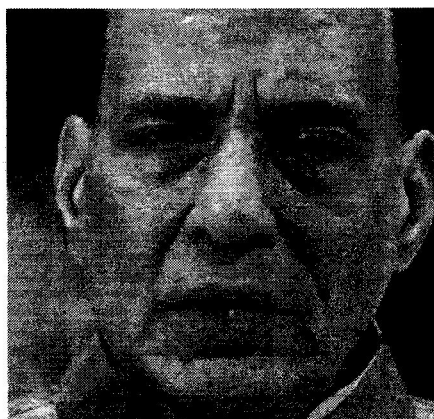


50% Indians in Disaster-prone Areas: Rajnath



"We've been working 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 besides others"

Rajnath Singh, Home Minister

Our Political Bureau

New Delhi: India is one of the most disaster-prone nations, with more than 50% of the population living in areas vulnerable to natural calamities.

Inaugurating a meeting organised by the National Disaster Management Authority in New Delhi on Monday, Singh said that a National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction is being set up to finalise a strategy to deal with all kinds of disasters in coordination with state governments. The national platform, was being set up so that it can work effectively for disaster risk mitigation, with consultation of stakeholders.

Rajnath Singh said the purpose of this year's NPDRR event was to prepare a layout till 2030 on disaster management and sustainable development. The first NPDRR meeting was held in November 2016. The home minister said India has learnt lessons from the 1999 super cyclone in Odisha where 10,000 people died, the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and the 2004 tsunami and brought a paradigm change in its approach towards disaster risk mitigation.

The NPDRR promotes participatory decision making in disaster management. The ongoing meeting of

NPDRR is on the theme 'Disaster Risk Reduction for Sustainable Development: Making India resilient by 2030'. It was attended by state ministers, officials of the state disaster management authorities, top civil and police officials dealing with various disasters and representatives of non-government organisations.

"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," Singh said. The government has succeeded 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, the minister said. Minister of state for home Kiren Rijiju said India could not afford to ignore preparing for disasters as it was one of the most disaster-prone nations.



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