

Definitions of some important terms (with source)

Disaster-A serious disruption of the functioning of a community or a society causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses which exceeds the ability of the affected community or society to cope using its own resources. **(United Nations)**

Disaster Risk Reduction-The systematic development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimise vulnerabilities, hazards and the unfolding of disaster impacts throughout a society, in the broad context of sustainable development. **(UNDP)**

Disaster Management- A continuous and integrated process of planning, organising, coordinating and implementing measures which are necessary or expedient for prevention of danger or threat of any disaster; mitigation or reduction of risk of any disaster or its severity or consequences; capacity building ; preparedness to deal with any disaster; prompt response to any threatening disaster situation or disaster; assessing the severity or magnitude of effects of any disaster; evacuation, rescue and relief; and rehabilitation and reconstruction.**(NDMA)**

Earthquake- An earthquake is a series of vibrations on the earth's surface caused by the generation of elastic (seismic) waves due to sudden rupture within the earth during release of accumulated strain energy.**(NDMA)**

Hazard- A threatening event or the probability of occurrence of a potentially damaging phenomenon (e.g., an earthquake, a cyclonic storm or a large flood), within a given time period and area. (NDMA)

Local Authority - It includes panchayati raj institutions, municipalities, a district board, cantonment board, town planning authority or Zila Parishad or any other body or authority, by whatever name called, for the time being invested by law, for rendering essential services or, with the control & management of civic services, within a specified local area. (NDMA)

Mitigation - Measures aimed at reducing the risk, impact or effects of a disaster or threatening disaster situation. (NDMA)

Preparedness- The state of readiness to deal with a threatening disaster situation or disaster and the effects thereof. (NDMA)

SDMA- The State Disaster Management Authority established under sub-section (1) of the section 14 of DM Act, 2005 and includes the Disaster Management Authority for the Union Territory constituted under that section. (NDMA)

Vulnerability- The degree of loss to a given element at risk or set of such elements resulting from the occurrence of a natural phenomenon (or manmade) of a given magnitude and expressed on a scale from 0 (no damage) to 1 (total loss). (NDMA)