

School Mock Drill: A preparedness initiative October 2017 – November 2017

Schools are critical infrastructure entrusted with the responsibility of creating citizens of tomorrow. A safe and secure environment is a prerequisite for effective teaching and learning. Thus ensuring safety of children, teachers and staff members during disasters is necessary. As a major step forward towards realising our vision of “Safer Schools”, Assam State Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with District Disaster management Authority, Kamrup (M), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response (SDRF) and Fire & Emergency Services is conducting school mock drill in different schools in Guwahati.

The Teachers and Students of all the schools were actively involved in the Drill. The drill started off with sounding of a siren signalling an earthquake of 6.8 in the Richter scale, after which the school students performed the Drop-Cover-Hold and evacuated from the rooms and gathered in the assembly point. A fire incident was also in-acted, wherein the School Principal called the Fire & Emergency Services and the Emergency Control Rooms after which SDRF teams and NDRF displayed their preparedness skills for carrying out response activities. Students and Teachers posing as victims were rescued using various techniques. First Aid was also given to the posed victims in the drill by NDRF. A demonstration on the Fire Safety equipment handling and basic Search & Rescue Techniques was also shown to the students and teachers.

The NDRF team was led by Shri. Surinder Kumar, Asst. Commandant, NDRF 1st Bn and Shri R.C. Bhakat, Senior Station Officer, Panbazar Fire Station led the team of SDRF and Fire & Emergency Services. The entire activity was led by Shri Rajib Prakash Baruah, State Project Coordinator, Assam State Disaster Management Authority, Dr. Mirza Mahammad Irshad, Project Manager, Response, ASDMA, Shri Kaustav Talukdar, District Project Officer, District Disaster Management Authority, Kamrup (Metro) and other officers of Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

First Mock Drill: Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Dispur

First of these mega drills was conducted in **Shrimanta Shankar Academy, Dispur on 31st October 2017.**

Shri A.P. Rout IPS, DGP and Director, Fire and Emergency Services was present as the Chief Guest and formally inaugurated the event. Shri Mr. Pranay Bordoloi, Managing Editor, DY365 - Unit of Brahmaputra Tele Productions Pvt. Ltd was also present as the Guest of Honour. Shri R.S Gill, Second in Command, NDRF 1st Battalion was also present to grace the occasion.

Over 3000 students and teachers of Shrimanta Shankar Academy showed immense enthusiasm while conducting the drill. Shri. Bijaya Nanda Chowdhury, Member Secretary, Shrimanta Shankar Academy Society was involved in the entire activity with extreme keenness. Shri Rajib Prakash Baruah, ACS, State Project Coordinator, ASDMA who was present in the occasion as a distinguished guest said, "Such drills are important because it helps one to respond appropriately during any emergency situation. The aim of such drill is therefore to create a culture of disaster safety in schools".

Second Mock Drill: Assam Jatiya Bidyalay

Second of these mega drills was conducted in **Assam Jatiya Bidyalay on 2nd November 2017**. Senior Government officials were also present to grace the occasion. These drills are important because it helps one to respond appropriately during any emergency situation. Shri. Rajib Prakash Baruah, ACS, State Project Coordinator, ASDMA was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion and inaugurated the Mock drill.

Over 3000 students and teachers of **Assam Jatiya Bidyalay** showed immense enthusiasm while conducting the drill.

Third Mock Drill: Delhi Public School, Guwahati

The Third drill was conducted in **Delhi Public School, Guwahati on 8th November 2017**. Senior Government officials were also present to grace the occasion. Shri. Rajib Prakash Baruah, ACS, State Project Coordinator, ASDMA was present as the Chief Guest on the occasion and inaugurated the Mock drill.

Shri. Rajib Prakash Baruah said "Schools in general are vulnerable to various hazards since they have a large number of underage vulnerable populations. Schools have been severely affected by various hazards in the past and hence these drills are important because it helps one to respond appropriately during any emergency situation."

Fourth Mock Drill: Delhi Public School, Guwahati

The Fourth and Last of these mega drills was conducted in **Royal Global School, Guwahati on 16th November 2017**. These drills are important because it helps one to respond appropriately during any emergency situation.

Over 1000 students and teachers of **Royal Global School, Guwahati** showed immense enthusiasm while conducting the drill.