

# Consultation workshop on resilient health infrastructure in Sikkim

**GANGTOK, March 1 (IPR):** In coordination with Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority, World Health Organization (WHO) and Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure (CDRI) organised a stakeholder consultation workshop on resilient health infrastructure in Sikkim at a local hotel in Gangtok today.

The meeting was attended by Land Revenue and Disaster Management minister K.N. Lepcha, relief commissioner and SSDMA secretary Anil Raj Rai, Health principal director Dr. Pema Seden, SSDMA special secretary Prabhakar Rai, NHM mission director Dr. Raj Prabha, WHO national officer (Emergency, Preparedness, and Risk Management) Dr. Saurabh Dala and lead, specialist knowledge management, CDRI, Dr. Ratnesh Kumar.

The meeting started with a brief video presentation to explain how the CDRI operates as an inclusive multi-stakeholder platform directed and administered by national governments, where information is generated and exchanged on many areas of infrastructure resilience.

Earlier, the mission director of National Health Mission made the introductory remarks. The other delegates then joined her as they expressed their gratitude to the CDRI, WHO, and other participants who had come to understand more about the value of resilient health infrastructure for Sikkim.

Minister K.N. Lepcha, in his speech, mentioned that a disaster can amplify severe climatic and ecosystem calamities that might eliminate a region's natural beauty and plant life. According to the minister, proactive measures must be implemented to monitor situations before any catastrophe affects the environment and people's lives.



In addition, he detailed the monetary losses and property damage brought on by natural calamities in the past. He also urged everyone to support the rapid construction of resilient infrastructure to achieve Sustainable Development Goals.

The minister applauded initiatives undertaken by CDRI to help many countries update their systems to ensure calamity and climate change resilience, including both new and existing infrastructure.

The minister also appreciated everyone who attended the workshop, including the dignitaries, representatives, and officials from the state government, institutions, agencies, and organisations, for their active participation and effort to understand disaster prevention and mitigation issues.

In a brief presentation on the Disaster Management Act of 2005, Shri Keshav Koirala, Senior Consultant, SSDMA, described the institutional frameworks at the national and state levels for disaster management.

He also mentioned that decreasing the risks and vulnerabilities from glacial lake outburst flooding (GLOF), which has resulted in the loss of lives, property, and livelihoods among the mountain inhabitants, should be considered by adopting

effective measures to address the issue. He highlighted some current and prospective State government programmes designed to address essential strategies for disaster preparedness and mitigation plan.

Dr. Saurabh Dala, in his presentation, briefly discussed the capacity development and infrastructure programmes and spoke about power, transport, telecommunications, and health infrastructure resilience programmes.

Similarly, Dr. Tshering Palden, Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare, GOS, had presented briefly on the state's medical infrastructure and amenities earlier during the programme.

During the session, the house was also kept open for an interactive session to discuss how important the health infrastructure is to people's life. The attendees also shared their thoughts and opinions regarding the workshop.

The session was also attended by the senior members of the SSDMA, officials from Health Department and other line departments, representatives from WHO, GIZ, CDRI, IIT Guwahati, IIM Shillong, National Health Mission, BSNL, Central Referral

Hospital Tadong, SMIT Rangpo, members from Miyamoto and other relevant organisations.

The session concluded with the words of thanks proposed by Dr. Tshering Palden, Additional Secretary, Department of Health and Family Welfare.

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