

**State Level Mock Exercise in Tripura  
(April 2018)  
Simulated Scenario - Earthquake**

**General**

1. **Event:** A Multi-State Mock Exercise, based around an earthquake event, was conducted by NDMA in the North East region of India in April 2018 after due coordination with the three participating States (i.e. Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram). This report covers the activities in the State of Tripura as part of the Multi-State Mock exercise.
2. **Sequence:** As is the standard practice, the Mock Exercise (26 April 2018), was preceded by training on the Incident Response System (IRS), Orientation and Coordinating Conferences (11-12 April 2018), and by a Table Top Exercise for all stakeholders (25 April 2018).
3. **Objective:** All these activities were coordinated and conducted on behalf of NDMA by Brigadier Kuldip Singh (retired), Consultant, NDMA. The IRS training and Table Top Exercise were orientated towards preparing all stakeholders on what to expect in the wake of such a disaster, how to build post-disaster situation awareness, exploit pre-existing resource awareness, deploy reliable communications, how to respond in a coherent, synergistic manner, and how to integrate successive responders progressively into the overall response.

**Hazard Vulnerability**

4. Tripura is in Seismic Zone-V and there is a history of earthquakes in and around Tripura. In addition, the State is vulnerable to floods, cyclones and landslides.

**Scenario**

5. The scenario for the Table Top Exercise (TTE) and the Mock Exercise (ME) was as follows:-

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Event   | <b>Earthquake</b>  |
| Time & Date of Event                            | <b>10.50 AM, 26-04-2018</b><br>(timing at the specific request of the State Govt)  |
| Magnitude                                       | <b>8.7</b>   |
| Epicentre                                       | <b>N25° 54' 56.29", E 90° 38'39.05"</b><br>(near Shillong-Assam border)  |
| Expected MSK Intensity for the State of Tripura | <p><b>Districts Exposed to MSK Intensity VII to VI:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North Tripura</li> <li>• Unokoti</li> <li>• Dhalai</li> <li>• Khowai</li> <li>• West Tripura</li> </ul> <p><b>Districts exposed to MSK Intensity VI – V:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sipahijala</li> <li>• Gomati</li> </ul> |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
|                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• South Tripura</li> </ul> |
| Disaster Level | <b>L3</b>   |

## Response

6. The State of Tripura and its Districts participated in the ME enthusiastically, with the State and District Administrations commencing due preparations for the event after the IRS training, and the Orientation and Coordinating Conferences.

7. The occurrence of the earthquake was disseminated to the Administration through emails, SMSs and radio calls, and intimated to the public through sirens and a limited number of public address systems. The public had been apprised a day prior through the media that the event of 26 April was an exercise and not an actual earthquake.

8. Based on the simulations given to the State and District administrations, the following aspects were evaluated in the State of Tripura:-

- The functionality of the Emergency Operations Centers (EOC) of the State and the Districts.
- The ability of the State and the Districts, particularly the EOCs, to collate and disseminate further the information being put out by the national agencies mandated for natural hazard specific early warning.
- The ability of the State and/or its Districts to:
  - ❖ Swiftly switch to wireless communication and transact information with various stakeholders.
  - ❖ Effectively utilize various methods and technologies to attain situation awareness about the incident.
  - ❖ Clear the access to critical facilities in the initial stages.
  - ❖ Pull up resource maps, match the available assets/resources to the simulated damage/destruction, and make an effective Incident Action Plan.
  - ❖ Deploy the resources.
  - ❖ Obtain constant feedback from the responders on ground.
- The overall pattern and coherence of the response.

## Observations / Recommendations

9. These were disseminated to the State Government.

**Pictures**  
**Mock Exercise – State of Tripura – 26 April 2018**  
**(Simulated Scenario – Earthquake)**

**Readying a UAV at the SEOC for Carrying Out Damage Assessment Just After the Disaster**



**Collation and Assessment of Damage at the SEOC**



**Final "Stitched" Image (ILS Hospital, Agartala) Derived from Pictures Taken by the Geo-tagged Camera of the UAV**



**Radio Detachment of the Assam Rifles at the SEOC; Assisting in Gathering Information**



**Activation of a Helipad for Receiving Assistance**



**Volunteers Assisting in Clearing a Fallen Tree**



**Volunteers Joined by SDRF**



**Assets Assembling at the Staging Area**



**SDRF Rescuing Casualties from a Building**



**Fire & Emergency Services Arriving for Rescue of Children From a School Damaged by the Quake**



**Children Rescued From The Damaged School Building**



**Rescue by SDRF From a Collapsed Structure**



**SDRF - First Aid to Rescued Victims**



**NDRF Ready for Search & Rescue Operations**



**Rescue Operation by NDRF**



**NDRF Transferring Victim for First Aid**



**First Aid to Victim by NDRF**



**Rescue Operations by Assam Rifles**



**Assam Rifles' First Aid Post**



**Victims Being Treated at Assam Rifles' Medical Relief Camp**



**Debriefing of the Districts at the End of the Mock Exercise**



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**Earthquake mock exercise in Tripura, Nagaland, Mizoram**

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The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) will conduct a mock exercise on earthquake preparedness tomorrow in Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram, the agency said in a statement.

"The exercise, which is being held in collaboration with the respective State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs), will help participating agencies and stakeholders in evaluating the effectiveness of their disaster response plans," the release said.

The exercise is significant as the participating states fall under seismic vulnerability Zone-V, it added.

"The mock exercise will be followed by a detailed debriefing session, where gaps and shortcomings, if any, for improving preparedness, will be discussed.

Independent observers will be deployed to monitor the entire exercise," the statement said.

In the run-up to the exercise, orientation-cum-coordination conferences were held on April 12, 2018 with different stakeholders at the respective state capitals for working out the detailed modalities and preparations required for the mock exercise.

"NDMA experts briefed the stakeholders on the Incident Response System (IRS), which attributes roles and responsibilities at each level to improve coordination. This helps enhance preparedness and ensure a swift response by reducing adhocism in response," the release said.

NDMA has so far conducted over 600 mock exercises across the country.

**Mega Mock Drill on disaster management held in state**

Times News

Agartala, Apr 26: Mega Mock Drill on disaster management like earth quake organized at six places of West Tripura today. District Emergency Operation Centre opened by the sound of siren at 10-30 a.m. DM Milind Rantike was in charge of the operation centre. ADM Usha Ranjan Mog was in charge of Incident Commander. SDM Tapan Kumar Das was in charge of Planning Section in charge.

Altogether 21 Incident Response team from 21 departments participated in the drill held at ILS Hospital. Director of Health office at Gorkhabasti, Big Bazar, Kamini Kumar Sinha Memorial H.S. School, Khamulung Government School under Jirania and Swami Vivekananda College of Mohanpur subdivision.

On the occasion 1 staging area, one relief camp opened at all subdivisions of West district. The rescue team used different materials including one Drone Camera, one Chopper to show the activities during earth quake with an intensity of 8.7 Richter Scale.

Our correspondent added from Sabroom that Mega Mock Drill on disaster management like earth quake organized at Harina J. B. School today with initiative of administrative authority of Sabroom. BSF, Police and Health department participated in the drill to show how to rescue the dead and injured after earth quake.

Meanwhile a mock drill on disaster management like earth quake organized at different places of Khowai district including Khowai H.S. School, Dasharath Deb Memorial College, Chetri Panchayat, Chetri Talashikhar and Padmabi Bazar today. On the occasion temporary camp, Control room of district administration and temporary hospital for animal opened at the above places. Police personnel, TSR BSF, staffs of Fire Service participated in the drill to show procedure of rescue during severe earth quake.

Besides, mock drill on disaster management during earth quake organized at Ambedkar Nagar Industrial Estate area, Ashram Palli Gas Agency, Netaji Subhash Bridge, Bimal Sinha Shopping Complex and at the premises of Pecharhal Block under Kumarghat subdivision today. Staffs of TSR, Fire Service, Health department and Disaster Management, NSS students of different schools and colleges participated in the drill.

Similar mock drill on earth quake organized at the ground of Dohdora Higher Secondary School and Santibazar Samar Smriti Market under Santibazar today. Staffs of Fire Service, TSR, Police, Health department and students of different schools participated in the drill.

**Mock drill on earthquake preparedness held**



AGARTALA:

In view of Tripura falling within the high seismic zone, the state government in collaboration with National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) on Thursday conducted a Mega Mock exercise on earthquake to check the reaction and response time.

As many as six places were included into the mock drill session of earthquake along with ILS hospital. The objective of this exercise is to generate awareness amongst all people, evaluate response mechanism and to test out strength and gaps in preparedness and mitigation.

The exercise was conducted after taking stock of the State's earthquake vulnerability and lessons learnt during previous earthquakes in Tripura.

The session began from morning 11am. Several departments including Tripura Fire Service, Directorate of Health, PWD, NDRF, CAPF's and NCO's also participated in the drill.

However, chopper and drone camera was also brought into action to identify actual damage.

**NDMA conducts mock earthquake exercise in NE**

PIB

Guwahati, April 26, 2018: A multi-State mock exercise on earthquake was conducted by National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) in three North Eastern States of Tripura, Nagaland and Mizoram today for assessing the preparedness and response mechanism of the State Governments in a disaster situation. The exercise was conducted in collaboration with the respective State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs).

The exercise simulated the 1897 Shillong earthquake measuring 8.7 on the Richter scale, which had devastated the entire Shillong plateau and affected the whole of northeast.

The simulation exercise was conducted simultaneously in all districts across the three States at select locations, including hospitals, shopping malls, schools and high-rise residential buildings to assess and improve the administration's capacity in mobilising resources and reaching out to the affected communities swiftly.

The exercise started with sirens indicating the occurrence of tremors. Everybody ducked under the tables while covering their heads. Once the tremors stopped, evacuation drills were conducted. Soon afterwards, State Emergency Operation Centres (SEOCs) were activated.

Simultaneously, EOCs at the districts also got activated, assessed the damage, formed rescue teams under Incident Commanders and dispatched them to the respective locations. Rescue drills were conducted in coordination with various agencies, such as Traffic control, Fire Fighting department, Ambulances, Police and Civil Defence. People buried under the rubble were rescued and sent to hospitals after administering first aid and triage.

Afterwards, NDMA experts carried out post-exercise analyses, wherein independent observers from the Army shared their feedback and suggested ways to further streamline response mechanisms.