

India's evolving roadmap for biological attacks

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While health is a state subject, National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has published guidelines on biological disasters including bio warfare and bio terrorism in consultation with ministry of home affairs and ministry of health. The guidelines have identified the bio warfare / bio terrorism agents, characteristics of these agents, epidemiological clues to identify outbreak of disease caused by them, laboratory identification and their management including prevention and treatment.

The ministry of health has a Crisis Management Plan for biological disasters that was updated last on July 24, 2013 and shared with ministry of home affairs.

Workshops and trainings on biosafety and biosecurity are conducted by Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) at National Institute of Virology, Pune to raise awareness of biosecurity issues. Also the relevant training to prevent biosecurity incidents and raising barriers to prevent the theft of relevant materials from laboratories, is also imparted from time to time.