

MANIDHANAHEYAM FREE IAS ACADEMY – TNPSC GROUP II & IIA
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Disaster Management Union and State

1. Disaster Management

The systematic process of applying administrative directives, organizations, and operational skills and capacities to implement strategies, policies and improved coping capacities in order to lessen the adverse impacts of hazards and the possibility of disaster is called Disaster Management.

Disaster Management is necessary or expedient for:

- i. Prevention
- ii. Mitigation
- iii. Preparedness
- iv. Response
- v. Recovery
- vi. Rehabilitation

Disaster Management Cycle or Disaster cycle

The six disaster management phases that have been used in the concept of disaster cycle are as follows Pre – Disaster Phase Prevention and Mitigation Reducing the risk of disasters involves activities, which either reduce or modify the scale and intensity of the threat faced or by improving the conditions of elements at risk. The use of the term reduction to describe protective or preventive actions that lessen the scale of impact is therefore preferred. Mitigation embraces all measures taken to reduce both the effects of the hazard itself and the vulnerable conditions to it, in order to reduce the scale of a future disaster.

In addition to these physical measures, mitigation should also be aimed at reducing the physical, economic and social vulnerability to threats and the underlying causes for this vulnerability. Therefore, mitigation may incorporate addressing issues such as land ownership, tenancy rights, wealth distribution, implementation of earthquake resistant building codes etc.

Preparedness

The process includes various measures that enable governments, communities and individuals to respond rapidly to disaster situations to cope with them effectively. Preparedness includes for example, the formulation of viable emergency plans, the development of warning systems, the maintenance of inventories, public awareness and education and the training of personnel. It may also embrace search and rescue measures as well as evacuation plans for areas that may be “at risk” from a recurring disaster. All preparedness planning needs to be

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supported by appropriate rules and regulations with clear allocation of responsibilities and budgetary provision.

Early Warning

This is the process of monitoring the situation in communities or areas known to be vulnerable to slow onset hazards, and passing the knowledge of the pending hazard to people harmless way. To be effective, warnings must be related to mass education and training of the population who know, what actions they must take, when warned.

The Disaster Impact

This refers to the “real-time event of a hazard occurrence and affecting elements at risk. The duration of the event will depend on the type of threat; ground shaking may only occur in a matter of seconds during an earthquake. Where as flooding may take place over a longer sustained period.

During Disaster Phase

Response

This refers to the first stage response to any calamity, which include setting up control rooms, putting the contingency plan in action, issue warning, action for evacuation, taking people to safer areas, rendering medical aid to the needy etc., simultaneously rendering relief to the homeless, food, drinking water, clothing etc. to the needy, restoration of communication, disbursement of assistance in cash or kind. The emergency relief activities undertaken during and immediately following a disaster, which includes immediate relief, rescue, and the damage needs assessment and debris clearance.

The Post- Disaster Phase

Recovery:

Recovery is used to describe the activities that encompass the three overlapping phases of emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

Rehabilitation: Rehabilitation includes the provision of temporary public utilities and housing as interim measures to assist long-term recovery.

Reconstruction: Reconstruction attempts to return communities with improved predisaster functioning. It includes replacement of buildings; infrastructure and lifeline facilities so that long-term development prospects are enhanced rather than reproducing the same conditions, which made an area or population vulnerable.

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Development: In an evolving economy, the development process is an ongoing activity. Long-term prevention/disaster reduction measures like construction of embankments against flooding, irrigation facilities as drought proofing measures, increasing plant cover to reduce the occurrences of landslides, land use planning, construction of houses, capable of withstanding the onslaught of heavy rain/wind speed and shocks of earthquakes are some of the activities that can be taken up as part of the development plan.

2. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex body for Disaster Management in India. Prime Minister heads NDMA. It is a statutory body created under the Disaster Management Act 2005.

1. NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act, 2005 enacted by the Government of India, and was formally constituted by Dec 2006.
2. It is a Statutory Body for disaster management in the country.
3. Mandate: Its primary purpose is to coordinate the response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response. It is also the apex body to lay down policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure a timely and effective response to disasters.

National Disaster Management Authority Vision

“To build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, pro-active, technology-driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation.”

Organisational Structure

1. The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of the NDMA.
2. The Cabinet Minister is the Vice-Chairman.
3. The NDMA Secretariat, headed by a Secretary, is responsible for providing secretarial support and continuity.
4. Along with this, NDMA has 8 Ministers of State as its Members.

Functions of National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was established to follow the functions mentioned below:

1. Implementing policies related to Disaster Management.
2. Approving various plans like:

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- i. National Plans
 - ii. Plans by different Ministries & Departments of the Indian Government
 - iii. Other plans related to the National Plan.
3. Laying down guidelines for State Government Authorities in accordance with the State Plan.
 4. Laying down guidelines for different Government Authorities in order to integrate the preventive measures for the Disaster or attenuation of its effect in their development plans & projects.
 5. Coordinating with the workforce and implementing the policies/plans necessary.
 6. Recommending the provision of funds necessary for mitigation.
 7. Depending on the Central Government, providing aid and support to the countries in need.
 8. Laying down guidelines and broad policies for the functioning of the NIDM (National Institute of Disaster Management).

3. National Executive Committee (NEC)

1. The National Executive Committee (NEC) was created under Section 8 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005. Disaster management is coordinated and monitored by the NEC.
2. Besides the Union Home Secretary, the member of the committee is a Secretary from Ministries and Departments with responsibility for agriculture, atomic energy, defence, drinking water, environment and forests, finance (expenditure), health, power and rural development, science and technology, space, telecommunications, urban development and water resources. In addition to his role as an ex-officio member of the Committee, the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff is also a member.
3. The National Executive Committee may:
 - Ensure that disaster management is coordinated and monitored as the supervising body.
 - Coordinate and monitor the National Policy's implementation.
 - Prepare guidelines for the Ministry of Government of India and state governments to use in developing disaster management strategies.
 - In accordance with the guidelines laid down by the National Authority, provide technical assistance to the State Governments and the State Authorities in developing their disaster management plans.

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- Examine the progress made in implementing the National Plan and the plans created by the Government of India's Ministries and Departments.
- Follow the National Authority's instructions concerning the integration of disaster prevention and mitigation measures into the development plans and projects of the Ministries or Departments.
- Provide oversight, coordination, and directives to departments and ministries in the mitigation and preparedness of disasters.
- Provide direction as necessary for enhancing the readiness of all levels of government for responding to disaster situations or disasters that may threaten them.
- Manage and develop a disaster management training program for employees, volunteers, and members of different levels of leadership.
- Prepare a coordinated response for any threatening disaster situation.
- If a threatening disaster situation or disaster occurs, there should be guidelines or instructions regarding the steps to be taken by the concerned ministries or departments of the Government of India and the state governments.
- A department or agency of the government may provide men or resources for emergency response, rescue, and relief to the National Authority or State Authorities as they are available.
- Aid, assist and coordinate with Ministries and Departments of the Government of India, State Authorities, Statutory Bodies, and other governmental and non-governmental organisations involved in disaster management.
- Provide the State Authorities and District Authorities with technical assistance or advice to enable them to perform their duties under this Act.
- General disaster management education and awareness should be promoted.
- Assist the National Authority with other tasks as may be required.

4. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force constituted by the Government of India for disaster response. It is manned by personnel from all three wings of the Indian Armed Forces. NDRF was raised in 2006 following

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the tsunami that hit India's eastern coast. Ever since its inception, NDRF has played a pivotal role in responding to various disasters in India and abroad. In this blog post, we will take a closer look at the National Disaster Response Force and learn more about what it does!

National Disaster Response Force is a specialized force constituted by the Indian government to deal with natural disasters and emergencies. It is a paramilitary organization under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) was raised in 2006 following the devastating tsunami that hit India's coastal areas. The primary objective of NDRF is to provide a timely, adequate and effective response to disasters and emergencies.

NDRF is equipped with specialized rescue equipment and has a well-trained team of personnel who are capable of dealing with any type of emergency. The force is also responsible for providing humanitarian assistance during disasters.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. Providing a timely and effective response to disasters and emergencies
2. Carrying out rescue operations
3. Providing humanitarian assistance during disasters
4. Undertaking relief and rehabilitation measures in coordination with other agencies

Objectives

To provide National level assistance to the States/UTs in disaster

1. To coordinate with other National and International agencies during disasters
2. To undertake rescue and relief operations in disaster
3. To provide medical assistance
4. To provide logistic support to the States/UTs during a disaster
5. To conduct search and rescue operations
6. National Disaster Response Force also undertakes capacity building of State/UT forces

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialized force constituted by the Central Government of India for disaster response. It is manned by officers and personnel of the Indian Armed Forces and Central Paramilitary Forces.

Importance of NDRF

NDRF is important for the following reasons:

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- NDRF provides a trained and coordinated workforce for disaster response operations in India
- NDRF is responsible for the rescue and relief operations during natural disasters and man-made disasters
- NDRF is a specialized force equipped with the latest technology to deal with disaster situations

Drawbacks in NDRF

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is India's primary disaster response force. It has the following drawbacks, in addition to all of its merits:

1. It is not always able to deploy quickly due to its large size. This can be a particular problem in rural areas, where disasters may occur with little warning.
2. The quality of its equipment and training sometimes leaves something to be desired. This was particularly apparent in the response to the Kashmir earthquake in 2005.
3. Its members are not always familiar with the local dialects and customs, which can hamper their ability to provide assistance.
4. There have been allegations of corruption within the force.

Despite these drawbacks, the NDRF remains India's best hope for responding to disasters. It is hoped that with time, these issues will be addressed and the force will be even better equipped to deal with the challenges it faces.

5. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

The National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) was constituted under an Act of Parliament with a vision to play the role of a premier institute for capacity development in India and the region.

Under the Disaster Management Act 2005, NIDM has been assigned nodal responsibilities for human resource development, capacity building, training, research, documentation and policy advocacy in the field of disaster management.

NIDM provides technical support to the state governments through the Disaster Management Centres (DMCs) in the Administrative Training Institutes (ATIs) of the States and Union Territories.

- NIDM hosts the SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC) and works as its national focal point.

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6. National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)

The National Disaster Response Fund is a fund managed by the Central Government and is used for meeting the expenses incurred during emergency relief, disaster response and rehabilitation in the event of a disaster.

- It was earlier called the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) which had been operated as per the guidelines laid down by the 11th Finance Commission.
- In 2005, the Disaster Management Act (DMA) was enacted and this renamed the NCCF as the National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF). Accordingly, the funds of the NCCF were merged into the NDRF.
 - Section 46 of the DMA defines the NDRF.
- The NDRF is placed in the “Public Account” of GOI under “reserve funds not bearing interest”.
 - Know more about ‘public account’ and other types of funds of GOI in the linked article.
 - Since it is placed in the public accounts, the government does not require parliamentary approval to take money out of this fund.
- The NDRF supplements the State Disaster Response Fund in case sufficient funds are not available with the state funds to facilitate immediate relief in case of calamities of severe nature.
- The NDRF is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG).
- The detailed accounts of NDRF are maintained by the Controller General of Accounts (CGA) through the Chief Controller of Accounts, Finance Ministry.

7. State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

Disaster Management Act 2005 provided the creation of the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) headed by their respective Chief Ministers.

Composition of the SDMA

- SDMA consists of a chairperson and has up to nine other members.
- The Chief Minister of the State is the ex-officio chairperson of the SDMA.
 - The chairperson of the State Executive Committee is the ex-officio member of the SDMA, who acts as the ex-officio chief executive officer of the SDMA.
- The chairperson of SDMA nominates the other eight members of SDMA.
 - The chairperson of SDMA also designates one of the members as the vice-chairperson of the SDMA.

Functions of the SDMA

- SDMA formulate the policies and plans for disaster management in the State. • It approves the State Plan following the guidelines laid down by the NDMA. It also approves the disaster management plans prepared by the departments of the State government.
- SDMA lays down the guidelines to be followed by the departments of the state government for the purpose of integrating the preventive measures for disaster and mitigation in their development projects. It also provides necessary technical assistance thereof.
- It coordinates and monitors the implementation of the State Plan.
- It also suggests the provision of funds for preparedness and mitigation measures.
- It reviews the measure being taken by the departments of the State Government for mitigation, preparedness, and capacity building for dealing with threatening disasters situations.

8. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)

The Disaster Management Act 2005 also provided for every State government to establish District Disaster Management Authority in every district of State.

Composition of the DDMA

- DDMA consists of a chairperson and has up to seven other members.
- The District Magistrate (or Collector or Deputy Commissioner) of the district is the ex-officio chairperson of the DDMA.
- The elected representative of the local authority is the ex-officio co-chairperson of the DDMA.
- But, in the case of Tribal Areas, as referred to in the Sixth Schedule of the Indian Constitution, the chief executive member of the district council of the autonomous district is the ex-officio co-chairperson of the DDMA.
- In districts where Zilla Parishad exists, the chairperson of that Zilla Parishad is the co-chairperson of the DDMA.
- The Chief Executive officer of DDMA, the chief medical officer of the district, and the superintendent of police in the district are the ex-officio members of the DDMA.
- The State government can appoint not more than two other district-level officers as members of the DDMA.
- The State government appoints the Chief Executive Officer of the DDMA.

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Functions of the DDMA

District Disaster Management Authority acts as the district planning, coordinating, and implementing body for disaster management. It takes all measures for disaster management in the district, following the guidelines laid down by the NDMA and SDMA. It performs the following functions:

- DDMA prepare the disaster management plan, including the district response plan.
- It coordinates and monitors the implementation of National Policy, State Policy, National Plan, State Plan, and District Plan.
- It ensures the identification of district areas vulnerable to disasters. It also ensures the measures for disaster prevention and mitigation of its effects are undertaken by the government departments at the district level and local authorities.
- DDMA organizes and coordinates the specialized training programs for different levels of officers, employees, and voluntary rescue workers in the district.
- It also facilitates community training & awareness programs for disaster management with the help of local authorities and governmental & non-governmental organizations.
- It set up, maintain, upgrade, and review the mechanism for early warning.
- It identifies the buildings and places to be used as relief centers or camps if there is any threatening disaster situation. It then makes arrangements for water supply and sanitation in such buildings or places.
- It performs such other functions as to assign by the State government or SDMA, or it seems necessary for the disaster management in the District.

9. State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)

The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF), constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005, is the primary fund available with State Governments for responses to notified disasters. The Central Government contributes 75% of SDRF allocation for general category States/UTs and 90% for special category States/UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir). The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission. SDRF shall be used only for meeting the expenditure for providing immediate relief to the victims.

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- The State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) is the major fund available to states for recovery operations following registered disasters, according to Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- For general category States and UTs: 75% of SDRF allocation is contributed by the Central Government), and for special category States and UTs (NE States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir): 90% is contributed by the Central Government.
- SDRF shall only be used to meet the costs of providing immediate relief to the victims by releasing the annual Central Contribution in two equal installments as recommended by the Finance Commission.
- Cyclones, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest assault, frost and cold waves are all covered by the SDRF.
- Local disaster: States may provide immediate relief to victims of natural disasters that local authorities consider “disasters” in their state by using up to 10% of the available funds under the SDRF and which are not on the Ministry of Home Affairs’ notified list of disasters, provided that the State Government has notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines with the approval of the state authority, i.e. the State Executive Authority (SEC).

State Government may use up to 10% of the funds available under SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of the natural disaster that day considered to be “Disaster” within the local contacts in the State and which is not included in the notified list of disaster of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) subject to the condition that the State Government has listed the State specific natural disaster and notified clear and transparent norms and guidelines for such disaster with the approval of the State authority i.e. State Executive Committee (SEC).

10. Disaster Response

Disaster response entails restoring physical facilities, rehabilitation of affected population, restoration of lost livelihoods and reconstruction efforts to restore the infrastructure lost or damaged. The Response Phase focuses primarily on emergency relief: saving lives, providing first aid, restoring damaged systems (communications and transportation), meeting the basic life requirements of those impacted by disaster (food, water and shelter) and providing mental health and spiritual support and care.

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Who are the first responders?

No matter how large or small, local communities are expected to provide immediate disaster response. On a daily basis, police officers, firefighters, and emergency medical technicians are a community's first responders, whether during fire, flood or acts of terrorism. Mental health professionals and the community's hospitals may also be activated in those early minutes and hours after disaster.

Disaster management includes Prevention, Mitigation, Preparedness, Response and Recovery. Disaster management involves all levels of government. Non-governmental and community based organizations play a vital role in the process. Modern disaster management goes beyond post-disaster assistance. It now includes pre-disaster planning and preparedness activities, organizational planning, training, information management, public relations and many other fields. Crisis management is important, but is only a part of the responsibility of a disaster manager.



The traditional approach to disaster management has a number of phased sequences of action or a continuum. These can be represented as a disaster management cycle. We mainly focus on the way how the community should respond to disasters.

11. Public awareness for disaster risk reduction

There are four key approaches to public awareness for disaster risk reduction: Campaigns, participatory learning, informal education, and formal schoolbased interventions

Formal school-based interventions: The focus of formal school-based interventions cover two areas: school disaster management and disaster risk reduction in school curricula. These are considered to be formal because

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accountability and responsibility for school safety and curricula belong exclusively to education authorities, so they require support for long-term planning and capacity building.

School disaster management: The primary goal of school disaster management are to ensure the safety of students and staff. Sustained school disaster management requires the familiar participatory and ongoing process of identification of hazards and risks, mitigation and reduction of risks, and developing response capacity.

A school disaster management plan, developed at the school level, should be the living document that expresses the awareness of public for disaster risk reduction.

Every school has to setup the following school disaster committees:

1. Coordination Committees
2. Awareness generation Team
3. Search Rescue and Evacuation Team
4. Site safety Team
5. First Aid Team
6. Warning and Information Team
7. Bus safety Team
8. Water / Food Arrangement Team.