

IDDR DAY CELEBRATION 2024- DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY,ALAPPUZHA

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction is celebrated on October 13 in an effort to fulfil the Sendai Framework's objective of lowering the risks and damages of disasters worldwide.

This year's INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION is being observed with the theme “Education's role in protecting and empowering youth, a disaster-free future”. As part of this, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority, Alappuzha District Disaster Management Authority and Alappuzha Fire & Rescue Department jointly honored the volunteers of Apda Mitra on 24.10.2024 at Alappuzha District Panchayat Hall. The Badge of Honour was given by the District Collector to ten Apda Mitra volunteers who provided critical support during the Wayanad landslide disaster and subsequent emergencies. Additionally, all Apda Mitra volunteers in the district received certificates.

The ceremony was organized at the Alappuzha District Panchayat Hall by Hon. District Collector Alex Varghese inaugurated it. The official program began at 10.30 am and was welcomed by Mr. Ramkumar, the District Fire Officer. The aforementioned program was overseen by Mr. Premji C, Hon. Deputy Collector (Disaster Management). Keynote speaker Mrs. Asha C. Abraham (ADM) gave the speech. Following the inauguration, Apda Mitra volunteers who had performed exceptional service were given medals and badges of honor by Hon. District Collector Mr. Alex Varghese IAS.

Mr. Prasad, Alappuzha Station Officer, Mr. Premnath and Cherthala Station Officer offered greetings. District Hazard Analyst Chinthu C, DM Plan District Coordinator Rahul Kumar S, Kila Block Coordinator Agina Chandran K, Sheetal P etc. were part of the ceremony. Junior Superintendent of District Disaster Management Authority Mr. Sudheesh delivered the vote of thanks. Apda Mitra workers then shared their experiences and suggestions. With pride, the volunteers described their experiences serving in the Wayanad landslide-affected area, working effectively in emergency circumstances such as gas leaks, auto accidents, and fires, and saving lives by delivering first aid, including cardiopulmonary resuscitation. One woman volunteer recounted numerous instances of saving individuals, including using a fire extinguisher quickly, performing, saving her own father with CPR, Blood donation, and saving a family from a gas leak.

Alongside that, people recounted their most unforgettable Wayanad experiences. Volunteers conveyed their appreciation to the Apda Mitra Team and fire department staff for making this possible. Additionally, their insightful recommendations were communicated. Shri. Sudhish, Junior Superintendent of Disaster Management, conveyed gratitude for the event.

Suggestions:

- **Need for swimming training is necessary for drowning incidents.**
- **When using ham radio in emergency situations, proper setup should be made sure of.**

- **First aid courses with an emphasis on Auto stands and Public transport workers would be more effective.**

- It was recommended that training be provided on preventing vehicle short circuit fire and the importance of having fire extinguishers in cars
- Made the suggestion that educating housewives about gas leaks would be useful.
- More depth in Training for Disaster Management
- It would be good if the name or number of Apda Mitra workers in each area is recorded in the form of a separate code on the map at the fire station.

