Disaster Management · GS - III

Describe various measures taken in India for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) before and after signing ‘Sendai Framework for DRR (2015-2030)’. How is this framework different from ‘Hyogo Framework for Action, 2005’?

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2018	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Disaster Management Act, 2005; NDMA and NDRF; Sendai Framework; Hyogo Framework; prevention and preparedness; risk governance; resilience and accountability

Model Answer

Introduction

Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) seeks to prevent new disaster risks, reduce existing risks and strengthen resilience. India’s approach has evolved from relief-centred responses towards prevention, preparedness and risk-informed development.

Measures Before the Sendai Framework

1. **Disaster Management Act, 2005:** Established the institutional framework for disaster management.
2. **NDMA and NDRF:** Created national-level arrangements for policy coordination and specialised response.
3. **Early-warning systems:** Improvements in cyclone forecasting, flood warnings and disaster communication enhanced preparedness.
4. **Mitigation measures:** Cyclone shelters, evacuation planning and structural safety initiatives reduced vulnerability.

5. **Hyogo Framework:** The 2005–2015 framework encouraged risk awareness, institutional preparedness and disaster resilience.

Measures After Signing the Sendai Framework in 2015

1. **National Disaster Management Plan:** India adopted a national plan in 2016, aligned substantially with the Sendai priorities.
2. **Risk assessment:** Greater emphasis was placed on hazard mapping, vulnerability assessment and risk-informed planning.
3. **Early warning and evacuation:** Cyclone forecasting and community-based evacuation systems were strengthened.
4. **Resilient infrastructure:** Initiatives such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure promote disaster-resilient development.
5. **Community preparedness:** Training, awareness and local disaster-management planning support resilience.

Sendai versus Hyogo

- **Scope:** Sendai covers seven global targets and four priorities for action; Hyogo focused on five priorities.
- **Risk prevention:** Sendai places stronger emphasis on understanding and preventing disaster risk, including underlying drivers.
- **Accountability:** Sendai provides clearer targets for reducing mortality, affected people, economic losses and infrastructure disruption.
- **Governance:** Sendai emphasises shared responsibility among governments, communities and other stakeholders.
- **Development integration:** Sendai more explicitly connects DRR with sustainable development and resilience.

Conclusion

Sendai strengthened the shift from managing disasters to managing risk. India must continue investing in resilient infrastructure, local capacity and effective implementation.