

Concept note on Thematic Session

Role of Armed Forces, NDRF, Police and Civil Defence

Introduction

Disasters continue to strike unabated and without notice and are perceived to be on the increase in their magnitude, complexity, frequency and economic impact. Disasters strike in varying intensities - sometimes at will and other time after due warning and time frame. Civil Administration is development oriented and at best can tackle low and moderate intensity emergencies depending upon the resources at their disposal and capabilities permitting. Civil police, although first agency to be informed, due to their limited numbers, are rarely capable of surmounting the disaster.

From times immemorial, the Indian Armed Forces and Paramilitary forces have always done a commendable job, when called to aid civil authorities, especially, in the wake of natural calamities or man-made disasters. Although, the armed forces are supposed to be called upon to intervene and take on specific tasks only when the situation is beyond the capability of civil administration, in practice, they have been the "core of the government response capacity" in a major disaster. The Armed Forces are trained to react in emergencies, and are the biggest rescue and succor providing organizations, capable of moving swiftly to any part of the country, in the shortest possible time. The ability to react in the emergencies and work against time is built in their training schedule. Both the government and the public repose tremendous faith in the armed forces and believe that all emergencies and crises can be handled by the armed forces.

In the past decade, the country has witnessed frequent and intense Natural Disaster leading to large scale of destruction, death, disability, diseases, panic and fear among the people at risk. The growing tendency of over ensuring, and not having faith in own civil setup to deal with emergencies, has led to frequent deployment of the armed forces sometimes, unjustified.

Over the years there is a paradigm shift in government approach from response, relief and rehabilitation to mitigation, prevention, and preparedness. The Government of India has enacted Disaster Management Act 2005 and set in motion a number of initiatives for concerted efforts to manage Disaster in holistic and integrated manner. The government has felt the necessity of capacity building for rapid professional response to disasters. In that process, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted with advanced training, equipments, communication and mobility to respond to any type of natural or man made disasters including nuclear, chemical and biological disasters. The effectiveness of this force has been demonstrated during the recent flood in Bihar

which affected nearly 3 million people, but the casualties were restricted to less than 100.

The Government of India, considering the changing global geo-political scenario, reducing the chances and occurrence of traditional wars, and steadily increasing threats from natural and man-made disasters, has envisaged greater role on the part of the Civil Defence (CD) from merely hostile act-centric responsibility to a holistic role in all the facets of Disaster Management in the country. The Civil Defence being a community-based voluntary organization can, in addition to rescue, relief and rehabilitation, also play a stellar role in the field of community capacity building and public awareness to face any disaster situation, as is being done by Civil Defence set-ups in many other countries. In addition to the role assigned under the Civil Defence Act 1968, The Civil Defence set up can play a major role in assisting the District Disaster Management Authority, (DDMA) with the help of its volunteers at grass roots level, in different phases of disaster, particularly in pre-disaster (public awareness, community capacity building and community preparedness) and mid-disaster phases (response and relief) phases.

Context

The frequency and intensity of natural and manmade disaster have increased in recent years. Though the Government paradigm shift from response & relief centric to preparedness, prevention and mitigation is in pipeline and yet to take its proper shape, the changing role of the various Response Agencies has to be reviewed and redefined and trained accordingly. The increasing propensity on the part of the civil administration to requisition Armed forces and Para military forces, need to carry out reappraisal of the role of the armed forces, especially in contingencies relating to disaster management . Sequential deployment of rescue and relief resources or a graduated response by various entities to emergencies is fraught with the dangers of delay, and the situation going beyond control.

Ideally, comprehensive assessment of the required response to a disaster or impending disaster is needed. This will facilitate deployment of the necessary resources i.e. Civil Defence, National disaster Response Force, Para Military Forces and the Armed Forces, without loss of time, to limit the damage and losses to a minimum.

Objectives

- Discuss and evaluate the existing Role of Armed Forces, National Disaster Response Force, Police and Civil Defence.
- Discuss the efficacy of NDRF keeping in mind the vast geographical area of our country, magnitude and intensity of the mega disaster in the recent past.
- Discussion on the reoriented role of Armed forces, Police keeping in view the Raising of Specialist Force, National Disaster Response Force and revamping of Civil Defence with holistic role in disaster management.

Sub Themes

- Role of Armed Forces in Disaster Management
- Role of National Disaster Response Force
- Role of Police in disaster Management
- Role of Civil Defence in Disaster management

Expected Outcome

- Consensus on various roles of different response agencies at various stages in disaster management.
- Consensus on revamping and strengthening the Civil Defence Organisation.

Session Plan

Total duration of the session-would be of Three Hours. Divided into two to three separate sessions. Between the sessions there would be a tea break for 15 mts or if Chair decides that the tea would be on self service based approach.

Total number papers for oral presentation would be 8-10, depending on the quality and the number of abstracts/papers received. .

Chair: Shri K M Singh, Member, NDMA

**SECOND INDIA DISASTER MANAGEMENT CONGRESS
NOVEMBER 4-6, 2009**

SESSION PLAN

THEMATIC SESSION: H1: ROLE OF ARMED FORCES, NDRF, POLICE & CIVIL DEFENCE

Chair person: Shri K.M. Singh, Hon'ble Member, NDMA

Date: 6th November, 2009 Time 10.00 – 13.00

Venue: Hall No. 3 (1st Floor), Vigyan Bhavan, New Delhi

Time	Topic	Speaker
10.00- 10.15	Introductory Remarks	Shri K M singh
10.15- 10.30	Key note address: Role of Armed Forces, NDRF, Police & Civil Defence	Mr Arjun Katoch
10.30- 10.50	Role of NDRF in Disaster Management	Mr. Mukul Goel
10.50-11.10	Role of Armed Forces in Disaster Management	Brig. Manjit Khara
11.10-11.30	Role of NDRF	Mr. Alok Avasthy
11.30-11.50	Role of Civil Defence in Disaster Management	Col kaushik
11.50-12.10	Role of Police in Disaster Management	Mr. R K Sinha
12.10-12.30	NCC Cadets can do better in Disaster management	Prof Dhiren Vandra
12.30-12.50	Response by Armed Forces in Disaster Management	Col Alok Raj
12.50-13.00	Discussion/ Questions & Answers	Speakers & Delegates