



Disaster Management Tool

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The State Government of Maharashtra to come up with a **disaster risk management tool** for **reducing the damage** that is caused by floods.

- The project will be supported by the United States Trade and Development Agency (**USTDA**- an independent American think tank).
- According to a preliminary report of the USTDA, between 2005 and 2015, over 3,000 people died in floods in the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) alone.
- The report stated that in the state there were many loopholes in the system such as,
 - Vulnerable disaster-prone areas were not being properly identified,
 - New infrastructure projects that were taken up did not take the hazard levels under consideration.
- The report recommended that the government must implement a **flood management and vulnerability risk framework** through an **integrated technology platform**.
- According to the report, there is a need to devise a **disaster vulnerability risk index**.
 - A vulnerability index could include a measurement framework with key indicators for reliability assessment, & responding to data quality issues.
 - The index will comprise of **3 key components**:
 - Assessment of vulnerable zones,
 - Monitoring the flood impact, and
 - The undertaking of continuous assessment.
- A similar tool was designed earlier in **Brazil and Thailand**, on **GIS-based flood maps and zoning for early warning and forecasts**.
- A real-time decision support system provides short and medium-term flood forecasting, reducing the damaging impact of floods.

Source: TH