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India Launches Operation Amistad to Assist Earthquake-Hit Venezuela

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India has launched Operation Amistad, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) mission, to support Venezuela after devastating earthquakes caused heavy loss of life and widespread destruction. ?

As part of the operation, the Indian Air Force (IAF) deployed two C-17 Globemaster aircraft carrying a 41-member rescue and medical team, an Indian Army Field Hospital, 30 tonnes of relief material, 6 tonnes of medicines and medical equipment, and two BHISHM Cube portable hospitals.

The mission reflects India's commitment to providing rapid humanitarian assistance to countries affected by natural disasters.

The Ministry of External Affairs stated that India stands in solidarity with the people of Venezuela and remains ready to provide further assistance if required. The operation also reinforces India's role as a first responder in global humanitarian crises and its commitment to the Global South.

What is Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR)?

HADR refers to military and civilian assistance provided during natural or man-made disasters to save lives and reduce suffering.

HADR includes:

Search and rescue operations

Medical assistance

Emergency shelters

Food and water supply

Restoration of essential services

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Evacuation and logistics support

India has emerged as a leading HADR provider in the Indian Ocean Region and beyond.

Additional Key Facts

BHISHM Cube

BHISHM (Bharat Health Initiative for Sahyog, Hita & Maitri) Cube is an indigenous portable modular field hospital developed under Project Aarogya Maitri.

Features

Rapid deployment during disasters

Advanced trauma and emergency care

Portable and modular design

Can function as a temporary field hospital

Supports mass casualty management

C-17 Globemaster III

Strategic military transport aircraft

Operated by the Indian Air Force

Used for:

Troop movement

Heavy cargo transport

Disaster relief

Humanitarian missions

Strategic airlift operations

India's Major HADR Operations Abroad

OperationCountryPurpose

Operation Maitri (2015)NepalEarthquake relief

Operation Dost (2023)Trkiye & Syria Earthquake relief

Operation Brahma (2025) Myanmar Earthquake relief

Operation Amistad (2026)Venezuela Earthquake relief

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India's Humanitarian Diplomacy

India follows the principle of "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" (The World is One Family) and has increasingly emerged as a first responder by providing:

Disaster relief

Medical assistance

Evacuation operations

Humanitarian aid

Capacity building to partner countries

About Venezuela:

Capital: Caracas

Currency: Venezuelan Bolívar

President: Delcy Rodríguez

Continent: South America

Exam Focus Points (Quick Revision Notes)

Operation in News ? Operation Amistad

Country Assisted ? Venezuela

Purpose ? Earthquake relief (HADR Mission)

Aircraft Used ? IAF C-17 Globemaster III

Rescue Team ? 41-member medical and rescue contingent

Special Equipment ? BHISHM Cube portable hospitals