

## PRESS RELEASE



### **Meghalaya Aapda Mitra Volunteer Invited as Special Guest to the Republic Day Celebration 2026 at New Delhi**

In a moment of pride for Meghalaya and the disaster management fraternity, Miss Iarisha Kharbhoi, an Aapda Mitra Volunteer from East Khasi Hills District, has been invited as a Special Guest to attend the Republic Day Celebration 2026 at New Delhi, in recognition of her outstanding dedication and selfless contribution to disaster management.



A trained Aapda Mitra Volunteer and Master Trainer under the Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme, Miss Kharbhoi has played a significant role in strengthening disaster preparedness and response at the grassroots level. She has consistently volunteered with the District Disaster Management Authority, serving as a resource person in training programmes on search and rescue, first aid, and mock drills for youth, students, security personnel, and community members across the district.

Her exemplary service during emergencies, particularly during the fire incident at Thana Road, Police Bazaar, Shillong in October 2023, stands as a testament to her commitment. Responding immediately despite restrictions, she assisted in evacuation operations, relief camp management, distribution of essential supplies, and continued voluntary service for two weeks, including night duties.

Beyond emergency response, Miss Kharbhoi has contributed to capacity building through school safety programmes, NCC camps, and awareness initiatives, ensuring long-term sustainability of disaster preparedness in the community.

Her 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. It also highlights the dedication of grassroots volunteers from Meghalaya who continue to serve society with courage, compassion, and commitment.

It may be mentioned that District Disaster Management Authority East Khasi Hills District had trained 202 Apda Mitra Volunteers in 2022-23 and 600 during 2025-2026. These Volunteers have become useful resources for Disaster Management.

