

# Kerala floods: Disaster mitigation should be a subject in school curriculum, says NDRF

*Following Kerala floods, National Disaster Response Force says wants the subject of disaster mitigation be included in school curriculum to train students to become the first responders in times of natural calamities and help reduce casualties.*

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NDRF General said that school children, cadets of the National Cadet Corps (NCC) and village defence force personnel can play vital roles at the time of natural calamities. (Image: Getty)

The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) played a crucial role in Kerala floods where nearly 300 people have lost their lives since August 8 in the second spell of the monsoon that also displaced 10.4 lakh people.

Now, it has said that the subject of disaster mitigation should be included in the school curriculum to train students to become the first responders in times of natural calamities and help reduce casualties.

Need to prepare children for natural calamities

**"The need of the hour is awareness on natural calamities. We can train children on disaster mitigation by making it part of the school curriculum,"** Director General of NDRF, Sanjay Kumar told PTI.

Kumar also said that school children, [cadets of the National Cadet Corps \(NCC\)](#) and village defense force personnel can play vital roles at the time of natural calamities like floods, fires, quakes or tsunamis, and can be trained properly so that they can be the first responders in any disaster.

## NDRF's rescue operation in Kerala

Talking about the latest rescue operations in Kerala, the DG said they have deployed their highest-ever strength in a single state with 207 boats and 58 teams.

He also said that the force received thousands of distress calls at its control room and every effort was made to reach the marooned and flood-affected people of Kerala.

**"Water level was up to the height of 2-3 stories in certain locations and rescue teams waded through river-like currents to reach the affected,"** Kumar informed.

The operation was difficult in [Kerala](#) as we faced flooding, house and road-collapse disaster situations all at one time, the DG said.

## Combat training by NDRF

- The NDRF is India's federal disaster contingency force and has undertaken over 3,000 operations all over the country till now
- The NDRF, raised in 2006, has 12 battalions with a strength of over 13,000 personnel based in various states
- It is currently deployed and pre-positioned in a number of flood-affected and prone states, especially Kerala

DG Kumar said that about 67 lakh people across the country have been imparted basic combat training by the NDRF till now as part of its efforts to create effective response against calamities like earthquakes and floods.