Disaster Response: Mechanism and Resources in India

by

O. P. Singh, IPS
Director General, National Disaster Response Force
India’s Vulnerability to Disasters

58.6% of the landmass is prone to earthquakes of moderate to high intensity.

68% of the cultivable area is vulnerable to Drought.

Over 40 million hectares (12% of land) is prone to Floods & River Erosion.

Of the 7,516 Km long coastline, close to 5,700 Km is prone to cyclones and tsunamis.

- 12% Government revenue spent on relief and rehabilitation
- 2% GDP loss
3-TIER DISASTER MANAGEMENT STRUCTURE

National Level (NDMA)

State Level (SDMA)

District Level (DDMA)
Disasters Response

3-Tier Mechanism

I. National Level – NDRF (Defence, CAPFs & other Central Agencies as & when required)

II. State Level – SDRF & other State Agencies

III. District Level – Civil Admn, Local Police, Civil Defence, Fire & Emergency Services, Home Guards etc. (also Local Community, NGOs, Voluntary Agencies)
## Details of the Disaster Responders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Srl No</th>
<th>Name of Organization</th>
<th>Strength</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i</td>
<td>NDRF</td>
<td>11,500</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii</td>
<td>SDRF</td>
<td>6,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii</td>
<td>Civil Defence</td>
<td>5,60,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv</td>
<td>Home Guards</td>
<td>4,50,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v</td>
<td>Fire and Rescue Services</td>
<td>1,25,000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Chapter VIII, DM Act -2005

- **Sec 44 (i) of the Act:**
  
  NDRF: a ‘Specialist Force’ to respond to disasters/threatening disaster

The Members of the Force have been taken on deputation from elite Central Armed Police Forces.
NDRF : Functional Parameters

- Specialized Response
- Proactive deployment
- Skills upgradation
- Training other stakeholders
- Creating resilient community
- Familiarization exercises and mock Drills.
NDRF: Composition

- Each Bn has a strength of 1149 personnel.

- Each Bn has 18 self-contained specialist teams of 45 members.

- Each team comprises of specialist manpower viz. Medical Officers, Engineers, Paramedics, Technician, Electrician and dog squads.
NDRF : Unique Force

- Multi-disciplinary, multi-skilled, high-tech, specialist Force, capable of responding to any natural disaster or CBRN emergency.

- Response time reduced to the barest minimum with the Concepts of
  - ‘Proactive availability’ to States
  - ‘Pre-positioning’ in threatening disaster scenario

- Largest Stand-alone Dedicated Disaster Response Force trained & equipped as per international standards.
NDRF : Unique Force

• Located at 10 different places in the country based on vulnerability profile of the region.

• Teams placed at 22 cities & inaccessible regions in the country.

• All Bns trained and equipped for all natural disasters and for CBRN emergencies.

• Capable of carrying out disaster response operations within the Country, in the region & Internationally.
NDRF – Bns & Teams Locations

7th Bn Ludhiyana
1. Srinagar
2. Kangra

8th Ghaziabad
1. Delhi (CBRN)
2. Lucknow

6th Bn Vadodara
1. Gandhinagar
2. Barmer

5th Bn Pune
1. Bangalore
2. Mumbai (CBRN)

4th Bn Arakkonam
1. Chennai
2. Portblair
3. Kozhikode

9th Bn Patna
1. Vanarasi
2. Supaul

10th Bn Guntur
1. Hyderabad
2. Vishakhapatanam

1st Bn Guwahati
1. Aizawl
2. Itanagar
3. Agartala

2nd Bn Kalyani
1. Kolkata (CBRN)
2. Siliguri
3. Gangtok

3rd Bn Mundali
1. Baleshwar

NDRF Bns
Team Locations
NDRF: Equipment

Each NDRF Bn is equipped with 310 State-of-the-Art equipments

- CSSR (Earthquake) – 124 equipment
- Water Rescue/ Diving – 12 equipment
- Mountaineering/ High-Altitude Rescue – 16 equipment
- Medical First Response – 112 equipment
- CBRN Emergencies – 46 equipment
NDRF : Capabilities & Strength

- NDRF personnel fully trained & capable in CSSR (Collapsed Structure Search & Rescue) operations.
- MFR (Medical First Response)
- Trained & equipped to deal with CBRN emergency
- Flood And Mountain Rescue Operations
- Deep Diving Search & Rescue
- Canine and Technical Search
- Animal disaster response
OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES OF NDRF
Capacity Building Initiatives

Community Capacity Building & Awareness

• Engaging in community capacity building and public awareness programme.

• NDRF personnel have trained and sensitized about 3.4 million people under these programme.

• The target groups are villagers, local people, school children, National Cadets Corps & Local Government
Capacity Building Initiatives

Other Capacity Building Initiatives

- Mock Exercises in association with the various stakeholders on various disasters (Industrial Disasters, Urban Flooding, Cyclones, Earthquake simulation, Train accidents etc)

- Participated in over 450 mock exercises

- Workshops, seminars & campaigns
NDRF Activities and Achievements

- Famex/Community & awareness Programme: 1858
- Volunteers benefitted: 32,92,136
- Mock Exercises: 416
- Volunteers benefitted: 2,71,462
- Human lives rescued: 3,12,164
- Dead bodies recovered: 1513
Disaster Management awareness training to the volunteers by 6 Bn NDRF Gandhinagar under community capacity building and public awareness programme at Bhuj (Gujarat) on 19-01-2011
Demonstration on use of floating materials during flood situation by 6 BN NDRF Gandhinagar under community capacity building and public awareness programme in District Jaipur (Rajasthan) on 19-02-2011
March 11, 2011

One team of NDRF (46 personnel) deployed in Onagawa, Japan.

Working in sub-zero temperature, recovered 7 dead bodies and Japanese currency worth 50 million yen.

Role widely appreciated by the Japanese Government.
Japan Operation, 2011
“On March 11, an earthquake of unprecedented scale struck Japan’s Tohoku region. On behalf of the Japanese people, I would like to express my sincere gratitude for the assistance we received from Indian people in all walks of life, including heroic efforts by the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) of the Government of India. Under the leadership of Commandant, 46 members of the Force showed such outstanding discipline in their work that no one thought that it had been the Force’s first overseas operation ever since its creation”.
International Response Operation : Bhutan

- 8 March, 2014
- One team of NDRF (46 personnel) respond to a boat capsize incident in river Gongri, Bhutan
- Role widely appreciated by the Bhutanese Government.
Major Ongoing Initiatives of NDRF

- Advocacy with States for Setting up SDRF
- INSARAG IEC Classification
- Preparation for Bilateral Deployment
- Training of Trainers of neighboring countries
- CBRN training to SDRF
India Disaster Resource Network (IDRN)
• Inaugurated in 2003.
• Web-enabled, centralized database for quick access to resources to minimize response time.
• Updated every year, at District & State level.
  226 items, 69,329 records in 545 districts uploaded.

India Disaster Knowledge Network (IDKN)
• Web portal for knowledge collaboration, maps, networking, emergency contact information system.
• Goal - easy to use unified point of access to disaster management, mitigation and response.
• IDKN is a part of South Asian Disaster Knowledge Network (SADKN).
Other Institutional Arrangements

- Armed Forces
- Central Para Military Forces
- State Police Forces and Fire Services
- Civil Defence and Home Guards
- State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)
- National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- National Service Scheme (NSS)
- Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS)
Challenges

• Encourage and consolidate knowledge networks.

• To train more disaster volunteers

• Increased capacity building leads to faster vulnerability reduction.

• Learn from best practices in disaster preparedness, mitigation and disaster response
Conclusion

• Limited financial resources & physical resilience.

• Level of response varies.

• Need for regional cooperation.
THANKS
Jai Hind