

पत्र सूचना कार्यालय
भारत सरकार
गृह मंत्रालय

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah attended the Annual Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Response - 2022 organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the Chief Guest at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi today

In 2016, the Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, launched the NDMP scheme of NDMA, it is the first national disaster plan prepared in the country and matches all the parameters of Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework-2015 to 2030

For the first time, horizontal and vertical integration of all the agencies, departments of the government was planned and the result is in front of us

In 2016 11 disasters were included in this plan and in 2019, 17 disasters were included

It shows that we are continuously working on different types of disasters and we have brought down the number of deaths due to disasters, this is our great achievement

Many initiatives have been taken by the Central Government under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi and State Governments have also responded very well

NDMA headed by the Prime Minister, SDMA headed by all the Chief Ministers and with a holistic integrated approach,

**disaster management has been implemented confidently by
the Central and State Governments**

**The work of disaster response cannot be done through
resources or research papers alone, it is very important to
build capacity of those who bring them to the ground level**

**Many agencies have to work together with clarity on each
other's role, if there is a gap in one's role, then the work of
disaster response cannot be done properly upto the ground
level without having the ability to fill these gaps**

**Rarely has any organization created confidence and earned
faith from its work among the people of such a vast country
with a population of 130 crore in such a short time period
since its inception**

**If a disaster takes place anywhere in the country, in any area
and people come to know that NDRF has come along with
SDRF, then half of their worries disappear**

**During many incidents, NDRF has responded on the spot and
saved lives and property which has built people's faith**

**NDRF has also earned a place among the organizations
working in the disaster response and disaster response sector
around the world and it is a matter of great pride for the
country**

**Even by visiting neighboring countries many times, from the
point of view of humanity NDRF has helped them and
conveyed the message of India to the world**

**In India, in a short time span between 2000 to 2022 we have
reached a successful place. This will be considered as the
golden period for the field of disaster management after a
long time in India**

Today we have come a long way in less than 20 years due to the Herculean Efforts of NDRF

Before the nineties we had a relief-centred approach, there was no scope for saving lives and property and it was not part of the plan.

Now we have done a lot of work on the scientific programme of saving lives and property based on early warning, proactive prevention, mitigation and pre hand preparation

Thousands of people died in the 1999 Odisha super cyclone and 2001 Gujarat earthquake, but today we are standing at such a place that no matter how many cyclones come, we have brought the death down to less than one percent.

So far 32 guidelines have been made, out of which eight have been made in the last two and a half years.

Cold wave, earthquake protection, house owners guideline for roof cooling, Glacier Lake outburst flood, heatwave guideline, landslide risk, disability inclusive disaster risk reduction, temporary homes for disaster affected families, these 8 guidelines in 2 years have done the work of sending it to the states of the country

The Prime Minister of the country, Shri Narendra Modi, has also started the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar to accelerate, honor and acknowledge this work.

For the first time after independence, disaster management has got such approval at the national level and the first award has been given to the 8th Battalion of NDRF as an institution on 23 January this year.

Many apps have also been created, weather app is available for all things like cyclone, heavy rain, heat and cold wave, Meghdoot app is made for farmers for weather based agriculture management, Damini App is made for lightening alert

There must be a mechanism to bring these apps to the bottom because the alerts that come are very accurate and come ahead of time

The Common Alert Protocol has also been of great benefit and in North East with the help of NESAC flood management, road alignment, infrastructure construction based on the flow and course of water and the construction of infrastructure should block the water course , with all these initiatives very good flood mapping of areas has been done

To take this concept and all these alerts to the bottom, NCC, NSS, Home Guard, all these organizations will have to be connected with it, women self-help groups, who are aware, they will also have to be associated with it, especially the village panchayat.

If there is a disaster in any small part of the country, then our trained person should be available there, he himself should do the work of NDRF and till the time SDRF and NDRF arrive, he should handle the situation.

Date 07 April, 2022

Union Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Cooperation, Shri Amit Shah attended the Annual Conference on Capacity Building for Disaster Response - 2022 organized by National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) as the Chief Guest at Vigyan Bhawan, Delhi today. The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Shri Nityanand Rai, Union Home Secretary and Director General of NDRF, Shri Atul Karwal were present on the occasion including several dignitaries.



In his address, the Union Home Minister said that with a holistic integrated approach, NDMA headed by Prime Minister Shri

Narendra Modi, SDMAAs headed by all Chief Ministers, disaster management has been taken to the ground with confidence by the Central and State Governments. Before the nineties, we had a relief-centric approach, there was no scope for saving lives and property and it was not part of the planning. Now we have done a lot of work on the scientific program of saving lives and property based on early warning, proactive prevention, mitigation and pre-preparation. Today, in the field of disaster response in the world, we are standing on an equal footing and even ahead in many areas.



Shri Amit Shah said that in the year 2016, the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, started the NDMP scheme of NDMA. It is the first national disaster plan prepared in the country and matches all the parameters of Sendai Disaster Risk Reduction Framework-2015 to 2030. For the first time, a plan was made for horizontal and vertical integration of all the agencies and departments of the government and the result is in front of us. In this scheme, the government has been linked up to the level of panchayat, urban local bodies and different government departments, making the collector the nodal agency. In 2016, 11 disasters were included in this plan and in 2019, 17 disasters have been included in it. This tells that we are continuously working on all kinds of disasters and we have brought down the number of casualties due to disasters a lot and this is our great achievement.

The Union Home Minister said that if someone thinks that disaster response work cannot be done by resources or research paper alone. Building the capacity of those who take it to the bottom is very important as many agencies have to work together. Without clarity on each other's role and if there is a gap in someone's role, then the work of disaster response cannot be done properly till the bottom without gaining the ability to fill it. It is through this type of exercise that a mutual coordination is created with the states, districts and down to the villages and in the end this mutual coordination becomes the reason for saving lives and property from disaster.



Shri Amit Shah said that today due to technology and science, we get early information, but disaster response cannot be successful until the professional mastery is not attained in taking the accurate information to the bottom, alerting the disaster prone place from the point of view of disaster, taking action to save lives and then to minimize the damages to property. He said that the protocol for coordination between 5-6 agencies related to all these works and its practical experience is also very important.

Appreciating the work of NDRF, the Union Home Minister said that hardly any organization has instilled faith in the people of this vast country of 130 crore people for its work in such a short time since its inception. Any type of disaster strikes anywhere in the country, in any region and when people come to know that NDRF has come together with SDRF, half of their worries are gone. This faith cannot be created by government circulars, but by acts. During many incidents, NDRF has responded on the spot and saved life and property, due to which faith has been built on it. NDRF has also secured its place among the organizations working in the field of disaster response across the world and it is a matter of great pride for the country. Even by visiting neighboring countries many times, NDRF has helped them from the point of view of humanity and conveyed the message of India to the world.

Shri Amit Shah said that the time period from 2000 to 2022 will be considered as the golden period for disaster management in India. After a very long journey in India in such a short span of twenty years, we have reached a glorious place. Disaster management is not a new thing in our country, we all have heard about Bhagirath that he brought Ganga down to earth. But today, if we see the Ganges going from the hills of Uttarakhand to the Bay of Bengal, then it is known that someone has made this path by thinking scientifically and has done a great job of flood management as well as water management. That is why even after thousands of years, when a person tries very well, scientifically and with hard work, then we call it “Bhagirath Prayas”. Before the nineties, we did not have any scientific system here. At the time of disaster, the idea of its maintenance and giving money came first and there was no concept of protection of life and property from disaster. But today we have come a long way in less than 20 years due to the “Bhagirath Prayas” of NDRF. Everyone has seen the 1999 Odisha super cyclone, in which more than ten thousand people died, in 2001 Gujarat earthquake thousands of people died, but today we are

standing at such a place that no matter how many cyclones come, we have brought down the casualties to less than one percent.



The Union Home Minister said that many initiatives have been taken by the Central Government and the State Governments have also responded very well to it. So far, SDRFs have been constituted in 26 states and union territories. NDRF gets involved with SDRFs training at the time of their formation, that is why it has been successful in bringing about uniformity in the field of management at NDRF, SDRF and Panchayat level in such a large country. We have achieved this success while respecting the federal structure. So far, more than 21,000 SDRF personnel have been trained. He said that so far 32 guidelines have been made, out of which eight have been made in the last two and a half years. Cold wave, earthquake protection, house owners guideline for roof cooling, Glacial Lake outburst flood, heatwave guideline, landslide risk, disability inclusive disaster risk reduction, temporary homes for disaster affected families, the work of implementation of these 8 guidelines across the states is also accomplished. To accelerate, honor and acknowledge this work, the Prime Minister of the country has also started the Subhash Chandra Bose Aapda Prabandhan Puraskar. For the first time after independence, disaster management has got such approval at the national level and the first award has been given to the 8th Battalion of NDRF as an institution on 23 January this year. He said that this award is a small thing to see but the competition

and aspiration to get the award leads to excellence and it also gives pride.

Shri Amit Shah said that the states have also done a very good job in ensuring the active availability of force as per advance information which is received under pre-deployment policy. Wherever the information or alerts went, the states have worked to implement the pre-deployment principle and 12 battalions of NDRF always stand shoulder to shoulder with the states and SDRF. To take it further down, work has been done to implement Aapda Mitra Scheme in 350 districts, which aims to generate more than one lakh youth volunteers. No village should be left where a contingent of youth is not trained by it, no city ward should be left where a contingent of youth is not trained in all disciplines of disaster prevention. They have to do limited work but stopping the rumours, getting people out of the risk zone on time, giving some primary information and when vacuum comes, work in place of SDRF, all these things have been made part of their training. A lot of apps have also been created, the weather app is available for all things like cyclone, heavy rain, heat and cold wave. Meghdoot is designed for weather based agriculture management by farmers, Damini is designed for lightening alert. There must be a mechanism to push these apps to the bottom as the alerts that come are very accurate and come ahead of time. If the alert reaches the collector but does not reach the village from the collector, then this alert can be of little use. We are doing very well in big disasters, but in disasters like lightning, the time is short, so our system will have to be fine-tuned and should be on real time basis so that our alert will reach the area where lightning is going to happen. NDRF should also work to set up a mechanism for this. Still a lot more work needs to be done to bring all these apps to the bottom.

The Union Home Minister said that the Common Alert Protocol has also been of great benefit and in North East with the help of NESAC flood management, road alignment, infrastructure construction based on the flow and course of water and the construction of infrastructure should block the water course , with all these initiatives very good flood mapping of areas has been done. Flood mapping is now a part of all road construction programmes. He said that NCC, NSS, Home Guard, all these organizations will have to be associated with this concept and all these alerts have to reach the bottom. Some women self-help groups, who are aware, will also have to be associated with it, especially the village panchayat. For this, all the literature will have to be made in local languages, training modules will also have to be made in the local language and trainers prepared from local languages will have to train them and prepare them and train them there in their own state itself, we will also have to create a system for this. We will not have the availability of volunteers until NCC, NSS, Home Guards connect all these and the success of this whole scheme is that our trained person is available there at the time of disaster in any small part of the country and he himself should do the work of NDRF and till the time SDRF and NDRF arrive to handle the situation.

NW/RK/AD/RR