

Operation Dost, Objectives, Execution, Challenges, Impact

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On February 6, 2023, an earthquake struck Turkey and Syria, causing immense human and infrastructural losses. In response, the Government of India launched Operation Dost (meaning “Friend”), a humanitarian initiative reflecting India’s commitment to international peace. Prime Minister Narendra Modi promptly directed agencies to provide maximum assistance, showcasing India’s evolving role as a dependable global partner in disaster response.

Operation Dost

Operation Dost was a multi-agency disaster relief effort by India to assist the quake-hit regions of Turkey and Syria. Coordinated by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), Indian Air Force (IAF), and other departments, the operation demonstrated India’s “whole-of-government” approach in international crisis management. The operation included:

- Rapid deployment of NDRF rescue teams.
- Delivery of relief materials, medical aid, and field hospitals.
- Coordination with local and international agencies on ground.

Also Read: [Operation Sindoor](#)

Operation Dost Objectives

1. The primary goal was to extend timely medical aid, rescue services, and essential supplies to disaster-affected populations in Turkey and Syria.
2. NDRF teams, equipped with specialized tools and trained dogs, were sent to locate and save trapped survivors.
3. The Operation Dost underscored India's commitment to supporting its international partners in times of distress, particularly Turkey and Syria.
4. Operation DOST served as an extension of India's soft power and diplomacy, reinforcing its image as a responsible global actor.

Operation Dost Execution

1. Within hours of receiving requests for assistance, India dispatched the first C-17 IAF aircraft with an NDRF team, medical personnel, and essential supplies.
2. Multi-sector Coordination
 - MEA managed diplomatic channels.
 - NDRF led rescue operations.
 - IAF ensured logistics and airlifting.
 - Indian Army Field Hospital was set up in Turkey for surgical and emergency care.
3. India sent over 250 tonnes of relief materials including tents, blankets, medicines, and portable generators to affected areas.
4. A 99-member medical team established a 30-bed field hospital in Hatay province of Turkey, treating over 3,000 patients during the operation.

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Operation Dost Challenges

1. Sub-zero temperatures and snow hindered mobility and shelter setup.
2. Local interpreters had to be engaged to facilitate communication between rescue teams and affected communities.
3. Operating in an unfamiliar terrain required seamless international coordination for clearances and on-ground access.
4. Rescue missions had to be carried out swiftly within the critical 72-hour window to save lives under debris.

Operation Dost Impact

1. Operation Dost saved lives, provided relief, and showcased India's ability to respond rapidly to international emergencies.
2. Turkey's Foreign Minister and Syrian authorities publicly appreciated India's support. The effort strengthened bilateral relations and trust.

3. The operation was widely acknowledged in global media, enhancing India's reputation as a nation capable of executing large-scale humanitarian missions.
4. The emotional bond between Indian rescuers and local communities reinforced mutual goodwill, transcending diplomatic boundaries.

Also Read: [Operation Kaveri](#)

Operation Dost Aftermath

- Operation Dost reaffirms India's strategic intent to lead in regional disaster relief efforts.
- The planning, coordination, and execution of Operation Dost offer a replicable model for future humanitarian assistance.
- It projects India not merely as an emerging power but as a compassionate partner in global crises.

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Operation Ganga	Operation Olivia
Operation Devi Shakti	Operation Safe Homecoming
Operation Cactus	Operation Keller
Operation Kaveri	Operation Rising Lion
Operation Karuna	Operation Airlift
Operation Megh Chakra	Operation Maitri
Operation Rahat	Operation Nader
Operation Dost	Operation Baam
Operation Samudra Setu	Operation Mahadev
Operation Iron Swords	Operation Shiv Shakti
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