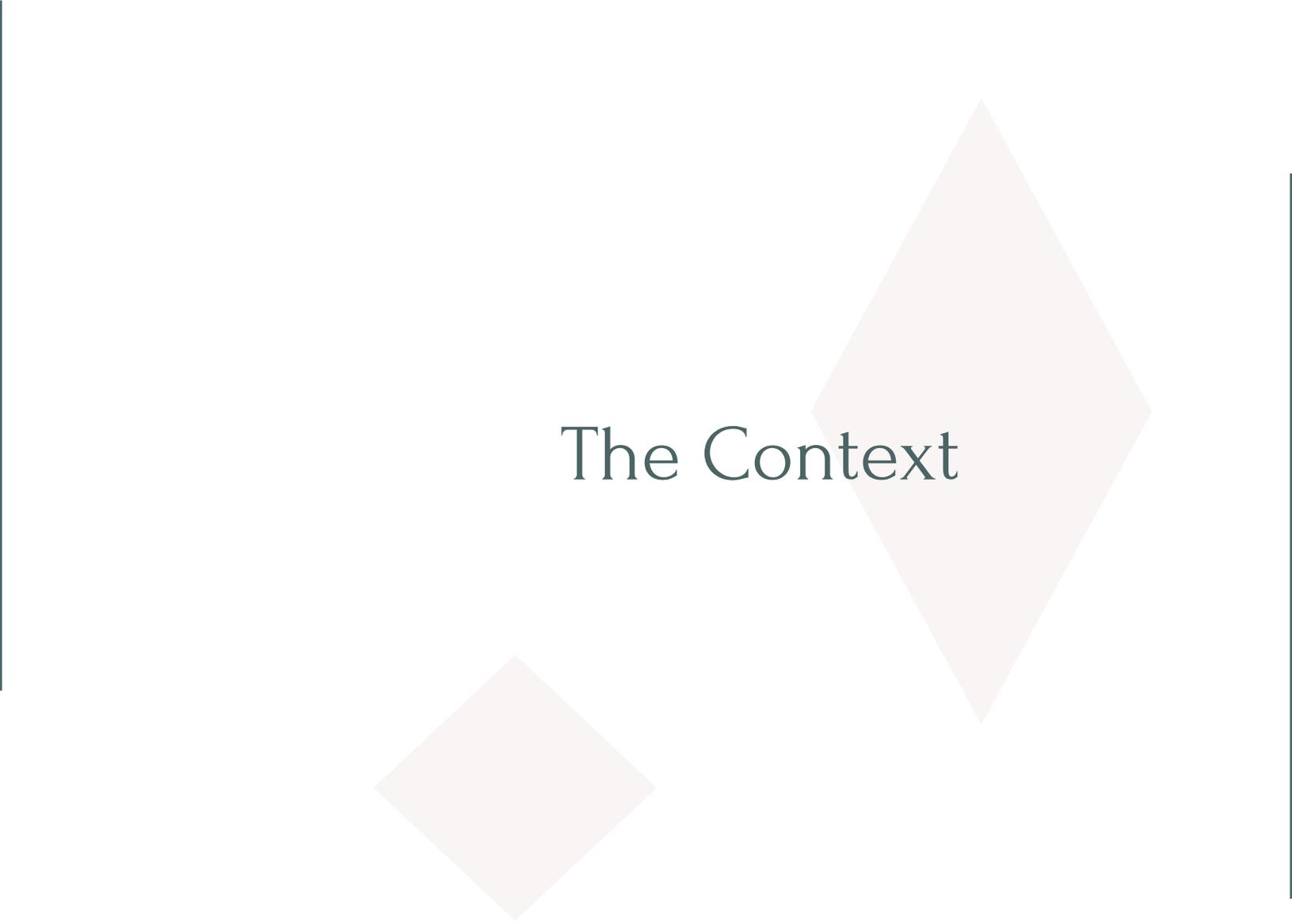# Regional Conclave of SDMAs in Chennai (8-9 March, 2022): Critical Issues

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The Context

The Application of DM Act, 2005

- DM Act, 2005 used to set up Empowered Groups, and introduce restrictions

- How do SDMAs and DDMAs view the DM Act, 2005? How do they intend to use various provisions of the Act to support DM functions?

15th FC Recommendations for Funding Windows

- Four Funding Windows at the National and State Levels: Response, Recovery, and Preparedness & Capacity-building within NDRF/SDRF and NDMF/SDMF

- New Tools: Rapid Assessment and PDNAs

- Earmarked Allocations for National Programmes

Climate Change and its Impact

- Extreme Rainfall

- Increased Incidence of Floods

- Landslides

- Urban floods

- Cyclonic Disturbances

The Issues

The State-level DM Set-up

- The duality between the Department of Disaster Management and SDMAs as a result of the DM Act, 2005
- How can these two arms at the State level be more integrated?

Improving Professional/ Technical Support to the SDMAs

- How can SDMAs support the function of Preparedness, Response, Recovery & Reconstruction, and Mitigation?

- How do we strengthen the SDMAs in terms of staff, capacities, and resources?

- How do we get more technically / professionally experienced people to serve SDMAs?

State-level Response

- How do we improve State-level response to a disaster?
- How do we set up SDRF Battalions in each state?
- How do we create a multi-tier response structure at the State level?

State Disaster Response / Mitigation Fund

- How do we operationalize the funding windows?
- How do they decide upon the priorities?
- How do they get the capacity to utilize these funds

Accountability

- How are Disaster Management Authorities more accountable for the funds that are spent?

- How can we develop and implement projects that are technically appropriate and cost-effective?

- How do we measure the impact of various interventions funded by Funding Windows?

DDMAs' Functioning

- How do we make DDMAs more than a district-level committees?
- How do DDMAs implement all the four functions: preparedness, response, recovery, and mitigation
- What kind of staff and technical support the DDMAs must have?

Decentralizing Funds to DDMAs

- How can DDMAs have access to funding?
- Can we activate DDRF and DDMF?
- How can DDMAs invest in preparedness and mitigation?

Integrating Disaster Management into Municipal Councils and PRIs

- Both Municipal Councils and PRIs supported Covid-19 management

- How can these institutions perform disaster management functions on a regular basis?

- How can they find staff resources to support disaster management?

Facilities and Resources

● At all levels, how do we set up certain facilities and resources for disaster management?

-- EOCs (A Network Architecture)

-- Logistics (Maintaining the Supply Lines)

-- GIS-based Applications

-- Ability to rapidly assess and deliver assistance

-- A Network of Experts and Volunteers

Nationally-Funded Programmes

- Mitigation Programmes for Earthquakes, Landslides, Drought and Urban Flooding

- Preparedness Programme for Fire Management

- Mitigation and Rehabilitation for Erosion-affected people

- How do we implement these programmes at the State and District Levels?

Capacity-building Programmes

- How do we develop a responsive capacity-building programme, which support all the functions– preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction, and mitigation?

- How do we seek broad-based support from various sources for capacity-building– NIDM, Regional Institutions, International Agencies, etc.?

Professionalizing Disaster Management

- There are at least 15 to 20 Universities offering Degrees and Diplomas in Disaster Management
- UGC has just sent a letter to Universities recommending the introduction of Disaster Management Courses
- How do we take advantage of an increasing number of qualified professionals to enrich our Disaster Management Authorities?
- Is it the time to consider a national cadre in disaster risk management?

Community-based DRM

- How do we sustain DRM at the community level?
- How do we transfer more resources– money, skills, and building technologies– to the people?
- How do develop a programme specifically for women?
- How do we get the concept of 'resilient communities' on the ground?

Sendai Framework

- How do we monitor the Sendai Framework?
- What kind of monitoring arrangements we must have?
- How do we identify a few indicators where we can have more success?
- How should it also have some linkage with the SDGs and Paris Agreement?

Key Takeaways

A Few Big Ideas   Resolutions   An Indicative Action Plan