

SAREX-2026 Search and Rescue Exercise, February,27-2026

The Airports Authority of India (AAI) conducted the Search and Rescue Exercise (SAREX) – 2026 at the campus of B. S. Abdur Rahman Crescent Institute of Science and Technology, Vandalur, Chennai, over two days on 27.02.2026 and 28.02.2026.

On 27.02.2026, the inaugural session was attended by Mrs. Seema Agrawal, IPS, Director General of Police/Director of Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services, who formally inaugurated the event and delivered a special address. In her speech, she emphasised the importance of effective coordination among various agencies during emergency situations such as aircraft accidents.

Subsequently, on 28.02.2026, a full-scale SAREX mock drill was conducted jointly by the Indian Air Force, National Disaster Response Force, Tamil Nadu Fire and Rescue Services and the Airports Authority of India.

The exercise simulated emergency situations similar to an aircraft accident and involved search and rescue operations, firefighting activities, emergency medical response, and coordinated actions among different response agencies.

District Officers from South Chennai, Chengalpattu, Tiruchirappalli, Thoothukudi, and Vellore districts also participated in the drill and observed the rescue operations.

Such SAREX exercises are conducted periodically to enhance preparedness, strengthen inter-agency coordination, and ensure swift and effective response during aviation emergencies.









