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MESSAGE

The Indian sub-continent, like many other regions in the world, is vulnerable to a number of natural hazards. Earth quakes, wind storms, cyclones, landslides, floods, thunderstorms, based on the prevalent geo-climatic conditions are typical examples of this vulnerability.

India has witnessed several disasters leaving a trail of destruction and irreparable loss of lives. Rapid urbanisation and increased density of population in cities need to be factored into our preparation to anticipate and adequately prepare to meet such threats.

A comprehensive pro-active approach consisting of prevention, reduction and mitigation constitutes an essential component of disaster management. Recognizing the vulnerability of the Indian sub-continent, the Disaster Management Act was enacted in 2005, followed by a National Policy for Disaster Management in 2009 and the National Disaster Management Plan in 2016. Internationally, 1990-2000 was declared as International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR) by the UN General Assembly, which was subsequently supported by the Yokohama Strategy for Safer World in 1994, Hyogo Framework for Action (2005-2015) and Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2015-2030. All these policy frameworks brought a paradigm shift in disaster risk management from post-disaster relief centric measures to pro-active pre-disaster preventive measures.


The Building Materials and Technology Promotion Council (BMTPC) is committed to promote the proactive approach towards disaster mitigation and management and has been at the forefront in educating professionals and creating mass awareness amongst various stakeholders including citizens. The Vulnerability Atlas of India brought out by BMTPC in 1997 and 2006 has proved to be a useful tool for a proactive disaster management policy. With changes in the housing scenario, formation of newer States, availability of more information on natural hazards, seismo-tectonic details and meteorological data, the revision of the Atlas has become necessary.

I am happy that BMTPC has now prepared the third edition of the Vulnerability Atlas of India which includes hazard maps of earthquakes, wind/cyclones, floods, landslides, thunderstorms and vulnerability risk tables based on available latest data. I trust this will help in enhancing preparedness of Governments and various other agencies in mitigating natural disasters.

Human lives are precious. Every public functionary tasked with the responsibility of disaster prevention as also all district authorities must, therefore, integrate the salient aspects of the Vulnerability Atlas into their relevant Standard Operating Procedures. This is an imperative we ignore at our own peril.

I congratulate BMTPC in bringing out this document.

New Delhi
19 February, 2019


(Hardeep S Puri)