



NATIONAL DISASTER  
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# NDRF NEWS

NEWSLETTER OF THE NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE, INDIA

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# Raising Day

## NDRF celebrates Raising Day on 23 January 2008

The National Disaster Response Force, constituted by a Government Order of January 2006, celebrated its Raising Day on 23 January 2008 at CRPF NDRF Bn, Talegaon, Pune (Maharashtra).



On the occasion there was a demonstration of the Search and Rescue (SAR) capabilities of the NDRF Bns. Exhibitions stalls were also put up by the NDRF Bns



showcasing their equipment and modern technology for disaster response, and also films, posters and brochures, etc., used for community capacity building programmes.



The Raising Day function was inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Gen. N.C. Vij, (Retd.), Hon'ble Vice Chairman NDMA. The function was attended by all NDRF Bn Commandants, senior officers from respective directorates and NDRF Bns, state/district officials, Pune Civil Defence and Fire Services, NCC cadets, school children and representatives of NGOs, etc. The occasion was graced by Shri K.M. Singh, Member, NDMA, Shri K. Koshy, DG, NDRF and senior officials from NDMA, MHA, Government of Maharashtra and Karnataka.



# Disaster Response

## Kamrup, (Assam)

Extensive rescue operations were conducted by the SAR team of BSF NDRF Bn, Guwahati on 24 February 2008 after a bus coming from Shilapathar fell into a pond



from Movmara bridge near village Kapalkata under PS Sonapur, District Kamrup (Metro). Over 15 rescuers were pressed into service who gained access to the bus marooned in water and extricated 10 dead bodies.



were able to save 10 people who were buried under the collapsed structure. They also recovered 16 dead bodies from the debris.



## Ahmedabad (Gujarat)

A 4-storey building, Shakunt Hotel opposite Kalupur Railway Station, Ahrnedabad collapsed on 03 February 2008 at about 8:45 hours. Four teams (about 140 personnel) along with SAR equipment and dog squads were pressed into rescue and relief operations immediately and they



# Mock Exercises

## Natural/Man-Made Disasters: DMRC, New Delhi

ITBP NDRF Bn, Greater Noida participated in a Mock Exercise organised by Delhi Metro Rail Corporation, Government of NCT, Delhi, and National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on 14 Feb 2008 at Chawri Bazar station of DMRC. NDRF personnel conducted Search & Rescue (SAR), Medical First Response (MFR) and decontamination operations on-site. NDRF's role was highly appreciated during the event's coverage on the national media.



## Earthquake Disaster: Papumpare and Lower Subansiri Districts of Arunachal Pradesh

BSF NDRF Bn, Guwahati took part in the Mock Exercises on Earthquake Management, organised by NDMA between 18–19 March 2008 in Papumpare and Lower Subansiri Districts of Arunachal Pradesh. The NDRF demonstrated its skills in SAR, MFR and evacuation in the event of an earthquake.

## Earthquake Disaster: East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills District of Meghalaya

BSF NDRF Bn, Guwahati participated in Mock Exercises on Earthquake Management on 24–25 March 2008 in two districts, namely, East Khasi Hills and Jaintia Hills of Meghalaya. Two teams of NDRF Bns took part with eight trained dogs. The specialised response was witnessed by the State and District Administration and also the community at large.



# Community Capacity Building and Public Awareness

## Udaipur, Rajasthan

CRPF NDRF Bn, Gandhinagar conducted a community based disaster awareness/preparedness programme with familiarisation exercise in Rajasthan between 07–13 January 2008 among the people of vulnerable areas, schools and colleges. The Bn also familiarised themselves with the topography and layout of Udaipur district.



## Pune, Maharashtra

CRPF NDRF Bn, Pune conducted training, exercises and delivered lectures on MFR, Collapsed Structure SAR, high building rescue, etc., for the local population of Pune District, Maharashtra with the support of district authorities at Taluka HQs of Pune District from 10–12 January 2008.



Villagers of Veeram Pattinan village practicing lifting/carrying techniques after briefing/demonstration by CISF NDRF bn Arakkonam during the Community Awareness Programme organised there on 13 March 2008.

# Training

## Hazmat Specialisation Course

Singapore Civil Defence Force, Singapore conducted Hazmat Specialisation Course for 18 Indian participants from NDRF, Civil Defence and Fire Services from 10–18



March 2008. This course was the culmination of initiatives taken by NDMA, which sent a team of officials led by Shri K.M. Singh, Member, NDMA to Singapore in October 2006 to explore the possibilities of advanced training of NDRF



personnel. The training provided great exposure to the NDRF Master Trainers in NBC Emergencies according to best international practices and equipment.



# Meetings/Exhibitions

## 11<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition on Security, Safety, Fire, Disaster Management Equipment and Services



Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) in collaboration with ITPO, New Delhi and NDMA organised the 11<sup>th</sup> International Exhibition on Security, Safety, Fire, Disaster Management Equipment and Services at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 17–19 February 2008. NDMA's initiatives in various fields of disaster management were displayed. Shri Shivraj Patil, Hon'ble Union Home Minister inaugurated the exhibition and visited the NDRF stall which exhibited improvised floating equipment for life saving during floods.

## Managing Earthquake Risk

NDRF participated in a two day International Conference on Construction, entitled "Managing Earthquake Risk" organised by The Construction Industry Development Council (CIDC) on 30–31 January 2008 at India Habitat Centre, New Delhi. A number of delegates from India and other countries participated in the exhibition cum conference to discuss initiatives to manage and mitigate earthquake risks.

## 5<sup>th</sup> Defexpo

The 5<sup>th</sup> Defexpo was organised by Ministry of Defence, Government of India in association with the Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) at Pragati Maidan, New Delhi from 16–19 February 2008. The exhibition not only focused on land and naval systems, but for the first time also created a focused zone for disaster management.

NDRF displayed its achievements and recent initiatives through a series of panels during the exhibition

## Community Awareness & Preparedness Exhibition during the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference, Lions Club International



BSF NDRF Bn Guwahati was requested to organise an exhibition during the 29<sup>th</sup> Annual District Conference of Lions Club International on 01 March 2008 at ITA, Guwahati. The Lions Club, is an NGO which plays a vital role in responding to and providing relief during any disaster in local areas. The exhibition was attended by Shri Mahendra Amar Suriya, Hon'ble International President of Lions Club, a resident of Srilanka. He was briefed about the progress made by the NDMA, and NDRF in particular on disaster management in India. The exhibition was aimed at creating awareness about the NDRF and its capabilities among all the district governors of North Eastern states. The Exhibition highlighted the operational achievements, training activities and community awareness programmes carried out by BSF NDRF Bn Guwahati over the last one year.



