

JALRAHAT

Urban Flood Mock Drill

Exercise **JALRAHAT**, a mock drill for disaster preparedness on urban flood, was a joint initiative by the Assam government and the Armed Forces was conducted from June 28 to 30th June 2016. The aim of the exercise was to synergise the efforts of all stakeholders for enhancing disaster preparedness, assess the effectiveness of the plan, organisational skills and decision support system at each stage of the flood rescue and relief efforts.

The Rangiya-based Red Horn Division under the aegis of the Gajraj Corps of Army's Eastern Command, with support from Headquarters Eastern Air and Eastern Naval Commands, 101 Area and Narangi-based 51 Sub Area, Assam State Disaster Management Authority conducted this mega exercise and it also actively involved the participation of State administration, National Disaster Relief Force units, Guwahati Municipal Corporation and paramilitary forces like CRPF and SSB. Further, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), helicopters of the Indian Air Force and Army Aviation and divers from the Indian Navy and Elite Special Forces of the Indian Army participated in the exercise to demonstrate use of potent capabilities and modern technology to assist in disaster management effort.

The Exercise commenced on 28th June 2016 at Narangi Cantonment through a Table Top Session. , Lt Gen D Anbu, GOC Gajraj Corps, Chief Secretary, Government of Assam, Shri V. K. Pipersenia were present to grace the occasion. Lt Gen D Anbu, GOC Gajraj Corps, highlighted the need for integrating the key facets of the National Disaster Management Policy (NDMP-2016) guidelines. Assam Chief Secretary V. K. Pipersenia commended the Assam State Disaster Management Authority (ASDMA) and the Armed Forces for taking the unique initiative, the first of its kind, to spread awareness among various stakeholders about each other's role, tasks and capabilities.

A series of presentations and brainstorming sessions with syndicates followed co-opting different agencies responsible for disaster management. Several issues ranging from preparation, planning, early warning and immediate response to relief and rehabilitation measures came up for discussions. Local Residents of the flood affected areas of Guwahati also voiced their concern in the sessions

The drill was carried out on 29th June 2016 on the southern bank of the Brahmaputra river near Bhutnath in Santipur area of Guwahati. The highlights of the drill were aerial recce, rescue by boats, rooftop rescue using helicopters, rescue by aerial ropeway, diving operation, small team incision and extrication operation, manual rescue from multi-storey buildings and dropping of food supplies by helicopters. The exercise also showcased how people can save themselves by adopting simple techniques with materials that are available in their surroundings.

Chief Minister Sarbananda Sonowal, who was present to grace the occasion, said that the plan put in place will help to rescue marooned people in the event of flooding in Guwahati city. Lt. Gen Devraj Anbu who heads the army's 4 Corps said the key facets of the National Disaster Management Plan 2016 have been integrated into understanding of disaster risks, disaster risk reduction and enhancing disaster preparedness to save precious lives.

On the Final Day i.e. on 30th June 2016, the Lessons Learnt session was held