

Climate resilience disaster index for city

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Chennai: In a first-of-its-kind initiative, an in-depth Climate Resilience Disaster Index (CRDI) will be readied for Chennai. Jointly undertaken by Kyoto University and Madras University, the \$30,000 project began on Thursday and will cover each of the Chennai Corporation's ten zones. "Its objective is to develop micro-level analyses of various interconnected issues of urban living and the pressure on communities during times of disaster," said Rajib Shaw, associate professor at the graduate school of environmental studies of Kyoto University.

Experts at the two-day international workshop on 'Local climate and disaster resilience at Madras University on Thursday, said field-level information on the problems and constraints of other agencies would help in better co-ordinated effort in tackling disasters.

"Fifty% of the world's population lives within 60 km of coasts, 60% in low-elevation ar-

In-depth Study

Parameters For The Index

- ▶ Physical, where department specific information on infrastructure and links to city services would be evaluated
- ▶ Nature, where ecosystem, water quality, tree cover and environment policies would be assessed
- ▶ Institutional, where local governance, budget and training would be measured
- ▶ Social, where educational, health, social capital, presence of community and voluntary organisations would be analysed
- ▶ Economic, where income and access to credit, employment and subsidy for citizens would be covered

Physical
Nature
Institutional
Social
Economic

reas and 80% of coastal population lives in cities. These present extreme challenges," said J Radhakrishnan, assistant country director, and head, disaster management unit, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). "A vulnerability mapping, done scientifically with comprehensive data will improve our coping mechanism during hazards. When the scientific findings are validated by the academia, the distilled informa-

tion should reach the end users such as tahsildars and help develop effective responses to disasters, which can reduce human and economic loss" he added.

The five-pronged methodology of the study, in the form of questionnaires, is addressed to the corporation, Metrowater, CMDA, TWAD board and others. The infrastructure and its links to city's services, the quality of water, urban green cover, other ecosystems and en-

vironmental policies would be analysed.

The results would have an overall zonal data and bar graph on the five parameters.

The initial results of the project will be presented by July and the final Index released by the year-end, said Shaw. Kyoto University has prepared a macro-level indexing of 12 cities — Chennai, Mumbai, Delhi, Shimla, Jaipur, Guwahati, Kolkata, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Ahmedabad, Kanpur and Varanasi — with the National Institute of Disaster Management. "The data will be released next month," said Shaw.

Meanwhile, the UNDP will kick-start a government of India-sanctioned 'Disaster Risk reduction programme', with an inception meeting in Delhi on Monday. "The focus of the programme is to develop, integrate and mainstream the risk reduction concept in ongoing development programmes in cities. It has an outlay of Rs 100 crore and will be complete in 2012," said Radhakrishnan.

