

REPORT
ON
INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR
DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
PROGRAMME

PATHANAMTHITTA



Venue: Conference Hall, District Collectorate

Date: 24-10-2024

Time: 2.30 PM – 4.30 PM

Prepared by

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On October 24, 2024, the Pathanamthitta District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) and the District Fire Services commemorated the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction by honoring *Aapda Mitra* volunteers for their exemplary contributions during recent disasters. The event took place at the Collectorate Conference Hall.

Mr. B. Prathap Chandran, the District Fire Officer, formally commenced the program with a warm and respectful welcome speech, recognizing the significant presence of each guest and the valued contributions of the *Aapda Mitra* volunteers in recent disaster relief efforts. He set the tone for the ceremony, emphasizing the importance of acknowledging those who put their lives at risk to safeguard others and sharing his appreciation for the unity among district teams.



Following his address, DM Deputy Collector Mrs. Rajalekshmi R. delivered the presidential address, highlighting the vital role of community resilience in disaster preparedness and response. She spoke of the dedication required to be an *Aapda Mitra* volunteer, the courage they displayed during emergencies, and the deep impact of their work on the community. Mrs. Rajalekshmi R. underscored the district's commitment to supporting and training these volunteers to ensure their continued effectiveness.

District Collector Mr. PremKrishnan S., IAS, then officially inaugurated the function. In his speech, he expressed sincere gratitude for the volunteer efforts during challenging times, particularly acknowledging their outstanding performance in the Wayanad landslide response. The Collector commended the volunteers' swift actions, their unwavering commitment to serving their communities, and emphasized the importance of proactive disaster risk reduction measures in the district. In closing remarks, District Collector Mr. Prem Krishnan S., IAS, announced that the *Aapda Mitra* volunteers would play a crucial role in supporting the upcoming Sabarimala pilgrimage season, a time when large crowds and challenging terrain demand heightened disaster management efforts. This initiative reflects the administration's strategic approach in leveraging trained volunteers for community safety during high-risk events.



Following his inaugural address, he led the ceremony's key moment—the honoring of the *Aapda Mitra* volunteers. As a gesture of appreciation, ten of these volunteers nominated by the Fire and Rescue Services were presented with badges by the Kerala State Disaster Management Authority (KSDMA), symbolizing their contributions to disaster resilience.



In addition to the badges, all participating volunteers received certificates from the District Administration, with designs thoughtfully created by the KSDMA to acknowledge their service. This symbolic appreciation served as both recognition and encouragement for the volunteers to continue their vital work.



Further strengthening the spirit of acknowledgment, Thiruvalla Sub Collector Mr. Sumit Kumar Thakoor, IAS, and Pathanamthitta Fire Station Officer Mr. Abhijith delivered felicitation speeches. Both expressed heartfelt gratitude for the volunteers' bravery and relentless support during critical incidents. Mr. Thakoor highlighted the collective strength of the community in times of disaster, while Mr. Abhijith praised the volunteers' readiness to act swiftly and courageously.



The program included an experience-sharing session where two Aapda Mitra volunteers who had been involved in the Wayanad landslide response recounted their experiences. Their narratives shed light on the challenges faced during such operations and emphasized the resilience, determination, and teamwork essential to successful disaster response. In this discussion, one volunteer, Mr. Rojy, put forth suggestions to enhance their operational readiness, proposing a distinct uniform that from the current one to instill a sense of identity and regular capacity-building training to improve their skills and preparedness.



The entire event was meticulously coordinated by DDMA Junior Superintendent Mr. Jinesh S., Disaster Management Plan Coordinator Mrs. Sreenidhy Ramachandran, and other dedicated DDMA staff. The program concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Hazard Analyst Ms. Chandini P.C. Senan, who extended gratitude to the officials, volunteers, and organizing team, reinforcing the collective commitment to disaster resilience in Pathanamthitta.




