



## EDITORIAL: THE HINDU

### GENERAL STUDIES 3: DISASTER MANAGEMENT

TOPIC: DISASTER MANAGEMENT BILL

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### DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2024:

#### Top-Down Approach

- The Bill shifts away from the participatory governance model established in the 2005 Act, replacing inclusive terms like "supervision" with top-down directives such as "monitor" and "guidelines."

#### Undermining Local Communities

- The Bill disregards the vital role of local communities, panchayats, and NGOs, which have been crucial in disaster response (e.g., Kerala floods, Kedarnath disaster).
- It neglects global frameworks that highlight local communities as "first responders."

#### Exclusion of Vulnerable Groups

- The Bill does not address the specific vulnerabilities of women, disabled individuals, marginalized castes, and LGBTQIA communities, undermining its inclusivity.

#### Lack of Accountability

- The Bill lacks mechanisms for evaluating district authorities' disaster preparedness, increasing the risk of political exploitation.

#### Key Changes in Disaster Management Plans

- The responsibility for disaster management plans shifts from the National and State Executive Committees to the NDMA and SDMA.
- These bodies are tasked with assessing risks, providing technical assistance, recommending relief standards, and managing disaster databases.

#### Urban Disaster Management Authorities (UDMA)

- The Bill allows the creation of Urban Disaster Management Authorities in state capitals and cities, but lacks clarity on their purpose and the challenges posed by urban encroachments, which exacerbate flooding.

#### Exclusion of Relief Provisions

- Several provisions ensuring minimum relief standards, loan repayment relief, and provisions for widows, orphans, and the homeless have been omitted, leaving these areas unaddressed.



## Neglect of Animal Welfare

- The Bill fails to consider disaster-related animal deaths or the implementation of the Animal Birth Control (ABC) Rules, 2023, for disaster preparedness.

## Omission of Regional Collaboration

- The Bill overlooks regional and international cooperation mechanisms, excluding opportunities for collaboration with groups like SAARC, BIMSTEC, and BRICS, and missing references to the SAARC Agreement on Rapid Response to Natural Disasters.

## Conclusion

- The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024, weakens the inclusive, participatory, and accountable framework established by the 2005 Act, reducing its effectiveness in disaster management.

**Source:** [https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-lapses-in-the-disaster-management-bill/article69026441.ece#:~:text=The%20Disaster%20Management%20\(Amendment,and%20efficiency%20from%20the%20Act.](https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-lapses-in-the-disaster-management-bill/article69026441.ece#:~:text=The%20Disaster%20Management%20(Amendment,and%20efficiency%20from%20the%20Act.)

