

National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

Syllabus subtopic: Disaster and disaster management.

Prelims and Mains focus: about NDRF and its significance

Context: The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) celebrated its 15th Raising Day today.

About NDRF

- The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) is a specialised force constituted "for the purpose of specialist response to a threatening disaster situation or disaster" under the **Disaster Management Act, 2005**.
- The apex Body for Disaster management in India is the **National Disaster 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' in the central government for management of natural disasters is the **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. The Director Generals of NDRF are IPS officers on deputation from Indian police organisations. Director General wears the uniform and badges of rank of an army three-star general.
- The NDRF is a top-heavy organisation which in addition to the Director General has several Inspector Generals (IG) and Deputy IGs, who fly flags and wear army-style badges of rank.

Significance of NDRF

- NDRF has played important role in saving the human lives and national property in disaster response operations it has always been in the forefront to tackle any kind of disaster occurring in the country.
- The force has earned good name and fame nationally and internationally with its selfless service and unmatched professionalism in disaster management.
- Since its inception in 2006, NDRF has saved more than One lakh lives in its 3100 operations and rescued/evacuated over 6.7 lakh people during disasters.
- NDRF has so far imparted training to more than 4000 volunteers and has a target to give training to more than 70000 volunteers by 2024 at the local levels in different parts of the country.