

## **"JAL MOHORA"**

### **BACKGROUND:**

We take great pride in claiming how far India has come since, independence and yet, but when it comes to Assam, the nation simply seems to take the damages as a fact of life and everything carries on usual, once the flood recedes.

2004 and 2007 were the major flood years in Assam recent history. Three districts of the Assam (Cachar, Hailakandi & Karimganj) continued to remain cut-off with rest of the country for more than a week. It is time to review the term cost-benefits analysis of measures undertaken and see whether the solutions attempted so far have addressed the problem at its root.

With an urge to flaunt the preparedness and to justify the working mechanism, DDMA (District Disaster Management Authority) took an initiative step towards the reduction of flood impacts by conducting "JAL MOHORA". This major initiative of DDMA included efforts from various agencies who worked as the major workforce behind the successful completion of the same.

***"A work done in collaboration is never a task anymore, that becomes a milestone"***

### **JAL MOHORA:**

It was a Mega Rescue Demonstration Flood Drill organized by DDMA, Cachar. This drill was a demonstration how to combat with flood and understand all its functionalities. This initiative was thought of keeping many things aligned in mind. After rigorous and complacent coordination, this event was actually projected in the form of a drill.

***"A planned route with more twists and turns is easier, than the unplanned one"***

### **OBJECTIVE:**

"Jal Mohora" was basically an event which was conducted keeping many things in mind. The initiative already had some prior decided objectives and this mock drill was undertaken to understand how well these objectives can be reached up to. Some of the objectives are as following-

- To evaluate and review Disaster Management Plan.
- To test the efficacy of SOPs.
- To identify the Gaps in resources, manpower, communication and in any other field.
- To enhance the ability to respond faster.
- To make the common community people aware about the prevention during flood.
- To bring forward the Role and responsibilities of Administration towards Community people.
- To test the effectiveness and efficiency of the resources available with us.
- To test the functionality and co-ordination among various line departments.

- To understand the response level of we, the people of Cachar District as a whole, during any sort of such disaster.

#### **BASIC REQUIREMENT OF MACHINES/EQUIPMENTS:**

To conduct such a mega response-rescue drill, we had to incorporate various forces along with many equipment's. Had there been a miss in any of the articles, then there it was sure that some sort of chaos may generate. The things that were needed are as the following-

- Boats(NDRF/SDRF) for showing rescue-response drill.
- Smoke Candle for directing the helicopter about the wind movement.
- Launch (IWT) or ferry boats for holding people, media persons and other Departments officials.
- GPS for location retrieving purpose.
- Lifebuoys/Life jackets for safety purpose.
- HelicopterDrill for rescue purpose and also to supervise the overall drill.
- Country Boats and Speed Boats (IR Boats) to rescue people.

#### **RESCUE DRILL TEAM:**

The overall drill was conducted by joint efforts of various entities like National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), Indian Air Force, National Cadet Corps, Assam Rifles, Assam Police, Health Department, Fire & Emergency Services, IWT and NGO volunteers. All of them jointly helped in completing the rescue- response mock drill. Each one of them performed their duties well and for this reason the overall efforts came up with fruitful results.

#### **LIST OF DIGNITARIES PRESENT IN "JAL MOHORA"**

To grace the overall event and to support it joint- handily many officials, special guests and others were present. Some of them were the Deputy Commissioner, Cachar, S. Viswanathan, IAS, Additional Deputy Commissioner Cachar, Rajib Roy, ACS, Additional Deputy Commissioner Cachar, R.K Dam, ACS, Asst. commissioner Rakesh Kumar Minhas, IAS, Asst. Commissioner Basabi Thakuria ACS & Devajyoti Gogoi, ACS, District project officer, DDMA, Shamim Ahmed Laskar, Cachar, Circle Officer-Udharbond and Silchar, Kuldip Hazarika, ACS, Dr Kh. Gautam Singh (Medical Officer), Field Officers-Disaster Management (all Revenue Circles) and many others.

#### **LIST OF LEADING MEMBERS OF RESCUE DRILL TEAM:**

Apart from them there were many other important persons who were the source of thriving this event ahead. Some of their names are as follows: NCC Commandant Colonel A. Srinath; NCC: Captain Ekta Jaiswal, Indian Air Force: Flight lieutenant, Colonel B. Srikanth & Team;

NDRF: Team commandant Md. Rustam; SDRF: Officer In Charge K. K. Sinha, Assam Police: DSP (Hqs.) S.K Das and Assam Rifles: Captain Siraz Verma& Team.

**SPECIAL PRESENCE:**

To make the overall program reach people in a more abundant way, there was a large scale of media coverage. Media people from all local and state level channels were there to cover the event. There was also a live telecast being shown by NEWS 18 channel. Many leading newspapers also covered this event and highlighted with big coverage in their respective newspapers.

There was also a huge presence of community people to see the overall drill and the huge crowd was overwhelmed to experience such a master drill.

**MEDIA BRIEF BY DEPUTY COMMISSIONER:**

The Deputy Commissioner, Cachar after completion of the overall drill briefed the press with priceless words. In that he said that this kind of Mega drill is undertaken in the district of Cachar for the very first time. He also added that he has monitored the same from a chopper high up in the air. He said that this of drill is being undertaken to test the strength and incorporation of our available resources. This drill helped us to know our position in any sort of rescue-response operation and this has also given us an edge over other districts like Hailakandi and Karimgang, whom we can extend help whenever needed in case of major disasters.

**FEEDBACK:**

The collaboration of the above-mentioned entities made the overall event a successful one and many good feedbacks were received from various ends. Some of these reviews are encoded below in which The Deputy Commissioner Cachar praised the entire DDMA for holding such a large-scale event and also to incorporate proper coordination amongst all. The NCC Colonel was also very much overwhelmed to participate in such a mega event and make their cadets learn many things. Many Community people also gave good responses regarding making the overall event such a vibrant one and also a self-explanatory one.

(Reference press brief note on "Jal Mohora" in Eastern Chronicle, Dainik Jugasankha and other leading newspapers)

**CONCLUSION:**

The good practices and the loop-holes that came out during the drill will further help us in strengthening our efforts and amenities with a motive to work hard and even harder for the greater interest of the common community people.

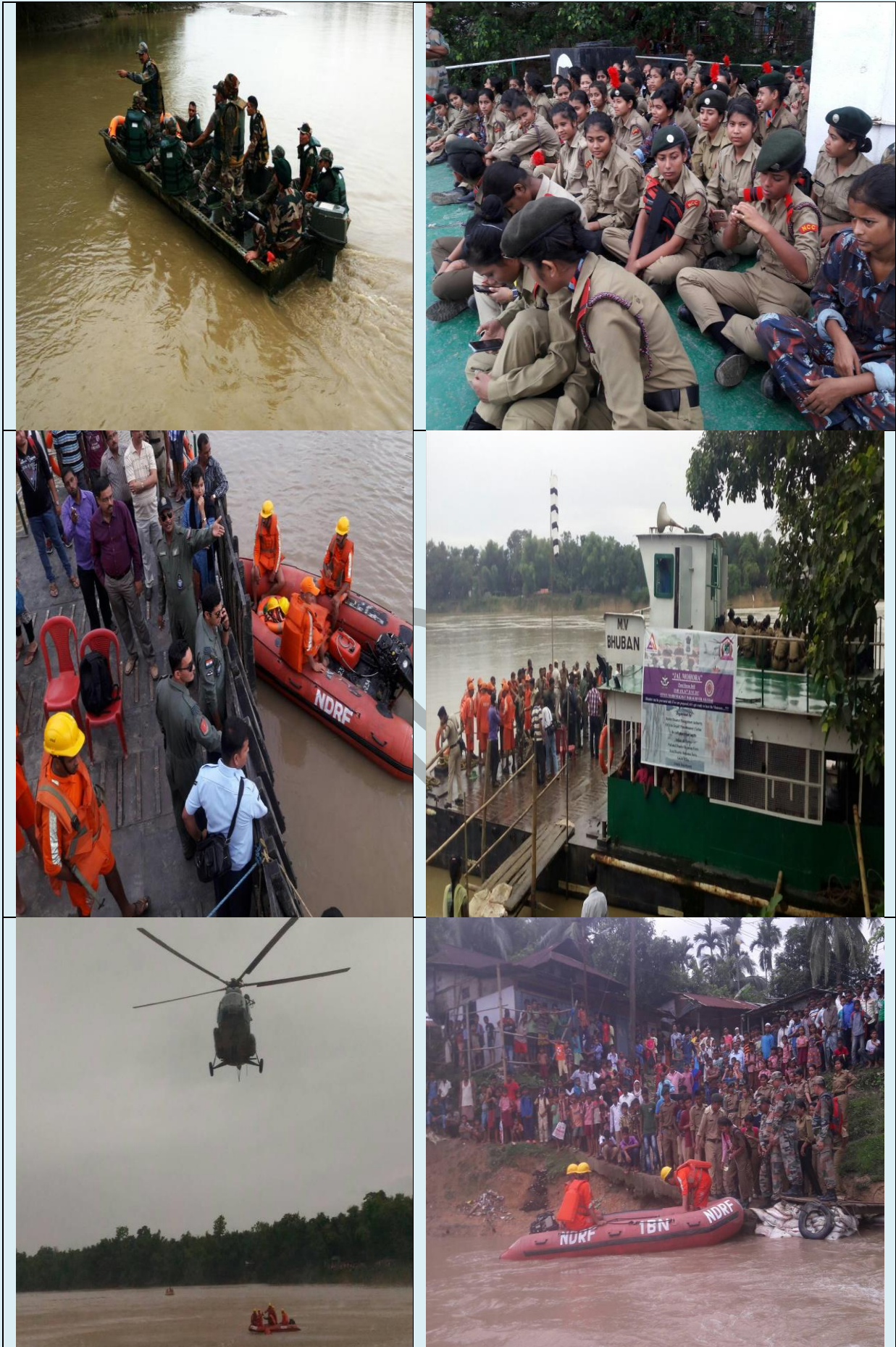
**"It's more fun to arrive to a conclusion, than to justify it"**



**PHOTO GALLERY:**









Cachar is well-equipped and prepared to combat flood: Viswanathan

## Helicopters, NDRF, SDRF, Indian Air-force, NCC: DDMA conducts biggest ever flood relief exercise in Cachar

CHRONICLE NEWS SERVICE

**Silchar:** Cachar became the first district in southern part of the state to undertake a major mock drill aimed at tackling the worst kind of floods as the District Disaster Management Authority in collaboration with Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), NCC, state police and IWT conducted a large display of emergency exercise at Madhugurhat area of the town on Friday.

The mock exercise and demonstration started with early warning of heavy rains which started at 10 am on the day. It began with an aerial reconnaissance by the Mi-17 helicopter of the Army Aviation. On assessing the criticality of the moment, flood control teams from NDRF, SDRF and Indian Army with a high speed action to rescue the victims from a mock island, depicted by a barge in the river. The exercise in the form of a mock drill and demonstration was conducted on settings akin to near simulated real situation of flood. The entire



Mi-17 helicopter of Indian Air Force displayed risky rescue operations on River Barak during the drill. NCC cadets are participated in large numbers.



resources of response forces of the Government other agencies were on display in their full splendor.

The Helicopter of Indian Air Force displayed its skills and landing of elite troops of the Special Forces of the Indian Army for rescue of trapped people, was a treat to watch. Mi-17 helicopter displayed risky rescue operations on River Barak, the river is already in full-spate, a number of flood response teams took part in the mock exercise, displaying various

methods of responses that are available with them to tackle any kind of emergency arising out of severe floods.

Cachar deputy commissioner S. Viswanathan was monitoring the drill from helicopter and according to his opinion, the drill has helped the authorities of the district administration to draw a clear picture on how much the district is prepared to combat big flood if occurs. Viswanathan while

addressing the media after the drill said, "This is one of the rare displays in any part of the state and for Cachar is was first of its kind. We have realised our capabilities and weak points in responding flood by conducting this drill and now we are confident enough to say that the district is ready to tackle big floods."

On responding to question on how the administration is going to make people aware about the techniques in grassroots level, he

said, "We have recently launched 'Gaon Panchayat Level Emergency Management Exercise (GP-EMEX)' in collaboration with ASDMA and local NGOs where the techniques of disaster response are being displayed and we reached to more than 35 thousand common people with the initiative."

As many as 300 cadets of NCC Girls and Boys team participated in the drill. They were divided into groups and deployed in various sides of the river area to represent artificial emergency and response teams rescued them during the drill. Col A. Sreenath, commanding officer of 62 Assam NCC Girls Battalion said, this is one of the rare occasions here and our cadets have shown courage and enthusiasm to take part in the drill."

A day earlier authorities of Cachar district administration along with the representatives of Indian Army, NDRF, SDRF, DDMA and ASDMA got together for a day-long brainstorming on how to make rescue and relief operations in a Guwahati-like situation occurring in the district. Talking about the key role of helicopters in rescue operations and

the reason behind the display, official of Indian Army said, "One of the major highlights of the mock drill were, the employment of Indian Air Force Helicopters and to test the in multiple roles of such helicopters in flood relief to include rescue of marooned people from places made inaccessible by flood waters, evacuation of persons from rooftop of high-rise buildings which is a high risk maneuver undertaken by the best helicopter pilots in the country, rescue of people stranded at isolated places in water logged areas under slung."

Hundreds of thrilled spectators were watching the skills of the response forces in executing their expertise in rescue of flood effected people to include resuscitation and provision of life saving, it was a first time experience for people present.

The event was witnessed by a large number of citizens of the town and surrounded rural areas.

Miton Das, a businessman from Dudhpathi village under Borkhola constituency while expressing his opinion on the display said, "It was a life time experience for me as I had the opportunity to see this and this is definitely going to help us in future."

## মোকাবিলা কর্তৃপক্ষের

জল মহড়া সফলভাবে সম্পন্ন হয়েছে জানিয়েছেন জেলাশাসক এস বিশ্বনাথন। তিনি বলেন, প্রথমবারের মতো কাছাড় জেলায় এতটি বিভাগের অংশগ্রহণে মহড়া সম্পন্ন হল। তিনি দৃঢ়তার সঙ্গে জানান, কাছাড় প্রশাসন যে কোনও ধরনের প্রাকৃতিক দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলায় এ মুহূর্তে তৈরি রয়েছে।

## মধুরাঘাটে বরাক নদীতে জল মহড়া



প্রান্তজ্যোতি প্রতিবেদন, শিলচর, ১৬ জুন : জেলা দুর্যোগ মোকাবিলা কর্তৃপক্ষের উদ্যোগে শুক্রবার মধুরাঘাটে বরাক নদীতে হল জল মহড়া। বন্যাভ্রান্তদের উদ্ধার করতে কি কি ব্যবস্থা নেওয়া উচিত, সে বিষয়ে নিজেদের প্রস্তুতি হিসাবে মধুরাঘাটের বরাক নদীতে অনুষ্ঠিত হল এই জল মহড়া। এই জল মহড়ায় সহযোগিতা করে ইন্ডিয়ান এয়ারফোর্স, ন্যাশনাল ডিজাস্টার রেসপন্স ফোর্স, স্টেট ডিজাস্টার রেসপন্স ফোর্স, আসাম রাইফেলস, এনসিসি কেডেট এবং জেলা স্বাস্থ্য বিভাগ। জল মহড়ায় বন্যায় আক্রান্তদের কীভাবে উদ্ধার করা হয়, তা হেলিকপ্টার এবং স্পিড বোটের মাধ্যমে তুলে ধরা হয়। এদিন জল মহড়া দেখতে বরাক নদীর দুপারে প্রচুর মানুষ জমায়েত হন। উপস্থিত ছিলেন জেলাশাসক এস বিশ্বনাথন সহ মহড়ায় অংশ নেওয়া বিভিন্ন বিভাগের আধিকারিকরা।



এরপর ছয়ের পাতায়

Documented by,  
Team DDMA, Cachar.