Awareness for Behavioral Change'. Additional Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, Sh. Sanjeev Kumar Jindal was also present at the occasion.

The Home Secretary also launched NDMA's flagship "**Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme (YAMS)**" focusing on engaging new young volunteer in disaster preparedness and response work, by engaging and training over 2 lakh young volunteers from the youth organizations such as National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Bharat Scouts & Guides (BS&G), and National Service Scheme (NSS) from across the country.

Giving the inaugural address, Chief Guest, **Sh. Govind Mohan, Union Home Secretary**, said that NDMA has been succeeded in instilling a confidence that there is a coordinated system in place of disaster management- working in an organized manner- to deal with any type of disaster in an effective and timely manner. He appreciated the role of NDMA in Disaster Risk Reduction in India and said that the service is the key for Disaster Management, Developed Bharat is the Disaster Resilient Bharat.



The chief guest also appreciated the theme of NDMA's 20th Formation Day "Empowering Communities for Disaster Risk Reduction through Awareness for Behavioral Change".

Behavioural Change” and said that the behavioural Change of the Community is the core of Disaster Risk Reduction He requested the Himalayan and NER states to draft their projects on Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in consultation with respective Stakeholders as per National Programme on GLOF.



Reiterating that the communities are most affected by disasters, the chief guest asked the state governments and district disaster management authorities to ensure public participation by adopting a consultative process with the communities, the Community-Centric approach of NDMA, the Night Mock drill at Ladakh, the role of NDRF, SDRF, Apada Mitra and Volunteers in mitigating the impact of disasters were also appreciated by the Union Home Secretary in his inaugural speech.

Union Home Secretary urged the Himalayan and NER states to put their projects on Glacier Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF) in consultation with respective Stakeholders as per the National Programme on GLOF.



Speaking at the ceremony, **Sh. Rajendra Singh, Member and HoD, NDMA**, said, “NDMA is in progress on its path to implement the 10-point agenda on DRR formulated by the Hon’ble Prime Minister during the ‘Asian Ministerial Conference on DRR’ in 2016 and the inclusive disaster management, in coordination with all the stakeholders.

He said that India is leaving no stone unturned to achieve the targets of the Sendai Framework, under the guidance of the Hon’ble Prime Minister and the Hon’ble Home Minister, adding that India will set an example before the world by achieving the goals of the Sendai Framework by 2030. He also emphasized that NDMA is committed to developing a safe and disaster-free India by incorporating community centric approach.



Referring to NDMA's flagship 'Aapda Mitra Scheme' initiated under the guidance of the Hon'ble Home Minister in 2021, Sh. Rajendra Singh says that NDMA has achieved its target of engaging one lakh Apada Mitra Volunteers in 350- districts.

On the newly launched 'Yuva Apada Mitra Scheme', he said that the scheme not only aims to increase the number of trained volunteers but also to ensure that the volunteers are ready to deal with disaster situations. He added that these young volunteers will instil new synergy in society with their renewed thoughts, vision and courage and establish themselves as the community volunteer force in all the States in the coming days.



NDMA's theme of Formation Day "*Empowering Communities for Disaster Risk Reduction Through Awareness for Behavioral Change*" aims to foster awareness and behavioral changes in communities located in disaster-prone areas. The initiative seeks to enhance disaster risk reduction efforts by engaging community members in proactive measures.

The event also featured three technical sessions addressing its central theme viz. *Voices from the Communities Coping with Shifts in Weather Patterns; Disaster Risk Reduction - Technology for Last Mile Communication; and Slow Onset Weather Events, Awareness on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction*, all providing insightful deliberations.



On the occasion, the Union Home Secretary launched seven Guidelines/SOP/ Handbook on disaster management prepared by NDMA viz. (i) Guidelines on Disaster Management Exercises (DMEx) (ii) Guidelines on International Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), (iii) Guidelines for

Establishment & Operation of Emergency Operation Center (EOC) (iv) SOP on Off-site Emergency Action Plan (v) Guidelines on CBDRR (vi) Aapda Prabandhan Shabdavali and (iv) Handbook on Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme.



Further, the Coffee Table Books on NDMA's flagship 'Aapda Mitra' scheme was launched by all three Members of NDMA namely Sh. Rajendra Singh, Lt. Gen. Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd.) and Dr. Krishna S. Vatsa, during the event.

The Home Secretary also awarded a certificate to Ms. Prapti Pratiksha Sahu from Odisha one of the winners of the Poster-making competition on 'Heatwave' organized by NDMA on the MyGov platform during May-June 2024 at the national level receiving over 19,000 entries.

Sh. K.M Singh, former Member of NDMA addressed the gathering as the chief guest of the valedictory session. He also launched the 'Coffee Table Book of NDMA' along with all three members of NDMA.

He also highlighted the achievements of NDMA in the last 2 decades in reducing the loss of lives from approximately 10k in the Odisha Cyclone in 1999 and more than 20k casualties in the Bhuj Earthquake in 2001 to zero loss of life in the recent Biporjoy Cyclone in 2024.



The event saw the participation of senior officials of central/ state ministries & departments, representatives from international/ UN agencies, disaster management experts, members of NGOs, and Volunteers from organizations viz. Apada Mitra, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), National Cadet Corps (NCC), National Service Scheme (NSS), and Bharat Scouts & Guides (BSG) etc.

**About the newly launched 'Yuva Apada Mitra' Scheme:**

The scheme envisages training 2,37,326 Young volunteers from the youth organizations such as the National Cadet Corps (NCC), Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS), Bharat Scouts & Guides (BS&G), and National Service Scheme (NSS) in 315 districts of 28 states as a first respondent to disaster preparedness & response and Training of 1,300 trainers (ToTs) for previously trained volunteers under the Up-scaling of Aapda Mitra Scheme (UAMS) with the estimated cost of Rs. 469.53 Crore.

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