



## THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF N D R F (NATIONAL DISASTER RESPONSE FORCE IN INDIA)

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The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) IS A specialized force constituted “for the purpose of specialist response to as threatening disaster situation of disaster” under the disaster Management Act, 2005. The Apex Management Authority (NDMA). The Chairman of the NDMA is the Prime Minister.

The responsibility of managing disasters India is that of the State Government. The ‘Nodal Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).

When ‘calamities of severe nature’ occur, the Central Government is responsible for providing aid and assistance to the affected state, including deploying, at the State’s request, of Armed Forces, Central Paramilitary Forces, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), and such communication, air and other assets, as are available and needed.

National Disaster Response Force(NDRF) is under the National Disaster Management Authority. The head of the NDRF is designated as Director General. Has several Inspector generals (IG) and Deputy IGs, who fly flags and wear army- style badges of rank.

### **NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (NDMA)**

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the

apex statutory body for disaster management in India.

The NDMA was formally constituted on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006, in accordance with the Disaster Management Act, 2005 with Prime Minister as its Chairperson and nine other members, and one such member to be designated as Vice-Chairperson. Mandate; Its primary purpose is to coordinate 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 timely and effective response to disasters.

Vision: To build a safer and disaster resilient India by a holistic, proactive, technology driven and sustainable development strategy that involves all stakeholders and fosters a culture of prevention, preparedness and mitigation.

### **FUNCTIONS AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

1. Approve the National Disaster Plan.
2. Lay down policies on disaster management.
3. Approve plans prepared by Ministries or Departments of the Central Government in accordance with National Plan.
4. Lay down guidelines to be followed by State Authorities in drawing up



State Plan.

5. Lay down guidelines to be followed by different Ministries or Departments of Central Government for purpose of integrating measures for disaster prevention or mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects.
6. Coordinate enforcement and implementation of disaster management policy and plan.
7. Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation
8. Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as determined by Central Government.
9. Take such others measures for prevention of disasters or mitigation or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situation or disaster as it may consider necessary.
10. Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of National Institute of Disaster Management.
11. Institutional Framework for Disaster Management in India.
12. The Disaster Management Act, 2005 has provided the legal and institutional frame work from disaster management in India at the national, state and district levels.
13. In the federal polity of India, the primary responsibility of Disaster management vests with the state government.
14. The central government lays down the plans, policies and guidelines and provides technical, financial and logistical support while the district administration carries out most of the operations in collaboration with central and state level agencies.

### COMPOSITION N D R F

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a force of 12 battalions, organized on para-military lines, and manned by persons on deputation from the para military forces of India: three Border Security Force, three Central Reserve Police Force, two Central Industrial Security Force, two Indo-Tibetan Border Police and two Sashastr Seema Bal, The total strength of each battalion is approximately 1149. Each battalion is capable of providing 18 self-contained specialist search and rescue teams of 45 personnel each including engineers, technicians, electricians, dog squads and medical/paramedical.

NDRF in addition to being able to respond to natural disasters has four battalions capable of responding to radiological, nuclear, biological and chemical disasters.

### FUNCTIONAL PARAMETERS

The aim of the National Disaster Management Authority is to build a safer and disaster resilient India by developing a holistic, proactive, multi-disaster and technology driven strategy for disaster management. This has to be achieved through a culture of prevention, mitigation and preparedness to generate a prompt and efficient response at the time of disasters. This national vision inter alia, aims at inculcating a culture of preparedness among all stakeholders.

NDRF has proved its importance in achieving this vision by highly skilled rescue and relief operations, regular and intensive training and re-training, familiarization exercises within the area of responsibility of respective NDRF Battalions, carrying out mock drills and joints exercises with the various stakeholders.



### **TRAINING OF NDRF**

While the NDRF is being trained, re-trained and equipped as a specialist force for level three disasters, it is equally important to ensure capacity building of state police personnel who are invariably the first responders in any natural or man-made disasters. To ensure this, a two-pronged strategy is being suggested to the states: firstly, to train state police personnel in the basics of disaster management and secondly, to train at least one battalion equivalent out of their state armed police units as State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) on lines of the NDRF. In addition to police personnel, the SDRFs may be constituted from existing resources of the Fire Services, Home Guards and Civil Defense. NDRF battalions and their training institutions will assist the States/UTs in this effort. The State/UTs will also be encouraged to set up DM training facilities in their respective Police Training Colleges and include this subject in their basic and in-service courses.

### **LOCATION OF NDRF BATTALIONS.**

The NDRF battalions are located at 12 different locations in the country based on the vulnerability profile of country and to cut down the response time for their deployment at disaster site.

The Disaster Management Act has statutory provision for constitution of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) for the purpose of specialized response to natural and man-made disasters. Accordingly, in 2006 NDRF was constituted with 8 Battalions. At present, NDRF has a strength of 12 Battalions with each Battalion consisting of 1149 personnel. In the beginning, the

personnel of NDRF were deployed for routine law and order duties also, In a meeting of the NDMA with the Prime Minister on October 25, 2007, the need of NDRF being made a dedicated force was highlighted and accepted. This led to the notification of NDRF Rules on February 14h, 2008, making NDRF a dedicated force for disaster response related duties, under the unified command of DG NDRF.

Since its inception NDRF has continued to win hearts of millions of countrymen, by demonstrating its expertise and compassion while handling disaster situations. The list of such challenges is long. To cite a few; a sex story building collapsed at Bellary (Karnataka) in January 2010. In a meticulously planned, round the clock operation lasting seven days, the NDRF rescued 20 trapped live victims and retrieved 29 bodies. In a multi-story factory building collapse at Jalandhar (Punjab) in April 2012, the NDRF successfully rescued 12 Live victims trapped under huge rubble of debris and also recovered 19 dead bodies. The sterling services rendered by 46 NDRF personnel in response to the triple disaster in Japan in March-April 2011, has also won NDRF laurels.

### **CONCLUSION**

NDRF (National Disaster Response Force) is given the responsibility of safe guarding and protecting the life and property of the people of the nation pre and post disaster. NDRF is doing the yeoman service to the nation not only within India but also outside India particularly neighboring countries.