

# Govt: 50% Indians live in disaster-prone areas

## *Ready to deal with calamities, says Rajnath*

AGE CORRESPONDENT  
NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Maintaining that India is one of the most disaster-prone nations, Union home minister Rajnath Singh on Monday said more than 50 per cent population of the country lives in areas that are vulnerable to calamities.

The home minister said the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction has been set up by the government to finalise a national strategy to deal with all kinds of disasters in coordination with state governments and other stakeholders.

"India is one of the most disaster-prone nations in the world. More than 50 per cent population in the country lives in areas which are prone to earthquakes, floods, cyclones, droughts and tsunami," he said while inaugurating a meeting organised by the National Disaster

**We are bound to face disasters, not only natural but man-made too. If we can prepare for the disasters properly, we can have a safe and secured society.**

— **Rajnath Singh,**  
**Home minister**



Management Authority.

The meeting was attended by ministers from state governments, officials of the state disaster management authorities, top civil and police officials dealing with various disasters and representatives of non-government organisations.

Mr Singh said the national platform was set up so that it can work effectively for disaster

risk mitigation along with various stakeholders. The home minister said India has learnt lessons from the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha where 10,000 people had lost their lives, the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and the 2004 tsunami and brought a paradigm change in its approach towards disaster risk mitigation.

"We have been working in a planned manner for disaster risk mitigation that include adopting the Disaster Management Act in 2005, disaster management policy in 2009, raising national disaster response force besides others," he said.

Mr Singh highlighted the government's efforts in setting up the early warning system for disasters, cyclone shelters, saline embankments, disaster response force in central and state levels, community preparedness and capacity building.