

## JTFRP, RMSI organize workshop on Multi Hazard Risk Assessment for J&K

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SRINAGAR, Mar 14: Jhelum and Tawi Flood Recovery Project (JTFRP) and RMSI Private Limited today organized a day long workshop on Multi Hazard Risk Assessment for Jammu and Kashmir at SKICC here.

The speakers emphasized the need to increase public awareness about disaster mitigation besides increasing their capacity to respond promptly and effectively to a crisis or emergency.

The workshop was attended by Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole, Chief Executive Officer, JKERA/JTFRP, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah, Deputy Commissioner, Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz, DIG Central Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, Deputy Commissioners of various districts and heads of other departments while Secretary DMRRR Nazim Zai Khan, Deepak Singh from World Bank and other officers participated online.

The workshop brought together participants from disaster management authorities, ERA, Irrigation and Flood

Control, Kashmir University, National Institute of Technology Srinagar, Police, Fire and Emergency and other allied departments on a single platform so that a coordinated mechanism is evolved to reduce the social and economic fallouts of a disaster. It further focused on an enhanced cooperation and sharing of best practices among the disaster management agencies and experts in the region for better utilization of mitigation planning strategy in disaster management.

While delivering the inaugural address, Chief Executive Officer, Economic Reconstruction Agency, Dr Syed Abid Rasheed Shah said that JK is a multi disaster prone area and the aim of the workshop is to generate awareness about the ways to minimize the social and economic impacts of a disaster.

He said that purpose of the workshop is to change the mindset from relief, rescue, and rehabilitation to preparation, prevention and mitigation. He said that the government aims to turn the focus from post disaster management to pre disaster risk mitigation to prevent loss of lives

and minimize the economic impacts of a disaster.

Divisional Commissioner Kashmir, Pandurang K Pole said that there is a need for coordination among all departments and increasing interactions in schools.

Secretary DMRRR, Nazim Zai Khan said that we need to enlarge the scope of workshops to involve more and more people to generate awareness about disasters and sensitizing people about the SOPs to be followed at the occurrence of a natural disaster.

Deputy Commissioner Srinagar, Mohammad Aijaz said that the unpredictable nature of disasters poses a challenge but with the community participation and the technological advancements we can be better prepared to mitigate the disasters.

Emphasizing the need for better coordination at the time of disasters, DIG Central Kashmir, Sujit Kumar, said that we need to create awareness among the people at an early age to strengthen community participation.

Deepak Singh representing the World Bank said that mitigation is a continuous exercise and all stakeholders need to work on a constant basis.

While highlighting the critical findings for UT of J&K, it was given out that the combined Average Annual Loss for flood and earthquake hazards for the UT of J&K is Rs 1,774 crore with the major loss driver being residential buildings. The loss numbers show that the UT of J&K is more vulnerable to earthquake and flood hazards, though landslide events also occur frequently in many parts of the UT.

The Average Annual Loss (AAL) due to earthquakes for J&K is Rs 1,488.44 crore, which is about 0.15% of the total exposure value.