



# REPORT- INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION 2024

**DISTRICT DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY  
KOLLAM**

## **International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction**

The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) is observed on 13<sup>th</sup> of October every year to raise awareness about the need to reduce disaster risks and strengthen community resilience. The theme for IDDRR 2024, “*empowering the next generation for a resilient future,*” highlights the critical role of education in empowering young people to build disaster resilient communities. In support of this global initiative, the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA) hosted a range of events to commemorate the observance of the day.

### **Observance of IDDRR by DDMA, Kollam**

As per the directions received from the KSDMA, the Kollam District Disaster Management Authority organized an event aimed at acknowledging the valuable contributions of Aapda Mitra volunteers in disaster preparedness and response as part of observing IDDRR 2024. Aapda Mitra is a country-wide project launched by the NDMA to train and raise community volunteers in disaster response.



On 18<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 a get together of Aapda Mitra volunteers in the district was organized at the Collectorate Conference Hall, Kollam and ten best performing volunteers were awarded with badges of honour. The programme was inaugurated by Sri. N Devidas IAS, District Collector and Chairperson, District Disaster Management Authority, Kollam. In his inaugural address he emphasized the critical role of community level volunteers in preparing for and responding to disasters. He expressed his admiration for the voluntary service rendered by the

Aapda Mitras towards successfully holding various mass gathering events held in the district in the recent past including the Kerala State Youth Festival, Kollam Pooram, Karkkidaka Vavu etc. Additional District Magistrate, Kollam and CEO of DDMA Sri. G Nirmal Kumar presided over the function in which Sri. Visi Viswanath, District Fire Officer, Kollam was also present. Sri. Ramesan M, Junior Superintendent, DM Section and Sri. Anoop R, Senior Clerk spoke. 79 volunteers from 11 Fire Stations in the district attended the ceremony. Sri.Prem G Prakash, Hazard Analyst, S Meenu S, LSG DM Plan Coordinator and staffs of Collectorate Kollam were also present.



Following the inauguration the District Collector presented badges of honour to ten best performing Aapda Mitra volunteers selected by the District Fire Officer.



Volunteers Sri. Arun Kumar M, Sri. Ajith Ajayan, Smt. Devi Resmi, Smt. Gopika, Smt. Jinu Ganga and Smt. Jiji Ganga from Kollam Fire Station, Sri. Mohammed Ajmal from Karunagappally Fire Station, Smt. Anju J from Chavara Fire Station, Sri. Nisar M from Kadakkal Fire Station and Sri. Mujeeb E from Chamakkada (Kollam) Fire Station were awarded badges of honour. Certificate of Appreciation was presented to all the volunteers who participated in the programme. Sri. G Nirmal Kumar, ADM and Sri. Visi Viswanath District Fire Officer distributed the certificates.



### **Experience Sharing Session for Volunteers**

After the inaugural function, an experience sharing session was conducted for the participating volunteers as an opportunity to voice their concerns and share their experiences as an Aapda Mitra. This interactive segment encouraged participants to reflect on their roles in disaster response and talk about the challenges they encountered in different situations.

The discussions began with a brief introduction by Sri. Prem G Prakash, Hazard Analyst who was the moderator. Sri. Arun, Fire and Rescue Officer and District Coordinator of Aapda Mitra shared his views on the significance of the service rendered by the volunteers to Fire and Rescue Department. Volunteers including Smt. Ajimol from Paravur, Sri. Ratheesh Kumar and Sri. Sreekuttan from Karunagappally, Smt. Sneha from Sasthamkotta, Sri. Vinu from Pathanapuram and Sri. Nisar from Kadakkal fire and rescue stations spoke about their experiences while working as Aapthamitra volunteers.



Some of the suggestions emerged during the discussion are given below.

1. Swimming training shall be provided to all members of Aapda Mitra and Civil Defense team.
2. Beaches of Alappad area where extensive sand mining is happening like Vellanathuruth etc are highly vulnerable for drowning incidents. Establishing a outpost manned by Aapda Mitra volunteers at Alappad shall be considered.
3. Refresher training shall be given on Basic Life Support including CPR and First Aid to all the Aapda Mitra volunteers in periodic intervals.
4. Meet up of Aapda Mitras shall be organized periodically station-wise and efforts of those who demonstrated exemplary commitment shall be appreciated.

In addition, all the volunteers who spoke during the session shared personal experiences of saving human lives from the face of emergencies. Sri. Visi Viswanath, District Fire Officer and Sri. Manu A, Station Officer, Fire and Rescue Station, Kollam attended the session and responded to the concerns raised by the volunteers. Sri. Ramesan M, Junior Superintendent, DM Section, Collectorate gave concluding remarks with an earnest appreciation of the voluntary mindset of the Aapda Mitras.

## A few more snapshots







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<p><b>അന്താരാഷ്ട്ര ദുരന്തലഘൂകരണ ദിനാചരണം 2024</b></p>		
<p><b>ആപ്ദാ മിത്ര സേനാഗണങ്ങൾക്ക് ആദരം</b></p>		

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