

Mock drill on earthquake disaster management held in Sikkim

GANGTOK, March 10 (IPR): Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA) in coordination and support of NDMA conducted a mock drill on the earthquake scenario at 10:30 am at different locations in four districts of the State today.

The mock drill was conducted successfully in the presence of minister for Land Revenue & Disaster Management Kunga Nima Lepcha along with State chief secretary S.C. Gupta and principal secretary Home department R. Telang, who were present in the control room, SSDMA at Tashiling Secretariat complex.

The entire exercise was monitored and overseen by Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), member, National Disaster Management Authority along with officials from NDMA.

The mock exercise began with the briefing by the NDMA member at the State Control Room, in the presence of Relief



Commissioner Sarala Rai, and senior officers of the State government and concerned agencies. The briefing session was joined virtually by all the district collectors.

As the day progressed, the NDMA member along with senior officers of the NDMA and the State government visited the locations where the mock drill was being performed.

At the end of the mock drill, a debriefing session was held

at the State Control Room which was chaired by the NDMA member. A brief report of the relief exercise was made by State Relief Commissioner, while the report of rescue and relief operations in the districts was made by the respective district collectors.

During the debriefing session, the observers designated in each district presented their observations with regard to the mock drill and the relief and rescue

operations conducted under the leadership of the district collectors.

After the debriefing session, a media briefing of the mock drill at the State and district level was made by director, IPR department, Benu Gurung.

The basic objective of the mock drill was to review the emergency preparedness plan of the respective allied departments and evaluate the quality of standard operating

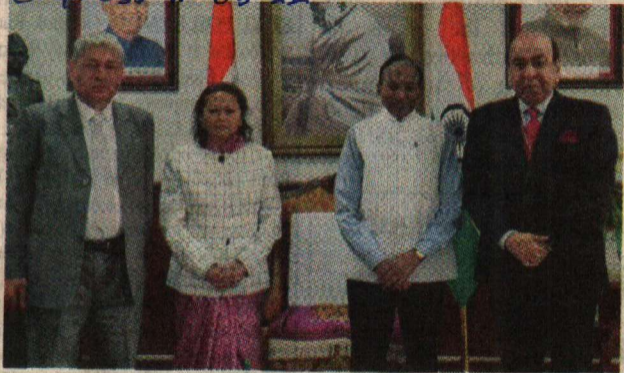
procedure, involving all the stakeholders so that concerned persons would deliver their duties effectively, thereby ensuring safety of life and property.

It was also to inculcate a culture of preparedness among the community and first responders in the face of disaster and to facilitate the State government in reviewing the adequacy and efficacy of the disaster management plans of the State and to identify



Sikkim Express 11.03.22

Lt. General Syed Ata Hasnain (Retd), member, National Disaster Management Authority, on Thursday made a courtesy call on Governor Ganga Prasad at Raj Bhawan here. He held discussions with the Governor on measures for protecting Sikkim from natural calamities and activities of the NDMA, a press release informs.



Disaster mock drill in Gyalshing district

LESHIP, March 10
As a part of the State-level mock exercise on disaster earthquake scenario, a mock exercise was conducted by District Disaster Management Authority, West at district administrative centre complex, Gyalshing and various locations of Legship bazar. The exercise was conducted under the command of District collector Karma R. Cho along with other officials of the district. The mock exercise at the DAC complex was monitored by District SDM Santosh Alley. The incident scenario at Legship - fire, building collapse, drop-cover-hold and dam burst, flood and landslides - was conducted by Gyalshing Agvane R. Ramesh and (HQ) Gopal K. Chettri, in the presence of 72 Bn second-in-command medical Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jan and deputy commandant Vijay Kumar, representatives of Manav Uthan Sewa Samiti, Legship, member of Gyalshing Chunggram Panchayat and volunteers. The mock exercise was a simulation scenario of an earthquake in Gyalshing. The mock exercise was conducted at four different

locations of Gyalshing-Legship area to sensitise and create awareness to the public during similar situations.

The district control room for the Gyalshing district was at district emergency operation centre, where all the heads of departments were stationed. During the exercise, a scenario depicting an earthquake with a magnitude of 6.7 on Richter scale at Gyalshing was taken into account. An emergency control room was set up at DAC conference hall where all HoDs reported within 15 minutes of the earthquake strike. Simultaneously, the public were made aware of the mock exercise through siren and PA system of District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA).

The drill consisted of four scenarios wherein building collapse evacuation, fire drill, dam outburst with possible flooding and medical emergencies were simulated. The areas where the above-mentioned scenes enacted were government senior secondary school and Bazaar area of Legship, DAC, Rabdentse and Gyalshing district hospital. The staging areas were set up by 11 am, wherein personnel from SSB and IRB along with the volunteers from NYK and



Manav Uthan Sewa Samiti were stationed. The entire DAC was evacuated within 10 minutes of earthquake and two trapped/injured persons were also rescued and treated at the spot.

A team in the district control room had the district collector as the incident commander for DAC area, Gyalshing ADC for Legship

area (flood and fire) and SDM (HQ) for building collapse at Legship. Others involved in different posts were Gyalshing SP as the operation section chief, SSB as observer, DPO (Disaster Management) as the coordinator, DPO, Zilla as the liaison officer, ADC (Dev) as the planning section chief, senior accounts officer as the finance chief, DCSO as the

logistic chief, Gyalshing SDPO as the safety, law and order officer and DIO (IPR) as information and media officer.

During the mock exercise, various scenarios were depicted wherein a fire broke out at Sankar Bhawan at Legship where it was depicted that three people were rescued and taken to the nearest health facility. Further, a two-storied building of Bhuwan Pradhan was damaged by the earthquake where 20 people were rescued by the 36th Bn SSB and sent to NHPC health care unit for treatment. During the incident, five casualties were reported by the rescue team.

A demonstration on 'Drop, Cover, Hold' was also showcased by 36th Bn SSB headed by Upendra Kumar Kaushik. During the drill, it was shown that one school building had collapsed due to the earthquake and one additional building was partially damaged where 350 students were shown to be trapped of which 15 students suffered minor injuries and were given first aid. It was also shown that six persons were sent to the district hospital for further treatment.

Due to the earthquake, it was reported that at around 1 pm, a situation of flooding

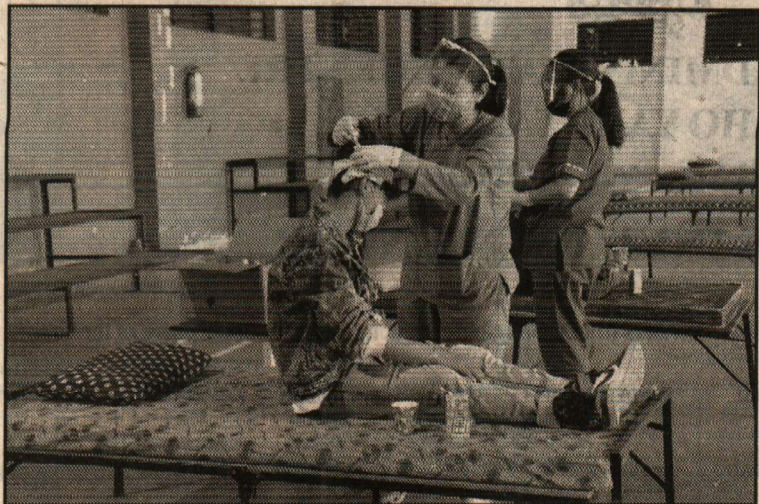
was reported where two persons were rescued and one was reported as dead and around 1:15 pm, a Landslide was reported on the Legship-Ravangla road which caused blockage which was cleared by the NHPC functionaries.

In a separate incident conducted at the district administrative centre it was simulated that the DAC building was partially collapsed where all personnel were evacuated within 30 minutes which included one dead, two severely injured and three with minor injuries. The reported one dead and two severely injured were taken to Gyalshing district hospital immediately and the remaining injured were given first aid.

From the four scenarios, 33 minor injuries, six severe injuries and seven deaths were reported. For all these patients, first aid was administered at site after which they were sent to the nearest hospital for treatment.

The mock exercise was conducted to see the coordination among the different departments and the ground staff to make the functioning of the relief and rescue operation faster, efficient and reliable in times of real time disasters.

Disaster mock drill in Gangtok



GANGTOK, March 10 (IPR): A mock exercise on earthquake in relation to disaster preparedness was conducted in and around Gangtok under the supervision of district collector Ragul K. today.

The mock exercise was a simulation design of an earthquake with Gangtok as the epicentre. During the exercise, a scenario depicting a magnitude of 6.7 RS earthquake occurred at Gangtok and the mock exercise began at 10:30 am.

Within 15 minutes of the earthquake striking, the public were simultaneously made

aware about the mock exercise through siren by the NDRF and police personnel. The State Police and Fire departments along with Nehru Yuva Kendra volunteers were the first responders to reach the site and start the rescue operations followed by the NDRF team.

The NDRF team installed tents near Pantaloons, at MG Marg where a major incident took place. The NDRF team showed the process related to the recovery of surface victims, rope rescue techniques and other recovering strategies. People trapped inside and buried

under the collapsed building were rescued and sent to hospitals after administering preliminary first aid at the tent outside. The rescue drills were conducted in coordination with various departments such as Civil Defence, Police force, Traffic control, NDRF, Fire, Medical team, Forest, PHE, Power and RMD.

The dedicated task force were deployed to the affected locations and they were successful in bringing the situation under control within 25 minutes of their arrival at the spot. In the designed scenarios, there were moderately injured

individuals, 7-10 casualties, 5-6 crucially injured people, and one dead trapped inside the building were reported who were later rescued by the concerned officials. For injured patients, first aid was administered at site after which they were sent to nearest hospitals for effective treatment. The relief camp and staging areas were constructed at Paljor Stadium, manned by medical team, Road & Bridges department and NYK volunteers.

The district collector was accompanied by Gangtok ADC Hemant Rai, DCFO (Fire & Emergency) Mathew

Rai, deputy director (Disaster Management) Sonam Wongyal Lepcha, Gangtok ADC (Development) Radha Pradhan, DIO (IPR Gangtok) Simon Subba, Gangtok municipal commissioner Hem Kumar Chettri and other dignitaries from various departments.

The entire exercise was completed successfully after the debriefing of the exercise done at the Zilla conference hall by the district collector. The participants and concerned officials from various departments were also made aware about what needs to be done when disaster strikes.

भुँइचालो परिदृश्यमाथि राज्यका चार जिल्लामा कृत्रिम अभ्यास सम्पन्न



गान्तोक, १० मार्च। सिक्किम राज्य आपदा प्रबन्धन प्राधिकरण (एसएसडीएमए) ले राष्ट्रिय आपदा प्रबन्धन प्राधिकरणको समन्वयमा विहिवार बिहान १०:३० बजी राज्यका चार जिल्लाका विभिन्न ठाउँहरू एकसाथ भुँइचालो परिदृश्यमाथि कृत्रिम अभ्यास (मक ड्रिल) आयोजन गर्‍यो। राजधानी गान्तोकमा भू राजस्व एवं आपदा प्रबन्धन विभाग मन्त्री कुङ्गा निमा लेप्चाको उपस्थितिमा मक ड्रिल सफलतापूर्वक सम्पन्न गरियो।

राजधानीको टाशीलिङ सचिवालय परिसरस्थित एसएसडीएमएको नियन्त्रण कक्षमा मन्त्री लेप्चासहित राज्यका मुख्य सचिव एससी गुप्ता, गृह विभागका प्रधान सचिव आर. तेलाङ आदि अधिकारीहरू उपस्थित थिए। मक ड्रिल आयोजन गर्नुको मुख्य उद्देश्य सम्बन्धित विभागहरूको आपतकालीन तयारी योजना समीक्षा गर्नु र मानक सञ्चालन प्रक्रियाको गुणवत्ता मूल्यांकन गर्नु रहेको थियो। यस अतिरिक्त समुदाय

र प्रथम प्रतिक्रियाकर्ताहरूमा तयारीको संस्कृति विकसित गर्न पनि यस अभ्यासको आयोजना गरिएको बताइएको छ। मक ड्रिलमा आम मानिसहरूलाई पनि संलग्न गरिएको थियो।

उल्लेखनीय छ, हालैमा गठन भएका दुईवटा जिल्ला पाकिम र सोरेङमा अहिले जिल्ला आपदा प्रबन्धन प्राधिकरण गठन प्रक्रिया चलिरहेको छ। यसकारण उक्त दुईवटा जिल्लामा आज मक ड्रिल गरिएन।