

# AUDIT COURSE - DISASTER MANAGEMENT - Agencies involved in Disaster Management

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## Introduction

Disaster management in India has evolved from an activity-based reactive setup to a proactive institutionalized structure; from single faculty domain to a multi-stakeholder setup; and from a relief-based approach to a 'multidimensional pro-active holistic approach for reducing risk'. The beginnings of an institutional structure for disaster management can be traced to the British period.

During the British administration, relief departments were set up for emergencies during disasters. Such an activity-based setup with a reactive approach was functional only in the post disaster scenarios.

Post-Independence, the task for managing disasters continued to rest with the Relief Commissioners in each state, who functioned under the Central Relief Commissioner, with their role limited to delegation of relief material and money in the affected areas.

## Emergence of institutional arrangement in India

- A permanent and institutionalized setup began in the decade of 1990s with set up of a disaster management cell under the Ministry of Agriculture, following the declaration of the decade of 1990 as the 'International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction' (IDNDR) by the UN General Assembly.
- Following series of disasters such as Latur Earthquake (1993), Malpa Landslide (1994), Orissa Super Cyclone (1999) and Bhuj Earthquake (2001), a high-powered Committee under the Chairmanship of Mr. J.C. Pant, Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture was constituted for drawing up a systematic, comprehensive and holistic approach towards disasters.
- Later on, the disaster management division was shifted under the Ministry of Home Affairs in 2002 and a hierarchical structure for disaster management evolved in India.

## Organization and structure of disaster management

- The Disaster Management Division is headed by Joint Secretary (DM) in MHA, who is assisted by three Directors, Under Secretaries, Section Officers, Technical Officer, Senior Economic Investigator consultants and other supporting staff.
- The upper echelon of the structure consists of Secretary (Border Management), Home Secretary, Minister of State in charge and the Home Minister.

## Present structure for disaster management in India

- The institutional structure for disaster management in India is in a state of transition., the setup before and after the implementation of the Disaster management Act. Thus, the two structures co-exist at present.
- The National Disaster Management Authority has been established at the center, and the SDMA at state and district authorities at district level are gradually being formalized. In

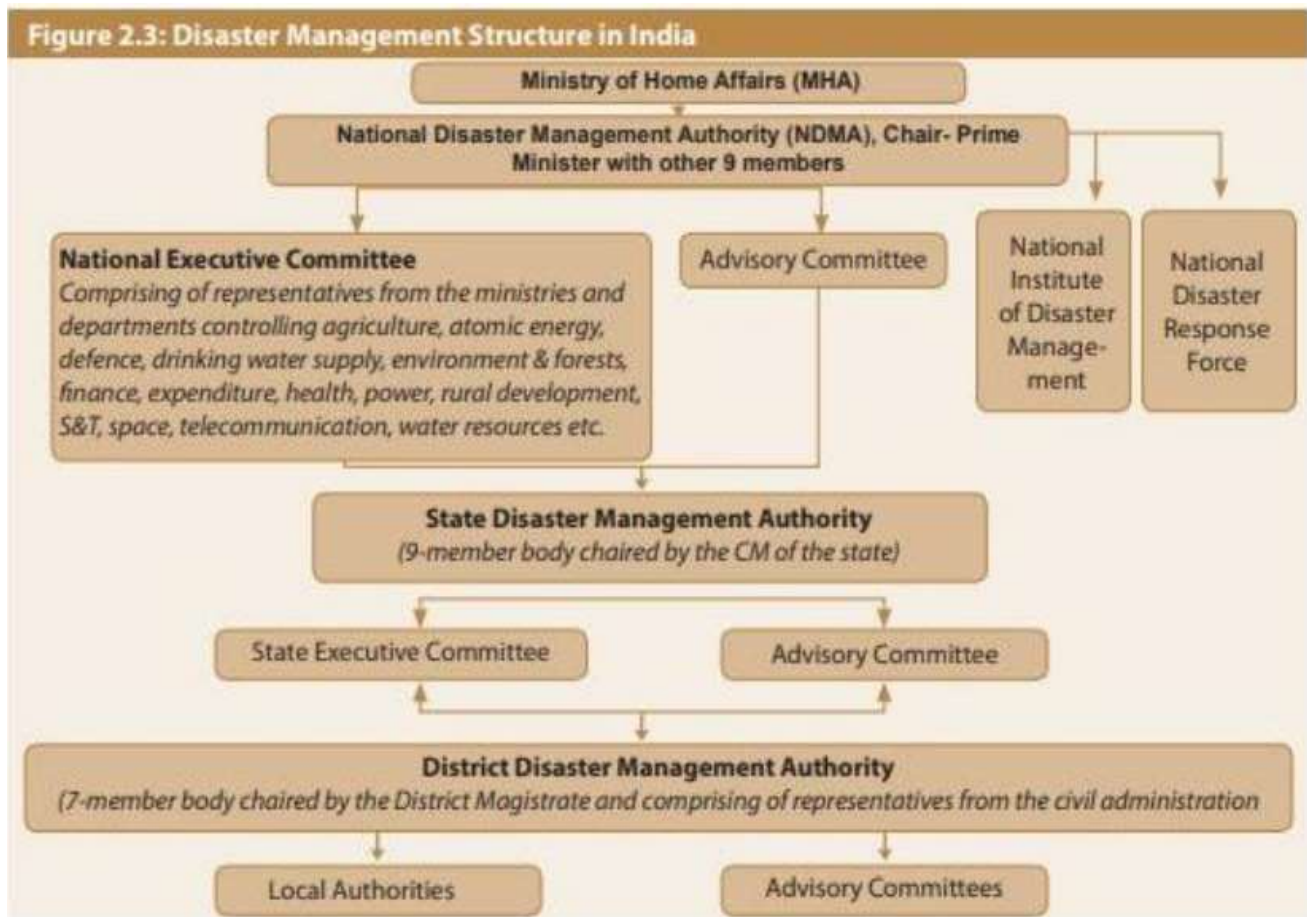


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addition to this, the National Crisis Management Committee, part of the earlier setup, also functions at the Centre.

- Two distinct features of the institutional structure for disaster management may be noticed.
  1. The structure is hierarchical and functions at four levels – center, state, district and local.
  2. It is a multi-stakeholder setup, i.e., the structure draws involvement of various relevant ministries, government departments and administrative bodies.



Source: (MHA 2011)

## NATIONAL LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

### 1. National executive committee (NEC)

- A National Executive Committee is constituted under Section 8 of DM Act, 2005 to assist the National Authority in the performance of its functions. NEC consists of Home Secretary as its Chairperson, ex-officio, with other Secretaries to the Government of India in the

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Ministries or Departments having administrative control of the agriculture, atomic energy, defense, drinking water supply, environment and forest, finance (expenditure), health, power, rural development science and technology, space, telecommunication, urban development, water resources.

- NEC has been given the responsibility to act as the coordinating and monitoring body for disaster management, to prepare a National Plan, monitor the implementation of National Policy etc.

## 2. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)

- The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) was initially constituted on May 30, 2005 under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister vide an executive order.
- The NDMA has been mandated with laying down policies on disaster management and guidelines which would be followed by different Ministries, Departments of the Government of India and State Government in taking measures for disaster risk reduction.
- Composition of NDMA: Besides the nine members nominated by the Prime Minister, Chairperson of the Authority, the Organizational structure consists of a Secretary and five Joint Secretaries including one Financial Advisor. There are 10 posts of Joint Advisors and Directors, 14 Assistant Advisors, Under Secretaries and Assistant Financial Advisor and Duty Officer along with supporting staff.

## 3. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)

- National Institute of Disaster management (NIDM) established on 16th October 2003. It has now achieved the status of a statutory organization under the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Responsibilities of NIDM include:
  - a) To develop training modules,
  - b) Undertake research and documentation in disaster management,
  - c) Organize training programs, undertake and organize study courses, conferences, lectures and seminars to promote and institutionalize disaster management,
  - d) Undertake and provide for publication of journals, research papers and books.
- Management structure: The Union Home Minister is the President of the Institute & It has a general body of forty-two members comprising of secretaries of various ministries, departments of the Union Government and heads of national level scientific, research and technical organizations. The Government also constituted a 14-member Governing Body of the Institute according to Section 42(4) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.
- Organizational structure: NIDM is headed by an Executive Director along with the faculty and staff. The Institute has six academic divisions:
  - a) Governance and Inclusive DRR Division
  - b) Disaster Response and Recovery Division
  - c) Geo-Meteorological Risk Management Division
  - d) Resilient Infrastructure Division



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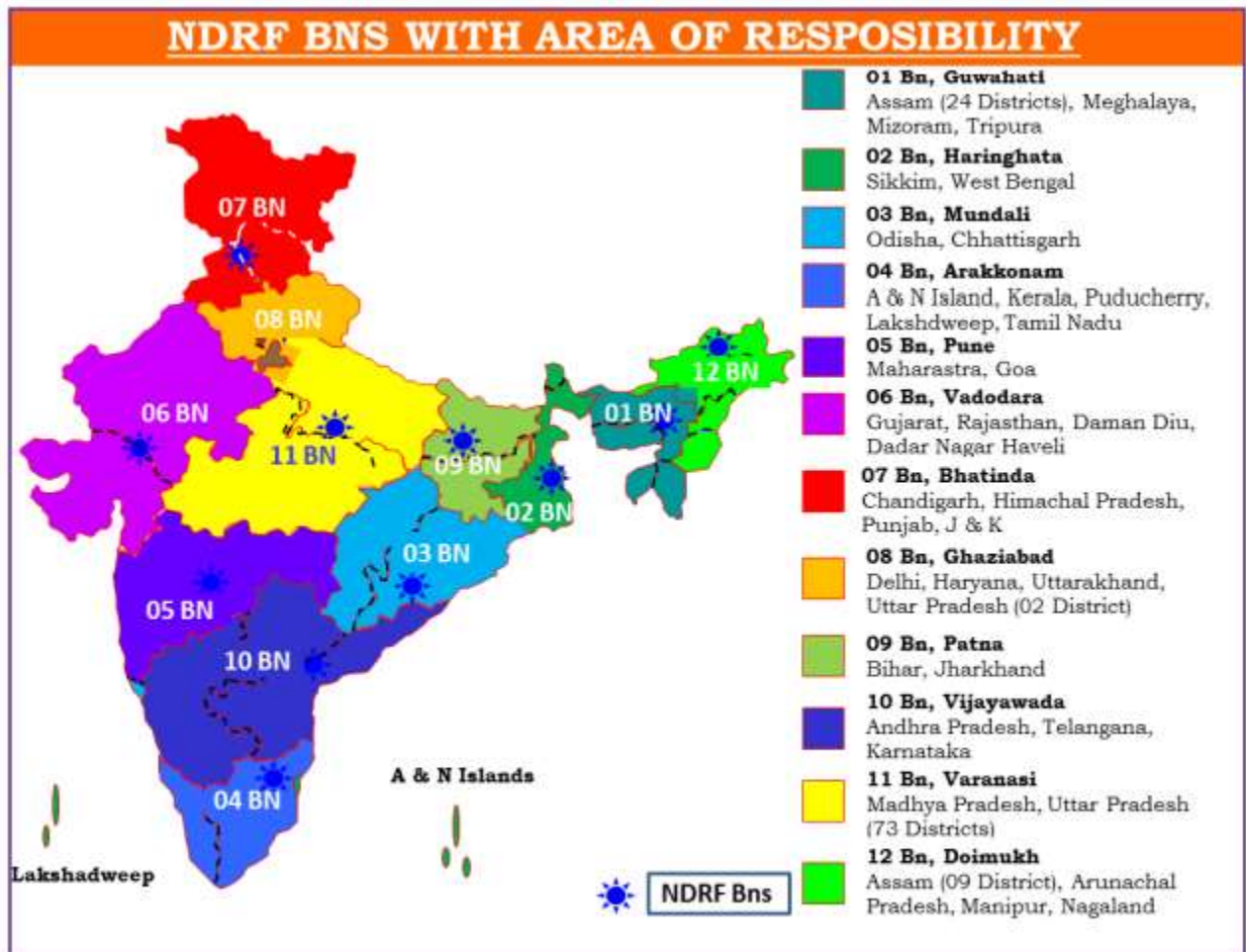
- e) CBRN and Cyber-Risk Division
- f) Environmental Disaster Risk Management Division.
- Training programs of NIDM: The different formats in which training is imparted by NIDM include:
  - a) Face-to-face training
  - b) Web- based training
  - c) Self-study courses
  - d) India Disaster Management Congress.

## 4. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

- Constitution and role of NDRF:
- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) has been constituted under Section 44 of the DM Act, 2005 by up-gradation/conversion of eight standard battalions of Central Para Military Forces. At present, National Disaster Response Force consist of 12 battalions, three each from the Border Security Force (BSF) & Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and two each from Central Industrial Security Force (CISF), Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP),and Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB).
- Each battalion have 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedics.
- All the 12battalions have been equipped and trained to respond natural as well as manmade disasters.
- Battalions are also trained and equipped for response during chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear emergencies.

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Source: NDRF Website

## STATE LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

### 1. State Executive Committee (SEC)

- State Executive Committee established under Section 20 of the Act, to be headed by Chief Secretary of the state Government with four other Secretaries of such departments as the state Government may think fit.
- It has the responsibility for coordinating and monitoring the implementation of the National Policy, the National Plan and the State Plan as provided under section 22 of the Act.

### 2. State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)

- The DM Act, 2005 provides for constitution of SDMAs and DDMAs in all the states and UTs. At the State level, the SDMA, headed by the Chief Minister, will lay down policies and plans for DM in the State.

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- It will, inter alia approve the State Plan in accordance with the guidelines laid down by the NDMA, coordinate the implementation of the State Plan, recommend provision of funds for mitigation and preparedness measures and review the developmental plans of the different Departments of the State to ensure the integration of prevention, preparedness and mitigation measures.
- 3. State Disaster Response Force (SDRF)**
- The states/UTs have also been advised to set up their own Specialist Response Force for responding to disasters on the lines of National Disaster Response Force vide Ministry of Home Affairs.
  - The Central Government is providing assistance for training of trainers.
  - The state governments have been also advised to utilize 10 percent of their State Disaster Response Fund and Capacity Building Grant for the procurement of search and rescue equipment and for training purposes of the Response Force.

## DISTRICT LEVEL INSTITUTIONS

### 1. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)

- Section 25 of the DM Act provides for constitution of DDMA for every district of a state.
- The District Magistrate/ District Collector/Deputy Commissioner heads the Authority as Chairperson besides an elected representative of the 40-local authority as Co-Chairperson except in the tribal areas where the Chief Executive Member of the District Council of Autonomous District is designated as Co-Chairperson.
- Other members of this authority include the CEO of the District Authority, Superintendent of Police, Chief Medical Officer of the District and other two district level officers are designated by the state Government.
- Responsibility: 1) planning, coordination and implementation of disaster management and to take such measures for disaster management as provided in the guidelines.2) to examine the construction in any area in the district to enforce the safety standards and also to arrange for relief measures and respond to the disaster at the district level.

## INTERNATIONAL AGENCIES

- A number of international agencies including those of the United Nations' family have been playing an important role in disaster prevention, mitigation, response, recovery and rehabilitation.

### Red Cross Society



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- The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies, supported by the International Federation, work with communities to reduce risk, mitigate the effects of, prepare to respond, respond to and recover from disasters.

## Agencies of United Nations involved in Disaster Management

### 1. United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR)

Functions and Responsibilities: The International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was adopted by United Nations Member States in 2000 and is owned by local, national, regional and international organizations. UNISDR is led by an Assistant Secretary-General for Disaster Risk Reduction and overseen by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs, who also serves as the Chair for the wider ISDR system of partnerships. The mandate of UNISDR is to act as the focal point in the United Nations system for the coordination of disaster reduction and to ensure that disaster risk reduction becomes integral part to sound and equitable development, environmental protection and humanitarian action.

### 2. United Nation Disaster Management Team (UNDMT)

- The UNDMT in India is a team comprising of UN agencies such as FAO (Food and Agriculture Organization), ILO (International Labour Organization), UNDP (United Nations Development Programme), UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization), UNFPA (United Nations Population Fund), UNHCR (United Nations High Commission for Refugees), UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund), WFP (World Food Programme) and WHO (World Health Organization).
- The primary purpose of the UNDMT in India is:
- To ensure a prompt, effective and concerted country-level support to a governmental response in the event of a disaster, at the central, state and sub-state levels,
- To coordinate UN assistance to the government with respect to long term recovery, disaster mitigation and preparedness,
- To coordinate all disaster-related activities, technical advice and material assistance provided by UN agencies, as well as to take steps for optimal utilization of resources by UN agencies.

### 3. United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC)

- The United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) team is a stand-by team of disaster management professionals which are nominated and funded by member 179 International Cooperation governments, UNDP and operational humanitarian United Nations Agencies such as World Food Programme (WFP), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and World Health Organization (WHO).
- UNDAC is designed to assist the United Nations and governments of a disaster-affected country in meeting international needs for early and qualified information during the

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first phase of a sudden-onset of emergency as well as in the coordination of incoming international relief at the national level and/or at the site of the emergency.

#### 4. United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA)

- The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) is a United Nations body formed in December 1991. OCHA is headed by the Undersecretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator.
- OCHA is thus an interagency body, serving UN agencies and NGOs in the humanitarian domain. Its main product is the Consolidated Appeals Process, an advocacy and planning tool to deliver humanitarian assistance together in a given emergency.

#### 5. International Search and Rescue Advisory Group (INSARAG)

- INSARAG is a global network of more than 80 countries and disaster response organizations under the United Nations umbrella. INSARAG deals with urban search and rescue (USAR) related issues.

#### Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

- ADPC is established in 1986 at Bangkok, Thailand. It is a non-profit, non-political, autonomous, regional organisation serving as a regional centre in Asia-Pacific for promoting disaster preparedness, disaster mitigation, awareness generation, exchange of information, community participation etc

#### SAARC Disaster Management Centre (SDMC)

- SAARC is association of South Asian countries for regional cooperation which was established on 16th January, 1987. It has eight member countries, namely Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka with its head quarters at Kathmandu.
- The Centre has the mandate to serve all eight Member Countries of South Asia Association of Regional Cooperation (SAARC) - by providing policy advice and facilitating capacity building services including strategic learning, research, training, system development and exchange of information for effective disaster risk reduction (DRR) and management in South Asia.

#### Engagement of UN Agencies in DRR

- Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)
- International Labour Organization (ILO)
- International Telecommunication Union (ITU)
- Office of the United Nation High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
- United Nations Centers for Regional Development (UNCRD)
- The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)





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- The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change Secretariat (UNFCCC Secretariat )
- United Nation Population Fund (UNFPA)
- United Nations Human Settlements Programmes(UN-HABITAT)
- United Nations Development Programme
- United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)
- United Nation Institute for Training and Research
- Office of the High Representative for the least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States (UNOHRLLS)
- United Nation Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
- United Nations University (UNU)
- United Nations Volunteers (UNV)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)
- The world Bank

## Reference

- Disaster Management in India, Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India.
- Handbook on Disaster Management for Nodal Officers by National Institute of Disaster Management, Govt. of India.

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