

## **Indian Assistance to Nepal in the Wake of the 2015 Himalayan Earthquake**

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On Saturday, 25th April 2015, an earthquake with a magnitude of 7.9 on the Richter scale struck Nepal.

[1] The human cost of this tragedy is still unclear, but at the time of writing it is estimated that close to 4,000 people have died, and over 7,000 people have been injured in Nepal alone. [2]

With India's Prime Minister Narendra Modi pledging to "wipe the tears" of the people of Nepal, [3] it is clear that India is eager to help Nepal respond more effectively to this tragedy. It is worth highlighting that India was the first nation to pledge assistance to Nepal, with Prime Minister Modi sending disaster response teams to earthquake affected areas within 15 minutes of the earthquake striking. [4]

Under India's relief and rescue operation named 'Maitri' or amity, New Delhi has pledged the following disaster-relief assistance to Nepal so far:

- India has rushed 16 teams from its National Disaster Response Force to Nepal. These teams will help locate people trapped in the rubble and distribute relief material.[5] India has also dispatched three mobile field hospitals, of which one is already operational in Kathmandu.[6]
- The Indian Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has dispatched 15 tons of medical supplies to Nepal and has sent a team of orthopaedic surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and operation theatre technicians to the areas affected by the earthquake.[7] The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has also sent three technicians to repair water treatment plants affected by the earthquake.[8]
- The Indian Air Force (IAF) continues to engage in search and rescue operations which are aimed not only at locating stranded Indian citizens but Nepalese citizens as well. So far, the IAF has flown over 21 sorties, rescuing 1935 Indians, as well as citizens of other countries. [9]
- In addition to evacuating people from areas affected by the earthquake, India has dispatched blankets, over 100,000 bottles of drinking water, tents, and nearly 22 tons of food to Nepal.[10] Through the Indian Rail Ministry, New Delhi plans to supply Nepal with 100,000 bottles of drinking water every day. [11]

**Conclusion:**

Over the coming days, as the scale of the tragedy becomes clear, Nepal will almost certainly require greater assistance from the international community. Given India's close relations with Nepal, it is likely that New Delhi will continue to direct more of its resources to help the Himalayan kingdom as it rebuilds the many lives affected by this tragedy.

**Disclaimer:** The values quoted in this article are based on initial calculations by IDCR from publicly available data sources and/or from IDCR's interactions with officials from the Government of India. These values are believed to be accurate, but not guaranteed. They may change as IDCR identifies and addresses discrepancies in the publicly available data. When quoting from this article, please indicate the date it was last updated.

**END NOTES**

[1] "Nepal Earthquake: Death toll rises above 3000", *BBC World News*, available at <http://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-32475030>, last accessed on 27th April 2015

[2] Ibid.

[3] See "PM Modi on Mann Ki Baat: 'India will try to wipe the tears of Nepal'", *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi, available at <http://www.hindustantimes.com/india-news/nepal-earthquake-india-will-try-to-wipe-the-tears-of-nepali-people-says-pm-modi-on-mann-ki-baat/article1-1341167.aspx>, last accessed on 27th April 2015

[4] 'Delhi flies rescue teams, medical supplies & relief material to Nepal; PM Narendra Modi keeps watch', <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/delhi-flies-rescue-teams-medical-supplies-relief-material-to-nepal-pm-narendra-modi-keeps-watch/articleshow/47064192.cms>

[5] See Operations of the NDRF, available at <http://ndrfandcd.gov.in/Contents.aspx?mo=16&li=11>, National Disaster Response Force and Civil Defence, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.

[6] See 'Delhi flies rescue teams, medical supplies & relief material to Nepal; PM Narendra Modi keeps watch', <http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/delhi-flies-rescue-teams-medical-supplies-relief-material-to-nepal-pm-narendra-modi-keeps-watch/articleshow/47064192.cms>

[7] See "India sends 34-member medical team to Nepal", *Outlook India*, 26th April 2015, available at <http://www.outlookindia.com/news/article/india-sends-34member-medical-team-to-nepal/893720>, last accessed on 27th April 2015

[8] Ibid.

[9] See Media Briefing on relief to Nepal, Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India, available at <http://www.mea.gov.in/> last accessed on 27th April 2015

[10] See “India takes up rescue operations in Nepal earthquake on war-footing”, 27th April 2015, *Firstpost*, available at <http://www.firstpost.com/india/india-takes-rescue-operations-nepal-earthquake-war-footing-2213784.html> last accessed on 27th April 2015

[11] See Nepal quake: Indian Railway provides one lakh 'rail neer' bottles as relief <http://www.dnaindia.com/india/report-nepal-quake-indian-railway-provides-one-lakh-rail-neer-bottles-as-relief-2080790>