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# A NEW ERA OF COACHING IN CIVIL SERVICES EXAMINATION

## Approach and Strategy

- **Personalized approach factoring in each person's strength and limitations.**
- **Coaching inline with the expectations of UPSC exam.**
- **Preparing the candidates for the unanticipated questions in UPSC exam.**
- **Thorough discourse on all expected questions from the curriculum prescribed by UPSC.**
- **Provides inputs in the form of Q and A (question and answer) as well as additional information on daily basis.**

## Features

- Library cum reading room
- Most modern A/C classrooms with digital display board
- Meticulously designed study materials
- Regular class tests and progress assessment, online self-paced learning through the Moodle course with multimedia learning materials, tests and performance evaluation of the students.

### Interview guidance program:

- The intention is to provide a favorable ecosystem for personality assessment and development, an ecosystem which is conducive for addressing the lacunae in one's personality and ultimately, help one to blossom into radiant and effective personality.
- Provide students immense opportunities to size up the faculty of analytical and short snapping expressions
- The team of experts consist of retired civil servants, personality development experts, psychologists and subject experts and former UPSC interview board members.

## Disaster Management in India: Building Resilience in a Vulnerable Land

India, a land of immense geographical diversity, is also highly susceptible to a wide range of natural and man-made disasters. From the towering Himalayas prone to earthquakes and avalanches to the cyclone-battered eastern coasts and the drought-ridden interiors, the country grapples with a constant threat. Recognizing this vulnerability, India has made significant strides in disaster management over the past two decades. This note delves into the various aspects of disaster management in India, exploring the institutional framework, key strategies, challenges, and future directions.

### Institutional Framework: A Multi-Tiered Approach

The National Disaster Management Act (NDMA) of 2005 laid the foundation for a comprehensive disaster management framework in India. The act established the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) as the apex body, headed by the Prime Minister, responsible for laying down policies, plans, and guidelines. This centralized body coordinates with State Disaster Management Authorities (SDMAs) led by Chief Ministers, and District Disaster Management Authorities (DDMAs) headed by District Collectors. This multi-tiered structure ensures a coordinated response across national, state, and local levels.

### Shifting Paradigm: From Relief to Resilience

Prior to the NDMA Act, disaster management primarily focused on post-disaster relief and rehabilitation. The new approach emphasizes a paradigm shift towards disaster risk reduction (DRR). This proactive strategy prioritizes prevention, mitigation, and preparedness measures to minimize the impact of disasters.

**Prevention:** This involves activities like land-use regulations in high-risk zones, construction of flood embankments, and promoting earthquake-resistant building codes.

**Mitigation:** Efforts aim to reduce the severity of disasters by strengthening infrastructure, creating early warning systems, and educating communities on risk reduction techniques.

**Preparedness:** This includes developing evacuation plans, stockpiling essential supplies, conducting mock drills, and raising public awareness about disaster preparedness.


## Key Strategies for Effective Disaster Management

**India's disaster management framework incorporates various essential strategies:**

**Multi-Hazard Approach:** Recognizing the country's vulnerability to diverse disasters, the approach focuses on creating preparedness for a range of eventualities, rather than a singular type.

**Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM):**

This strategy actively involves communities in disaster preparedness and response activities. Empowering local communities fosters a sense of ownership and builds resilience from the ground up.

**Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR):** Integrating DRR principles into development plans ensures that new infrastructure and projects are built with disaster resilience in mind. This helps prevent the creation of new risks and fosters sustainable development.

**Technology Integration:** Technological advancements play a crucial role in disaster management. Early warning systems utilize satellites, weather monitoring stations, and communication networks to provide timely warnings. Additionally, remote sensing helps assess damage and plan rescue operations effectively.

## Challenges and Opportunities

Despite the progress made, India's disaster management efforts face several challenges:

**Resource Constraints:** Limited financial and human resources often hinder the implementation of comprehensive disaster management plans.

**Urbanization and Infrastructure Development:** Rapid urbanization in disaster-prone areas increases vulnerability. Mainstreaming DRR into urban planning is crucial.

**Climate Change:** The increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events due to climate change pose a significant challenge. Adapting to this changing landscape requires continuous evaluation and improvement of disaster management strategies.

**However, amidst these challenges lie opportunities:**

**Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs):** Collaboration between government agencies, NGOs, and private companies can leverage expertise and resources for a more robust disaster management system.

**Capacity Building:** Investing in training programs for disaster management professionals at all levels can enhance preparedness and response capabilities.

**Community Engagement:** Active community participation fosters a sense of ownership and responsibility, leading to more effective disaster response and recovery.

**Leveraging Technology:** Continued advancements in technology, including drones, artificial intelligence (AI), and big data analytics, can revolutionize disaster risk assessment, response, and recovery.

## The Road Ahead: Building a Disaster-Resilient Future

India's disaster management framework has come a long way, but the journey towards a truly disaster-resilient nation continues. By addressing the existing challenges, embracing new technologies, and fostering a culture of preparedness at all levels, India can effectively mitigate the impact of disasters and ensure the safety and well-being of its citizens. Here are some key focus areas for the future:

**Enhancing Early Warning Systems:** Investing in robust and accessible early warning systems across the country, particularly in high-risk zones, can save lives and facilitate timely evacuations.

**Climate Change Adaptation:** Integrating climate change considerations into disaster management plans is crucial to build resilience against extreme weather events like floods, droughts, and heat waves.

**Strengthening Local Capacities:** Empowering local communities through capacity building programs and empowering local communities through capacity building programs and resource allocation can foster self-reliance and quicker response times during emergencies.

**Promoting Innovation and Research:** Encouraging research and development in disaster management, including exploring new technologies and innovative approaches, can lead to more effective and efficient disaster response strategies.

**Building a Culture of Preparedness:** Continuous public awareness campaigns, mock drills, and school safety programs can foster a culture of preparedness and empower individuals to take responsibility for their safety during disasters.

## Conclusion

India's journey towards building a disaster-resilient future requires a collective effort from the government, communities, NGOs, and the private sector. By effectively managing resources, embracing new technologies, and prioritizing community engagement, India can mitigate the impact of disasters, safeguard its people, and build a more resilient future for generations to come. It is crucial to remember that disaster management is a continuous process, requiring constant evaluation, adaptation, and improvement to keep pace with evolving threats and vulnerabilities. By remaining vigilant and proactive, India can create a safer and more resilient future for its citizens.

**Q.** Discuss the problems of environmental degradation generated by urban wastes in India.

**Ans:** India's rapid urbanization has brought undeniable progress, but it has also thrown a spotlight on a growing concern: environmental degradation caused by urban waste. The sheer volume and mismanagement of waste pose serious threats to public health, ecosystems, and the overall quality of life in cities.

**The Waste Conundrum:**

• **Quantity:** India generates over 260 million tonnes of municipal solid waste annually, with cities like **Delhi and Mumbai producing a staggering 11,000 and 7,268 tonnes daily, respectively**. **This number is expected to rise to 400 million tonnes by 2030.**

• **Composition:** The waste mix is complex, with a significant portion being organic, followed by plastic, paper, and construction debris. The increasing use of single-use plastics, particularly for packaging, poses a major challenge due to their non-biodegradable nature and tendency to clog drains and pollute waterways. Environmental Scars:

• **Landfill Overload**: Most waste ends up in landfills, often overflowing and poorly managed. These landfills leach harmful pollutants into the soil and groundwater, contaminating drinking water sources and harming biodiversity.

• **Air and Water Pollution**: Open burning of waste is a common practice, releasing toxic fumes and particulate matter that contribute to air pollution and respiratory illnesses. Additionally, plastic debris and improper waste disposal often find their way into rivers and oceans, harming aquatic life and disrupting ecosystems. Impacts on Public Health:

• **Diseases**: Poor waste management attracts disease-carrying vectors like mosquitoes and rodents, increasing the risk of vector-borne diseases such as dengue, malaria, and chikungunya.

• **Respiratory problems**: Air pollution caused by burning waste can exacerbate respiratory illnesses like asthma and bronchitis.

**Government Initiatives: Recognizing the gravity of the situation, the Government of India has launched several initiatives to tackle the urban waste challenge:**

• **Swachh Bharat Abhiyan**: Launched in 2014, this flagship program aims to achieve a clean and open defecation-free India. It has made significant strides in improving sanitation infrastructure and promoting behavioral change.

• **Solid Waste Management Rules, 2016**: These rules mandate source segregation of waste, composting of organic waste, and setting up waste-to-energy plants.

• **Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2018**: These rules aim to phase out single-use plastics and encourage responsible plastic waste management practices. Current Urban Development & Challenges:

• **Smart Cities Mission:** The government's ambitious Smart Cities Mission aims to develop 100 cities with sustainable and efficient infrastructure. While waste management is a key component, its effective implementation remains a challenge in many cities.

• **Informal Waste Sector:** A large portion of waste collection and recycling is carried out by the informal sector, often under precarious conditions and with limited access to resources and training. Integrating them into the formal waste management system is crucial for long-term success. The Road Ahead: Addressing the urban waste challenge requires a multi-pronged approach:

• **Public awareness and behavior change:** Encouraging citizens to segregate waste at source, reduce consumption, and adopt sustainable practices is essential.

• **Technological advancements:** Investing in waste-to-energy plants, composting facilities, and innovative recycling technologies can help divert waste from landfills and generate valuable resources.

• **Strengthening infrastructure:** Upgrading collection systems, landfills, and treatment facilities is crucial for efficient waste management.

• **Financial support:** Providing adequate financial resources and incentives to local bodies and waste management companies is key to sustained implementation of waste management programs.

• **Policy and regulatory framework:** Robust regulations and effective enforcement mechanisms are needed to ensure compliance with waste management rules and hold polluters accountable.

**Conclusion:** India's battle against urban waste is far from over, but there are reasons for optimism. With continued government commitment, technological advancements, and active citizen participation, India can turn the tide on environmental degradation and build cleaner, healthier, and more sustainable cities for the future. By acknowledging the scale of the problem, implementing effective solutions, and fostering a culture of responsible waste management, India can transform its urban waste from a burden to a valuable resource, paving the way for a greener and more prosperous future.

# GEOGRAPHY

## Practice Test (Mains)

Question 1. Weaving the legacy of location theory – how do Weber's and Losch's insights continue to shape industrial location in the age of globalization and digital transformation?

Question 2. "Contemporary global climate change is an anthropogenic phenomenon". Discuss?

## Practice Test (Prelims)

**Q1.** Question consist of two statement, namely assertion (A) and reason (R) for selecting the correct answer. Use the following code:

Assertion (A) : in Kazakhstan, transhumance is practiced

Reason (R) : there is a seasonal shifting of snowline in the mountains.

Ans: (a) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are the true and Reason (R) is a correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(b) Both Assertion (A) and Reason (R) are the true but Reason (R) is not a correct explanation of Assertion (A).

(c) Assertion (A) is true and Reason (R) is false.

(d) Assertion (A) is false and Reason (R) is true.

**Q2. Match the following?**

| **list I** | **list II** |
|---|---|
| A. Westerlies | 1. Between trade wind and westerlies |
| B. Doldrum | 2. Seasonal wind |
| C. Horse latitude | 3. Roaring forties |
| D. Monsoon | 4. Equatorial belt |

**Ans:**

codes

| | A | B | C | D |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| (a) | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 |
| (b) | 3 | 4 | 1 | 2 |
| (c ) | 2 | 3 | 4 | 1 |
| (d) | 4 | 2 | 1 | 3 |

**Q 3. 'Vulnerability' in a disaster is**

Ans: (a) The extent to which an individual or a community is exposed to

(b) The resilience mechanism of a community.

(c) The areas prone to natural hazards and disasters.

d) The potential for loss damage or destruction of an asset by a disaster.