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**NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP) was first released in 2016. The primary aim of the plan is to make India disaster resilient and drastically lessen the damage caused during and in the aftermath of disasters, natural and man-made. The plan was updated in 2018.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) has released fresh guidelines for restarting manufacturing and chemical industries after the lockdown period ends.

It has issued guidelines on Chemical Disasters, 2007, Management of Chemical (Terrorism) Disasters, 2009 and the Strengthening of Safety and Security For Transportation of POL Tankers, 2010.

Due to several weeks of lockdown and the closure of industrial units, it is possible that some of the operators might not have followed the established SOP. As a result, some of the manufacturing facilities, pipelines, valves, etc. may have residual chemicals, which may pose risk. The same is true for storage facilities with hazardous chemicals and flammable materials.

The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is the apex body for Disaster Management in India. Prime Minister heads NDMA. It is a statutory body created under the Disaster Management Act 2005.

Its primary purpose is to coordinate the response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.

The **objectives** of the NDMP are listed below:

1. To improve understanding of disaster risk, vulnerabilities and hazards.

2. To strengthen the governance of disaster risk at every level, i.e., from national to local.

3. To invest in the reduction of disaster risk for resilience by means of structural, non-structural and financial measures, and also by a comprehensive capacity development.

4. To improve disaster preparedness for effective response.

5. To encourage ‘Build Back Better in recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation.

6. To prevent disasters and ensure a significant decrease in the disaster risk and loss of life, livelihood, health and assets including physical, economic, cultural, social and environmental assets.

7. Enhance resilience and check new disasters from emerging and reduce existing ones.

8. To promote the execution of inclusive and integrated structural, economic, social, legal, health, cultural, environmental, educational, political, technological and institutional measures to reduce and prevent hazard exposure and vulnerabilities to disasters.

9. To empower communities as well as local authorities to manage and decrease disaster risks.

10. To bolster technical and scientific capabilities in all areas of disaster management.

11. To develop capacity at every level to effectively respond to multiple hazards and for community-based management of disaster.

12. To offer clarity on the responsibilities and roles of the various departments and ministries involved.

13. To foster a culture of disaster risk mitigation and prevention at all levels.

14. To enable the mainstreaming of disaster management concerns into planning.

The Plan has listed **18 broad activities** to serve as a ready reckoner guide. They are:

a) Search and Rescue of People and Animals

b) Evacuation of People and Animals

c) Medical Care

d) Housing and Temporary Shelters

e) Power

f) Food & Essential Supplies

g) Communication

h) Transportation

i) Rehabilitation and Ensuring Safety of Livestock and other Animals, Veterinary Care

j) Early Warning, Maps, Satellite inputs, Information Dissemination

k) Fuel

l) Data Collection and Management

m) Disposal of Animal Carcasses

n) Drinking-Water/ Dewatering Pumps/ Sanitation Facilities/ Public Health

o) Relief Logistics and Supply Chain Management

p) Fodder for livestock in scarcity-hit areas

q) Media Relations

r) Relief Employment

Thus, NDMP covers all the following phases of disaster management:

1. Prevention

2. Mitigation

3. Response

4. Recovery