

INPUTS FOR MOD WEBSITE : MILITARY OPERATIONS DIRECTORATE

AID TO CIVIL AUTHORITY

GENERAL

1. Apart from their main responsibility of defending the borders of the country, the Armed Forces render assistance to civil authority, when called upon to do so, for the maintenance of law and order, maintenance of essential services, disaster relief and other types of assistance.

MAINTENANCE OF LAW AND ORDER

2. The Indian Army has always responded with requisite alacrity and professionalism to numerous requests for assistance. In the recent past, notable instances are as under :-

(a) **Leh.** Army assistance in maintenance of law and order was requisitioned by the civil administration at Leh on 07 February 06. A total of 15 columns were requisitioned by the civil administration and were deployed at Leh and Kargil, to restore normalcy.

(b) **Vadodara.** Consequent to the upsurge of communal violence in Vadodara on 03 May 06, the District Authorities requisitioned for Army assistance. Four Army columns ex Vadodara and Ahmedabad were deployed in Mandvi – Fathepura and Ravpura for maintenance of law and order. The columns were derequisitioned on 12 May 06.

MAINTENANCE OF ESSENTIAL SERVICES

3. Due to general strike by Government medical officers of Maharashtra, civil administration of Pune requested for 20 doctors to deal with serious cases on 08 March 06. The aid was provided as requested.

DISASTER RELIEF

4. **Preamble.** The major calamities that have struck the Indian sub-continent during the last decade, have underscored the need to adopt a **multi-dimensional, multi-disciplinary and multi-sectoral approach to disaster management**. Within the ambit of this approach, **the Armed Forces constitute a significant and potent entity** available with the Central Government, for disaster response and relief. As part of the Armed Forces, the Army, by virtue of its **organisational strength, motivation, discipline** and **operational preparedness**, has always risen to the occasion, earning the appreciation of the environment for its singular contribution.

5. **Attributes.** The following attributes make the Army a potent instrument for disaster relief :-

(a) It is **suitably poised** for rapid response and for mobilising **self-contained, composite task forces** to any part of the country, even overseas, in conjunction with the Navy and Air Force.

(b) It is **structured, organised and managed to provide support for a full range of public relief services**.

Role and Employment of the Army in Disaster Management

6. Over the years, the **scope of Army's role in disaster management has enlarged gradually**. It is invariably the first responder in disaster situations. The **Disaster Management Act of 2005 has ensured that the Army's role in disaster response remain focussed on critical issues, with optimal utilisation of dedicated resources**.

7. **Capacity Analysis.** An analysis of the Army's capacity for Disaster Response brings to the fore certain strengths. These are enunciated as under :-

(a) **Strength One : Decision Making.**

(i) **By virtue of its organisational strength**, the Army's hierarchical structure is endowed with **quick decision making capability and speedy dissemination of information and orders** .

(ii) Our inherent strengths have been optimised further by the ongoing restructuring of our disaster management structures, which has **ushered in a sense of synergy and integration between the concerned ministries, departments and agencies**. The recently established HQ Integrated Defence Staff is playing a critical role with regard to coordination of efforts of the three services.

(b) **Strength Two : Versatility of Response.** The **versatile capabilities** of the Army to respond to any form of disaster situation can be best exemplified by the assistance provided during the **Tsunami Disaster** as well as relief operations conducted in the aftermath of the **Kashmir Earthquake** :-

(i) **Tsunami Disaster**

(aa) **Response.** The speed, with which the Indian Army was able to deploy its columns in the first 6 to 9 hours, followed by a systematic build up over long distances, in conjunction with the Navy and Air Force, is perhaps proof of the **credibility of our humanitarian response machinery**.

(ab) **Mobilisation.** The operation involved mobilisation of **over 8300 troops**, suitably grouped into composite task forces, for **rescue and relief operations**, not only in the Southern peninsular regions of Tamil Nadu, Pondicherry and Kerala, but also overseas in Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Sri Lanka.



(ac) **Relief.** As many as **27,986 persons were rescued / evacuated** under extremely hostile conditions. **60 relief camps** were established, **41,080 patients** were treated in mobile field hospitals / camps, over 990 dead bodies were recovered, debris cleared and essential rations, food packets, medicines, clothing, blankets and kerosene oil provided to the traumatised populace.

(ad) **Rehabilitation.** The columns were, thereafter, involved in **rehabilitation and reconstruction operations** for a **sustained period of 6-9 months**. All possible **tasks** like restoration and manning of essential services, restoration of surface communications to include launching of bailey bridges and operation of ferries, erection of temporary dwelling units and toilets, enforcement of hygiene and sanitation



measures to prevent an epidemic outbreak, trauma and psychological

counselling, as also informative classes on employment and recruitment opportunities for youth were undertaken by our troops in the most commendable manner.

(ii) **Kashmir Earthquake : Operation IMDAD.**

(aa) The Indian Army, **despite the loss of 45 of its own personnel, with severe injuries to another 283** and significant damage to its infrastructure, **willingly assumed the role of the primary agency for rescue and relief effort.** Our rescue teams were the first to reach the isolated, inaccessible areas.



(ab) **52 columns, comprising 2600 troops, alongwith 39 medical teams, 31 tons of medicine** and specialised mountaineering equipment, were mobilised for rescue and relief.

(ac) **40 relief camps** were established, **1200 people rescued, 6000 civil patients treated, 150 tonnes of rations and 18,000 food packets** were distributed.

(ad) In keeping with its aspirational desire to provide and oversee infrastructural renovation, **the Army has adopted three villages.**

(iii) **People Friendly Measures.** While never failing the State, the IA continues to uphold the trust of the people. As part of our national policy to provide relief and succour to the people of POK, substantial quantities of relief material was despatched to Pakistan by air and train. In addition, five **Composite Relief and Rehabilitation Points (COMPRAPs)** have been operationalised along the Line of Control, with the Army undertaking a major responsibility in their activation.

(c) **Strength Three : The Human Factor.** Herein, perhaps lies the Army's greatest strength. **The methodology and spirit behind delivering aid has a profound effect on a community's ability to recover from the disaster - the Army is perceived by the general population as humane, impartial and neutral in providing aid to civil authorities.** Effective disaster management can only be effected with the "will to act on information" and "dynamic leadership". **Army's exemplary record of disaster relief operations, is replete with examples of leadership and sacrifice, worthy of emulation.** We are committed to upholding the same.

8. **The International Dimension.** Recent instances of rendition of aid further underline the international dimension of the IA's response and relief capacity :-

(a) **Katrina Disaster.** In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, approximately 25 tonnes of disaster relief supplies (3,000 blankets, 150 tarpaulins, bed sheets, toothbrushes, toothpaste, soap cakes, soap cases and hand towels), were despatched in an IL- 76 sortie to USA on 09 September 05.

(b) **Philippines Mudslide.** In the aftermath of extensive mudslides in Leyte (East Philippines) on 17 February 06, approximately 30 tonnes of disaster relief supplies, including medicines were despatched in an IL-76 sortie to Philippines on 22 February 06.

(c) **Indonesia Earthquake**. In the aftermath of the extensive earthquake in Jakarta (Indonesia) on 27 May 2006, approximately 86 tonnes of disaster relief supplies, including medicines were despatched in two IL-76 sorties and INS TABAR to Indonesia in May / June 2006.

(d) **Lebanon**. Similarly, during the recent crisis in Lebanon, 3200 blankets and 225 tents were despatched to Lebanon on 18 Aug 2006.

Flood Relief - 2006

9. The assistance of the Army with regard to provisioning of flood relief is sought and provided with regularity. **During the monsoon season of 2006 for instance, rescue and relief aid has been provided to a number of flood affected areas in Maharashtra, Gujarat, Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh, Uttar Pradesh and J&K (Leh).** A total of **60 columns and 95 engineer task forces were requisitioned by the civil administration and deployed in flood affected areas.**

10. Extensive assistance by way of engineering equipment such as BAUTs / OBMs, life jackets, recovery vehicles, aerial ropeways, communication equipment, provisioning of heavy earth moving equipment deployed to clear boulders and debris, restoration of road communications, repair of bridges / abutments, removal of damaged piers, widening of water channels, diversion of flood waters, advice on water harvesting, restoration of breast walls, distribution of food packets and medical aid has been provided. Certain other important aspects are highlighted in succeeding paras.

11. **Barmer (Rajasthan)**. The Chief Minister of Rajasthan visited affected areas in Barmer District on 26 August 06 and personally complimented the Column Commander and thanked the Army for its relief efforts in the region.

12. **Pali (Rajasthan)**. One JCO named Nb/Sub Anthony Cruise of 201 Engr Regt laid down his life while rescuing five passengers of a marooned Indica Car near a bridge on Khari River.

13. **Nasik (Maharashtra)**. 08 x Army Aviation Helicopters were pressed into service for rescue of marooned villagers in the affected areas of Nasik and rescued approximately 300 villagers, over two days in intense helicopter evacuation operations.

14. **Leh (J&K)**. Leh witnessed unprecedented rainfall during the year leaving a trail of destruction. Several bridges collapsed, roads were washed away, and villages marooned with water entered a large number of houses. About fifteen villages were severely ravaged. The Army came to the rescue of the people of Ladakh in their hour of crisis. Aid by way of repair of bridges / abutments, removal of damaged piers, widening of water channels, diversion of flood waters, restoration of breast walls, deployment of Heavy Earth Moving Equipment (JCBs and Dozers) for clearing boulders and debris, help to stranded tourists on major road axes and erection of tent colonies to provide succour to the distressed, was provided.

15. Summary of aid provided so far is as under :-

(a)	Personnel Evacuated	-24,181 persons.
(b)	Distribution of Food Packets/ Relief Material	-77,674 packets and 5.9 tons.
(c)	Medical Aid Rendered	-6848 persons.
(d)	Helicopter Evacuation	-291 persons.

OTHER TYPES OF ASSISTANCE

Antarctic Expedition

16. The Army's involvement commenced with the second expedition in 1982-83, when a small contingent of three officers, including a medical officer, formed part of the Antarctic Expedition. Ever since, the Army has been intimately involved in the conduct of these expeditions every year. Army's participation involves assisting the Ministry of Ocean Development by way of construction of permanent stations, repair and maintenance and extension of stations, running of life support systems in the station and their maintenance as also overland transportation of men and material in Antarctica.



Bus Accident – Shasho (Jammu & Kashmir)

17. A civil bus with approximately 50 passengers fell into River Chenab, at 0830 hours on 07 April 06 at Shasho (Jammu & Kashmir). Consequently, assistance was requisitioned from the Army. 02 columns and 01 rescue team including 04 divers were provided for rescue and relief operations at the bus accident site. A total of 03 dead bodies and 03 persons were rescued.

Construction of Bridge

18. Based on a requisition from the civil administration of Panipat, a 40 feet gap was bridged on 03 April 06, to facilitate the passage of the motorcade of the Prime Minister, during his visit to Panipat on 05 April 06.

Assistance During the Outbreak of Fire - Trade Fair at Meerut

19. Consequent to the outbreak of fire at Brand India Exhibition Show at Victoria Gardens, Meerut at 1800 hours on 10 April 06, on requisition from civil administration 04 x fire tenders, 05 x ambulances with medical staff, 02 x columns comprising 04 officers, 06 JCOs and 80 OR, rendered aid by way of casualty evacuation / fire fighting and Military helipad at Meerut was made available for relief operations.

Rescue Operations : Kurukshetra (Haryana)

20. A five year old child fell into a 55 feet deep hole (12" in dia – abandoned borewell site) in Village Haldi Hira 15 km from Ambala on Rd Ambala – Kurukshetra at about 1930 hour on 21 July 06. Civil Administration requisitioned assistance at about 1030 hour on 22 July 06.

21. Accordingly one Engineer TF alongwith 01 x JCB, 2 x cranes, 2 x pumping sets and one generator were pressed into rescue operations.

22. A disused well 6 feet away from site was used to dig to depth of 60 feet; thereafter to connect to site through a horizontal tunnel to rescue the child. Lighting arrangements, food and water were provided. The 50 hour operation concluded successfully at 2130 hour on 23 July 06 with the rescue of the child.