

## Summary of Recommendations



*The Conference witnessed high-level participation from both the government and non-government sectors. Useful recommendations for policymakers emerged out of their in-depth dialogue.*

- Need to create a nodal agency at the national level to coordinate all aspects of international disaster response: overall policy, prioritizing of recipients, nature of assistance to be provided, agencies to be employed, resource allocation, overall command and control, coordination with host country and other international agencies, employment and sensitization of media, NGOs, etc. The mechanism could be MEA-led, supported by MOD, HQ Integrated Defence Staff, NDMA, MHA and other ministries/agencies, as required.
- Formalising the role of the Armed forces as responders to international disasters. Allocation of appropriate resources, funds and earmarking by services, of appropriate units, ships, aircraft and other assets for immediate response without impacting defence preparedness. Conduct of regular training and joint exercises.

- Constitution of national level “disaster assessment and planning” teams and SOPs for their deployment.
- Formulating “out of area” contingency plans for international disaster response and earmarking appropriate lead agency.
- Examine areas of employment of technology in providing humanitarian aid and incorporate it incrementally. Creation of `apps` (applications) for accessing details of disaster relief resources available within the country and in likely countries of deployment.
- Evolve guidelines and coordination mechanisms for use of media and NGOs.
- Create a Centre for Excellence in Disaster Management, either at the National Defence University (whenever established) or at the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM). Foreign participants could also be trained at the centre.
- Developing an appropriate level of synergy with the United Nations Office of Humanitarian Affairs (UN OCHA) and training and certification of identified personnel through the International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG), for greater international deployment in disaster emergencies.
- Preparation of database of medical facilities and trained medical / paramedical personnel available for utilization /employment in the event of pandemics/ medical disasters.