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# **M.P.A.-5**

## **Disaster Response**

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**& Various Central, State & Other Open Universities**

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*By: Harish Arora*



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**Sample Preview  
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Sample Question  
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# QUESTION PAPER

June – 2023

(Solved)

## DISASTER RESPONSE

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Time: 2 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 50

Notes: Answer any five questions, selecting at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

### SECTION-I

**Q. 1. Discuss the role of community based organisations in response plans and highlight the need of coordination among responders.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-1, Page No. 7, 'Role of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in the Response Plan' and Page No. 8, 'Coordination among Responders'.

**Q. 2. Explain supplies and transportation management as significant components of logistics management.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-3, Page No. 25, 'Supplies' and Page No. 26, 'Transportation'.

**Q. 3. What are the basic types of needs and damage assessment?**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-4, Page No. 33, 'Types of Assessment' and Page No. 34, 'Techniques of Assessment'.

**Q. 4. Explain the role of Government at state, district and sub-district levels in disaster response.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-5, Page No. 47, 'District Level' and 'Sub-district Level'.

**Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Problems in effective communication.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-2, Page No. 14, 'Problems in Effective Communication'.

**(b) Role of the Central Reserve Police Force in disaster response.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-7, Page No. 67, 'Central Reserve Police Force'.

### SECTION-II

**Q. 6. Discuss the meaning of panic and suggest ways to minimise panic impact during disaster situations.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-11, Page No. 103, 'What is Panic?'

**Q. 7. What are the minimum standards of relief in food aid?**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-12, Page No. 112, 'Minimum Standard in Food Aid'.

**Q. 8. Elaborate upon the essential components and considerations for relief management in India.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-13, Page No. 121, 'Major Considerations for Relief Management'.

**Q. 9. Describe the national and state level sources of funding for relief management.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-14, Page No. 128, 'Central Government' and Page No. 130, 'State Government'.

**Q. 10. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Symptoms of stress.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-10, Page No. 95, 'Symptoms of Stress'.

**(b) Challenges associated with recovery.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-15, Page No. 142, 'Challenges Associated with Recovery'.



# QUESTION PAPER

December – 2022

(Solved)

## DISASTER RESPONSE

M.P.A.-5

Time: 2 Hours ]

[ Maximum Marks: 50

Notes: Answer any five questions, selecting at least two questions from each section. All questions carry equal marks.

### SECTION-I

**Q. 1. Discuss the response plan at the State and District levels.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-1, Page No. 5, 'State Level Response Plan' and 'District Response Plan'.

**Q. 2. Examine the role of stakeholders in effective implementation of response plans.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-2, Page No. 19, Q. No. 2.

**Q. 3. Describe briefly the rapid needs and damage assessment procedures.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-4, Page No. 33, 'Types of Assessment' and Page No. 34, 'Techniques of Assessment'.

**Q. 4. Explain the administrative disaster response framework at national level.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-5, Page No. 43, 'Administrative Response Framework' and 'National Level'.

**Q. 5. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Role of Youth Organisations in Disaster Response.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-7, Page No. 74, Q. No. 3.

**(b) Search and Rescue.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-7, Page No. 22, 'Search and Rescue'.

### SECTION-II

**Q. 6. How are human behaviour and psychological response managed in disaster situations?**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-9, Page No. 89, 'Management of Human Behaviour and Response in Disaster Situation'.

**Q. 7. Discuss the nature and ways of stress management.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-10, Page No. 94, 'What is Stress?' and Page No. 97, 'Management of Stress'.

**Q. 8. What are the minimum standards of relief in case of shelter and site planning?**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-12, Page No. 113, 'Minimum Standards in Shelter and Site Planning'.

**Q. 9. Describe briefly the major sources of funding for relief management.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-14, Page No. 128, 'Sources of Funding'.

**Q. 10. Write short notes on the following:**

**(a) Concept of Panic.**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-11, Page No. 103, 'What is Panic?'

**(b) Lessons learnt from management of relief of Orissa Super Cyclone, 1999**

**Ans. Ref.** See Chapter-13, Page No. 123, 'Orissa Super Cyclone-October 1999'.



# Sample Preview of The Chapter

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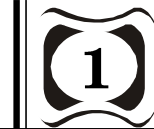
# DISASTER RESPONSE

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## Disaster Response Plan

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### **INTRODUCTION**

A disaster is a sudden event, natural or man-made, that seriously causes disruption in the functioning of the society and causes human, material, economic or environmental losses. When a disaster has occurred or it is imminent, different decisions and measures are initiated to contain the event in order to prevent any further loss of life/property. Disaster response is in three phases Pre disaster response starts immediately upon receipt of information about an impending disaster, such as, setting up control rooms, evacuation of people to safer places, etc., during disaster phase, efforts are made to help the effected people by providing basic necessities/medical help, etc. and in post disaster phase, efforts include speedy recovery from the aftermath of disaster. Various related issues such as the need for having disaster response plans at the central/state/local level and the role of various agencies need to be considered in details.

### **CHAPTER AT A GLANCE**

#### **WHY DO WE NEED RESPONSE PLANS?**

When a disaster occurs, immediate/timely response can surely help in reducing the loss of lives and property but this is possible only when proper response plans are already in place. Despite having put in place adequate preventive measures, there has to be a response plan to help in taking immediate action in case of a disaster without any loss of time for consulting/obtaining formal approvals from the concerned authorities. Here, the most important aspect is the

response time, such as when an earthquake hit Gujarat on the morning of 26th January, 2001, but it was noted that medical help from the Central Government could reach only after a lapse of 12 hours and also the State Government could not do much during the first thirty six hours from the occurrence of the quake and action on a pre framed disaster response plan could have saved more number of lives.

In India, we have had almost all types of disasters and the concerned State Government is primarily responsible for prompt necessary action in the face of a disaster. India, being a quasi federal State, Central as well as the State Governments both are responsible for disaster management. Each state is divided into various districts which are formed by administrative units at the district, block and village level and disaster response. The plans for relief/rehabilitation are also made by different agencies.

#### **RESPONSE PLANS AT CENTRAL LEVEL**

In India, the State Governments have the primary responsibility of responding to disasters because most of the related works to be done for extending relief/reconstruction after disaster has to be done by local administration. At the Central Government level, specific Ministries have been assigned nodal responsibilities for coordinating responses for providing relief according to the type of disaster at different levels (central, state, district), as given ahead. The size of response depends upon the gravity of the disaster and the level of relief needed to help the effected people.



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Disaster Type	Ministry
Air Accidents	Ministry of Civil Aviation
Civil Strife	Ministry of Home Affairs
Drought	Agriculture Ministry
Railway Accidents	Railway Ministry
Chemical Disasters	Ministry of Environment and Forests
Nuclear Accidents	Department of Atomic Energy
Biological Disasters	Health Ministry
Major Breakdown of Essential Services	Concerned ministry
All Other type of Disasters	Home Ministry

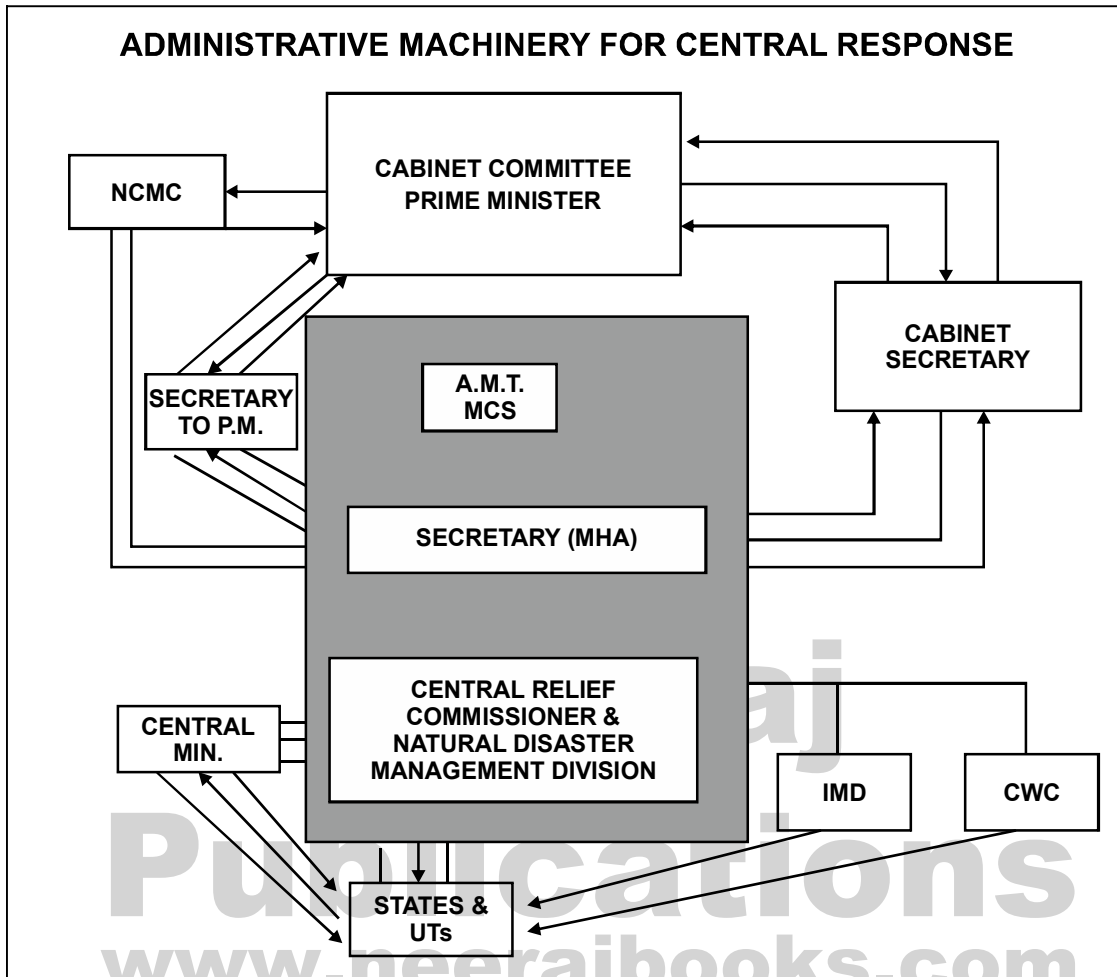
(Source : Ministry of Home Affairs)

The disaster-specific nodal ministry has to see that there is proper liaison with the concerned State Government which is responding to the disaster and also to ensure that there is proper coordination among various agencies /ministries/departments so as to ensure a quick/efficient response. At the Central Government level, the Disaster Response Plan includes the following:

**1. Policy Response:** Policy includes a set of ideas/plans which are to be used for taking decisions. This is a plan of action decided and contains rules/guidelines provided to the administrative machinery. It is prepared after having long discussions keeping in view the National vision of building a safe and disaster resilient India. The Central Government has developed a pro active strategy of disaster management and various decision making models have been developed. Union Home Ministry is the nodal agency in case of natural disasters. The policy response is provided by the Prime Minister and various other concerned ministers with the active participation of the Home Minister and top officials to ensure a strong disaster response. The process is consultative and it takes the help of various institutions operating at national, state and local levels. The main aim of the policy response is to ensure proper understanding of the sufferings of the effected people and to provide them short term as well as long term assistance.

**2. Administrative Response:** Administrative response is based on the policy framed for responding to

disasters and this response is primarily the implementation of the ideas/plans agreed upon in the policy. It is mainly concerned with the essential requirements, particularly assistance by the Central Government as per the pre decided policy. But before taking any decision on the extent and nature of assistance, the Central Government needs data/information about the disaster as per the ground situation of the areas affected. The concerned State Government also sends information to the Centre, along with its request for Central assistance and after proper assessment of the ground situation the Central Government rushes its financial and other material/help to the State Government. The help be provided by the Centre depends upon the magnitude of the calamity and the capability of the concerned State Government. If the State Government is considered capable of handling the situation, then the Central Government has just to monitor the relief work by using Calamity Relief Fund, the primary fund for providing disaster relief/rehabilitation. The help to be provided is primary help and secondary help and in case it is considered that disaster cannot be managed by the State Government machinery alone, the role/responsibility of the Central Government becomes much greater. The administrative machinery for providing the Central response is given in the following diagram:



Source: <http://www.ndmindia.nic.in/manageplan/manageplan.html>

**CABINET COMMITTEE**

A Cabinet Committee may be constituted for proper/effective implementation of disaster relief work as per the response plan but constitution of such a Committee depends upon the magnitude of the calamity. The Home Secretary is to provide the required information to the Committee which may give directions as deemed fit. In case, a Cabinet Committee is not constituted, the Cabinet Secretary is to be provided all the information connected with the disaster response.

**National Crisis Management Committee:** Government of India has constituted a National Crisis Management Committee in the Cabinet Secretariat. The Committee Chairman is the Cabinet Secretary and its other members include: Secretary to the Prime Minister;

Secretary in the Home Ministry; Director, Intelligence Bureau (IB); Secretary, Research and Analysis Wing (RAW), Secretary. The convenor of the Committee will be an officer of the Cabinet Secretariat. The Secretary in the Ministry of Home Affairs is required to provide updated information/developments to the Committee. NCMC has the powers to give appropriate directions to the Crisis Management Group which deals with disaster relief matters.

**Crisis Management Group:** This Group is formed for the purpose of dealing with matters relating to relief in the wake of major natural calamities, with the Central Relief Commissioner as its Chairman, with representatives from the Cabinet Secretariat, Prime Minister Office and senior officers from Finance/Food and Civil Supplies/Power/Urban Development/Women

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and Child Development, Petroleum, Railway, Communication Ministries and officers of India Meteorological Department, Civil Defense, etc. Also, the Resident Commissioners of the States which are affected by major natural calamity may be co-opted in the Group during the disaster period. CMG meets at least twice in a year during the months of December/January and May/June and as often as required by the Relief Commissioner and its meetings are held in the Chamber of the Relief Commissioner, New Delhi (unless informed otherwise) to undertake the following matters:

- Yearly review of the contingency plans formulated by the Central Ministries/Departments;
- Review the measures required for dealing with a natural calamity;
- To coordinate disaster preparedness/relief activities of various Central Ministries/State Governments;
- Get information from the Nodal Officers in respect of the above matters.

Nodal officer of each Ministry/Department has to formulate a Detailed Plan of Action (DAP) giving the channel/manner of interaction between various agencies performing these functions, their contact points, specific measures/time frames for implementation, etc. and has to submit it to the Central Relief Commissioner. CMG reviews the action plans every year.

**Relief Commissioner:** Disaster Management Division has a Relief Commissioner as its nodal officer who coordinates the relief operations in case of natural calamities. He discharges his duties with assistance by the Additional Relief Commissioner and a control room (Emergency Operations Centre). Upon receiving information about the occurrence of any major calamity, the control room starts functioning round the clock for effective dealing of the crisis and it functions till the time the Commissioner considers it appropriate. The Relief Commissioner continuously procures information about the forecast about any natural calamity (from India Meteorological Department or from the Central Water Commission) and thereafter the information is provided to the Secretary, Ministry of Home Affairs, the Cabinet Secretary and to Secretary to the Prime Minister and after that to the Prime Minister, the Cabinet and the National Crisis Management Committee. In case it is required, the information is also sent to various Central Government Ministries and State Governments for proper follow up/action.

**Control Room:** A Control room in close coordination with the State Government gets activated for smooth coordination in receiving/dispatching reliable/accurate information about the affected areas and resource mobilisation at regular intervals. The Control Room works as the focal point of all disaster related information and it should be centrally located and adequately/properly equipped along with a night duty cell. Its responsibilities/functions are as under:

- Exchange of reliable/accurate information about the affected areas;
- Close coordination with the State Government affected by the calamity;
- Regular interaction with various Central Ministries/Departments about the disaster, affected areas/people and the status of relief operations being undertaken;
- Maintain relevant records including updated information on the action points and various contact points in Central Government Ministries/departments;
- To perform other duties as given by the Relief Commissioner.

**The Duty Officer of the Control Room:** The Duty Officer in the Control Room should be such a person who is matured enough to understand the gravity of the information received and should be able to brief the Home Secretary/Relief Commissioner and other senior officials. The functions to be performed by the Duty Officer and the action to be taken by him upon receiving information of a particular nature are properly defined. He also has to contact the members of the Crisis Management Group about the calamity and his duties also include interacting with the control room at the State Government level.

**Financial Resource:** The Ninth Finance Commission recommended that each State will constitute a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) which will be used by the State Government for providing immediate relief to victims of cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, etc. An annual contribution of 75% to the Fund is made by the Central Government and the remaining 25% is to be financed by the State. Another dedicated fund known as the National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) is also maintained by the Government of India for supplementing disaster relief efforts of various State Governments, which is operated under a broad framework laid down by the 11th Finance Commission. This fund supplements the CRFs maintained by the