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## **UNIT 7    DISASTER RESPONSE: DISASTER RESPONSE: POLICE AND OTHER ORGANISATION**

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### **Structure**

- 7.0    Learning Outcome
- 7.1    Introduction
- 7.2    Police
- 7.3    Para-military Forces
- 7.4    Civil Defence
- 7.5    Fire Services
- 7.6    Youth Organisations
- 7.7    Conclusion
- 7.8    Key Concepts
- 7.9    References and Further Reading
- 7.10    Activities

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### **7.0    Learning Outcome**

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After going through this unit, you should be able to:

- provide a comprehensive view of police and related organisations in disaster response;
- understand the role of different youth organisations in disaster response; and
- discuss the specific tasks they perform related to disaster response.

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### **7.1    INTRODUCTION**

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In the previous unit you have understand the role of armed forces in disaster response. The purpose of this unit is to give you an overall view of other uniformed organisations including the youth groups that have an active role in disaster management.

The critical role played by the Police, Para-Military Forces and other uniformed organisations in disaster situations is well recognized. At the time of disaster all available help is rushed and we always find the various uniformed organisations being pressed into the response as any organised body functions better than untrained collection of people. These may be the various Police, Para-Military forces, youth organisations or others. It may be noted that the armed forces are called to assist as a last resort and relieved from disaster response at the earliest possible opportunity, but the other forces like police, youth organisations etc should be involved at the earliest indication of a disaster.

There are many special units designated to handle specific threats. Besides various security agencies, there are elite tactical units who have specialised role like respond to terrorist actions. Such units perform both in preventive actions, rescue and responding to on-going attacks.

India has a multitude of law enforcement agencies. The principal national-level organization concerned with law enforcement is the Ministry of Home Affairs, which is also the nodal ministry for disaster management. In addition to managing the Indian Police Service, the Ministry of Home Affairs maintains several agencies and organizations dealing with policing and security functions. Police in the states and union territories are assisted by units of volunteer Home Guards, maintained under guidelines formulated by the Ministry of Home Affairs. In this unit we will discuss the role played by police, para-military, NSS, Scouts and Civil Defence in the disaster response.

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## **7.2 POLICE**

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The responsibility for maintaining law and order, and almost all routine policing is carried out by state-level police forces. The central government participates in police operations and organization by authorizing the maintenance of the Indian Police Service. The Police Act of 1861 established the fundamental principles of organization for police forces in India, and, continues in effect with minor modifications. The state-level police forces are separate but their patterns of organization and operation are similar. Director General of Police, answerable to the home secretary of the state, heads the police in each state.

In most states and territories, police forces are functionally divided into civil (unarmed) police and armed contingents. The former staffs are attached to police stations, conduct investigations, answer routine complaints, perform traffic duties, and patrol the streets. Those states that maintain distinct armed contingents employ them as a reserve strike force for emergencies. Such units are organized either as a mobile armed force under direct state control or in the case of district armed police as a force directed by district superintendents and generally used for riot-control duty. The Provincial Armed Constabulary is an armed reserve maintained at key locations in some states and active only on orders from the higher-level authorities. Armed constabulary are assigned to VIP duty or assigned to maintain order during fairs, festivals, athletic events, elections and natural disasters. They may also be sent to quell outbreaks of student or labour unrest, organized crime, and communal riots; to maintain key guard posts; and to participate in antiterrorist operations. Women have entered in larger numbers even into the higher echelons of police.

Most of the major cities have their own metropolitan police headed by the Police Commissioner. Each state police force is headed by the Director General of Police. Some states have police Rangers which control several Police Districts. The police force is housed in police stations or out parts for remote areas.

### **7.2.1 Role of Police in Disaster Response**

The Police play a critical role in disaster situations as all incidents are covered by them. Police is mobilized to reach the site of disaster immediately with a view to carry out relief and rescue operations and is the initial coordination agencies. It is also the responsibility of the police to maintain security along with law and order at disaster locations where there might be chaos and miscreants may take advantage of the situation. Police personnel deployed for such relief operations prevent commission of cognisable offences including all offences against property, human body and public tranquillity. The police communication system is made available for transmission and receipt of messages in connection with disasters. They also regulate movement of victims, rescue and relief, medical assistance, and supplies

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## 7.3 PARA-MILITARY FORCES

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The role of Para-Military Forces (PMF) is similarly important as they may be called upon for additional assistance in situations requiring greater assistance from outside. Indian Paramilitary Forces are those agencies which act as armed forces auxiliaries. The PMF is made up of the following twelve organisations:

- Assam Rifles
- Border Security Force
- Central Industrial Security Force
- Central Reserve Police Force
- Rapid Action Force
- Indo-Tibetan Border Police
- Rashtriya Rifles
- Defense Security Corps
- Railway Protection Force
- Indian Home Guard
- Civil Defence
- State Armed Police
- Special Security Bureau

PMF are subordinate to the Ministry of Home Affairs whereas the Coast Guard Organisation and the Defence Security Force are subordinate to the Ministry of Defence. The National Security Guards, a joint anti terrorist contingency force, is charged with protection of high-level persons VVIPs and are subordinate to the Office of the Prime Minister. Their personnel are drawn from armed forces, the Central Reserve Police Force and the Border Security Force. The Special Frontier Force also is subordinate to the Office of the Prime Minister. The Railway Protection Force is subordinate to the Ministry of Railways. At the local level, there is the Provincial Armed Constabulary, which is controlled by the governments of the states and territories.

In addition to security and guard duties, paramilitary organizations assist local and state-level police forces in maintaining public order and shield the army from excessive use in "aid-to-the-civil-power" operations. These operations essentially involve quelling public disorder when local police forces prove inadequate to the task.

## **Coast Guard**

The Coast Guard Organisation was constituted as an Armed Force of the Union in 1978 under the administrative control of the Ministry of Defence (although it is funded by the Ministry of Home Affairs), following its 1977 establishment as a temporary navy element. Its principal mission is to protect the country's maritime assets, particularly India's 200-nautical-mile exclusive economic zone and the marine resources contained in the area, which comprises nearly 2.8 million square kilometers. The coast guard is also responsible for the prevention of poaching and smuggling, the control of marine pollution, and carrying out search-and-rescue missions. Under the command of a director general, the coast guard is organized into three national maritime zones: the Western Maritime Zone, headquartered at Bombay; the Eastern Maritime Zone, headquartered at Madras; and the Andaman and Nicobar Maritime Zone, headquartered at Port Blair. The zones are further subdivided into district headquarters, one each for the eight maritime states on the mainland and two in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. In times of emergency, the coast guard is expected to work with the navy. In the late 1980s, coast guard units from the eastern zone supported Indian peacekeeping efforts in Sri Lanka.

## **Defence Security Corps**

The Defence Security Force guards Ministry of Defence facilities and installations throughout India.

## **Rashtriya Rifles**

To reduce the commitment of the Army on internal security duties, the Rashtriya Rifles (RR) has been at the forefront in counter-insurgency operations. The RR was raised as a Para-Military Force as it was envisaged that personnel posted to RR regular Army volunteers on deputation, ex-service men and lateral inductees from various Para-Military Forces and Central Police Organisation. In 1990 the RR was established with 6 Battalions and 2 Sector Head Quarters exclusively to fight insurgency in Kashmir. By end 2005 it was expected to have 66 Battalions with 17 Sector Head Quarters.

## **Special Frontier Force**

The Special Frontier Force, established in 1962 in the aftermath of the war with China, is less well publicized by the government. Apparently it is an elite, parachute-qualified commando unit, nominally subordinate to the army and deployed along sensitive areas of the border with China, and recruited partially from among border-area hill tribes and Tibetan refugees. The Special Frontier Force also appears to have a domestic security role; members of the force were involved in the Golden Temple siege in 1984. In 1994 its reported strength was 3,000, making it one of the smallest paramilitary forces.

## **Assam Rifles**

The Assam Rifles are the oldest paramilitary force, raised as Cachar Levy in 1835. Its headquarters is at Shillong. Currently there are 46 Battalions, 9 Range or Sector Headquarters and a Training Centre/School. The Assam Rifles is under the control of the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA). The role of Assam Rifles is to conduct counter insurgency operations in the North-East and assist the army.

One of the tasks of the unit was to keep order in the aftermath of the 1950 Assam earthquake and assist in resettlement. In October 1962 the Assam Rifles were the frontline troops in the beginning of the Chinese-Indian War. The Assam Rifles also maintained their peacekeeping roles in the Northern India in the face of tribal unrest and insurgency. The Assam Rifles also handle medical assistance, aid in basic education, assist in reconstruction and agriculture and handles communications in remote areas. It also plays a social role by way of helping the villagers in construction of modern village providing drinking water supply schemes, construction of schools and play grounds and calamity relief.

### **Border Security Force:**

The Border Security Force (BSF) was raised in December 1, 1965, replacing multiplicity of State Police Forces guarding the borders. BSF is responsible for guarding borders in North-West and North-East sectors instil sense of security in the people living in boarder areas, preventing trans-border crimes and smuggling and counter insurgency. It is a Central paramilitary force operating under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

Currently the strength of the BSF is at around 157 battalions having Head Quarters in Delhi with 10 Frontier Head Quarters with 39 Sectors. It has 5 Premier Training Institutions and 7 Subsidiary Training Centres to train the BSF. It also plays a social role in the areas like calamity relief, medical and other relief for residence of far-flung boarder areas.

### **Central Reserve Police Forces**

The Central Reserve Police Force has been created under the Ministry of Home Affairs to supplement the police resources of the States, for protection of Central Government installations and maintenance of law and order. In 1965, some of the Indian Reserve Battalions were designated as Central Reserve Police Battalions in order to improve training and efficiency and to bring about unity of command. As of now there are 128 Central Reserve Police Battalions including six peace keeping battalions which were raised in 1979 with the task of maintaining communal harmony and controlling of communal riots. The force primarily assists the states in the maintenance of law and order. It also fills the gap where local police requires backup.

Generally, the force is lightly equipped but an increment of weapons is given to it for various roles where such weapons are necessary. The specific role of Central Reserve Police Force is as follows:

- i. Maintenance of law and order in the country.
- ii. Internal and Border security.
- iii. Guarding of vulnerable points.
- iv. Anti dacoit operation of an inter state nature.
- v. Peace keeping in communally disturbed areas.
- vi. Relief operations where necessitated due to natural calamities or otherwise.

The force is controlled by the Ministry of Home Affairs. It is headed by a Director General with his Headquarters located at New Delhi. The headquarters has been organised into functional sub directorates. All training establishments and Signal Units are also controlled by the force headquarters. The force has its command, control and communication infrastructure covering the entire country. The force is

divided into number of Sector Headquarters and Group Centres. Each sector headquarters controls the force deployed within its geographic area of responsibility. Group Centres look after the administrative requirements of a number of Central Reserve Police Force Battalions placed under their control. Permission for the use of Central Reserve Police Force in aid of the State Government authorities can be given by the Central Government for a specific role and period. In an emergency however the State Government may contact the nearest Central Reserve Police Force unit for assistance.

**Women in the CRPF:** CRPF are the only Para-Military Force in the country to have two women battalions although they are now being induced in other police forces. The first such battalion was raised in 1986 with its headquarters at New Delhi. The second battalion came into existence in 1996 at Gandhinagar, Gujarat.

### **The Rapid Action Force (RAF)**

The increasing communal tensions and riots during the early nineties had been putting a serious strain on the secular structure of India Society. Consequently the Government took a well considered decision to set up a special anti-riot force which could reach the place of occurrence with the quickest possible speed and deal with communal riot or riot-like situation in an absolutely objective and non-partisan manner.

The RAF was raised by converting 10 existing CRPF Bns. Young CRPF personnel with quick reflexes, maturity and un-biased views were selected and posted to these Bns. Five Bns became functional during October 1992 while the remaining five became operational in April 1994. The area of responsibility of each RAF Bn is approximately 400 Kms radius from the Bn HQR. The special features of the RAF are that each team is independently operational and mobile. They have a distinctive uniform and have to act in zero response time. Each Coy has a Mahila component and additional Para-medical staff for first aid, rescue and relief. In between spells of duty, RAF undertake intensive familiarisation exercises in communally sensitive areas to familiarise themselves with the area. To make bridges with the public, RAF also undertakes socially useful work such as children education, adult literacy, tree plantation, medical camps, hygiene education etc. and also adoption of villages for all round focused development.

RAF has also actively assisted in relief and rescue work :-

- On 13.7.95, a powerful bomb exploded in a private bus in Saharanpur (UP). A contingent of D/108 RAF conducting familiarisation exercise close by, immediately rushed to the site and rescued the injured passengers from the burning bus and evacuated them to hospital, thus saving many precious lives.
- On 20/8/95, a major train accident took place between the Purshottam and Kalindi Express near Firozabad railway station. Two Coys of 101 Bn RAF which were deployed in Faizabad, immediately rushed to the accident site to extricate the casualties and evacuated the injured passengers to hospital.
- On 3/9/95, a three storied Hotel collapsed in heavy rain in Meerut. Personnel of D/108 RAF rushed to the site and assisted local authorities in extricating three severely wounded persons. Five dead bodies were also traced and pulled out from the debris.

- Personnel of 101 Bn RAF rescued victims trapped in a wall collapse in Ayodhya (U.P.) on 26th March, 1996, and evacuated them to hospital.
- On 11 June'1998, the RAF contingent gave valuable assistance to the people and Government of Gujrat, in relief and rescue work around Kandla Port in West Gujrat which was struck by a devastating cyclone. One Coy of 100 Bn RAF was rushed to the area, carried out rescue and relief work up to 20th June'98, earning a good name for the Force.
- A Coy of 106 Bn RAF carried out rescue and relief operations for 45 days in Gangtok (Sikkim) which had been severely hit by devastating land slides. The Coy rescued a number of people and salvaged large amounts of cash, valuables etc.
- In 1998 the RAF organised two Medical Camps in Sultanpuri and Gokulpuri areas of Delhi in its effort to assist Civil Administration to contain the spread of Dropsy, Dengue and other contagious diseases. More than 5,000 patients turned up for medical check up and blood testing. They were also provided with preventive medicines and educated on the awareness of various diseases.
- On 1/4/99, a sudden fire broke out in Sanjay Market, Jamshedpur. Personnel of D/Coy 106 Bn RAF rushed to the spot and despite injuries, gave valuable assistance in relief and rescue work.
- Four Coys of 99 Bn and 2 Coys of 106 Bn RAF actively assisted the Civil Administration in Orissa in the relief and rescue operation after the devastating cyclone hit the State in October 1999. The personnel worked tirelessly to rescue marooned and affected personnel and provided them succour.
- In 2005. the CRPF troops guarding the Ram Temple in Ayodhya foiled the attempt of the Jihadi suicide attackers and killed all of them.

**Riot Control:** This elite force has made its impact against the rioters and restored the confidence of the minorities. It has been very effective in dealing with communal violence.

**Humanitarian Activities:** RAF has also succeeded in projecting the human face of the Government and built bridges with the public by carrying out prompt rescue and relief operations during floods, earthquakes, cyclones and outbreak of epidemics in various parts of the country.

**Operations in the aftermath of the 1999 cyclone:** During the super cyclone that hit Orissa in October 1999, six companies of RAF were deployed which carried out rescue and relief operations in five worst-affected districts of the state. Ten medical teams of the force treated about 20,000 patients and provided much-needed medical and other assistance to the victims. CRPF personnel with missionary zeal cremated about 300 decomposed bodies in the worst cyclone affected Erasama block in the state.

### **National Security Guard**

National Security Guard (NSG) was set up in 1984 as a Federal Contingency Deployment Force to tackle all facets of terrorism in the country. The NSG functions under Ministry of Home Affairs and is headed by an Inspector General

of the Indian Police Service (IPS). It is a task-oriented force and has two complementary elements in the form of the Special Action Group (SAG) comprising army personnel and the Special Ranger Groups (SRG), comprising personnel drawn from the central police and state police forces. The unit is popularly known as the Black Cats, because of the black nomex coveralls and balaclavas (head gear) or assault helmets they adorn. Their motto is - One for All, All for One.

The primary and additional tasks of NSG are as follows:

**Primary Tasks are:**

- Engage and neutralise terrorist threats in specific situations.
- Undertake counter hijack operations involving piracy in the air, land and Water.
- Undertake hostage rescue missions.

**Additional Tasks are:**

- Mobile security protection to designated high risk VIPs (Z+ Category).
- Anti-sabotage check of places of national importance and functions.
- Beef up security in Delhi and as required in the country during visits of some foreign heads of States and for certain national and public functions.
- Maintenance of national bomb data centre.
- Conduct bomb disposal and post blast investigation
- Providing sky marshals to cover designated flights of national & private airlines.
- Providing special commando, bomb disposal and VIP security training to armed Forces and police.

Being a premier counter-terrorism group, it is typically deployed in situations beyond the capabilities of regular police units.

Some of the NSG's previous operations include:

- May 12, 1988 — assault on the Golden Temple during Operation Black Thunder II
- April 25, 1994 — rescue of hijacked plane Indian Airlines Boeing 737 during Operation Ashwamedh
- October, 1998 — major combat missions in Jammu and Kashmir
- July 15, 1999 — rescue of 12 hostages held by armed Islamic activists who had stormed an apartment complex in Kashmir and killed 4 people
- September 25, 2002 — operation to free hostages held by Islamic activists who had killed 26 worshippers at the Akshardham temple in Ahmedabad, Gujarat

**Central Industrial Security Force (CISF)**

The Central Industrial Security Force was constituted in 1969 to provide protection to the Public Sector Undertakings, airports and government buildings. It also assists in internal security, prevention of fire and disaster management. It plays a major role in rescue and relief operations in major calamities such as

Nuclear, Chemical and Biological. CISF an integral fire wing with highly specialised personnel and equipment. It provides consultancy services in the field of security and fire protection.

### **Indo - Tibetan Border Police (ITBP)**

The Indo-Tibetan Border Police is a police force conceived on October 24, 1962 for the security along the Indo-Tibetan Border covering 2115 km. Its main role is to guard boarder areas adjoining Tibet-Karakoram Pass (Ladakh) to Lipulekh Pass (Nepal-Tibet Border). It also assists in internal security and also in the disaster situations in the hilly areas. It has 29 battalions with 355569 personnel and 3 training institutes.

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## **7.4 CIVIL DEFENCE**

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The Civil Defence (CD) is primarily a voluntary organization, whose resources are mobilized at the time of need through an activation procedure. CD organization requirements are based on the vulnerability analysis by the states themselves and accordingly are equipped. Their primary work areas include; communication, rescue and casualty, depot, transportation and supply service, salvage and corpse disposal along with basic welfare services. The organization has conceptually a strong structure with the capabilities to act in cooperation with the people, police and defence services. It however needs to further build its capacity and its ability to reach in disaster situations by having substantial support and augmentation.

The CD legislation was enacted by Parliament in 1968. CD includes any measures, not amounting to actual combat, for affording protection to any person, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof against any hostile attack, whether from air, land, sea or other places, or, for depriving any such attack of the whole or part of its effects whether such measures are taken before, during, at or after the time of such attack. Hostile attack means any attack by any person or a body of persons, whether during any war, external aggression, internal disturbance or otherwise which is dangerous to the security of any life, property, place or thing in India or any part of the territory thereof. The objectives of CD are as follows:-

- i. To minimize loss of life and damage to property.
- ii. To keep up the morale of the people in adverse conditions.
- iii. To restore normalcy as early as possible and maintain continuity of production.

CD activities include preventive, control and restorative measures as stated below:

**i. Preventive:**

- a. Establishment of a warning system and its testing.
- b. Enrolment and training of volunteers and awareness of general public regarding CD.
- c. Provision of arrangements for blackout and obscuration of light.
- d. Earmarking of trenches and other shelters.
- e. Camouflage of vital installations and industries.
- f. Arrangement for planned evacuation of population from threat areas.

**ii. Control:**

- a. Arrangements for accurate damage assessment and risk assessment.
- b. Provision for search and rescue of affected people.

- c. Provision for an efficient first-aid mechanism and transportation of the injured.
  - d. Effective control and coordination of all services at place of damage.
  - e. Arranging for clearance of debris and road blocks.
  - f. Provision for an Auxiliary Fire Fighting setup to augment the resources of fire brigade.
  - g. Reporting of unexploded bombs and safety precautions along with protective measures.
- iii. Restorative:**
- a. Arrangement for facilities like food, shelter, clothing etc. for the affected and homeless.
  - b. Arrangement for salvage, care and disposal of property from houses destroyed or damaged.
  - c. Provision to deal with disposal of dead both humans and animals.
  - d. Provision for a network for dissemination of information on all aspects.
  - e. Coordination with Municipal health authorities for control of infection and contamination.
  - f. Restoration of all utility services as early as possible.

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## 7.5 FIRE SERVICES

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Managing fires is more technical than perceived. It needs comprehensive study in risk evaluation of each single area, preparation of risk mapping plans for each zone, study of preparedness level in terms of especial equipment and training of personnel, fool proof communication system and periodic mock drills. The role for the Fire Services is not just limited to fire fighting only but it also plays the role of a disaster management agency especially in urban areas. It can provide basic Search and Rescue service and can also coordinate in event of a disaster situation with other agencies like the police and health services.

There is a Standing Fire Advisory Council to examine the technical problems related to the Fire Services. National Fire Codes were to be formulated having Indian Standards Institution and codes of practices and compilation of relevant portions, pacification pertaining to fire prevention and fire safety, occurring in various Acts and Regulations. The Fire Brigade had a heterogeneous character and are administered by the States and Union Territories as fire is a state subject. The Ministry of Home Affairs renders technical advice to States and Union Territories and the Central Ministries on fire protection, fire prevention and fire legislation. The National Fire Service College, Nagpur conducts different types of courses for the training of Fire Officers in India, it is the only college of its kind in South-East Asia and it trains Fire Officers of several countries.

A model Fire Service Bill should include:

- Force Structure under state government with provision for appointments and personnel.
- Expedites to include levy of fire tax and fees for services red.
- Fire fighting property – acquisition
- Penalties for violation
- Miscellaneous – Training, liability, information, water requirement

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## **7.5 HOME GUARDS**

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The Home Guards constitute a voluntary organisation raised by the states both in rural and urban areas, with the following main functions:-

- i. Serve as auxiliary to the police and generally help in maintaining security.
- ii. Help the community in any kind of emergency like an air raid, a fire, a flood and an epidemic.
- iii. May have functional units to provide essential services such as military training, fire brigades, nursing and first aid, operation of water and power supply installations etc.

The Home Guards are useful for providing CD services. They are under the control of the State Government.

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## **7.5 DISASTER RESPONSE FUNCTIONS**

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Police is primary to response in case of emergencies and therefore there is a need to identify them better for the purpose of disaster management.

The police organisations should have trained and equipped disaster rescue teams as part of the local plans.

A coordinating agency amongst the para military forces be nominated for disaster management.

Certain Paramilitary forces having resources like medical, air transport, temporary shelters etc earmarked in designated areas of their presence in partnership with other governmental or non-governmental organisations.

Separate budgetary provision to be made for disaster management related training, equipping and storing for these services.

Police is mobilized to reach the site of disaster immediately with a view to carry out relief and rescue operations in coordination agencies. It is also the responsibility of the police to maintain security and law and order at disaster locations where there might be chaos and miscreants may take advantage of the situation. Police personnel deployed for such relief operations prevent commission of cognizable offences including all offences against property, human body and public tranquility. The police communication system is made available for transmission and receipt of messages in connection with disasters. The police also regulate the movement of victims, rescue and relief, medical assistance, and supplies.

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## **7.6 YOUTH ORGANISATIONS**

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Youth movement is a critical component of the education system that can play an important role in the area of disaster management. The following institutions have capability potential, and are very suitable for disaster management:

- i. The National Cadet Corps (NCC)
- ii. Bharat Scouts & Guides
- iii. National Service Scheme (NSS)

iv. Nehru Yuvak Kendra (NYK)

NCC, Boy Scouts and the Girls Guides, NSS and such organized youth should include Disaster Management as one of their main activities. They could be incorporated into the local level relief and awareness programme. NYK, Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals at the grass-root level to be organized for creating a mass movement for disaster preparedness.

### **National Cadet Corps**

The NCC came into existence on the 16<sup>th</sup> July, 1948 under the NCC Act XXI of 1948 under the Ministry of Defence with the following objectives:

- i. To develop character, comradeship, ideals of service and capacity for leadership in the youth of the country;
- ii. To stimulate interest in the defence of the country by providing service training to youth; and
- iii. To build up a reserve to enable the Armed Forces to expand rapidly in a national emergency.

The NCC curriculum was extended to include community development as part of the NCC syllabus. Its broad activities are institutional training, community development, youth exchange programme, sports and adventure training. All the activities of NCC tend to develop a trained and disciplined manpower to help the country in the eventuality of disaster emergency. NCC can play an important role in Disaster Management due to the followings:

- i. The physical fitness, including their participation in adventure, sports and games to make them eminently and suitably for assisting the country in such situation.
- ii. Activities to shape defence force aims and objectives. As armed forces are sometimes required to work in disaster management area, the NCC also tries to give some similar inputs to NCC Cadets, and
- iii. Some training inputs are there in their activities which enable them to provide first-aid services.

### **Bharat Scouts & Guides**

The Boy Scouting and the Girls Guiding as movements started in India in 1909 and 1910 respectively. Now they are known as the Bharat Scouts & Guides with the objectives to:

- i. Make boy scouts and girl guides resourceful, self-reliant, and ever helpful towards others.
- ii. Enable them discover their latent faculties and talents.
- iii. Enable them to express them creatively.
- iv. Promote character-building spirit of adventure and spirit of service amongst the youth.

These activities are not only recreational to students but also develop endurance, build competencies to survive in difficult situations and provide opportunities to serve the society. Thus, it is seen that the major emphasis in their training is on resourcefulness, self-reliance, character building and service to the community. Since the age of the scouts and guides is usually below 16, they have the idealism in themselves and a very good material to develop right type of attitudes and also

some skills such as first-aid, providing relief, especially when it comes to distribution of food and other relief material to the victims of disaster. However, there is a need to focus on those activities that enable them to become effective disaster management volunteers specially in strengthening communication network and in certain cases even in the rescue work.

### **National Service Scheme**

National Service Scheme (NSS) was introduced in India in a formal way in 1969 with the central theme the students should always keep before them their social responsibility. The National Policy on Education, 1986 has recognized the role of NSS in serving the community. The main objectives of NSS are:

- i. Understand the community in which they work
- ii. Understand themselves in relation to their community
- iii. Identify the needs and problems of the community and involve themselves in problem-solving process
- iv. Develop among them a sense of social and civic responsibility
- v. Utilize their knowledge in finding practical solution to individual and community problems
- vi. Develop competence require for group living and sharing of responsibility
- vii. Gain skills in mobilizing community participation
- viii. Acquire leadership qualities and democratic thoughts
- ix. Develop capacity to meet emergencies and natural disasters, and
- x. Practical national integration and social harmony.

The NSS programmes may be classified into regular NSS activities and special camping programmes. Broad areas of activities are:

- i. Environment enrichment and conservation
- ii. Health, family welfare and nutrition programme
- iii. Programmes aimed at creating an awareness for improvement of the status of women
- iv. Social Service Programmes
- v. Production oriented Programmes
- vi. Relief and Rehabilitation work during natural calamities
- vii. Education and recreation

Some other similar programmes are:

- i. Youth Against Dirt and Disease (1974)
- ii. Youth for Rural Reconstruction
- iii. Orissa Cyclone Relief Work
- iv. Gujarat Earthquake Relief Programme

### **Nehru Yuvak Kendra**

Now one of the largest grass root level organisation of its kind in the world, NYKS was established to harness and channelise the power of youth on the principles of voluntarism, self help and participation. On the present reckoning, youth in India forms nearly 35% of the total population which has already crossed 1 billion mark. India's youth also account for 35.8 per cent of the world's total youth population. This is a vital vibrant and dynamic human resource having bearing on the future state of not only India but the also the entire world.

The Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan has 500 district offices, 46 regional offices, 18 zones, 1000 youth development centers and over 181 thousand village based youth clubs enrolled under it. The purpose behind these clubs at the grass-root level is to form village-level voluntary action groups of youth that may come together with concern for the poorest of the poor.

NYKS' strength lies in 5000 national service volunteers and nearly 8 million youth volunteers through a vast network of Youth Clubs and Mahila Mandals at the grass-root level. Through NYKS, these village-based organizations have become local pressure groups as well as catalytic agents for socio-economic, cultural, political and environmental transformation. These groups have in fact become Functional Action Groups with rural sustainability and self-reliance as their hallmark. When viewed in these terms, the role of NYKS could be defined as that of not merely an organization but a mass movement, that can play an important role in disaster management.

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## 7.7 Conclusion

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Best assurance for safety is a constant state of preparedness to face any sudden calamity. Since disasters are no longer limited to any particular area, such preparedness has to be all-pervasive in a nation; covering all spheres of activity. In disaster response all available resources are pressed into service by the government and administration due to the paucity of personnel and urgency of the situation. Any organised work force would be useful in a disaster situation for search and rescue, providing relief in form of food and shelter, and for various tasks. The trained manpower available with country has to be further strengthened to help direct them better for disaster management. In this the role of organisations like police, voluntary establishments like civil defence and youth services like NCC and NSS provide yeomen service during disasters.

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## 7.8 Key Concepts

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**Federal Structure:** System of government in which the States are coordinated by a central government but the states also have the powers and laws within their territory.

**Military:** The nation's Armed Forces. This is a term with which the common man is familiar and includes all the wings.

**Para-Military Forces:** The forces of a military nature created for specific tasks.

**Nodal Ministry:** The Ministry mainly responsible.

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## 7.9 References and Further Reading

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Carter, W. Nick, 1991. Disaster Management: A Disaster Manager's Handbook, Asian Development Bank, Manila.

Department of Agriculture and Cooperation, 2001. National Disaster Response Plan : A Document prepared by the High Powered Committee on Disaster Management, Ministry of Agriculture, Govt. of India, New Delhi.

Ministry of Home Affairs has prepared a Compendium of Instructions on Civil Defence and Handbooks

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## **7.10 Activities**

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- 1) What are the various Para-Military Forces in the country, briefly give the important roles of any five.
- 2) How is the police employed in disaster response.
- 3) Elaborate on the role of youth organisation in disaster management.