



# International Day for Disaster Reduction

## Kerala State

### UN SECRETARY-GENERAL'S MESSAGE

The 2012 International Day for Disaster Reduction seeks to highlight the need for women and girls to be at the forefront of reducing risk and managing the world's response to natural hazards.

The International Day for Disaster Reduction is observed on 13<sup>th</sup> October annually by member countries as per the decision of U.N General Assembly to promote a global culture of natural disaster reduction, including disaster prevention, mitigation and preparedness. The day is observed every year to raise awareness about what we can all do to reduce our risk to disasters from earthquakes, floods, landslides, cyclones, lightning etc. This is a day to raise awareness about how people are taking action to reduce their risk to

disasters. In 2012, the spotlight is on women and girls, the invisible force of resilience.

The Department of Revenue & Disaster Management in association with State Disaster Management Authority and GOI - UNDP Disaster Risk Reduction Programme observed the International Day for Disaster Reduction with remarkable programmes and events like walkathon, literary competition for students like Drawing and Quiz, Mock Drills, drama based on Disaster Management etc. The observance started on 8<sup>th</sup> and wind up on 13<sup>th</sup> October.

The observance of IDDR 2012 facilitated public attention to disaster risk reduction and demonstrated commitment and preparedness of official machinery. It conveyed the message of the role of each citizen in the process of disaster risk reduction. The IDDR observance was surely a step forward towards disaster reduction.

# Inauguration of observance of International Disaster Reduction Week (October 8'th – 13'th)



Hon. Chief Minister Sri. Oommen Chandy (3'rd from left) inaugurated the event in the presence of Sri. Adoor Prakash, Revenue Minister (2'nd from left), Sri. Sivan Kutty MLA (extreme left) and other officials like Smt. Valsalakumari, Principal Secretary of Revenue, Sri. T.O Sooraj, Land Revenue Commissioner, Sri. Satheesh, District Collector and Sri. Jangpangi, Commandant General, Fire & Rescue Services on 9'th October, 2012 at a public function at Kanakakunnu Palace, Trivandrum. The Chief Minister opined that the facilities for DM in the State are limited now and hence systems for disaster management will be strengthened in the State. He also gave away the Media Awards to scribes who reported various disaster events in a commendable manner.



A Drama titled 'Athijeevanam' focussing on women as an invisible force of disaster resilience in the background of the recent landslides in the State was enacted by the Staff of Revenue Commissionerate as part of the observance of Disaster Reduction Day.

The Chief Minister presented the Media Awards of SDMA for year 2012 for best reporting of disasters and for publishing / telecasting disaster related articles / documentaries in a commendable manner. Awards were presented to scribes for the best reports in print and electronic media, best photograph and best article on DM.



## State wide Quiz Competition



A State wide Quiz Competition on Disasters, Disaster Management, Environment and Climate Change was conducted for students studying in high schools by SDMA and DDMA's to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

The district level competitions were held on 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> of October in all 14 Districts and the grand final of the district finalists was conducted on 8<sup>th</sup> October at Trivandrum. Smt. Nivedita P Haran, Add. Chief Secretary inaugurated the event and Smt. Valsalakumari IAS, Principal Secretary for Revenue & DM gave away the prizes. The winners received a cash prize of Rs. 10,000/- along with Certificates. Rs. 7500/- and Rs. 5000/- were given as second and third prizes consecutively.





## 'SDMA - Balarama - YMCA All Kerala Painting Competition for children'



SDMA and Balarama, the leading children's vernacular magazine organized an all Kerala Painting Competition for school children in association with YMCA on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2012. The Painting competition was held at 350 centres of YMCA in Kerala and about 3 lakhs children participated in the event.

The age groups and themes of the competition were as follows. Group I - Children below 5 years (Colouring Competition), Group II - Children between 5 & 7 years (My Earth), Group III - Children between 7 & 9 years (My Earth), Group IV - Children between 9 & 12 years (My Earth), Group V - Children between 12 & 15 years (Men Fighting Disaster)

Prizes awarded to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> winners of each category in each centre. The State level winners decided from the best five entries from each of the 350 centres received a cash prize of Rs.10000, Rs.7500, Rs.5000 as first, second and third prizes



## Street Play - Unarthupattu

SDMA in association with four MSW Colleges in the State organised enactment of a Street Play named Unarthupattu (arising song) in various parts of the State (all 14 districts) during the week to raise awareness among general public on disaster risk reduction. It also raised awareness against exploitation of environment, drunken driving etc and encouraged the public to cooperate in disaster management activities of the State and Districts. The street play was presented at around 60 locations in the State and an estimated population of 10,000 people witnessed the play.



Students from Rajagiri School of Social Science, Ernakulam has performed the street play (UNARTHU PATTU) in Palackad District on 9/10/12. More than 1700 persons watched the programme conducted at GMM Girls HSS compound, Civil Station premises, District Panchayath Office premises and Fort Maidan. District Collector, Assistant Collector, Deputy Collectors, District Panchayath Office staffs, District Collectorate Staffs, NDMA-IGNOU FFTP

trainees, students and public witnessed the play.



The Street Play was organised at Kottiyam Junction, premises of Govt. Model H.S for Girls, Civil Station Compound and at Municipal Office in Kollam District on 10<sup>th</sup> October. The Students from School of Social Sciences, Amritha Vishwa vidyapeetham, Kollam enacted the street play.



The street play in Idukki District was conducted with the help of BCM college students from Kottayam. The play was arranged in four venues – Vandiperiyar town, St.Marys High School Marykulam, Kattappana Town bus station and Cheruthony bus station.

### Walkathon

The District administrations in association with DDMA's and City Disaster Management Cells (UNDP-URR) conducted Walkathons in District Headquarters on 13<sup>th</sup> October to mark the International Day for Disaster Reduction.

The City Disaster Management Cell in Kozhikode organised a walkathon from Municipal Corporation to the South Beach to mark the IDDR-2012. More than 100 members of Pre – Recruitment Training Centre (PRTC), Representatives of various Govt. Departments; Revenue, Police, Fire and Rescue and Public took part in the procession. Mr. Arun Bhasker , ADO (Fire and Rescue, Meenchantha ) flagged of the programme . Mr. K. Asharaf (Assistant Commissioners, Spl. Branch, Kozhikode), K.Rajeevan ( Deputy Collector, Kozhikode), Vijeesh Pulparambil (Project Officer, UNDP-URR) led the procession.



The walkathon in Kollam started from Govt. HS Boys and concluded in St. Joseph convent HS Kollam. The Walkthon inaugurated by District Collector Shri. P.G.Thomas IAS at Govt. HS Boys HS. The students from Govt.BHSS & VHSE, Govt. GHS, Christhuraj High School, Govt. HS Vallikkezh etc. participated the walkathon.



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The Walkathon in Palackad District started from PMG High School and concluded at Civil Station on 11/10/2012. Kerala police, Student Police cadets, Cadets from Jagratha committees, School teachers and Revenue & DM officials participated in the walkathon flagged off Sri. P. Dinesh, IPS, District Police Chief. Public Announcement, demonstration of placards and distribution of brochures on disaster management were part of the walkathon. Sri.K.V. Vasudevan, ADM presided over the flagging off ceremony.

## Disaster Reduction Pledge Taking

City Disaster Management Cell in Trivandrum organised a sensitisation programme at Vettukadu on Disaster Risk Reduction for WSHG members on 13'th October along with a pledge taking.

Ms. Viji.R, City Project Officer delivered a detailed lecture on disaster risk reduction and the role of women in risk reduction. SHG members from Valiyathura, Vettucadu, Shanghumugham, Veli, Valiya veli and Pound kadavu participated in the event. MSW students from Karyavattom campus also participated in the event .



## Awareness Generation Programme



the programme.

As part of the Disaster Reduction Day observance in Kollam, a Disaster management awareness generation programme for school students was conducted by Fire & rescue service at Govt. Model HS for Girls, Kollam. Head Mistress Smt. Usha presided over the event and Mr. M.R. Sasidharan, Assistant Station Officer and Stanley, Leading Fireman conducted the awareness class cum demonstration. The students, teachers and non- teaching staff attended



## Mock Drills

Earthquake, Fire and Bomb Explosion Mock drills were organised by District Administrations under the aegis of GOI – UNDP DRR Programmes at various district Collectorates.

**Kozhikode** : An earthquake mock drill was conducted by District Administration and City Corporation in Kozhikode on 11<sup>th</sup> October jointly with department of Fire and Rescue Services, Kerala Police, Department of Health, Department of Revenue and Disaster management and ANGELS, an NGO. The drill started with the announcement of an earthquake by Sri KV Mohankumar IAS, District Collector which was followed by drop/cover/hold exercise by people and then evacuation by various task forces. The Fire and Rescue services arrived at the incident place and rescued the victims who were trapped under concrete beams and in high rise buildings. ANGELS, a trained voluntary group in Kozhikode actively participated in rescue, along with emergency medical services to victims. Emergency Medical care unit was managed by doctors and nurses of health department. Ambulance services transported critically injured peoples to the nearby hospitals. Police assisted fire and rescue department and maintained law and Order. Department of Revenue and Disaster management opened temporary shelter.



ANGELS made remarkable performance during the Mock Drill. With its Human and logistic support, they demonstrated the immediate, emergency medical care during a disaster.

Sri Pradeep Kandoth, Joint General Manager, Air Traffic Control and Dr. VP Jasir, Quality Control Department, MIMS made the external evaluation and District Collector conducted a review meeting after the drill.



**Palakkad** : For the first time in the history of Palakkad District Administration, a mock drill has organized on 12/10/12 with the active participation of District Administration, DDMA, Kerala Police, Fire and Rescue, Dept. of Health, Taluk Offices...etc.



The District Collector received the bomb threat over phone at 10.45 am and staffs of Collectorate became panic. Police and Fire and rescue rushed to the Collectorate and started safe evacuation through the pre-determined routes. Few trauma patients were evacuated by Fireman by using stretchers. Later bomb squad and Dog squad of Police came to the location and conducted a detailed examination to detect the bomb. After the search, they recovered the bomb from one of the sections of the Collectorate. This was shifted to a safe baggage and then transported from the location in a lorry. Police informed about the safe disposal of bomb and suggested District Collector to allow the staff to return back to their offices. After the drill, an evaluation



meeting was convened by Sri. K.V.Vasudevan, DC(I/c), which was attended by Sri. Binukumar.G.S, DPO, Sri. S. Sasidharan, DySP, Sri. Prashob,DySP, Sri. K.K. Shiju, ADO, Fire & rescue, Sri. Selvaraj, Tahsildar, Dr Sujith, Health Department and other officials. It was decided to review the present parking system in the Collectorate to avoid delay in the response time.

**Idukki** : A Mock drill was conducted in the Peermade taluk office with the help of fire and rescue department. Along with fire mock drill, the fire and rescue department also conducted an equipment familiarization exercise in the taluk office conference hall. Staff from different departments and public participated in the programme. The mock drill was led by Mr. Manoj, Fireman from Thodupuzha fire station.