

disaster situation and deployment be ensured not when the situation is beyond complete control¹⁸⁸.

(h) Another possible reason for cause of conflict could be political interference. The same must be checked where the troops are deployed in response¹⁸⁹.

(j) Parties to likely conflict must understand and respect competitive advantages of each other to avoid likelihood of conflicts¹⁹⁰.

6.9 To promote institutionalisation, a system of incentive must be instituted by the Govt of India based on a criteria worked by the experts to reward states who are able to institutionalise IRS as per the timelines laid out by NDMA¹⁹¹. The reward could be in form of additional budgetary support for conduct of training and purchase of disaster relief equipment for the state in question.

CONCLUSION

7.1. With ongoing climate change, rampant development with unsafe practices and burgeoning world population the disaster risks across the world especially in a developing countries like India is on the rise. In times to come, not only the frequency of both, natural but also manmade disasters will increase but the enormity of these disasters may surpass human imagination. Those interviewed and interacted with, clearly identified 1999 Super Cyclone in Odisha, the 2001 Earthquake in Gujarat and Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 in Tamil Nadu as turning points in disaster management history of India. These events drastically changed Govt perceptions about the policy domain, prompting policy makers to adopt robust response mechanisms such as ICS in the disaster prone states in India.

¹⁸⁸ Brig Sanjay Thapa, APPPA 39, IIPA, New Delhi, in response to the Questionnaire, 24 Feb 14.

¹⁸⁹ Mihir Bhatt, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute, Ahmedabad responding to Questionnaire, 17 Jan 14.

¹⁹⁰ Atul Tewari, IAS, APPPA 39, IIPA, New Delhi while responding to the Questionnaire, 24 Feb 14.

¹⁹¹ Capt (IN) Gopal Sharma, APPPA 39, IIPA, New Delhi in response to the Questionnaire, 24 Feb 14.

Accordingly, we are graduating from our earlier approach of reaction & relief to preparedness & response but we have miles to go. IRS therefore is needed to eliminate adhocism and professionalise our response to disasters across the country. In spite of dissemination of NDM Guidelines in 2010 by NDMA to institutionalise IRS in the country, progress of institutionalisation is below mark. IRS is still in the theoretical phase in most of the states. Hence, the level of preparedness of states differ, Utrakhand Floods of 2013 and Cyclone Phallin in Odisha are the recent cases in point. Notwithstanding the apprehensions about IRS, felt-need for a standard response system with common terminology across the country is indisputable. Even the critiques of IRS agree to the need to improve response and have a system in place. This need assumes larger proportion in view of enormity of disasters requiring response by multiple agencies involving more than one states, as was the case in recent disasters. There is therefore a strong need for the disaster prone states to try out IRS duly customised to suit administrative peculiarities of respective states. Disaster response being a state subject, the onus and ownership of institutionalisation of IRS must also shift from MHA / NDMA / NIDM to the state govts of the disaster prone states. It is understandable that it takes time to institutionalise such a system in a huge country like ours but then the time is running out and the states must work on this issue in a time bound manner.

7.2 Seven Steps Strategy to Institutionalise IRS in States. Curbing of adhocism and implementation of policies, prepared plans and SOPs in right earnest are two grey areas which must be the focus of all planners and functionaries at various levels. Notwithstanding this, IRS being mainly relevant at functional level can be institutionalised by a simple strategy of seven steps in the disaster prone states: –

- (a) Sensitise upper echelons in the States to the need to professionalise our disaster response by adopting a standard / uniform system which synergises our response in disasters.

- (b) Make key functionaries in state aware of the opportunity and strengths of IRS to ensure a top-down approach of institutionalisation of IRS.
- (c) Legislate IRS in the state disaster management plans to make it binding on the functionaries, incentivise its use.
- (d) State govts need to issue executive orders to pre-nominate officials and form IRTs at various levels.
- (e) Ensure training and mock exercises of concerned officials, involve other stakeholders, central agencies and community participation.
- (f) States need to conduct exercises and practice IRS in conduct of mega events at various levels.
- (g) Carry out reappraisal of the system created and make corrections to suit state / district peculiar requirements.

7.3 Finally the MHA / state govts must strengthen collaboration and integration between diverse stakeholders required to work on disaster response and use IRS. There is also a continued effort required to promote regular learning and reflection to implement the system in the disaster prone states.