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भारत सरकार

Tribune, Delhi
Tue, 16 May 2017, Page 7

Width: 26.59 cms, Height: 16.65 cms, a4r, Ref: 6.2017-05-16.59

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CR/CF No. 8/11
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OUT 17/5/17

Half of India prone to disasters: Rajnath

TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

NEW DELHI, MAY 15

Home Minister Rajnath Singh today said India was one among the most disaster-prone nations and its population lived in areas that were vulnerable to calamities.

Inaugurating the second meeting of the National Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Rajnath said, "More than 50 per cent of our people live in areas that are prone to earthquakes, floods, cyclones, droughts and tsunami."

The disaster platform has been constituted by the Centre to finalise a national strategy to mitigate and manage the impact of natural calamities in coordination with state



Union Ministers Rajnath Singh, Harsh Vardhan and Kiren Rijiju. PTI

governments and other stakeholders. The meeting was attended by state ministers, officials of the state disaster management authorities, top civil and police

officials dealing with various disaster management outfits and representatives of NGOs.

The Home Minister said India had learnt its lesson the hard way from the 1999

super-cyclone in Odisha when 10,000 people were killed, the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat and the 2004 tsunami. All these events brought a paradigm change in India's approach towards disaster risk mitigation, he said.

Rajnath also highlighted the government's efforts in setting up an early warning system for disasters, cyclone shelters, saline embankments, disaster response force at central and state level, community preparedness and capacity building. He said India had taken a number of steps for enhancing cooperation with South Asian countries in disaster risk mitigation, besides improving ties with BRICS, BIMSTEC and East Asian nations.

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