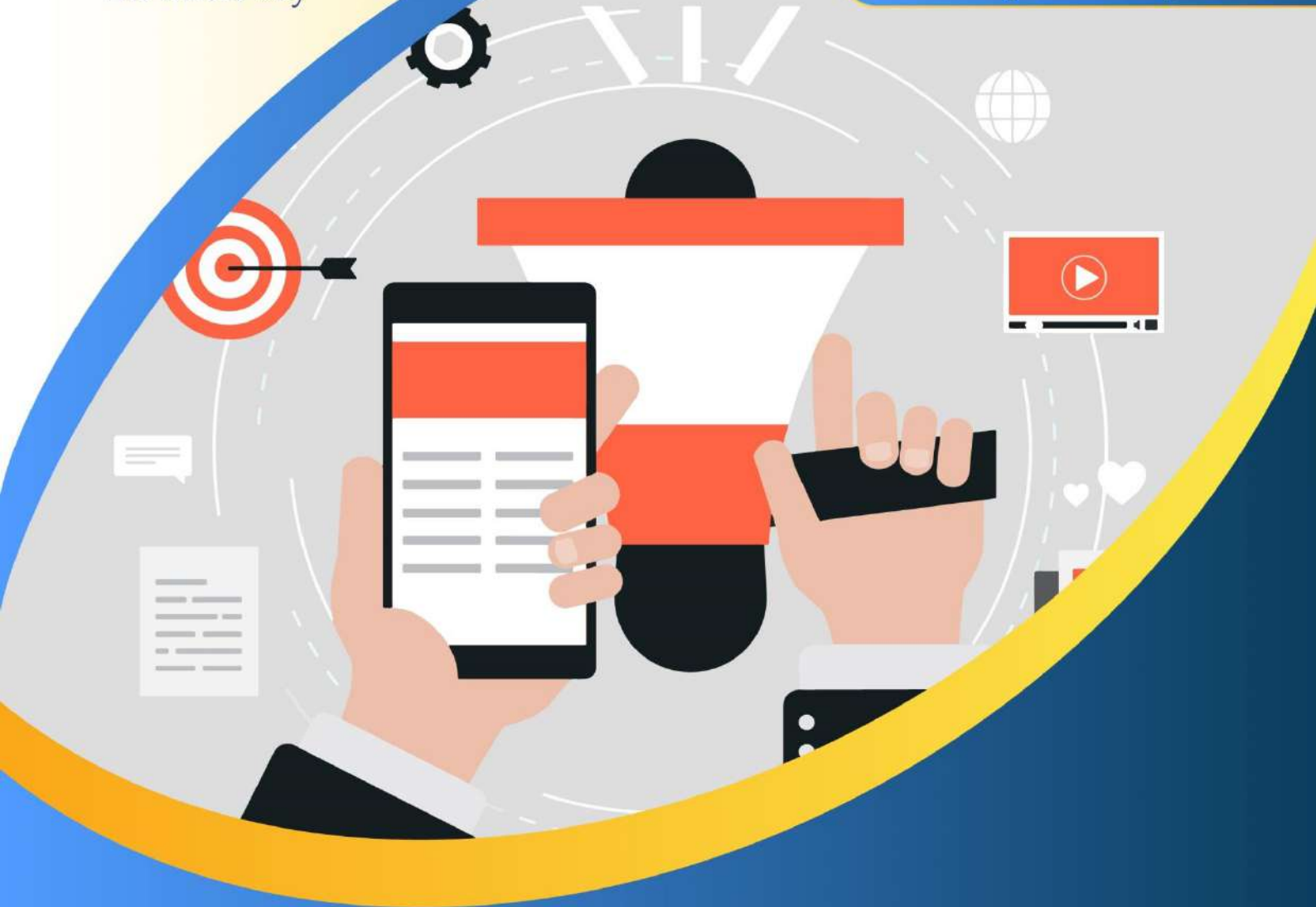


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# 2021 Current Affairs for Prelims 2021

## DISASTER MANAGEMENT

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# DISASTER MANAGEMENT

## 1. Difference between PMNRF and PMCARES

### What is PMNRF?

- Prime Minister's National Relief Fund (PMNRF) is the fund raised to provide support for people affected by natural and man-made disasters.
- In pursuance of an appeal by the then Prime Minister, Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru in January, 1948, it was established with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.
- The resources of the PMNRF are now utilized primarily to render immediate relief to families of those killed in natural calamities like floods, cyclones and earthquakes, etc. and to the victims of the major accidents and riots.
- To undertake and support relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or calamity or distress, either man-made or natural.
- To render financial assistance, provide grants or payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to assist the affected population.

### What is the PM CARES Fund?

- The Prime Minister's Citizen Assistance and Relief in Emergency Situations Fund (PM CARES) is a **public charitable trust**.
- It has been set up keeping in mind the need for having a **dedicated fund with the primary objective of dealing with any kind of emergency or distress situation, like posed by the COVID-19 pandemic**, and to provide relief to the affected Differences and similarities between PMNRF and PM CARES Fund

Areas of difference	PMNRF	PM CARES Fund
<b>Establishment</b>	It was set up in 1948 with public contributions to assist displaced persons from Pakistan.	PM CARES Fund was created on 27 March 2020, following the COVID-19 pandemic in India.
<b>Head</b>	The Prime Minister heads the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.	The Prime Minister is Chairperson (ex-officio) of the PM CARES Fund and Minister of Defence, Minister of Home Affairs and Minister of Finance, Government of India are ex-officio Trustees of the Fund.
<b>Administration</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The fund is administered on an honorary basis by Joint Secretary to the Prime Minister as Secretary of the fund.</li><li>• He is assisted on Honorary basis by an Officer of the rank of Director.</li></ul>	<p>The fund is administered on an honorary basis by a Joint Secretary (Administration) in the PMO as Secretary to the fund, who is assisted on honorary basis by an Officer of the rank of Director/Deputy Secretary (Administration) in the PMO.</p> <p>The Prime Minister's Office provides such administrative and secretarial support to the Trustees for the management and administration of the Trust, as may be required by the Trustees.</p>

<b>Disbursement of the fund</b>	The disbursement out of the fund is made at the discretion of the Prime Minister, and in accordance with the Prime Minister's directions	The Trustees of the PM CARES Fund have powers to formulate rules/criteria for carrying out any of the Objectives of the Trust.
<b>Donations/contributions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PMNRF accepts only voluntary contributions by individuals and institutions.</li> <li>• Contributions flowing out of budgetary sources or from the balance sheets of the Public Sector Undertakings are not accepted.</li> <li>• Donations in foreign currency may be made to PMNRF</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PM CARES Fund accepts voluntary contributions by individuals/organizations as well as contributions as part of CSR from Companies/Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs).</li> <li>• However, contributions flowing out of budgetary sources of the PSUs are not accepted.</li> <li>• It is also exempt from the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act, 2010, and accepts foreign contributions</li> </ul>
<b>Legal framework</b>	-	PM CARES Fund has been registered as a Public Charitable Trust. The trust deed of PM CARES Fund has been registered under the Registration Act, 1908 at New Delhi on 27th March, 2020.
<b>Audit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PMNRF is audited by an independent auditor outside the Government. At present, Sarc &amp; Associates, Chartered Accountants are the auditors.</li> </ul>	PM CARES Fund is audited by an independent auditor. Trustees of the Fund during the 2nd meeting held on 23.04.2020 decided to appoint M/s SARC & Associates, Chartered Accountants, New Delhi as the auditors of PM CARES Fund for 3 years.
<b>Tax benefits</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This fund is exempted from Income Tax under Section 10(23)(c).</li> <li>• All contributions towards the PMNRF are exempted from Income Tax under Section 80(G).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All contributions towards the PM CARES Fund are 100% exempt from Income Tax under Section 80(G) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 for those who opt for the old tax slabs.</li> <li>• The fund is exempted from paying Income Tax as per Section 10(23)(c) of Income Tax Act, 1961</li> </ul>

<p><b>CSR activities</b></p>	<p>The facility of getting uncapped corporate donations is not available to the PMNRF or the Chief Minister's Relief Fund in states. In fact, the previous CSR guidelines restricted the use of corporate donations to fund government schemes.</p>	<p>Companies donating to the PM Cares Fund are allowed to earmark their contribution under the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR).</p>
<p><b>Utilization of the fund</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A very large proportion of the funds stands committed to be utilized in a phased manner for various schemes announced by PM.</li> <li>• Funds are also earmarked for medical assistance, floods, drought, terrorist violence and other such unforeseen occurrences, with a reserve for emergencies.</li> <li>• The PMNRF provides financial assistance to indigent patients for treatment of major diseases at Government/PMNRF empanelled hospitals to partially defray the expenses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It can be utilized for following activities</li> <li>• To undertake and support relief or assistance of any kind relating to a public health emergency or any other kind of emergency, calamity or distress, either man-made or natural,</li> <li>• To render financial assistance, provide grants of payments of money or take such other steps as may be deemed necessary by the Board of Trustees to assist the affected population.</li> </ul>

## 2. Covid-19 Performance Index:

**In news-** India ranks 86 of 98 countries in Covid response index, New Zealand, Vietnam, Taiwan in top 3.

### About the Index-

- The index seeks “to gauge the relative performance of countries”.
- Publicly available and comparable data on Covid-19 response was used for this index.

- The index is based on six different indicators- Confirmed cases, confirmed deaths, cases per million people, deaths per million people, cases as a proportion of tests, and tests per thousand people.
- Fewer reported cases and deaths, both in aggregate and per capita terms, point towards a better response to the virus.
- More tests conducted on a per capita basis reveal an accurate picture of the extent of the pandemic at the national level.
- Lower rates of positive tests indicate greater degrees of control over the transmission of Covid-19.

#### Performance of countries-

- New Zealand, Vietnam and Taiwan have been ranked the top three spots, respectively.
- Sri Lanka was the best faring nation in South Asia, ranking 10.
- Mexico, Colombia, Iran and the United States featured among the bottom five countries in terms of performance.

### 3. Artificial Lake in Chamoli:

**In news-** The recent glacial burst in the Chamoli district of Uttarakhand is an eye-opener to the ongoing disruption of the ecological balance.

#### Chamoli Lake-

- The lake was formed **upstream of the Rishi Ganga river** after the February flash floods in Uttarakhand's Chamoli district.
- The lake is said to be 8 to 9 metres deep with around 50000 cubic metres of water in it.
- What is Glacial Outburst?
- When glaciers break off, the space underneath them develops into a glacial lake filled with water.
- The breaking off of the glacial lake is termed as **Glacial Lake Outburst Flood (GLOF)** or glacial outburst.
- The glacial outburst occurs when the water level of the lake rises or when the glacier retreats.
- **Earthquakes, erosion, volcanic eruptions, build of water pressure or an avalanche of heavy snow can cause the glaciers to burst.**
- The glacier outburst can also happen after the displacement of a massive water pocket in a glacial lake when an adjacent glacier retreats into it.
- In Uttarakhand glacier burst case, it is believed that the water pockets might have developed within the Nanda Devi glacier that led to this incident.
- Some experts also link this tragedy to climate change and global warming.

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## 5. Air Ambulance:

**In news-** Karnataka Chief Minister launched the air ambulance service recently.

### Key updates-

- The International Critical Air Transfer Team(ICATT), a Bengaluru-based air ambulance company and Kyathi, an aviation firm, launched air ambulance services for long-distance emergency travel, helicopters and land transport for last mile connectivity in the region.
- The fixed wing aircraft will be stationed at HAL airport and will be equipped with a German Isolation Pod that can be used to transport critical covid-19 patients as well.

### What is an air ambulance?

An air ambulance service is with a **highly specialised medical team that helps with the transfer of critically ill and trauma patients and organs** from one place to another. The medical team flies on a helicopter or a fixed-wing aircraft that is completely converted into flying ICU units it will also have the **following medical equipments:**

- Newborn intensive care unit (NICU) equipment
- C-reactive Protein (CRP) equipment
- State of the art stretchers
- ECGs (An electrocardiogram)
- Heart monitoring units etc.

### The International Critical Air Transfer Team (ICATT):

- A Specialised Air Ambulance Service, ICATT is the only Comprehensive Patient Transfer Solution that is owned and led by doctors with over 14 years of domain knowledge and experience in the field of AeroMedical Transfers.
- ICATT provides comprehensive patient and organ transfer solutions for every medical emergency
- ICATT Air ambulance can reach any remote location in India to help the people who are in need of emergency medical care.

ICATT provides its services in cities such as Hyderabad, Bangalore, Chennai, Tiruchi, Goa, Patna, and some more.

## 6. PROJECT O<sub>2</sub> for INDIA

**In news -** Recently PROJECT O2 for INDIA has been launched to play a significant role in the wake of the second wave of COVID-19.

### What is it?

- 'Project O2' caters to meeting the rising demand for medical oxygen by supporting government hospitals to procure oxygen and related high priority equipment from approved manufacturers and start-ups.

- It involves supporting manufacturers and start-ups to scale up capacity, addressing logistics challenges, enabling supplies to extended/make-shift hospitals and strengthening R&D and innovation for future pandemics.
- Under this project, a National Consortium of Oxygen is enabling the national level supply of critical raw materials related to medical oxygen.
- Raw materials include zeolites, setting up of small oxygen plants, manufacturing compressors, final products, i.e., oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators.
- To execute this project, Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser, Government of India (O/o PSA, GoI) is facilitating at the national level, supply of quality oxygen cylinders, concentrators, and ventilators through four reputable national technology incubators.

#### **National Consortium of Oxygen-**

- The consortium is looking forward to providing immediate to short-term relief and to strengthen the manufacturing ecosystem for long-term preparedness.
- A committee of experts has been evaluating critical equipment such as oxygen plants, concentrators, and ventilators from a pool of India-based manufacturers, start-ups, and MSMEs (in partnership with FICCI, MESA, etc.).
- **The Manufacturing and supply consortium also includes** Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL); Tata Consulting Engineers (TCE); C-CAMP, Bengaluru; IIT Kanpur (IIT-K); IIT Delhi (IIT-D); IIT Bombay (IIT-B), IIT Hyderabad (IIT-H); IISER, Bhopal; Venture Center, Pune; and more than 40 MSMEs.
- It has started to secure CSR/philanthropic grants from organizations like USAID, Edwards Lifesciences Foundation, ClimateWorks Foundation, etc...