



# NAGALAND EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS EXERCISE

## BACKGROUND

Nagaland, nestled in the northeastern region of India, is a picturesque state characterized by its lush landscapes, vibrant culture, and rich biodiversity. However, beneath its stunning exterior lies a significant vulnerability, an increased susceptibility to seismic activities. Earthquakes particularly in the Himalayan region, pose a grave threat to the safety and security of its residents. In response to this pressing concern, a comprehensive emergency preparedness exercise was conducted by the Nagaland State Disaster Management Authority (NSDMA) in collaboration with the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and Districts Disaster Management Authority (DDMA) by focusing on enhancing disaster management protocols across the state.

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## THE RATIONALE OF THE TRAINING PROGRAM

The necessity for this Emergency Preparedness Exercise stems from Nagaland's geographical positioning within a seismically active zone. Historical data indicate that the region experiences tremors, with the potential for devastating earthquakes that could lead to extensive loss of life and infrastructure damage. The Shillong Earthquake of 1897 with a magnitude of 8.7, and the recent 2001 earthquake in Aizawl region serve as a stark reminder of the catastrophic impacts that seismic events can have. Therefore, the state must adopt proactive measures and response capabilities.

The context of conducting the Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) is aimed to strengthen the Incident Response System (IRS) of the state disaster management capacities through practical simulations and collaborative problem-solving.

By involving all the 17 districts DDMA's, the exercise promotes a unified approach to emergency preparedness. Each district participates in exercises and simulations of tailored IRS to address local vulnerabilities and response strategies. The exercise includes





training sessions focusing on critical areas such as first aid, evacuation protocols, and communication strategies. These components are essential in ensuring that all participants have the necessary skills to respond effectively during an actual disaster. The involvement of local authorities, NGOs, and community leaders further enriches the exercise, creating a comprehensive network of stakeholders committed to disaster resilience.

The Nagaland Emergency Preparedness Exercise (NEPEX) is a pivotal step towards enhancing the state's resilience to earthquakes and other natural disasters. By acknowledging the region's seismic vulnerabilities and actively involving all 17 districts in a collaborative simulation, the exercise lays the groundwork for a more robust



Incident Response System (IRS) framework. The commitment demonstrated by stakeholders to work together in addressing these challenges signifies a positive shift towards a culture of preparedness in Nagaland.

As the state continues to navigate the complexities of disaster risk reduction, the lessons learned from this exercise will contribute to safeguarding lives and property in the face of future emergencies.



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