Integrated Alert System (SACHET)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

In a session on disaster risk reduction (DRR) at the ongoing G20 ministerial meeting in Durban, India's Principal Secretary to the Prime Minister outlined the need for compliant Integrated Alert System.

- The Integrated Alert System, known as SACHET, is a pan-India early warning platform for disseminating alerts on natural and man-made disasters.
- **Developed by -** The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT) for the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), it is based on the international Common Alerting Protocol (CAP).
- **Integrates alert agencies -** The platform connects various government agencies that generate alerts, such as:
  - India Meteorological Department (IMD).
  - Central Water Commission (CWC).
  - Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS).
  - Geological Survey of India (GSI).
- **Geo-targeted alerts -** The system delivers real-time, geo-targeted alerts directly to citizens in their regional languages via multiple channels:
  - SMS notifications
  - A mobile app for Android
  - Browser alerts
  - Satellite terminals (GAGAN and NavIC)
- **Comprehensive coverage -** It provides warnings for a wide range of emergencies, including:
  - Natural disasters (cyclones, floods, tsunamis, forest fires)
  - Man-made crises (industrial accidents, health emergencies)
- **Accessing SACHET**
  - **Mobile App -** The official SACHET app is available on the Google Play Store and provides location-specific alerts and weather updates

from the IMD.
    - **Web Portal -** The National Disaster Alert Portal (sachet.ndma.gov.in) is a GIS-based portal where the public can view current warnings nationwide.
    - **Browser Notifications and RSS Feed -** The web portal also allows users to subscribe to browser notifications and an RSS feed for alerts.
- **Key benefits**
    - **Increased reach -** By using various dissemination media, SACHET increases the chances that people in affected areas will receive timely warnings.
    - **Improved response -** It simplifies the process for officials to alert the public, reducing confusion and delay in emergency situations.
    - **Enhanced awareness-** The portal helps the public stay aware of potential dangers and provides guidance like "Do's and Don'ts" for various disasters.
    - **Language support -** The system operates in multiple Indian languages, making it more accessible to a wider population.

Reference

The Hindu | SACHET

