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SECTOR SPECIFIC REPORT

Disaster Management



01

India Advances Zero-Casualty Approach to Disaster Management



India is strengthening its disaster management system by prioritising **risk reduction, early warning systems and the Zero-Casualty vision**. The approach shifts the focus from relief and rehabilitation towards prevention, timely intervention and reduced loss of life. Establishing disaster-resilient villages and cities is a key objective, supported by coordinated planning, environmental protection and improved preparedness.



Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2308822&reg=48&lang=2

The strategy was highlighted at the **third meeting of the Governing Body of the National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM)**, chaired by the Union Home Minister in New Delhi on 10 September 2026. The **'Whole of Government' approach** aims to enhance collaboration and collective efforts across ministries, state governments and disaster management agencies. The framework builds on the transformation of India's disaster management system over the preceding 12 years.

Institutional capacity, scientific research and practical preparedness are central to implementation. The National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) and NIDM have been directed to develop nationwide guidelines for different disasters. **Joint teams comprising NDMA, NIDM, the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and State Disaster Response Forces (SDRFs) will investigate the causes of damage after disasters and prepare detailed reports.** Collaboration with universities and regular high-level NIDM meetings will support research, training and effective implementation, translating knowledge into capacity, preparedness and measurable outcomes.



Source: https://www.pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2308822&reg=48&lang=2

INDIA'S ZERO-CASUALTY VISION

Early Warning Systems
Timely alerts and advance readiness

Zero-Casualty Vision
Disaster-resilient villages and cities

Risk Reduction
Disaster prevention and environmental protection

Whole of Government Approach
Inter-agency cooperation and accountable implementation

Environmental protection is an important component of disaster prevention, particularly amid climate change and global warming. **Initiatives such as Mission LiFE, Pro-Planet People and the International Solar Alliance support this broader objective.** Disaster management mobile applications are to be promoted across educational institutions to improve awareness and preparedness among students. Dedicated disaster management units in government departments, subject to quarterly reviews, will strengthen accountability.



Source: https://www.hindustantimes.com/ht-insight/governance/indias-proactive-disaster-management-readiness-a-shift-toward-zero-casualty-model-101785333008773.html

Financial and administrative measures further support this transition. **Allocations under the State Disaster Response Fund have increased nearly fourfold, while those under the National Disaster Response Fund have risen nearly threefold.** Changes to the Disaster Management Act, Urban Disaster Management Authorities, and digital disaster databases are further improving institutional preparedness. Together, these measures support India's Zero-Casualty vision by strengthening prevention, improving response capabilities and promoting disaster-resilient villages and cities.

02

Sikkim Strengthens Disaster Preparedness Among Children for a Resilient Future



Sikkim is strengthening disaster preparedness among children through safety awareness and practical learning. On September 18, 2026, the **Sikkim State Disaster Management Authority (SSDMA), within the Land Revenue and Disaster Management Department, marked State Disaster Risk Reduction Day** at Chintan Bhawan, Gangtok. The theme, **"Prepared Children, Resilient Future"**, emphasised equipping young people with skills to respond effectively to emergencies.



Source: https://ipr.sikkim.gov.in/Home/News?slug=sikkim-observes-state-disaster-risk-reduction-day-2026-with-focus-on-prepared-children-resilient-future

The initiative addresses Sikkim's exposure to hazards including earthquakes, landslides, fires and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs). **The 2011 earthquake and the devastating 2023 GLOF underscored the importance of preparedness across the Himalayan region.** Age-appropriate training can help children recognise hazards, follow safety instructions and share essential information with their families.

The state launched 'Friday Safety Five' to incorporate disaster preparedness into regular classroom activities. **Guided by the concept "Five Minutes Every Friday, Safety for Life", the programme encourages schools, Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) centres and Anganwadi centres to hold short safety sessions every Friday.** Activities include mock drills, hazard identification, evacuation procedures and emergency response. The initiative involves coordination among the SSDMA, the Education Department and the Women, Child, Senior Citizen and Divyangjan Welfare Department.



Source: https://ipr.sikkim.gov.in/Home/News?slug=training-on-friday-safety-five-held-at-mangan

FROM CHILD SAFETY AWARENESS TO A DISASTER-RESILIENT SIKKIM

Understanding Himalayan Risks

Recognising the diverse hazards affecting children and communities in Sikkim

Extending Safety Beyond Schools

Connecting children's learning with household and community awareness

Turning Knowledge into Readiness

Developing confidence to make informed decisions during emergencies

Nurturing a Resilient Sikkim

Building a lasting culture of preparedness across generations

Practical training is central to the programme. **Children are taught earthquake safety through 'Drop, Cover and Hold,' along with proper evacuation procedures and fire prevention measures.** School Disaster Management Plans, designated assembly points and first-aid arrangements further support preparedness. Teachers and Anganwadi workers deliver age-appropriate sessions to help children respond calmly during emergencies.



Source: https://www.hseblog.com/earthquake-safety/

Sikkim is also strengthening public involvement in disaster risk reduction. **Emergency Response Kits were distributed to Yuva Apda Mitras associated with My Bharat, Bharat Scouts and Guides, the National Cadet Corps and the National Service Scheme.** Training materials were provided to schools and ICDS centres, along with fire extinguishers for ICDS centres. Through safety education, practical exercises and interdepartmental coordination, the state aims to build a generation that contributes to household and community resilience. These initiatives aim to embed preparedness as a shared duty and equip children to respond confidently before, during and after emergencies.

How AG Group Resources Can Help You

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03

Uttrarakhand Strengthens Glacier Lake Monitoring with Advanced Technology



Uttarakhand is strengthening **disaster preparedness in the Himalayan region** by introducing advanced monitoring and early-warning technology for vulnerable glacial lakes. The initiative aims to track environmental changes in real time, helping authorities **assess potential hazards and improve preparedness against glacial lake outburst floods (GLOFs)**.



Source: https://www.aninews.in/news/national/general-news/uttarakhand-state-government-to-strengthen-monitoring-early-warning-systems-for-sensitive-glacier-lakes20260827212302/

The state's first glacial lake early-warning system is being installed at Vasundhara Tal in Chamoli district. A technical team from the Central Building Research Institute (CBRI), Roorkee, and the Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Dehradun, is undertaking the installation with support from the State Disaster Response Force (SDRF), National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) and Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP). **The installation is scheduled from September 29 to October 15, 2026.**



Source: https://www.sanskritiias.com/current-affairs/uttarakhands-first-glacial-lake-early-warning-system-real-time-monitoring-of-glof-risk

The system is designed to **monitor water levels, weather conditions, snow depth, subsurface temperature, water discharge and ground movement around the lake**. The sensors will track abnormal changes, while an automated weather station will measure rainfall, temperature, humidity, wind speed and atmospheric pressure. Solar panels will power the equipment, and satellite-based communication will transmit data from the remote, high-altitude location, where conventional mobile networks are unavailable. A data logger and monitoring dashboard will help generate alerts when predefined thresholds are crossed.

The initiative addresses significant risks in the state. **The National Remote Sensing Centre identified 344 glacial lakes in Uttarakhand in 2023, of which 13 were classified as high-risk by the National Disaster Management Authority.** Five lakes have been placed in Category A, indicating the highest level of risk, with Vasundhara also included among the lakes requiring monitoring. Earlier bathymetric surveys have also helped assess lake depth and water-holding capacity, supporting estimates of potential flood severity.



Source: https://www.ndtv.com/india-news/uttarakhand-installs-early-warning-systems-for-glacial-lake-floods-12117608

SUPPORTING PRIORITIES FOR GLACIER LAKE SAFETY IN UTTARAKHAND



Lake Risk Profiling

Assess potential glacial lake outburst flood severity



Downstream Exposure

Identify vulnerable settlements and critical Infrastructure



Warning Dissemination

Ensure timely communication of warnings to exposed communities



Emergency Readiness

Strengthening evacuation planning and response coordination

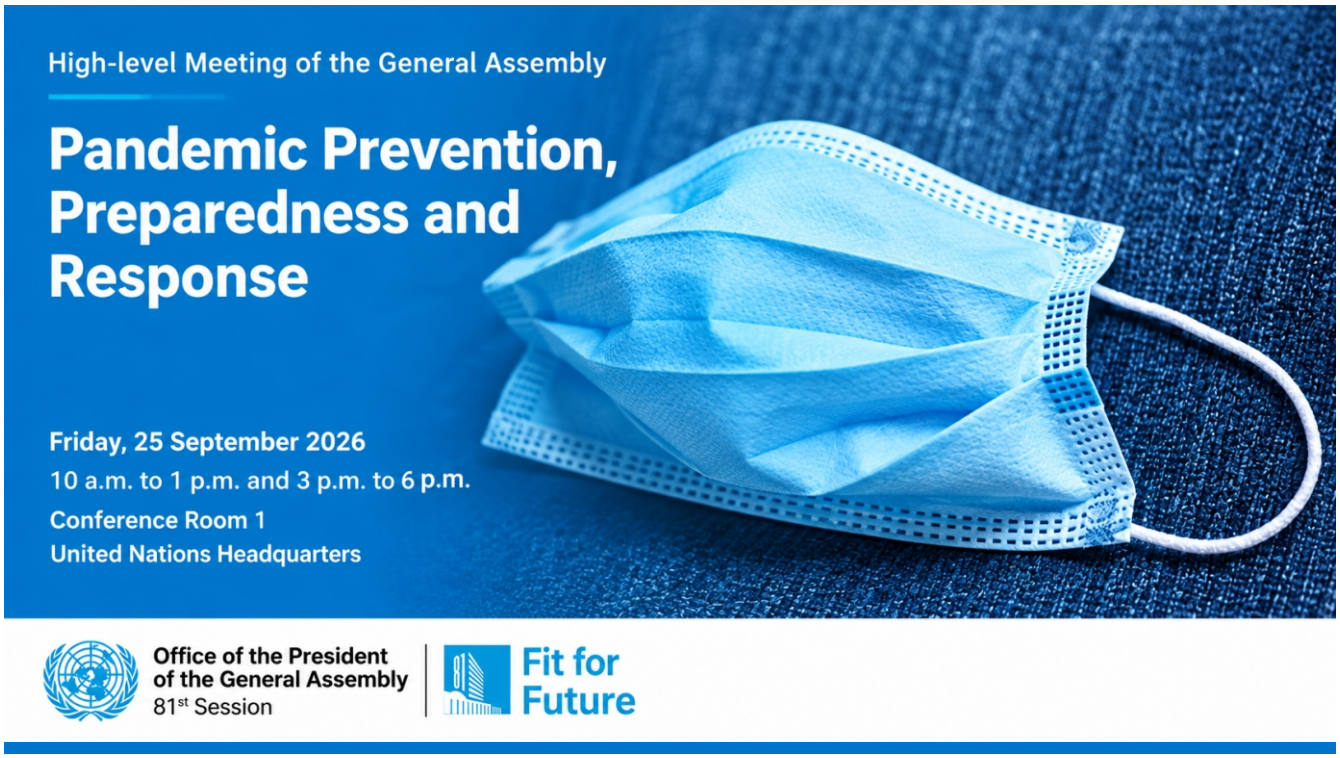
Once operational, the system is expected to improve hazard detection and enable faster safety interventions and rescue responses. **Its effectiveness will also depend on communicating warnings rapidly to downstream communities and coordinating evacuation plans.** The initiative marks an important step towards technology-driven Himalayan disaster management, with the potential to improve protection for settlements, infrastructure and livelihoods.

04

India Pushes for Fair Pathogen Access Under the WHO Pandemic Agreement



India has advocated a fair international mechanism for sharing pathogens and ensuring equitable distribution of benefits under the World Health Organization (WHO) Pandemic Agreement. The demand was raised at the **United Nations High-Level Meeting on Pandemic Prevention, Preparedness and Response in New York** on 25 September 2026. India stressed that effective global health security requires international cooperation, fair access to medical resources and resilient healthcare systems.



Source: https://www.un.org/pga/81/2026/09/14/high-level-meeting-pandemic-prevention-preparedness-and-response/

CORE PRINCIPLES OF PATHOGEN BENEFIT-SHARING

Equitable Benefits

Fair distribution of benefits from shared pathogens

Medical Access

Timely access to vaccines, diagnostics and therapeutics

National Sovereignty

Respect for national interests and differing capacities

Global Cooperation

Collective action for pandemic preparedness

An important focus is the formulation of a fair **Pathogen Access and Benefit Sharing (PABS) mechanism** under the agreement adopted in May 2025. The framework aims to ensure that **countries sharing pathogens and biological resources receive equitable benefits**, including timely access to vaccines, diagnostics, therapeutics and related technologies. India emphasised that the system must respect national sovereignty and account for countries' differing capacities while ensuring that benefit-sharing remains central to international cooperation.

India's stance draws on its COVID-19 response, during which it delivered 300 million vaccine doses to approximately 100 countries and two UN entities, alongside medical assistance to over 150 countries. This experience reinforces **India's commitment to the principle of *One Earth, One Health*** and international solidarity, particularly with countries of the Global South.



Source: https://diplomattoday.com/india-at-the-un-strengthening-the-global-shield-against-future-pandemics/

Domestic preparedness also remains a priority. India is strengthening laboratory networks, emergency coordination, healthcare workforce capacity, essential stockpiles and clinical care systems. **Digital public infrastructure has been highlighted as a global public good because of its applications in disease surveillance, vaccination, risk communication and healthcare supply chains.** Integrating preparedness into national health systems, development plans and domestic financing is equally important for building long-term resilience.



Source: https://www.vox.com/22213311/india-coronavirus-vaccine-covaxin-astrazeneca-approval

The meeting highlighted the need to translate lessons from COVID-19 into sustained investment and coordinated global action. WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus called for the conclusion of PABS negotiations. **India's position underscores that pathogen sharing must be accompanied by fair access to the medical products and technologies developed from shared resources**, making equitable benefit-sharing essential to future pandemic preparedness.

How AG Group Can Be a Help

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05

Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka Prepare for Complex Cyclone Emergency Through Joint Drill



Goa, Maharashtra and Karnataka conducted a multi-state mock exercise on **cyclone-induced disasters on October 1, 2026. Coordinated by the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the exercise covered 24 locations** and tested responses to emergencies unfolding simultaneously across state boundaries. It assessed how agencies could coordinate operations, share information and manage complex coastal disasters affecting multiple jurisdictions.



Source: https://goemkarponn.com/goa-maharashtra-and-karnataka-to-hold-multi-state-cyclone-mock-exercise/

Preparations included an Orientation and Coordination Conference and a state-level exercise at the Goa State Secretariat on September 28, followed by site surveys and rehearsals on September 29 and 30. District administrations reviewed resources and response arrangements with relevant departments. The drill **tested early-warning arrangements, warning dissemination and evacuation procedures** to assess emergency communication and protective measures before and during simulated operations. It also tested whether warnings could be disseminated effectively and evacuation procedures initiated promptly.



Source: https://english.fikrokhabar.com/officials-prepare-for-interstate-cyclone-disaster-management-mock-drill/

The scenario involved a storm surge of up to three metres across coastal, creek and riverine areas, alongside 175–200 mm of rainfall over 24–36 hours. **Other simulated emergencies involved rain-induced road obstructions, fishermen caught in rough seas, fuel leaks and fires, and drowning cases at waterfalls.** Post-exercise reports also described simulated building collapses, flooding and hazardous-material incidents, testing responses to multiple emergencies.

Under the Unified Command system, district authorities, police, fire and rescue teams, medical services, armed forces, Central Armed Police Forces, industries and critical infrastructure operators worked together. Coordination involved state and district emergency operations centres and designated sites. Response functions covered search and rescue, communications, transportation, firefighting, healthcare, sanitation, energy, public safety, shelters and logistics during the simulated emergency operations. The framework helped define the respective role of the agencies involved in the exercise.



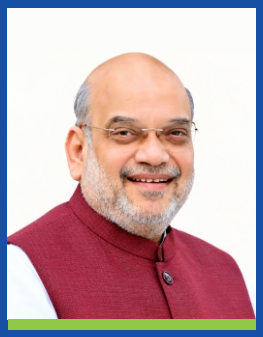
Source: https://catholicconnect.in/news/goa-maharashtra-and-karnataka-to-hold-multi-state-cyclone-mock-drill

KEY OPERATIONAL PRIORITIES IN THE THREE-STATE CYCLONE DRILL

Coastal Emergency Coordination	Cross-Border Resource Mobilisation	Unified Command Operations	Multi-Hazard Response Readiness	Response Gap Identification
Align responses to simultaneous cyclone-induce incidents	Coordinate assistance across state boundaries	Clarify responsibilities among participating agencies	Prepare for flooding, fires, structural collapses and maritime emergencies	Use exercise findings to improve future preparedness

The exercise assessed how agencies shared information, coordinated assistance and managed responsibilities during cross-border emergencies. Its findings can help authorities identify operational gaps and refine future response arrangements. **Along India's western coastline, effective inter-state coordination is essential to protect communities and limit disruption to transport, infrastructure and essential services** when severe cyclonic conditions affect several coastal districts.

06 Eminent Insight



"Just as a 'Whole of Government' approach has been adopted in dealing with disasters, we must also move forward with a 'Whole of Government' approach to further strengthen the disaster management system."

Shri Amit Shah
Minister of Home Affairs
Government of India









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