Press Release from District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Gangtok

DDMA Gangtok Organises Three-Day Hands-on Training Programme on AI Integration in Disaster Management

Gangtok, 25 November 2026: Recognising the growing need to move beyond conventional post-disaster relief and rehabilitation towards a proactive, scientific and technology-driven approach, the District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), Gangtok, in coordination with Inquisitive Mindspace (IQM), an emerging EdTech and AI-based startup headquartered in Pakyong, Sikkim, commenced a three-day hands-on training programme on "AI Integration in Disaster Management" for the first batch of DDMA officials at the State Panchayat Resource Hall, GMC.

The inaugural session was graced by the Chairman-cum-District Collector, Shri Agawane Rohan Ramesh, IAS, and attended by Shri Sonam Wongyal Lepcha, Joint Director, DDMA Gangtok, and Ms. Bijayata Kharel, Deputy Director, DDMA Gangtok. The programme is being conducted by Shri Ritesh Uprety, Resource Person from IQM, with the participation of 50 DDMA officials from Gangtok District.

The training aims to strengthen the technical and operational capacities of disaster management personnel by introducing them to the practical applications of Artificial Intelligence in disaster preparedness, risk assessment, early warning, response and overall disaster management.

Disaster management today is no longer confined to post-disaster relief and rehabilitation. It increasingly calls for a forward-looking approach that prioritises risk identification, vulnerability assessment, early warning systems and preparedness. In this context, Artificial Intelligence has emerged as a promising tool that can facilitate the analysis of large volumes of data, identification of vulnerable areas, anticipation of potential risks and support informed and timely decision-making.

Emphasising the importance of integrating emerging technologies with ground-level experience, the programme also highlights the crucial role of disaster management field personnel, who serve as frontline functionaries and possess first-hand knowledge of local vulnerabilities, ground realities and community-level challenges. The training is designed to enhance their practical understanding of AI-based tools and techniques, enabling them to complement their existing skills and improve the efficiency of disaster risk assessment and management.

While technology offers significant opportunities to strengthen disaster management, its true value lies in translating technological capabilities into effective action at the ground level. The initiative therefore seeks to bridge the gap between technological advancements and practical disaster management operations through hands-on learning and capacity building.

Through this collaborative initiative, DDMA Gangtok aims to promote the adoption of innovative, data-driven and technology-enabled approaches towards building a more resilient and disaster-prepared district.