

**Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Directorate of IP&T
Information & Publicity Division**

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Press Release

DMHE launched in Isles

**Involvement of higher education institutions in
Disaster Management is vital: CS**

Port Blair, July 25: The Directorate of Disaster Management organized a programme for the launch of Disaster Management in Higher Education (DMHE) in the conference hall of Secretariat here this evening. The Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar as the chief guest launched the programme by releasing brochure and guidelines for preparation of Disaster Management Plan in Higher Education. The Secretary (Education) Ms. Tanvi Garg, Director, Disaster Management, Shri Govind Ram, Principals of Colleges and Higher Education of A&N Islands, Representatives from NDRF and Health Department were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Secretary said, Disaster Management is a continuous process and we should not be complaisant towards disaster preparedness. The memories of December 24th Tsunami has to be kept alive in order to be prepared for any eventualities, as the A&N Islands are situated in a highly vulnerable zone, he said. He further stated that the Department of Disaster Management has developed over the years and are now equipped with better technology and human resources, having better connectivity with the community as well as the defence forces for mitigating any disaster.

The Chief Secretary also stressed on the need for remote area connectivity by further strengthening the community based disaster management. He urged the Disaster Management Department to involve every higher education institution of the Islands in Disaster Management, especially Medical College students, besides NSS & NCC cadets, members of the Red Cross and Health Department for utilizing their services during relief and operations.

The Chief Secretary also directed all the Heads of Higher Education Institutes to devise methods and plans for mitigating disaster and urged them to visit the office of the Disaster Management to have better knowledge of the functioning of the Department.

Speaking about preparedness for post trauma stress, the Chief Secretary said, post trauma management during any disaster is very important and we must be prepared for it. He also urged the Disaster Management Department to regularly update the people about disaster preparedness programmes.

Speaking on the occasion, the Secretary (Edn), Ms. Tanvi said, Disaster Management in Higher Education is very important and most of the colleges are already conducting disaster mock drills to make the students aware of disaster preparedness. She said, the Education Department will extend all support to the Disaster Management Department in its endeavour towards disaster preparedness and management.

Earlier, welcoming the gathering, the Director, Disaster Management, Shri Govind Ram, through a power point presentation, highlighted about the importance of disaster preparedness and the need to involve the higher education institutions. He said, the A&N Islands are geographically located in Zone 5 and the vulnerability is high, hence a fool proof disaster management is necessary by including higher education for utilizing their resources during disaster.

The representatives from various colleges and higher education institutions also shared their views on disaster management and preparedness.

