

Towards a Safer and Disaster Resilient Assam



Assam State Disaster Management Authority
Government of Assam
2010

BACKGROUND :

As mandated by the Disaster Management Act 2005, the Government of Assam has adopted the Act with notification in the official gazette in the month of December 2006

The State Government has established the State Disaster Management Authority chaired by the Hon'ble Chief Minister, Assam with Hon'ble Minister Revenue & Disaster Management as its Vice Chairperson.

Chairperson



Shri Tarun Gogoi
Hon'ble Chief Minister of Assam

Vice Chairperson



Dr. Bhumidhar Barman
Hon'ble Minister, Revenue & Disaster Management

VISION OF ASDMA

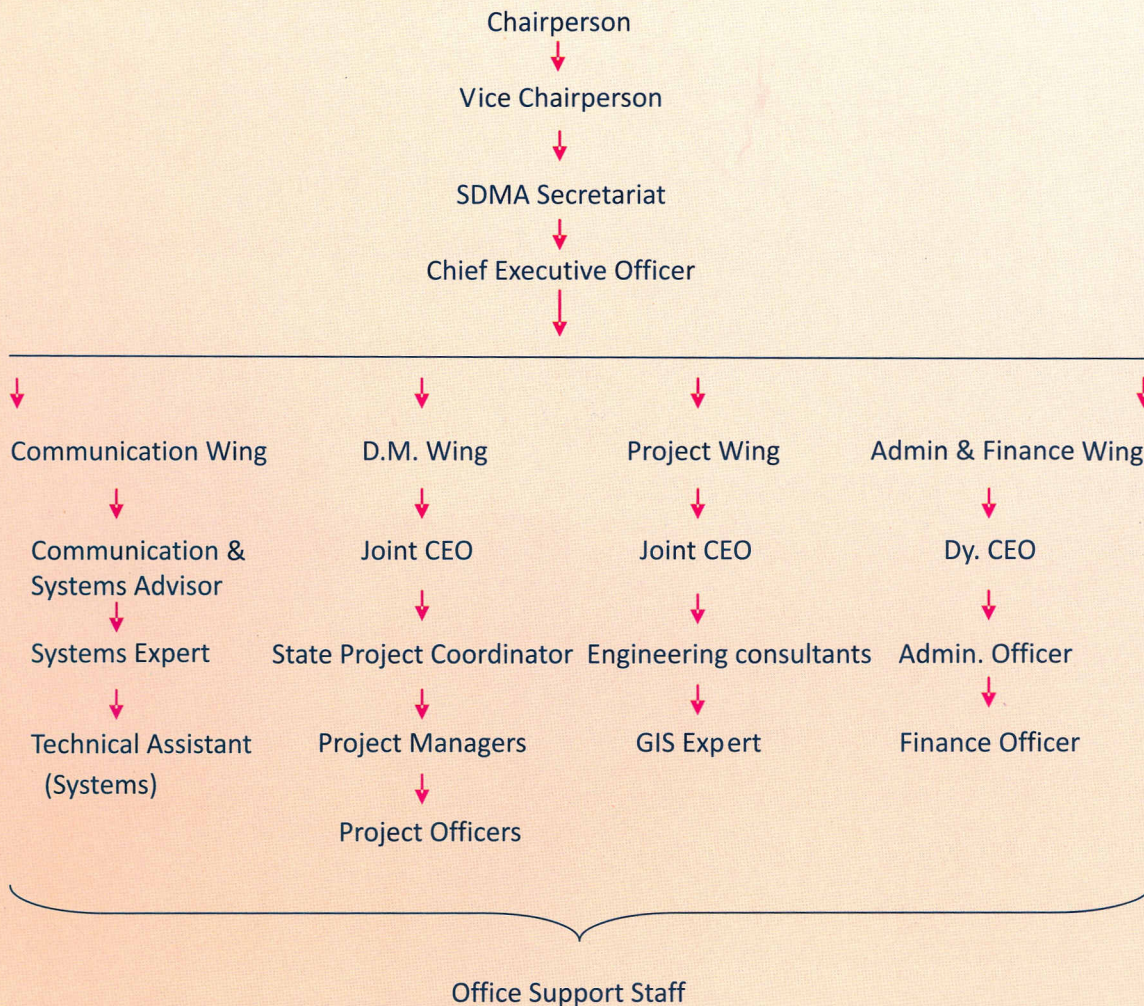
To create 'A State Prepared' and Build 'A Safer Assam'

MANAGEMENT OF ASDMA

The State Executive Committee with the Chief Secretary, Assam as its Chairperson has been notified as per provision of the Disaster Management Act to execute the mandate of State Authority.

The State Government also provides the State Authority with such officers consultants and employees, for carrying out the functions of the State Authority. The following organization structure has been approved for the Assam State Disaster Management Authority.

Assam State Disaster Management Authority



OBJECTIVES OF ASDMA

- ❖ Prepare the State level Disaster Management Policy and guidelines
- ❖ Prepare the State Disaster Management Plan
- ❖ Examine the vulnerability of different parts of the State to different forms of disasters and specify measures to be taken for their prevention or mitigation
- ❖ Promote a culture of prevention and preparedness.
- ❖ Lay guidelines to be followed by Departments in the preparation of the Departmental plans
- ❖ Institutionalise mitigation measures.
- ❖ Mainstream disaster management into development planning process.
- ❖ Build up the Capacity & Preparedness at all Governmental and non-Governmental levels to respond to any disasters
- ❖ Position appropriate techno-legal framework for compliance.
- ❖ Promote partnership with various stakeholders to create greater public awareness.
- ❖ Ensure mechanisms for prompt and efficient response.
- ❖ Ensure post disaster reconstruction to build a disaster resilient environment.

A PARADIGM SHIFT IN APPROACH:

ASDMA has taken several initiatives for bringing about a paradigm shift in disaster management approach: from the post disaster relief centric approach to pre disaster prevention, preparedness and mitigation measures.



Seminar on Earthquake Resistant Technology



V.K. Pipersenia, Principal Secretary, Revenue & D.M. Department addressing the participants at a workshop on Disaster Management for the Corporate Officials

INITIATIVES TAKEN

- ❖ National Disaster Management Act adopted in Assam in December 2006
- ❖ State Disaster Management Authority constituted
- ❖ 27 District Disaster Management Authority notified
- ❖ State Executive Committee notified
- ❖ Secretariat of the State Disaster Management Authority setup
- ❖ Appointment of initial set of Project Officers in District Disaster Management Authorities completed
- ❖ Department of Relief & Rehabilitation converted to Department of Disaster Management with wider terms of Reference
- ❖ Assam State Disaster Management Policy and State Disaster Management Rules has been drafted
- ❖ Guwahati Building bye-laws amended to include provisions as per BIS codes.
- ❖ Urban Development Department initiating similar action for the Districts
- ❖ A web based inventory of resources available with Govt agencies and maps of all

major roads in the State compiled as Emergency Management Information System of Assam

- ❖ Budget allocated for State Disaster Management Authority
- ❖ State Disaster Mitigation Fund & State Disaster Response Fund has also been created
- ❖ State Disaster Response Force being constituted and equipped
- ❖ 12 District Disaster Management Plans & Kamrup Metro Urban Earthquake Vulnerability Plan is in place.
- ❖ 11 District Emergency Operations centre based on Earthquake Resistant Technology constructed.
- ❖ Rapid Visual Screening (RVS), a first level assessment of seismic resistance, on life line buildings initiated.
- ❖ Schools are being assessed for their safety requirements.
- ❖ Integration of Disaster Risk Reduction Measures into development programmes such as Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan, Indira Awas Yojana, Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission etc initiated.
- ❖ The Health Department requested to prepare a plan for Mass Casualty Management.
- ❖ Circular has been issued for inclusion of Disaster Management in the curriculum of SEBA & AHSEC
- ❖ Evacuation Plan for the State Secretariat drawn up
- ❖ Massive Awareness drive initiated.
- ❖ IEC material distributed for greater dissemination of information regarding the dos and don'ts in case of disasters like earthquakes, floods & Fires.



Doctor, Paramedics, Fire & Police Department Officials conducting mock drill at Nagaon



Awareness drive at Schools conducted in partnership with Corporate Sector at Guwahati

- ❖ DRMP: - A GoI - UNDP initiative on Community based Disaster Management implemented in 12 districts of the State
- ❖ DRR -A GoI- UNDP Project is being implemented in the State
- ❖ A USAID supported Pilot project on ICS implemented in two districts of Assam

CAPACITY BUILDING ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN

- ❖ Training Needs Assessment done for the various stakeholders on Disaster Management
- ❖ Around 100 NGOs trained for Disaster Management
- ❖ PRIs sensitized on Disaster Management
- ❖ More than 50,000 Volunteers of the First Aid Task force trained.
- ❖ 52000 Volunteers of the Search and Rescue task Force trained in preliminary SAR using locally available resources.
- ❖ 8676 Teachers trained on Disaster Management & School Safety.
- ❖ Over 100 Doctors trained on Emergency Health Management.
- ❖ 315 Engineers trained on Earthquake Resistant Technology.
- ❖ Training on Rapid Visual Screening carried out for Engineers to build capacities for first level assessment of lifeline buildings
- ❖ 3500 Masons trained on Safe Structures.



Hands on training for Mason for safer construction

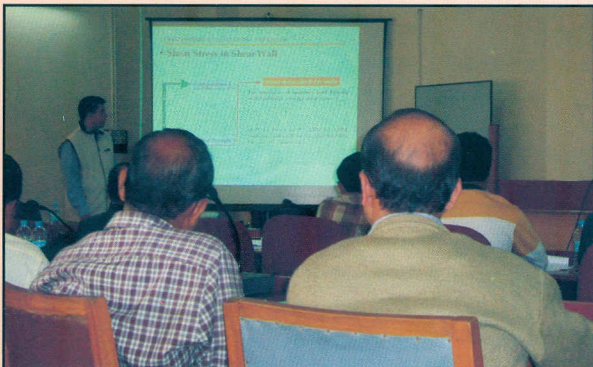


Participants of Capacity Building Training for NGOs at a group exercise



Line Department Officials at group exercise in a workshop on Disaster Management

- ❖ 45 Architects trained on Earthquake Resistant Design
- ❖ Officers in Cachar & Kamrup(M) district as a Pilot Project trained in Incident Command System to respond to incidents of disasters



Training on Seismic Retrofitting held in association with Geo Hazards Society



Atul Chaturvedi, CEO, ASDMA awarding certificates to the participants of Capacity Building Training for Architects under NPCBAERM

COMMUNITY PREPAREDNESS:

The State Disaster Management Authority recognising the vital role of the community is giving thrust on community capacity building and mass awareness. Extensive works have also been done on community preparedness in 12 districts of Assam under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management Programme.

Community preparedness activities included awareness drives, training to volunteers, preparation of village level Disaster Management Plans Preparation, Mock drills etc.

AWARENESS GENERATION

Awareness campaigns have been done through street plays, Audio-Visual spots, documentaries, radio, television, news papers, hoardings, brochures, leaflets etc



IEC materials

Students at a rally on Community Awareness Programme on disaster preparedness



MOCK DRILLS AND TABLE TOP EXERCISES:



Photographs of Mock drill carried out at Assam Sachivalaya, Dispur

- * Number of Mock drills have been conducted on natural disaster in the District, Block, GP and Village levels.
- * Following the Incident Command System (ICS) principles, a simulation exercise has also been conducted by Kamrup Metro on Earthquake and on Floods by Cachar.
- * With the help of NDMA, a table top and mock drill exercise on flood preparedness was conducted in Nalbari district.
- * Two Mock drills also conducted in the Assam State Secretariat



DMT Carrying out Mockdrill

ROAD AHEAD:

- ❖ Hazard Risk and Vulnerability Assessment for Guwahati city, Silchar & Dibrugarh town and Dhemaji district to be conducted.
- ❖ Flood Early Warning System (FEWS) on pilot basis with assistance from NESAC.
- ❖ Preparation of the State Disaster Management Plan
- ❖ Revision of the Relief Manual
- ❖ Incorporation of District Disaster Management plans into development plans of the districts
- ❖ Setting up of Assam Institute of Disaster Management to continuously upgrade disaster management capabilities of all stakeholders
- ❖ Municipal Building Bye-laws including provisions of BIS Codes to be notified and enforced
- ❖ Rapid Visual Screening for all life line buildings for undertaking retrofitting if required
- ❖ School buildings to be surveyed for safety requirements
- ❖ Preparation of contingency plans to meet any eventuality in all hospitals
- ❖ Maintain close coordination with Army, Air Force, NDRF, CPMFs and conduct Joint Drills
- ❖ Expand VHF communication system
- ❖ Prepare emergency traffic management plan
- ❖ Augmenting capacity of fire services and civil defence organizations to respond to an emergency
- ❖ Conduct regular mock drills
- ❖ Convergence of disaster risk management with SSA, IAY, NRHM, JNNURM etc.

Best practices from Assam

As published in UNDP Publication Women as Equal Partners

Women master trainers developing disaster preparedness

Barpeta District, Assam

In a nutshell

When women were inducted as master trainers in Assam, they contributed to change the traditional gendered roles of women as caregivers and nurturers. These master trainers paved the way for the greater participation of women in trainings for first aid as well as in trainings for search and rescue operations. Women were comfortable learning from women trainers. Subsequently, their candid participation in the planning process has resulted in broader, engendered and more effective disaster preparedness.

"Earlier we would question a woman's ability to do heavy work (search and rescue operations); since we felt that a woman is not as strong as a man. Now we feel that if didi (sister) can learn and teach, then so can we."

- Kajol, woman Disaster Management Team member

Government of Assam under the GoI-UNDP Disaster Risk Management programme, sought to build the capacities of volunteers to act as trainers to impart disaster preparedness skills in the community. The volunteers drawn from the community with the help of civil society organizations underwent a Training of Trainers course at the block level. It was felt that women master trainers would provide an enabling environment for other women to learn. In addition, these trainers would act as facilitators in the process of developing a contingency plan at the village level and assist in the formation of Disaster Management Teams (DMTs).

A meeting with the *gaonbura* (village headman) facilitated the process of reaching out to the community and the selection of members of the DMTs. Since the women were aware of the resources available within the community and could identify the needs of the community in a disaster situation, they played a central role in the discussions.

A mapping exercise to analyse the vulnerability, resources and social set-up in the village was carried out before preparing the disaster management plan. The presence of the women master trainers created a comfort level for women and encouraged them to participate in the formulation of the Community Contingency Plan (CCP) and the selection of the Disaster Management team members.

In this block, trainings have been imparted in first aid and search and rescue operations. However the participation of women had been primarily in the first aid trainings. The woman master trainer, who leads the training in a particular block, facilitated the involvement of women in the entire training process and

helped to enhance their capacities, by virtue of her own status and role in the project. Being a woman-trainer, she had an advantage over her male colleagues, as she could talk to women individually, in their homes and convince them of their potential and the contribution that they can make towards prepared community. The master trainers explained that women do not need to be at the periphery of such programmes and impressed upon them that they should learn the skills that will equip them to take up an active role while faced with a calamity. The training was imparted to a mixed group of men and women. Since the team of trainers had a woman master trainer it was easy to demonstrate certain actions like Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR), a technique which would have been uncomfortable for women to learn from a male-trainer.

Although a number of women took training in search and rescue methods, they refrained from becoming members of the team. Nevertheless they feel confident and are well equipped to save their families and assist the team in rescuing people when struck by a disaster. They are dispensing the impression that they are physically weaker than men and are unable to do tasks that need muscular strength.

The training given to the women by a woman-trainer has meant an alternate vision of a woman's role in society, as the space that has always been occupied by men is now shared with women. These women have also started taking an active part in other programmes run by the government and other organizations.

Replicable good practice

Women master trainers may be considered a replicable good practice to build the preparedness capacities of the community because:

- Women as master trainers contribute to breaking prevalent gender stereotypes, since the task of training on disaster preparedness has traditionally been seen as a male bastion.
- This has led to an unprecedented participation of women in search and rescue training.
- It has meant the involvement of women in resource mapping, planning and the constitution of DMTs, which in turn has ensured engendered decision-making.

Lessons learnt

- Women's participation in 'search and rescue' is possible and beneficial. When efforts are made to ensure a culturally sensitive environment for women to learn new skills, women are willing to shed their inhibitions and come forward to learn.
- When women see a clear application of skills-learnt to building the resilience of their families and community, they take significant steps towards overcoming social barriers to acquire those skills.
- Given the right environment, women can play a dynamic role in community mapping and planning, as they are most aware of the available resources within the community and relate better to the day-to-day realities, which ensue in a disaster.

Challenges

- Even though women acquired specialised skills in 'search and rescue', they remain hesitant to take up responsibility within the DMT. The gender barriers in carrying out these roles still prevail.

Recommendation

- An understanding of the root causes that hinder women from becoming members of the search and rescue DMTs is needed to overcome these barriers.

Accredited Social Health Activists as role models

Nagaon district, Assam

In a nutshell

Assam is prone to natural disasters like earthquakes, floods, landslides, cyclones and occasionally even droughts. The Disaster Risk Management programme was launched to reduce the vulnerability of the communities to natural disasters in this multi-hazard disaster prone area. In Nagaon district, the programme was launched in 2004, with the help of women 'Accredited Social Health Activists' (ASHA workers) who are a link between the public health centres and the villagers. They are drawn from the community where they serve and are therefore conscious of the needs and available resources. It is these women who have dared to step out of their houses to take up community responsibilities and act as powerful change-agents to influence women in the village.

"We feel very useful and are filled with pride, when we see ourselves fulfilling our responsibilities towards the family and community".

- Mitali Goswami ASHA worker Nagoan

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The women in this district constrained by their traditional gender roles were not participating actively in any programmes and were tied to their household tasks. The ASHA workers managed to rope in a large number of women to participate in the awareness campaigns, in the designing of Community Contingency Plans and other DRM programme activities. ASHA workers who assist the health department in preparing the village health plan, proved to be resourceful in formulating the DRM plan. The ASHA workers share a rapport with everyone in the community and are looked up to by women, as they have gone beyond the conventional boundaries of their gender. It was perceived that the gendered status of women could be challenged and changed by reaching them through ASHA workers. Through them information about the programme was disseminated and women were motivated to attend the meetings/orientation programmes.

ASHA workers became members of the Disaster Management Teams (DMTs) and inspired other women to join in the DMTs as well. As a result ten DMTs were constituted and there was adequate representation of women in each of them. ASHA workers also facilitated first aid and search and rescue training for a large number of people. The women never thought that they could balance the responsibilities of their families with the membership of a team, are now surprised that they can take on additional tasks. The DRM trainings especially search and rescue trainings have enhanced their confidence and they feel that they are capable of handling any situation during a calamity. The realization that they can contribute to the community life qualitatively and still keep up with their domestic tasks, has given them a new confidence to explore new dimensions of their own personalities and reassess their position vis-a-vis men. The young girls in the community were also encouraged to undertake the training in first aid and in search and rescue methods.

The ASHA workers were aware of the available formal mechanisms and played the lead role in these women's groups and ensured that their needs were addressed. The groups have come together to form a gender advocacy group and a network for social action that works to meet the most pressing needs of the community. This networking has brought to the fore their common needs, concerns and the views of the community.

Replicable good practices

Partnering with ASHA workers may be considered a replicable good practice to address differential needs because:

- Capitalizing on the existing structures has resulted in achieving the desired results.
- They are an effective link between the community and other stakeholders.
- Using a woman as an entry point to reach out to other women has helped gain maximum participation.

"It is beneficial to teach young girls because they further educate two families; the parental and that of their in-laws."

- Haricharan Deka villager

Lessons learnt

- Decision making at the grass-roots level facilitates empowerment. By involving themselves in the decision-making processes related to the community, members have increased their self-confidence in making decisions about their personal lives as well.
- Informal support networks encourage peer counselling. ASHA workers help other women to cope with daily life through sharing of insights and new ideas

Challenge

- A strategy is needed that can sustain the community's interest in this programme.

Recommendations

- There is a need for a refresher course for ASHA workers to sustain the interest of stakeholders.
- The DRM programme should not be executed in isolation but integrated with other programmes of the government.



National Disaster Response Force at flood rescue in Guwahati

State Disaster Management Authority **Assam**
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<p>www.asdma.org</p> <p>About us Disaster in Assam Publications</p> <hr/> <p>DRM Programmes</p> <p>The Disaster Risk Management Programme is a community based preparedness initiative ... » read more</p> <hr/> <p>DRR Programme 2009- 2012</p> <p>The Disaster Risk Reduction Programme ... » read more</p> <hr/> <p>Programmes - Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » District Plans » Guwahati City DM Plans <hr/> <p>Photo Gallery</p> <p>Latest photos ... </p>	<div style="border: 1px solid #ccc; padding: 10px; margin-bottom: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center;">Earthquakes Don't Kill But Unsafe Building Do</p> </div> <p>News: Read Inside</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Disaster warning system launched ... » School kids to be trained in disaster ... » Quake-proof tag must for home loans ... <p style="text-align: right;">» read more</p> <hr/> <p>State Disaster Management Act</p> <p>The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has been adopted in the State of Assam and is in force thereby implying that the provisions of the Act are legally enforceable</p> <p style="text-align: right;">» read more</p>	<p>Emergency Response</p> <p>Whom do I contact in times of emergency ..</p> <hr/> <p>Training Workshops</p> <p>Capacity building of officials, NGO's & the community ..</p> <hr/> <p>Frequently Asked Questions</p> <p>What are Disasters ? How do I prepare myself ?</p> <hr/> <p>Quick Links</p> <p>For more information on disaster preparedness</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Notification » School Safety Initiative » Safety Tips » Reports » Feel an Earthquake » Download 'The Assam Relief
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ভূমিকম্পৰ সজাগতা

ভূমিকম্পৰ সময়ত কি কৰিব লাগে?

বহি পৰক আচ্ছাদিত হওক ধৰি থাকক



Drop



Cover



Hold

ভূমিকম্প হ'লে মজিয়াত বহি পৰক, মজবুত মেজ বা টেবুলৰ তলত আশ্রয় লওক আৰু মেজখন আপোনাৰ ওচৰৰ পৰা আঁতৰি যাব নোৱাৰাকৈ ধৰি থাকক। জোকাৰণি বন্ধ নোহোৱালৈ এনেদৰে অপেক্ষা কৰক।



জোকাৰণি কমাৰ পিছত খুঁট-খুঁটিৰে মুকলি ঠাইলৈ ওলাই আহক।



ভীতিগ্ৰস্ত নহ'ব ধৈৰ্য্য ধৰি প্ৰয়োজনীয় ব্যৱস্থা গ্ৰহণ কৰক।



আপুনি যদি থিয় পাহাৰত আছে ভূমিকম্পলন বা বহি পৰা শিলৰ বাবে সাবধান হব।



আপুনি যদি মজবু ঘৰত আছে তাতে থাকক



যদি পুৰণা দুৰ্বল ঘৰত আছে শীঘ্ৰে নিৰাপদ বাটোৰে ওলাই আহক। চাব যাতে বহি পৰা শিল, ইটাই আঘাত নকৰে।



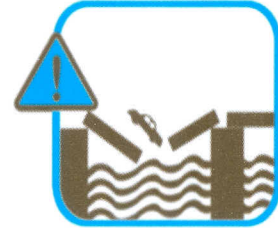
যদি নিৰাপদ প্ৰস্থান পথ আছে শীঘ্ৰে সেই বাটোৰে ওলাই আহক। দৌৰাদৌৰি নকৰি ধৈৰ্য্য সহকাৰে ওলাই আহক।



বৈদ্যুতিক তাঁৰ, খুঁটা, বেৰ, ভুৰা চিলিং, চাজা, ফুলৰ টাব আদি বাগৰি পৰিব পৰা বস্তুৰ পৰা আঁতৰি থাকিব।



যদি গাড়ী চলাই আছে তেনেহ'লে বাস্তব কাৰ্যলৈ নি ৰখাওক। উৰনীয়া সেতু, বৈদ্যুতিক তাঁৰ-খুঁটা আৰু বিজ্ঞাপনৰ ফলকৰ ওচৰত না থাকিব।



ক্ষতিগ্ৰস্ত হব পৰা দলাং বা উৰনীয়া সেতু অতিক্ৰম কৰিবলৈ যত্ন নকৰিব।



লিফ্ট অথবা এলিভেটৰ ব্যৱহাৰ নকৰিব।



আইনাৰ দুৱাৰ খিড়ীকি ধকা ঘৰৰ ওচৰত নো থাকিব।



অসমীয়া জঘন

Assam State Disaster Management Authority

Government of Assam

2010