Disaster Management · GS - III

Examine the role of multinational Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief exercises in strengthening India's disaster diplomacy and regional security cooperation.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 19/11/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

HADR, disaster diplomacy, interoperability, Indian Air Force, strategic airlift, regional cooperation, Sendai Framework, SAGAR, humanitarian leadership.

Model Answer

Introduction

Natural disasters increasingly require coordinated responses beyond national borders. Multinational HADR exercises, such as the reported Sahayata Setu 2026 hosted by the Indian Air Force in Jamnagar, strengthen preparedness and cooperation among participating countries.

Significance of Multinational HADR Exercises

1. Operational Interoperability

- Improves coordination among participating air forces, communication systems and relief teams.
- Facilitates joint airlift, medical evacuation and distribution of essential supplies.
- Enables countries to practise coordinated responses before actual emergencies.

2. Disaster Diplomacy

- Builds trust and goodwill through humanitarian cooperation.
- Strengthens India's image as a responsible regional partner and first responder.

- Creates opportunities for sustained cooperation beyond conventional military engagement.

3. Regional Disaster Resilience

- Enhances collective preparedness for cyclones, floods, earthquakes and other emergencies.
- Encourages sharing of expertise, technology and disaster-response resources.
- Complements the objectives of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

4. India's Strategic Interests

- Supports India's vision of Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- Strengthens India's humanitarian engagement in the Indian Ocean region.
- Provides experience in coordinating complex international relief operations.

Challenges

Differences in equipment, communication protocols, command structures, language and logistical capabilities can affect joint operations. Coordination with civilian authorities and humanitarian organisations is also essential.

Conclusion

Multinational HADR exercises transform humanitarian cooperation into a practical instrument of regional engagement. India should institutionalise such exercises, strengthen civilian-military coordination and develop interoperable disaster-response capabilities to enhance regional resilience.