

Natural Disaster Due to the Sudden Change in the Weather Condition in Cachar District
Particularly in Ujan Tarapur, Under Lakhipur Revenue Circle.

<p><u>KEY MESSAGES</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Land Slide at Ujan Tarapur on July 21, 2015 at 8:30 p.m• District Emergency Operation Centre (Control Room) received Report at 10:00p.m and informed the related departments.• Rescue team reached at 11:00 P.M. with the required equipments.• Officials of DDMA headed by Sri. Barenya Das, ADC cum CEO, DDMA , Sri Shamim Ahmed Laskar, DPO, DDMA Sri P. K. Gupta, CO, Lakhipur and Dr. Sudip Joyt Das, Joint Director of Health Services, Cachar rushed to the spot at 11:30 P.M.• Rescue Operation continued till 8:00 A.M of 22nd July 2015 and the dead bodies were sent to SMCH.• Different training Programme conducted by DDMA, Cachar for a part of Disaster Risk Reduction initiatives.	<p>Land Slide at Ujan Tarapur</p> <p>Ujan Tarapur village situated under Lakhipur Constituency and Lakhipur Revenue Circle, falls in Latitude 24°-15’ North and Longitude 92°-35’ East was suffered from a devastating landslide particularly in the house of Jamal Uddin, a day labour due to heavy and continuous rain fall on the 21st July, Tuesday at 8:30 P.M .</p> <p>Jamal Uddin was not at home by the time the disaster occurred. As he was a day labour he used to go out from his home in the morning in his work place at Poilapool and returned home in the evening. But on that day due to heavy rainfall he could not come out from work place. However this hindrance could not prevent him from returning home in the rain. He reached home at 10:00 P.M. and saw that his house was under a mass of soil. The neighbours were quite ignorant of the disaster. Jamal though knew that there was a hazard near his house and it was in a vulnerable position, did not give a second thought on it. When he saw the condition of the house he began to shout for help. The neighbours heard his hue and cry and came out for his help .with the help of the neighbours his two minor sons Jekib Ali (5 years) and Asab Ali (9 years) were rescued and they were immediately sent to Private Nursing Home at Poilapool.</p> <p>In the meantime the message of the unwanted hazard was received by the District Emergency Operation Centre (Control Room) at 10 P.M. It was also reported that five persons were missing in the land slide</p> <p>No sooner had the information received by the District Emergency Operation Centre (Control Room) than all at once it was informed to the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, Silchar and as per his instruction immediately it was informed to SDRF & Fire service, Silchar, Health Department, Lakhipur and Banskandi Police Station, Police Control Room, Ambulance Service Provider and getting information from local Goan Panchayat President on hourly basis.</p> <p>Very soon a rescue team under State Disaster Response Force reached at the spot at 11:00 P.M. with all equipments and were ready to start their rescue operation.</p> <p>Just after the departure of the rescue team, the officials of DDMA headed by Sri Baranya Das, ADC cum CEO DDMA, Sri Shamim Ahmed Laskar, DPO, DDMA, Sri P. K. Gupta, Circle Officer, Lakhipur Revenue Circle and Dr. Sudip Joyti Das, Joint Director of Health Services, Cachar rushed to the spot at 11:30 P.M. with Ambulances from Silchar. As soon as the officials reached the incident spot they immediately started monitoring to rescue operation .The officials, without feeling pain stood their whole the rainy night.</p> <p>The officials arranged 3 nos of JCBs for rescue operation from Banskandi and Poilapool all the 3 nos of JCBs worked throughout the whole night along with SDRF and other rescue team and the volunteers from the different communities in and around Ujan Tarapur. It will not be out of place to mention here the role so performed by Sri Nazrul Islam, G.P.President of Ujan Tarapur Gaon Panchayat. He is an ex-serviceman. He is also trained in Search and Rescue by DDMA, Cachar, Silchar in 2012-13. It reflects that during the rescue operation he took the leading role and from the front side he led the volunteers gathered from Ujan Tarapur and from the periphery of that area who assembled for rescue operation from the different communities. He also communicated with DDMA officials time to time. His approach indeed a praiseworthy one.</p>
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The rescue parties worked ceaselessly throughout the whole night. The parties did not show any fatigue. It was due to their utmost trial they could find out the five numbers of dead bodies from the underground on the 22nd July 2015 in the morning at 8 A.M. The five deceased were Jabeda Khatun (30), Jakir Ali (12), Atomba Ali (7), Papiya Begum (8) and Jasmina Begum (14). The injured were Jacob Ali (5) and Asab Ali (9). Only Jamal Uddin (35) remained safe as he was away from home.

It was reported by the local people that Jamal Uddin's family consists of eight members and out of them five years to 12 years children---- four sons and two daughters .They were living Below Poverty Line.

Besides, it was also reported that although this sad demise happened due to natural disaster, it was mostly blamed to the neighbour Nikhil Dev and Reba Dev. The neighbours claimed that A.P member of Manikpur-Jarapur Gaon Panchayat Smti. Reba Devi's house was on the top of the hill and at the foot hill lies the hovel of Jamal Uddin. To enhance the beauty of the house of the A.P member Reba Dev, the high hill was cut and was tried to make it plain. Jamal Uddin requested Nikhil Dev to stop cutting the hill for there was a chance of occurring a landslide. But Nikhil Dev and Reba Dev did not pay any heed to the pray of Jamal Uddin. Today the Dev Couple's house stood in danger free position.

Jamal Uddin and his two sons left the place and took refuge in a safe place. The administrative officers and MLA of Lakhipur constituency Sri Rajdeep Goala advised the people of the neighbouring areas to leave their living place and go to some other safe place.

The deceased, after rescuing from the underground were sent for post mortem by an ambulance at Silchar Medical Collage & Hospital. The DEOC (Control Room) already informed the Medical College authority for immediate necessary action for post-mortem of all the five persons and sent all the dead bodies to the native village for cremation after NAMAZ –E- ZANAZA on the evening of 22nd July 2015.

It is worthy to mention here that DDMA, Cachar, undertook the full responsibility in monitoring all the action at a close angle from the beginning to the end .It was due to their active supervision the difficult job could be done very easily and quickly.

Sri Rajdeep Goala, the local MLA of Lakhipur constituency also initiated the rescue work from Tuesday night to till Wednesday and also appreciate efforts taken by the District Authority.

The dead bodies, after reaching the village Ujan Tarapur was taken to Moragang Village of Tarapur and performed NAMAZ-A-JANAZA by thousands of sorrowful people and then cremation was performed at 6 P.M. People from different casts and religious groups were present there.

On the other hand, the most important task performed by Sri S. Viswanathan, the Deputy Commissioner, cum Chairman, DDMA, Cachar, on Wednesday informed Assam State Disaster Management Authority stating all the description vividly through a message. After the occurrence of the Disaster, a team of SDRF was sent to the incidental spot and he clearly explained the matter. He directed the Lakhipur S.D.O (Civil) to give him the Post-Mortem Report & Medical Certificate stating the reasons of the death.

Thus the District Administration and the District Disaster Management Authority, Cachar leave no plan untried to help the family of the victim of Landslide. It was due to their sincere effort, active participation and quick and prompt action could easily be performed to find out the dead bodies from underground. The sincere effort of the District Disaster Management Authority could not but praised.

Different training programmes for Disaster Mitigation were held in phase wise in the district in collaboration with Assam State Disaster Management Authority and All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), Ahmedabad, on the 20th December 2012 to 22nd December 2012.

Phase to phase training Programme under National Disaster Management Authority ---Indira Gandhi National Open University Project for capacity building in Disaster Management for Govt. Officials, teachers both schools and colleges, and the representatives of Panchayati Raj Institution and Urban Local Bodies at District level was held in different phases from the months of March to May 2013. The participants were clearly explained how to save themselves and the others at the time of Disaster.

In the months of September 9-11, 2013, another training Programme for School Disaster Management Plan and conduct of Mock Drill was held only for the teachers. The sole purpose of this training programme was to reduce the effect of Disaster because School children are the most Vulnerable position at the time of Disaster.

Another training programme was also held in second and 3rd June 2014 for Second phase EOC Operation and SOP Development.

Besides, Silchar Emergency Management Exercise, 2013 was also held from the 25th November to 29th November, 2013.

Moreover, a very important training on Search, Rescue and First Aid of volunteers were held in all the five Revenue Circles of the district. This training Programmes were a grand success. This training Programme was followed by another training Programme for Doctors on mass casualty management which is mandatory.

About Search, Rescue and First Aid another training Programmes for VDP was also held for quick recovery of the victims.

One of the most important trainings was also held for ex-serviceman employees on Disaster Management. It is essential to train them because they are experienced, courageous and strong. If they are trained more and more than Search and Rescue Operation will be very prompt. Engineers who are expert on Earthquake resistant technology and safe Construction practices are also trained. Various Mock Drills for improvement of response time for any kind of disaster was also organised. Above all, ASDMA and DDMA also provided equipment to the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF). Meetings are also organised frequently with all line Departments to discuss the Disaster Managements issues and Standard Operation Procedure etc.

DDMA is also prepared a SOP for Relief, Recovery and Rehabilitation and distributed to the all concerned line departments for immediate necessary action and it is also available in the DDMA website and District NIC website.

To receive information for any Disasters, District Emergency Operation Centre (i.e. Control Room) was started from 5th May 2012 and working round the clock i.e. 24x7xx365 and responding any emergencies in all kinds of disaster (i.e. man-made and natural disasters).

In conclusion if can be said that both natural and man-made disasters cannot be checked and controlled but its effects/impacts can be reduced to some extent through different trainings and awareness programmes conducted by DDMA.

Still now DDMA left no plan untried to reduce the Disaster effects/impacts and by the way DDMA is advancing, it can be said that a time will come in near future if the different training programmes with different Officials, Teachers, Doctors, Engineers, Police persons, Defence persons, VDP, G.P. Members, etc., continues then the destruction and death rate can be reduced/minimized. It is also hoped that the death rate will come to zero level in near future.

***Prepared & documented by,
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