

Cell Broadcast System (CBS)

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Science & Technology

Why in News?

The Government of India tested its indigenous Cell Broadcast System (CBS) using siren alerts and clarified that this was only a system test.

- **CBS** - It is a mobile communication technology that allows authorities to send **one-to-many emergency messages** to mobile phones within a particular geographical area.
- **Developed by - Department of Telecommunications (DoT)** in collaboration with the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA)**.
- **Example scenario** - When a disaster occurs, authorities identify the affected area, the mobile network broadcasts an alert, and mobile phones in that area receive the warning.
- It can be used for the following types of emergencies:
 - Floods
 - Cyclones
 - Earthquakes
 - Tsunamis
 - Forest fires
 - Industrial or chemical emergencies
 - Other public emergencies

How does **Cell Broadcast** work?

Unlike standard SMS, Cell Broadcast allows authorities to send **messages to multiple devices simultaneously**, without addressing each phone number individually.

Mechanism



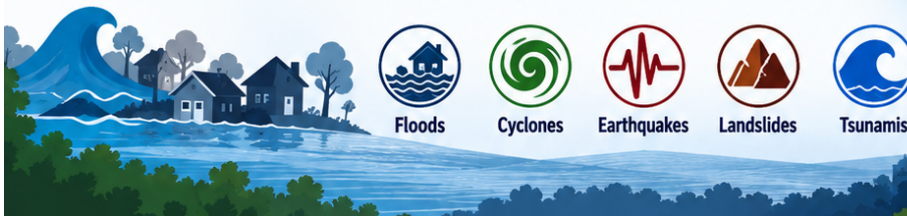
• Significance

- **Early Warning** - Alerts are delivered to people before a hazard occurs.
- **Faster Communication** - It provides rapid mass alerts, even when other channels are overloaded.
- **Location-Specific** - Authorities send alerts to specific geographic areas.
- **Language Accessibility** - Future alerts will be available in local languages.
- **Life Protection** - Early warnings support evacuation, safer movement, and compliance with instructions.

Cell Broadcast Alert System Significance

*Early Alerts
Safer Lives
Stronger India*

	Indigenous technology	Developed within India
	Location-based alerts	Messages can be targeted according to geographical area
	Instant communication	Suitable for time-critical emergencies
	Local language	Alerts can be sent in regional/local languages
	Siren alert	Helps attract immediate attention
	Mass communication	Can reach large numbers of devices simultaneously
	Disaster-focused	Strengthens emergency warning infrastructure



Reference

[News on Air | Cell Broadcast System \(CBS\)](#)