

**29– 08 – 2023**

**News:** Karnataka will seek Central aid after declaring drought: CM

- As the ground truth assessment is on to know if rain deficit taluks could be declared drought hit, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said the State would approach the Centre for financial assistance after the declaration of drought.

## **Drought**

- Variability of rainfall leading to rainfall deficiency and water shortage causes drought. In India, almost three-fourths of annual rainfall is received during South West Monsoon Period (June-September) and erratic nature of monsoon (South West Monsoon), with long dry spells & high temperature is mainly responsible for drought.
- Drought is declared by the respective State Governments taking into account rainfall situation, crop growth, etc.

### **Types of droughts**

- Meteorological Drought – referring to lack of precipitation.

- Agricultural drought – referring to lack of moisture in the soil where crops grow.
- Hydrological drought – referring to low levels of water in reservoirs.
- Socio-economic drought – referring to water shortages affecting people in society, which impacts availability of foodgrains, fodder, etc.

## **National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF)**

- National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF) was renamed as National Disaster Response Fund (NDRF) with the **enactment of the Disaster Management Act in 2005**.
- It is defined in **Section 46 of the Disaster Management Act, 2005 (DM Act)**.
- It is placed in the **“Public Account”** of Government of India under **"Reserve funds not bearing interest"**.
- It is managed by the Central Government for **meeting the expenses for emergency response, relief and rehabilitation due to any threatening disaster situation or disaster**.
- It **supplements the State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) in case of a disaster of severe nature, provided adequate funds are not available in the SDRF**.

- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories, and 90% for special category States/UTs (northeast States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, and Jammu & Kashmir).
- NDRF is financed through the levy of a cess on certain items, chargeable to excise and customs duty, and approved annually through the Finance Bill.
- Currently, a National Calamity Contingent Duty (NCCD) is levied to finance the NDRF and additional budgetary support is provided as and when necessary.
- NCCD is levied in the case of goods specified in the Seventh Schedule (goods manufactured or produced).
- Department of Agriculture and Cooperation under the Ministry of Agriculture and Farmer Welfare monitors relief activities for calamities associated with drought, hailstorms, pest attacks and cold wave/ frost while rest of the natural calamities are monitored by the Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA).
- Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) audits the accounts of NDRF.

## **State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF)**

- State Disaster Response Fund (SDRF) has been constituted under Section 48 (1) (a) of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

- It was constituted based on the recommendations of the 13<sup>th</sup> Finance Commission.
- It is the primary fund available with the State governments for responses to notified disasters to meet expenditure for providing immediate relief.
- It is audited by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India (CAG) every year.
- The Centre contributes 75% of the SDRF allocation for general category States and Union Territories and 90% for special category States and Union Territories (northeastern States, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Himachal Pradesh, Jammu and Kashmir).
- The annual Central contribution is released in two equal installments as per the recommendation of the Finance Commission.
- Disaster(s) Covered under SDRF include Cyclone, drought, earthquake, fire, flood, tsunami, hailstorm, landslide, avalanche, cloudburst, pest attack, frost and cold waves.
- A State Government may use up to 10% of the funds available under the SDRF for providing immediate relief to the victims of natural disasters that they consider to be 'disasters' within the local context in the State and which are not included in the notified list of disasters of the Ministry of Home Affairs.