Disaster Management · GS - III

Discuss the major challenges posed by severe cyclones along India's eastern coast. Examine the role of early-warning systems and disaster preparedness in reducing their impact.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 26/10/2026	GS - III	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Bay of Bengal cyclones; coastal vulnerability; IMD forecasting; early-warning dissemination; evacuation; resilient infrastructure; NDMA; community preparedness; disaster risk reduction

Model Answer

Introduction

India's eastern coastline is vulnerable to tropical cyclones originating over the Bay of Bengal. Strong winds, storm surges, intense rainfall and flooding can threaten lives, infrastructure, agriculture and livelihoods.

Major Challenges

- **Coastal exposure:** Low-lying settlements are vulnerable to inundation, erosion and storm surges.
- **Infrastructure damage:** Cyclones can disrupt electricity, transport, telecommunications and essential services.
- **Livelihood losses:** Fishing communities, farmers and informal workers face significant economic risks.
- **Cascading hazards:** Heavy rainfall may trigger urban flooding, riverine floods and landslides in vulnerable areas.

Role of Preparedness

1. **Early warnings:** IMD forecasts and timely alerts help authorities and communities prepare for approaching hazards.
2. **Evacuation and shelters:** Planned evacuation routes and cyclone-resistant shelters reduce loss of life.
3. **Institutional coordination:** NDMA, state disaster management authorities and local administrations coordinate response and relief.
4. **Resilient development:** Stronger infrastructure, mangrove conservation and risk-sensitive coastal planning can reduce vulnerability.

Way Forward

India should strengthen last-mile warning systems, conduct regular community drills, protect critical infrastructure and ensure inclusive evacuation arrangements for vulnerable groups.

Conclusion

Effective cyclone management combines accurate forecasting with timely action, resilient infrastructure and community participation. Preparedness before landfall is essential to reduce casualties and economic damage.

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