Disaster Management · GS - III

Discuss the recent measures initiated in disaster management by the Government of India departing from the earlier reactive approach.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
2020	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
15	~250 words

Answer Hint

Disaster Management Act, 2005; National Disaster Management Authority; National Disaster Response Force; prevention and mitigation; early-warning systems; Sendai Framework; capacity-building; community preparedness; resilient infrastructure

Model Answer

Introduction

Disaster management in India has gradually shifted from relief and rehabilitation after disasters towards prevention, preparedness, mitigation and risk reduction. This change reflects the growing recognition that anticipatory action can reduce loss of life and economic damage.

Major measures

- **Institutional framework:** The Disaster Management Act, 2005, established a structured system involving the National Disaster Management Authority, State Disaster Management Authorities and district-level institutions.
- **Specialised response:** The National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) strengthened specialised rescue, evacuation and emergency-response capabilities.

- **Early-warning systems:** Improvements in cyclone forecasting, flood alerts and weather monitoring have supported earlier evacuation and preparedness.
- **National policy and planning:** Disaster-management plans increasingly incorporate prevention, preparedness, mitigation and coordinated response.
- **Community preparedness:** Awareness campaigns, mock drills and local disaster-management plans help communities respond more effectively.
- **Technology use:** Satellite imagery, remote sensing, geographic information systems and digital communication support risk mapping and emergency coordination.
- **International commitments:** India's engagement with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction has reinforced the focus on reducing disaster risk and losses.
- **Resilient infrastructure:** Initiatives such as the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure promote resilience in infrastructure planning and investment.
- **Cyclone preparedness:** Improved forecasting and coordinated evacuation in several cyclones have demonstrated the value of anticipatory action.

Remaining challenges

Urban flooding, weak local capacity, inadequate maintenance of infrastructure and limited risk-sensitive land-use planning remain major concerns. Vulnerable communities also require better access to warnings and relief.

Conclusion

India has made significant progress towards proactive disaster management, but implementation remains uneven. Risk-informed development, stronger local institutions and resilient infrastructure are essential to move further from relief-centred responses towards prevention.

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