

It is essential to make disaster resilience an integral part of community culture in the country. Do you agree with this view? Comment.

Disaster resilience is the ability of individuals, communities & states to respond to hazards, shocks and stresses without compromising on the long term aspects of development.

In the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic, the term "disaster resilience" has become important than ever before. Here, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) have played a remarkable role.

BOTTOM-UP APPROACH

- (i) PRIs can provide essential leadership for communities. They can help with regulatory and welfare functions.
- (ii) Effective implementation of schemes like MNREGA and National Rural Livelihood Mission can be ensured → this will help and support the vulnerable population to recover.
- (iii) Gram Sabhas are sounding boards of diverse opinions. This way, multiple ideas can be looked into to provide for the community's interests.
- (iv) Recently, with the Covid crisis, PRIs have been able to organise community surveillance.

systems with the help of youth, SHGs etc
(v) PRIs along with ASHA workers and Anganwadi workers can help in bridging the gap b/w officials and community → This ^{to be} came helpful in the ongoing Covid-19 vaccinations.

To BUILD CAPACITY

While PRIs have a lot of potential, it is important to build their capacity. They can be done by

- (i) Disaster management charters can be added to Panchayati Raj acts and part on Disaster management and spending may be taken over by local level committees
- (ii) Various insurance systems may be provided for financial resilience
- (iii) Location-based community training programs may be conducted for strengthening individual and group capacities
- (iv) Traditional wisdom may be mixed with modern practices while making disaster management plans
- (v) Financial contributions may be encouraged by setting up community disaster funds.

Thus, as mentioned in Yokohama strategy during the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (1994), emphasis must be on disaster reduction and mitigation. And here, local communities are our best shot in achieving a disaster resilient India.