Disaster Management · GS - II

Traditional housing patterns, inadequate fire-safety infrastructure and limited emergency access can increase the vulnerability of remote settlements to urban and rural fires. Examine the challenges of fire disaster management in India's remote and hilly regions.

EXAM YEAR	PAPER	SUBJECT
DAILY PRACTICE 12/11/2026	GS - II	Disaster Management

MARKS	WORD LIMIT
10	~150 words

Answer Hint

Traditional wooden houses, settlement density, fire-resistant construction, early warning, water availability, road connectivity, emergency response, community preparedness, local administration, disaster-resilient housing.

Model Answer

Introduction

Fire incidents in remote and hilly settlements can rapidly escalate into disasters because of traditional combustible housing materials, closely spaced structures and limited emergency infrastructure.

Major Challenges

1. **Vulnerable housing:** Wooden structures and traditional construction materials can accelerate fire propagation.
2. **Geographical constraints:** Difficult terrain, narrow roads and long distances delay the arrival of fire services.

3. **Inadequate infrastructure:** Limited water supply, firefighting equipment and communication facilities weaken emergency response.
4. **Community vulnerability:** Children, elderly persons and persons with disabilities face greater difficulties during evacuation.

Measures for Effective Management

Authorities should promote affordable fire-resistant construction, safe electrical installations, community fire-awareness programmes and accessible water points. Local volunteers can be trained in first response, evacuation and emergency communication. District disaster management plans should incorporate village-level fire-risk mapping, mock drills and coordination with emergency services.

The National Disaster Management Authority and State Disaster Management Authorities can support risk assessment, preparedness and capacity-building in vulnerable regions.

Conclusion

Fire safety must become an integral part of rural development and disaster-resilient housing. Strengthening community preparedness and last-mile emergency infrastructure can substantially reduce casualties and property losses.

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