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Chapter 20 : Introduction to the Disaster Management Act

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Chapter 20
Introduction to the Disaster Management Act

- → The Disaster Management Act is a law passed by the Indian government in 2005 to provide a legal framework for managing disasters in the country.
- → The law aims to minimize the impact of disasters on people, property, and the environment by providing a framework (system , plan) for disaster management.

Disaster

- ➢ The Act defines a disaster as a "catastrophe, mishap, calamity or grave occurrence in any area, arising from natural or man-made causes or by accident or negligence, which results in substantial loss of life or human suffering or damage to, and destruction of, property, or damage to, or degradation of, environment, and is of such a nature or magnitude as to be beyond the coping capacity of the community of the affected area."

Management of Disaster

- ◈ The Disaster Management Act establishes the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as the apex body responsible for laying down (making) policies, plans, and guidelines for disaster management in India.
- ◈ The NDMA is headed by the Prime Minister of India and comprises of representatives from various ministries and departments.
- ◈ The Act also mandates the establishment of State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) to implement the policies, plans, and guidelines laid down by the NDMA at the state and district levels. These authorities are responsible for coordinating and implementing disaster management activities in their respective jurisdictions. (the official power to take legal decisions)
- ◈ Under the Act, the government is required to prepare a National Disaster Management Plan and State Disaster Management Plans to provide a framework for disaster management. The plans outline the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders, including government agencies, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the private sector, in managing disasters.
- ◈ The Act also provides for the creation of a National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) to provide specialized response capabilities in the event of a disaster. The NDRF is composed of personnel from various paramilitary forces and is trained in various aspects of disaster management, such as search and rescue, medical assistance, and evacuation. (shifting)
- ◈ In addition to these provisions, the Act also mandates the establishment of a National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM) to provide training, research, and documentation in the field of disaster management.

- Overall, the Disaster Management Act is a comprehensive law aimed at providing a legal framework for disaster management in India. By establishing various authorities, plans, and guidelines, the Act aims to minimize the impact of disasters on people, property, and the environment.

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