



# IAS PARLIAMENT

*Information is Empowering*

A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative

## Disaster Response

### What is the issue?

\n\n

\n

- Recent floods in parts of eastern and western India have left many dead and displacing thousands.

\n

- This has increased the need for a massive capacity-building programme to deal with frequent, destructive weather events.

\n

\n\n

### What actions are required?

\n\n

\n

- Protocols followed by **State governments to deal with floods** need an urgent review.

\n

- Catastrophic events, such as the Chennai flood of 2015, necessitate a review of the protocol followed by State governments in controlling flows from dams and reservoirs.

\n

- Some states have not been able to use **disaster relief funds** as intended.

\n

- The Centre has asked states to set off the unutilised portion when making fresh claims which is unfair for people in urgent need.

\n

- **Other actions** people need on the ground include short-term housing, food, safe water, access to health care and protection for women, children and the elderly.

\n

- With neither **social support** nor **financial instruments** available to rebuild lives, alleviating financial losses of the victims is crucial for a return to

normality.

\n

- It is essential to look at the **public health** dimension as many without the coping capacity develop mental health issues including post-traumatic stress disorder in the wake of such catastrophes, and need counselling.
- A review of the deployment of **National Disaster Response Force** teams near water bodies is required.
- This is to be coupled with data compiled by the Central Water Commission, which identifies the hotspots where better management and perhaps additional reservoirs can mitigate damage.
- Given the unprecedented events like even drought-prone regions in Gujarat and Rajasthan encountering floods, governments' response is of crucial importance.

\n

\n\n

\n\n

**Source: The Hindu**

\n



**IAS PARLIAMENT**  
*Information is Empowering*  
A Shankar IAS Academy Initiative