

PRESS RELEASE ON THE 259th, 260th and 261st REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT-RELATED PARLIAMENTARY STANDING COMMITTEE ON HOME AFFAIRS

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 07 AUG 2026 7:42PM by PIB Delhi

The Department-related Parliamentary Standing Committee on Home Affairs, chaired by Dr. Radha Mohan Das Agrawal, M.P., Rajya Sabha, presented the following Reports in the Parliament today, *i.e.*, 7th August, 2026 :-

- i. 259th Report on the 'Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the 254th Report of the Committee on Cyber Crime – Ramifications, Protection and Prevention';
- ii. 260th Report on 'Review of Administrative Governance, Socio-Economic Development and Internal Security in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir; and Border Security Management and Preparedness in the UT of Ladakh'; and
- iii. 261st Report on 'Disaster Management'.

The Committee had considered the draft reports and adopted the same in its meeting held on 5th August, 2026. The Recommendations/Observations made by the Committee in these Reports are enclosed.

The Reports, as presented to Parliament, are available on the Rajya Sabha Website at: <https://sansad.in/rs/committees/departmentally-related-standing-committees>→ Home Affairs→ Report.

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS — AT A GLANCE

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HOME AFFAIRS

259th Report on 'Action Taken by Government on the Recommendations/Observations contained in the Two Hundred Fifty Fourth Report of the Committee on Cyber Crime – Ramifications, Protection and Prevention'.

The Committee notes the Ministry's reply regarding the grievance-redressal obligations of intermediaries under Rules 3(2) and 3A of the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, including the prescribed timelines for disposal of complaints and the establishment of the Grievance Appellate Committees. However, the Committee observes that the reply does not adequately address its specific recommendations relating to the adoption of a uniform complaint-filing format, public disclosure of grievance statistics and integration of the grievance-redressal mechanism with the emerging data-protection framework. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that the Ministry should develop a standardised, accessible and multilingual grievance-redressal system across intermediaries, with unique complaint numbers, tracking facilities, defined timelines, reasoned disposal and automatic escalation of unresolved

complaints. It further recommends periodic publication of anonymised grievance data and formulation of a time-bound plan to harmonise the mechanism with applicable data-protection requirements, along with an effective monitoring framework.

(Para 3.1.8)

The Committee has noted the reply furnished by the Ministry. While appreciating the measures taken under the Information Technology (Intermediary Guidelines and Digital Media Ethics Code) Rules, 2021, the Committee observes that the existing framework continues to rely largely on self-regulation by OTT platforms. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation that the Government may expeditiously examine the feasibility of establishing an independent Post Release Review Panel comprising experts from the fields of child development, education, law, social sciences and civil society to review flagged content and recommend appropriate corrective measures. The Committee further recommends that the proposed comprehensive statutory framework for regulating OTT content should incorporate robust technology-enabled age verification mechanisms, effective parental controls, and suitable penalties for non-compliance. The Committee would like to be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

(Para 3.2.9)

The Committee notes that the mechanism for regulation of online advertisements is presently under formulation. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry, while finalising the policy, duly incorporate robust verification requirements for offshore advertisers, including digital document verification, live identity authentication and continuous monitoring based on zero-trust principles, so as to prevent fraudulent and deceptive advertisements targeting Indian users. The Committee also desires to be apprised of the action taken in this regard.

(Para 3.3.2)

The Committee appreciates the progress made in expanding MuleHunter.ai to additional banks. The Committee, however, reiterates that steps be taken to operationalise and fully leverage the upcoming Central Payment Fraud Information Registry and it be developed as a comprehensive, real-time and interoperable fraud-data repository accessible to banks and other relevant stakeholders for sector-wide analysis, coordinated action and early identification of emerging fraud threats.

(Para 3.4.2)

The Committee has noted the reply furnished by the Ministry. While appreciating the efforts made by the Central Bureau of Investigation in seeking the consent of State Governments for investigation of cybercrime cases and taking note of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court in this regard, the Committee observes that the issue of withdrawal of general consent by certain States continues to impede seamless and time-bound investigation of cybercrimes having inter-State and transnational ramifications. The Committee, therefore, reiterates its recommendation that the Ministry of Home Affairs should actively engage with the concerned State Governments to evolve a durable mechanism for facilitating CBI investigations in cybercrime cases. The Committee further

recommends that the Ministry may examine the feasibility of suitably amending the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, 1946, to enable the CBI to effectively investigate cybercrime cases of national and inter-State significance.

(Para 3.5.9)

The Committee has noted the reply furnished by the Ministry. While appreciating the implementation of the e-FIR system in a number of States/UTs and the ongoing efforts to extend the facility to other States, the Committee is of the view that a uniform and seamless mechanism for automatic conversion of complaints received through the National Cyber Crime Reporting Portal (NCRP) into e-FIRs is essential for ensuring prompt investigation and facilitating timely recovery and refund of defrauded amounts to victims. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs, through the Indian Cyber Crime Coordination Centre (I4C), formulate a time-bound roadmap for nationwide implementation of the e-FIR system in coordination with all States and Union Territories.

(Para 3.6.4)

The Committee notes that the Ministry's reply outlining the various initiatives for higher education institutions and reiterates its recommended integration of cybercrime prevention and cyber hygiene education in schools. The Committee recommends that the concerned Ministry, in coordination with NCERT, CBSE and State education authorities, should develop and implement an age-appropriate, graded and mandatory cyber-safety curriculum from the early grades to the senior secondary level across all Central and State Boards. The Committee further recommends corresponding teacher-training modules, multilingual learning material, practical instruction on reporting cybercrime and online abuse, and a time-bound monitoring mechanism to ensure uniform implementation in all schools.

(Para 3.7.33)

The Committee notes the Ministry's stakeholder-engagement efforts and appreciates that the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology is continuously engaging with stakeholders to strengthen the legal framework governing cybercrime. However, the Committee observes that a formal and periodic review mechanism, as was recommended would be beneficial. The Committee, therefore, reiterates that the Ministry of Home Affairs, in coordination with MeitY, the Ministry of Law and Justice and relevant regulators, should establish a time-bound, multidisciplinary mechanism to periodically review and update the cybercrime legal framework in light of emerging technologies, evolving threats and their implications for national security and citizens' rights.

(Para 3.8.2)

The Committee notes that the Ministry has outlined the existing statutory framework governing cybercrime; however, the Committee reiterates the need for comprehensive and unified cybercrime legislation with clear definitions, technology-neutral provisions and effective penalties for emerging offences. The Committee further recommends

the establishment of a specialised Integrated Cybercrime Task Force with nationwide jurisdiction, technical expertise and inter-agency coordination to investigate complex and transnational cybercrimes.

(Para 3.9.3)

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS - AT A GLANCE

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HOME AFFAIRS

260th Report on ‘Review of Administrative Governance, Socio-Economic Development and Internal Security in the UT of Jammu & Kashmir; and Border Security Management and Preparedness in the UT of Ladakh’.

1. The Committee notes with appreciation that the disaster management and emergency response framework at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine has evolved into a robust, integrated and technology-driven system, encompassing coordinated institutional arrangements, advanced surveillance mechanisms, effective crowd management protocols, comprehensive medical preparedness and prompt emergency response capabilities. The Committee commends the close coordination among the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the Union Territory Administration, Police, disaster management authorities, health services and other stakeholder agencies in ensuring the safety, security and well-being of the millions of pilgrims visiting the Shrine annually.

(Para 2.5.2)

2. The Committee further notes the effective deployment of advanced technological interventions, including RFID-enabled pilgrim tracking, Artificial Intelligence-based surveillance systems and the Integrated Command and Control Centre, which have considerably enhanced real-time situational awareness, crowd regulation and incident response. While acknowledging the high standards of preparedness achieved, the Committee is of the considered view that disaster management is a dynamic process requiring continuous adaptation to emerging risks, evolving technologies and increasing pilgrim volumes. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the existing disaster management framework be subjected to periodic review and upgradation, with particular emphasis on strengthening predictive risk assessment and early warning systems, integrating emerging technologies, augmenting emergency medical and evacuation infrastructure, enhancing the capacity of frontline personnel through regular training, and conducting frequent multi-agency mock drills to ensure sustained preparedness, resilience and operational effectiveness under diverse emergency scenarios.

(Para 2.5.3)

3. The Committee notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Ministry of Railways and the Union Territory Administration in progressively strengthening railway infrastructure and enhancing passenger amenities across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee is encouraged to note that Srinagar Railway Station and other stations in the Banihal–Baramulla section are being systematically upgraded through the creation of modern passenger facilities, station redevelopment works, environmental infrastructure, operational improvements and

enhanced accessibility for Divyangjan. The Committee further appreciates the significant progress achieved in the execution of various ongoing projects and the timely sanction of additional works aimed at improving passenger convenience, operational efficiency and the overall travel experience.

(Para 3.2.7)

4. While acknowledging the considerable progress made, the Committee is of the considered view that the strategic importance of railway connectivity in Jammu & Kashmir extends beyond transportation, serving as a critical catalyst for economic development, tourism, regional integration and national security. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all ongoing and sanctioned infrastructure projects be executed within the stipulated timelines with robust quality assurance and periodic monitoring. The Committee further recommends that, in view of the region's unique geological and seismic characteristics, continuous geotechnical monitoring, advanced structural health monitoring systems, predictive maintenance technologies and climate-resilient engineering practices should be integrated into railway operations and infrastructure management. The Committee also recommends that environmental safeguards, slope stabilisation measures and disaster preparedness mechanisms be periodically reviewed and strengthened to ensure the long-term safety, resilience and sustainability of railway infrastructure in the region.

(Para 3.2.8)

5. The Committee notes with appreciation the approval accorded by the Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) for the development of the Civil Enclave at Srinagar at an estimated cost of ₹1,667 crore. The Committee is of the view that the proposed Integrated Terminal Building, with its enhanced passenger handling capacity and modern infrastructure, will significantly strengthen the aviation infrastructure of the Union Territory, improve passenger convenience, facilitate tourism, enhance regional connectivity and contribute to the socio-economic development of Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the Ministry of Civil Aviation, the Airports Authority of India and the Union Territory Administration in taking forward this strategically important project and expects that the work will be executed in a time-bound manner while adhering to the highest standards of quality, safety and sustainability.

(Para 3.2.10)

6. The Committee further reiterates the need to explore the feasibility of establishing an airport or a suitable aviation facility in the Katra region, keeping in view the steadily increasing number of pilgrims visiting Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine and the growing tourist inflow to the Jammu region. The Committee is of the considered view that such a facility has the potential to substantially reduce travel time, improve accessibility, decongest existing transport networks and provide a significant impetus to pilgrimage, tourism and regional economic development. Accordingly, the Committee recommends that the Ministry of Civil Aviation, in consultation with the Airports Authority of India, the Government of the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir and other concerned stakeholders, undertake a comprehensive techno-economic and environmental feasibility study for developing an airport or an alternative aviation facility in the Katra region.

(Para 3.2.11)

7. The Committee notes with appreciation the substantial progress achieved by the Government of India, the Union Territory Administration and the executing agencies in strengthening road infrastructure across the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir through sustained investments under various Central and Union Territory programmes. The Committee commends the concerted efforts of the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), National Highways & Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL),

Border Roads Organisation (BRO), Public Works Department and other implementing agencies in expanding strategic highways, tunnels, bridges and rural road networks, thereby improving connectivity to remote, border and snow-bound areas. The Committee is particularly encouraged by the emphasis placed on all-weather connectivity, restoration of roads affected by floods and landslides, and the integration of climate-resilient engineering practices in infrastructure development.

(Para 3.2.29)

8. The Committee appreciates the forward-looking initiatives of the Administration to develop climate-resilient road specifications in collaboration with the Indian Roads Congress (IRC), IITs and the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, expedite strategically important tunnel projects, undertake urban decongestion measures in Srinagar and strengthen disaster preparedness through the procurement of ready-to-deploy Bailey bridges. These initiatives, in the Committee's view, reflect a comprehensive approach towards building resilient and future-ready infrastructure capable of withstanding the region's unique climatic and geological challenges.

(Para 3.2.30)

9. While acknowledging the remarkable progress achieved, the Committee emphasizes that adequate resources be earmarked for the maintenance of completed assets and the ongoing projects. The Committee is confident that sustained institutional support and coordinated implementation will enable Jammu & Kashmir to achieve a resilient, efficient and inclusive transport network that serves the developmental aspirations of the people while reinforcing the strategic interests of the nation.

(Para 3.2.31)

10. The Committee notes with appreciation the significant progress made in promoting renewable energy through a balanced strategy encompassing rooftop, utility-scale and decentralised solar initiatives. The Committee particularly appreciates the substantial progress achieved in the solarisation of Government buildings and the effective implementation of the PM Surya Ghar: Muft Bijli Yojana, which has enabled Jammu & Kashmir to emerge as one of the leading Union Territories in rooftop solar adoption. The Committee also welcomes the proposed Utility-Led Aggregation model aimed at extending the benefits of clean energy to economically weaker households. The Committee recommends that sustained efforts be made to achieve the targeted solarisation of all Government buildings, expedite household rooftop solar installations and expand clean energy access in remote and underserved areas through innovative and inclusive models, thereby strengthening the Union Territory's transition towards sustainable and energy-secure development.

(Para 3.3.5)

11. The Committee notes with appreciation the significant progress achieved under the Jal Jeevan Mission in expanding rural drinking water coverage across the Union Territory and commends the sustained efforts of the Union Territory Administration in this regard. While acknowledging these achievements, the Committee notes that the pace of implementation has been affected by funding constraints, resulting in some delays in completion of infrastructure and coverage of the remaining rural households. The Committee, therefore, recommends that adequate and timely financial support be ensured for expeditious completion of all pending Jal Jeevan Mission schemes, with particular emphasis on providing functional household tap connections to the remaining uncovered households, upgrading older water supply systems, strengthening water quality monitoring, and completing Har Ghar Jal certification. The Committee further recommends

that all water supply schemes be designed and implemented with a focus on long-term sustainability, source augmentation and climate resilience so as to ensure safe, reliable and uninterrupted potable drinking water to every rural household in the Union Territory.

(Para 3.4.18)

12. The Committee notes with appreciation the sustained efforts of the Union Territory Administration, the banking sector and other stakeholders in strengthening institutional credit delivery, expanding financial inclusion and enhancing risk mitigation for the agricultural sector in Jammu & Kashmir. The Committee particularly appreciates the extension of the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana (PMFBY) to all districts of the Union Territory, the steady expansion of the Kisan Credit Card Scheme, the substantial increase in banking outlets and Business Correspondents in rural areas, the robust performance under Priority Sector Lending and the consistent achievement of targets under the Pradhan Mantri Mudra Yojana. The Committee also commends the initiatives taken to secure Geographical Indication (GI) registration for the unique agricultural and horticultural products of the Union Territory, which will strengthen their market identity, enhance value addition and improve farmers' incomes.

(Para 3.5.25)

13. While acknowledging these achievements, the Committee observes that the coverage of eligible farmers under the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, particularly among Kisan Credit Card holders, requires further improvement. The Committee, therefore, recommends that sustained efforts be made to enhance awareness, simplify enrolment procedures and leverage digital platforms and banking networks to achieve greater saturation under the crop insurance scheme. The Committee further recommends that greater emphasis be placed on expanding institutional credit to small and marginal farmers, women farmers, Farmer Producer Organisations (FPOs) and entrepreneurs engaged in agriculture and allied sectors. The Committee also recommends that concerted efforts be made to secure early approval of the pending GI applications and promote branding, processing, value addition and export of GI-tagged products so as to enhance the competitiveness of Jammu & Kashmir's agricultural economy and ensure sustainable livelihood opportunities for its farming community.

(Para 3.5.26)

14. The Committee notes the significant progress achieved in promoting industrial development and investment in the Union Territory under the New Central Sector Scheme (NCSS-2021). The Committee commends the efforts of the Government and the Union Territory Administration in creating an enabling industrial ecosystem through timely approval and disbursement of incentives, which has attracted substantial investments, facilitated the establishment of new industrial units and generated significant employment opportunities. The Committee is encouraged to note the active participation of both local and non-local entrepreneurs, reflecting the growing investor confidence in Jammu & Kashmir. However, the Committee is of the considered view that sustained policy support and efficient implementation of the Scheme will be critical to maintaining the momentum of industrial growth. The Committee, therefore, recommends that incentives under NCSS-2021 continue to be sanctioned and disbursed in a timely and transparent manner, with special emphasis on promoting local entrepreneurship, MSMEs, start-ups and employment-oriented industries. The Committee further recommends that focused efforts be made to strengthen industrial infrastructure, facilitate ease of doing business, enhance skill development aligned with industry requirements, and encourage value-added manufacturing so that industrial growth translates into broad-based and sustainable socio-economic development across the Union Territory.

(Para 3.6.5)

15. The Committee notes the efforts of the Union Territory Administration, the Ministry of Mines and the concerned exploration agencies, including the Geological Survey of India (GSI), Mineral Exploration and Consultancy Limited (MECL) and ONGC, in undertaking systematic exploration of the rich and diverse mineral resources of Jammu & Kashmir resulting in the significant progress made in the exploration of strategic and commercially important minerals such as lithium, sapphire, limestone, graphite, lignite and marble, which hold immense potential for promoting industrial development, attracting investment and generating employment in the UT. The Committee is of the view that the vast mineral wealth of Jammu & Kashmir should be harnessed in a scientific, environmentally sustainable and economically beneficial manner. The Committee, therefore, recommends that exploration activities be expedited through timely statutory and forest approvals, strengthening of infrastructure and adoption of advanced exploration technologies, while keeping in view adequate safeguards for environmental protection and the interests of local communities. The Committee also emphasizes that value addition, mineral-based industries and skill development should be promoted within the UT so that the benefits of mineral development accrue to the local economy through enhanced employment, industrial growth and sustainable socio-economic development.

(Para 3.7.3)

16. The Committee notes with appreciation the substantial investments made in the health sector in Jammu & Kashmir since 2019 and commends the concerted efforts of the Government of India and the Union Territory Administration in transforming the healthcare landscape through the establishment of AIIMS, new Government Medical Colleges, specialised healthcare institutions, nursing colleges and critical care facilities. The Committee is encouraged to note that these initiatives, coupled with investments under various Central and Union Territory schemes, have significantly strengthened tertiary healthcare, medical education, emergency preparedness and access to quality healthcare services, particularly in remote and underserved areas. The Committee also notes the effective implementation of digital health initiatives, including the JK-SEHAT platform, telemedicine and tele-radiology services, which are bridging geographical barriers and improving access to specialist healthcare. While noting these initiatives and the progress achieved, the Committee is of the considered view that availability of qualified doctors and specialists in remote, border and difficult areas continues to be critical for ensuring equitable healthcare delivery. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Administration further expedite regular recruitment, expand postgraduate medical education and specialist training, strengthen the District Residency Programme and continue to provide suitable financial and career incentives for medical professionals serving in difficult areas. The Committee also recommends that digital health infrastructure, telemedicine networks and emergency medical services be further strengthened through robust internet connectivity, periodic capacity building and continuous monitoring to ensure that quality healthcare reaches every citizen irrespective of geographical constraints.

(Para 3.8.37)

17. The Committee further notes the improvement in maternal and reproductive health indicators in the Union Territory, particularly the achievement of a Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of 1.5, which is below the national average and reflects sustained progress in public health. The Committee commends the Administration for strengthening maternal and child healthcare services, achieving near-universal institutional deliveries, expanding access to family planning services, promoting female literacy and empowering frontline health workers, especially ASHAs and ANMs, whose contribution to community healthcare has been commendable. The Committee recommends that these gains be sustained through continued emphasis on adolescent health, women's education and

empowerment, maternal nutrition, reproductive health awareness and universal access to quality maternal healthcare and family planning services, particularly in tribal, border and other underserved regions.

(Para 3.8.38)

18. The Committee notes that the successful implementation of the Ayushman Bharat-Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (AB-PMJAY) SEHAT Scheme, has substantially reduced the financial burden of healthcare by providing cashless treatment to millions of beneficiaries. The Committee notes with satisfaction the extensive coverage achieved through the issuance of Golden Cards, empanelment of hospitals and strengthening of emergency medical services. The Committee recommends that sustained efforts be made to further enhance awareness about the Scheme, expand the network of empanelled hospitals and specialised treatment facilities in underserved districts, and periodically review service quality and beneficiary satisfaction so as to ensure that the benefits of universal health coverage are equitably accessible across the Union Territory.

(Para 3.8.39)

19. The Committee notes the measures undertaken by the Administration under the National Education Policy, 2020 and the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education Act, 2009, to expand access to education, improve school infrastructure, introduce digital teaching-learning facilities and enhance student retention. The Committee particularly welcomes the substantial decline in the dropout rate at the primary level from 8.97 per cent in 2023-24 to 1.50 per cent in 2024-25 and at the upper-primary level from 4.30 per cent to 3.20 per cent during the same period. The Committee is of the view that preparation of a roadmap for universal enrolment by 2030 and the proposed interventions relating to women, tribal communities, remote areas, vocational education and digital learning are also positive steps.

(Para 3.9.6)

20. The Committee, however, expresses concern that the dropout rate at the secondary level increased to 12.60 per cent in 2024-25. It further notes that the Gross Enrolment Ratio declines sharply from 114.2 at the primary level to 77.0 at the upper-primary level, 65.4 at the secondary level and 53.7 at the higher-secondary level. These figures indicate continuing weaknesses in student retention and transition, particularly after the elementary stage. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the roadmap for achieving universal enrolment be implemented in mission mode through clearly defined annual, district-wise and stage-wise targets and progress should be reviewed at least twice a year at the level of the Chief Secretary, with corrective action being taken in districts and educational zones that fail to meet the prescribed targets.

(Para 3.9.7)

21. The Committee further recommends the formulation of a focused Secondary School Retention Programme to address the sharp rise in dropout at the secondary stage. The programme should provide targeted scholarships, free or subsidised transportation, hostel and residential facilities, digital devices, remedial and bridge courses, career counselling and vocational exposure. Special attention should be given to girls, children from economically weaker families, tribal and migratory communities, children with disabilities and students residing in border, mountainous and snow-bound areas. Every school should identify students at risk of dropping out on the basis of prolonged absence, poor academic performance, financial distress or other vulnerabilities, and undertake timely counselling and household-level follow-up.

(Para 3.9.8)

22. While noting the proposed rationalisation of human resources and infrastructure, the Committee recommends that teacher deployment be undertaken through a transparent, data-driven and subject-wise assessment of enrolment, vacancies and geographical requirements. Schools in rural, border and difficult areas should not be left without teachers in core subjects. Appropriate incentives, accommodation and minimum-tenure provisions may be introduced to attract and retain qualified teachers in such areas. The phased implementation of the Teacher Eligibility Test should be accompanied by adequate preparation time, training opportunities and safeguards to ensure that existing teaching arrangements are not disrupted.

(Para 3.9.9)

23. The Committee appreciates the Higher Education Department's proposals for seamless school-to-college transition, expansion of institutions, digital and distance education, vocational integration, women-focused interventions and outreach in tribal and remote areas. The Committee recommends that these proposals be converted into a time-bound implementation plan, prioritising districts with low higher-secondary and higher-education participation. The Committee also observes that any proposed Digital University should be developed in conformity with applicable regulatory and quality-assurance requirements like reliable digital connectivity and should supplement, rather than substitute, physical institutions.

(Para 3.9.10)

24. The Committee also recommends that vocational and skill-based programmes be aligned with the economic and employment potential of Jammu and Kashmir, including tourism, hospitality, horticulture, agriculture, handicrafts, healthcare, information technology and renewable energy. Structured partnerships with industry and local enterprises should provide students with apprenticeships, internships, entrepreneurship support and "Earn While Learn" opportunities. The Committee is of the view that the Administration should maintain programme-wise data on enrolment, completion, apprenticeships, placements and average earnings so that the actual employment outcomes of such initiatives can be assessed.

(Para 3.9.11)

25. The Committee notes the wide range of social welfare and inclusion measures being implemented by the Union Territory Administration for vulnerable and disadvantaged sections of society. The Committee particularly welcomes the implementation of 37 Centrally Sponsored Schemes and nine Union Territory-funded schemes covering senior citizens, widows, persons with disabilities, women, children, transgender persons, Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes, Other Backward Classes, minorities and other economically weaker sections. The Committee also appreciates the digitisation of welfare delivery through the JanSugam Portal, the proposed Integrated Social Security Scheme Pension Portal, Aadhaar-based verification and Direct Benefit Transfer mechanisms, which have the potential to improve transparency, reduce delays and ensure more effective delivery of benefits.

(Para 3.10.26)

26. The Committee further notes with satisfaction that the number of beneficiaries covered under the Integrated Social Security Scheme and the National Social Assistance Programme(NSAP) has increased from 8.76 lakh in 2023–24 to more than 10.49 lakh in 2025–26. The Committee recommends that the Administration should ensure that the increase in coverage is accompanied by timely sanction, regular disbursement and periodic revision of pension amounts, taking into account inflation and the basic living requirements of beneficiaries. Also, the Integrated Pension Portal

should be made operational within a definite timeframe and should provide application tracking, reasons for rejection, deficiency alerts, payment status and an accessible grievance-redressal mechanism at the district and block levels.

(Para 3.10.27)

27. The Committee appreciates the substantial financial support extended under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme (SMAS) and the Ladli Beti Scheme and recommends that the Administration should periodically evaluate whether the existing eligibility criteria and income ceilings adequately reflect prevailing socio-economic conditions. Also, the recent relaxation of educational eligibility under the State Marriage Assistance Scheme should be carefully monitored to ensure that it does not inadvertently weaken efforts to promote girls' education or compliance with the legal age of marriage. Further the outcomes of the Ladli Beti Scheme should also be assessed in terms of girls' education, retention, delayed marriage and financial empowerment, rather than only the number of accounts opened or funds deposited.

(Para 3.10.28)

28. The Committee appreciates the extensive coverage achieved under Mission Poshan through 28,199 functional Anganwadi Centres, as well as the protective and rehabilitative services being provided under Mission Shakti and Mission Vatsalya. The Committee recommends that the Government undertake regular assessments of nutritional outcomes and the adequacy of infrastructure, staffing, drinking water, sanitation facilities and growth-monitoring equipment at Anganwadi Centres to address any gaps. The Committee further recommends that the functioning of One Stop Centres, Women Helpline-181 and Child Helpline Services be periodically evaluated against measurable parameters, including response time, disposal of cases, effectiveness of rehabilitation measures and beneficiary satisfaction.

(Para 3.10.29)

29. The Committee welcomes the enhancement of reservation for Other Backward Classes, its extension to local bodies, implementation of scholarship schemes and construction of hostel facilities for students belonging to socially and educationally backward communities and recommends that all incomplete hostel projects be completed within prescribed timelines, with responsibility fixed for avoidable delays and cost escalation.

(Para 3.10.30)

30. The Committee notes the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Adarsh Gram Yojana, under which 259 of the 357 identified villages have been declared Adarsh Grams and recommends that the remaining villages be covered expeditiously and that the declaration of a village as an Adarsh Gram be based on verified achievement of essential development indicators relating to drinking water, sanitation, education, healthcare, roads, housing, electricity and livelihood opportunities. Also post-declaration audit should be undertaken to ensure that the infrastructure created is functional and that development gaps do not re-emerge.

(Para 3.10.31)

31. The Committee notes the steps taken to implement the Forest Rights Act, 2006. However, it observes that, out of 46,242 individual and community claims received, only 6,172 claims had been approved, while 39,898 claims had been rejected. The Committee is of the view that the exceptionally high number of rejected claims requires careful scrutiny. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Administration undertake a time-bound review of rejected claims to ascertain whether due process was followed, claimants were given adequate opportunity to furnish evidence,

Gram Sabhas were properly involved and reasoned orders were communicated in an accessible language. Further, based on the review suitable action be taken to distribute approved titles without delay, and legal and administrative assistance should also be provided to genuine claimants, particularly members of migratory and tribal communities.

(Para 3.10.32)

32. The Committee appreciates the achievement of universal coverage under the Public Distribution System, Aadhaar authentication, implementation of Smart PDS and operationalisation of One Nation One Ration Card. The Committee also welcomes targeted measures such as separate ration cards for eligible widows and divorcees, inclusion of left-out children and additional foodgrains for Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Household beneficiaries.

(Para 3.10.33)

33. The Committee notes the progress made under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana 3.0. and observes that against 12,033 KYC applications, 11,652 applications were cleared, 8,286 subscription vouchers were issued, but 6,713 LPG connections were installed. The Committee recommends that the reasons for the gap between cleared applications, vouchers issued and connections installed be identified district-wise and resolved within a fixed timeframe.

(Para 3.10.34)

34. The Committee appreciates the substantial progress made in providing relief and rehabilitation assistance to 48,451 registered migrant families, particularly the appointment of 5,875 migrant youth against 6,000 sanctioned posts and completion of 4,648 transit accommodation units. The Committee recommends that the remaining recruitments and construction works be completed expeditiously and that all completed units be allotted promptly to eligible beneficiaries.

(Para 3.11.9)

35. The Committee observes that, despite 6,510 families initially expressing willingness to return, only three families have permanently resettled in the Kashmir Valley. It, therefore, recommends a comprehensive assessment of the security, housing, livelihood, education and social concerns inhibiting return, including a structured survey of migrant families residing outside the Union Territory, so that the rehabilitation package may be suitably reviewed and a safe, voluntary and dignified return facilitated. The Committee notes that the Government has adopted a comprehensive approach towards the relief, rehabilitation and welfare of Kashmiri migrants through the implementation of the Prime Minister's Rehabilitation Package, encompassing housing assistance, employment opportunities, transit accommodation, continuation of cash relief, educational support, livelihood assistance and measures for the protection and restoration of migrant properties.

(Para 3.11.10)

36. The Committee notes the efforts made by the Administration to strengthen sports infrastructure and promote youth engagement through sports and non-sports activities across the Union Territory. The Committee appreciates that 7,828 school playgrounds are available across Jammu and Kashmir and that more than 51.91 lakh youth participated in sports and youth development programmes during 2025–26, reflecting significant outreach in this regard. The Committee recommends that the Administration undertake a district-wise assessment of infrastructure gaps and prioritise the development and upgradation of playgrounds, particularly in districts having comparatively fewer facilities.

(Para 3.12.5)

37. The Committee notes with satisfaction the continued momentum in youth engagement and recommends that the Administration continue to strengthen sports infrastructure, particularly in rural, border and hilly areas, by developing quality playgrounds, multipurpose sports facilities and training infrastructure. The Committee further recommends that greater emphasis be placed on identifying and nurturing sporting talent at the grassroots level through regular coaching programmes, improved access to qualified coaches and enhanced opportunities for participation in State and national competitions. The Committee also recommends strengthening partnerships with educational institutions and local bodies to encourage greater youth participation in sports and physical activities, thereby promoting fitness, discipline and constructive engagement among the youth of the Union Territory.

(Para 3.12.6)

38. The Committee notes with satisfaction the substantial expansion of the banking network across the Union Territory, particularly in rural areas, through the opening of additional bank branches and Business Correspondent outlets. The Committee appreciates the efforts made to improve financial accessibility by covering unbanked Gram Panchayats and extending banking services to remote and underserved regions. The Committee also notes the encouraging growth in agricultural credit, which reflects the continued emphasis on strengthening institutional finance for the agriculture and allied sectors.

(Para 3.13.10)

39. The Committee recommends that the Administration, in coordination with the Reserve Bank of India, the Union Territory Level Bankers' Committee and banking institutions, expedite banking coverage in the remaining unbanked Gram Panchayats and rural centres, while ensuring that quality banking services are available in remote, border and hilly areas. The Committee further recommends strengthening institutional credit support for agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry and allied activities, with particular emphasis on small and marginal farmers, tenant cultivators, Farmer Producer Organisations and rural entrepreneurs, so as to promote sustainable agricultural growth, financial inclusion and rural economic development across the Union Territory.

(Para 3.13.11)

40. The Committee further notes with satisfaction that Priority Sector Lending in the Union Territory exceeds the regulatory benchmark prescribed by the Reserve Bank of India and recommends sustained focus on priority sector credit, particularly for agriculture, micro and small enterprises, self-help groups, rural entrepreneurs and other vulnerable sections of society.

(Para 3.13.12)

41. The Committee notes with satisfaction that the economy of the Union Territory has demonstrated resilience and sustained growth following the challenges experienced during the pandemic period. The Committee recommends that the Administration continue to pursue policies that promote diversified and inclusive economic growth, generate sustainable employment opportunities and improve income levels across all regions of the Union Territory, with particular emphasis on rural, border and economically less-developed areas.

(Para 3.14.5)

42. The Committee expresses serious concern over the increasing incidence of drug abuse in the Union Territory, particularly among the youth, and notes that the menace poses significant social, public health, economic and security challenges. The Committee appreciates the vigorous enforcement measures undertaken by the Administration, including intensified action under the

NDPS and PIT-NDPS Acts, property seizures, dismantling of narcotics networks, action against illicit cultivation, suspension of licences of offenders and the launch of the 'NashaMukt Jammu Kashmir Abhiyaan'.

(Para 3.15.4)

43. The Committee is of the view that enforcement measures alone may not be sufficient to address the problem in a sustainable manner. It, therefore, recommends that equal emphasis be placed on prevention, early intervention, de-addiction, rehabilitation and social reintegration of affected individuals. The Committee further recommends strengthening intelligence-led operations against cross-border narcotics trafficking, enhancing coordination among law enforcement agencies, educational institutions, health departments and community organisations, expanding de-addiction and counselling facilities at the district level, and intensifying awareness campaigns targeting students, parents and vulnerable communities. The Committee also recommends that the progress of the anti-drug campaign be reviewed periodically to assess its effectiveness and ensure sustained reduction in drug abuse across the Union Territory.

(Para 3.15.5)

44. The Committee notes with satisfaction the significant reduction in multidimensional poverty in Jammu & Kashmir, with the Headcount Ratio declining from 12.56 per cent to 4.80 per cent between 2015-16 and 2019-21, resulting in more than 10 lakh people being lifted out of multidimensional poverty. The Committee further notes that a comprehensive framework of livelihood generation, wage employment, housing, skill development and rural infrastructure programmes is being implemented to improve the socio-economic conditions of vulnerable households. The Committee recommends that poverty alleviation interventions be more intensively targeted towards high-poverty districts through district-specific development strategies, with greater emphasis on livelihood diversification, rural infrastructure, agricultural productivity, skill development and employment generation. The Committee further recommends that the Administration strengthen convergence among various poverty alleviation programmes, adopt robust monitoring mechanisms based on the Multidimensional Poverty Index, and continue focused efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goal of eliminating poverty in all its dimensions.

(Para 3.15.13)

45. The Committee noted that the sustained growth in tourist arrivals in the UT has been facilitated by improved connectivity, stronger security arrangements, better tourist infrastructure and a renewed sense of confidence among visitors. In this context, security management at tourist destinations assumes special importance, as it directly affects the perception of safety, the quality of visitor experience and the continued growth of the tourism sector.

(Para 4.2.4)

46. The Committee appreciates the comprehensive security arrangements put in place by the Union Territory Administration and the Jammu & Kashmir Police at Gulmarg and other major tourist and religious destinations. The Committee notes with satisfaction the deployment of security personnel, surveillance mechanisms, crowd-management measures and the coordination established among the Police, Tourism Department, district administration, development authorities and other concerned agencies. The Committee, however, recommends that an integrated security and surveillance framework be developed for all major tourist destinations, incorporating

comprehensive CCTV coverage, centralised monitoring facilities, regular vulnerability assessments and periodic security audits. The Committee further recommends that clear inter-agency standard operating procedures be prescribed and reviewed before every peak tourist season to ensure a coordinated and timely response to any security-related incident.

(Para 4.2.5)

47. The Committee appreciates the efforts of the Administration in establishing emergency response systems and making arrangements for medical preparedness at major tourist destinations. Considering the difficult terrain, adverse weather conditions and large seasonal influx of tourists, the Committee recommends that dedicated emergency response units, adequately equipped ambulances, trauma-care facilities and clearly identified evacuation routes be made available at all high-footfall destinations. Also, emergency contact numbers and safety instructions should be prominently displayed at hotels, transport points and tourist facilities in multiple languages.

(Para 4.2.6)

48. The Committee appreciates the coordinated deployment of the Jammu & Kashmir Police, CRPF, Central Armed Police Forces and other security agencies at Sonmarg and other major tourist destinations. It also notes with satisfaction the multi-layered security arrangements, surveillance mechanisms, area domination measures and access-control systems being put in place for the Shri Amarnath Ji Yatra. The Committee recommends that the existing inter-agency coordination mechanism be further institutionalised through a unified command-and-control framework, clearly defined responsibilities and real-time information-sharing protocols. Periodic joint security audits and vulnerability assessments should also be conducted, particularly before the commencement of the tourist season and the Yatra, to identify and address emerging security concerns.

(Para 4.4.4)

49. The Committee places on record its deep appreciation for the exceptional courage, professionalism and high degree of operational preparedness displayed by the Indian Army in safeguarding the nation's territorial integrity along the Line of Control and in other sensitive high-altitude areas. The Committee notes with satisfaction the induction of advanced weapon systems, Unmanned Aerial Systems, Counter-UAS technologies, modern surveillance equipment, specialist mobility platforms and all-terrain vehicles. Considering the rapidly evolving nature of security threats, the Committee recommends sustained investment in integrated intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance capabilities, counter-drone systems, secure communication networks and indigenous high-altitude technologies. The Committee further recommends that the Ministry of Defence should ensure their timely procurement, deployment and periodic technological upgradation in all strategically important sectors.

(Para 4.5.6)

50. The Committee appreciates the elaborate logistical arrangements and underground defence infrastructure maintained by the Army under extremely difficult terrain and climatic conditions. It observes that round-the-year operational readiness in Drass, Kargil and other forward areas depends substantially upon reliable transportation, adequate stocking, resilient communication links and suitable accommodation for personnel. The Committee, therefore, recommends accelerated development of all-weather roads, tunnels, bridges, advanced storage facilities, forward logistics hubs and alternative supply routes.

(Para 4.5.7)

51. The Committee commends the rigorous tactical training, force-protection measures and contingency-response drills demonstrated at the Kargil Battle School and Post 43. It also pays solemn tribute to the brave soldiers who made the supreme sacrifice during the Kargil War of 1999.

(Para 4.5.8)

Concluding Observations

52. The Committee places on record its sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Administrations of the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh, the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, the Indian Army, the Jammu & Kashmir Police, the Central Armed Police Forces and all other authorities and organisations associated with the study visit for the excellent coordination, cooperation and logistical support extended to the Committee.

(Para 4.5.9)

53. The Committee observes that the study visit afforded it a valuable opportunity to gain direct and first-hand understanding of the developmental, administrative, security and strategic challenges confronting the region, as well as the sustained efforts being made to address them. The interactions with officials, security personnel and other stakeholders, coupled with the on-the-spot assessments undertaken by the Committee, have considerably enriched its understanding of the issues involved.

(Para 4.5.10)

RECOMMENDATIONS/OBSERVATIONS - AT A GLANCE

Department-Related Parliamentary Standing Committee on HOME AFFAIRS

261st Report on ‘Disaster Management’

Chapter II: Policy, Plans, Guidelines and Legal-Institutional Framework for Disaster Management

National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009

The Committee notes that while the National Policy on Disaster Management was enacted in 2009, the landscape of disaster risk has changed substantially since then with climate change accelerating the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, rapid urbanisation creating new risk concentrations, and technological advances offering new capabilities for preparedness and response. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should initiate a formal review of the National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009, with the objective of updating it to reflect post-2009 developments. It may include study analysis of climate change impacts, urbanisation risks, the role of AI and geospatial technology for weather forecasting, cyclone tracking, damage assessment, early warning dissemination, etc. and the lessons learnt from major disaster events since 2009. This review exercise should also involve extensive consultations with all the States and Union Territories, scientific agencies and civil society for a holistic approach towards disaster management.

(Para 2.6.7)

The Committee notes that the revised National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) was published in 2019. After the enactment of the DM Amendment Act, 2025, the operationalisation of the National Disaster Mitigation Fund (NDMF), recommendations of the Sixteenth Finance Commission with regard to disaster management and the significant evolution of AI-assisted forecasting capabilities since 2019, there is a need to expedite the further revision of NDMP to align it with the current legal and institutional context.

(Para 2.7.5)

Contingency Planning and Preparedness Framework

The Committee notes that the quality and comprehensiveness of plans varies significantly across states and districts and that there remains scope for further strengthening, particularly in terms of operationalisation, regular updation and integration of emerging risks such as those arising from climate change, urbanisation and technological hazards. The Committee, therefore, recommends that NDMA should develop a standardized template and benchmarking framework for disaster management plans to ensure uniformity in quality across all states and districts. All plans may be reviewed and updated at least once every two years, incorporating the latest hazard assessments and emerging risks arising from climate change, urbanisation and technological hazards. Compliance in this regard may be monitored by NDMA to ensure accountability and timely updation across all levels.

(Para 2.10.5)

The Committee also recommends that the frequency of mock drills and simulation exercises be significantly enhanced, with at least two multi-agency drills conducted annually at the state and district levels. A structured post-drill evaluation mechanism may also be initiated at all levels to systematically identify gaps and ensure that corrective actions are undertaken within a defined timeline.

(Para 2.10.6)

Fire Services

The Committee takes note of the fact that a revised Model Bill on Maintenance of Fire and Emergency Services was prepared and was circulated to the States/ UTs in September, 2019 for framing/ updating their fire and emergency service Act / Rules as per their requirement, however, so far, only 10 States have adopted the Model Bill. The Committee observes that controlling and managing fire incidents especially in urban sectors sometimes become very difficult due to congested urban planning, a small fire incident and human negligence is capable of triggering a massive fire breakout and could result in huge losses of property and lives. The Committee, therefore, recommends that MHA may take proactive steps to persuade and support the remaining States and Union Territories to adopt or suitably align their existing fire services legislation with the revised Model Bill within a defined timeframe. The Committee also recommends that a time-bound monitoring and review mechanism may be established to track progress in adoption, identify bottlenecks and provide necessary technical guidance so as to ensure a more modern, uniform and effective fire and emergency services framework across the country.

(Para 2.11.21)

Urban Disaster Management Authority (UDMA)

The Committee is of the view that the developing and promoting a culture of prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response is a pre-requisite for fulfilling mission of making the nation disaster resilient. To achieve this, setting up of Specialist Disaster Response Force is very crucial as such force plays a significant role as first responder to any disaster in the State/UT. The Committee recommends that the Ministry of Home Affairs should issue advisories to seven remaining States/UTs (Telangana, Goa, Delhi, Puducherry, Lakshadweep, Chandigarh and Andaman & Nicobar Islands) to raise their Specialist Response Force for swiftly responding in case of any disaster.

(Para 2.11.27)

The Committee notes that despite the provision made under the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025, only one State has so far constituted UDMA. The Committee recommends that MHA should issue advisories to all State Governments to constitute UDMAs for their respective State Capitals and Municipal Corporation cities within a defined timeframe. NDMA should also provide necessary technical guidance and a standardized framework to States for the effective operationalisation of UDMAs, and a periodic compliance monitoring mechanism should be established to track progress across the country.

(Para 2.11.28)

Designation of Nodal Ministries and Departments for Disaster Management

The Committee notes that the notification dated 22nd September 2025 represent a landmark development in the evolution of India's disaster management institutional framework. The formal designation of nodal ministries for specific categories of disasters, with mandates spanning the entire disaster management spectrum, has the potential to significantly enhance specialisation, accountability and effectiveness in disaster prevention, preparedness and response. However, the Committee also notes that many of the designated ministries have historically focused on their core developmental and regulatory mandates and may require significant augmentation of institutional capacity, technical expertise and human resources to effectively fulfil their expanded disaster management responsibilities. The notification must also be supported by adequate budgetary provisions for each nodal ministry and by robust inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms, particularly for hazards that involve the mandates of multiple ministries. The Committee recommends that each designated nodal ministry prepare and operationalise a hazard-specific disaster management plan within a time-bound framework. The effectiveness of the new arrangement may be reviewed after a suitable period to identify strengths, address gaps and refine the institutional arrangements in light of operational experience.

(Para 2.12.3)

Heatwave and Lightning: National Notification

The Committee notes that 16th Finance Commission has recommended to add heatwave and lightning to the nationally notified list of disasters under the SDRF framework. This recommendation will directly respond to the needs of the States/UTs which are vulnerable to heatwave and lightning related incidents. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may take compliance with the recommendation of the 16th Finance Commission and include heatwave and lightning to the nationally notified list of disasters as it will address the inadequacy of the current framework for dealing with such disasters.

(Para 2.13.26)

The Committee notes that the 16th Finance Commission has recommended the transformation of NDMIS into a comprehensive national platform integrating data across all stages of disaster management, with mandatory data reporting by States to ensure transparency, accountability and evidence-based decision-making. The Committee considers this an important mechanism for the establishment of the National Disaster Database under the Disaster Management (Amendment) Act, 2025. The Committee recommends that NDMA should issue guidelines and a timeline for all States to ensure full compliance, along with adequate technical support and capacity building to States with digital infrastructure to facilitate seamless integration with the platform.

(Para 2.13.29)

The Committee commends the 16th Finance Commission's recommendations as a comprehensive advancement in India's disaster financing architecture, combining fiscal adequacy with scientific rigour, operational accountability and innovative risk transfer mechanisms. The Committee recommends that the Ministry may expedite the implementation of these recommendations so that envisioned reforms in disaster management be translated into tangible outcomes.

(Para 2.13.30)

The Committee notes that the country has developed a comprehensive framework for disaster management that integrates legal provisions, policy direction, institutional mechanism and financial arrangements. While the existing disaster management framework provides a robust foundation, its effectiveness is constrained by uneven implementation across States, limited institutional and technical capacities at the regional levels, delays in utilization of allocated funds and coordination gaps among various stakeholders. The increasing complexity of disaster risks arising from climate change and rapid urbanization, further highlight the need for continuous strengthening of the disaster management system. The Committee recommends that the priority should be accorded to improving implementation efficiency, ensuring greater uniformity in the implementation of disaster management frameworks across States through strengthened monitoring mechanisms, periodic performance assessments, dissemination of best practices, fostering greater inter-agency coordination and ensuring the timely and effective utilization of financial resources and building long-term disaster resilience.

(Para 2.13.31)

Chapter III - Disaster Risk Reduction

The Committee notes that scientific risk assessment forms the foundation of an effective Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) framework; however, significant gaps persist in the completion, standardization and enforceability of hazard mapping across the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that multi-hazard risk mapping, including flood, landslide, seismic and glacial lake hazards, be completed in a time-bound manner and made statutorily enforceable across all States and Union Territories, which are susceptible to these disasters, so as to ensure its effective integration into planning and development processes.

(Para 3.9.9)

The Committee further recommends that seismic microzonation and landslide susceptibility maps be mandatorily integrated into town planning regulations and building by-laws, with strict restrictions on construction and developmental activities in high-risk zones, in order to prevent the creation of new vulnerabilities. The Committee also recommends the establishment of a comprehensive national repository of hazard, vulnerability and risk data, with information at the district and sub-district levels, to facilitate evidence-based decision-making, inter-agency coordination and informed policy formulation by all stakeholders.

(Para 3.9.10)

The Committee notes that, the policy framework emphasises the integration of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) into development planning, its implementation across sectors remains uneven and insufficiently institutionalised. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all major infrastructure and major urban development projects be subjected to a mandatory Disaster Risk Impact Assessment (DRIA) prior to approval, so as to ensure that such projects are resilient and do not create or exacerbate disaster risks.

(Para 3.9.11)

The Committee further recommends that floodplain zoning and river regulation measures be uniformly implemented across all vulnerable States in order to address issues of encroachment, unplanned development and recurring flood losses. The Committee also recommends that developmental activities in ecologically fragile areas, including hilly regions and coastal zones, be strictly regulated, and that clear accountability mechanisms be instituted to fix responsibility for violations, so as to prevent environmentally unsustainable practices that aggravate disaster vulnerabilities.

(Para 3.9.12)

The Committee notes that accurate forecasting and timely dissemination of warnings are critical for effective disaster risk reduction. The Committee, therefore, recommends that investment in advanced forecasting technologies be significantly enhanced, including the deployment of Artificial Intelligence and Machine Learning-based predictive models, Doppler weather radars, high-resolution numerical weather prediction systems and satellite-based monitoring technologies, so as to improve the precision and reliability of forecasts.

(Para 3.9.13)

The Committee recommends that a robust post-disaster validation mechanism be initiated, whereby forecasted impacts are systematically compared with actual outcomes, and the findings are utilised to continuously refine predictive models, parameters and methodologies. The Committee also recommends that sector-specific and impact-based forecasting systems be developed, particularly for agriculture and allied sectors, so as to provide actionable information such as crop loss projections based on wind speed, rainfall and other hazard parameters, thereby enabling vulnerable communities, especially farmers, to take timely preventive and adaptive measures.

(Para 3.9.14)

The Committee recommends that a fully integrated, multi-hazard early warning system be developed at the national level, bringing together key agencies such as IMD, CWC, INCOIS, NRSC and State authorities into a single unified and interoperable platform, so as to ensure seamless data sharing, real-time coordination and timely dissemination of warnings.

(Para 3.9.15)

The Committee further recommends that early warning dissemination be strengthened through hyper-local forecasting and communication mechanisms at the level of villages, urban wards and vulnerable habitations, in place of the existing district-level approach, so as to enhance the accuracy, relevance and usability of warnings for local authorities and communities.

(Para 3.9.16)

The Committee notes that the disaster-related expenditure remains largely relief-centric, with comparatively lower emphasis on mitigation and risk reduction measures, which are essential for reducing long-term disaster losses. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a gradual but definitive shift be made from relief-oriented expenditure towards mitigation-focused investments, with adequate budgetary prioritisation for risk reduction, resilience-building and preventive infrastructure.

(Para 3.9.17)

The Committee further recommends that a dedicated monitoring and evaluation framework be established to track the utilisation, effectiveness and outcomes of funds allocated for mitigation, so as to ensure accountability, transparency and evidence-based policy corrections.

(Para 3.9.18)

The Committee also recommends that risk financing mechanisms be strengthened and expanded, including insurance coverage for households, agriculture and Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), in order to enhance financial resilience and reduce the economic burden of disasters on vulnerable sections of society.

(Para 3.9.19)

The Committee notes that research, innovation and knowledge-sharing are critical enablers for strengthening Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), and that sustained institutional support is required to translate policy intent into practical outcomes. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a national network of universities and research institutions be further strengthened and expanded, so as to promote interdisciplinary research, innovation and capacity building in disaster management.

(Para 3.9.20)

The Committee further recommends that indigenous technologies and capabilities be actively promoted and developed, particularly in the areas of forecasting systems, fire services equipment, and disaster response tools, with a view to reducing external dependence and enhancing self-reliance in disaster management.

(Para 3.9.21)

The Committee also recommends that post-disaster studies and documentation of lessons learnt be incorporated as a standard practice, and that the findings of such studies be systematically integrated into policy formulation, planning and capacity-building initiatives, so as to ensure continuous improvement in disaster risk management systems.

(Para 3.9.22)

Chapter IV – Risk Assessment, Mitigation Measures and Preparedness

Cyclones

The Committee notes that while significant improvements have been achieved in cyclone forecasting and warning systems, concerns remain regarding the availability of sector-specific impact assessments and preparedness at the local level, particularly for agriculture, fisheries and coastal livelihoods. The Committee, therefore, recommends that impact-based forecasting be further operationalised at the sectoral level, including crop-specific loss projections, infrastructure vulnerability assessment and livelihood risk advisories, so as to enable targeted preparedness measures by farmers, fishermen and local administrations. The Committee further recommends that initiatives must be taken for island territories and remote coastal regions, as well as Lakshadweep and Andaman & Nicobar Islands to have comprehensive framework encompassing dedicated evacuation, shelter and rehabilitation infrastructure, taking into account their geographical isolation and limited evacuation windows, so as to ensure effective disaster response in such vulnerable regions

(Para 4.2.19)

Floods

The Committee notes that recurrent flooding in several parts of the country is aggravated by encroachment of floodplains, unregulated riverbed activities and lack of basin-level planning, leading to avoidable loss of life and property. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a comprehensive national framework be developed for monitoring and removal of encroachments in riverbeds and floodplains, supported by periodic mapping of encroached areas, so as to ensure accountability and prevent further violations.

(Para 4.3.16)

The Committee further recommends that river basin-level flood management plans be prepared and implemented, integrating reservoir operations, upstream-downstream coordination and inter-state consultation mechanisms, particularly in the context of dam water releases, so as to prevent sudden flooding and downstream impacts. The Committee also recommends that clear protocols be established for dam operations, including mandatory prior information sharing among affected States, to ensure coordinated decision-making and minimise disaster risks arising from unregulated water releases.

(Para 4.3.17)

The Committee notes that urban flooding has emerged as a major challenge due to unplanned urbanisation, inadequate drainage systems and encroachment of natural water bodies, affecting a large number of Urban Local Bodies across the country. The Committee, therefore, recommends that urban flood management should be incorporated as a core function of Urban Local Bodies, with mandatory preparation and periodic updating of city-level flood management plans which may include drainage master plans and emergency response protocols.

(Para 4.3.18)

The Committee further recommends that storm-water drainage systems, wetlands, lakes and natural drainage channels be restored and maintained on a priority basis, and that encroachments on such systems be identified and removed in a time-bound manner, so as to restore natural water flow and reduce flood risk. The Committee also recommends that urban infrastructure planning pertaining to roads, housing and drainage systems, be aligned with natural topography and hydrological patterns to prevent waterlogging and urban flood situations.

(Para 4.3.19)

Earthquakes

The Committee notes that a large proportion of the country lies in moderate to high seismic zones, and that structural vulnerability of buildings remains a major risk factor, particularly in urban and densely populated areas. The Committee, therefore, recommends that strict enforcement of earthquake-resistant building codes be ensured across all States/Union Territories, and that compliance mechanisms be strengthened through periodic inspections and certification systems, so as to prevent unsafe construction practices.

(Para 4.4.11)

The Committee notes that earthquakes constitute one of the most serious natural hazards affecting the country due to its extensive seismic vulnerability. Hazard mapping and land-use planning is vital to minimize the loss of life, property and critical infrastructure, in the event of an earthquake. The Committee recommends that roadmap for earthquake management must give impetus to preparation and regular updation of seismic hazard maps, expansion of seismic monitoring networks and earthquake observation stations, restrict construction in high-risk seismic zones and promotion of safe urban planning based on scientific risk assessments. The Committee also recommends that provisions should be made for sufficient financial support for scientific research on earthquake prediction, risk assessment and resilient construction technologies.

(Para 4.4.12)

The earthquake mitigation and management require coordination efforts among government organisations, local authorities, emergency services and public. The Committee is of the view that inter agency coordination be strengthened by adopting measures which may include regular earthquake drills in offices, schools, hospitals and public institutions, development of evacuation plans and identification of safe assembly areas, stocking emergency shelters with food, water, medicines and essential supplies, organizing awareness campaigns on earthquake safety and preparedness, equipping disaster response agencies with modern rescue equipment and communication systems and developing policies that promote resilient development and rapid post disaster recovery.

(Para 4.4.13)

The Committee is of the view that retrofitting existing critical infrastructure is essential to reduce potential impacts of earthquake and ensure continuity of essential services. The Committee recommends that a time-bound programme for retrofitting of critical infrastructure, including schools, hospital, power plants, water supply systems, communication facilities and emergency response centres, be undertaken, with clear prioritisation of high-risk regions, since they are vital during and after seismic events and also to minimise potential losses during seismic events. The Committee observes that by adopting a systematic and phased retrofitting strategy, the government agencies and infrastructure owners can significantly reduce the risk of structural failure, protect human lives, minimize economic losses and maintain the uninterrupted operation of critical services during an event of earthquake. The Committee also recommends that unsafe and structurally deficient buildings in high-risk zones be identified and appropriate action should be taken, including retrofitting or demolition, to reduce disaster vulnerability.

(Para 4.4.14)

Tsunami

The Committee notes with appreciation the establishment of a robust Tsunami Early Warning System by the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS), integrating seismic monitoring, ocean observations and advanced modelling for timely dissemination of warnings. However, the Committee is of the considered view that the effectiveness

of any warning system ultimately depends on its successful transmission to the last mile and the preparedness of vulnerable communities to respond promptly. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the Government strengthen the last-mile connectivity of tsunami warning dissemination by expanding multilingual alert systems, enhancing the coverage of coastal siren networks, integrating warnings with all major mobile communication platforms, and conducting periodic community-based evacuation drills in every tsunami-prone coastal district and island territory. Special emphasis should be placed on sensitising fishermen, tourists, school children and other vulnerable groups through sustained awareness campaigns and mandatory mock exercises.

(Para 4.5.8)

The Committee observes that unplanned coastal development and degradation of natural coastal ecosystems significantly increase the vulnerability of coastal populations to tsunami impacts. While appreciating the ongoing efforts towards coastal hazard zonation and land-use planning, the Committee recommends that all major infrastructure projects and urban development plans in tsunami-prone areas be subjected to comprehensive tsunami risk assessments before approval. The Committee further recommends large-scale restoration and conservation of mangroves, coastal vegetation, coral reefs and sand dunes as cost-effective, sustainable and environmentally sound natural buffers against tsunami waves. Such ecosystem-based mitigation measures should be integrated with Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) planning and supported through dedicated financial assistance to coastal States and Union Territories.

(Para 4.5.9)

Landslides & Snow Avalanches

The Committee notes that landslides in hilly regions are increasingly linked to unregulated construction, slope destabilisation and environmental degradation, leading to recurring disasters and loss of life. The Committee recommends that landslide prone areas should be identified through hazard mapping and construction in high risk areas be avoided. The Committee also recommends that clear regulatory guidelines be framed for land-use planning and building codes and enforced to restrict construction and developmental activities in highly vulnerable slope areas, particularly in hill districts and tourist zones.

(Para 4.6.10)

The Committee also notes that deforestation and uncontrolled excavation on hill side also lead to slope destabilisation and landslides. The Committee is of the view that slope stability can be improved by planting deep rooted vegetation to hold soil in hilly regions, at the same time construction of retaining walls and rock barriers can also improve the slope stability, therefore, thrust may be given to such activities. The Committee also feels that measures must be taken to regulate mining, quarrying and construction activities in vulnerable areas to reduce the likelihood of landslides which could result in severe damage.

(Para 4.6.11)

The Committee recommends that infrastructure projects in hilly regions be subject to mandatory geotechnical and environmental assessments, with strict monitoring of compliance during execution, so as to prevent slope de-stabilization and associated risks. The Committee also recommends that priority be given to implementation of site-specific slope stabilization and drainage measures in identified landslide hotspots to reduce immediate risk in vulnerable areas.

(Para 4.6.12)

Heat Waves

The Committee notes that heat waves are emerging as a major public health hazard, particularly affecting vulnerable populations in urban and semi-urban areas. The Committee, therefore, recommends that Heat Action Plans be strengthened and uniformly implemented across all heat-prone States and cities, with clear delineation of roles and responsibilities of departments concerned.

(Para 4.7.7)

The Committee further recommends that urban planning incorporate heat-resilient measures, including increased green cover, cool roofing, shaded public spaces and improved water access, so as to reduce heat stress and protect vulnerable populations. The Committee also recommends that health systems be strengthened for heat wave response, including availability of cooling centres, medical preparedness and targeted awareness campaigns.

(Para 4.7.8)

Chemical & Industrial Disasters

The Committee notes that chemical and industrial disasters, though infrequent, have the potential for large-scale human and environmental impact, particularly in densely populated industrial regions. The Committee, therefore, recommends that strict enforcement of safety regulations and periodic safety audits of hazardous industries be ensured, with clear accountability for non-compliance.

(Para 4.8.12)

The Committee further recommends that on-site and off-site emergency plans be regularly updated and tested through mock drills, involving district authorities and local communities, so as to ensure preparedness for industrial accidents. The Committee also recommends that buffer zones between hazardous industries and residential areas be strictly maintained, and that land-use planning be aligned with industrial risk considerations, to minimise exposure of populations to industrial hazards.

(Para 4.8.13)

The Committee notes that the transportation of hazardous materials poses significant risks to public safety, human health and the environment, particularly along densely populated and high-traffic corridors, and that existing mechanisms for monitoring, regulation and emergency response during transit require further strengthening. The Committee, therefore, recommends that a comprehensive regulatory and monitoring framework be established for the safe transportation of hazardous materials, including mandatory GPS tracking of transport vehicles, route risk assessment and real-time monitoring systems, so as to ensure safe and secure movement. The Committee further recommends that district administrations and emergency services be equipped with specialised response protocols, equipment and trained hazardous material (HAZMAT) response teams along major transport corridors to effectively manage incidents involving chemical spills or leaks. The Committee also recommends that standardised emergency response guidelines be issued for accidents involving hazardous materials during transportation, with clearly defined roles and responsibilities for all concerned agencies to ensure timely response, effective containment and minimisation of potential damage.

(Para 4.8.14)

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

The Committee notes that the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), though highly specialized, may face capacity constraints in responding to multiple simultaneous disasters across the country, and that State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) have not been established in all States/UTs. The Committee, therefore, recommends that the strength, geographical distribution and specialised capabilities of NDRF be periodically reviewed and augmented, particularly in disaster-prone regions, so as to ensure timely and effective response.

(Para 5.2.7)

The Committee recommends that all States and Union Territories be mandated to establish and operationalise SDRFs in a time-bound manner, and necessary financial and technical support be extended by the Central Government for the same.

(Para 5.2.8)

The Committee feels coordination between National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force is essential for effective disaster management in the country as SDRF is the first responder in case of disaster and NDRF provides specialized support during major disasters. The Committee recommends that greater emphasis be placed on joint training, mock drills and interoperability between NDRF and SDRF units, so that coordinated response among all these forces be enhanced during rescue activities and management of disasters. The Committee also recommends that Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) and common communication platforms should be used to minimise the procedural and communication gaps.

(Para 5.2.9)

Early Warning and Risk Communication

The Committee notes that mechanisms such as the Integrated Control Room for Emergency Response (ICR-ER) and Emergency Response Support System (ERSS) (Dial 112) have significantly improved coordination; however, there is a need to further strengthen real-time data integration, decision support systems and inter-agency communication. The Committee, therefore, recommends that all emergency response platforms be fully integrated with real-time data from Central and State agencies, and that decision-support systems should be strengthened using advanced data analytics and visualisation tools, so as to facilitate timely and informed decision-making during disasters. The Committee further recommends that standard operating procedures should be established for seamless coordination between emergency response systems and field-level agencies, including district administrations and response forces.

(Para 5.7.7)

India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN)

The Committee notes that India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN) is a nation-wide electronic inventory of disaster response equipment, skilled personnel and emergency supplies managed by the National Institute of Disaster Management under the Ministry of Home Affairs. The Committee recommends that to improve the reach of IDRN, the emphasis should be laid on technological upgrades and stronger coordination among government agencies, local communities, and emergency responders. Further the network system should have real-time resource updating as outdated data can hamper the disaster response activities. The Committee therefore recommends that mandatory monthly or quarterly updates of resources should be done by districts, States and

national level line departments and agencies. It also recommends that network should be connected directly with police emergency systems, fire departments, hospitals, medical facilities and ambulance services for stronger integration with emergency services.

(Para 5.9.3)

Participation of Local Communities in Disaster Management

The Committee notes that local communities play a crucial role in disaster response and recovery; however, there is scope for further integration of their participation and enhancement of their capacities. The Committee, therefore, recommends that community-based disaster response mechanisms, including schemes such as Aapda Mitra and Yuva Aapda Mitra, be expanded and strengthened, with adequate training, equipment and institutional support. The Committee further recommends that Village Disaster Management Plans (VDMPs) and local-level preparedness plans be regularly updated and integrated with district and state plans, so as to ensure effective grassroots-level response.

(Para 5.10.5)

Relief and Rehabilitation

The Committee recommends that minimum standards of relief be periodically reviewed and updated, taking into account emerging needs and best practices, and that strict compliance be ensured across all States and Union Territories. The Committee further recommends that special provisions for vulnerable groups be incorporated through targeted interventions, including dedicated facilities in relief camps, livelihood support and social protection measures.

(Para 5.11.4)

Recovery Process

The Committee notes that Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) is a critical tool for recovery planning; however, concerns remain regarding timeliness, standardisation and alignment of PDNA outcomes with actual financial assistance and reconstruction efforts. The Committee, therefore, recommends that PDNA processes should be standardised across States with clearly defined timelines, methodologies and sectoral templates, so as to ensure consistency and credibility of damage and loss assessments. The Committee further recommends that financial assistance for recovery and reconstruction should be more closely aligned with PDNA findings, with appropriate justification in cases of deviation, and to enhance transparency and trust among stakeholders.

(Para 5.12.6)

Early, Mid and Long-term Recovery

The Committee notes that while the principle of “Build Back Better” is recognised in policy, its implementation on the ground lacks measurable benchmarks. The Committee, therefore, recommends that clear operational guidelines and sector-specific standards should be developed for implementing the “Build Back Better” approach with tangible results, particularly in housing, infrastructure and livelihood restoration, so as to ensure resilience in reconstruction efforts. The Committee further recommends that monitoring mechanisms should also be established to assess the extent to which reconstruction projects adhere to resilience and sustainability standards, and it should be reviewed periodically by higher authorities.

(Para 5.13.3)

State-wise Response, Relief and Rehabilitation

The Committee has observed that State of Odisha has taken notable initiatives for cyclone preparedness and mass evacuation, similarly State of Kerala has attained success in flood warning dissemination and decentralization of local governance. State of Tamil Nadu has adopted the “Build Back Better” approach and integrated disaster risk reduction into development planning. The Committee is of the view that improved preparedness measures and institutional response is an effective mechanism to minimise losses during event of any disaster. The Committee recommends that best practices adopted and response mechanism incorporated by all the States should be complied and documented in a comprehensive manner and should be made available as guidelines to other States/UTs which are vulnerable to similar kind of disasters.

(Para 5.17.64)

The Committee is of the view that the full spectrum of disaster management needs a coordinated, integrated and multi-disciplinary approach encompassing prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction. The disasters in the country are not only frequent but also diverse in nature. This necessitate the vulnerable States/Union Territories to keep reviewing and updating their mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery measures to be one step ahead to deal with any event of disaster. Further, sustained efforts are required to address emerging multi-hazard risks, strengthen last-mile connectivity and enhance integration of advanced technologies with grassroots-level systems, so as to further improve the effectiveness of response, relief and rehabilitation measures.

(Para 5.17.65)

RKK

(रिलीज़ आईडी: 2296309) आगंतुक पटल : 1283
इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: हिन्दी