

UPSC Disaster Management Syllabus 2025, Topic Wise & Mains Syllabus

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Disaster Management is a crucial part of General Studies Paper III in the UPSC CSE Exam 2025. With India being highly vulnerable to natural disasters like earthquakes, cyclones, floods, and man-made ones like industrial accidents, this topic holds both theoretical and practical relevance. Over the past few years, UPSC has consistently asked questions from this area, often linked to current events like the Joshimath land subsidence, Landslides in Himachal, or Odisha cyclone preparedness. Refer to the article below to understand the UPSC Disaster Management Syllabus 2025 along with the preparation strategy and booklist that candidates who are aspiring to appear must opt Disaster Management as the Optional Subject.

UPSC Disaster Management Syllabus 2025 Topic Wise

The official GS Paper III syllabus refers to Disaster Management as:

“Disaster and disaster management.” Below we have mentioned the topic-wise breakdown aspirants should cover:

- Types of disasters: Natural (earthquakes, floods, cyclones, droughts) and Man-made (industrial accidents, chemical/biological disasters, nuclear hazards)

- Disaster management cycle: Preparedness, mitigation, response, recovery
- Institutional framework: NDMA, NDRF, SDMA, local bodies, and role of civil society
- National Disaster Management Policy and Act, 2005
- Role of armed forces, NGOs, and technology in disaster response
- Community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR)
- Climate change and disaster risk
- International conventions and frameworks: Sendai Framework, Hyogo Framework, UNDRR

UPSC Disaster Management Syllabus 2025 Mains

In GS Paper III, questions on Disaster Management test your analytical ability. These are often linked to recent incidents, and expect suggestions based on policy, governance, and ground-level implementation. A good answer should include case studies (like Kerala Floods 2018, Chamoli glacier burst 2021), and refer to government reports, NDMA guidelines, or UN frameworks. Common question types include:

- Discuss India's preparedness to handle urban flooding.
- Evaluate the role of NDRF in disaster response.
- How can technology (GIS, drones, AI) help in disaster mitigation?
- Explain the structure and shortcomings of the Disaster Management Act, 2005.

UPSC Disaster Management Preparation Tips

1. Class 11 and 12 Geography and Environment NCERTs cover basic disaster types and impacts.
2. Read the Disaster Management Act, 2005 Summary and Focus on roles of central, state, and local bodies and the powers of NDMA and NDRF.
3. Use Vajiram & Ravi Notes and Class Handouts which usually offer a structured format including recent examples, timelines, and policy interventions.
4. Maintain a Case Study Notebook which includes 5-6 major disaster case studies from the last 5-10 years with a focus on causes, impacts, and responses.
5. Practice Answer Writing and incorporate headings like "Introduction," "Causes," "Challenges," "Government Response," "Way Forward" to structure 10 and 15-marker answers.

UPSC Disaster Management Books

- NCERT Geography (Class 11 & 12) - for conceptual understanding
- 2nd ARC Report - Crisis Management - very useful for Mains
- India Year Book - Chapter on Disaster Management
- Disaster Management by Rajnish Ranjan - concise and UPSC-oriented
- Vajiram & Ravi Yellow Book/Notes - structured and updated annually
- PIB and NDMA Website - for current schemes, updates, and guidelines

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