

I. COMMON TYPES OF DISASTERS IN INDIA

India is prone to a variety of natural and man-made disasters, influenced by its diverse geography and climatic conditions. The most common types include:

1. **Floods:** Monsoon rains frequently lead to flooding, especially in states like Bihar, Assam, and Uttar Pradesh. These floods can cause extensive damage to infrastructure, agriculture, and homes.
2. **Droughts:** Regions such as Rajasthan and parts of Maharashtra experience severe droughts, leading to water shortages and affecting crop yields. This has significant implications for food security and livelihoods.
3. **Cyclones:** The eastern coastline, particularly along the Bay of Bengal, is vulnerable to tropical cyclones. These storms can bring high winds, heavy rainfall, and storm surges, leading to widespread destruction.
4. **Earthquakes:** The northern and northeastern regions of India, especially near the Himalayas, are seismically active. Earthquakes can cause significant loss of life and property.
5. **Landslides:** Hilly areas, particularly in the Western Ghats and the Himalayas, are prone to landslides, particularly during heavy rains. These can disrupt transportation and pose risks to communities.
6. **Heatwaves:** Extreme heat events are common during the summer months, especially in northern and central India, leading to health risks and agricultural stress.
7. **Industrial Accidents:** Chemical spills and gas leaks are concerns in industrial zones, which can have devastating impacts on local communities.
8. **Fires:** Wildfires and urban fires pose significant risks, particularly in dry seasons.
9. **Pandemics:** Health crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic, have revealed vulnerabilities in public health systems.

Important Questions

1. *Define man-made disasters and list examples from our country.(3)*
2. *What are Tsunamis? How are they caused? (3)*
3. *Explain the common disaster types in India (10)*
4. *What are the most common types of disasters faced by India.(7)*
5. *What are the typical types of disasters that frequently occur in India? (10)*

II. LEGISLATIONS IN INDIA ON DISASTER MANAGEMENT

i) Common Disaster Legislations in India on Disaster Management

India has established several key legislations and policies aimed at disaster management to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery. Here are the most significant ones:

1. **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** This is the cornerstone of disaster management in India. It provides a legal framework for disaster management at the national, state, and local levels. Key provisions include:
 - Establishment of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) at the national level and State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) at the state level.
 - Formulation of disaster management plans, guidelines, and policies.
 - Empowerment of authorities to coordinate disaster response and recovery efforts.
2. **National Policy on Disaster Management, 2009:** This policy outlines the principles and frameworks for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, and response. It emphasizes the importance of a proactive approach and community involvement in disaster management.
3. **Environment Protection Act, 1986:** While primarily focused on environmental protection, this act addresses issues related to industrial disasters and pollution control, providing guidelines for managing hazardous substances.
4. **Factories Act, 1948:** This act includes provisions for the safety and health of workers in industrial settings, which is crucial for preventing industrial disasters.
5. **The Mines Act, 1952:** This legislation governs the safety of mining operations and establishes measures to prevent accidents and ensure worker safety in mines.
6. **Building and Other Construction Workers (Regulation of Employment and Conditions of Service) Act, 1996:** This act ensures the safety and health of workers in the construction sector, mitigating risks related to building collapses.
7. **National Building Code:** This code provides guidelines for safe building practices and construction standards, reducing vulnerability to disasters.

8. **State-Specific Legislation:** Various states have their own disaster management policies and acts tailored to their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

ii) Role of local governments in implementing disaster management legislation in India

Local governments in India play a pivotal role in the implementation of disaster management legislation, particularly under the framework established by the Disaster Management Act, 2005. They are responsible for formulating and executing district disaster management plans that align with state and national policies. This involves assessing local vulnerabilities, identifying risks, and developing strategies tailored to community needs.

Local authorities facilitate community awareness and preparedness programs, engaging citizens in training exercises and drills to enhance disaster readiness. They collaborate with various stakeholders, including NGOs, community groups, and educational institutions, to promote a culture of preparedness.

During disasters, local governments act as the first responders, managing evacuation processes, coordinating emergency services, and ensuring the efficient distribution of relief materials. They also play a crucial role in post-disaster recovery, helping communities rebuild and implement lessons learned to mitigate future risks.

Additionally, local governments monitor and evaluate disaster management activities, ensuring compliance with legislation and improving overall resilience. Their intimate knowledge of local contexts enables them to address specific challenges effectively, making them essential to the success of disaster management efforts in India.

Important Questions

- State the legislations in India on disaster management (3)

- What role do local governments play in implementing disaster management legislation in India? (5)
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III. NATIONAL DISASTER MANAGEMENT POLICY

The National Disaster Management Policy of a country aims to provide a comprehensive framework for disaster risk reduction, preparedness, response, and recovery. It emphasizes a proactive approach to disaster management, integrating efforts across various sectors and levels of government. Key components include enhancing community resilience, promoting effective communication and coordination among agencies, and ensuring adequate training and resources for disaster response.

The policy also focuses on risk assessment and early warning systems to mitigate potential impacts of disasters. It encourages community participation and collaboration with non-governmental organizations to foster a culture of preparedness. Furthermore, the policy outlines roles and responsibilities for different stakeholders, ensuring a structured response during emergencies. Ultimately, it seeks to minimize the loss of life and property, safeguard livelihoods, and promote sustainable development in the face of natural and man-made disasters.

i) Objectives Of National Disaster Management Policy

The objectives of the National Disaster Management Policy are designed to enhance the country's resilience against disasters. Key objectives include:

1. **Risk Reduction:** To identify and mitigate disaster risks through proactive measures and planning.
2. **Preparedness:** To ensure that communities and agencies are well-prepared for potential disasters, including training and resource allocation.
3. **Response and Recovery:** To establish efficient response mechanisms for effective disaster management, minimizing loss of life and property.
4. **Community Engagement:** To promote community participation in disaster management, fostering local ownership and resilience.
5. **Coordination:** To facilitate coordination among government agencies, NGOs, and the private sector for a unified disaster response.
6. **Capacity Building:** To enhance the skills and knowledge of personnel involved in disaster management through continuous training.
7. **Awareness and Education:** To raise public awareness about disaster risks and encourage preparedness through educational programs.

ii) Elements Of National Disaster Management Policy

The National Disaster Management Policy comprises several key elements designed to ensure a comprehensive approach to disaster management:

1. **Prevention and Mitigation:** Strategies to reduce the risk of disasters and their impacts through infrastructure improvements and land-use planning.
2. **Preparedness:** Developing plans, training, and resources to ensure communities and agencies can effectively respond to disasters.

3. **Response:** Establishing a coordinated framework for emergency response, including communication protocols and resource allocation.
4. **Recovery:** Planning for post-disaster recovery to restore livelihoods and infrastructure while promoting resilience and sustainable development.
5. **Capacity Building:** Enhancing the skills and capabilities of individuals and organizations involved in disaster management through training and education.
6. **Community Participation:** Encouraging local involvement in disaster management processes to foster ownership and resilience.
7. **Monitoring and Evaluation:** Implementing systems to assess disaster risks and evaluate the effectiveness of policies and programs, ensuring continuous improvement.

IV. INSTITUTIONAL ARRANGEMENT FOR DISASTER MANAGEMENT IN INDIA.

The institutional arrangement for disaster management in India is multi-layered and designed to ensure effective coordination and response.

- i. National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)
- ii. The National Executive Committee
- iii. State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA)
- iv. District Disaster Management Authority (DDMA)
- v. Local Authorities
- vi. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)
- vii. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF)

1. National Level:

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA): Established in 2005, the NDMA is the apex body responsible for disaster management with the Prime Minister as Chairperson. It formulates policies and guidelines. For example, after the 2004 Tsunami, NDMA developed the National Policy on Disaster Management to enhance preparedness and response frameworks. NDMA is to be assisted by a National Executive Committee which comprises of Secretaries to the Government of India heading various Ministries or Departments having administrative control over Agriculture, Atomic Energy, Defence, drinking water supply, environment and forests, finance, health, power, rural development, science and technology, space, telecommunication, urban development and water resources. National Executive Committee is responsible for preparing and updating a National Plan for disaster management. The Plan includes measures to be taken for prevention of disasters or the mitigation of their effects; measures to be taken for the integration of mitigation measures in the development plans; measures to be taken for preparedness and capacity building to effectively respond to any threatening disaster situation or disaster; and defining the roles of various departments in respect of these measures

2. State Level:

- **State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs):** The Disaster Management Act 2005 also provides for setting up of State Disaster Management Authorities under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Minister. State Authority is to be assisted by a State Executive Committee under the Chairpersonship of the Chief Secretary of the State. Each state has an SDMA that implements national guidelines at the state level. For instance, the Maharashtra SDMA has developed specific plans for flood management, particularly after experiencing severe flooding in 2005 and 2019.

3. District Level:

- **District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs):** The structure of disaster management institutions goes down to the district level where the responsibility is given to DDMA which is headed by the Collector/ District Magistrate with elected

representative of the local authority as co-chairperson. DDMA will act as the planning, coordinating and implementing body for disaster management at the district level. These authorities are responsible for local preparedness and response. For example, the DDMA in Kerala played a crucial role in coordinating relief efforts during the devastating floods in 2018.

4. Local Level:

- **Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs):** Local governance bodies engage communities in disaster management. In Rajasthan, PRIs have been involved in promoting community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives, such as training programs and awareness campaigns.

5. National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM):

Capacity building is an important aspect of disaster management. This requires developing human resources to handle disaster management work and undertake studies and research on the subject. Disaster Management Act gives this mandate to the National Institute of Disaster Management.

The institute was formed as National Centre for Disaster Management (NCDM) in 1995 but was re-designated as National Institute of Disaster Management in 2005 after the enacting of the Disaster Management Act. The institute is headed by the Union Home Minister and Vice Chairman, NDMA also acts as the Vice-President of the Institute.

6. National Disaster Response Force (NDRF):

NDRF was constituted in 2006 with 8 battalions drawn from the paramilitary forces. Presently it has strength of 10 battalions. General superintendence of the force vests in NDMA and the force is headed by the Director General of NDRF and Civil Defence. These battalions are positioned at different locations to provide timely response to disaster situations and are available to State Governments at the time of need.

Important Questions

- *Explain the interrelation of National Disaster Management Policy with other national policies (3)*
- *Explain the role of National Institute of Disaster Management in our country. (3)*
- *What are the objectives of the National Disaster Management Policy? (3)*
- *State the objectives and main elements of national disaster management policy.(4)*
- *Explain the institutional arrangement for disaster management in India (6)*
- *Explain the role, composition and responsibilities of National Disaster Management Authority.(7)*
- *State the composition and role of National Executive Committee related with the National Policy on Disaster Management.(4)*
- *Discuss the key features and objectives of the National Disaster Management Policy in India. How does it guide the country in managing and reducing disaster risks? (7)*
- *Explain the institutional arrangement for disaster management in India. (4)*

V. The Sendai Framework For Disaster Risk Reduction

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030) is a 15 year global agreement between United Nations member states aimed at reducing disaster risk and enhancing resilience. The framework was adopted at the UN World Conference on Disaster Risk.

a. Targets of Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction establishes seven global targets to be achieved by 2030:

1. **Reduce Global Disaster Mortality:** This target aims to significantly lower the number of deaths caused by disasters. It focuses on implementing measures to protect vulnerable populations and improve response capabilities.
2. **Reduce the Number of Affected People:** The goal is to decrease the total number of individuals impacted by disasters, emphasizing preventive measures and preparedness strategies to safeguard communities.
3. **Reduce Direct Disaster Economic Loss:** This target seeks to minimize economic damage caused by disasters relative to global GDP. It encourages investments in resilient infrastructure and risk-informed economic planning.
4. **Increase the Number of Countries with Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies:** This target aims to ensure that more countries develop and implement national and local disaster risk reduction strategies, promoting a systematic approach to risk management.
5. **Enhance International Cooperation:** This target focuses on strengthening international partnerships to support developing countries in their disaster risk reduction efforts, facilitating knowledge sharing and resource mobilization.
6. **Increase the Availability of Early Warning Systems:** The goal is to ensure access to timely and effective disaster alerts and early warning systems, enhancing preparedness and response capabilities in communities at risk.
7. **Incorporate Disaster Risk Reduction into National and Local Strategies:** This target emphasizes the integration of disaster risk reduction into development plans and policies at all levels, ensuring a cohesive approach to risk management.

1.2 Priorities for action

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction outlines four key priorities for action:

1. **Understanding Disaster Risk:** This involves comprehensive assessment and analysis of disaster risks, integrating data on hazards and vulnerabilities into development planning to inform decision-making.
2. **Strengthening Disaster Risk Governance:** Effective governance is essential for disaster risk management. This priority emphasizes establishing robust institutional frameworks that promote accountability, participation, and integration of disaster risk reduction into policies across sectors.
3. **Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience:** It advocates for allocating resources to enhance resilience, focusing on infrastructure development, community preparedness, and social safety nets to support vulnerable populations.
4. **Enhancing Disaster Preparedness for Effective Response:** This priority stresses the importance of improving preparedness measures, including developing early warning systems, training responders, and conducting drills, ensuring communities can respond swiftly and effectively to disasters.

1.3 Guiding Principles of Sendai Framework

The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is guided by several key principles:

1. **People-Centered Approach:** This principle focuses on the needs, capacities, and involvement of individuals and communities. It recognizes that effective disaster risk

reduction requires the active participation of those at risk, ensuring their voices and experiences shape strategies and policies.

2. **Multi-Hazard Approach:** The framework promotes understanding and addressing a variety of hazards—natural and man-made—rather than isolating efforts to one type of disaster. This comprehensive perspective helps communities prepare for and respond to different threats simultaneously.
3. **Resilience and Sustainability:** Emphasizing the importance of building resilience, this principle calls for integrating disaster risk reduction into broader development goals. Sustainable practices should enhance a community's ability to withstand future shocks while promoting economic and social development.
4. **Inclusivity and Equity:** The framework advocates for the inclusion of all segments of society, particularly marginalized and vulnerable groups. Ensuring equitable access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making processes is crucial for effective disaster risk reduction.

International Cooperation: Recognizing that disasters often have transboundary impacts, this principle encourages collaboration among countries to share knowledge, resources, and best practices. International partnerships are vital for enhancing overall disaster resilience and response capacities.

Important Questions

- *State the targets, priorities and guiding principles of Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction.(8)*
- *List the global targets of Sendai framework and explain (7)*
- *List the guiding principles of Sendai framework and explain.(10)*
- *Discuss the priorities for action identified in the Sendai Framework. How can these priorities be tailored to address the specific needs and challenges faced by India? (9)*
- *Explain the guiding principles target and priorities for action according to the Sendai Framework for disaster risk reduction (14)*

