

PRESS RELEASE



Aapda Mitra Volunteer from West Garo Hills District Invited as Special Guest for Republic Day Celebration 2026

In a moment of pride for Meghalaya and the disaster management fraternity, Mr. Chiefster D. Sangma, an Aapda Mitra Volunteer from West Garo Hills District, has been invited as a Special Guest of Government of India for participating in the Republic Day Celebration on 26th January, 2026 at New Delhi, in recognition of his outstanding dedication and selfless contribution to disaster management.



His exemplary service during emergencies—particularly during the Remal Cyclone incident in Tura, West Garo Hills, in October 2022—stands as a testimony to his commitment. Responding immediately despite restrictions, he extended crucial assistance to the MePDCL Department in restoring disrupted power lines in West Garo Hills.

Further, in 2025, Mr. Chiefster D. Sangma attended and successfully completed the 21-day Residential Aapda Mitra Training of Trainers at the Regional Training Centre, Fire & Emergency Services, Assam, Sila, North Guwahati. After completing the program, he contributed significantly by training Yuva Aapda Mitra Volunteers, thereby supporting the mission of strengthening community-based disaster preparedness. He has also participated in Incident Response System (IRS) training and block-level mock drills in various Blocks to support DDMA, Tura.



His invitation to the Republic Day Celebration 2026 is a fitting recognition of the invaluable role played by Aapda Mitra Volunteers in building a resilient nation throughout his engagement with DDMA, West Garo Hills, Tura. Mr. Chiefster D. Sangma has shown commendable commitment, professionalism, and a strong sense of responsibility. His enthusiasm and willingness to serve during emergencies reflect his dedication to public safety and disaster resilience.





It may be mentioned that the District Disaster Management Authority, West Garo Hills District, has trained 200 Aapda Mitra Volunteers during 2022–2023 and 478 Volunteers during 2025–2026. These trained volunteers have since become valuable human resources in disaster management and emergency response across the district.