

Disaster mitigation should be everyone's business, Minister stresses

Land Revenue Minister underlines need to follow, not sidestep safety norms, calls on elected reps and babus to lead by example

SUMMIT REPORT

GANGTOK, 18 SEPT:

Minister KN Lepcha, took a dig at elected members and bureaucrats when it comes to sidestepping safety regulations when he commented today that they have bypassed the very building bye-laws and the parameters prescribed by them while constructing their own high rise buildings in the State.

He remarked that if the people, those wielding power or otherwise, had not diluted the safety rules and laws, the challenges posed to disaster risk reduction in the Hills would not have been as grave.

The Minister who is in charge of Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department was addressing the inaugural session of a two-

day regional workshop on Challenges on Disaster Risk Reduction of Hill Areas here at Chintan Bhawan today.

Since Sikkim has legislated several laws towards ensuring safety and disaster mitigation, the Minister called upon the administration in particular and people at large and also elected members to follow the rules properly so that implementation can also be done properly.

Highlighting the objective of the regional workshop, Mr Lepcha said that the workshop's aim was to come up with a set of actionable recommendations keeping science, policy and institutional capacities in mind to reduce the impact of climate change related disasters.

He stressed the need to bring together various stakeholders to build awareness on the impact of climate change and natural disasters and work towards disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. He also urged the members and line department officials present to be part

of the solution to these growing challenges.

He said that if all the people followed the prescribed rules and procedures, Sikkim will become one of the best model states in terms of disaster risk reduction in Hills areas.

He also called upon all the stakeholders, including scientific, government, civil society and communities to strengthen the capacities of the State authorities on climate change related disaster risk resilience.

The workshop, organized by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority is being attended by several experts on natural disasters and climate change.

Deputy Chairperson, SSDMA, VK Sharma, in his address, said that during the last 6-7 years, Sikkim has progressed exceptionally in disaster mitigation interventions and was leading in terms of many aspects.

SSDMA also honoured rescue personnel on the occasion.

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11th ITBP felicitated for disaster relief efforts



SE Report

GANGTOK, September 19: The 11th battalion Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) of Pegong, near Chungthang in North Sikkim was felicitated by Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) for rescue and relief efforts by the regional response team of the unit for

providing effective administrative and logistic support to 427 stranded tourists during rescue operations in June, earlier this year.

The effort made by the ITBP troops was recognised by the SSDMA with a certificate of commendation on Wednesday to 11th battalion commandant Rahul

Yadav for the effective and timely response. The felicitation was presented during the two-day workshop on challenges of disaster risk reduction of hill towns held in Gangtok in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority on September 18 and 19, a press release informs.