

Earthquake in Turkey and Syria

Sunday, 12th February 2023

12th February 2023: **Turkey and Syria:** The 7th C17 flight of Indian Air Force (IAF) brought additional supplies including gensets, solar lamps, critical care medicines and disaster relief consumables, that are needed in Turkey and Syria from India.

The flight went to Damascus, where Moutaz Douaji, the Deputy Minister of Local Administration received 23 tonnes of supplies from the Indian Ambassador to Syria.



Damascus: Moutaz Douaji, Syria's Deputy Minister receives Help from India

The flight then took off for Adana in Turkey, where it offloaded relief material for earthquake survivors in Turkey. This included medical equipment like ECG equipment, patient monitors, syringe pumps etc and disaster relief supplies for

the Indian Army's field hospital and teams of India's **National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)**. .



Indian Air Force's C17: Relief Supplies from India for Turkey

SOME GREAT RESULTS: A large number of children, women and others have been rescued from below the rubble. Even on Friday, at least 9 children were rescued in Turkey.

A newborn pulled from rubble in Syria: A child, a girl named Aya, was likely born shortly after the earthquake, according to multiple news outlets. Rescuers found her reportedly still attached by umbilical cord to her mother, who did not survive.

A 10-day-old baby boy and his mother were rescued from rubble in Turkey nearly four days after the powerful earthquake. The newborn, named Yagiz Ulas, was rescued Friday from the debris of a collapsed building in Hatay province, according to ABC News.

The child was examined by first responders and wrapped in a thermal blanket before being placed in an ambulance and taken to Indian army's field hospital. His mother — who appeared dazed and pale but was conscious after a nearly 90-hour ordeal — was also taken to the hospital by the rescuers.

RESCUE EFFORTS: Azerbaijan and Israel were the first to heed the call for help. They were soon joined by **India's search and rescue teams of NDRF** and the armed forces of India.

Within hours of the tragedy, on Monday, 6th February, the Indian Air Force (IAF) was able to land a C-17 aircraft with 47 personnel from NDRF, 3 senior officers and a specially trained dog-squad to locate life in collapsed buildings. The equipment they carried with them was as follows:

- A number of drones to identify areas, where some persons may have been trapped, Radars for detecting heartbeats,
- drones to transport medicines,
- tools for breaking through concrete slabs to free victims.

Necessary medications, food and other supplies were also included.

The project of helping Turkey and Syria after the earthquake has been named by India as OPERATION DOST. Dost in Turkish language means a friend.

On Tuesday IAF sent two more C-17s packed with relief supplies, a mobile hospital and additional teams of NDRF.

Field Hospital by Indian Army in Turkey's Iskendrun: Agra-based Indian Army Field Hospital sent 96 medical staff along with the necessary equipment for X-rays and surgeries to set up a 36-bed hospital. The hospital is working out of a School building in the Hatay region.

This hospital is working round the clock and seeing hundreds of patients every day.

The medical team consists of Orthopedic specialists, surgeons and paramedical staff. It also includes maxillofacial surgeons for helping victims with traumas. Such cases are expected in such natural disasters.

Many other countries have now joined the relief efforts.

India has also sent additional flights, carrying relief material during the last few days.

USA and European countries have come forward for helping in Relief and Rehabilitation (R&R) work in a big way. Canada has also contributed \$25 million for R&R work in Turkey and Syria.

Note: *We have not been able to send correspondents in Syria and Turkish areas, which have suffered from earthquake. Though the information, we have presented has tried to cover the complete picture, more information has been received from our Indian correspondent.*

THE EARTHQUAKE: On Monday, 6th February, an initial earthquake had hit around 4:00 a.m. in the morning, when many children and families were asleep at home. The United States Geological Survey (USGS) said that a magnitude 7.8 earthquake — one of the strongest to hit the region in more than 100 years — struck in southern Turkey near the northern border of Syria on Monday morning, followed 11 minutes later by a magnitude 6.7 aftershock.

Earlier, about three weeks back, a strong earthquake was reported in the afternoon on Wednesday on 15th January 2023. The epicenter was between Turkey and the Greek island Crete, with residents of central Israel in Tel Aviv and Haifa also feeling it, according to reports.

The United States Geological Survey said the magnitude of the earthquake reached 5.9. There were no reports of any major damage or casualties.

A study by Tel Aviv University had warned in December 2020 that a 6.5 magnitude earthquake was expected to strike Israel and its surroundings in the coming years, as the last one hit the region 93 years ago. (Reference: <https://www.i24news.tv/en/news/israel/society/1674651925-earthquake-between-turkey-and-crete-felt-in-central-israel-report>).
