

Calling Attention:

Fear and anxiety in the minds of the people of Goa specially residents of Panaji regarding the frequent flooding of the city due to heavy monsoon and whether the State Disaster Management Authority lacks the capability of dealing with such weather phenomena and whether the Government's lack of consideration of climate change while planning mega infrastructure projects such as Smart City is only worsening the situation. Measures the Government intends to take in the matter.

Reply:

The Government of Goa has revised the State Disaster management Plan in line with National Disaster Management Plan, 2019, and incorporated the new dimensions to it including climate change. The plan will guide the sustainable developmental activities by incorporating the disaster risk reduction component (structural and non structural mitigation measures). Besides Government has notified the Incident Response System at State and District level and the same has been incorporated in the chapter 8 of the revised SDMP, 2023. Goa SDMA disseminates all the disaster alerts/warnings received from alert generating agencies including IMD, INCOIS, etc. to public at large via CAP – Common Alert Protocol portal, SDMA has promulgated the SACHET mobile application of NDMA to receive location based and timely alerts on all the disasters including floods.

Based on the weather forecast, a warning is issued by the IMD and all the line departments are informed about the same. Subsequently, the line departments activate their response teams.

It may be noted that the surface drains in Panaji City are maintained/cleaned by the CCP regularly as part of the pre-monsoon works. Apart from this, to address the flooding issues in the areas of Mala and St Inez, the Imagine Panaji Smart City Development Limited (IPSCDL) under the Smart Cities Mission has undertaken two flood mitigation projects wherein Water Resources Department (WRD) is the execution agency, namely "Flood Mitigation and Pumping Station at Mala" costing 17 Cr which stands completed and "Rejuvenation of St Inez Nallah" costing 41 Cr which has currently achieved 80% physical progress.

It is to be noted that the pumping station installed at Mala has been operational during the High Rainfall scenario encountered on 27, 28 June 2023 and no flooding was noticed in the Mala areas and the system is functioning well.

Further, road works carried out by GSUDA under the Smart Cities Mission along road stretches, i.e. Bal-Bhavan to Caculo Mall (450m), Goa International Hotel to Tonca Bridge (700m), no

flooding has been observed on the said stretches. Similarly, balance stretch of 3.8km is being taken up.

The office of the Mamlatdar Tiswadi has identified flood prone areas and landslide prone area zones in Panaji. Talathis of these areas visit the sites and keep a watch over any disaster and immediately makes arrangements to shift the people which are likely to be affected with the flood prone areas and landslides. Further, in case of any loss caused to citizens due to disasters, the compensation claims are processed on priority.

North Goa District Disaster Management has set up a dedicated control room which function 24x7. Any citizen facing any problem regarding disaster may contact North Goa DDMA Emergency Control Room. Based on the information/complaint from citizen, it further informs the concerned line departments for necessary action. Besides, the control room staff also inform the Dy. Collector & SDO, Tiswadi and the Mamlatdar of the Tiswadi Taluka.

In case of major incidents, the control room staff informs the Collector and concerned Additional Collector and Deputy Collector dealing with Disaster Management. The situation is reviewed by Higher Authority and necessary directions are issued.

The State Disaster Management Authority is constantly monitoring the situation of Panaji and other parts of Goa based on various alerts issued by IMD and Disaster machinery is kept ready to tackle any situation that may arise due to heavy rains etc. All the line departments are also alerted time and again to be active for quick response. Similarly the State Govt is also planning for long term measures towards Disaster Management like strengthening of special SDRF force and also creation of special RRC – Regional Response Centre of NDRF. State Government has already transferred an area of 25000 sq mts of land for creation of said RRC at Asnora.