

DISASTER MANAGEMENT – RISK REDUCTION & PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

NCGG GOOD GOVERNANCE 2021 - Webinar

dated January 8, 2020

Introductory Comments of DG NCGG V.Srinivas, IAS

I extend a warm and hearty welcome to Shri Thiruppugazh, Additional Secretary NDMA and Shri S.N.Pradhan, Director General NDRF for the NCGG's First Good Governance Webinar of 2021, titled Disaster Management – Risk Reduction & Preparedness and Response.

I have served in Rajasthan cadre where Droughts were frequent and the Famine Code was frequently invoked. Implementation of the Desert Development Program and Drought Prone Area Development Program were part of the famine relief operations in the State. The Disaster Management Act 2005 represented the seminal National Legislation for Disaster Management in India providing for comprehensive legal and institutional framework for crisis management at all levels in the country. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was constituted by an Executive Order in 2005.

The National Disaster Response Task Force (NDRF), a highly trained quick response agency was established to respond to the needs of search and rescue and to provide on the spot life saving assistance to

the victims. Since establishment, the Nation has witnessed the NDRF conduct rescue operations in a number of disasters – Chennai floods, Srinagar Floods, Wayanad land slides, cyclone Amphan are some that come to my mind.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought forth the importance of the Disaster Management Act 2005 as Disaster Management Committees at the National, State and District Level were operationalized. The Disaster Management Act envisages a unified structure of disaster management in the country, where the guidelines laid down at the National Level to be enforced and implemented by the State authorities. A professionalization of the Disaster Management practices has been witnessed in implementing the pandemic response.

The National Centre of Good Governance has convened a number of ITEC-NCGG workshops on Good Governance Practices in a Pandemic for international delegates from 46 countries as also a workshop for District Collectors of 114 Aspirational Districts. In these workshops a number of success stories in Districts, where District Collectors have put service above self in fighting the pandemic were presented.

Early Warning Systems and Preparation of Disaster Management Plans have become part of India's disaster management operations. The Nation has developed specialized agencies for coordinating relief including effective communication & public outreach in a disaster. The ultimate objective of any disaster management is stabilization of the situation followed by recovery.

Today's webinar covers the aspects of Risk Reduction, Emergency Response System, Recovery and Management of Specific Crisis situations. We have 2 practitioners who are experts in their subject and have effected the paradigm shift in disaster management to cover both short term and long term perspectives as also being responsible for enforcement. I look forward to listening to them on a subject of considerable contemporary relevance as the Nation battles the COVID-19 epidemic challenge.

.....

.....