International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction 2024

Event Name	Observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction
Event date	20 December 2024, Friday
Event venue	Thiruvananthapuram Collectorate Conference Hall
Details of the event	Kerala State Disaster Management Authority and District Disaster Management Authority, Thiruvananthapuram jointly organized the observance of International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction with the support of the Fire and Rescue Services Thiruvananthapuram on 20 December 2024, Friday at the Collectorate Conference Hall, Thiruvananthapuram. This year's IDDRR program honored Aapda Mitra volunteers across all districts, conferring the prestigious Badge of Honor to 10 exemplary individuals, while the remaining volunteers were acknowledged with certificates for their disaster risk reduction efforts. The event concluded along with group discussions on the invaluable experiences shared by the volunteers. A total of 88 Aapda Mitra Volunteers from the district, invited officials, Collectorate DM section staff, school students, parents, teachers, and DEOC staff, gathered for the event. Mr. A Shanavas, Senior clerk of District Disaster Management Authority Thiruvananthapuram delivered the welcome speech at the IDDRR Celebration. Mrs. Cherupuspha Jyothi, Deputy Collector - Disaster Management, delivered the presidential address, emphasizing the importance of collective efforts by the Aapda Mitra volunteers in disaster risk reduction within the district. Mrs. Anu Kumari IAS, Honorable District Collector and Chairman, District Disaster Management Authority Thiruvananthapuram inaugurated the event. She highlighted the significance of volunteer services, the influence of youth,

and their critical role in disaster management. She also expressed appreciation for the invaluable contributions of the Aapda Mitra volunteers. Mr. Sooraj S, District Fire Officer of Fire & Rescue Services, Thiruvananthapuram, delivered the keynote address, acknowledging the selfless services of the Aapda Mitra volunteers, particularly during emergencies such as COVID-19, the Amayizhanjan Thodu accident, floods, and the Wayanad landslide rescue. He also shared a brief history of the formation of the Aapda Mitra program and the dedicated efforts of its volunteers.

Following the inauguration, the top twelve Aapda Mitra volunteers were awarded badges of honor and medals, recognizing their outstanding contributions to volunteer work in the district. Additionally, certifcates were distributed to 76 Aapda Mitra volunteers in appreciation of their service. The winners of the IDDRR Interschool Quiz competition were also honored with the certificates and medals. Participation certificates were also distributed to all students who attended the quiz competitions on the 19 October 2024.

The program concluded with a group discussion involving Aapda Mitra volunteers, fostering collaboration and sharing of ideas for future disaster management initiatives. The event concluded at 1:00 PM with the vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Devika B S, Hazard Analyst, Thiruvananthapuram. She expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Honorable District Collector, Anu Kumari IAS, along with the dignitaries, volunteers, students, and participants for their presence and contributions, which ensured the successful completion of the IDDRR program in the district.

Key points from the group discussions are:

1. In the district, there are 400 certified Aapda Mitra Volunteers, but only 88 volunteers participated in the program. Many volunteers are unreachable now.

	2. Several participants highlighted issues related to gaps in the communication process.
Number of Females	30
Number of Males	58
Number of trans genders	0
Number of children	12
Resource person/ Organizer from the side of SDMA/DDMA	Jointly organized by KSDMA and Thiruvananthapuram DDMA with the support of Fire & Rescue Services, Thiruvananthapuram
Photos	

Honoring Aapda Mitra volunteers by the District Collector, District Fire Officer and Deputy Collector (DM)

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