

Secretary, Shashanka Ala chairs review meeting on disaster preparedness and response planning in Ladakh

Leh, June 30, 2025: The Secretary, DMRRR Department, UT Ladakh, Shashanka Ala, chaired a comprehensive review meeting to assess the preparedness and response planning for natural disasters in the Union Territory. The meeting brought together key officials and stakeholders to discuss strategies for mitigating disaster risks and strengthening response mechanisms across both Leh and Kargil districts.

Secretary, Shashanka Ala underscored the urgency of readiness ahead of the upcoming rainy season with high risk of flash flood, landslide and cloudburst. She stressed that all the concerned departments must be fully prepared for the full-scale mock drill scheduled for August 26, which will also involve a scenario-based simulation at the Alchi Dam.

She directed that all preparatory work, including the review of vital installations and the conduct of the first monthly mock exercise, should be initiated without delay. The aim, she said, is to build institutional readiness and ensure a swift and coordinated response in the event of any natural calamity.

She further instructed the Army and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) to thoroughly go through the central NDMA portal by studying its guidelines, conducting a thorough gap analysis, and identifying areas that need improvement.

Both Leh and Kargil district administrations were directed to ensure their Emergency Operation Centres (EOCs) remain fully functional, responsive, and capable of operating in real-time during emergencies. The other key components of the disaster response framework, including the establishment of designated relief points and the appointment of relief ambassadors were also discussed.

Secretary Ala highlighted the critical role of communication infrastructure in ensuring seamless interdepartmental coordination and timely dissemination of information. The UT Disaster Response Force (UT-DRF) was assigned the responsibility of reviewing the preparedness efforts and submitting regular status reports.

The Meteorological Department was also instructed to provide updated data on glacier conditions and other climatic developments affecting the region's vulnerability to natural disasters. She instructed that the mock drill schedule must be prepared under the supervision of the respective Deputy Commissioners to ensure efficient execution and coordination.

The review meeting was attended by the DCs/ Chairmen and Chief Executive Officers of DDMA Leh and Kargil, the Director of the India Meteorological Department UT Ladakh, the Superintendents of Police for UT-DRF and Dial 112, the Deputy Commandant of 13 NDRF, and Nodal Officers for Disaster Management from the Indian Army, ITBP, BRO, and the Indian Air Force.

Also present were the Superintending Engineer PWD (R&B), Chief Medical Officer Leh, Executive Officer Municipal Committee Leh, Joint Director (Finance) DMRRR, Under Secretary DMRRR, Executive Engineer of Irrigation & Flood Control, the Project Manager EOC, and the EOC In-Charge.





