

GS III

SYLLABUS: DISASTER AND DISASTER MANAGEMENT.

TSUNAMI

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 6.

News: "Nagapattinam's journey of resilience."

News: "The lessons from a spectrum of areas."

About Tsunami:

- Most Tsunamis are caused by **earthquakes (of magnitude more than 6.5 on the Richter Scale)**, with a vertical disruption of the water column **generally caused by a vertical tectonic displacement of the sea bottom along a zone of fracture in the earth's crust** that underlies or borders the ocean floor.
- Tsunamis are also generated by **volcanic eruptions and submarine landslides, nuclear explosions**, and even due to impact or fall of **large size meteorites, asteroids, and comets** from outer space.
- **Potential Tsunami source regions for India:**
 - The Andaman-Nicobar-Sumatra island arc.
 - Indo-Burmese zone.
 - Nascent Boundary (in the central Indian Ocean).
 - Chagos archipelago and the Makran subduction zone.
- **The Indian Ocean Tsunami of December 26, 2004:**
 - Devastated coastal communities in Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Puducherry, and the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.
 - **In response**, the Indian government established a multi-tiered institutional system to manage disasters, mandated by the **Disaster Management Act 2005**.
 - The National Disaster Management Authority (**NDMA**): chaired by the **Prime Minister**, oversees disaster management.
 - State Disaster Management Authorities (**SDMAs**): chaired by **Chief Ministers**.
 - District Disaster Management Authorities (**DDMAs**): chaired by **District Collectors**, implement the system.

Tsunami Guidelines 2010:

- **Tsunami Risk and Vulnerability Assessment:** provides a brief overview of various approaches to understand the tsunami hazard.
- **Tsunami Preparedness:** highlights India's state of the art **Tsunami Early Warning System**.
- **Structural Mitigation Measures:** provides guidance on designing and constructing new structures, as well as strategies for protecting critical structures along the seafront.
- **Techno-Legal Regime:** provides guidance on the techno-legal and techno-financial regime for tsunami risk reduction.
- **Emergency Response:** a robust mechanism has been proposed for strengthening the post-tsunami response capacities of stakeholder groups.
- **Ensuring Implementation of above guidelines:** provides guidance for preparing disaster management plans at various levels.

Results of ineffective implantation of Tsunami guidelines 2010:

- **Mangrove Destruction Impact:** Destruction of mangroves for shrimp farming, wood, and tourism disrupts natural ecosystems and increases vulnerability to waves.
- **Privatisation of coastlines:** Eg, in Goa, led to displacement of local communities, rise of informal sector jobs, and increased economic vulnerability.
- **Economic Impact of Tsunami:** Tsunami created winners and losers in the market, benefiting asset owners and service

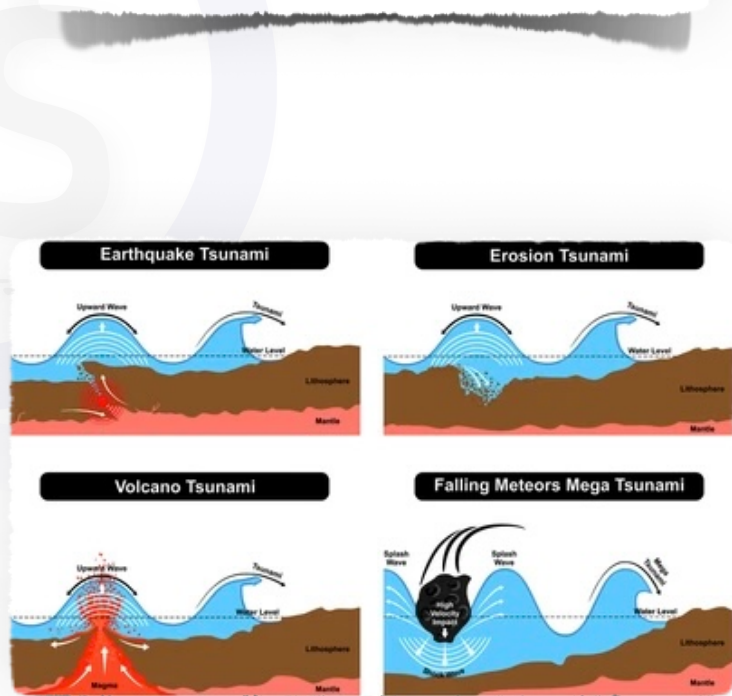
providers while disrupting local markets and traditional livelihoods.

- **Social Inequality in Disaster Relief:**
 - Vulnerable groups often overlooked in relief and rehabilitation efforts.
 - Women and widows of fishery communities are often overlooked during relief and rehabilitation.
- **Relief agencies non involvement with local community** in relief efforts.
- **Independent review agencies highlighted** that social divisions, such as caste, ethnicity, and immigration status, can significantly impact access to relief and rehabilitation services.

26 Dec 2024

PYQs

GS III 2017: On December 2004, tsunami brought havoc on 14 countries including India. Discuss the factors responsible for occurrence of Tsunami and its effects on life and economy. In the light of guidelines of NDMA (2010) describe the mechanisms for preparedness to reduce the risk during such events.





GS III

SYLLABUS: GOVERNMENT BUDGETING.

FISCAL DEFICIT

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 13.

News: "Govt. will boost spending quality, cut fiscal deficit."

- **Fiscal deficit:** the difference between total revenue and total expenditure of the government. It is an indication of the total borrowing's needed by the government.
- **Primary deficit:** means the fiscal deficit minus the interest payments.
- **Revenue Expenditure:** means the difference between revenue expenditure and revenue receipts.

FRBM Act 2003:

- **Rationale:** *legal backing to fiscal discipline* i.e to correct fiscal imbalances like high Revenue and Fiscal deficits.

Features of FRBM Act 2003:

- **Brought Transparency:** making *mandatory submission of following documents* along with the Budget annually to parliament
 - Macroeconomic Framework Statement.
 - Medium Term Fiscal Policy Statement.
 - Fiscal Policy Strategy statement.

Fiscal indicators in Medium-term Fiscal Policy Statement:

- Fiscal Deficit as % of GDP.
- Revenue Deficit as % of GDP.
- Primary Deficit as % of GDP.
- Tax Revenues as % of GDP.
- Non tax Revenue as % of GDP.
- Central Govt. Debt as % of GDP.

Targets by FRBM Act 2003:

- **Fiscal deficit target for Centre:** reduce to 3% of GDP by 2008.
- **Central Govt. debt target:** reduce to 40% of GDP by 2024-25.
- **Combined Govt. debt target (Centre & States):** to 60% of GDP by 2024-25
- **Elimination of Revenue deficit** by 2009.

Borrowing conditions: on RBI & Central Govt.

- **Central Govt. cannot directly borrow from RBI** except through Ways and Means Advances (short term borrowing mechanism).
- **RBI not to subscribe to primary issues** of Central Govt. securities.

FRBM Amendment Act 2018: N.K. Singh committee Recommendation.

- **Fiscal Deficit target for Centre:** reduce to 2.5% of GDP by 2023.
- **Combined Debt-GDP ratio:** reduce to 60% by 2023, comprising:
 - 40% for the **Centre**.
 - 20% for the **States**.
- **Revenue Deficit Target:** reduce revenue deficit steadily by 0.25% each year to reach 0.8% by 2023.
- **Introduction of Escape clause:**
 - **Grounds:** agriculture collapse, structural reforms, National security, War.
 - **Instances:** reduction in corporate tax. structural reforms, global financial crisis.
- Formation of **Fiscal Council to advice Govt.**

15th Finance Commission recommendations:

Fiscal Deficit Target:

- **Centre:** reduce to 4% of GDP by 2025-26.
- **States (as % of GSDP):** 3% during 2023-26.

Debt to GDP Ratio:

By following fiscal deficit target it will result in reduction of Debt to GDP ratio:

- **For Central govt.:** 62% (2021) to 56% (2026).
- **For States:** 33% (2021) to 32% (2026).

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PYQs

GS III 2013: What are the reasons for introduction of Fiscal responsibility and Budget Management (FRBM) act, 2003? Discuss critically its salient features and their effectiveness.

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DISASTER MANAGEMENT (AMENDMENT) BILL 2024

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 7.

News: "The lapses in the disaster management Bill."

Issues with Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024:

- **Terminology Issues:** The Bill uses top-down guarded terminology instead of terms that could establish greater trust and bonding with communities and local governments.
- **Fails to acknowledge Community Recognition:** like substantive roles of local communities, panchayats, wards, and NGOs in disaster management go ignored.
- **Lacks provisions for evaluating the performance** of district authorities in disaster management.
- **Accountability and Relief Measures:** absence of provisions for minimum standards of relief, loan repayment relief, and assistance for vulnerable groups affected by disasters.
- **Bill omits sections that ensured integration and preparedness** in disaster management plans, leaving little room for good governance and performance assessment.
- **The Bill neglects the welfare of animals affected by disasters**, highlighting a lack of responsibility in implementing animal birth control rules.
- **Encourages urban flooding** by allowing encroachments over aquifers, water bodies, city forests, river beds, and markets.

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GS II

SYLLABUS: EFFECT OF POLICIES AND POLITICS OF DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES ON INDIA'S INTERESTS.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

THE HINDU, PG.NO: 14.

News: "Japan raises 'serious concerns over China's military build-up."

"China views the East and South China Seas through the prism of sovereignty, territorial integrity, and national security."

East China Sea borders with:

- **China, Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea.**
- China asserts that the **Senkaku/ Diaoyu islands**, located in the East China Sea belong to Beijing and are currently under Japanese control.

The South China Sea:

- Lies between **China, Taiwan and five Southeast Asian countries:** Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Philippines, and Indonesia.
- China has been actively pushing its claims in the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** of the Philippines. Eg. recent **Thomas Shoal and Sabina Shoal islands** issue.

Significance of East and South China Seas:

- **Key maritime trade routes in East Asia** pass through these two seas. Eg. 10 billion barrels of petroleum and petroleum products passed through the South China seas— **U.S. Energy Information Administration 2023.**
- **Taiwan Strait** is a critical maritime choke point.
- It is **home to undersea cables** which are important for the global digital economy.
- **Vast reserves** of untapped oil and natural gas.

Response from regional countries to Chinese aggression:

- **Building their own defence capabilities** Eg. by 2027, Japan wants to double its defence expenditure.
- **Public diplomacy:** Philippines filming the behaviour of Chinese vessels and is releasing it through social media.
- **Defence partnerships:** Philippines, Japan and South Korea are treaty allies of the U.S. in order to strengthen their defence capabilities.

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PYQs: CSE (M)

GS II 2014: With respect to the South China sea, maritime territorial disputes and rising tension affirm the need for safeguarding maritime security to ensure freedom of navigation and over flight throughout the region. In this context, discuss the bilateral issues between India and China.

