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1. Disaster management: India is not completely ready

- Why India is prone to disasters?
- What factors are responsible for floods in Kerala?
- What should be done to prevent such disasters?
- How prepared are we for disasters? How should be the disaster preparedness?

GS paper 3 (Disaster Management)

In this video, you can find detailed answers for all the above questions.

The above article has been retrieved from:

Eilia Jafar . (2018, September , 04). Disaster management: India is not completely ready. Hindustan Times. Retrieved from

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/analysis/disaster-management-india-is-not-completely-ready/story-WQ7TEVdfWibfohDQXSCnzO.html>

What is the context about?

- Floods are becoming a common phenomenon in India.
- Over the past few decades, areas facing recurring calamities have become relatively better prepared, with an increased understanding of the risks. This does not hold true for areas that have not experienced a major calamity in the recent past.

- ❑ Ignoring all the safety guidelines, dwellings, factories and infrastructure facilities have been constructed in areas that are potentially vulnerable to natural hazards like floods.

Why India is prone to disasters?

- ❑ India is prone to disasters. About 70% of its coastal areas are prone to tsunamis and cyclones, about 60% of its landmass vulnerable to earthquakes, and 12% of its land to floods. Multi-storied housing is booming in urban India, built on a framework of beams, pillars and brick walls.
- ❑ Most Indian houses are made of brick masonry walls, with fire/unfired bricks and stones, and yet few if any undergraduate civil engineering courses consider these materials, focussing instead on reinforced cement and concrete.
- ❑ Earthquake engineering is taught as a specialisation at just a few universities, leading to a serious shortage of retrofitting-trained civil engineering manpower.

What factors are responsible for floods in Kerala?

Factors responsible for flood in Kerala are

- ❑ Development of construction activity and illegal mining where as development causes to landslides.
- ❑ Diversion flow of river into another is also caused of floods in many time in Kerala.

- Unfollow the dam safety rule and regulation. In case of Idduki Dam entire catchment area has encroached along with dam construction.
- Dam has emptied before pre monsoon which also can be preventive action.
- Rejection of various committee report such as Madhav Gadgil, Kasturirangan.

What should be done to prevent such disasters?

- Governments have to think ahead and attack the roots of such problems.
- Make way for the development natural lakes and inter-linked drainage systems that help replenish groundwater, hold back some water and release the excess water into the ocean.
- Rampant construction of buildings on water bodies, wetlands and areas that were originally floodplains should be prevented.
- Pre-monsoon desilting of drains and water channels should be undertaken.
- Large cities need an intricate drainage system to match its burgeoning development.
- With the cities' municipal limits expanded in recent years to take in dozens of smaller villages and townships, civic infrastructure in the added areas should also be significantly enhanced.

- Governments must also revisit present policy priorities.
- Disaster management authorities, like NDMA, should try to get ahead of the curve and anticipate problems. They must begin to build scenarios for future such events so that state governments have templates on which to try and restructure towns.

How prepared are we for disasters?

- Disaster management plans exist on paper, but implementation remains a challenge.
- Despite the emphasis on a paradigm shift to a preparedness approach by the government, most parts of the country continue to follow a relief-centric approach in disaster management, rather than a proactive prevention, mitigation and preparedness path.

How should be the disaster preparedness?

- There is a need for investing in disaster preparedness and mitigation across the country, irrespective of whether any state has been hit by a disaster or not.
- India needs to adopt a collaborative approach, where the roles of the government, corporations, academia, civil societies and communities are recognised, and all actors work hand-in-hand towards achieving disaster resilience.