



Shri Rajendra Singh, Member and HoD, NDMA

Shri Rajendra Singh, a former Director General of the Indian Coast Guard (Feb 2016 - Jun 2019), brought remarkable leadership and strategic direction during his 39-year career. He commanded all classes of Indian Coast Guard ships and played a pivotal role in combating piracy, drug trafficking, and maritime security. His tenure saw the largest drug seizure in Indian maritime history, the rescue of lives at sea, and enhanced international cooperation. As Chairman of key maritime safety and security boards, he oversaw vital search and rescue operations and oil spill responses. His contributions to disaster management, especially during cyclones and floods, are widely recognized. Shri Rajendra Singh was awarded the Tatrakshak Medal and President's Tatrakshak Medal for his outstanding service.

Dr Pradeep Khasnobis (DDG, DM Cell, MoHFW)

Dr. Pradeep Khasnobis serves as the Deputy Director General (DDG) of the Disaster Management (DM) Cell at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. In this role, he oversees the coordination of public health emergency preparedness and response efforts across the country.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Khasnobis led central multidisciplinary teams to support state-level responses. Notably, in August 2021, he coordinated the deployment of a central team to Manipur to assist with the surge in COVID-19 cases.

Dr. Khasnobis has also contributed to responses for other public health emergencies, including the 2018 Nipah virus outbreak in Kerala, where he was part of the national expert team guiding containment measures.



Dr Jaya Kumar, NIMHANS (MoHFW)

Dr. C. Jayakumar is an Additional Professor in the Department of Psychiatric Social Work at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neuro Sciences (NIMHANS) in Bangalore, India. He earned his Ph.D. from NIMHANS and has over 23 years of experience in psychosocial care and disaster mental health. Dr. Jayakumar has served as a senior consultant for psychosocial care at the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Government of India, and as Director of Operations for the American Red Cross in India.

At NIMHANS, Dr. Jayakumar has been actively involved in training programs aimed at stress management for various organizations, including the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) and the Tamil Nadu police force. These programs focus on addressing occupational stress and promoting mental well-being among personnel.

Additionally, Dr. Jayakumar has contributed to initiatives like the KAVAL project in Kerala, which provides psychosocial care for children in conflict with the law.



Dr Chetna Duggal (TISS)

Dr. Chetna Duggal is an Associate Professor at the School of Human Ecology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, where she also serves as the Chairperson of the Centre for Human Ecology and the Programme Coordinator for the MA Applied Psychology Program.

She completed her undergraduate studies in Psychology (Hons.) at Lady Shri Ram College for Women, New Delhi, and earned her Master's in Applied Psychology from Calcutta University. Dr. Duggal further pursued an M.Phil in Clinical Psychology at the National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS), Bangalore, and obtained her Ph.D. from TISS, Mumbai.

With over 15 years of experience as a psychotherapist, Dr. Duggal has worked extensively with children, adolescents, couples, and families. Her research interests encompass psychotherapy practice, training and supervision, and adolescent and youth mental health.

Dr. Duggal leads several initiatives at TISS, including Rahbar, a field action project focused on supervision and training in mental health practice, and the School Initiative for Mental Health Advocacy (SIMHA), which aims to promote the well-being of young people in educational systems. Additionally, she is a trustee of Apni Shala, an organization dedicated to making life skills education accessible to children from underprivileged backgrounds.



Sarbjit Singh Sahota (UNICEF)

Sarbjit Singh Sahota is an Emergency Specialist in the Disaster Risk Reduction Section at UNICEF India. With over two decades of experience, he specializes in community development, humanitarian program management, capacity building, disaster risk reduction planning, and urban planning and design.

An alumnus of the International Visitors Leadership Programme (IVLP), Sarbjit has been recognized for his contributions to humanitarian emergency response. He has also served on the executive committee of Sphere India, a coalition of humanitarian organizations.

In his role at UNICEF India, Sarbjit has been instrumental in integrating artificial intelligence into disaster preparedness and response strategies. He has shared insights on this topic through platforms like UNICEF Talks. Additionally, he has contributed to publications focusing on climate resilience in education systems.



Shri Safi Ahsan Rizvi

Safi Ahsan Rizvi is an accomplished professional with significant experience in disaster management and related fields. He has worked on various key initiatives aimed at enhancing disaster preparedness and risk reduction. With a strong background in governance and public policy, Shri Rizvi has played a pivotal role in implementing strategies and policies that focus on mitigating the impacts of natural disasters and improving response mechanisms. His contributions have been recognized in both national and international platforms, making him a respected figure in the field of disaster risk management.



Dr Rajinder K.Dhamija (Director, IHBAS)

Prof. Rajinder K. Dhamija is a distinguished Neurologist, Professor of Neurology and Director at the Institute of Human Behavior and Allied Sciences, New Delhi, India with a rich academic background, including MD and DNB (Neurology) from India and FRACP from Melbourne. He was also WHO fellow at National Institute of Epidemiology.

Prof Dhamija brings about 30 years of extensive experience and exceptional accomplishments in Neurology and Public Health. He has led pioneering research in Neurology especially in field of Stroke and Movement Disorders which is well recognised internationally.



Lt Gen Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd)

General Hasnain has had an illustrious 40-year career, serving in some of the most turbulent environments, including Sri Lanka, Siachen Glacier, the Northeast, and Jammu & Kashmir (J&K), where he completed seven tours. A decorated officer, he commanded the Indian Army's Srinagar-based 15 Corps and is a leading analyst on J&K, Pakistan, the Middle East, and transnational extremist violence. A regular columnist and speaker, he has contributed to major Indian newspapers and spoken at prestigious institutions worldwide. With a strong academic background, he is a Distinguished Fellow at multiple think-tanks and serves on key governing councils, including the Indian Council of World Affairs. In 2018, he was appointed Chancellor of the Central University of Kashmir by the President of India.



Shri Saurabh Jain (Joint Secretary, MoHFW)

Shri Saurabh Jain, IAS (Kerala cadre, 2002 batch), is currently serving as the Joint Secretary (Policy) in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. He assumed this position in March 2024, succeeding Shri Vishal Chauhan, IAS.

In his capacity as Joint Secretary, Shri Jain oversees several critical policy areas, including the National Programme for Health Care of the Elderly (NPHCE), the National Programme for Control of Blindness (NPCB), and the implementation of the Transplantation of Human Organs Act, 1994. He also manages initiatives related to trauma and burns care, the Indian Red Cross Society, and legal and NGO affairs within the ministry.



Vijay Nehra (Joint Secretary, MoHFW)

Vijay Nehra is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 2001 batch from the Gujarat cadre. In February 2025, he was appointed as Joint Secretary in the Department of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India, for a tenure extending up to October 31, 2028, succeeding P. Ashok Babu. Prior to this role, Nehra served as the Municipal Commissioner of Ahmedabad, where he was noted for his efforts in urban development and public health initiatives. His career includes significant contributions to governance and administration in Gujarat.



Mr. Anand Galapatti (UNICEF)

Ananda Galappatti is a medical anthropologist and practitioner specializing in mental health and psychosocial support (MHPSS) in contexts of conflict, disaster, and adversity. Over nearly three decades, his work has focused on improving access to knowledge and skills, building collaborative platforms, and enhancing coherence within the MHPSS field, both in Sri Lanka and globally.



Dr Rohit Verma (IHBAS)

An alumni of GMC, Kota, Rajasthan (MBBS) and AIIMS, New Delhi (MD Psychiatry), Dr. Rohit Verma further pursued his professional training at GB Pant Hospital, New Delhi and PGIMER RML Hospital, New Delhi as Senior Resident and Lady Hardinge Medical College, New Delhi as Assistant Professor before rejoining AIIMS, New Delhi in the capacity of Assistant Professor from 2014. Apart from patient care, teaching and administrative responsibilities, he has been involved in research on various platforms. He has been commended for his work on disability in severe mental illness (Dr. BB Sethi Award) and disaster related mental health (Dr. GC Boral Award) by national societies. With interest towards the interface of Neurology and Psychiatry, he conducted research and was acclaimed for it by national and international research societies



Vikas Dhikav (MoHFW)

Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery, Postgraduate Institute Medical Sciences, Rohtak, Haryana, India, 1998. Doctor of Medicine, All India Institute Medical Sciences, New Delhi, 2001. Master of Business Administration, Mehrishi Dayanand University, Rohtak, 2008. Vikas Dhikav is an academic researcher from

Post Graduate Institute of Medical Education and Research. The author has contributed to research in topics: Medicine & Dementia. The author has an hindex of 12, co-authored 48 publications. Previous affiliations of Vikas Dhikav include Desert Medicine Research Centre & All India Institute of Medical Sciences.



Dr Bhavuk Garg (Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Lady Hardinge Medical College)

Dr. Bhavuk Garg is an Associate Professor of Psychiatry at Lady Hardinge Medical College (LHMC), New Delhi. He specializes in child and adolescent psychiatry, addiction psychiatry, and public mental health. Dr. Garg has contributed to research on topics such as etizolam dependence, the relationship between insulin resistance and depression, and the development of stepped care models for perinatal mental health.

His professional experience includes roles as a Consultant Psychiatrist at Fortis Healthcare and as a Senior Resident at the Institute of Human Behaviour and Allied Sciences (IHBAS) in Delhi. Dr. Garg earned his MBBS from Maulana Azad Medical College and completed his MD in Psychiatry at IHBAS.

Dr. Yutaro Satoya (WHO Representative)

Dr. Yutaro Setoya is a public health expert currently serving as the Team Lead for Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs) and Comorbidities at the World Health Organization (WHO) Country Office in India. In this role, he oversees national strategies addressing chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and cancer, collaborating with Indian health authorities to strengthen prevention and control programs.

Prior to his current position, Dr. Setoya served as the WHO Country Liaison Officer to Tonga for six years, where he played a pivotal role in enhancing the nation's healthcare system and facilitating communication between UN agencies, humanitarian partners, and the government during emergencies.



Dr Chetna Duggal (TISS)

Dr. Chetna Duggal is an Associate Professor at the School of Human Ecology, Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), Mumbai, where she also serves as the Chairperson of the Centre for Human Ecology and the Programme Coordinator for the MA Applied Psychology Program.

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Dr. Duggal leads several initiatives at TISS, including Rahbar, a field action project focused on supervision and training in mental health practice, and the School Initiative for Mental Health Advocacy (SIMHA), which aims to promote the well-being of young people in educational systems. Additionally, she is a trustee of Apni Shala, an organization dedicated to making life skills education accessible to children from underprivileged backgrounds.



Dr. Sonam Lasopa (Sikkim SDMA)

Dr. Sonam Ongmu Lasopa serves as a Senior Clinical Psychologist at STNM Multispeciality Hospital in Gangtok, Sikkim. She is actively involved in various mental health initiatives within the state. Notably, she is the nodal officer for Sikkim INSPIRES, a program aimed at enhancing mental health services. Dr. Lasopa has also contributed to the introduction of Tele-MANAS, a mental health support service under the Health Department, emphasizing the importance of mental well-being.

In addition to her clinical roles, Dr. Lasopa has been a resource person for sessions on counseling and related skills, such as those conducted at the Sikkim Judicial Academy. Her dedication to mental health research is further demonstrated by her involvement in studies addressing suicide prevalence in Sikkim.



Dr Krishna S. Vatsa

Krishna S. Vatsa has over 25 years of experience in disaster risk reduction and recovery. Before his current role as Member of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), he served as Policy Advisor for Disaster Recovery at UNDP, working in New York and Nairobi. He also held roles as the Regional Disaster Reduction Advisor for South and South-West Asia and as Early Recovery Coordinator in the Philippines. A career civil servant, Shri. Vatsa led Maharashtra's Earthquake Rehabilitation Programme and served as Secretary for Relief, Rehabilitation, and Rural Development. He holds a Doctor of Science in Disaster Risk Management from George Washington University and has published extensively on the subject.



Dr Ranjan Das (Director, NCDC)

Dr. Ranjan Das is the Director of the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), an apex public health institution under the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Government of India. He also serves as the Programme Director of the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP), which plays a crucial role in monitoring and responding to communicable disease outbreaks across the country. National Centre for Disease Control.

In his leadership role, Dr. Das has emphasized the importance of strengthening surveillance at the human-animal-environment interface to enhance India's preparedness for future outbreaks. He has supported initiatives like the National One Health Mission, which aims to detect, prevent, and respond to zoonotic threats.



Dr Zoya Ali Rizvi (Dy. Comm, MoHFW)

Dr. Zoya Ali Rizvi serves as the Deputy Commissioner for Nutrition and Adolescent Health at the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India. In this capacity, she oversees initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of adolescents across the nation.

With over two decades of experience in the government health sector at district, state, and national levels, Dr. Rizvi has been instrumental in formulating and implementing policies related to adolescent health. Her work emphasizes areas such as nutrition, mental health, and addressing domestic abuse among adolescents.



Ms Ankita Mishra Bundela (JS, MoHFW)

Ms. Ankita Mishra Bundela is an Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer of the 2001 batch from the Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory (AGMUT) cadre. She currently serves as Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), Government of India, overseeing the Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY).

Prior to her current role, Ms. Bundela held several significant positions, including Secretary to the Lieutenant Governor of Delhi and Secretary-cum-Commissioner in the Department of Social Welfare and Transport for the Andaman & Nicobar Islands administration.



Manish Mohandas (UNDP)

Manish Mohandas is a Programme Officer specializing in Resilience at the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) India. He leads initiatives focused on disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and enhancing community resilience. His work encompasses designing and implementing programs that build institutional and community capacities to manage and mitigate the impacts of disasters and climate-related risks.

In his role, Mr. Mohandas has contributed to various projects, including the development of a framework for risk-based assessment of urban floods in coastal cities. This work aims to inform strategies for urban flood management and resilience building in vulnerable regions.



Dr Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose (Member Secretary, Kerala

SDMA)

Dr. Sekhar Lukose Kuriakose is a distinguished geoscientist and disaster management expert, currently serving as the Member Secretary (ex-officio) of the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) and Head (Scientist) of the State Emergency Operations Centre (SEOC) in Kerala, India.

In his role, Dr. Kuriakose has been instrumental in advancing Kerala's disaster preparedness and response mechanisms. He has led initiatives to develop early warning systems, establish emergency operations centers, and implement comprehensive disaster risk reduction strategies.



Mr M T Sherpa (Member Secretary, Sikkim SDMA)

Mr. Mingma Tempa Sherpa, IAS, currently serves as the Secretary-cum-Relief Commissioner of the Land Revenue & Disaster Management Department (LR&DMD) in Sikkim. In this capacity, he plays a pivotal role in overseeing disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation efforts across the state, coordinating closely with the Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA).

Mr. Sherpa's administrative career commenced in 1991 when he joined the Sikkim State Civil Service. Over the years, he has held various significant positions, including Sub-Divisional Magistrate, Additional District Magistrate, and Secretary roles in departments such as Education, Horticulture, and Urban Development. His extensive experience across these sectors underscores his commitment to the state's development and governance. In recognition of his service, he was inducted into the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) in January 2022, with an allotment year of 2011.



Tmt. Sigy Thomas (Commissioner, Tamil Nadu SDMA)

Tmt. Sigy Thomas Vaidhyan is a 2002-batch Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer from the Tamil Nadu cadre. As of February 2025, she serves as the Commissioner of Disaster Management in Tamil Nadu, a position she assumed after her tenure as Secretary to the Government in the Welfare of Differently Abled Persons Department.

Throughout her career, Ms. Vaidhyan has held several significant positions, including Commissioner of School Education and Commissioner of Art and Culture in Tamil Nadu. Her diverse administrative experience underscores her commitment to public service and effective governance.

In her current role, she is responsible for overseeing disaster preparedness, response, and mitigation strategies across the state, working closely with the Tamil Nadu State Disaster Management Authority (TNSDMA).



Dr Sahil Hebbar (SEWA)

Dr. Sahil Hebbar is a physician with over 15 years of experience in healthcare consulting and hospital management. He currently serves as the Senior Coordinator for the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) and Co-Director of the Sahyog Centre for Promoting Health.

Dr. Hebbar's work focuses on improving healthcare systems, particularly for marginalized communities. He has collaborated with healthcare providers and payers across the United States, India, Singapore, and Kuwait, bringing in-depth knowledge of healthcare strategy, business operations, quality improvement, cost reduction, and health IT implementation.



Ms. Mandakini Balodhi (Director, Department of Financial Services)

Ms. Mandakini Balodhi has been serving as Director (Insurance) in the Ministry of Finance, Department of Financial Services, since December 2021. She holds a Post Graduate degree in English and is a Fellow Member of the Insurance Institute of India, Mumbai. With 25 years of experience at Oriental Insurance Company Limited, she handled various aspects of general insurance, designing customized solutions across sectors. She also served on the board of New India Assurance Company Ltd. and is currently the Government Nominee Director on the board of National Insurance Company Limited.



Nikhil Pant (Chairman, Reacha)

Nikhil Pant is the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of REACHA (Research and Extension Association for Conservation, Horticulture and Agro-forestry), a non-profit organization dedicated to community development, skill-building, and Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) implementation in India. LinkedIn

He is widely recognized as a principal thought leader in the field of CSR in India. Mr. Pant played a significant role in the rollout of CSR policies from the government side in 2013-14 and has remained deeply engaged over the past decade with governments, corporates, and civil society. LinkedIn

In addition to his role at REACHA, Mr. Pant is the founder of the Lakshyaa Impact Foundation, established in 2018, which contributes to policy inputs and support to the Ministry of Corporate Affairs on the enactment and rollout of Section 135 of the Companies Act 2013.