



UNIT VIII
DISASTER MANAGEMENT

NOTES

1. **Disaster:** A disaster is a terrible event that occurs unexpectedly and causes great loss of life, property and environment.
 - Disaster can broadly be divided into two groups:
 - **Natural Disaster** - Caused by the force of nature
 - **Man-made Disaster** - Result of human error and negligence
2. **Hazard:** Hazard is a dangerous natural or man-made condition that could cause injury, loss of life, damage to property or environment.
3. **Types of hazard:** Hazards are classified as:
 - Sudden onset hazards - earthquake, volcanic eruption etc.
 - Slow onset hazards- drought, famine, environment degradation etc.
 - Epidemics - water or food borne diseases, vector borne diseases etc.
4. **Vulnerability:**
 - Vulnerability is the extent to which a person or community can be affected by natural or man - made disaster.
5. **Cyclone:**
 - A cyclone is a low pressure centre surrounded by high pressure areas from all sides.
 - It is a powerful swirling storm.
6. **Earthquakes:**
 - Earthquakes are shaking of the Earth's surface.
 - They are one of the most destructive natural disasters.
7. **Floods:**
 - Floods occur when a river overflows its banks and the water submerges the surrounding areas.



8. Droughts:

- Drought refers to a long period of time when there is little or no rain.

9. Tsunami:

- Tsunami refers to the large ocean wave generated by an undersea earthquake.

10. Landslide:

- Landslide is a sudden fall of a mass of earth and rock down a slope or a mountain side under the influence of gravity.

11. Fire:

- Fires are destructive to life and property.
- They are caused by faulty electrical equipment and wiring, stoves, leakage of cooking gas, arson and thrown cigarettes.

12. Traffic accidents:

- Road and rail accidents are the common traffic accidents in India.
- It takes place mainly due to human factors like violation of traffic regulations, condition of the vehicle etc.

13. Industrial and nuclear accident:

- Gas and chemical leaks and other industrial accident can be disastrous for the human beings and the environment.

14. Terrorism:

- Terrorism is the deliberate acts of mass murder by carrying out suicide attacks, firings and bomb explosions.



15. Disaster management and mitigation:

- **Disaster management** - Disaster Management is a process which consists of steps to be taken before, during and after a disaster so as to reduce the suffering and damage caused by it.
- **Mitigation** - Steps taken by the Government to mitigate/reduce the disaster management are:
 - Forecasting of disaster,
 - Management activities,
 - Monitoring of disaster causing agents,
 - Provides shelter, foods, clothing, etc.

16. Preparedness at the government level:

- Provide shelter, food, clothing and medicines during disaster.
- Train officials to respond quickly during disasters.
- Set up forecasting and warning centres of cyclones, tsunamis, floods etc.

17. Preparedness at the community level:

- The community should act together as a team to reduce the vulnerabilities.
- A local committee should be formed by the community for relief operations and others.

18. Preparedness at individual level:

- They should know how to switch off the gas and electricity during fire.
- They should make a common and safe exit for emergency purposes.


