

CYCLONE & INDUCED DISASTER MOCK DRILL HELD

Panaji: April 25, 2025

The State Disaster Management Authority, Goa in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority conducted State Level Mock Exercise on Cyclone and Induced Disasters at various places in both the districts with the involvement of various line Departments to check the preparedness of the Crisis Group in meeting an eventuality of Cyclone and to put in place SoPs in handling such situations apart from creating awareness among the people of the locality. The exercise was executed as per the provisions of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

Exercise was conducted in Aivao Beach, Caranzalem, Panaji; Panaji Ferry Wharf, Panaji; Mahadev Temple Salem, Salem; Bagwada Pilgao; Mapusa Industrial Estate, Dattawadi; Electricity Sub Station, KTCL Depot, Porvorim; Fishing Jetty, Malim, Near Police Govt Quarters; Nerul, Coco Beach; Morjim Beach, Near Morjim Beach Manohar International Airport, Near CHC Casarwanem; Naquerim Betul Panchayat, Chowgule Shipyard site at Loutulim, Salcete, Murdi Bagh, Khandepar Ponda, Baina beach area, IOCL and HP Terminal, Goa Shipyard and Mormugao Port Authority.

The actual mock drill exercise had started after the Indian Meteorological Department, Metrological Centre, Goa issued special bulletin at 8.30 a.m. saying that the Very Severe Cyclonic Storm over east central Arabian Sea moved nearly northwards with a speed of about 11 kmph during past 06 hours and lay centred at 0830 hours IST of today, the 25th April 2025 over east central Arabian Sea near latitude 15.3°N and longitude 72.7°E, about 80 km west-southwest of Panjim-Goa, 380 km south of Mumbai, 620 km south-southeast of Veraval (Gujarat) and 770 km southeast of Karachi (Pakistan).

It was said this cyclonic storm is very likely to intensify further during next 6 hours. It is very likely to move north eastwards and reach Goa coast in the morning hours of 25th April & cross Goa coast between Arambol and Betul on 25th April between 1000 IST and 1300Hrs IST.

Accordingly, directions were issued to various line Departments to be ready. This Mock exercise was aimed to enhance the level of disaster preparedness with respect to cyclones and identify the gaps. There were various scenarios exercised - Evacuation of the vulnerable population followed by Search and Rescue & Relief Operations. A specialized rescue operation was carried out by the NDRF.

This exercise set the stage for safety and security management for the entire State and also augured well for preparedness and capacity building for the monsoon season.

Mock exercises on various types of natural and anthropogenic hazards help in inculcating a culture of preparedness and generate awareness. This Mock exercise helped the both District Administration to assess the preparedness, review the District Disaster Management Plans, Standard Operating Procedures and to evaluate the readiness of various departments in times of any disaster or emergency. This also gave the opportunity to coordinate the activities of various agencies for their optimum

utilization and to use the feedback to identify the gaps and improve the capacities of the system to face actual disaster situations.

The objective of this mock exercise was to review the District Disaster Management Plan. The other objectives were to evaluate the Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) which is also available on SDMA website, Assess the Response mechanism in the district through an Incident Response System, Enhance coordination among the emergency support functioning agencies, Awareness creation among the officials, public and Central forces such as the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and National Disaster Response Force.

Commissioner cum Secretary Revenue and Chairperson State Disaster Management Authority, Shri Sandip Jacques, IAS, Collectors and Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority, North and South Goa District, Dr Sneha Gite and Ms Egna Cleetus, IAS; Deputy Collectors, Senior Officers of various line departments and others took stock of the entire mock exercise from Emergency Operation Centre (EOC) stationed at Secretariat, Porvorim and South Goa Collectorate.

All the line Departments including National Disaster Response Force, Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Drishti Lifesaving, Electricity, Health Services, Civil Defence, Indian Coast Guard, Indian Navy, Indian Oil Gas Limited, trained community volunteers Aapda Mitras and Sakhis, Department of Information and Publicity participated in the Mock Drill.

DI/NB/AXP/SS/2025/

Issued by the Department of Information & Publicity

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