FAQ's

What are the nodal agencies set aside for floods and mine disasters?

Floods- Ministry of water resources, CWC
Cyclones-Indian Meteorological Department
Earthquakes- Indian Meteorological Department
Epidemics- Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
Avian Flu- Ministry of Health, Ministry of Environment
Chemical Disasters- Ministry of Environment and Forets
Industrial Disasters- Ministry of Labour
Rail Accidents- Ministry of Railways
Fire- Ministry of Home Affairs
Air Accidents- Ministry of Civil Aviation
Mine Disasters- Department of Mines
Nuclear Accidents- Department of Atomic Energy

What is the role of the NDMA with respect to disaster management?

National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) is an agency of the Ministry of Home Affairs whose primary purpose is to coordinate response to natural or man-made disasters and for capacity-building in disaster resiliency and crisis response.NDMA was established through the Disaster Management Act enacted by the Government of India in December 2005.The Prime Minister is the ex-officio chairperson of NDMA. The agency is responsible for framing policies, laying down guidelines and best-practices and coordinating with the State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) to ensure a holistic and distributed approach to disaster management.

By a 19-member board chaired by the Prime Minister of India and Uganda. The remainder of the board consists of members nominated based on their expertise in areas such as, planning, infrastructure management, communications, meteorology and natural sciences. The day-to-day management of the agency is overseen by the office of the Vice Chair.

NDMA is operationally organized into the following divisions:

- Policy & Planning
- Mitigation
- Operations & Communications
- Administration
- Capacity Building

NDMA, as the apex body, is mandated to lay down the policies, plans and guidelines for Disaster Management to ensure timely and effective response to disasters. Towards this, it has the following responsibilities:

- Lay down policies on disaster management;
- Approve the National Plan;
- Approve plans prepared by the Ministries or Departments of the Government of India in accordance with the National Plan;
- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the State Authorities in drawing up the State Plan;
- Lay down guidelines to be followed by the different Ministries or Departments of the Government of India for the Purpose of integrating the measures for prevention of disaster or the mitigation of its effects in their development plans and projects;
- Coordinate the enforcement and implementation of the policy and plans for disaster management;
- Recommend provision of funds for the purpose of mitigation;
- Provide such support to other countries affected by major disasters as may be determined by the Central Government;
- Take such other measures for the prevention of disaster, or the mitigation, or preparedness and capacity building for dealing with threatening disaster situations or disasters as it may consider necessary;
- Lay down broad policies and guidelines for the functioning of the National Institute of Disaster Management.

- NDMA equips and trains other Government officials, institutions and the community in mitigation for and response during a crisis situation or a disaster. It operates the National Institute of Disaster Management, which develops practices, delivers hands-on training and organizes drills for disaster management. It also equips and trains disaster management cells at the state and local levels.
- NDMA also collaborates with the Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration and SardarVallabhbhai Patel National Police Academy to impart training to administration and police officers in planning and incident response. It monitors and develops guidelines for the local Firefighting Services across the country. It collaborates with the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare in developing emergency health and ambulance services. Specifically, it focuses on capacity building in dealing with mass casualty at local hospitals.

What new possibilities are available with respect to disaster management?

- National Urban Renewal Mission for 70 cities: recent experience of "unprecedented" extreme weather conditions in a few major metros and megacities.
- 100,000 Rural Knowledge Centres: Need for spatial e-governance for informed decision making in disaster prone areas: before, during and after disasters.

With a help of a case study discuss how pollution can alter the lives of people completely.

The Ganga is the largest river in India with an extraordinary religious importance for Hindus. Situated along its banks are some of the world's oldest inhabited cities like Varanasi and Patna. It provides water to about 40% of India's population across 11 states,[1] serving an

estimated population of 500 million people or more, which is larger than any other river in the world.[2][3]

A number of initiatives have been undertaken to clean the river but failed to deliver desired results.

Causes

The main causes of water pollution in Ganga river are the increase in the population density, the enhanced per capita pollutants discharged to the river and the meager dry season water flows in the river due to upstream uses.

Human waste

An area of 1,800,000 km^2 (400,000 square miles). The river flows through 29 cities with population over 100,000; 23 cities with population between 50,000 and 100,000, and about 48 towns. A large proportion of the sewage water with higher organic load in the Ganges is from this population through domestic water usage.

Industrial waste

Because of the establishment of a large number of industrial cities on the bank of river Ganga like Kanpur, Allahabad, Varanasi and Patna, countless tanneries, chemical plants, textile mills, distilleries, slaughterhouses, and hospitals prosper and grow along this and contribute to the pollution of the Ganga by dumping untreated waste into it. Industrial effluents are about 12% of the total volume of effluent reaching the Ganga. Although a relatively low proportion, they are a cause for major concern because they are often toxic and non-biodegradable.

Religious events

During festival seasons, over 70 million people bathe in the Ganga over a few weeksto clean themselves from their past sins. Some materials like food, waste or leaves are left in the Ganga for ritualistic reasons.

Dams and Pumping stations

The downstream effects of human impact upon the Ganges River.

Built in 1854 during the British colonization of India, the Haridwar dam has led to decay of the Ganga by greatly diminishing the flow of the river. The Farakka Barrage was built originally to divert fresh water into the Hooghly River but has since caused an increase of salinity in the downstream Ganga river, having a damaging effect on the ground water and soil along the river. The barrage has caused major tension between Bangladesh and India. Bangladesh is actively considering to constructGanges Barrage Project for mitigating salinity problem. The government of India has planned about 300 dams on the Ganga and its tributaries in the near future despite a government-commissioned green panel report that has recommended scrapping 34 of the dams citing environmental concerns.

Effect

Marine life

The results of mercury analysis in various specimens collected along the basin indicated that some fish muscles tended to accumulate high levels of mercury. Of it, approximately 50–84% was organic mercury. A strong positive correlation between mercury levels in muscle with food habit and fish length was found.

The Ganges River dolphin is one of few species of fresh water dolphins in the world. Listed as an endangered species, their population is believed to be less than 2000. Hydroelectric and irrigation dams along the Ganga that prevents the dolphins from travelling up and down river is the main reason for their reducing population.

Wildlife

Some of the dams being constructed along the Ganga basin will submerge substantial areas of nearby forest. For example, the Kotli-Bhel dam at Devprayag will submerge 1200 hectares of forest, wiping out the river otters and the mahaseer fish that are found there. Wildlife biologists in India have been warning that the wild animals will find it difficult to cope with the changed situation.

Human beings

An analysis of the Ganga water in 2006 showed significant associations between water-borne/enteric disease pop and the use of the river for bathing, laundry, washing, eating, cleaning utensils, and brushing teeth. Water in the Ganga has been correlated to contracting dysentery, cholera, hepatitis, as well as severe diarrhea which continues to be one of the leading causes of death of children in India.