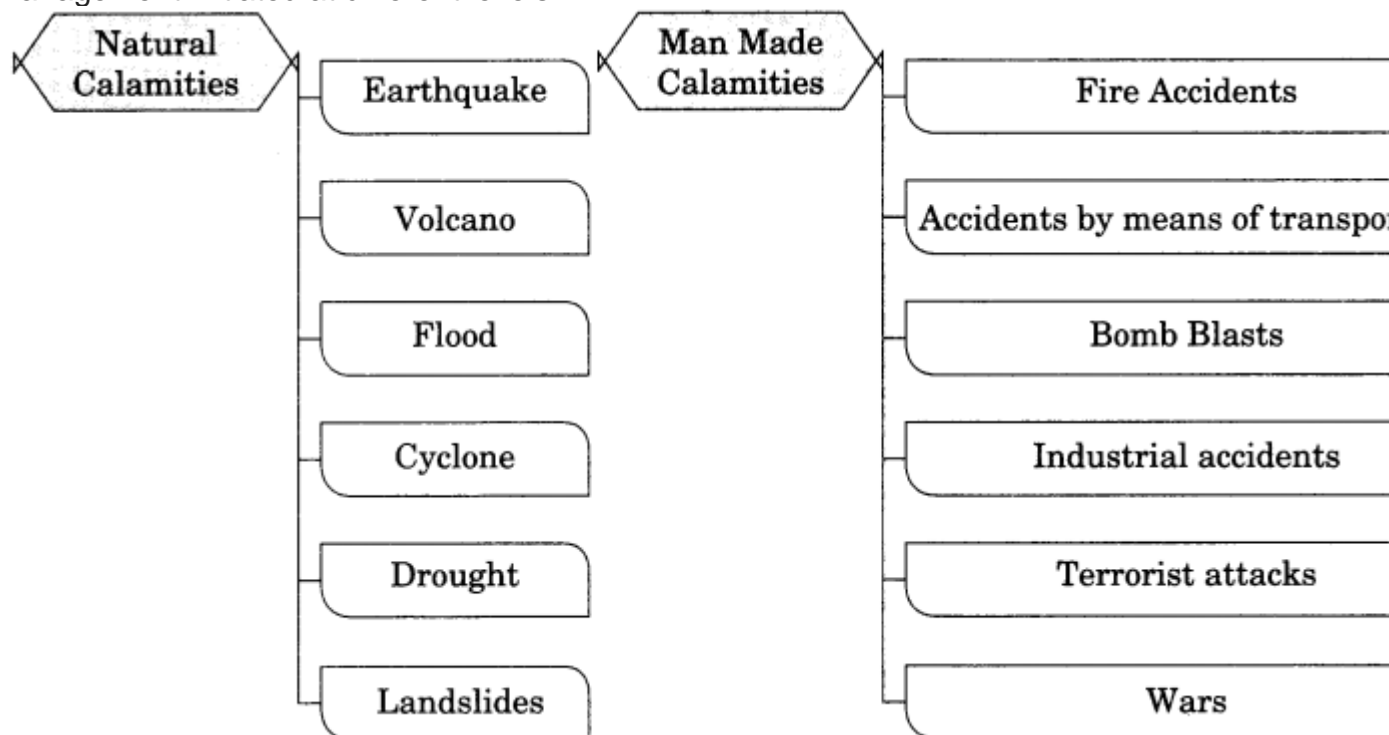


CH: NATURAL HAZARD AND DISASTER (NOTES)

Disasters are also caused by some human activities. There are some activities carried by human beings that are directly responsible for disasters. Bhopal Gas tragedy, Chernobyl nuclear disaster, wars, release of CFCs (Chlorofluorocarbons) and increase of green house gases, environmental pollutions like noise, air, water and soil are some of the examples.

Establishment of National Institute of Disaster Management, India, Earth Summit at Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 1993 and the World Conference on Disaster Management in May 1994 at Yokohama, Japan, etc. are some of the concrete steps towards disaster management initiated at different levels.



Geological Survey of India, Department of Meteorology, Government of India, along with the recently formed National Institute of Disaster Management, have divided India into the following five earthquake zones:

- (i) Very high damage risk zone
- (ii) High damage risk zone
- (iii) Moderate damage risk zone
- (iv) Low damage risk zone
- (v) Very low damage risk zone.

12 Major natural calamities since 1948

Year	Location	Type	Number of deaths
1948	The Soviet Union (now Russia)	Earthquake	1,10,000
1949	China	Floods	57,000
1954	China	Floods	30,000
1965	East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)	Tropical Cyclones	36,000
1968	Iran	Earthquakes	30,000
1970	Peru	Earthquakes	66,794
1970	East Pakistan (now Bangladesh)	Tropical Cyclones	5,00,000
1971	India	Tropical Cyclones	30,000
1976	China	Earthquakes	7,00,000
1990	Iran	Earthquakes	50,000
2004	Indonesia, Sri Lanka, India etc.	Tsunamis	5,00,000
2005	Pakistan, India	Earthquakes	70,000

Disaster Management issue was raised at the U.N. General Assembly in 1989 and it was finally formalised at the World Conference on Disaster Management in May 1994 at Yokohama, Japan. This was subsequently called the Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World.

Cyclones originate between 10°-15° north latitudes during the monsoon season. In Bay of Bengal, cyclones mostly develop during the months of October and November. Here, they originate between 16°-2° N latitudes and to the west of 92° E. By July, the place of origin of these storms shifts to around 18° N latitude and west of 90°E near the Sunderban Delta.

Floods occur commonly when water in the form of surface run-off exceeds the carrying capacity of the river channels and streams and flows into the neighbouring low-lying flood plains.

Various states of India face heavy loss of lives and property due to recurrent floods. Rashtriya Barh Ayog (National Flood Commission) identified 40 million hectares of land as flood-prone in India

SUBJECT TEACHER'S MUKESH KUMAR