

IMPORTANT TERMS AND CONCEPTS

1. **Sudden onset hazards:** Earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions, landslides, floods, cloud burst, tropical cyclones, avalanches.
2. **Slow onset hazards:** Famine, drought, pest infestation, environmental degradation, desertification.
3. **Industrial/technological disasters:** Fire, explosion, chemical leakage/spillage, system failures.
4. **Multi-hazard zones:** Some areas are exposed to many hazards like coastal areas may experience floods, cyclones, earthquakes etc.
5. **Tremor:** Shaking of the earth's surface.
6. **Epicenter:** The place on the surface of the earth which is the center of the earthquake.
7. **Richter scale:** A scale which measures the magnitude of an earthquake.
8. **Modified Mercalli Scale:** A scale which measures the intensity of an earthquake.
9. **Seismic zone:** An area prone to earthquakes.
10. **Seismologists:** Scientists who study all aspects of earthquake.
11. **Tsunami:** A seismic sea wave or destructive tidal wave generated by underwater earthquake.
12. **Cyclone:** It is a storm and develops when a low pressure area in the atmosphere is surrounded by high pressure. Cyclones are associated with strong winds, heavy rains, tidal waves etc.
13. **Hurricane:** Storms with violent winds in the Atlantic ocean.
14. **DWS:** Disaster Warning System.
15. **Typhoons:** Storms like cyclones in the Pacific Ocean.
16. **Willie Willie:** Storms like cyclones in Australia.

- 17. Storm Surge:** Seawaves water is pushed towards the shore by the force of winds swirling around cyclone.
- 18. Arid region:** Areas which receive scanty rainfall, dry areas with very little vegetation.
- 19. Droughts:** Acuter shortage of water, food, fodder due to scanty rainfall and scarcity of water.
- 20. Water stress:** When the demand for water exceeds the available amount or when poor quality restricts its use.
- 21. Aquifer:** Water bearing formation that stores or transmits water, such as wells, tube-wells and springs.
These water bearing formations are capable of providing water in sufficient quantity.
- 22. Drip-irrigation:** A common irrigation method where pipes/tubes filled with water slowly drip into crops.
Less water is lost to evaporation and is useful in dry areas.
- 23. Groundwater:** Water obtained from the depth of the earth, of more than 15 m. It is obtained through tube-wells. It is recharged by rainfall.
- 24. Rainwater harvesting:** It is a technique of recharging and increasing of underground water by storing rain water and allowing it to percolate in the earth's surface.